

Release liner manufacturer finds UV siliconizing a perfect fit

Quicker changeovers, faster production, and the ability to run heat sensitive materials

Tribex Corporation (Rocklin, CA) manufactures silicone release liners and transfer papers for specialty applications such as composites, medical, building materials, and electronics in addition to the more traditional label/facestock and converting applications. Since Tribex runs many small volume jobs, they needed quicker changeovers. They also needed lower temperature curing that wouldn't damage heat sensitive materials like polyethylene.

Working closely with UV silicone release resin suppliers and Heraeus Noblelight, Tribex ran tests on the resin suppliers' pilot lines using Heraeus Noblelight UV curing systems. Heraeus Noblelight engineers then designed the necessary light shielding and lamp mounting for retrofitting to Tribex's existing 70-inch wide siliconizing line.

Tribex routinely runs the UV retrofitted line at 600 ft/min and higher. Changeover time was significantly less with the UV due to fewer machine adjustments and the instant on/off capability of the UV lamps. They also found that the thinner release liner materials used for UV curing were less expensive than those for thermal curing and the UV curing process required significantly less floor space and energy.



Benefits

- Reduced changeover time
- Increased production rates
- Ability to run heat sensitive materials
- Reduced footprint by nearly half
- Reduced energy cost

Technical Data

- 7, 10-inch, 600 W/inch microwave-powered UV curing systems
- 30 feet of floor space for 70-inch wide line
- Line speeds of 600 feet/minute and higher