

# 1986

SIGRAFLEX®  
50  
1972  
2022

## Commissioning of a new 1,000 mm (39.4") wide calender roll line in Meitingen

The mid-1980s saw a sharp increase in demand for flexible graphite foil - driven mainly by the sealing industry. The material's environmental friendliness and being harmless to health also played a vital role. At that time, gaskets containing asbestos fibers were often used for applications at higher temperatures and against aggressive. Therefore, the sealing industry was looking for non-carcinogenic materials with comparable properties to replace asbestos. Flexible graphite was seen as the ideal solution being fiber free, temperature and corrosion resistant and non-carcinogenic.

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The calender rolls compact the expanded graphite flakes without the addition of binders or fillers and roll them into foils or sheets. At that time, the foil line allowed a maximum foil and sheet width of 500 mm (19.7").

From around 1984, this capacity was no longer sufficient as the market demand was much greater. Therefore, in early



Josef Möritz, master craftsman in SIGRAFLEX production at the new calender roll line in Meitingen, Germany

1985 the SIGRI management approved the construction of a new calender roll line in Meitingen. By November 1986 it was already in operation.

The new roll line offered significant advantages: It was not only twice as fast, but also twice as wide: Foil and sheets with a width of 1,000 mm (39.4") could be produced. In addition, the line was equipped with the latest technology of the time. It operated almost fully automatically and was electronically controlled and monitored. This helped to further improve the already excellent quality of SIGRAFLEX.

With its commissioning, SIGRI was therefore ideally prepared to serve the fast-growing market and, at the same time, to consolidate and even further expand its own strong position as market leader.