NORTH TCM AMERICA

Second Decorative Surfaces
Webinar November 11, 2020

innovative technology for the generation of stretch properties for every paper

in line or off line a paper machine

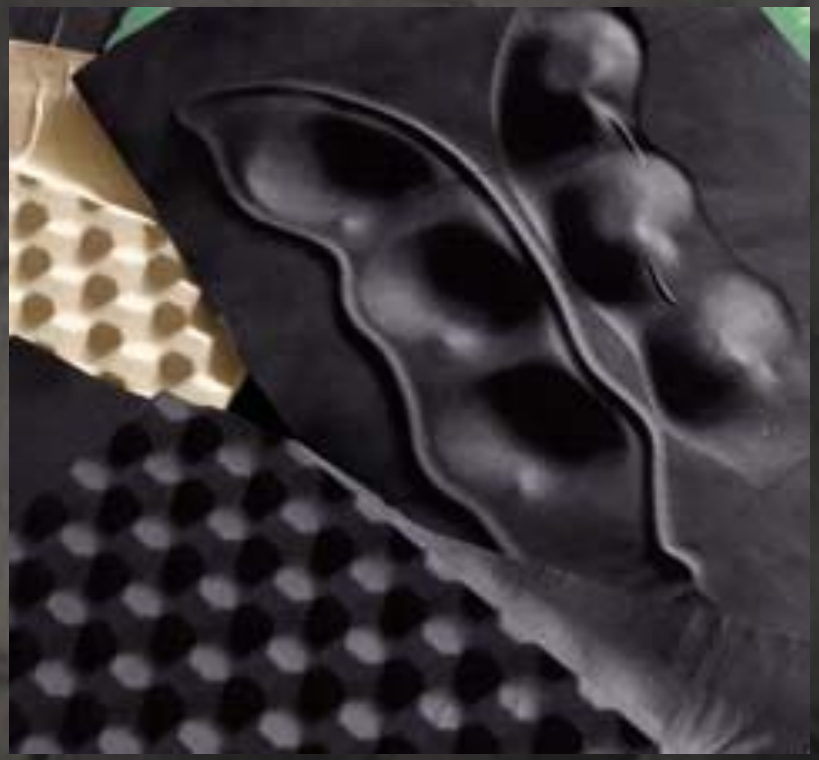
papermorphosis®

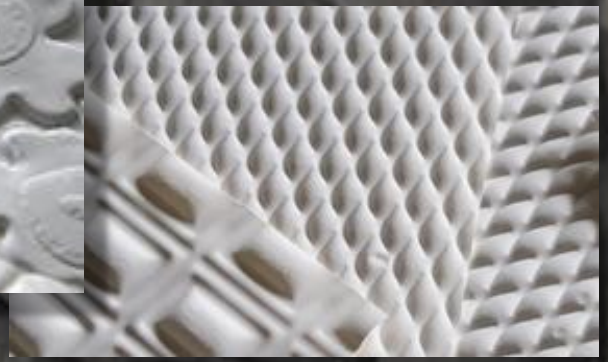
highly engineered paper

by gruppo x di x gruppo, Via delle Industrie 25-8, 30175 Venice-Italy, +39 041 5093431, www.gruppox.it

3D shapes for decorative paper

.....micro and macro structures





the past: how we started

in the early 1990's we felt the need to find a sustainable material to compete with plastics for 3D packaging.

we developed "MOULD PAPER", a stretchable paper **out of highly refined pure, long virgin fiber to be produced in a paper machine**.

the technology is today exclusively licensed to Billerudkorsnas for Europe

from Mould Paper…… to FiberForm

today: novel technology for all papers for paper makers but also converters

high stretch for 3D
- ❖up to over 10% CD
- ❖up to over 40% MD

p a p e r m o r p h o s i s®

focused increases of stretch for better runnability during converting

reproduction of standard grades, saving costs for furnish and refining

stretch on paper according to quality

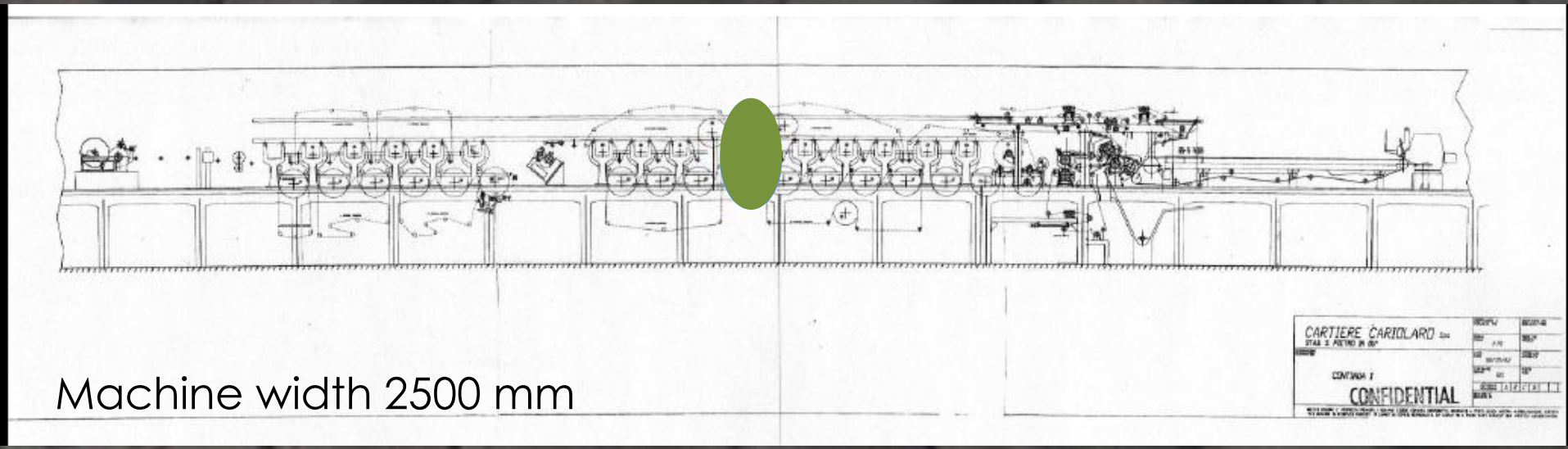
- stretch far over 20% in MD on top of base MD values
- stretch up to an add on of 8% in CD on top of base CD values

Test results on potential performance in CD:

recycling grade: starting from 2% in CD, **final 8,5%**

long fiber: starting from 8% in CD, **final 16%**

unit: retrofitted in-line at Cariolaro mill-Italy for proof of concept



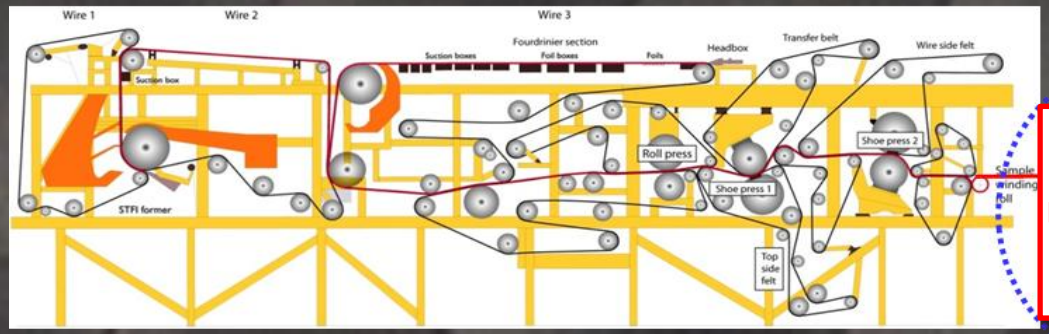
Machine width 2500 mm

the company changed ownership in 2013, the machine was dismanteled and we needed a place to invite customers to show the performance.

mid 2015 the pilot was installed at the paper research institute INNVENTIA, now RISE Bioeconomy, in Stockholm

experience from the pilot in Sweden (2015 – 2019)

FEX pilot paper machine



papermorphosis

Multi-cylinder Drier

Initial idea:

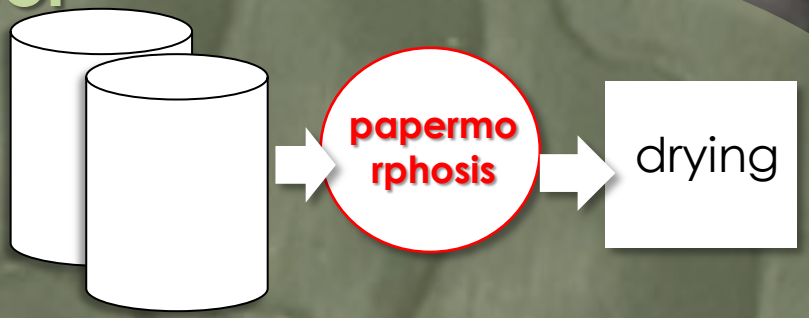
- reproduction of customer's papers on RISE's paper pilot
- processing them on our equipment for focused stretch

the process off-line a paper machine

as a lot of paper makers instead wanted to test their original standard grades, many treatments have been carried out, just remoistening their papers, treating them with the relative unit, and drying them completely.

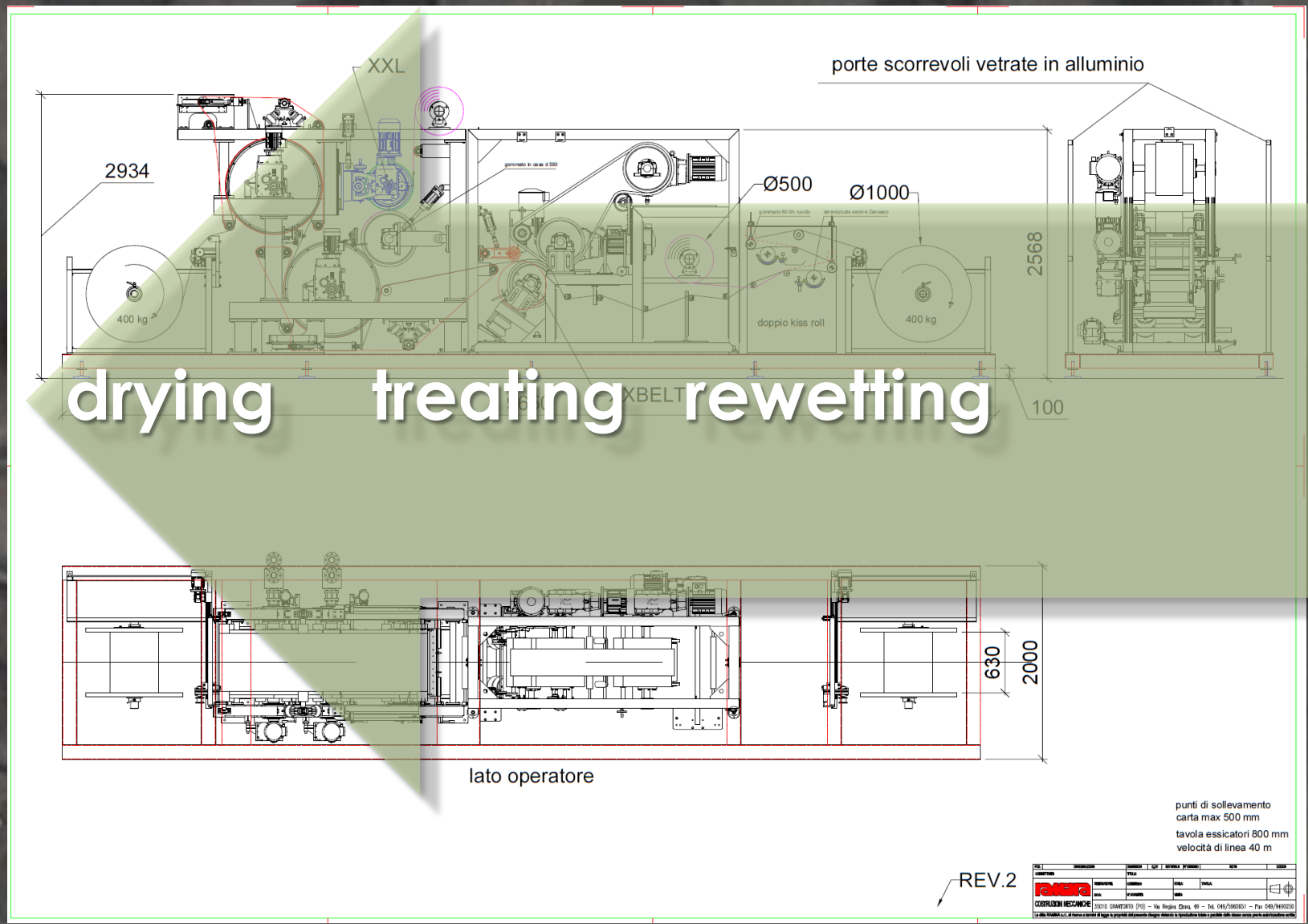
It worked perfectly for

- long and short virgin fiber (i.e. eucalyptus),
- **typical paper for decor**
- various fiber blends,
- recycling grades,
- bagasse
- grass paper



papers at dry content
from 65% to 85%

2019 return of the pilot to Italy for completing it as off-line unit



integrated pilot unit in Italy

possible grades and widths

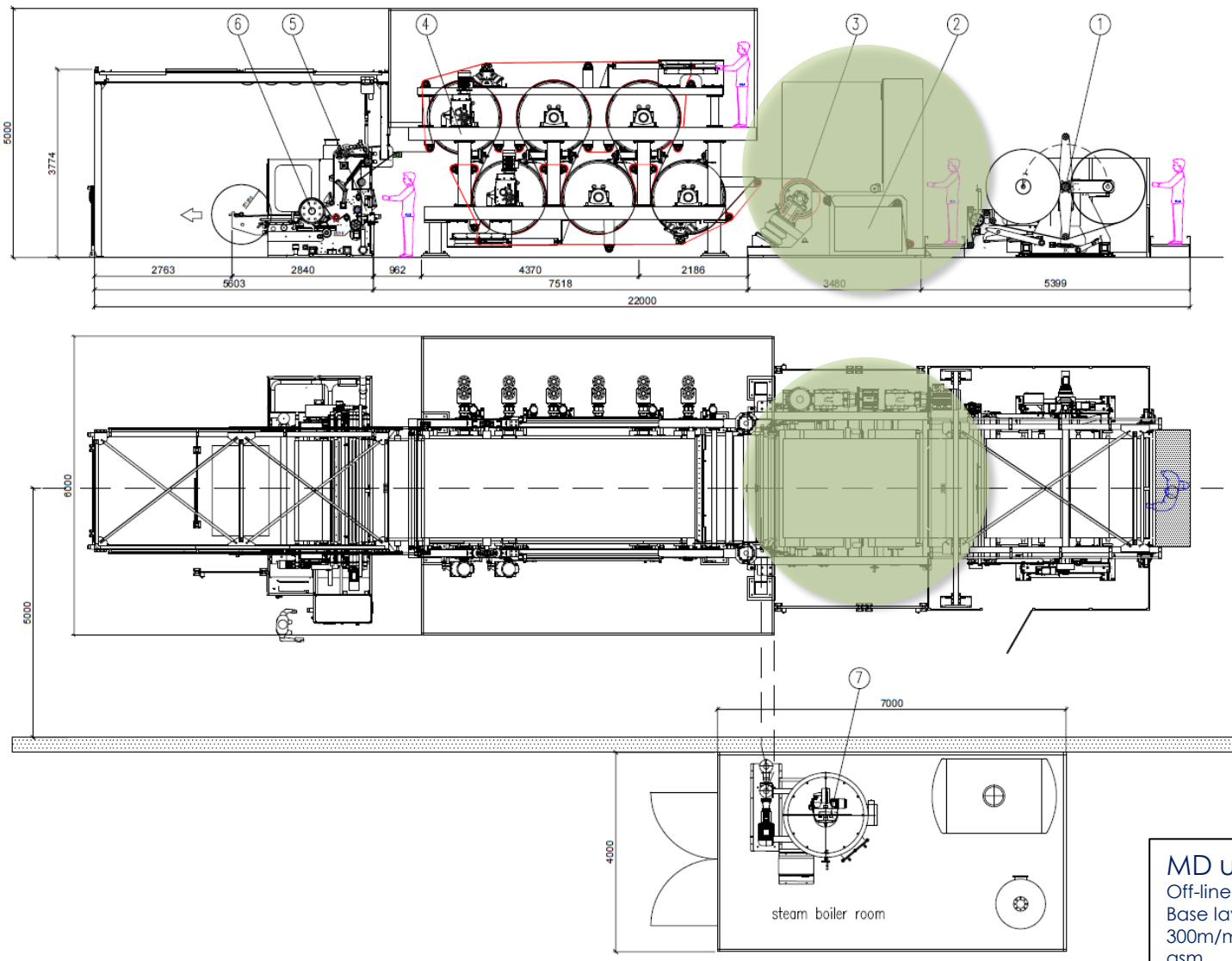
24 cm as from paper pilots

48 cm of any industrial grade

- for long and short fresh fiber, recycling grades, bagasse, etc
- thin aluminum alloy, aluminum coated paper
- grammage range from 25 gsm to 200 gsm and more

layout industrial unit: 300 mpm, 2 m wide

(30-80 gsm bagasse and eucalyptus paper)



MD unit
Off-line , width 2 m
Base layout for 300m/min, 30-80 gsm

stretch not only for paper

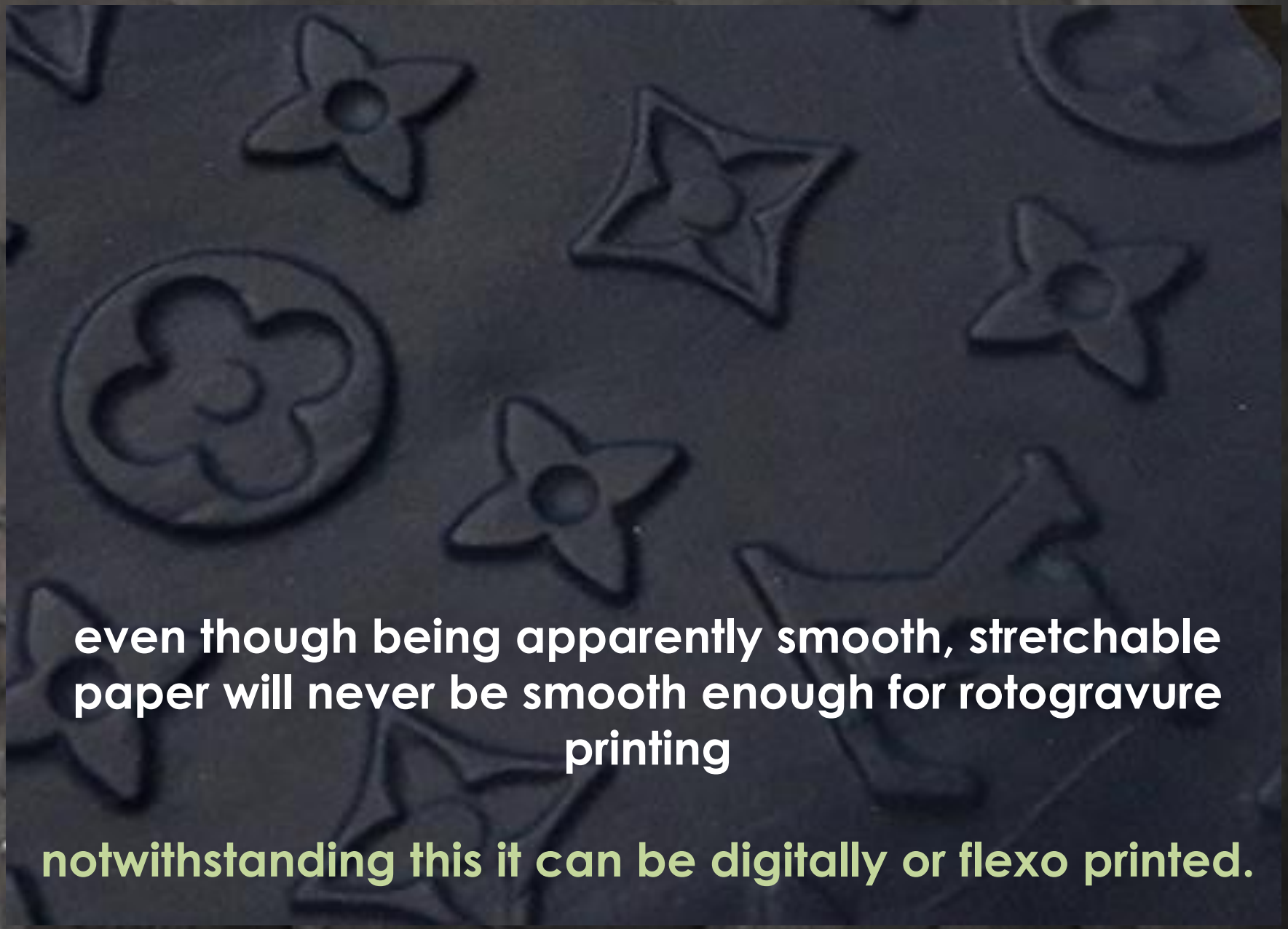
Alu-foil provides the best barrier properties i.e. for pharmaceuticals.
45µ to 90µ are common for 3D deformations. alu-foil stretches by getting thinner.

recent trials showed that with a technology deriving from paper even thin alu-foil (9µ to 14 µ) and its combinations also to paper for packaging can be transformed to a alu-foil layer with high stretch properties, reducing specific weight per m² for cost saving and sustainability

surprising results on decorative papers

stretchable paper can be produced within a paper machine but stand-alone units for any paper available on the market open an interesting opportunity for converters

what about printing?



even though being apparently smooth, stretchable paper will never be smooth enough for rotogravure printing

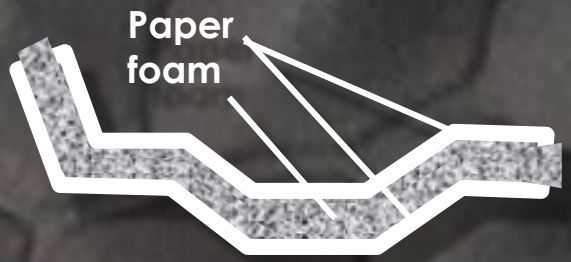
notwithstanding this it can be digitally or flexo printed.

coloured and uncoloured paper

3D deformed multilayer of papers after curing

still opacity for coloured papers

stretchable paper for furniture, automotive, casting paper…..



1st commercial agreement

Since October 2019 strategic collaboration on stretchable paper between Gruppo X di X Gruppo and Domtar on

p a p e r m o r p h o s i s®

Domtar's official release:

"Domtar, the largest integrated manufacturer of uncoated freesheet paper in North America, and Gruppo X di X Gruppo srl, a technology and innovation company based in Italy, have entered into a strategic collaboration to industrially develop Gruppo X's patented PAPERMORPHOSIS® technology, which holds the potential to expand the use of products made from sustainable wood fiber that people rely on every day."

pilot operative since march 2020

we patent our innovations, develop them and license technology and know how