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WITH THE CONTRIBUTION
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The new Rapid Dry dryer is working



The main goal of the LIFE Rapid Dry project is the development of a new dryer for the ceramic sanitaryware and tableware production process.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the following shortage of raw materials have made it unexpectedly difficult to achieve this goal, but in January 2022 the new Rapid Dry dryer has finally been completed and its test sessions has started.

Some parameters, like temperature, humidity and air circulation speed inside the dryer, are fundamental since they allow to guarantee the optimal drying of ceramic pieces and to avoid breakages. Also, by regulating these parameters it is possible to significantly influence the time required for the drying process, which with traditional dryers can take up to 14 hours for

larger pieces.

SETEC has managed to develop a new dryer, where all these aspects are taken into consideration in order to make the drying process more efficient and fast, saving time and energy, and as a consequence reducing ceramic production costs and environmental impacts.

The new dryer main feature is the presence of a software that allows to regulate the main drying process parameters, in order to obtain the desired conditions. In this way it is possible:

- To set a real drying curve in which it is possible to choose and maintain the desired temperature and humidity for every step;
- To regulate the internal moisture by means injection of finely atomized water;
- To regulate the air turbulence for every step and so to accelerate/decelerate the drying process depending on the costumer needs;
- To manage in a fully automated way the heat generator and the air fans: the thermal and electrical power, in every moment, are right the ones needed;
- To manage in a fully automated way humidity extractions and heat recovery.

Thanks to these technical innovations, the new dryer can lower the duration of a drying cycle to 8 hours, and the faster drying together with the other new technologies can reduce the thermal consumption from the 288 kcal/kg of the traditional dryers to 98 kcal/kg for the Rapid Dry dryer, while the electrical consumption goes from 0,019 kWh/kg of a traditional dryer to the 0,003 kWh/kg of the Rapid Dry one.



New Rapid Dry dryer presentation event

The new dryer developed during the Rapid Dry project has been presented during an event organized by SETEC in Civita Castellana on the 26th of May. The event has been a great opportunity to share with some stakeholder of the ceramic sector the characteristics of the innovative dryer and the possibilities it carries to reduce consumptions and costs.

The day started with the welcoming of the participants and then the prototype dryer located in FA Ceramica was shown and its feature explained, in order to give the opportunity to fully understand the technologies implemented, their functioning and the consequences these technologies can have on the ceramic drying process.

The second part of the event was dedicated to the presentation of the test results, necessary to demonstrate that the goals set by the Rapid Dry project have been achieved and to explain how much the new dryer is able to reduce the duration of the drying cycles, energy

consumptions and, as a consequence, production costs for the ceramic producers.

The participants were mainly potential clients, interested in the possible opportunities arising from the technology developments of the ceramic sector, and their presence represents a fundamental aspects to determine the future success on the market for the new dryer.

To furtherly increase the knowledge of the project and of the new technologies created, in the following months SETEC and LCE will take part to several fairs and conferences where the Rapid Dry project and dryer will be presented to the public.



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