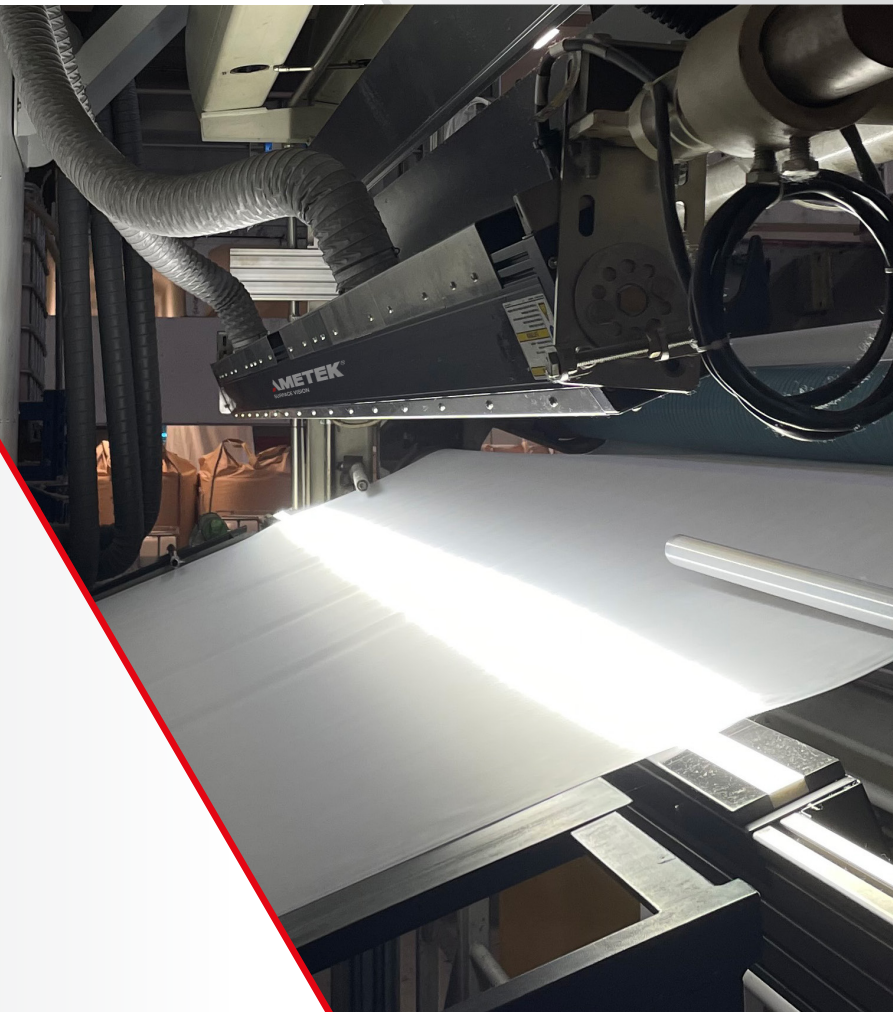


Ensuring nonwoven quality

Detecting defects in
nonwoven materials



A major supplier of diverse nonwoven products.

Based in Rovereto, Italy, Texbond Srl is a manufacturer of spunlaid thermal-bonded nonwoven products for a wide range of applications, including the personal care, hygiene, medical industry, furniture and design, farming, building and motor vehicle sectors.



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CHALLENGE – PROVIDING THE HIGHEST QUALITY LEVELS

Prior to its investment in an automated inspection system, Texbond was using human inspection for quality assurance on its products, with regular material checks. The company wanted to install an automated system to ensure quality, reducing and minimizing customer claims, and providing the highest quality levels to customers.

The medical and hygiene market in particular is extremely demanding,

requiring completely defect-free material. Other markets also have high quality standards, and common defects such as holes and contamination can affect the visual properties of the material.

Texbond had firm expectations of the solution they were looking for. It had to be robust, delivering high-resolution inspection in real time. It needed a modular approach using state-of-the-art technology, that was

easy to use and administer. Reporting capabilities were essential, as was expert service support and availability. The inspection required was challenging. The material grammage ranged from light to heavy, and many different colors were produced. Lightweight nonwovens are particularly difficult to inspect, while heavier materials require powerful lighting for inspection.

A STATE-OF-THE-ART INSPECTION SOLUTION

Texbond eventually selected AMETEK Surface Vision to supply its surface inspection system, based on the company's reputation in the nonwovens industry and use of cutting-edge technology. A sample study was set up with promising results that convinced Texbond to use the Surface Vision solution.

Two SmartView® systems were installed in the production process, on Line 3 (colored materials) and Line 4 (different weights of white nonwovens). Each system used four reflection transmission cameras, and was positioned at the exit of the line, before the winder, to act as a 'gatekeeper', detecting all relevant defects and contamination.

The use of a white backing bar helped support contamination detection on Line 3, while SmartView's LED lights ensured high performance when inspecting heavy material.

The systems are integrated with Texbond's process control, for automatic start and stop of inspection, and store information for database analysis.



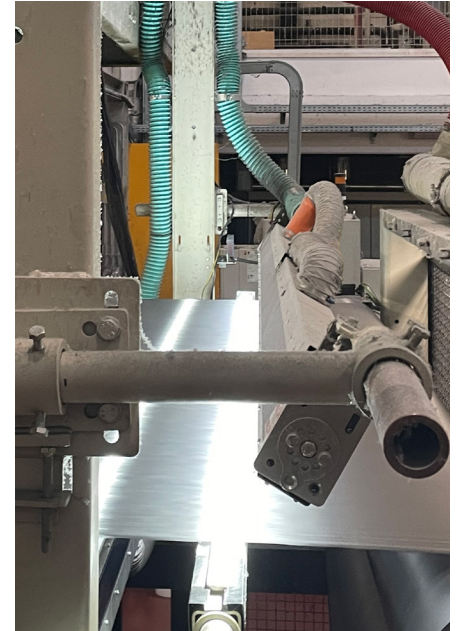
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AMETEK[®]
SURFACE VISION

REAL-TIME INSPECTION THAT ASSURES QUALITY AND REDUCES COSTS

Providing precise defect identification and visual defect information, SmartView has delivered effective quality assurance and process control to the Texbond production lines. This has reduced customer claims and provided better information on what material is used and delivered to customers. Identifying defective material at an early stage of production significantly contributes to savings in raw materials, energy, transportation cost and production time, and results in general cost reduction and yield optimization.

Enrico Chemello, Quality Manager at Texbond, said: **“SmartView has really helped to optimize the quality of our products. Defects are detected and the material’s visual properties can be assessed in real time, allowing immediate intervention and optimization of the process, and the elimination of any process upsets. The result is optimized production with reduced scrap. “The SmartView system has met our expectations, proving its solid defect detection capabilities, and the system became productive in a short time, providing images and defect information from day one.”**



APPLICATIONS

SmartView® and SmartAdvisor® systems can be applied to the full spectrum of nonwoven fabrics including:

- PPE
 - Clothing
 - Medical/surgical
 - Furniture
 - Agriculture
 - Industrial applications
- Automotive fabrics
 - Construction
 - Filtration
 - Geotextiles
 - Household items and more...



ABOUT AMETEK SURFACE VISION

AMETEK Surface Vision is a world leader in automated online surface inspection solutions with a broad product portfolio optimized for web and surface inspection and monitoring and process surveillance applications.

Its product portfolio includes two distinct product lines: SmartView® systems and SmartAdvisor® systems. Each product line uniquely enables customers to inspect the surfaces of materials processed in a continuous fashion across the metals, paper, plastics, nonwovens and glass industries. Learn more by visiting [ameteksurfacevision.com](https://www.ameteksurfacevision.com).

AMETEK Surface Vision is a unit of AMETEK Process and Analytical Instruments, a division of AMETEK, Inc., a global manufacturer of electronic instruments and electromechanical devices with annual sales of approximately \$5 billion.

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