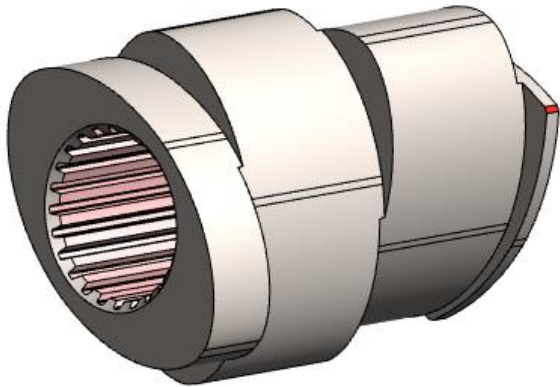
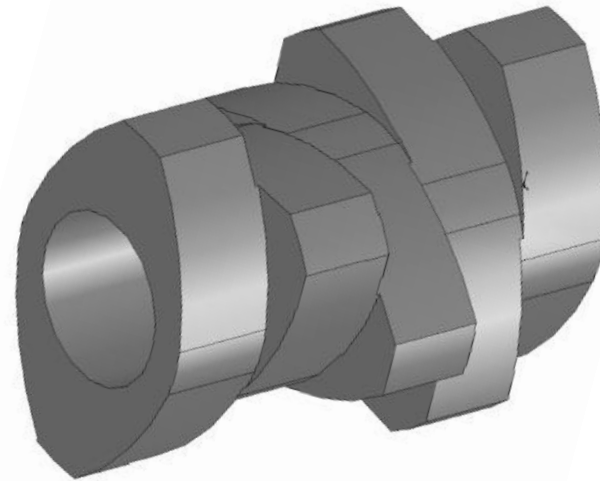




NEW INVOLUTE EXTRUDER SCREW ELEMENTS FOR IMPROVED PRODUCTIVITY AND QUALITY



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Coperion GmbH, Stuttgart

Involute Screw Elements: Improved Productivity and Quality

Background

Twin-screw compounding system: Overview

Involute Elements: Design basis

Involute Elements: Impact

Productivity

Quality

Summary

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Quality

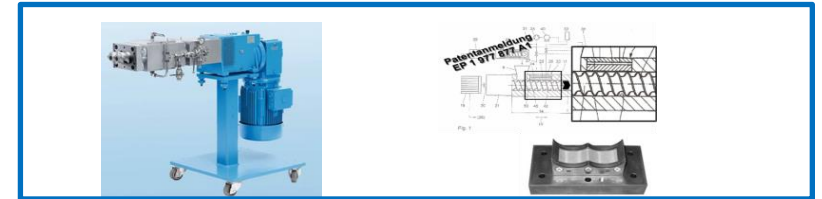
Summary

Background: Main factors limiting compounding capacity

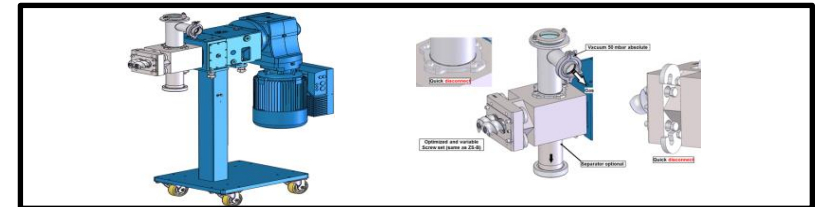
Limit:
Motor power



Limit:
Feed intake



Limit:
Degassing



Limit:
Screw Design
Mixing/Quality



Background: Filled Material Screw Design Limitation Points

Reduced filler intake

Main feed or side feed locations

Insufficient filler incorporation

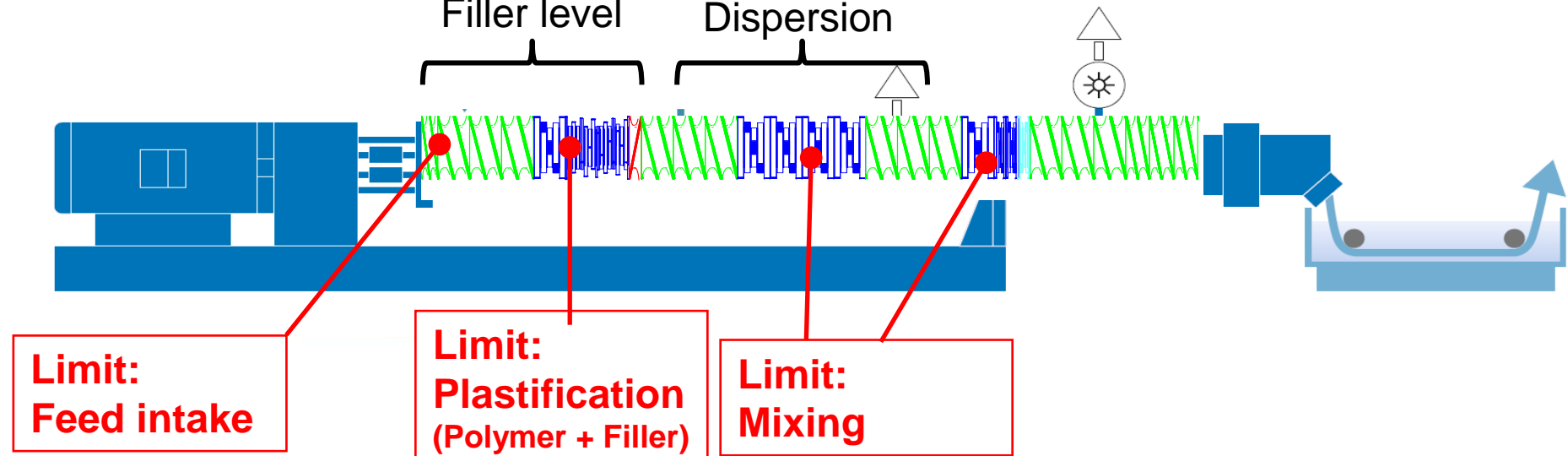
Vent flow of raw filler

Poor dispersion

Limit:

Feed intake
Melting
Filler level

Feed intake
Filler level
Dispersion



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Involute Elements: Impact

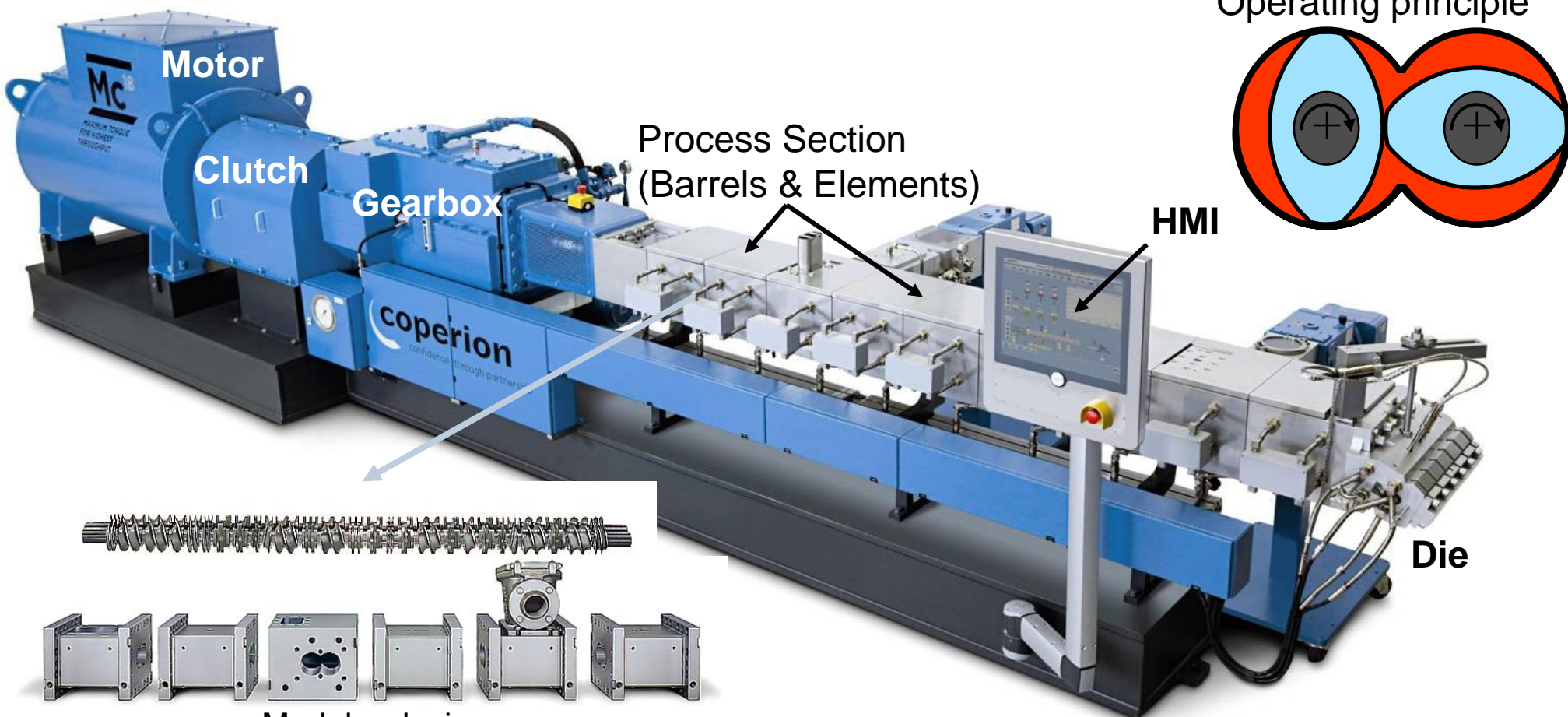
Productivity

Quality

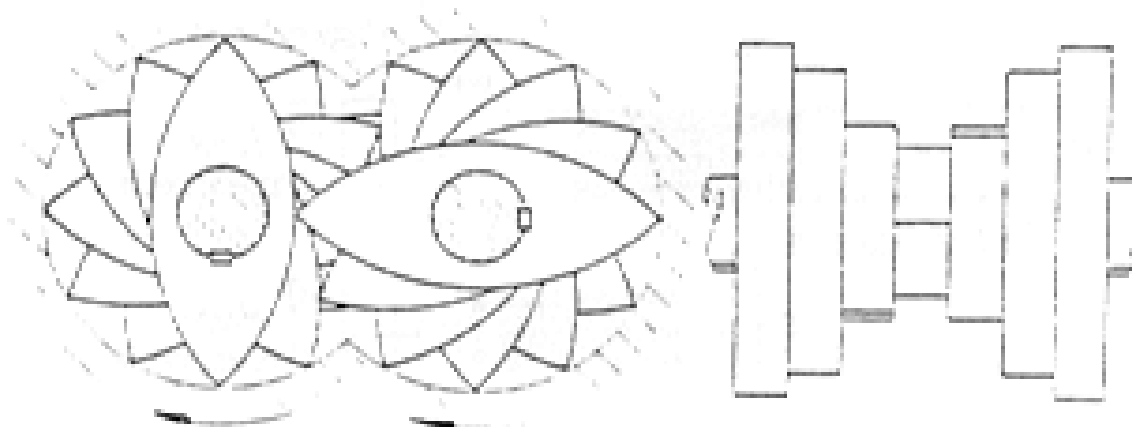
Summary

ZSK: Modular Design

Drive power of 10 kW up to 12 MW for rates from 0.5 kg/h and 100 t/h



Twin-screw Compounder Kneading Block Evolution



Erdmenger KB Geometry (1949)



Current Standard KB Geometry

Kneading elements: Working principle

Large staggering angle S:

--> reduced **transport T**

--> improved **mixing M**

Small staggering S:

--> improved **transport T**

--> reduced **mixing M**

Small disk W:

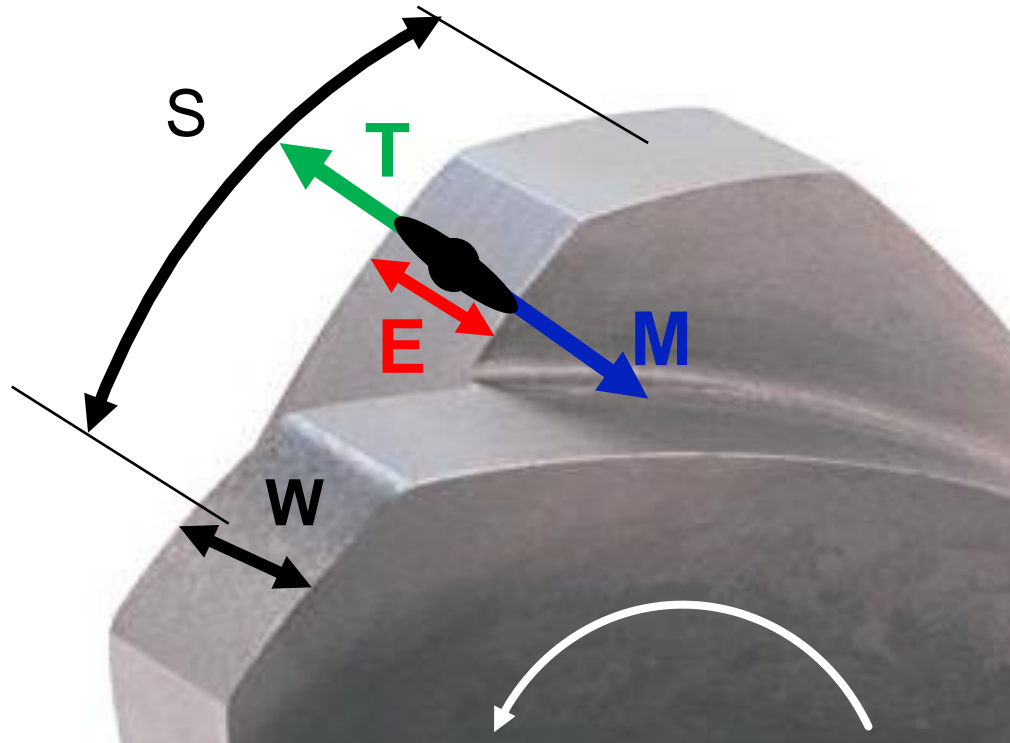
--> improved **mixing M**

--> reduced **dispersion E**

Large disk W:

--> reduced **mixing M**

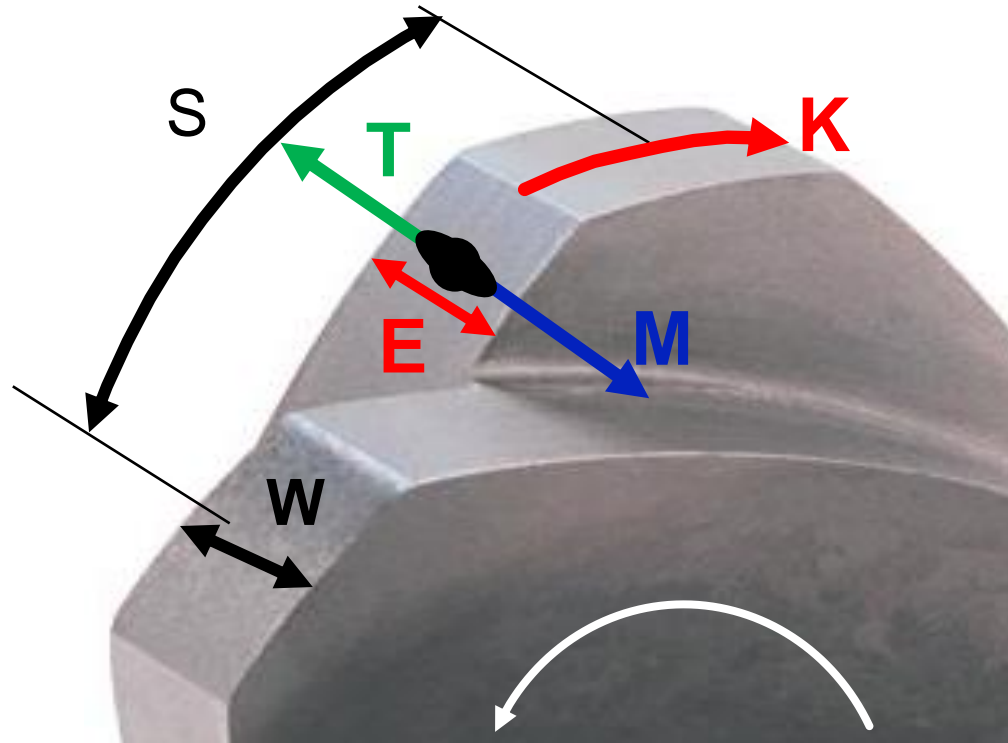
--> improved **dispersion E**



W – Disk Width
S – Stagger Angle

T – Material Transport
M – Distributive (Back) Mixing
E – Dispersive Mixing

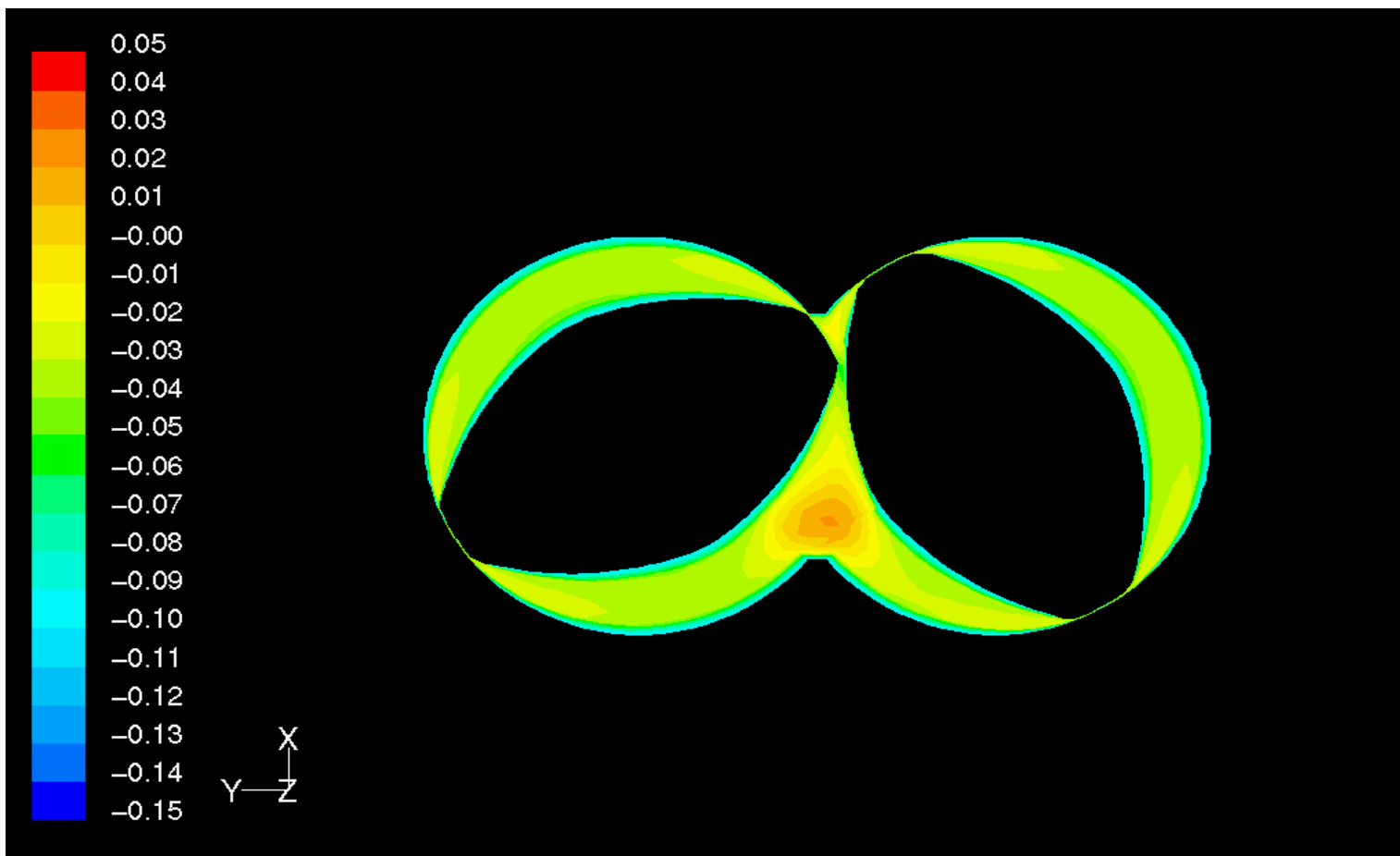
Kneading elements: Working principle for reduced diameter



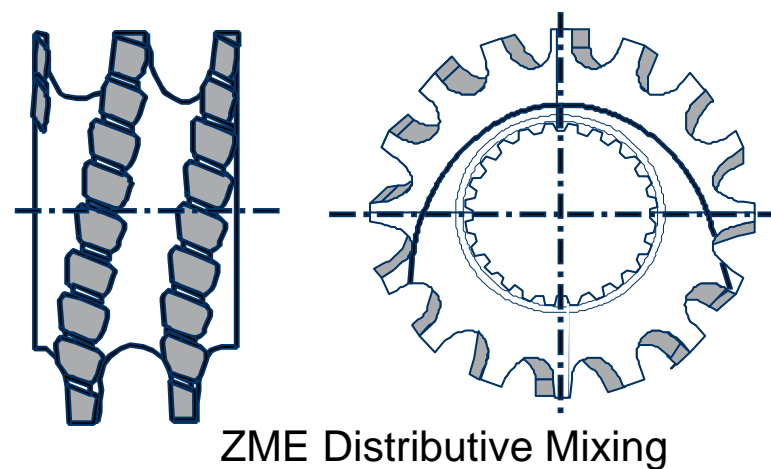
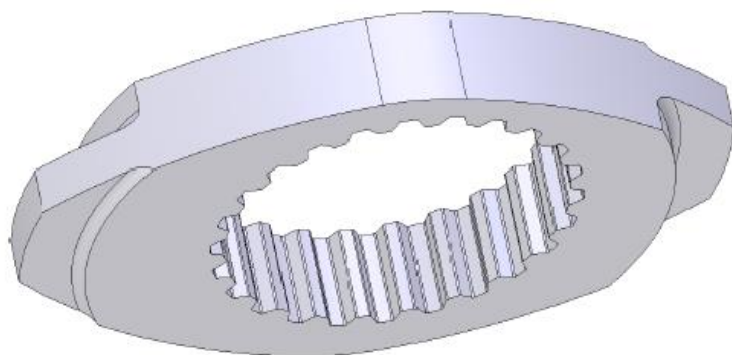
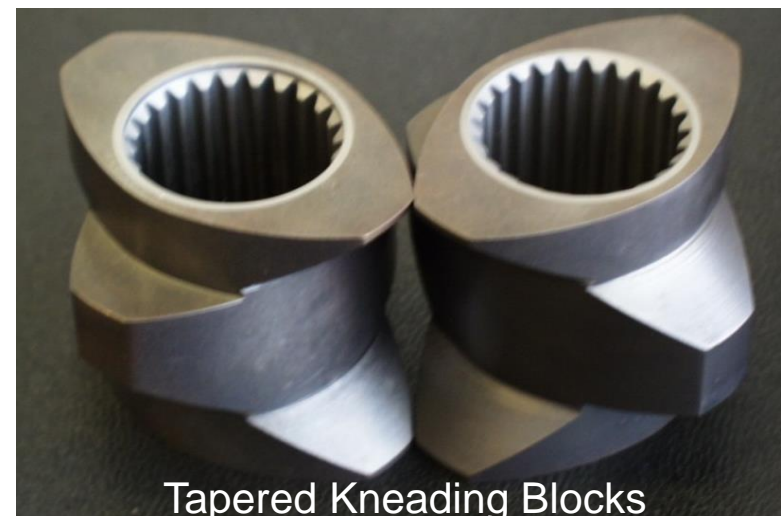
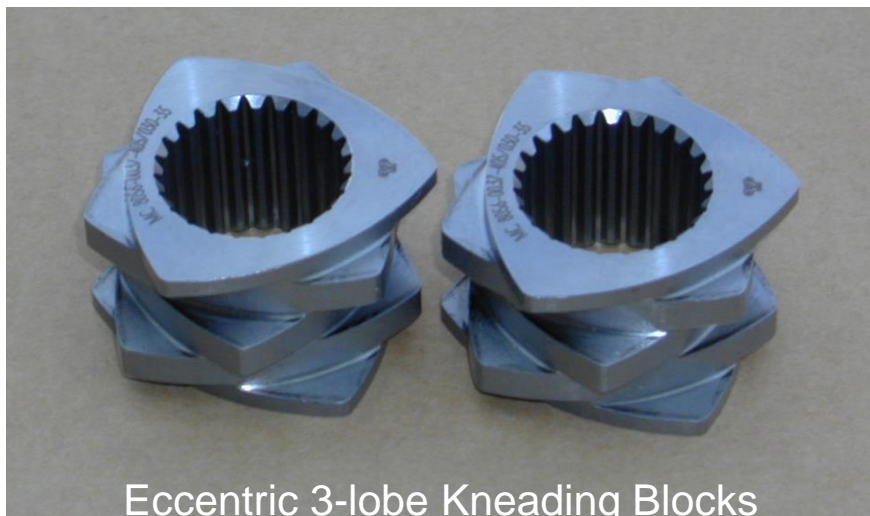
W – Disk Width
S – Stagger Angle

K – Dispersive shear mixing
T – Material Transport (reduced)
M – Distributive (Back) Mixing (reduced)
E – Dispersive Extensional Mixing (reduced)

Kneading elements: Working principle



Kneading/Mixing Element Variants



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Productivity

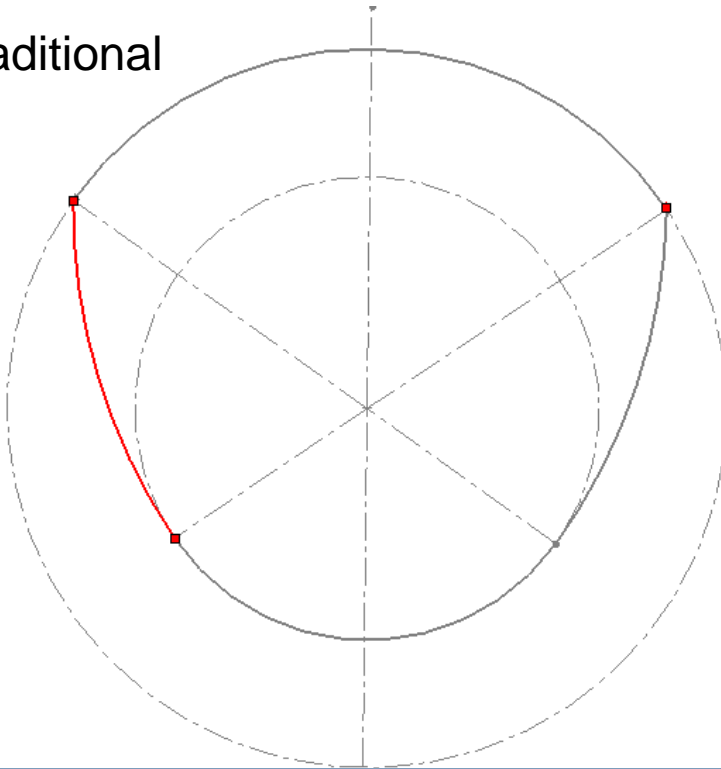
Quality

Summary

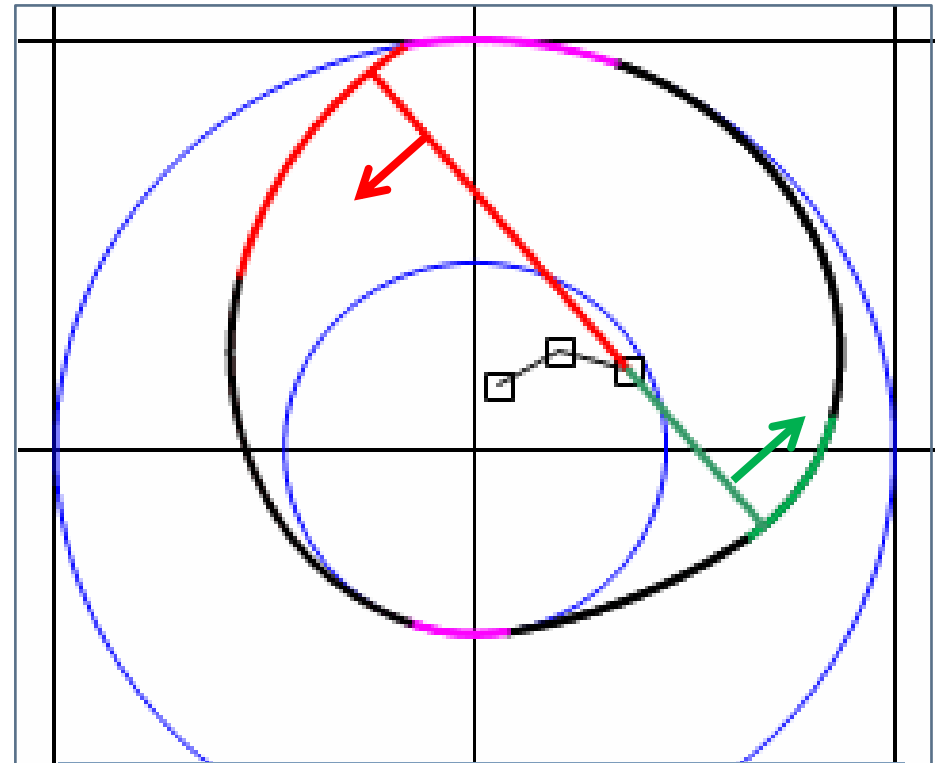
New Involute Screw Profile

Comparison of "Traditional" vs. "New" Single Flighted design

Traditional



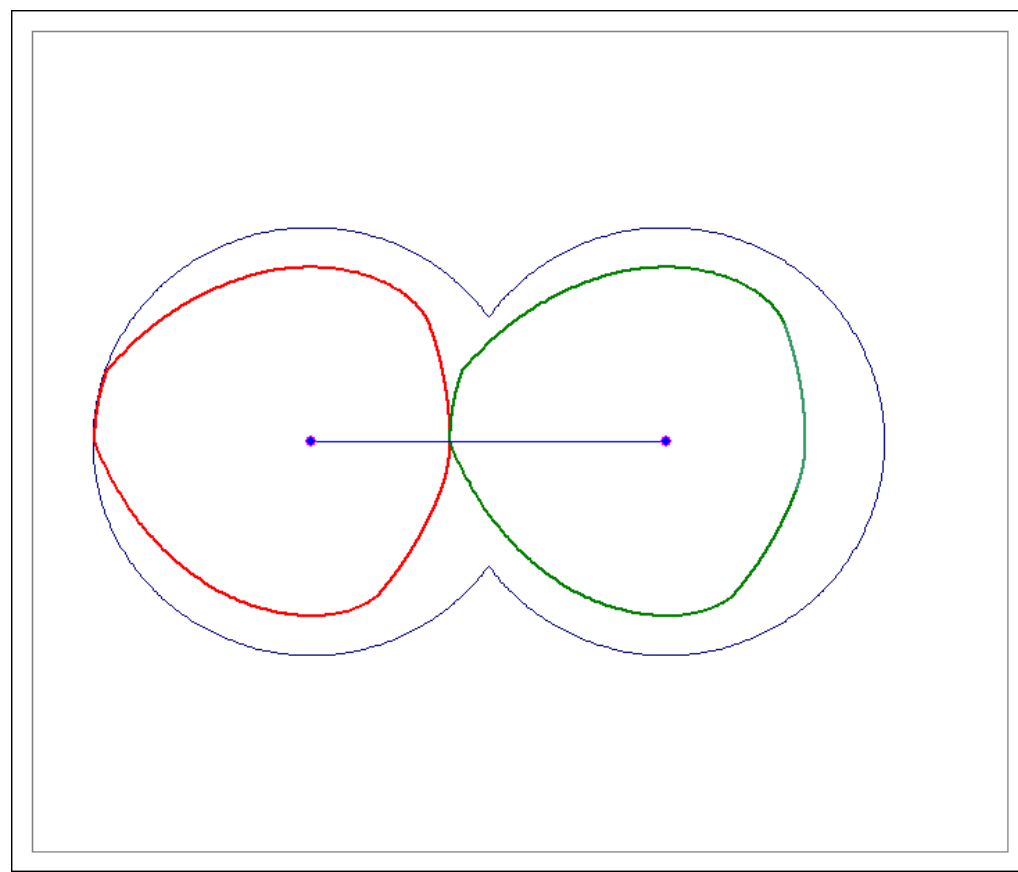
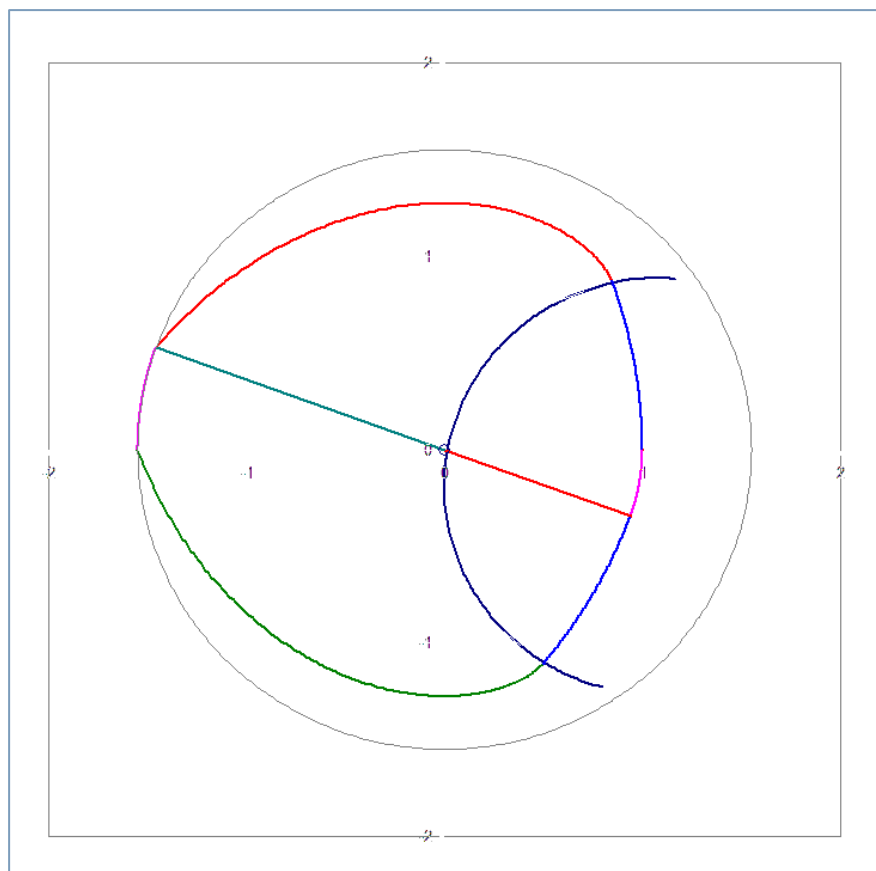
Erdmenger:
Profile design based on circular arcs



Coperion Patent: EP 2 483 051 B1
Profile design based on math curves

New Involute Screw Profile

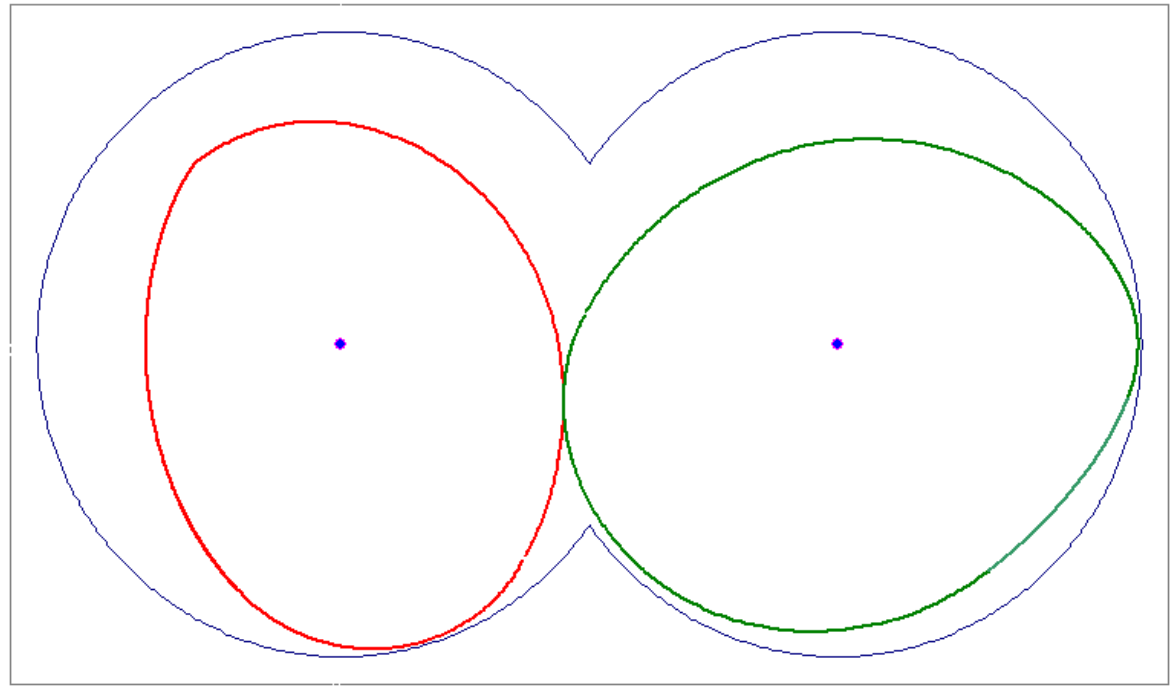
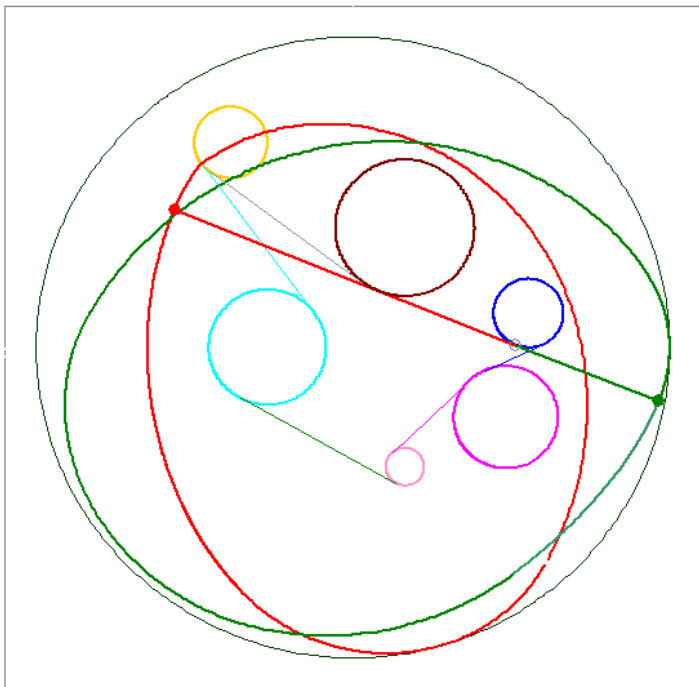
Description of the 3-lobe design



Patent: EP 2 483 051 B1

New Involute Screw Profile

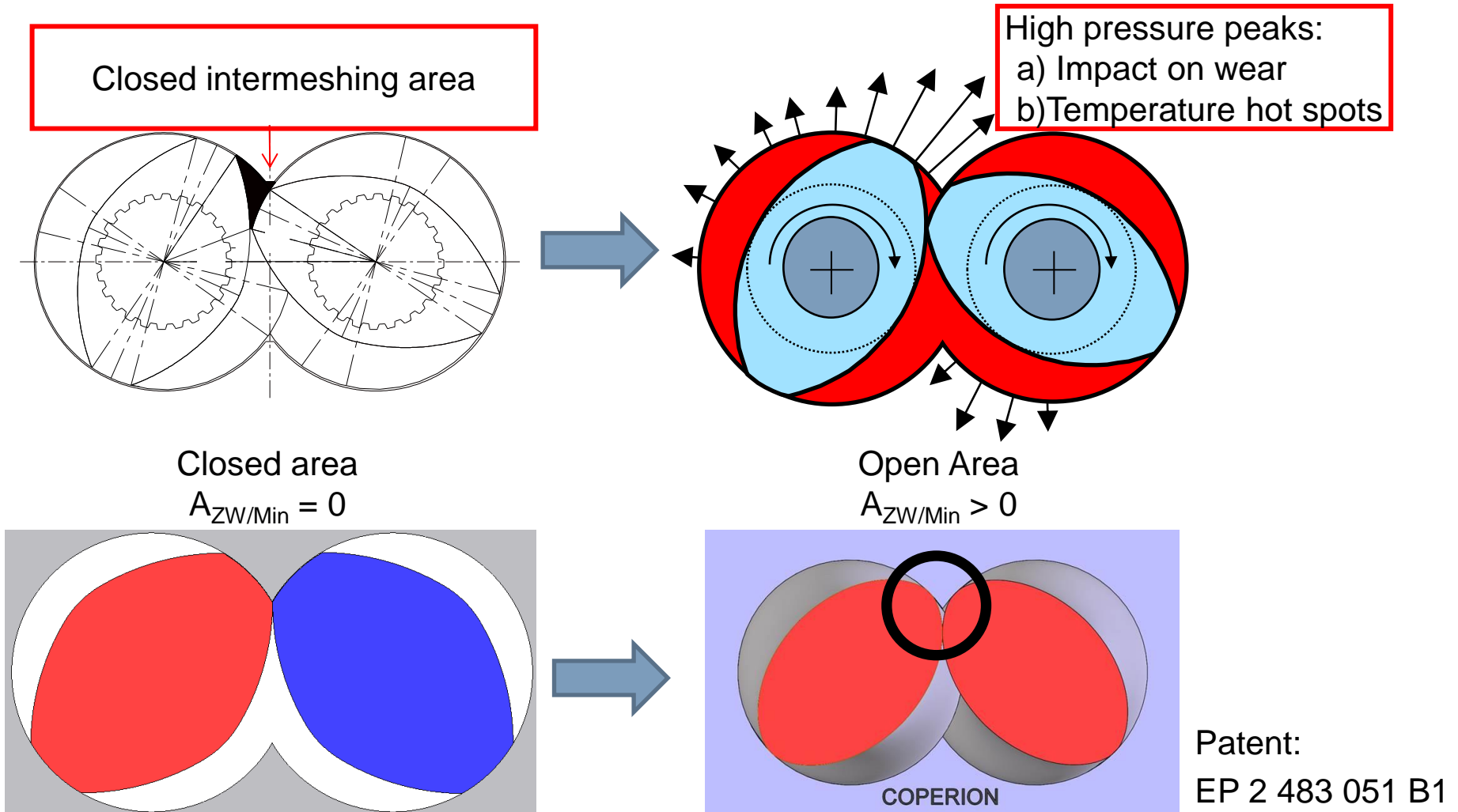
Description of the asymmetric 2-lobe design



Patent: EP 2 483 051 B1

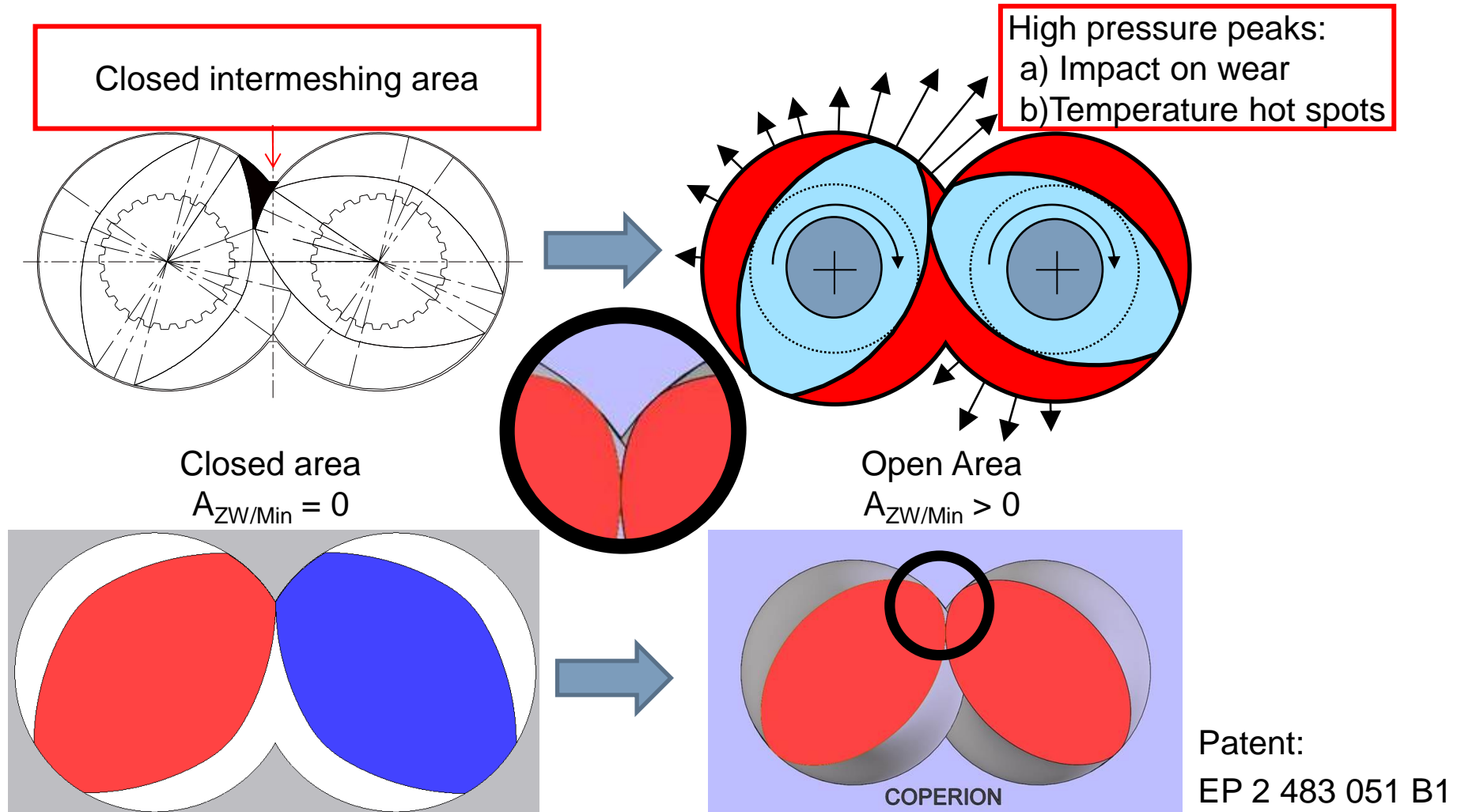
New Involute Screw Profile

Comparison of "New" vs. "Traditional" 2-lobe design



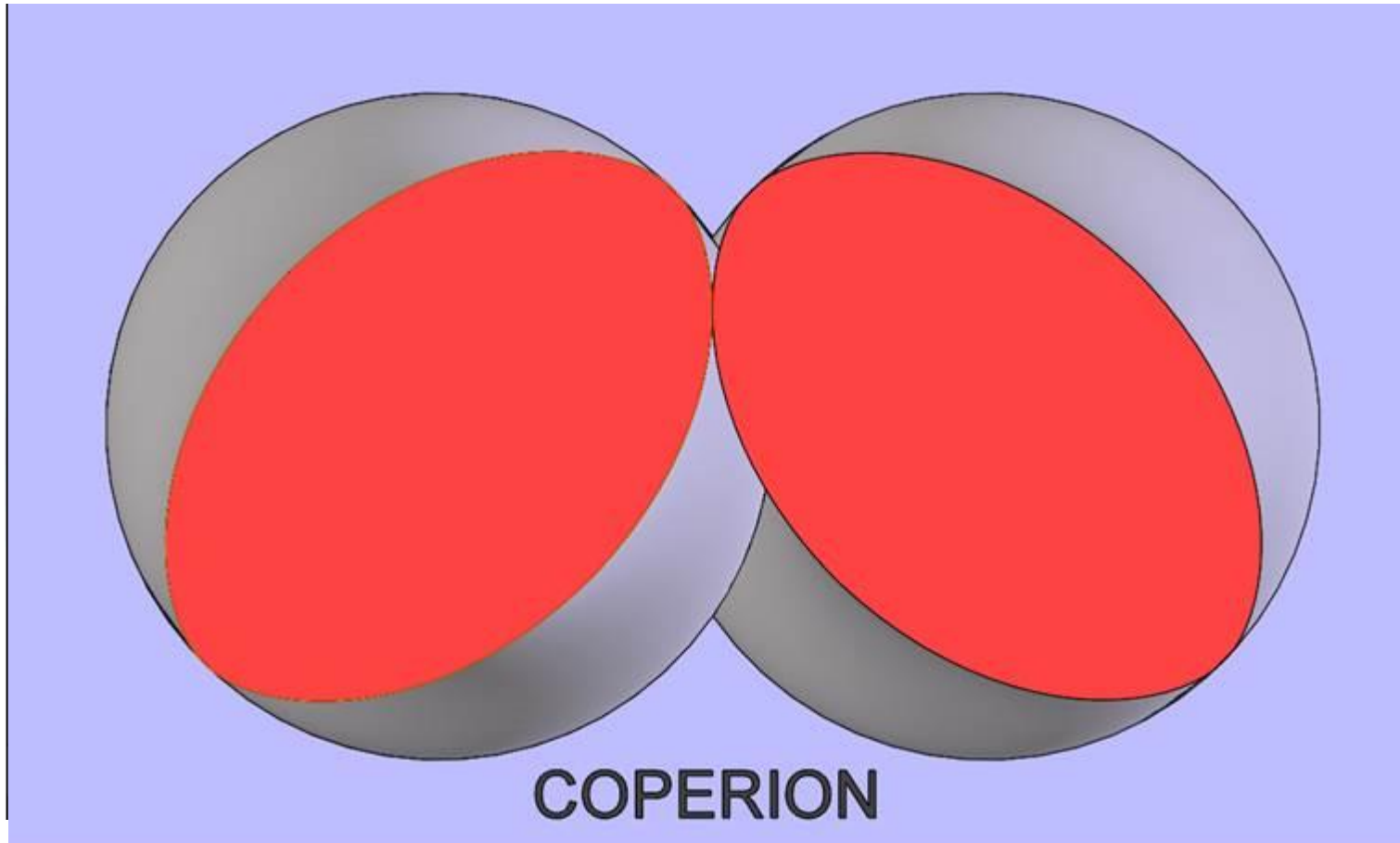
New Involute Screw Profile

Comparison of "New" vs. "Traditional" 2-lobe design



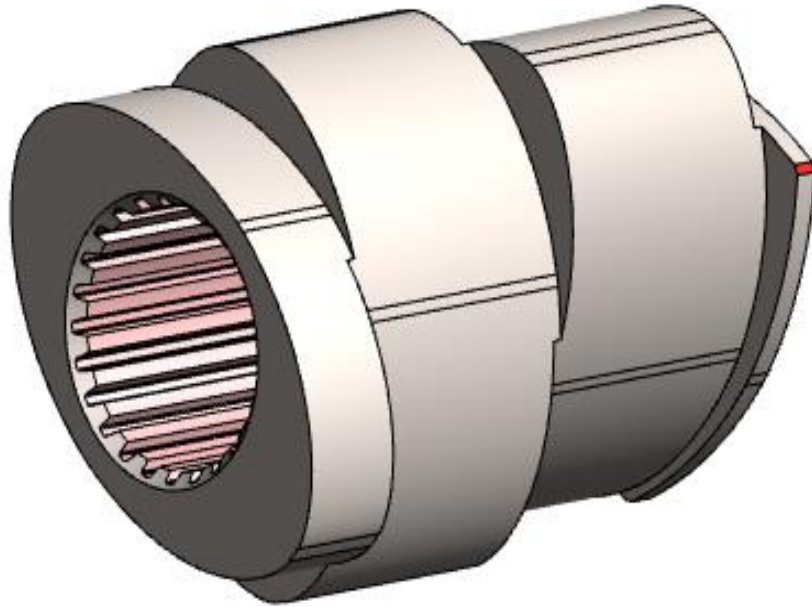
New Involute Screw Profile

2-lobe Geometry



Patent: EP 2 483 051 B1

Summary: New Involute Screw Profile



- ›› Self wiping
- ›› Closely intermeshing
- ›› Improvement for elongational stress
- ›› Shear sensitive
- ›› Highest flexibility for profile generation
- ›› Patented

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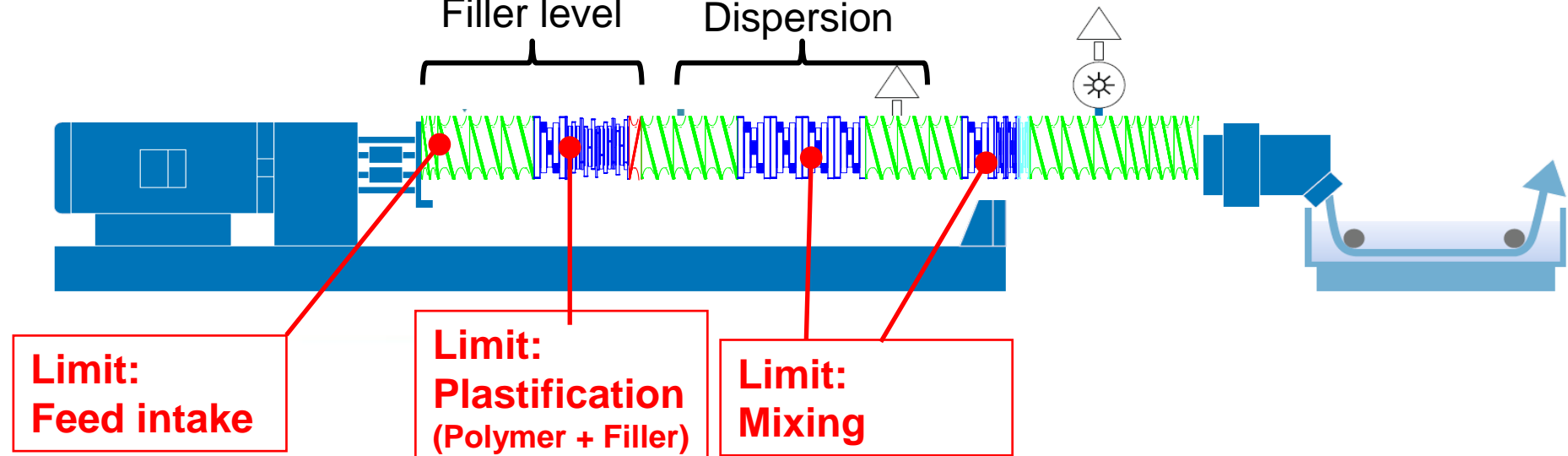
Vent flow of raw filler

Poor dispersion

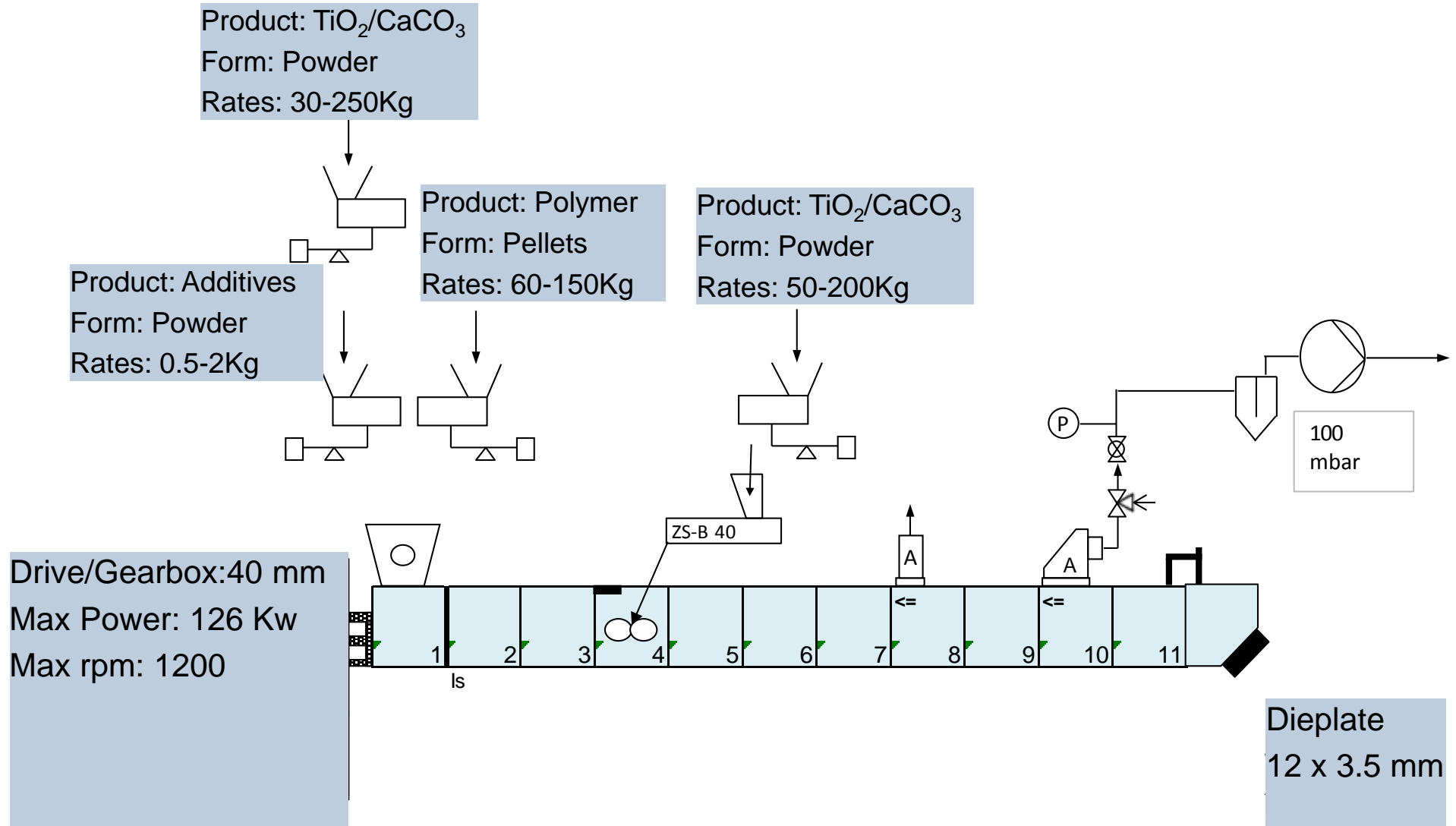
Limit:

Feed intake
Melting
Filler level

Feed intake
Filler level
Dispersion



Process Flow Diagram: Involute Elements Lab Evaluation



Involute Screw Profile: Filled PP compounds



Formulation	Max. Rate Standard- Screw profile (kg/h)	Max. Rate New Screw profile (Involute) (kg/h)	Increase [%]
PP + 55 % Talc	180	220	+ 22%
PP + 70% CaCO ₃	180	250	+ 38%



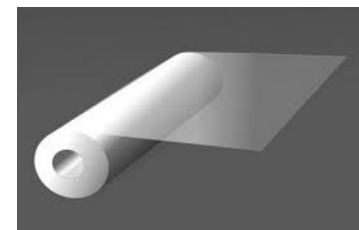
Involute Screw Profile: Breathable film

Formulation	Max. Rate Standard- Screw profile (kg/h)	Max. Rate New Screw profile (Involute) (kg/h)	Increase [%]
LLDPE (MI 6) + 45% CaCO ₃	200	350	+75%
LLDPE (MI 6) + 70% CaCO ₃	235	400	+ 70%



Involute Screw Profile: Filled PP/PE compounds (Masterbatch)

Formulation	Max. Rate Standard- Screw profile (kg/h)	Max. Rate New Screw profile (Involute) (kg/h)	Increase [%]
LLDPE (MI 20) + 28% TiO ₂ + 42% CaCO ₃	110	290	+ 160%
PP (MI 12) + 70% CaCO ₃	130	300	+ 125%
PP (MI 12&70) + 75% Talc	100	200	+ 100%

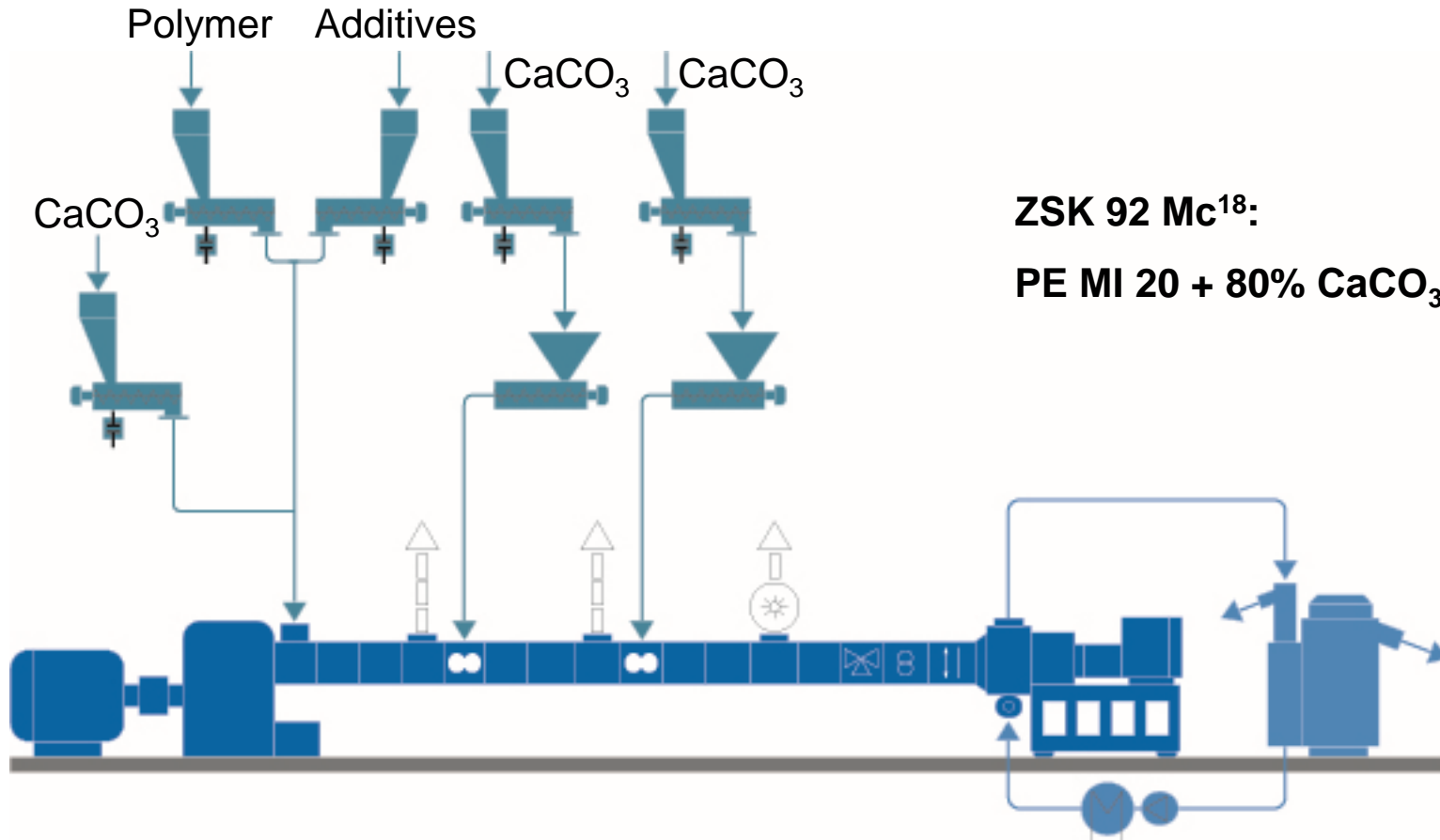


Involute Screw Profile: Automotive PP grades

Formulation	Max. Rate Standard- Screw profile (kg/h)	Max. Rate New Screw profile (Involute) (kg/h)	Increase [%]
PP + 71% Talc	140	220	+57%
PP + Elastomer + 70% Talc	130	200	+46%



Involute Screw Profile Scale up: Highly filled polyolefines



Impact of process conditions and screw design

Significant influence of screw configuration (Rate & Quality)

ZSK92Mc¹⁸

Recipe No.	Recipe	Max. Rate Standard-Screw profile	Max. Rate New Screw profile (Involute)	Rate increase
5	PE MI 20 + 80% CaCO ₃	2200 kg/h	3000 kg/h	+35 %



Not optimized screw configuration



optimized screw configuration – standard elements



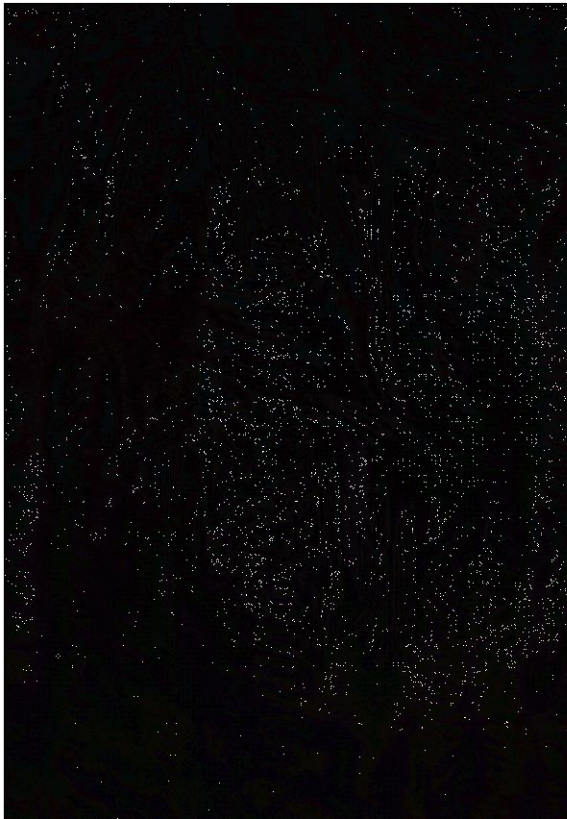
optimized screw configuration – new involute elements



Impact of process conditions and screw design

Significant influence of screw configuration (Rate & Quality)

**Not optimized screw
configuration**



**optimized screw
configuration –
standard elements**



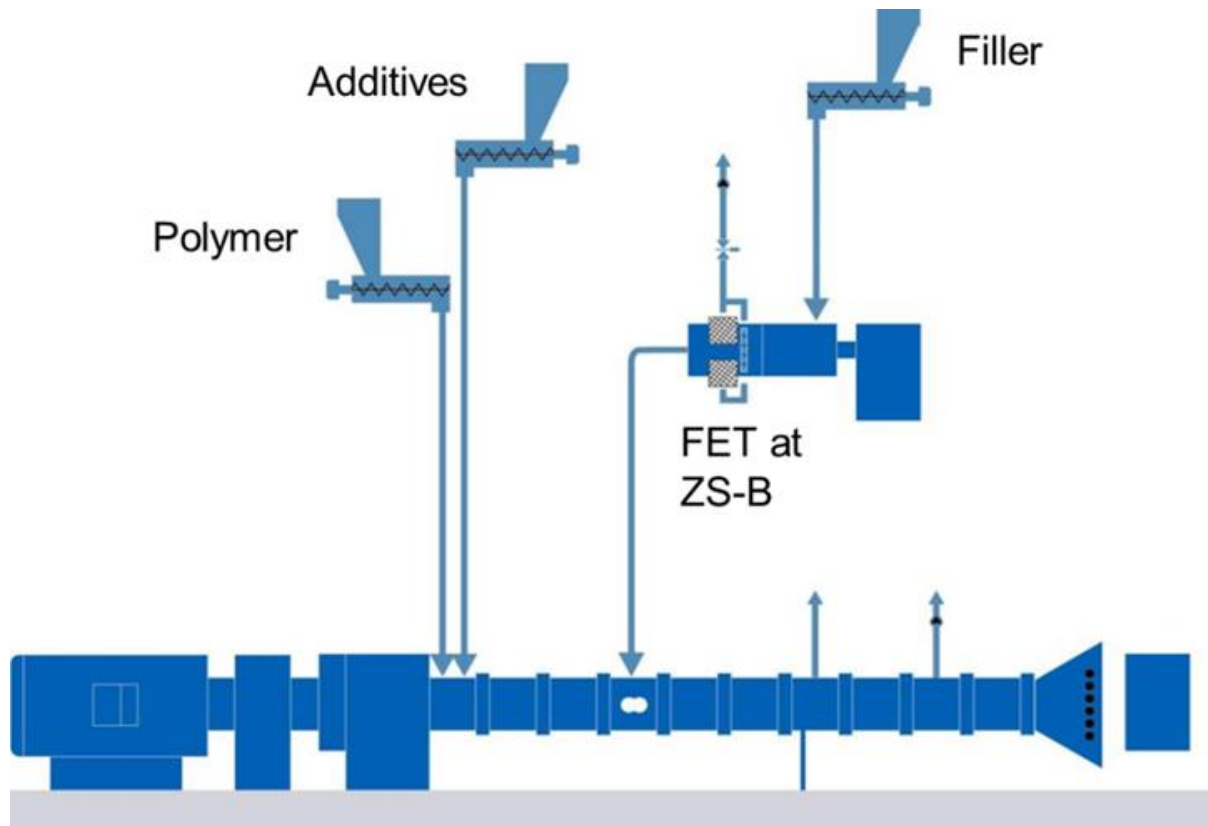
**optimized screw
configuration – new
involute elements**



Involute Screw Profile Scale up: PP compounding

ZSK 58 Mc¹⁸:

PP MI 8 + 70 % CaCO₃
(1.3 µm, Coating 1.6%)



Impact of process conditions and screw design

Significant influence of screw configuration (Rate & Quality)

ZSK58Mc¹⁸

Recipe No.	Recipe	Max. Rate Standard-Screw profile	Max. Rate New Screw profile (Involute)	Rate increase
4	PP MI 8 + 70% CaCO ₃	550 kg/h	900 kg/h	+60 %

>> In operation since August 2016

Summary

- Higher throughput
- Higher loadings of filler
- Better dispersion and homogenization
- Lower energy consumption (SEI in kWh/kg)
- Increased profitability
- > 30% for filled polymers
- physical limitation can be reached
- FPV lowered
- 10 – 20 K lower temperature
- CAPEX, OPEX and OEE

Summary

- ➔ Increased operationing window for several mineral filled engineering plastics permits more efficient use high torque twin-screw compounders.
- ➔ Significantly increased throughput achieved for Talc, CaCO_3 , TiO_2
- ➔ High potential for fillers, such as SiO_2 , Microspheres, Nanocomposites, etc.



Thank you very much for your attention.