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RENOLIT Installs Second Heraeus Infra-Red System for Laminate Embossing

A custom-built, short-wave infra-red system from Heraeus Noblelight is helping to save energy and allow faster production line speeds at the Cramlington manufacturing site of **RENOLIT**.

RENOLIT is an international leader in the manufacture of high quality plastic films and related products for technical applications. These range from adding the finishing touches to furniture products, construction elements and hi-fi products to sealing off landfill sites and roof structures and lining swimming pools. The Groups Cramlington site manufactures laminates for kitchen, bedroom and bathroom furniture and foils for lamination onto exterior window profiles and doors. Many of these pvc-based laminates are embossed with a wood grain finish and the embossing line is an important part of the production process.

The company has recently upgraded an existing embossing machine with a new short-wave infra-red system following experience gained on a similar Heraeus system supplied in 2003. The system is used to heat pvc laminate to a required temperature to achieve the softness necessary for embossing after which it is dispatched to **RENOLIT** customers for further processing.

The machine's original ceramic heater system has now been replaced with short-wave, infra-red emitters in six individual cassettes providing heating control zones. The cassettes themselves are arranged so that when the six modules are fitted together, the complete assembly assumes a curve which follows the web path.

This custom-built assembly allows precise targeting of the heating, so that very little energy is wasted. The exact power concentration also ensures that the web is heated to the specified temperature quickly and efficiently, permitting faster line speeds to be achieved. Furthermore, the extremely fast response of the short wave emitters minimises the possibility of damage to the web, as the heaters can be switched off virtually instantaneously in the event of unexpected line stoppage.

Heraeus specialises in the production and application of high quality energy sources covering the electro-magnetic spectrum from ultraviolet to infra-red. It has over 40 years experience in infra-red technology and offers the expertise, products and systems to provide efficient and effective solutions to drying, heating and curing problems throughout industry.

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The Heraeus infra-red system, which is contoured to follow the curvature of the web