

## ORALOCK™: A NEW CREPING ERA

Creping performances are crucial in defining the final characteristics of the finished product, such as strength, absorbency, basis weight, thickness, stretch, appearance and hand feel.

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**T**he common concept design of creping blade holders has always narrowed down the choices to just two main possibilities: rigid or flexible, both with their strengths and weaknesses. But what if a rigid doctoring system could boast the profiling advantages of a flexible one?

Worldwide known for its self-profiling flexible blade holders, **Oradoc** has recently patented a brand-new, innovative doctoring system that deserves a unique place in the creping history: OraLock™, the perfect fit for all Yankee cylinders.

"As a company we have ventured into a segment in which we had never thought of deepening the application possibilities, so far. Our installations in the world are mainly flexible, but with this new product we want to consolidate our presence also in the rigid market with a disruptive solution", says **Maurizio Tomei**, Oradoc Sales and Customer Care Manager.

It took more than 3 years of R&D activities carried out by Oradoc engineers, including

scale and full-size prototypes, off-line static tests and continuously running machine monitoring, to conceive, design and test this state-of-the-art creping solution. "Our research and development department is rightfully proud to have achieved a great result in coming up with such a groundbreaking blade holder - explains **Andrea Orlandini**, Oradoc Operations Manager - We've worked on this system a lot and the



OraLock™ pilot installation overview.

final product really meets our expectations and - what's even most important - it represents the perfect answer to our customers' needs!". But no innovation is worth adopting until its usefulness is proven: Oradoc found in **Sofidel** the perfect partner to be involved in this ambitious project, as Sofidel allowed for the pilot installation to take place in its "Soffass Cartiera Via Giuseppe Lazzareschi" plant (formerly known as Delicarta Paper Mill). The Sofidel Group is one of the leading manufacturers of paper for hygienic and domestic use worldwide. Established in 1966, the Group has subsidiaries in 12 countries - Italy, Spain, the UK, France, Belgium, Germany, Sweden, Poland, Hungary, Greece, Romania and the USA - with more than 6.000 employees, net sales of 1.919 million Euros (2019) and a production capacity of over one million tonnes per year (1.308.000 tonnes in 2019). Member of the UN Global Compact and the international WWF Climate Savers program, the Sofidel Group considers sustainability a strategic factor with regards to growth and is committed to promoting socially and environmentally responsible development. Among the latest investments the US integrated plants in Circleville (OH) and Inola (OK). On April 2019 the very first OraLock™ was installed on PM2 crescent former, producing premium toilet paper; since then, an accurate validation process started, taking advantage of precise statistical tools. "Clever and robust design which allows OraLock™ to be rightfully defined as the most flexible among rigid Yankee doctors - says **Francesco Corrotti**, Sofidel PM Operating Coordination Director. "Easy and quick profiling which results in an increased care to our Yankee": this is how **Alessandro Ciardetti**, Soffass Via Lazzareschi Mill Mech. Maintenance Manager - underlines a couple of the important features of OraLock™. More than one year after the installation, OraLock™ has proven to live up to expectations, confirming the great potential of this new rigid doctoring system, capable of offering a series of measurable advantages which confirm its ability to optimize the production process. ●