

Inline Coating System for 3-Dimensional Parts



Inline Coating of 3-Dimensional Parts for both Decorative and Functional Applications

SINGULUS TECHNOLOGIES – Innovations for New Technologies

SINGULUS TECHNOLOGIES (SINGULUS®) develops technologies for economical and resource-efficient production processes. The core competencies are vacuum thin-film technologies, wet-chemical processes, surface technologies and thermal processing technologies. SINGULUS TECHNOLOGIES taps new work areas with these competencies and develops innovative solutions. For all processes and applications, SINGULUS TECHNOLOGIES uses its know-how to continually improve both automation and process technologies as well as the integration of production steps and cultivates methods to transfer these solutions to additional areas of application.

SINGULUS TECHNOLOGIES works on expanding this expertise in the existing segments to new markets and develops new ideas for innovative product solutions. SINGULUS TECHNOLOGIES is one of the world's leading drivers of innovations for technologic areas with high growth potential. This includes renewable energies, the entire area of entertainment, ever increasing mobility, semiconductor technologies, medical as well as consumer goods of various kinds.





DECOLINE II – Enhanced Metallic Layers on 3-Dimensional Parts

Whether in the cosmetics sector or the automotive sector – metallic quality surfaces are needed more than ever in the decorative sector. However, the coating of sensitive hardware is usually an expensive step. A new, fully automated PVD coating inline system is able to operate directly from the bigpack to the finished product, saving time-consuming manual work. This is especially true for high-end cosmetic products as processes in bulk are not always possible, nor desirable from a surface protection standpoint.

SINGULUS TECHNOLOGIES offers the second generation of inline coating solutions for fully automated handling and coating of 3-dimensional parts. From loading to packaging, the process is fully automated and not one manual step is necessary – at a cycle time of only 0.4 seconds per component. This manufacturing solution is interesting for automotive, consumer goods, sanitary, mobile phones and packaging used in the cosmetics or beverage industry.

The DECOLINE II distinguishes itself with versatile options in realizing different layer configurations. Not only decorative, but also functional layers could be applied. Thinkable approaches are antibacterial coatings, EMV-shielding, electrical conductive layer (e.g. on electroplating components before the actual electroplating) or antennas. Each electrical conductive and non-magnetic metal and its alloys can be used as a metallic layer. This is a clear unique selling point, compared to batch processes, in which the selection of possible coating materials is much more limited.

The new DECOLINE II inline coating system is the next developmental level in vacuum coating and product handling:

- ightarrow Brilliant layers on 3-dimensional parts
- → Individual design variety
- ightarrow Elimination of batch processes
- ightarrow UV-curing for protection lacquer
- ightarrow Inline spray coating & metallization
- ightarrow Fully automated processing
- → High productivity and flexibility→ Low cost of ownership
- → Environment-friendly







Inline Coating of 3-Dimensional Parts



Loading station with automatic roboter sorting

Main Process Steps



Basic Concept of DECOLINE II

The different spray coating modules and the vacuum sputtering module of the DECOLINE II are interlinked by an innovative flexible inline concept. The DECOLINE II distinguishes itself from the traditional batch processes and satisfies with its inline concept all the prerequisites to revolutionize the existing production of 3-dimensional parts. By using high-quality coatings the decorative and functional properties of the coatings are significantly improved.

Base Coat Lacquering System

- → UV-base lacquering system
- \rightarrow Solvent allowance up to 50 %
- → 6-axis painting robots, up to two 6-axis painting robots per painting booth possible
- ightarrow Fast production change
- \rightarrow Flexible IR and UV configuration
- → Primer coat extension possible
- → Recycling of lacquering material possible
- → Significant cost reduction by most efficient material consumption

3-Dimensional Sputtering

- → Cycle time per carrier: down to 6 seconds
- \rightarrow Up to 18 parts on one carrier
- → Part rotation during sputtering process
- ightarrow Bottom edge metallization
- → Equipped with two cathodes in L-shape
- → Target materials e.g.: Al, Cu, Cr, Zr, CuAl, Ag, Au, Stainless Steel
- \rightarrow Different gold color targets available
- → Perfect layer uniformity and high deposition rates, even on complex 3-dimensional substrate shapes
- \rightarrow Reliable and clean sputtering process
- → Highest coating quality, high uptime and no environmental impact
- → Chromium VI-free applications

Top Coat Lacquering System

- \rightarrow UV-base lacquering system
- \rightarrow Clear lacquer application
- → Colored lacquer application
- ightarrow Solvent allowance up to 50 %

- \rightarrow 6-axis painting robot
- → Fast production change
- \rightarrow Flexible IR and UV configuration
- → Recycling of lacquering material possible
- → Significant cost reduction by most efficient material consumption

DECOLINE II automates the production process while considerably reducing costs, logistical efforts as well as the personnel intensity and therefore yields a return on investment in a very short period of time.

Great Individual Design Variety

- → Wide range of different target materials e.g. Al, CuAl, Cr, Aq, Au, and stainless steel
- → Different gold color targets available
- → UV-curable monocure top coat lacquers from high glossy and matt finish surfaces
- → UV-curable monocure lacquers compatible with pigments or dyes for colored base and top coat finishing
- ightarrow UV-curable monocures from different lacquer suppliers qualified
- → Wide process window for different substrate shapes and layer thicknesses
- → All UV-curable monocure lacquers are printable with pad printing (tampon printing) or hot stamping foil
- → Gradient lacquering with second 6-axis painting robot possible

Effective, Economical, Flexible

- ightarrow Inline metallization and spraying technology
- → Flexibility of design and appearance of finished products
- → Different materials can be metallized and lacquered, e.g. plastics, glass, metal or ceramics
- → Production tool with modular configuration

Human Responsibility

- → Separation of laquering, metallization and transportation area
- \rightarrow Easy human operation interface
- → Remote service tool



Lacquering station Substrate transport

Controlled, Precise, Intelligent

- \rightarrow Fully automated production tool with integrated process control
- → Compact process modules with innovative media and process management
- \rightarrow Flexible and robust substrate transport system
- → Consistent flow conditions from process step to process step
- \rightarrow Easy change of sputter layer thicknesses
- → Universal handling and clip system, flexible and fast change of production

Clean, Safe, User-friendly

- → Safe for operators, environmental and reliable process
- → Fully integrated loading/unloading for all process modules
- → Reliabale and clean sputtering process, highest coating quality, high uptime and no environmental impact
- \rightarrow Compact spray coating module, capable for primer/base coat, colored and/or scratch resistant/top coat lacquer
- → Integrated SINGULUS developed UV-lamps
- ightarrow Collection and direct recycling of over spray possible
- → Quick-change lacquer supply tank for lacquer color changes: Highest uptime and productivity by offline cleaning of lacquer supply tank
- ightarrow Excellent accessibility of the process chamber modules and chambers from all sides through the separation of process and installation modules
- \rightarrow Optional painting robots for plug and play production



Sputtering system (POLYCOATER) with transport conveyours



Unloading station directly after top coating

Pre-treatment with plasma flaming





- → Meta

Primer and/or Base Layer → UV Base Coat

Metal Layer

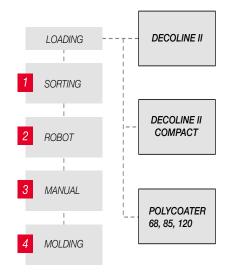
→ Al, Au, Ag, Cu, Ti, ... Alloys: NiCr, CuAl (Decogold),

Protective Layer





Inline Coating with Different Loading Versions



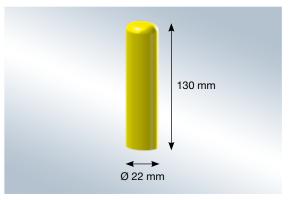
DECOLINE II

Technical Data

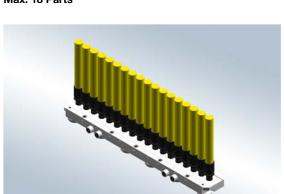
Throughput	up to 10,900 p/h, depending on process
Metallizer Yield	> 95 %
Breakage	< 0.2 %, depending on process
Uptime	> 95 %, depending on process
Length	approx. 18.0 m
Width	approx. 11.0 m
Height	approx. 3.8 m

Other layouts on request

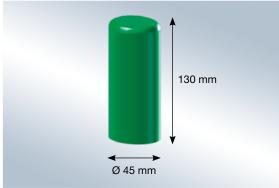
Down to 6 Seconds Carrier Cycle Time



Max. 18 Parts



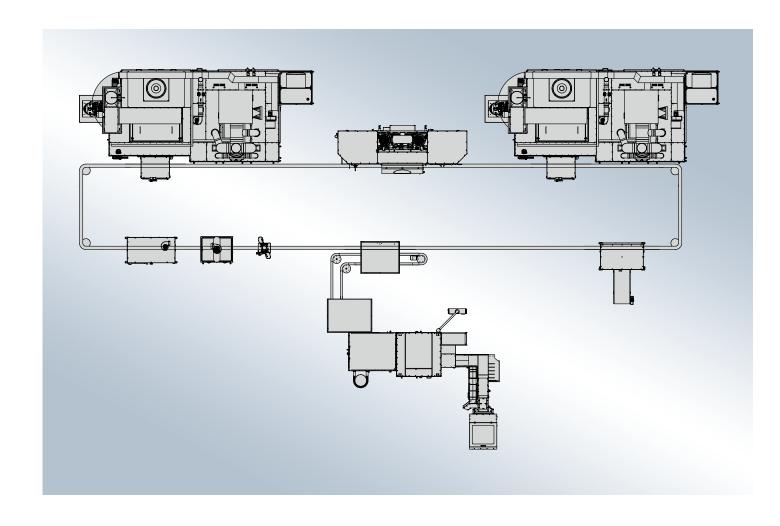
Carrier equipped with 18 substrates, up to 10,800 parts/h

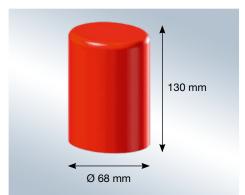


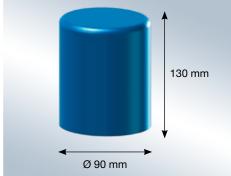
Max. 9 Parts

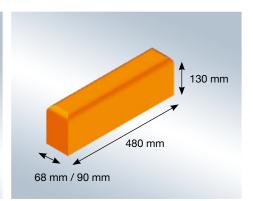


Carrier equipped with 9 substrates, up to 5,450 parts/h





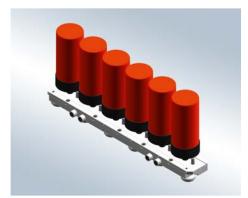




Max. 6 Parts

Max. 4 Parts

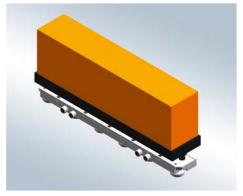
Max. Process Area



Carrier equipped with 6 substrates, up to 3,600 parts/h



Carrier equipped with 4 substrates, up to 1,140 parts/h



6 to 10 sec./Area | 600 to 360 Areas/h





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SINGULUS TECHNOLOGIES - Technologies for a Sustainable World

Responsible and sustainable corporate governance is very important to SINGULUS TECHNOLOGIES. SINGULUS TECHNOLOGIES develops and assembles innovative machines and systems for efficient and resource-saving production processes, which are used worldwide in the solar/hydrogen, semiconductor, medical technology, consumer goods and data storage sectors. SINGULUS TECHNOLOGIES regards sustainability as an opportunity to position itself with innovative products that follow this spirit. In the focus are:

- \rightarrow environmental awareness
- \rightarrow efficient use of resources
- \rightarrow avoidance of unnecessary CO, pollution

The company's core competencies include various processes of coating technology, surface treatment and wet-chemical and thermal production processes.

