Challenge
A US-based specialty chemical producer used OEM clamp style holders on its drum flaker that required up to three hours per scraper blade change. And because the blades were clamped into place, there was no allowance for thermal expansion resulting in ripples across the roll. To avoid rippling, thicker blades were used (0.095", 2.4 mm) that limited the flexibility and conformance.

Additionally, the holders and scraper blades did not oscillate and the blades were not adjustable causing blade alignment and angle adjustments to be nearly impossible.

Solution
Kadant installed a doctor/scraper assembly with an AccuFlake™ blade holder and ProFlake™ blade.

Results
The AccuFlake blade holder allows removal of the doctor blades from the end, making blade changes safer and decreasing the time to change a blade from three hours to only a few minutes.

ProFlake blades are thinner than the plant’s previous blades to improve flaking consistency and product quality with less load on the blade and less wear on the drum.

The new doctor system provides oscillation, improving flaking efficiency. Also, the assembly allows fine adjustment of doctor set-up and angle.

Market Insights
- AccuFlake blade holders provide safe, fast, and easy blade changes.
- ProFlake blades provide longer life and fewer blade changes.
- A new Kadant doctor system can increase productivity and decrease downtime.