

MACHINERY *update*

The machinery only journal for processing and packaging

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TOILETRIES & COSMETICS • PPMA SHOW REVIEW



Toiletries & Cosmetics - a palette of opportunities

PPMA Show 2008 Review

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Trade Minister flies the flag for British manufacturing



New Machinery

From cooker extruders for snacks to stickpacks for tea



Getting down to business

PPMA Show Review
Economic woes take a back seat as visitors come out in droves

Plus:

Food Contact

Coding, Marking,
Labelling

Components



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People, events, and diary dates

Let's stick to the facts - even if it doesn't sell newspapers!



I would be the first to acknowledge that the current economic climate is tough but please let's have a little moderation and proportionality – even if it doesn't sell newspapers.

I am, of course, distressed by some of the difficulties that many UK manufacturers are currently experiencing, many of which are impacting on some PPMA members; and where we can, we are working very hard to help.

However, I must also say that I think this over-excited rhetoric about economic apocalypse is now getting out of hand. It is also rather annoying and, more seriously, self fulfilling!

In an environment where growth and satisfying shareholders with unrealistic expectations is a mantra, it may not be very exciting to report that despite a difficult market estimated output has remained essentially constant (which it has). However it would be preferable to the sensationalised press comments that claimed that the economy has ground to a halt!

The only thing that has ground to a halt is the traffic that I see daily on the M25.

During a recent discussion with a professor of economics and chief economist at a very well respected UK Business Institute, he reported that he had been invited to an interview by a leading news channel but was later turned away at the pre-interview on the grounds that he wasn't pessimistic enough! Heaven forbid that the media should let a few facts get in the way of a good story!

In the PPMA 2008 business survey, 64 per cent of respondents stated that compared with last year their order intake is either steady or on the increase. Additionally, 65 per cent stated that their sales enquiries were either the same or higher than those received in the previous 12 months, while 71 per cent expected their order intake over the next 12 months to either remain constant or increase.

This year the PPMA Show was a great success with high visitor numbers on all three days of the event, including the traditionally quieter periods such as the last afternoon. Exhibitors reported excellent enquiry levels.

Now - am I blind to the woes of companies that are suffering under the current climate – of course not! My entire working life is devoted to defending the best interests of UK processing and packaging machinery suppliers and I do it with passion and commitment.

There will be readers of this article who have just been made redundant and I am currently seeking positive ways to offer a new PPMA service to help address such problems. However, right now, the greatest threat to the best interests of our industry is exaggerated doom mongering since it encourages buyers to reduce their spending, making things even worse.

Please – let's have a bit of moderation and proportionality – even if it doesn't sell newspapers!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christopher ...'.

Chief Executive, PPMA

Digby bows out in style at PPMA Show 2008

In a barnstorming speech to open this year's PPMA Show, Trade Minister Digby, Lord Jones of Birmingham, declared his passionate belief in the future of manufacturing and engineering in the UK. But he said there was little use in subsidising out-of-date industries as happens, in the USA and France. The future for UK manufacturing lay in adding value and quality - "a hallmark of British industry".



He also announced his visit to the PPMA Show would be his last engagement as a Government Minister, having told Gordon Brown he would be standing down at the reshuffle.* He was delighted one of his last acts was meeting 'real people' in his Birmingham heartland. Lord Jones said there were some

amazing opportunities as well as challenges in these turbulent times. Despite the Credit Crunch the UK still had one of the biggest and best financial service sectors in the world. "It should be nurtured by 'better' regulation, not just 'more' regulation. If not beneficiaries would be financial centres in Dubai and Shanghai."

Turning to the processing and packaging sector, he understood the importance of Climate Change but called for a balance between environmental needs and profitable and viable businesses. He emphasised that "business is the organ of society which creates wealth" and nothing else could happen without wealth creation.

Food and pharma sectors were huge exporters and relied on the processing and packaging sector to enable them to do that; this "mutual inter-dependence" was very important. **Gareth Thomas MP replaced Lord Jones as Trade and Investment Minister in the reshuffle which brought Peter, Lord Mandelson back to office as Secretary of State at BERR.*

NEWS BRIEFS

Campden BRI has been formed by the merger of CCFRA and Brewing Research International (BRI). The combined facilities bring together 380 staff and a wide range of R&D, technical and training activities for the food and drink sector.

Professor Colin Dennis, Director-General, said: "CCFRA members will benefit from the considerable expertise and facilities that BRI has in the science and technology of alcoholic drinks."

The CCFRA has a turnover of £14m and BRI £3.5m. www.campden.co.uk

Bosch Packaging Technology has announced it is to acquire Paal Verpackungsmaschinen GmbH, subject to anti-trust clearance. Paal which manufactures a range of loading, case packing and palletising machines has worked closely with Bosch for several years.

In 2007 it had a turnover of €26m and employs around 200 people. Claus Paal commenting on the acquisition said: "Under the Bosch umbrella we will gain access to new markets and technologies." www.bosch.com

Global confectionery groups are set to spend on large scale investment and R&D, says a report from Global Industry Analysts (GIA).

Packaging will become an increasingly important factor according to GIA's - Global Industry Outlook, with family packs, tubs, jars and bags contributing to sales.

Process related developments such as healthy products are high on the agenda - many of these were demonstrated at interpack.

The exposure of China, Indonesia, Mexico and Eastern Europe to western products will also provide growth. www.strategyr.com

PPMA support for Machinery Award

A Machinery Award of Excellence, supported by the PPMA, has been introduced by Starpack 2009 in recognition of the part the machinery sector plays in ensuring product reaches the end consumer.

PPMA, CEO Chris Buxton explains, "The machinery sector is often under valued but the work it does in furthering the objectives of its brand owner and retail customers (and everyone in between) is incalculable. We are delighted that Starpack has taken this message on board by producing an award of excellence for the sector."

The introduction of the

Packaging Machinery Award for Excellence comes as Starpack celebrates its 50th anniversary and says Gordon Stewart, Head of IOP: The Packaging Society, "This 'squares the circle' in Starpack's representation of all packaging disciplines and is proof that associations are better working together than apart."

Member companies and users of packaging and processing equipment are being encouraged by the PPMA to enter their latest machine systems to demonstrate technical expertise across all markets including modularity, speed of production, machine

integration, improved automation and sustainability issues which are being addressed through systems that improve energy and water consumption, a machine's physical footprint, plus, of course, the ability to use recycled and "eco-friendly" materials, to name but a few.

Buxton concludes, "Although machinery suppliers are not consumer facing, the role they play in the production of well-differentiated products for retail and brand owner markets cannot be overstated."

Deadline for entries is February 4 2009. E: rachel.brooks@iom3.org www.starpack.uk.com

UK Manufacturing Strategy Update

The Government has “reviewed and refurbished” its medium term manufacturing strategy to take account of “trends in global manufacturing that provide new challenges and new opportunities” according to the then Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR), John Hutton.

The strategy document - ‘New Challenges, New Opportunities’ - updates the 2002 version. As well as re-enforcing the original factors affecting manufacturing, such as Investment, Science & Innovation and Best Practice, it identifies five new elements which are making an impact on modern manufacturing:

The increasing prevalence and complexity of global value chains; the accelerated pace of technology exploitation; the growing importance of investment intangibles such as design, branding and R&D; investment in people and skills; and the low carbon economy.

The strategy brings together almost £150m of medium term support for UK manufacturing, and sets out the Government’s view of what the sector needs for success in the long term - including seizing the opportunities of the low carbon economy, supporting skills, realising overseas opportunities, and improving the understanding of manufacturing.

Additional resources will target support for 600 UK companies to identify manufacturing value chain opportunities in India and China. The UK Intellectual Property Office (UK-IPO) will advise on using and protecting Intellectual Property in these markets.

PLUS 1,500 manufacturing apprenticeships will be added to the 9,000 places announced earlier this year.
www.berr.gov.uk



R&D association proposal for European manufacturing

Orgalime has called together its member trade bodies to discuss the potential of forming a specific Research and Development Association to exploit more effectively the opportunities for manufacturing within the EU’s ManuFuture project.

Financed through the Framework Programme (FP7), which attracts millions of Euros in funding, ManuFuture was set up to draft a strategic research agenda for the EU’s manufacturing industry.

However to date it has attracted limited interest from industry, particularly SMEs and has become dominated by research organisations and academics.

Machinery Update (MU) understands the Commission approached Orgalime with a proposal to turn ManuFuture

into a Joint Technology Initiative (JTI) which would make it more accessible to individual companies. An Orgalime spokesman explained: “By setting up a specific R&D Association, steered by some of our member associations, the focus of the JTI would be more on practical rather than ‘blue sky’ research. Individual companies could join the association and have a direct impact on where the funding is used. The R&D Association would be completely separate from the lobbying functions of Orgalime.”

Discussions about the structure and funding of the new association have already taken place, but the proposal to turn ManuFuture into a JTI has to be approved by both the European Parliament and the Council of

Ministers which could be at least 12 months away.

MU has learnt that Orgalime’s UK members, EAMA, Beama and Gambica do not propose to become directly involved although they may be able to join as observers at a later stage. However the UK will have a seat at the table through the Technology Strategy Board (TSB).

The TSB was set up in 2007 by the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) to co-ordinate and fund the UK’s high value manufacturing strategy from now until 2011. It has recently published a detailed document on how and in what sectors of industry this strategy will operate.

Orgalime: www.orgalime.org
TSB: www.innovateuk.org

Overhaul for Ecodesign directive

The European Commission has adopted a major policy package to ‘green’ European manufactured products.

The plans will extend the reach of existing ‘ecodesign’ rules, revise and enlarge product eco-labelling practices, set mandatory green public procurement standards and overhaul the EU’s corporate green management scheme.

The centrepiece of the plan is



a proposal to extend the existing Energy Using Products Directive (now known as the Ecodesign Directive) by applying it to products which do not directly consume energy but whose design has energy consuming implications, according to Gunter Verheugen, the EU industry commissioner in charge of sustainable industry policy.
<http://ec.europa.eu>

UK machine exports surge while overall imports dip

First half figures for 2008 reveal UK exports of packaging and weighing machines raced to £126.3m, up 34 per cent on the same period in 2007. While the USA remained the single largest destination it was sales to the EU which showed significant gains across all major markets. Processing equipment sales dipped by around 12 per cent in the first six months of 2008.

While the USA continued to top both charts for packaging/ weighing and processing exports there were, in fact, modest declines in volumes at £16.2m (£16.9m)* and £11.5m (£13.1m) respectively. The top performer in terms of increased sales volumes was the Irish Republic at £9.8m (£5.4m) for packaging and £8.2m (£5.0m) for process.

But the recovery of packaging/ weighing machine sales to EU destinations was

EXPORT YTD JUNE 2008 TOP 5					
PROCESSING			PACKAGING & WEIGHING		
	COUNTRY	VALUE £		VALUE £	
1	U.S.A.	11,500,967	1	U.S.A.	16,217,007
2	IRISH REPUBLIC	8,223,794	2	IRISH REPUBLIC	9,815,749
3	FRANCE	3,574,544	3	FRANCE	9,206,940
4	TURKEY	3,369,476	4	GERMANY	8,853,273
5	SUDAN	2,089,996	5	NETHERLANDS	8,194,101

the highlight of the first half with across the board increases. France at £9.2m (£6.8m), Germany £8.8m (£6.2m), Spain £7.1m (£4.25m) and Italy £5.6m (£1.6m) accounted for much of the increased total. Other markets showing notable gains were Nigeria £4.2m (£1.0m) and India £3.0m (£0.8m). China also showed promise with an advance to £1.4m (£0.6m).

In contrast sales of processing equipment to the EU dipped or were flat, with the exception once again of the Irish Republic which advanced by 62 per cent

to £8.2m. Declines in sales to Russia £1.05m (£1.75m) and South Africa £1.25m (£1.9m) and Germany £1.9m (£2.8m) were offset to some extent by better performances in extra-EU markets, typically Turkey which reached £3.4m and the Sudan £2.1m. Sales to India dropped to £1.6m (£2.6m) in this category while China saw a poor performance, only £0.6m against £2.75m last time.

Overall processing equipment exports achieved sales of £69.1m (£78.4m).

**(2007 figures in brackets)*

But processing imports on the rise

Imports of packaging/ weighing machines declined by 9 per cent in the first half of 2008, while deliveries of processing machines rose 4 per cent in comparison with 2007. In total sales in packaging/ weighing from overseas suppliers reached £155.7m (£171.3m)* and processing £66.5m (£64m).

While Germany continued to dominate the 'league tables' it

also suffered the biggest fall in sales, to £55.8m, down 13.5 per cent in the packaging category and £14.3m for process, a drop of 5 per cent.

Italian manufacturers fared better with sales of packaging/ weighing machines holding steady at about £34.5m and increasing deliveries of process machines from £8.5m to £10.9m. France and the

Netherlands continue to feature strongly as major suppliers to the UK without making any notable progress.

Switzerland improved its sales up by 30 per cent in packaging to £7.2m and £2.0m for process. Japanese imports to the UK dropped steeply by 44 per cent to £4.3m, while China improved sales by 35 per cent to £1.34m. Sales from India fell away to just £0.3m.

Other imports in the process sector came from more unusual markets such as Romania (£0.5m), Morocco (£0.55m) and Iceland (£0.26m). Other notable gains were recorded by Austria £3.4m, the Irish Republic £2.15m and China £2.5m.

**(2007 figures in brackets)*

IMPORT YTD JUNE 2008 TOP 5					
PROCESSING			PACKAGING & WEIGHING		
	COUNTRY	VALUE £		VALUE £	
1	GERMANY	14,293,588	1	GERMANY	57,829,923
2	ITALY	10,870,231	2	ITALY	34,615,603
3	U.S.A.	7,176,510	3	U.S.A.	12,294,133
4	NETHERLANDS	5,524,030	4	FRANCE	10,834,212
5	AUSTRIA	3,416,894	5	NETHERLANDS	7,152,788

PPMA COMMENT

Commenting on the figures PPMA Chief Executive Chris Buxton said:

"It is no surprise that the old favourites such as the USA and Germany remain ever popular regions in this international business. But more significant is the inexorable progress being made by the low overhead economies such as China and India. Globalisation is now very much a reality."

He added, the final half of 2008 could be dramatically affected by events in the global economy and the steep decline in the value of Sterling.

However the resilience of UK export performance and only moderate declines in imports suggest investment in new packaging and processing technology continues both domestically and overseas for the time being.

FIGURES EXPLAINED

Revised figures for 2007 were released at the end of August, updating the preliminary results issued in February.

The adjustments show imports of packaging/ weighing machines increased to £361.1m (initial forecast £342.4m) while exports also increased slightly to £216m (£207.6m)*.

Processing final figures were Imports: £140.2m (£137.5m) and Exports: £155m (£158.6m).

Most adjustments affected figures relating to Germany, Italy and other EU countries.

**(figures in brackets are the initial forecasts)*

Award winners

Hailed as a "new milestone in the field of lightweight beverage containers" Krones AG has won a Water Innovation Award for its 500ml PET bottle weighing just 6.6 grams. The competition attracted over 200 entries from 40 countries.

Krones won Gold in the Best Packaging Innovation class for "PET lite 6.6" which features a small diameter upper 'gripper' section and a wider diameter base section where the wall thickness is less than 0.1mm. The bottle is stabilised with nitrogen to stop it collapsing during handling and transport.
T: +44 (0) 1942 845000
E: sales@krones.co.uk

Golden Nut 2008 Holland's most prestigious packaging innovation award has been won by Shieltronic, for its CuliDish, a compartmented microwave tray which can control the level of microwave energy going to each compartment, enabling different food components to be prepared at the same time. Control of the radiation is achieved by the insertion of an in-mould label into the wall of the compartment during the injection moulding process.

Well-known packaging editor and consultant **Ben Miyares** has been inducted into the PMMI's Hall of Fame.

Ben, who has been active in the packaging sector since 1963, is a well-respected writer, market analyst, consultant, conference organizer, commentator and speaker on packaging topics.

He is currently editor and publisher of Packaging Management Update®, a free, weekly online publication from PMMI. Ben has also edited Food & Drug Packaging (now Food & Beverage Packaging) and the globally respected Packaging Strategies newsletter.
www.pmmi.org

Whose fault is it - man or machine?

The debate about whether a good operator can make a bad machine run, while a bad operator will test even the best machinery has raged for years.

A recent survey by the US magazine *Packaging World* (PW) attempts to go deeper and see what lessons have been learned about the pitfalls of sourcing, selling and running equipment in today's packaging industry.

Machinery Update (MU) decided to get a UK perspective and contacted some end users and machinery suppliers to gauge their reaction to the PW findings, which are based on 700 responses to its survey.

Key findings included:

- Do not over design a package. Understand the limits of the equipment and the person running it.
- Properly maintained machinery is only as good as the product coming in to it and the material running on.
- Design for higher than needed line speeds because it is easier to budget more money now than after an install when the line capacity needs to be increased before ROI has happened.
- All machinery has its own personality, you need to get to know it and understand it to get the most from it.
- When purchasing equipment go where you can see it in action. Ask direct questions to the operators and maintenance department.
- Machines need to be designed to be as simple as possible for operators.
- Speed does not always help. Slower, but cost effective and efficient is the key.
- Evaluate suppliers carefully and in advance.

- Packaging should be treated with more affection for it is the image of the company and the product we are showing to our customers.
- AND YES... a bad operator...

UK companies MU contacted agreed with many of the findings but felt that some needed qualification.

Here are just a few readers' comments:

"ALL our customers evaluate the market for machinery, but established relationships are important, especially to globally based companies who want standardization of performance and back up."

"Good quality products and materials are essential to run equipment at optimum performance but lack of a good maintenance regime can undo just about any of those quality issues."

"We are striving to take the variable performance of

operators out of the equation through the use of PLCs and easier changeover techniques. That is what the customers ask for these days. PLCs are usually easy to use and have default programs to second guess operator error. But good training is still important."

"Being able to buy a machine beyond the specification we require to 'future proof' line performance would be wonderful. These days we take it as a triumph if we get approval for a machine to our original budget specification."

"In an ideal world we would love to see every machine in action before we buy it. But then you'd never buy a new concept machine! That is why we still find exhibitions are important as we can see the latest technology in action."

"Speed isn't everything, but it still is very important for many product lines."

Packaging World - Lessons Learned: www.packworld.com



Tell us what you think?

This is just a sample of the reactions, but certainly this kind of debate is part of the dialogue needed in the packaging (and processing) sector to ensure a better understanding of the way forward for machinery development. We would welcome readers' views and comments. Please email to: publishing@ppma.co.uk

MACHINERY BITES

FANUC Robotics has launched the latest version of its 410iB series palletising robot with an increased payload capability of 55 per cent. The M410iB/700 arm maintains the high speed capability of the range and takes the payload up to 700Kgs.

Operating over a standard pick and place test cycle the arm performs 700 cycles/hour, at 100 per cent duty cycle, providing a potential palletising throughput of 490 tonnes/hour.

The base of the four axes arm is configured to occupy a small footprint of just over a metre square while its elevated, articulated arm design allows it to palletise a 1.6m square pallet by 2.1m height.

Its 360° work envelope makes it able to service multiple palletising stations with multiple conveyor inputs.

www.fanucrobotics.co.uk

Domino Printing Sciences has decided to re-introduce a range of linerless print-and-apply labellers with the demonstration of the M500 Linerless during Emballage, in Paris.

The direct thermal unit is capable of producing up to 40 variable length labels/minute inside one batch run.

The company says linerless machines are set to become increasingly popular not only because of the waste reduction advantages of using labels without a backing/release paper but also because of its versatility and the fact that rolls can hold twice as much length of useable label stock.

The M500 can print both paper and plastic labels, enabling matched materials for recycling. Systems are available in right or left hand versions and with a wide range of applicators. T: + 44 (0) 1954 782056 E: enquiries@domino-uk.com

Stirring alternative to the tea bag

Sigpack Systems, in partnership with Alcan Packaging and Bistrozucker, has developed an integrated packaging system for tea in stickpacks which, say the partners, further develops this "modern and more convenient alternative" to the traditional tea bag. Once opened, the stickpack can be used to stir the drink.

The system produces a perforated stickpack incorporating the Pull Pack device also developed by Sigpack, which is part of Bosch Packaging Technology. The Pull Pack allows fast, accurate opening, says the company.

The consumer holds the longer part of the stickpack and then pulls the fin seal on the shorter section. A conventional flow pack option is also available.

The two packaging companies co-operated to produce a 'springback' foil which regains its cylindrical shape after filling. The special foil is FDA certified and is produced according to a specific perforation process.

Sigpack developed the machine which produces and fills the perforated foil, as well as the machine which makes the secondary packaging, or 'tpod' (tea portion of design).



The perforated stickpack

The production line was customised to suit the particular requirements of Bistrozucker.

Other applications being explored include coffee drinks and pharmaceutical products. T: +41 52 674 8928 E: holger.botsch@bosch.com

Little bundler of joy

Cermex has responded to the requirement for shrink collations of small containers or drink cartons, such as drinking yoghurts or individual fruit juice portions, with the introduction of the TSi high speed shrink bundler, for containers up to 220mm in height.

The servo driven machine, which can be single, double or triple lane, has no sealing bar. Features include reduced

transfer levels between the conveyors through the machine and a removable injection table to facilitate access to the film and for ease of maintenance. Accumulation and guidance of the product is undertaken without pressure to prevent straws attached to a container becoming unglued.

High speeds can be achieved, says Cermex: 66,000 bottles/hour (65-500ml), 28,000



cartons/hour (200-350ml standard or slim) or 15,000 cartons/hour (1 litre standard or slim).

T: +44 (0) 1480 455919 E: sales@cermexuk.com

New fluidized-bed sensor control

OYSTAR Hüttlin has enhanced its fluidized-bed process with two different sensor technologies: near-infrared spectroscopy and fiber-optic spatial frequency filtration for particle size determination.

Both inline measurement processes comply with the Process Analytical Technology (PAT) requirements of the FDA. PAT identifies, describes and

ultimately controls all process-critical variables for producing pharmaceuticals, says the company. This serves to improve quality and safety while reducing manufacturing costs.

Near-infrared technology is used to monitor product moisture, an important process parameter when making solid medications, linked to an industrial spectrometer from

NIR-Online GmbH, making it the world's first pre-calibrated optical system for measuring product moisture in the fluidized bed.

A measurement device also uses an inline sensor to capture both particle sizes and distribution. During coating, it also monitors grain growth. The company is already using this technology for quality control. www.oystar.huettlin.de

MACHINERY BITES

New metal detector for tablets and capsules

Mettler-Toledo Safeline has introduced the Tablex 2 metal detector developed specifically for tablet and capsule manufacturers.

Based on the existing Tablex system, this latest model offers additional benefits including improved filtering techniques and enhanced reject mechanisms, says the company.

Tablex 2 uses Safeline's detection coil technology which can detect non-magnetic stainless steel ball sizes down to 0.39mm.

The system's enhanced filtering techniques enable it to detect non-spherical

contaminants, screen/sieve wire, swarf and metal slivers for example, which are traditionally difficult to locate.

The detector has two interchangeable and failsafe reject devices suitable for many product types, applications and configurations. The side diverter system is effective where inlet and outlet heights are low or restricted, claims the company.

The lift flap diverter system has been developed for manufacturers needing straight line product flow. This can help to reduce potential damage to larger, effervescent and delicate tablets.

Both systems offer 'no-tool' strip-down, easy cleaning and are fully compliant with CFR parts 210 and 211.

Improvements have also been made to the stand design. Low profile medical-standard castors have been added for improved hygiene standards as well as manoeuvrability and system stability. They also give a more compact footprint.

Process control is through Safeline's Signature software platform. Tablex 2 also incorporates inbuilt performance validation software.

T: +44 (0) 161 848 8636
E: safeline.info@mt.com

A low cost continuous motion blister packer manufactured in Korea by Hooga will soon be available in the UK through **Logic TPS**. The HM400R features full servo control and balcony style GMP construction. It can achieve 200 cycles/400 blisters/minute and has a flexible outfeed module.

T: +44 (0) 1344 750101
E: info@logictps.com

Optima Group has developed a machine for 'functional closures' such as screw caps with functions beyond mere closing. Unscrewing or pressing the cap activates the cap's contents so, for example, the product inside the cap is released into the container and reacts with its contents.

The OPTIMA CFL1, is a monobloc machine incorporating assembly functions for the closure itself, but also for cleaning, filling, sealing, marking as well as various automated inspection processes.

T: +44 (0) 5602 588242
E: info@optima-gb.com

Ulma Packaging has introduced the Olympus entry-level vertical form fill seal flowwrapper. The medium-speed machine, which can operate at up to 70 bags/minute, has been designed for food and other industrial bagging applications.

The Olympus is capable of wrapping salads, vegetables, fruit, liquids, pastes, granules, snacks and frozen or chilled products, in a variety of high quality display packs. Bag options including pillow, euro-lock, handle, and corner gusset, as well as stand up flat bottom with centre or corner vertical seal or clip. The machine can utilise a variety of sealable films.
T: +44 (0) 1909 506504
E: info@ulmapackaging.co.uk

Modular extruder boosts output

A new twin-screw cooker-extruder has been added to the Baker Perkins range of expandable lines for snack and cereal manufacturing.

The SBX Master is a solid barrel extruder offering process flexibility through a modular barrel design and a high torque motor and gearbox combination, says the company.

This gives the extruder the ability to make a wide range of different snacks and cereals from the well-known direct expanded types through to higher added-value products with sophisticated taste and texture combinations.

To further increase flexibility, the range of end products that can be made has been increased by incorporating a motor and gearbox able to handle twice as much torque as the previous generation of extruder.

The modular barrel of the



SBX Master enables the length of each machine to be matched precisely to the customer's process application, and allows for extension later as production needs change.

The die design and segmented agitator configuration - allowing quick product changeover - has been retained, together with the high free volume agitator geometry that enables high outputs to be achieved, even on low density materials such as bran and fine milled flours.

A new, high output model has been introduced, to give a capacity range from 225 to 2,000 kg/hour of direct expanded product.

Processes that require a face cutter will also benefit from a new design of this unit, says Baker Perkins. Changing the cutter blade can be achieved in 15 minutes without stopping production. The die and cutter are mounted on

swing-away support arms that contribute to ease of cleaning and enable the cutter to be moved into position axially. This avoids smearing product on the die face. A micrometer adjustment is used for fine tuning the position of the cutter blade to enable the optimum position for clean cutting and minimum blade wear to be achieved.

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Top loader for all sorts

Sewtec Automation has launched a robotic top-load system for the fast and efficient packing of primary and secondary packs, it claims. It features an optional facility that is able to temporarily store product in the event of a line stoppage.

The new Sewtec LX5249 is the latest model in the company's range of robotic top loaders. The machine is capable of speeds of up to 600 packs/minute, depending on the application, and is suitable for a wide variety of products in the food, confectionery and personal care markets.

An innovation is the availability of the integral storage system, which is able to divert product away from the robotic top loader in the event of any downstream machine stoppages. Each product is individually handled and placed into storage from race track compartments, eliminating any queuing or bunching of items.

The system provides up to ten minutes storage or longer (depending on the pack format) and packs are automatically reintroduced into the packing line during normal production.



The in-house designed robot features twin axis servo motion, while a choice of Allen Bradley or Siemens control systems ensure simple operation and are maintenance-friendly, enabling the equipment to be added to in the future, says Sewtec.

A variety of robotic tooling is available, according to the needs of different products. These include vacuum pick and place, vacuum tooling with pneumatic re-pitching devices and pneumatic grippers.

T: +44 (0)1924 494047

E: sales@sewtec.co.uk

Perfect presentation the Ishida way

The new Weigh-Batcher from Ishida Europe enables packers to work efficiently with a single multihead weigher to optimise arrangement and presentation of product in trays, says the company.

Each weighed product is conveyed to any one of up to eight workstations. There, an operator transfers it to a tray, styles it and places the tray on the 'out' belt, for sealing, labelling and checking.

The station automatically informs the system once the filled and styled tray has left,



triggering the sending of another weighed item to be packed.

Designed for all fresh or frozen foods suitable for belt conveying, the new Weigh-Batcher allows the optimisation of tray presentation, reduces product giveaway to about 1 per cent and achieves typical packing speeds of 50 trays/minute, says Ishida. It also reduces labour by up to 60 per cent (compared with entirely manual operation) and its compact design gives a high return on floor space, it claims.

Another feature is a control panel which allows the performance of each operator and each shift to be monitored.

Ishida's Weigh-Batcher is designed for meat, poultry, fish and seafood where styling or other manual re-working of filled trays is required to achieve a high-quality presentation.

Options available include special hoppers fitted with scrapers to prevent product from clinging to the gates, and adapters to enable the workstations to accept product from the weigher directly into bags.

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INSTALLATION SNIPPETS

CKF Systems is installing an automated robot palletising system using three ABB robot cells at Cadbury's Sheffield site.

Worth £1.2m, the contract involves cases being conveyed from eight production lines to the robot cells and a pallet handling system, at rates up to 22 cases/minute; 23 pallet patterns can be accommodated.
T: +44 (0) 1452 424565
E: info@ckf.co.uk

newtec alvey has installed a complex pick-to-light system at Velleman NV of Belgium to make significant improvements to its warehouse management system, says the company. Velleman distribute a wide range of electronic components and consumer electronics to over 1700 distributors in 80 countries.

The newtec alvey system sorts inbound and outbound boxes into relevant orders using a dataflow program. Inbound boxes are transported to an I-point where barcodes are read to enable transfer to two sorting lines. Operators then load the boxes onto pallets. Outbound shipments use a conveyor system to sort the boxes.
T: +44 (0) 1895 812888
E: sales@inpac.co.uk.

Packaging Automation has supplied Headland Foods with a Vision 400 tray sealer at its Flint factory to pack a range of ready meals for the airline sector.

The fully automatic machine has a maximum speed of 21 cycles/minute and offers atmospheric MAP-F, MAP-V and high oxygen flushing for a wide range of meats, poultry and vegetables.

It seals plain or printed film on CPET, APET, aluminium foil, polypropylene, PVC or board.
T: +44 (0) 1565 755000
E: info@pal.co.uk

Speedy pallet labellers

Soft drinks producer AG Barr has bought two of the fastest print & apply pallet labellers available on the market, claims Logopak.

They will be used to handle increased production levels at its new high-bay warehouse at Barr's Cumbernauld plant.

The two Logopak 920DK machines are each capable of labelling 240 pallets an hour with two labels/pallet, but will be used together by AG Barr as a joint labelling station to handle just 200 pallets/hour, each pallet identified by two GS1/A5 labels with EAN 128 bar codes.

"Since pallets from up to four production lines are merged to single lane for stretchwrapping



and then labelling, this is a critical installation in which two labellers are needed to guarantee continuity during reel-changing or in the event of a fault," explained Logopak UK general manager Wilson Clark.

"The intrinsic high speed of each 920DK also prevents any

risk of a surge in production creating a queue," he adds.

The labels are an essential element in warehouse management, according to AG Barr and are used to identify pallet locations and best-before dates to ensure the correct sequence of despatch.

Logopak has also delivered a 920PF pallet labeller to AG Barr's Mansfield site.

This replaces an older version of the same machine, which has now been moved after nine years continuous service to the company's 'Strathmore Springs' water bottling plant in Scotland.

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E: salesonweb@logopak.net

No more jams for Premier Foods!

Premier Foods in Histon, Cambridgeshire, is responsible for manufacturing 50 per cent of the nation's annual consumption of jams, jellies and preserves.

The installation of five Domino A300+ continuous ink jet coders is helping to improve efficiencies by addressing downtime issues such as unplanned line stoppages, speed losses and defects.

A recent expansion programme at Histon - where lines run around the clock, five days/week - is helping to meet increasing demand for its products globally.

The A300+ prints best before dates and batch codes onto the lid, neck and outer packaging of all Premier's products. It also

uses Domino C-Series high-resolution ink jet printers for secondary and outer case coding.

Premier has upgraded to Domino's **plus** products to enhance connectivity and network functionality.

The A-Series **plus** can be integrated seamlessly into new and existing production lines and requires minimal operator intervention, said Domino.

"We decided to upgrade our existing Domino units to remove obsolescence and standardise engineer and operator familiarisation," explains Chris Dawks, chief engineer at Premier Foods, Histon.
T: +44 (0) 1954 782551
E: enquiries@domino-uk.com

Vial project

Swiss pharmaceutical company Galderama is using a P91 intermittent cartoner from Promatic, part of Romaco, for secondary packaging on its vial line in Alby-sur-Cheran, France.

The cartoner facilitates frequent format changes and packs 13 products into folding cartons at speeds of 60 cartons/minute. The cartoner, which can achieve speeds up to 140 cartons/minute, also features several ergonomic benefits, says Romaco. The servo drives and a Venturi vacuum unit for picking and opening the folded cartons, and adding the packing insert has led to significant reductions in noise emissions.

T: +44 (0) 1733 367300
E: uk@romaco.com

Passing the aerosol test

Sessions of York will shortly deliver one of its aerosol testing machines to a large Mexican pharmaceutical company.

The machine is designed to sort and checkweigh the aerosol canisters, which contain a medicinal drug for patients suffering from respiratory and cardio vascular conditions.

After checkweighing for content the machine function tests the aerosol valves to ensure perfect operation and spray duration after which the canisters pass into the print & apply labelling station where the labels are thermally transfer printed and applied to the can.

Print details are checked with a scanning system and any canisters failing any of the tests are ejected from the line.

Finally all perfect canisters are inserted automatically into the activating dispenser at which point they are ready to be packed and distributed. Speeds



are about 70 packs/minute.

Working data is collated by means of an on board computer providing the operator with up to date information relating to the machines function and control and hard copy data recall from the on board PLC, says the company.

For validation purposes the printed text added to the label at the point of application is checked immediately after the

label is applied to ensure that the drug and its label are compatible and failures ejected from the line.

Every failure and reason for ejection is logged and a running reconciliation is kept in the machine's memory. The machine is FDA compliant and has IQ/OQ documentation.

T: +44 (0) 1904 659224
E: machine.info@sessionsofyork.co.uk

INSTALLATION SNIPPETS

Cap Coder has supplied from stock a CC1170 portable filling and cap tightening machine with an integrated rotary infeed table, to contract packer Honeywood to enable it to complete a 100,000 batch order to fill and cap 20ml glass bottles for a major pharmaceutical customer.

In another contract the company has supplied a CC560 automatic capper to DDD Ltd, boosting productivity on the filling line due to the capper's fast program change capability, says the company.

T: +44 (0) 1865 891466
E: sales@capcoder.co.uk

DAN-Palletiser has replaced an 18 year old palletiser, also supplied by the company, to pack 0.5 litre and 1.5 litre PET bottles of mineral water at Carlsberg Sweden's Ramlosa plant in Helsingborg.

The new MK 3 palletiser has the capability to run other pallet types than the standard EUR-pallets at capacities up to 65 packs/minute, depending on container size and configuration.

T: +44 (0) 1908 211800
E: sales@dan-palletiser.dk

Shrinkwrap Machinery Company has recently delivered the largest machine it has ever designed and built to Howden Kitchens in East Yorkshire.

Measuring 14 metres long x 2.2 metres wide, it is wrapping three metre long kitchen work tops in a fully enclosed pack.

The shrink wrapper comprises a 1700mm long sleeve wrapper and a specially designed 4-head side seal device. Two work tops are wrapped side by side to increase throughput speed.

T: +44 (0) 1202 674944
E: sales@shrinkwrap.co.uk

Clever conveyor sorts biscuit boxes

Handling a range of different sized biscuit cartons a new conveying system from Conveyor Systems (CSL) has been installed at a major biscuit manufacturer.

Carton sizes are 240 - 500mm long x 180 - 320mm

wide, in weights of 1.8kg - 10kg. The conveying system has to ensure that the cases fulfilled criteria such as identifying product and content quantity prior to presenting to a new automatic case sealer.

CSL installed two lines

featuring powered roller conveyors, fitted with both twin lineshafts for positive acceleration and stops to singulate the product for a bar code scanner, located just prior to the case sealer.

Cases not conforming to barcode specifications are rejected by a pusher transfer on to a side reject lane for checking.

Cases with the correct barcode continue to the automatic case sealer, which identifies and adjusts itself to the correct dimensions in order to seal the case. CSL designed, installed and commissioned the system.

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toiletries & cosmetics



Enhancements for make-up

Personal Care products, such as cosmetics, toiletries and fragrances, sit in a somewhat unique position in the process and packaging sector.

At the luxury end of the market the consumer expects to see the product in a fancy container, placed in an even fancier carton, which is then overwrapped with a high gloss film. Not much room for innovation there one suspects.

For daily use products, such as shampoo or soap, utility is paramount and while the quality feel is important, plastics containers, some with dispenser attachments, now seem to rule.

In the middle are a range of products such as lipsticks and deodorants where the means of delivery seems not to have changed but where the complexity and assembly of the pack has increased. A good deal of work has gone into the

components to ensure smoother or cleaner dispensing while at the same time maintaining a luxury feel.

There is also a generation of new products, from organic to quasi pharmaceutical which, particularly in the latter case, have raised the bar on hygiene, pack integrity and pack enhancement.

For the machinery supplier the challenges are many: Handling and filling high value products such as perfumes into complex containers; component handling and assembly; high foaming or viscous products; difficult items such as mascara sticks; dealing with short run demands cost effectively; and a new generation of 'cosmeceutical' products which mix some of the aspects of pharmaceutical processing and packaging with those of the cosmetics and toiletries industry.

UK MARKET FACTS

- The UK Cosmetics Toiletries and Perfumes Association (CTPA), a Colipa member, does not gather its own statistics but co-operates with IRI and TNS Sofres to produce a report of 'GB estimates' based on RSP and units sold.
- For 2007 it showed fragrance sales growing by only 2.5 per cent with the largest rises in fine male fragrances (13.8 per cent) and mass female brands (22.1 per cent) while mass unisex products dropped dramatically (24 per cent).
- Skincare sales rose by 3.9 per cent with premium brands up 12 per cent and male face care preparations up a staggering 90 per cent.
- Hair care product sales grew by 2.3 per cent with the best performances from perm and colorant items (up 5.4 and 9 per cent respectively), while setting lotions and mousses dropped by 3.5 per cent.
- Toiletries advanced 3-9 per cent with liquid soap (10.6 per cent) and mouthwash (17.6 per cent) the best performers, bar soap sales declined by 4.9 per cent.
www.ctpa.org.uk



Emerging markets set upward trend

The global market for cosmetics toiletries and fragrances is approaching €200bn with strong growth in emerging markets such as China, Brazil and India.

According to Colipa, the European Cosmetic Trade Association, Europe remains the largest global market with a retail sales price (RSP) of €62.7bn in 2007, a modest growth rate of 4.1 per cent on 2006.

The organisation, which boasts 25 member national associations, including many of the important manufacturers as well as research establishments, says in its annual report that the 'top five' EU markets account for just over 70 per cent of sales. The largest market is Germany (€12.3bn) followed by France (€10.7bn), UK (€9.8bn), Italy (€8.9 bn) and Spain (€7.8bn).

However it notes that many newer members of the EU recorded double digit growth in 2007. Slovakia led the way with a 19.3 per cent rise, followed by Romania (18.3 per cent), Bulgaria (13.8 per cent) and Hungary (11.1 per cent).

Europe is also the largest exporter of personal care products and fragrances to non- EU countries. Unsurprisingly France fills the top spot in this category with sales of €4bn followed by Germany at €2.16bn and UK €1.13bn.

Market share by product in Europe in 2007 according to figures from Colipa were: skincare 25.7 per cent, toiletries 23.9 per cent, haircare 23.2 per cent, perfumes & fragrances 15.1 per cent, and decorative cosmetics 12.1 per cent.
www.colipa.com

MARKET GROWTH

- Research from Kline & Co indicates that China has leapfrogged France and Germany to become the third largest single market for personal care products at the beginning of 2007. It is behind only the USA and Japan in national market terms. Europe remains the largest market bloc with manufactured sales values twice those of the United States and almost four times that of Japan.
- Skincare products which are the fastest growth sector for the industry saw sales rally in Europe last year. However there are fears that with market penetration at almost 75 per cent (86 per cent in France) there is little room for further expansion, explains Kline & Co.
- Pundits see growth coming through market segmentation such as day/night preparations for the over 50s. In the UK sales of these products topped £1.4bn with hand care, male face care and premium skin care all doing well. The second fastest growing range of goods in the industry is oral hygiene.
- The top 15 manufacturers of personal care products account for 43.5 per cent of total global sales, says Kline & Co. The market leader is Procter & Gamble, with L'Oreal, Unilever, Colgate-Palmolive and Avon making up the top five. With sales of organic products in the UK alone soon set to top £1bn, manufacturers are launching many more environmentally acceptable products.
www.klinegroup.com

cosmetics - filling

Flow meter or piston? It's horses for courses

Flow meter volumetric filling systems may have seized the imagination over the past decade but traditional piston-based systems can often provide higher and more consistent accuracy with lower costs of ownership, particularly over an extended period.

The key advantage of flow-meter systems is speed of cleaning and reduced changeover time. ADG Packaging makes a range of filling equipment suitable for the personal care markets under its Gravfil brand. Sales and marketing director Ian Hillaby points out that there is no single answer to which type of machine to choose and that solutions are heavily dependent on the application.

"In the case of cosmetics or toiletries filled into glass, with no outer packaging, the preference is usually a level filling system rather than a volumetric system so that bottles can sit on shelf with the same level of fill, despite variations in container volume.

"This means a calculated over fill to keep within CE mark regulations," explains Hillaby. However,

piston dosing remains the most accurate when a volumetric system is used. For example when filling opaque containers and when volume is constant, such as with PET bottles.

Generally, explains Hillaby, this is because a piston dosing system uses a piston that is sized to the minimum dose, accepting the fact any backlash in the driving mechanism will affect the overall accuracy.

In contrast, a flow meter employs a given size of bore which relies on a constant pressure and flow. This means that on a range of different volume fills the flowmeter becomes either too slow or less accurate.

So if, for example, speed is increased by raising the feed pressure, the control system will need recalibrating to compensate for increased product carry over following the command to stop filling.

Intrinsic accuracy

Even so, says, Hillaby, there is an intrinsic accuracy within a piston based system. "Take, for example a 1-litre bottle. Using a 1-litre cylinder chamber I would expect a piston filler to achieve accuracy within 0.1 per cent while with a flow meter sized to give the best possible fill at this volume I would expect accuracy not much better than 0.2 per cent."

A further difficulty with maintaining accuracy on flow meters is feed pressure, which needs to be constant for the highest possible precision.

"If you don't control the feed pressure to a flow meter you don't control the flow rate so you don't control the accuracy. A lot of flow meter systems have been supplied for feeding with gravity systems, but the head pressure will vary with the fluid level in the tank, which is replenished at intervals via a level switch."

To overcome this particular problem ADG advocates a dedicated pressure control system, such as that fitted as standard to its Zeta flow meter filling machine.

It is also important, Hillaby points out, that flow meters receive liquids arriving from processing or mixing without air bubbles which will affect density and hence accuracy. Air often enters the product during pumping from main storage vessels or



Getting rid of bubbles - try the Gravfil way

cosmetics - filling



Ian Hillaby,
sales and
marketing
director,
ADG
Packaging

blending plant and may take a considerable time to clear. Piston filling machines are, however, far less affected by cavitation in the liquid handled.

Yet although flow meters may not always give the accuracy of piston machines the difference is not always an issue, particularly with lower value products and short runs where the flow meter's lack of moving parts means cleaning on product changeover is particularly quick and secure.

However, when a profile fill is required - matching the flow rate to reductions in container cross section to minimise foaming and risk of cavitation - the new breed of servo driven piston machines provides an effective and accurate answer that cannot be matched by flow-meter systems.

"If you wish to regulate the flow of a flow meter, then you will need to adjust pressure which will affect accuracy. A piston machine driven by a servo is infinitely variable in output and maintains

its accuracy throughout the fill," explains Hillaby.

Even so, many profile filling systems for reducing foaming require a diving nozzle that rises with the filling process to ensure that product is placed into the container as close to the surface of the liquid as possible, thus reducing the opportunity for aeration.

"Lower pressure will inevitably be necessary, reducing filling rate compared with a non-foaming liquid, and there is also the capital and maintenance cost of the additional nozzle raising and lowering mechanism to consider," he said.

Goodbye to foaming

As a result, Gravfil has developed nozzle designs that allow containers to be top filled with considerably reduced risk of foaming. The Stack Gauze Nozzle system incorporates layers of steel gauze that break down the single product flow into smaller streams, reducing impact with the liquid below with no loss of filling rate.

Overall, says Hillaby, there are advantages in both flow meter and piston-based systems, but it very much depends on the application.

"It's horses for courses. If container sizes are quite close to each other and speed of cleaning is an important issue, then flow meters may well be the answer. But for versatility and optimum accuracy over a broad range of fills, the piston-based machine still represents the safest and lowest cost route."

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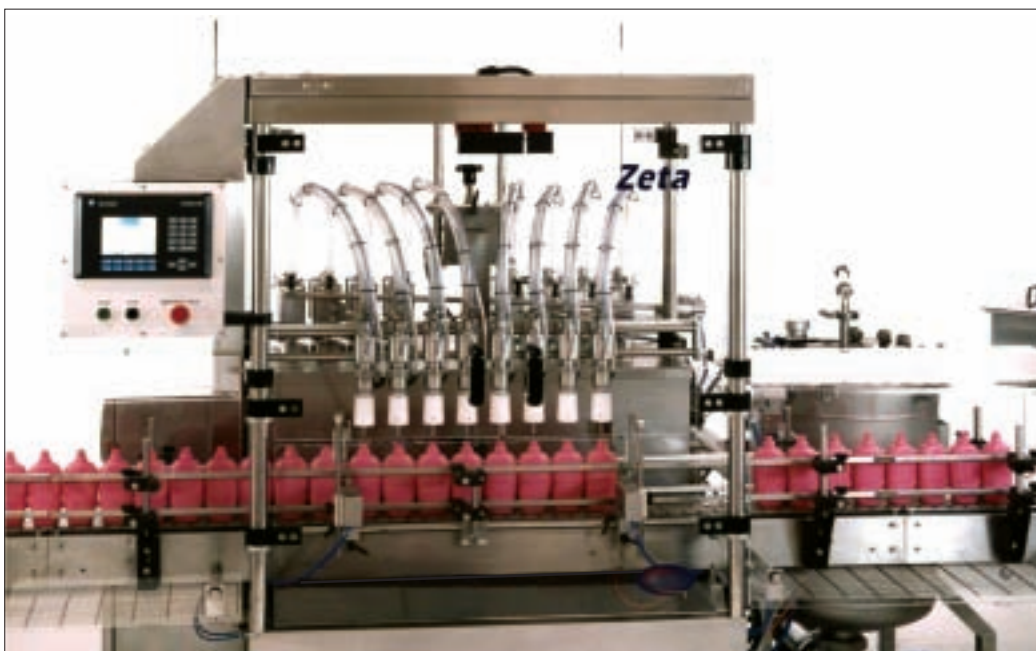
E: sales@adg-pack.com

VERDICT OUT ON BEAUTY PRODUCTS



- The British spend more per head on health and beauty products than any other European country according to a report on *European Health & Beauty Retailers 2008* by Verdict Research.
- The average British consumer spends €375 each year, compared with €327 in France and €289 in Germany. Overall UK consumers spend 43 per cent above the European average.
- The fastest growing market in Europe is Romania which achieved 80 per cent between 2002 and 2007, with sales last year reaching €1.3 billion.
- While UK residents spend more the country boasts only one of the top six retailers inside the EU with Alliance Boots in second place. Otherwise the list is dominated by German retailers with the exception of Hong Kong's A H Watson which has captured more than 5 per cent of the European retail market for cosmetics and toiletries. The reason UK retailers do not feature higher up the list is because many are pharmacy based, which is not the case in other EU countries.

www.verdict.co.uk



Eight head Gravfil Zeta flowmeter filler

toiletries & cosmetics - product round-up

Mastering mixing

Master Plant, a new mixing concept suited to cosmetic and toiletry products, from IKA®, represented in the UK by Bramigk, guarantees highest product quality and shortened production times, claims the company.

Features include a double jacketed vessel with a conical bottom for optimum emptying. It is suitable for operation under pressure/vacuum and has a spiral agitator, the RFG-W, with reversible rotational direction. The shaft and spiral are made of stainless steel tube for heating or cooling of the product (time saving can be up to 30 per cent).

Alternatively, a counter rotating blade agitator, the RFGC-A/A, designed for use with high viscous materials can be fitted. The direction of rotation of both the inner and outer agitator is reversible. The inner agitator is made of tube profiles for heating or cooling of the product and the outer agitator is equipped with wipers to avoid any build up of material on the inside wall of the mixing vessel.

Master Plant also incorporates a stirring, pumping and dispersing machine, DBI 2000, for gentle mixing and high frequency dispersing. Additionally it works as a pump for CIP. A two-way circulation emptying line enables circulation of very small quantities of product in a shortened pipeline.

T: +44 (0) 1245 477616

E: info@bramigk.co.uk

Mascara and lip gloss all one for Optima

The filling and closing machinery Linofill and Linocap manufactured by Kugler, part of the Optima group, has been combined to create a turnkey installation for mascara and lip gloss products in varying shapes and sizes.

The modular machines are servo driven and incorporate sensors or camera vision systems. An insertion module arranges the empty mascara sticks which are brought into the machine in bulk, sorted by elevators and inserted in the correct position into pucks.

The Linofill filler consists of six piston pumps, and the parameters of different formats are saved in the PLC. The complete filling unit can be changed to accommodate a second filling unit within 10 minutes. Both filling units are fixed on a transport vehicle for ease of movement. For hygiene reasons conveyor belts are not used in the filling zone.

The Linocap closing module has three stations. At the first station Reducers (the ring at the top of the mascara container) are brought into the machine in bulk. They are then sorted by a vibration sorter prior to presentation at the insertion unit.

Insertion and pre-screwing of the brushes takes place at the second station. The



brushes are elevated to the sorter, which handles all formats without size parts and at the third station the brushes are screwed in using a defined torque. The sticks are then unloaded and sent for labelling.

The maximum output of the machines is 120 pieces/minute with a filling accuracy of 0.5 per cent and a format range of 2 - 25ml. Mascara containers with two chambers can also be filled. The whole line is compliant to cGMP standards.

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toiletries & cosmetics - product round-up



Open and shut case

A packing line for make-up compacts at Lumene, one of Europe's leading cosmetics manufacturers, installed by International Packaging Systems (IPS) is handling a wide variety of packaging formats at speeds of up to 33 compacts/minute.

Consisting of five stations the line takes closed, empty compacts and feeds them into a Schubert TLM-F44 machine where they are opened, scanned and placed on a central conveyor belt by a TLM-F4 robot.

At subsequent stations, the pressed powder trays are inserted into the cases along with make-up applicators which are supplied from a storage hopper and multi-track vibratory conveyor. The compacts are

then checked by an optical quality control scanner before they are closed and transported to the labelling station where a pre-printed and counter-checked label is applied.

IPS, Schubert's specialist automated packaging subsidiary, says the system's user friendly software and quick change tooling means switching between different packaging configurations can be completed in a matter of minutes. The streamlined structure of the system has been specially designed to ensure easy access and simple operation.

T: +44 (0) 1676 525825

E: contact@schubert-uk.co.uk

Speedy feeder for components

RNA has introduced the ZE3000 high-speed feeder capable of handling a wide range of components, from valves and spray caps, to electrical connectors. Single or multiple lanes are possible with quick and easy change over between components, says the company.

The tracks are machined and designed specifically to suit a particular component, such as those often found in the cosmetics and toiletries sector. Interchangeable tooling sections allow the feeding of a range of components with minimum down time between product changeover.

The ZE is supplied with a bulk hopper that can be orientated through 180° to suit differing plant layouts. The unit can handle, for example, a 23mm diameter x 18mm tall aerosol actuator cap at 2,000+ parts/minute. Fitted with a bulk hopper



with a very low loading height of 600mm, components are loaded by an operator and elevated to the top of a linear track.

The linear track is designed on CAD and laser cut to orientate the caps as they are transported along eight lanes, then merged to single lane via a centrifugal disc. The use of eight tracks allows the speed of individual lanes to be reduced, virtually eliminating the risk of damage to product, says RNA.

The ZE3000 features fast and simple changeover, no use of pneumatic air for orientation and open style tooling for easy access. The linear feeder arrangement allows high feed speeds to be achieved using a single unit rather than multiple bowl feeders and with the combined bulk hopper the system has a relatively small footprint.

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E: ma@rna-uk.com

Doyen patch up wrinkles

Demographic influences of ageing populations with more youthful beauty ideals have created a growing demand for 'cosmeceutical' products.

A recent trend is for transdermal patches which are a convenient delivery means for active ingredients with anti-wrinkle, anti-cellulite, detox or slimming capabilities.

To cater for the growth in demand for patches for such applications, Doyen

Medipharm has used its experience supplying systems to the pharmaceutical industry and improved its existing technology to achieve higher production speeds and efficiencies.

Features of Doyen's new generation of transdermal patch manufacturing systems, TMS, include multi-lane operation at speeds of up to 250 products/minute/lane, and in-line packaging by an HMI controlled platen sealing unit.

The patches are assembled by the TMS and transferred to the platen sealer where it is packed into the primary single dose pouch to complete the barrier. Any faulty patches or pouches outside of the acceptable tolerances are rejected at the integrated reject station.

The system offers the option to integrate product and packaging web printers, vision inspection systems and end-of-line stacking, collating and cartoning modules.

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special feature

toiletries & cosmetics - product round-up

Premier gets to the bottom of cosmetics...

Premier Labellers has supplied three specially designed base labelling units to Lush Cosmetics for installation in its plants in Toronto, Vancouver and Poole, Dorset, where they are applying labels to the company's range of gift packs.

The retractable labelling head is designed for ease of operation and access to the integrated ICE coder, claims the company. A specially designed split conveyor enables accurate application to the base of the



product. The ICE Zodiac Plus thermal transfer printer produces variable data on-line, such as bar codes, batch codes, text and graphics, at up to 300 dpi resolution.

The unit has network and USB connectivity as standard. The Zodiac also features a patented 'solid state' ribbon drive system which eliminates wear parts

found normally in thermal transfer printers, says Premier. The base labeller can be integrated into existing lines.

... and creates a surge

A major contributor to the growth of Premier Labelling's contract labelling division during the past 12 months is its partnership with Scotland's Organic Surge, which produces a range of hand, face and body products.

The range is packaged in 75ml, 150ml, 200ml and 250ml flexible plastic tubes. Non-printed tubes and high quality pre-printed labels are supplied directly to Premier from the respective manufacturers and stored at its Harwich warehouse. Due to an increase

in demand from Organic Surge, Premier Labeller's machine division developed the P500 Tube Labelling System which operates at speeds of 50/minute, providing a faster and more efficient operation.

This means that when Organic Surge requires a typical batch of 50,000 labelled tubes, the job can be turned round in about 16 hours.

T: +44 (0) 1255 553822

E: sales@premierlabellers.co.uk

Mengibar opts for Holmach

Antonio Mengibar, of Barcelona, has appointed Holmach as its agent in the UK and Ireland.

Mengibar manufactures a range of on-line and rotary fillers and cappers used extensively in the personal care sector.

A particular speciality is trigger and pump cappers which are available in both automatic and semi-automatic versions. The combined filler and capper units are particularly suited to foaming products, says the company. A recently patented system uses 'Reynolds' technology for filling high foaming products without having to lower the nozzle into the bottle. This eliminates



Mengibar flowmeter filler for foaming products

dripping and reduces mechanical complexity, says Mengibar.

T: +44 (0) 1780 749097

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Visitors out in force despite economic woes

Against all economic odds thanks to the global credit crunch the PPMA Show 2008 (Birmingham NEC September 30 - October 2) was a rip roaring success.

Intelligent estimates put attendance to the show well above the registered visitor attendance of 6,296 in 2006.

"This is an incredible achievement given the publicity surrounding current economic woes," exclaimed a delighted Chris Buxton, CEO, PPMA.

High-level visitors from blue-chip companies were thick on the ground including ASDA, AstraZeneca, Birds Eye, Boddingtons, Cadbury, Coca-Cola, Crown Paints, Dairy Crest, Gillette, Heinz, Marks & Spencer,

Merck Sharpe & Dohme, Tesco Direct and Unilever.

The success of the show led to the organisers Reed Exhibitions and the PPMA reporting that almost 4,000m² of space was booked during the event for the PPMA Show 2009.

In a busy year for exhibitions the show could have been overshadowed by interpack, Pack Expo and Emballage, but UK manufacturing visitors proved that they were still hungry for a British show. Andrew Lilley, UK sales manager for Blue Print Automation praised the "number and quality of new and existing customers", adding that the decision to exhibit at the PPMA Show in an interpack year had been justified and the company would be back next year.

Sarah Ketchin, director, Fortress Technology (Europe) said, "This was the best show for three years our enquiry levels were high and importantly these came from the right people. Further about 90 per cent of visitors represented new business opportunities."

Tellingly she added, "We have come away from the show with a



Getting down to business

positive business outlook in both the medium and long term."

Visiting from the UK branch Spanish-owned SAICA Packaging, which earlier in the year spent £100m buying 19 of SCA's UK and Ireland corrugated packaging operations, engineering manager Jeff Hurst, said he was impressed by the amount of different equipment and markets covered by the show, adding that he had found two or three possible solutions during his visit.

The next PPMA Show will take place from September 29 - October 1 2009 at the NEC in Birmingham.

www.ppmashow.co.uk

EXHIBITOR QUOTES

- "This year's PPMA Show was the best UK exhibition we have attended in the last five years. It was not only busier, we also received an excellent level of enquiries. There is an increasing need for manufacturers to drive down costs by improving productivity. They are keen to invest in new automated equipment that delivers fast results."

Geoff Tandy
managing director
Multipond

- "Fantastic interest and a very good reception to our new products. We've got 64 leads to be followed up after the show and we had a constant stream of customers."

Chris Putman
sales director
Components 4 Machinery

- "We had good quality visitors and the size of the show enabled us to get to see and spend time with all of them."

Colin Barker
manager
Aetna Group UK

- "This is the first time WAM Engineering have taken part in an exhibition for some years. We can honestly say that interest has been phenomenal."

Mark Thomson
sales manager
WAM Engineering

- "PPMA 2008 was a huge success for us as we achieved a record number of sales leads and effectively boosted the profile of the Product Inspection division."

Robin Bodicoat
marketing officer
Mettler Toledo

PPMA 21st Anniversary honours

The 21st celebrations provided the PPMA with opportunity to honour a number of personalities. **Andrew Manly**, the PPMA's general secretary for the first 18 years of his life, was awarded for his work in launching the association.

Chris Buxton, who became CEO in 2005, said: "The PPMA could not have developed or evolved in the way that it did without Andrew's contribution." He helped to launch the association, the PPMA Show,



Andrew Manly receives his award from president Jeremy Marden

Machinery Update, and valuable resources now such as

the China offices. He continues to support the association as a contributor to *Machinery Update*.

Craig Chen, well-respected manager of the PPMA China Office for nine years, was rewarded for developing members' business interests in China.

Ian Jardine, company secretary. Buxton said: "His contribution to the PPMA has been crucial to both its success and its continued growth."

A BIT ON THE SIDE

■ **Domino Printing Sciences** gave a UK debut to its adjacent side coding system, the C6000AS plus, which has the ability to print on two or three sides of a case simultaneously.

The coder has a particularly strong appeal for the food sector says Domino's product director, Mike Hurst as "several different sets of coded information may be required for the various transactions in the supply chain. Until now these demands could only be met by complex installations involving multiple coding stations and turntables."

The new C6000AS plus can be retrofitted to existing lines as well as new installations, says the company.

T: +44 (0) 1954 782551
E: enquiries@domino-uk.com

■ **Jenton International** showcased a Maklaus pre-stretch machine claimed to have a pre-stretch capability of 300 per cent, operating at speeds 50 per cent above conventional equipment to achieve 1,500 metres/minute.

The Italian-built machine can make a number of different products, including hand rolls and even smaller widths. Due to its improved PLC technology the machine uses 15 per cent less energy than equivalent equipment, says Maklaus.

T: +44 (0) 1256 892194
E: sales@jenton.co.uk

MACHINERY FINDER

Can't find the machinery you are looking for?
Consult the PPMA machinery finder service
+44 (0) 20 8773 8111
www.ppma.co.uk

Encoded for accuracy

SICK UK launched the DFS60 incremental encoder for high positional accuracy of, for example, rotating shafts. A typical application is speed tracking for ink jet printers.

"Most encoders are fixed for one particular application but the DFS60 can be programmed by the customer for a particular requirement and reprogrammed later for another," said SICK's product manager Darren Pratt.

The use of new pick-up

technology enables the encoder to use a code disc made of nickel without the loss of accuracy normally associated with a glass disc. This makes it more robust as well as providing a greater temperature range of -20° - +100°.

Another design feature is the positioning of the bearings in the encoder, which are separated as widely as possible within the encoder body to achieve smoother and vibration

free running. The 'wobble' can be reduced by as much as three times compared with previous encoders, according to SICK.

It also launched 'Inspector' a powerful 2D vision sensor suitable for a wide range of packaging applications, including label presence and positioning as well as pack seal and level fill verification. (MU September/October 2008 page 49.)

T: +44 (0) 1727 831121
E: info@sick.co.uk

Robot ceiling mounted for speed

The TH450T is amongst the quickest SCARA robots of its size on the market and achieves cycle times of less than 0.3 seconds, according to TM Robotics.

Arm lengths of 450mm and a payload of 5kg complement the TH450's enhanced speed capability, while repeatability is ±0.01mm.

Linear and circular conveyor synchronisation capabilities are also offered, creating a powerful package when combined with an integrated vision system,



tracking function makes the system suitable for end of line packaging.

"Ceiling mount capabilities make the TH450 much more versatile," explained Nigel Smith, managing director of TM Robotics. "The robot is already in use in a number of applications but its real potential lies in

says the company. During the show it was demonstrated using Cognex cameras and vision, supplied and integrated by PCS. The resulting conveyor

packaging for industries such as pharmaceuticals, healthcare, food and cosmetics."

T: +44 (0) 1707 871535
E: nigel@tmrobotics.co.uk

FreeSpace and Green space

The 'FreeSpace' table top bagger for low to mid-volume hand packaging applications was unveiled by Automated Packaging Systems (APS).

The PS125 which weighs in at 50kg has a footprint of 550x480mm and operates at speeds of up to 25 bags/minute.

It does not require compressed air to run making it suitable for non-industrial applications. It is also claimed that the lockable turntable

enables ergonomic handling and changeover of Autobag bags-on-a-roll in tight spaces.

An optional built-in imprinter features next-bag-out printing technology and is ideal for short-runs. FreeSpace connects to LAN making it possible to integrate office systems and print directly onto bags from remote locations.

Also on display was AirPouch, a desktop void-fill system, for which APS has launched a more

environmentally-sustainable material for void-filling applications. The reprocessed film, which contains at least 95 per cent reused material, is used to manufacture air-filled cushions for end-of-packaging at a rate of 15 metres/minute. APS says the system is particularly suited to components, spare parts, CDs, books, electronics and pharmaceuticals.

T: +44 (0) 800 731 3643
E: contact@autobag.co.uk

Micro-purge a clear answer retailing demands

One of the biggest issues for users of large character marking (LCM) for secondary packaging applications is the sometimes excessive downtime needed to clean the print head, according to customer research from Linx.

The launch of the company's self-cleaning coders - the Linx IJ350 and IJ370 - ideal for outer case or secondary packaging is claimed to overcome the problem and answer retailer demands for high quality print for all applications.

The LCM coders feature a self-cleaning printhead with patented micro-purge system, which uses a small film of ink on the printhead to collect dirt and debris prior to printing. This is blasted with air to clean the ink from the printing plate after which the ink is collected and re-circulated, passing through a



high performance filter to maintain clean ink in the system. The ink recycling reduces the overall cost of ownership and eliminates the need to dispose of waste ink, says Linx.

"The need for legible and clear coding on secondary packaging is being driven by increasing requirements for traceability and brand identification, and LCM is emerging as one of the most cost-effective and versatile

means of achieving this accurately and efficiently," commented Dr Paul Doody, Product Manager, Linx.

Other highlights include ease of maintenance, consistent print quality, a simple user interface and flexible and easy installation, it is claimed. The compact IJ350 and IJ370 are fully enclosed and feature a detachable display unit featuring "at a glance" status indication and an intuitive, icon-based touch screen, says the company.

It can also be moved easily between lines with a long cable ensuring that the display can be detached up to a distance of 3m, while a single display can be used for multiple printers. The Linx IJ350 prints characters up to 50mm high and the J370 70mm. T: +44 (0)1480 302100 E: uksales@linx.co.uk

A BIT ON THE SIDE

- **Allen Coding** exhibited its latest, offline, intermittent carton coder, the ACF 400, for the first time in the UK.

The unit is able to handle cartons, sleeves, blister cards, leaflets and cut labels, as well as more complex packs, says the company.

Speed, index length and batch quantity can be changed via the touch screen, while changeover is facilitated by adjustable feeder and position indicators, according to Allen.

T: +44 (0) 1707 379500
E: info@allencoding.co.uk

- **Gainsborough Industrial Controls (GIC)** introduced the servo-driven high speed continuous motion VFB 8000 VFFS Bagmaker.

The servo motor drives are used for film unwind, film feed, crimp jaw opening/closing and crimp jaw vertical motion. The VFB 8000 can be integrated into a turnkey line or installed as a stand alone unit, says GIC.

Bag Styles include Pillow, Gusset, Block Bottom, Euroslot, Punch Hole, Zip and Quadpack.

T: +44 (0) 1427 611885
E: sales@gic.uk.net

- A new corporate identity and website for **Endoline** was launched at the show.

The website reflects the company's five core products and the international scale of the business.

Online ordering is included for the first time. Three further languages are due to be added to the site. www.endoline.co.uk

Premier move into shrink sleeves

Heralding its move into the shrink sleeve market Premier Labellers launched the automatic P2000 for medium volume producers.

The labeller, which complements its range of self-adhesive labelling machinery, operates at speeds of up to 200 containers/minute, has a

maximum sleeve length of 190mm, is suitable for container sizes from 28mm – 125mm in diameter and virtually any shape imaginable, says Premier.

It can apply a complete range of full body and tamper evident shrink sleeves and has an optional perforation unit.

The P2000 is supplied

complete with feeder and a range of heat and steam tunnels to suit each application. It features integrated touch screen control and automatic height adjustment makes changeover possible in seconds rather than minutes, it is claimed.

T: +44 (0) 1255 553822
E: sales@premierlabellers.co.uk

Exclusive partners get in the flow

Kenray Forming announced that it has signed an exclusive agreement with Armoloy UK to launch "K-Flow" - a high performance surface coating option for its range of formers for the food packaging industry.

K-Flow incorporates Armoloy's specialised surface

coating of thin dense chromium that is said not to crack, flake or peel. It permeates and bonds with the base metal to produce an integrated surface that is smooth, slippery, hard and resilient, says Kenray.

T: +44 (0)1530 244210
E: markevans@kenrayforming.com



Here are some exhibits to look out for at Emballage November 17-21, Paris-Nord Villepinte.

OYSTAR Erca-Formseal will be showcasing the EF400, which can deep-draw, fill, seal and label up to 46,000 cups/hour, which claims OYSTAR breaks all productivity records. A rotating in mould labelling system comprising four moulds in a 4 x 6 format operates at up to 32 cycles/minute.

www.oystar.erca-formseal.com

The global launch of **Domino Printing Sciences G-Series** of thermal ink jet printers (TIJ) takes place at Emballage. The printing solution will enable a broader use and application of TIJ products in specific market areas, such as the pharma sector, claims Domino.

The G-Series delivers 300/600 dpi resolution at speeds of up to 300 metres/minute. The high quality printing fulfils the track and trace needs of manufacturers by enabling 2D codes, including ECC 200, and other machine readable formats, says the company.

T: +44 (0) 1954 782551

E: enquiries@domino-uk.com

First shown at interpack **Kliklok** will be exhibiting its latest carton closer - the VARI STRAIGHT. This straight-line closer for tri-seal cartons uses Kliklok's variable pitch technology.

To provide a controlled carton turn, without a change in direction, the turning bed features "pop-up" turning bars that capture the cartons, guide them through a 90° turn and into the flap closing section.

The patented "pop-up lug" technology fires lugs only when a carton is present, enabling lugged carton control, random infeed timing and a broad carton size range.

T: +44 (0) 1275 836131

E: m.tatum@

kliklok-woodman-int.com

Three first timers are sealed for entry

Thermoforming and tray sealing equipment supplier Mecaplastic launched three new products.

The table top S304 entry level tray sealer allows hermetic sealing of all types of heat sealable trays. Initially available with straight corner cutting, a contour, rounded-corner cutting model will soon be introduced, says Mecaplastic.

The S 3000DP in-line automatic tray sealer is claimed

to simplify format changes and reduce tooling costs. It comes with a new "partial tooling" equipment system which simplifies format changes and also reduces tooling costs, claims Mecaplastic.

Less than 5 minutes is needed between changeovers. Compatible with Mecaplastic's S range of sealing machines, the S3000 DP operates at up to 15 cycles/minute. It can be used

for shrink film, alufoil films, aluminium trays, cardboard trays and pre-cut lids.

Shown for the first time in the UK, the S 800 semi-automatic tray sealer is equipped with a 25m³ vacuum pump and motorised film drive. Like its bigger brother the S1000, tools are interchangeable with larger machines.

T: +44 (0) 2476 351300

E: administration@nutripack.co.uk

Pressing news for tablets

Isopak demonstrated the new CPR-18 bench top rotary tablet press from Dott. Bonapace. The press comes in two models, the B-10 with 10 stations, handling punches up to 16mm diameter and the D-8 with eight stations for punches up to 22mm diameter.

Features include independent weight and hardness adjustments, speed adjustable from the control panel, easy access to the machine through eight doors and tool size changes



can be achieved in less than 30 minutes, says the company. All parts in contact with the product are made from stainless steel AISI 316 L.

The machine has been developed in response to requirements for an entry level machine for laboratory, R & D or medium production batches with a capacity between 2,000 - 18,000 tablets/hour (B-10) and 2,000 - 14,500 (D-8).

T: +44 (0) 1780 410093

E: mail@isopak.co.uk

Washer qualifies for DEFRA grant

Industrial Washing Machines (IWM) featured the latest version of its Edi13 ALTA utensil washer which, says the company, is the first machine of its type to appear on the Government's water technology list.

The stainless steel washer features an integrated recirculation system to minimise water usage while the electronic control optimises energy efficiency, claims IWM. The

inclusion on the water technology list means the equipment qualifies for the Enhanced Capital Allowances scheme operated by DEFRA, meaning 100 per cent of the capital cost can be offset against corporation tax.

The Edi utensil washers are designed to meet general washing requirements for bakery, ice cream, butchery, catering and food

manufacturing sectors.

Also on the stand was the company's Crusader T600 Twin Tank tray washer with a two stage cleaning process. The first provides continuous jetting with hot water and detergent and the second jetting with hot water only, followed by a cold water rinse. Blow-off or heat drying options are available.

T: +44 (0) 121 459 9511

E: carl@indwash.co.uk



It's a RAP for Xact

Xact, the UK distributor for US-based inkjet print specialist Matthews Marking Products demonstrated the new the IP7000 high resolution inkjet printer featuring piezo electric

technology. The printer has a print height of 2 - 100mm at 200dpi and can produce up to 32 lines of text, says Xact.

Its re-circulating auto prime feature (RAP™) means that it consumes 35 per cent less

ink than similar machines, and eliminates the need for daily maintenance and the use of solvents, claims the company.

T: +44 (0) 151 479 3020

E: info@xactpackaging.co.uk

Buckets at the double

Italian manufacturer PFM has announced a new range of multihead weighers equipped with memory buckets to provide high speeds, in excess of 200 weighings/minute.

Particularly suited to the snacks and confectionery market, the C3 features a second tier of buckets in addition to the usual one, which says the company almost double the weighing combinations.

The second tier of buckets accept product from any undischarged weighing buckets, holding the weight in memory for the controls to make up the next target weight.

Shown mounted to PFM's



Comet bagger, the C3 weigher featured twin butterfly flaps that separate lightweight snack products to ensure a secure seal on the bagger.

The C3 is available with 8-24 heads and can mix up to eight different products.

T: +44 (0) 113 239 3401

E: pfm@pfmuk.com

Flavour of the month

- Food Contact Material Certificates

A certificate for food contact materials is the flavour of the month. Retailers are asking food manufacturers to produce them and in turn food manufacturers are asking their suppliers for evidence that the materials or articles they have supplied are suitable for use in contact with foods.

The immediate cause is the *Plastic Materials and Articles in Contact with Food Regulations 2008* which came into force on July 1 2008 as the UK implementation of *EC Regulation No 1935/2004 on materials and articles intended to come into contact with food*.

In many ways the regulations change matters very little as they replace legislation on the subject which has been in force since January 1993. The only change is the need for certificates and documentation.

Simple facts

The previous legislation (Directives 80/590/EEC and 89/109/EEC) obliged food suppliers to ensure that only those chemicals mentioned in the directive are used to make plastics for use in contact with food and that the migration levels of permitted chemicals are below the limits prescribed for different types of foodstuffs, but placed no obligations on suppliers of plastics.

The duties on food suppliers in the latest regulations have not changed significantly, but the legislation now recognises the simple facts that as a purchaser you do not know the make up of a piece of plastic unless the supplier tells you, and if you don't require plastic suppliers to keep records, it is impossible for an enforcing

authority to trace where a particular batch of plastic has gone.

Suppliers of plastic materials and articles now have a duty to pass on information about the product they are supplying in the form of a certificate or label on the product and, to improve traceability, keep records on where particular batches of plastics have gone. This can be requested by an enforcing authority if required.

Conformity

The regulations mirror two features of the Machinery Directive which has applied to machine suppliers since 1995, the EC Declaration of Conformity and the technical file which has to be made available to an enforcing authority in the event of a question about the conformity of a machine.

Like the previous legislation, the new regulations apply to packaging materials and all plastic articles used in contact with food, e.g. plastic mouldings and conveyor belts, regardless of when they were supplied.

In theory food manufacturers should already know that the plastic components they are using in contact with food comply with this legislation, because it has been a requirement since 1993.

In practice

However in practice many food producers are using the new regulations as a reason for requesting certificates not only for new plastic components but also for components supplied on machines that are 10 or 15 years old.

It is clear that a certificate of

conformity is now required when a plastic component is supplied on its own for use with a food product, but is this really necessary for each plastic component on a new machine or for machines supplied with Declarations of Conformity to the Machinery Directive since 1995?

The EC Declaration of Conformity sent out with a machine covers all of the components used in the machine.

This confirms that, if the manufacturer intends the machine to be used to process or pack food, the plastic parts that come into contact with the food will comply with the plastic in contact with food legislation.

This is because the Machinery Directive (98/37/EC), in essential safety requirement 2.1, requires manufacturers to ensure that *"materials in contact, or intended to come into contact, with the foodstuffs must satisfy the conditions set down in the relevant directives."*

Technical files

In the case of plastic materials the relevant directives - 80/590/EEC and 89/109/EEC - are now being revised.

In addition the Machinery Directive requires machinery suppliers to hold a technical file which must contain information to demonstrate that the machine conforms to the directive's relevant essential health and safety requirements.

In the case of food contact materials this would be documents provided by the supplier of the plastic components to demonstrate that the plastic complies either with the European Directives or



DOC MARTIN

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Ensure Consultancy Limited
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the equivalent American FDA Regulations.

So it is a reasonable assumption that any machine supplied since 1995 with a Declaration of Conformity to the Machinery Directive and intended for use with food will have been equipped with plastic materials that comply with the plastic in contact with food legislation and that the manufacturer will have the documentation to back up this claim in the technical file for the machine.

From a machine manufacturer's point of view the advantage of the new legislation is that plastics suppliers will now be obliged to supply them with a certificate, whereas previously it was up to the purchaser to establish if it was suitable.

So certificates are certainly an improvement to the legislation for both food manufacturers and machine builders, but it is always worth remembering the importance of practical measures such as labelling the components or materials when they are in store. Once the plastic becomes separated from its certificate or label you are back to the original problem of not knowing its make up.

Help for healthcare sector from SATO

A new generation of compact label printers, the CT4i range, has been launched by SATO UK.

It is claimed to be the first compact printer on the market with an HF RFID capability to meet application requirements for compact RFID printing solutions in logistics and healthcare markets.

The CT4i's small footprint, fast throughput (up to 50mm/second at 203 dpi), and restyled anti-microbial cover, said to be effective in preventing the growth and spread of bacteria and microbes, can be used across a wide range of sectors from food to healthcare, according to SATO UK.

Designed to meet applications where print quality and cleanliness and hygiene are a pre-requisite, such as hospitals where

professionals rely on automated procedures for accurate input, data verification and real-time updates.

For example, an application from SATO Healthcare IPD Solutions, utilises wristbands and improves patient safety by freeing hospital staff from manual data entry, paperwork and other clerical tasks, it claims.

It features quick change platens, tool-less print head change and easy loading of ribbon and labels. Interfaces have been updated to include USB with either LAN or RS232C serial communication interface as standard; a plug-in interface enabling IEEE Parallel, wireless or Bluetooth connectivity is optional.

T: +44 (0) 1255 240000

E: enquiries@sato-uk.com

Versatile Sleeveomatic M

A new Sleeveomatic M sleeve labeller from Krones AG, launched at Pack Expo 2008, is claimed to be a versatile option for full-sleeve,



part-sleeve or tamper-evident sealing.

The compact second general modular machine offers a choice of different reel holders and alternative shrinkage variants. Accessibility to the station has been improved, functional dependability upgraded, and change-over of all handling parts has been simplified for concomitant gains in speed, claims Krones.

Available in one or two station versions, the high-speed Sleeveomatic has been designed for fast erection and commissioning.

T: +44 (0) 1942 845000

E: sales@krones.co.uk

'Absolutely' clean and clear

High-quality marking on non-porous surfaces is the main benefit of a new thermal inkjet coding system from Rotech. The Absolute printer, manufactured by APS, offers a clean, clear and high quality marking system and is claimed to be ideal for pharmaceutical production.

It features a centralised control system, a new drive for the ink jet cartridge and a specially developed range of alcohol-based inks. It is suitable for non-porous surfaces, including blister foils, and printed and

varnished cartons. Totally clean in operation, with a sealed mono-fluid print cartridge, the central controller can drive up to four print heads, says Rotech. This means that codes on both the blister pack and carton can be controlled from one position.

Absolute has no moving parts and a solid state controller. Maintenance is confined to changing the cartridge that also houses the complete ink delivery and handling system.

T: +44 (0) 1707 393700

E: sales@rotechmachines.co.uk.

Thrust jet development give energy savings

Energy savings of up to 73 per cent on air consumption are claimed by Meech Air Technology for its High Thrust Jets.

The jets provide a high power blast of air, while at the same time reducing compressor demand and lowering noise levels, says the company.

Meech's High Thrust Jets are designed to improve quality in applications such as swarf removal, product drying and



material conveying, and are claimed to increase performance as well as reducing energy bills.

They use a minute amount of compressed air to generate a

high power blow-off force by forcing compressed air through an adjustable internal circular slot. The company says this means that the high velocity air stream generates an area of low pressure at the rear of the jet that entrains ambient air at a ratio of 4:1.

This maximises high power blow off force, while complying with health and safety requirements.

T: +44 (0)1993 706700

E: sales@meech.com

Stop safely modules

Pilz Automation Technology has introduced the PMCprotego D, a servo amplifier claimed to benefit from a safe stop function and accept new modules to expand its safety capability.

The PMCprotego D features a slot to accept safety cards to be launched in early 2009. These cards will provide for functions such as safe reduced speed, safe operational stop and safe standstill. The MultiMediaCard

(MMC) stores configuration parameters; can be readily 'cloned' and simply slotted into the servo amplifiers, says the company.

In addition, upgrades can be performed by exchanging an existing card for another with a new configuration, and damaged amplifiers can be replaced and the full configuration loaded into the new unit simply by inserting the card.



Several models of PMCprotego D are already available, with larger versions due shortly.

T: +44 (0) 1536 460766

E: sales@pilz.co.uk

COMPONENT CLIPS

PIAB's new bag handling technologies improve process reliability and decrease downtime and waste caused by dropped and damaged products.

New additions to PIAB's BL4 and BL5 line of suction cups for bag handling applications allow for the handling of a larger variety of bag sizes, shapes and dimensions, providing flexibility and reducing changeover time.

T: +44 (0) 1509 814280

E: info@piab.co.uk

Panasonic Electrical Works claims to have introduced the world's thinnest connector.

The A4F two-piece connector for low profile applications has an ultra-low profile, with a Tough Contact construction, says the company.

"Tough Contact" means the connector is resistant to damage resulting from dropping, foreign particles, flux, solder rise and corrosive gases, claims Panasonic.

T: +44 (0) 1908 231555

E: info-uk@

eu.pewg.panasonic.com

Charity dare devils

Sponsored by the PPMA, **Tim Lees**, technical director, Mailway Packaging completed the Great North Swim in aid of the RNLI.



Tim on the swim

A group of colleagues from **Domino Printing Sciences** took part in the annual London to Cambridge bike ride. Held in aid of Breakthrough Breast Cancer, the first of the Domino team completed the 58-mile course in an impressive 3 hours 30 minutes.

////BOOKSHELF////

Cleaning and disinfection of food factories: a practical guide

(Guideline 55) has been published by CCFRA. It addresses the importance of cleaning, management responsibilities and basic principles, and discusses the chemicals required, the many types of cleaning techniques, and the timing and frequency of cleaning. It also looks at setting targets, ways of ensuring that the agreed strategy is carried out and how to assess the effectiveness of that strategy.

Also available is **Heat processing of packaged foods: guidelines for establishing the thermal process**.

www.campden.co.uk



John Murray and Steve Ellison



Theo de Koning



Simon Griffin

Who's done what and gone where ...

Markem-Imaje

Markem-Imaje has appointed **John Murray** as operations manager and **Steve Ellison** as sales manager for its UK operation.

Prior to the merger of Markem and Imaje earlier this year Steve was managing director of Imaje, and John was Markem's operations manager.

"We look forward to raising the bar in terms of coding performance," said Steve. "With our combined product range and strong customer support network, we are delighted to be in a position where we can genuinely offer manufacturers the very best solution."

Newtec Odense (UK)

Newtec Odense (UK), a subsidiary of Newtec A/S, has appointed **Ian Weatherstone** as general manager of the UK operations, and **Dean Chilvers**, sales manager.

Ian takes over from long serving boss Peter Crouch, who

is retiring in the near future.

Ian and Dean plan to establish Newtec in new market sectors.

Ytron-Quadro (UK)

Jon Youles is the new managing director of Ytron-Quadro (UK) replacing the company's founder Dudley Bradley who is standing down, although he will continue with the company as executive chairman. Jon joined Ytron-Quadro in 2005 as sales director.

AutoCoding Systems

Simon Griffin has been appointed business development manager for the South of England by AutoCoding Systems, a specialist in factory automation software.

Based in St. Albans, Simon will be responsible for new and established opportunities. He will be supported by a team of project managers and development engineers.

Formally sales manager for SICK UK, his appointment coincides with AutoCoding

Systems' move to larger, purpose built offices at Sutton Quays Business Park.

HayssenSandiacre

HayssenSandiacre has opened a sales and service office in s'Hertogenbosch, Netherlands. Headed by **Theo de Koning**, the new office will provide sales coverage for Hayssen, Sandiacre and Rose Forgrove equipment in the Benelux countries and in Germany. Additionally, HayssenSandiacre will be supplying spare parts and service directly to these markets.

Riggs Autopack

On the back of expansion plans to build turnkey lines for the food sector Riggs Autopack, a specialist in depositing and filling machines, has appointed **Neil Doran** as design engineer to further develop its product range. Riggs Autopack is extending its Nelson-based facilities to accommodate its expanding product portfolio.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

27 - 30 January
**UPAKOVKA/UPAK
ITALIA 2009**
Krasnay, Moscow, Russia
www.upakovka-upakitalia.de

23 - 26 February
Gulfood 2009
Dubai, UAE
www.gulfood.com

26 February
**New Machinery Directive
PPMA Seminar**
Marriott Hotel, Northampton
www.ppma.co.uk

10 - 13 March
Anuga FoodTec 2009
Cologne, Germany
www.anugafoodtec.com

15 - 18 March
Pro2Pac
ExCeL, London
www.pro2pac.co.uk

15 - 18 March
IFE 09
ExCeL, London
www.ife.co.uk

11 - 15 March
ACHEMA 2009
Frankfurt, Germany
www.achema.de

19 March
**New Machinery Safety
Concepts for Machinery Users
PPMA Seminar**
Marriott Hotel, Northampton
www.ppma.co.uk

21 May
Starpac 2009 Awards
Sheraton Park Lane Hotel,
London
www.starpac.uk.com