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## **First Results with a seamed Felt produced with pure non-woven Technology**

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The advantages provided through the use of seamed press fabrics as well as those provided through the use of non-woven materials are well documented. Seamed fabrics allow much faster and safer installations. Non-woven fabrics provide a faster start-up and increase lifetime by reaching the needed sheet dryness and quality levels. Until recently, though, the seam of non-woven press fabrics occasionally caused issues.

Problems encountered in the implementation of non-woven, seamed press fabrics are as follows:

- seamability - the time required to close the seam
- the seam cover
- sheet marking
- seam strength

In close cooperation with Norske Skog Walsum, Albany International developed numerous innovative solutions to overcome these issues, because this unique seam felt provided excellent dewatering and fast start-up.

Normal running times with seam felts are 6-8 weeks. With Seam HydroCross at Norske Skog Walsum's PM4 and PM10 the average lifetime was improved to 12-14 weeks and both PMs achieve their target speeds within 12-48 hours during start-up. Sheet quality and dryness are within specification. This is the longest lifetime with non-woven seamed felts world-wide.

This case study highlights the issues encountered during the development of seam technology in a non-woven fabric and explains the solutions used to overcome these issues and achieving long life with excellent dewatering.

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