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Information®**

December 2005

PACKAGING DIGEST®

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www.packagingdigest.com/info/survey10



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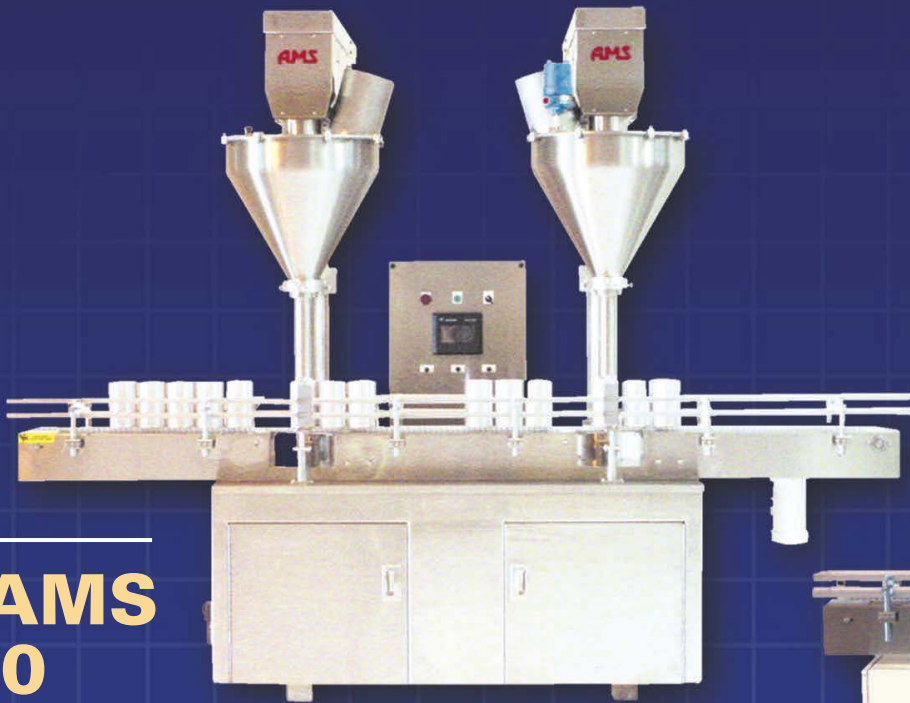
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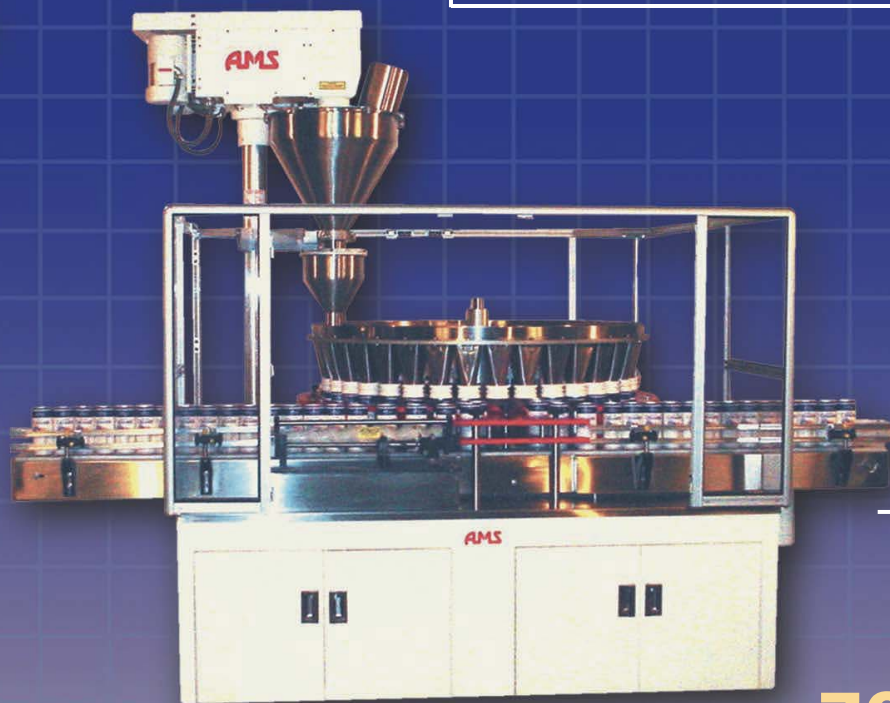
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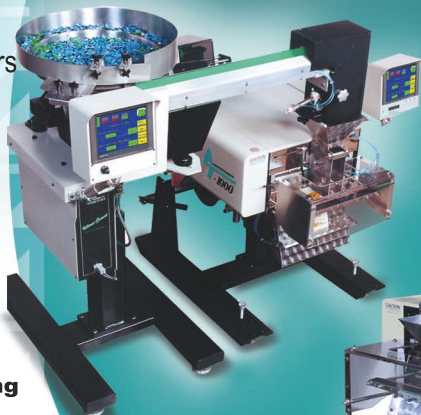
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design trends



Dainty bottle delivers big taste for dieters

Recently described as the “Willy Wonka of dieting,” celebrity chef and restaurateur David Burke is putting the solution to dull diets in the palm of consumers’ hands with the new Flavor Spray™ line of zero-calorie, zero-carbohydrate and zero-fat sprayable flavorings. The concentrated liquid, launched last summer by Flavor Spray Gourmet, LLC, Cliffside Park, NJ, comes packed in a totable, 2-oz spray bottle that delivers up to 222 servings, in 18 flavors classified as Classic, Exotic or Sweet & Sinful.

Among the varieties now available are Parmesan Cheese, Smoked Bacon, Hot and Sour, Memphis BBQ, Banana Split and Root Beer Float, among others. By January, the company plans to launch 13 more flavors, including three butter sprays. Says Flavor Spray director of operations Sean Pomper, future line extensions may even include sprays that incorporate a whole meal’s worth of flavors, such as a pot roast with vegetables, or pizza—à la Willie Wonka’s savory gumballs.

Says Burke, “I created this unique line of flavor sprays so that people can enjoy the tastes of all their favorite foods without experiencing the guilt. In all my years of cooking and experimenting with spices, condiments and flavors, I have never come across anything that can enhance the flavor of food this easily.”

Designed to replace toppings, gravies and dressings on foods such as poultry, seafood, beef, salads, vegetables and more, the flavorings are applied to the foods using a proprietary trigger sprayer that was selected for its ability to evenly coat foods with a fine mist. Says Pomper, “Having a good atomizer was a top priority. There are spray bottles out there that don’t provide an even spray. We went through hundreds of dispensers before we found the right one.”

Packaging, designed by **The Halpern Group** (www.halpern-group.com), comprises a petite, white polyethylene terephthalate bottle with a distinct, triangular shape that is easily stored in a purse or a desk drawer. As Pomper explains, it was important to the brand that the packaging was consistent from flavor-to-flavor. “First of all, we wanted the bottles to be sexy, second, we wanted them to be fun and third—and most importantly—we wanted a consistent look for the labels so that one variety wouldn’t stand out from another,” he says.

Label graphics, found on front and back pressure-sensitive labels, include a headshot of David Burke, a stylized logo, usage instructions, a list of ingredients and the flavor name. The only distinction between the bottles is in their color coding. Classic flavor varieties, which are recommended for use with vegetables, are designated with a green dispensing cap and use green lettering for the flavor name. Exotic flavors, for use with meat, carry a white cap and red lettering and Sweet & Sinful sprays, for snacks, use brown for the cap and flavor name. By January, Flavor Spray hopes to launch a two- to four-week Flavor Spray Diet, which will coordinate meal plans with the color-coded flavorings.

The sprays are presently available in Le Gourmet Chef retail stores nationwide, in pharmacies served by Kinray and on Flavor Spray’s website at www.flavorspraydiet.com for \$5.95 per bottle.

Water-soluble tabs make a Quantum leap for dishwashing detergent

Like no automatic dishwasher detergent before it, Reckitt Benckiser’s (RB) new Finish Quantum® three-in-one dishwashing tablets incorporate three separate compartments that combine active and otherwise incompatible cleaning agents in a single tablet. Packaged for distribution in the U.K. in a water-soluble, injection-molded container, the product culminates an extensive development program and jointly patented technology between RB and **Aquasol** (www.aquasol-ltd.com). Aquasol, which is known for its development in materials, including polyvinyl alcohol (PVOH) and thermoplastically processable starch, says it was contracted by RB to help to develop the technology behind the new Finish product, from prototype design of the unit-dose tablets to a pilot-scale manufacturing process.

Each of the dishwashing detergent’s three main ingredients are said to perform different cleaning functions. The MicroPowder ensures that tough residue like baked-on foods disappears with ease. The package also uses what RB calls Powerball® technology, with a unique formulation that performs on bleachable stains, while ultra-concentrated ShineGel removes spots and smears. The tablet container completely dissolves during the dishwashing cycle, and the ingredients release separately when needed. Molded of a starch-based alternative to hard-shell gelatin capsules, the tablet package may be placed in the dishwasher without having to remove and dispose of any additional packaging.



Fresh, new look pulls into the Shipyard

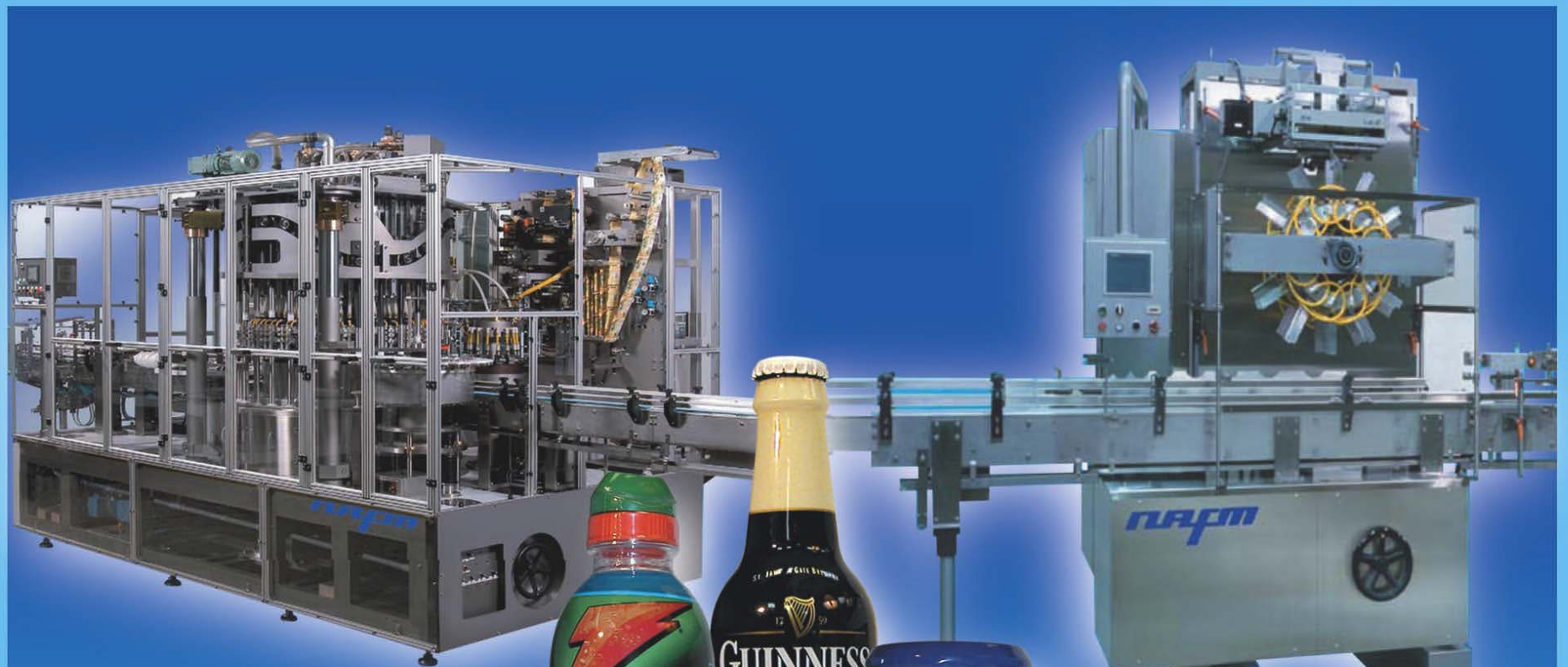
For the first time since it began brewing beer 13 years ago, the Shipyard Brewing Co. has updated the packaging for its Shipyard Export beer, thanks to a clean new packaging design by **CD&M** (www.cdmcomm.com) and illustration work by **Bruce Hutchinson**, both located in Portland, ME. The beer itself remains the same, says Alan Pugsley, master brewer and cofounder of The Shipyard Brewing Co. “We’ve simply updated the look and feel of the package.”

The brewery says the changes made were subtle. The trademark Shipyard schooner illustration features cleaner lines, bolder lettering and brighter colors. The more contemporary look has already spurred sales, according to Shipyard, which reports that the updated Export 6-pack hit the shelves this spring and posted year-to-date sales for this package, up by 2.8 percent. The 12-packs began appearing on store shelves in July. CD&M has also designed labels and other packaging for Shipyard IPA, Winter and Summer Ale. Hutchinson’s illustrations can also be found on other Shipyard packages, including those for Brewer’s Choice, which was released in February.

Why the change? Shipyard president and cofounder Fred Forsley says it was the perfect time. “We’ve expanded distribution to twenty-seven states and have just gone statewide in California. People drink Shipyard Export because they appreciate what’s in the bottle. But what if they haven’t tried it? The package is their first impression, and a crisp, clean, bold look really makes Export stand out on the shelf.”



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design trends beverages



Cooler packs get a pick-me-up

The Seagram's Coolers Escapes line, managed and marketed by United States Beverage and owned by Pernod-Ricard, now has new flavors and a more modern, new look, following the beverage's 20-year celebration in the market. Unveiled nationally last year, the appealing flavors appear in a beer-bottle-shaped, 12-oz container from **O-I** (www.o-i.com), bedecked with colorful body and neck labels featuring beachy, tropical-style graphics designed in-house. **Cameo Crafts** (www.cameocrafts.com) gravure-prints the bottle labels in six colors. Consumers researched said they wanted a change and a more premium-shaped bottle, according to United States Beverage, which replaced the brand's former, cone-shaped bottle.

United States Beverage says it expects the redesigned packs, which also include paperboard four- and 12-bottle carriers made by **Smurfit Stone** (www.smurfit-stone.com), to open up a new era of excitement and competition in the vast market for fruit-flavored, light alcohol refreshers sold in supermarkets and convenience stores. "Seagram's new, contemporary image has led to strong growth over the summer, vastly outperforming its competition and the cooler category overall," explains Justin Fisch, senior brand manager of United States Beverage. The new flavors, Calypso Colada and Strawberry Margarita, are part of the line's 10-flavor collection that varies by market. The new look is also helping to fuel a turnaround in sales, the company reports. So far, the market response has been excellent, it says.

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Limited-edition bottle 'flags' Miller Lite

Miller Brewing Company is bringing its "Taste Referees" advertising campaign to limited-edition bottles of Miller Lite using full-body shrink-sleeve labels from **Multi-Color Corp.** (www.multicolorcorp.com). The series of eight, 12-oz bottles features black-and-white-striped label graphics of a referee's jersey, which helps tie the brand's advertising to individual consumer beer-drinking experiences. The labels also illustrate eight "Beer Penalties," such as "Ineligible Beer in the Cooler" and "Unbeermanlike Conduct." In distribution since Oct. 1, the sporty and fun packaging will be available while supplies last, Miller reports. The specially decorated bottles are available in sports bars and other venues nationwide. Miller says the bottles have become popular enough to be collectible, as "they're being traded, and some people are trying to collect the entire series." Multi-Color's Scottsburg, IN, plant reverse-gravure-prints the "Taste Referee" shrink-sleeve labels in eight colors. The converter's Graphics Services facility in Erlanger, KY, did the prepress work and cylinder engraving.

design trends

Smoothies savor shrink labels

Moove over, smoothie competitors. Now, Brown Cow Farm is launching a low-fat yogurt smoothie of its own in two flavors. Brown Cow Smoothies in Original and Strawberry in 32-oz contoured bottles are handsomely decorated with colorful, heat-shrinkable labels from **Seal-It** (www.sealitinc.com) in a blue and white or pink/red and white color scheme, depending on the flavor. The distinctive graphics for this dairy product are reverse-printed in 10 colors by gravure on heat-shrinkable polyethylene glycol film. Crisp, clear photographs of cows are pictured on the bottom half of the labels, along with splashy elements in blue and strawberry-covered red. Brown Cow's bovine mascot, "Lily," is featured in the eye-catching farm scene. The impactful shrink labels offer many graphic opportunities, enabling Brown Cow to reinforce its farm image. In addition, there's room for company and product descriptions, nutrition facts and a UPC code. The PETG label material shrinks to the contours of the curvy bottle and makes the most of vivid colors to ensure shelf appeal in stores.



Jones Soda brings Meal in a Bottle in time for the holidays

For those who can't get enough holiday spirit, Jones Soda Co., Seattle, is serving it up by the bottle. This year, Jones is launching limited-edition Holiday Packs, both nationally and regionally. Target carries the Holiday Pack to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The fun-loving, five-bottle packs come in a paperboard carrier that holds the bottles snugly in a windowed framework. A serving spoon and a moistened towelette are included. Flavors comprise Turkey & Gravy Soda and four "side dishes," such as Wild Herb Stuffing Soda, Brussels Sprout Soda, Cranberry Soda and Pumpkin Pie Soda, as well as a recommended wine list for each course. The national pack is sold at both Target stores and on Target.com while supplies last. Benefiting Toys for Tots, the regional pack, available through local distributors in all regions of the country, includes similar taste treats, such as Broccoli Casserole, Smoked Salmon Paté, Turkey & Gravy, Corn on the Cob and Pecan Pie. Both packs hit store shelves the week of Nov. 7. Festive graphics were designed by Jones and Toronto's **Felegance** (www.felegance.com) and Seattle's **Dragstrip Design** (www.dragstripdesign.com). Each pack displays a violator proclaiming, "Just like Mom Used to Make."



Revolutionary design eliminates 4 bulk bag unloading problems



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The SPOUT-LOCK® clamp ring* creates a high-integrity, sealed connection between the clean side of the bag spout and the clean side of the telescoping tube. This prevents contamination of the product, while eliminating the plant contamination that occurs when falling material rapidly displaces air and dust. It also stretches the spout downward in combination with the TELE-TUBE® telescoping tube* (at right).



Models for hoist and trolley loading (shown) and forklift loading, available with flexible screw conveyor (shown), pneumatic conveying system, outlets to suit any process, and integrated scale system for loss-of-weight batching directly from bags.



Eliminate dust during disconnect and bag collapse with BAG-VAC® system

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Prevent dead spots and promote flow with TELE-TUBE® telescoping tube*

The TELE-TUBE® telescoping tube* pneumatically raises the SPOUT-LOCK® clamp ring* (at left) for connection to the bag spout, then allows it to lower, applying continual downward tension. As a result, the spout is kept taut at all times, preventing excess spout material from bulging outward (creating dead spots) or falling inward (creating flow restrictions). Works in unison with FLOW-FLEXER™ bag activators to promote flow.

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design trends



Glass jar shines for Olé

In late 2004, when steel prices were on the rise, Olé, a leading food packaging company in Brazil, needed an affordable way to package its green beans and corn to revive its brand. It did so with an affordable, 200-g glass package developed by O-I (www.o-i.com) that's equivalent in size and shape to the steel version Olé had used previously, as well as a specialized closure. Olé introduced the glass jar, which O-I calls the "Pote Conserva 330," in January, and in three months, it doubled market share of the corn and green beans, to 8 percent. According to Olé, sales continue to grow at such a brisk pace that the company says it's building a new filling line to handle the increased demand.

According to Alexandre Marchezini, O-I's sales and marketing director for glass containers in Brazil, consumers prefer glass containers because they can see what's inside. Olé says it certainly agrees, adding that it plans to introduce additional products, such as olives, in the same glass jar, including the traditional Brazilian dish seleta (a mix of carrots and potatoes). There are no plans to introduce an alternative jar size at this point. The jar uses an easy-open metallic lid made in Brazil by Metalgrafica Rojek SA (www.rojek.com.br).



New frozen fruit packs from Dole look 'as good as fresh'

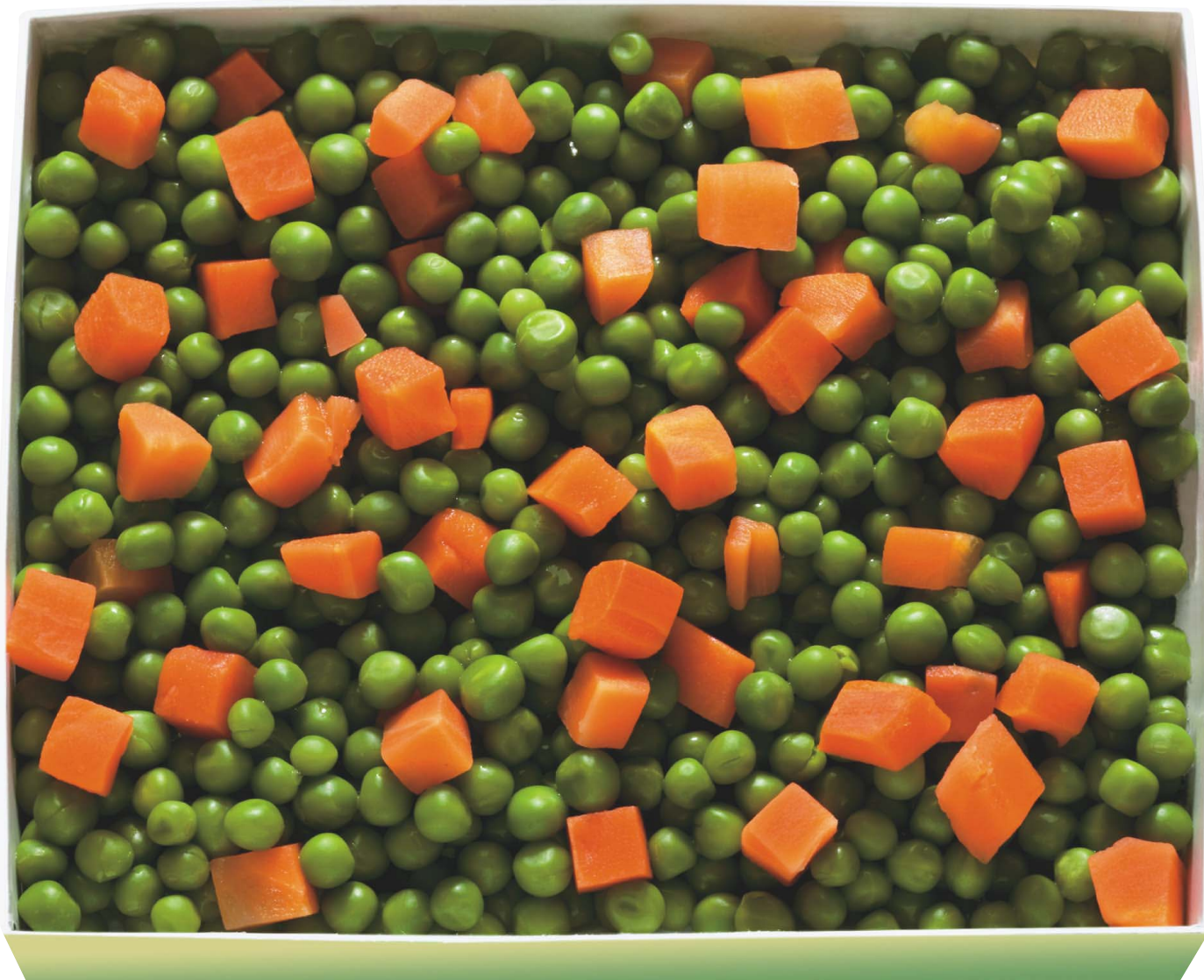
Dole Food Company, Inc. is rolling out DOLE® Frozen Fruit—a new, branded line of fresh frozen fruit with the "locked-in" natural goodness and nutrition benefits of fresh fruit. Dole will offer an extensive selection of more than a dozen fruits from colorful, antioxidant-rich berries to Dole's signature tropical fruits, including Tropical Gold™ pineapple. All DOLE Frozen Fruit products are 100-percent natural fruit, frozen at the peak of ripeness, washed and ready to eat. "Many people are unfamiliar with how versatile and easy-to-use frozen fruit can be, so one of our communication goals will be to show consumers creative ways to incorporate frozen fruit into their diet every day. Frozen fruit is ideal for smoothies, baking, toppings or simply enjoying as a healthy snack," says Paul Panza, Dole Packaged Foods senior business manager for Frozen Fruit.

The frozen fruit is available in sizes ranging from 12 oz to four lb for retail, club, foodservice and industrial channels. Retail sizes cost \$2.99 for 12 oz and \$2.79 for 16 oz. The 12-oz sizes are primarily berries, which accounts for the cost disparity. The product is being run on an existing vertical form/fill/seal machine at Dole's plant in Atwater, CA. The bag material is supplied by **Western Concord Manufacturing**, and the zipper is supplied by **Zip-Pak** (www.zippak.com). Dole Food Company, Inc., with 2004 revenues of \$5.3 billion, is the world's largest producer and marketer of high-quality fresh fruit, fresh vegetables and fresh-cut flowers.



CAUTION:

*Packaging
peas, carrots,
and other good
things to eat or
drink may be
dangerous to
the life of your
equipment.*





First microwavable aseptic product wedges into the U.S. market

Chef Creations, the wholesale and retail food division of Culinary Concepts, Orlando, FL, has introduced the first sauces in the U.S. to be packaged in a microwavable, aseptic Tetra Wedge package from **Tetra Pak** (www.tetrapak.com). The three new products, Alfredo Sauce, Hollandaise Sauce and a Classic Brown Sauce, were unveiled at the World Wide Food Expo in Chicago in October 2005.

"We've had an excellent response to our other aseptic products, and this is even better because it's microwavable," says Chef Creations president Hal Valdez. "We introduced an aseptic product in a 250-mL Tetra Brik package in Canada, and it went over very well. This one is very easy to use. Just cut off the top of the package and you can pour it."

Tetra Pak expects that consumer demand for

such conveniences will drive growth within this newly created category.

The major difference between the Tetra Wedge Aseptic Microwavable and other aseptic packaging is the ability to microwave the product right in the package. To accomplish this, Tetra Pak changed the packaging material structure by replacing the aluminum layer with a layer of polyethylene terephthalate silicon oxide film.

"The protective nature of our barrier package, coupled with the convenience of microwavability, makes this package ideal for a number of consumer products," says Jeff Kellar, vp of strategic business development for Tetra Pak. "We have qualified this package for use not only with complex sauces like the Chef Creations product, but also with soups, cheese sauces, pasta sauces, dessert toppings and gravies."

Test quantities of the product in the Tetra Wedge were produced at Tetra Pak's pilot plant in Denton, TX. Launched in select markets in November 2005, the product retails at \$2.29 and \$2.49 for a 6.75-oz package, depending on the sauce variety.

design trends



Oval tissue dispenser glitters for the holidays

Just in time for the holidays, Kimberly-Clark aims to brighten every room with a stylish new shape of the season for its Kleenex® tissues. Its festive holiday collection of oval canisters is made by **Smurfit-Stone Container** (www.smurfit-stone.com) of a multilayer paperboard/film lamination and could be a first of its kind in terms of structure. Offset-printed in-register in six colors plus a glossy UV varnish, the canisters are bedazzled with brilliant, 3D holographic sidewalls that feature mirror-like Christmas ornaments with authentic-looking, silvery hangers, suspended on gold ribbons. All of this is set against a glitter-patterned background. The holography is produced by **Wavefront**. The dispensers come in seven color choices. They're topped with a friction-fitting ring molded by **Double H Plastics, Inc.** (www.doublehplastics.com), fitted with a paper/film window insert. The packs sell for just under \$3.

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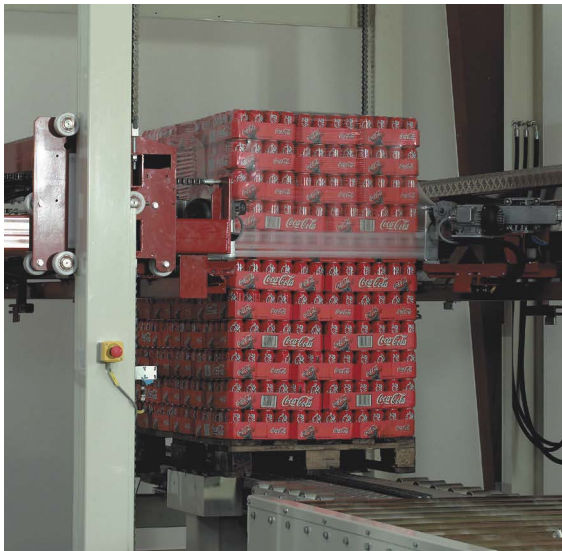
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comment

Mary Ann Falkman, Editor



Got milk?™ Any of a hundred ways!

Back in the late 90s, when Dean Foods introduced its Chug bottle, with vibrant shrink sleeves and a funky, retro-style cap, the launch was so successful that it lifted sales of milk across the category, the first time the dairy industry had seen such growth in decades. The renewed sales activity seemed to awaken a sleepy industry, and soon dairies across the country were churning out Chug-wannabe bottles and new flavors. Previously relegated to retail stores' loss-leader status, milk suddenly acquired an air of panache.

So now, several years later, how has dairy's stature changed in the eyes of the consumer? Or hasn't it changed at all? To find out, Dairy Management, Inc.—the umbrella management organization for the American Dairy Association, National Dairy Council and U.S. Dairy Export Council—and *Dairy Foods* magazine undertook a survey of 1,000 consumers.

Although most of the questions centered on milk's health benefits and taste, several of the consumers addressed milk's packaging. One survey respondent said, "Maybe change the way it's sold rather than change the product itself. It would be great if you could buy it frozen." Another remarked, "Milk should be sold in individual sizes about the size of a yogurt container, and then pack it as a six-pack." Drinkable yogurt comes that way...why not milk?

Another consumer said, "I would only sell milk in glass bottles. It tastes better that way than in plastic." (Oberweis Dairy, in Aurora, IL, would fervently concur.) One respondent suggested that flavored milks should be made available in larger-size packages, and another said that dairies should add extra calcium and vitamins to milk to make it more nutritionally complete. Then there was this critic: "I don't know why most milk packages look the same. They're boring."

Freshness seemed to weigh heavily on consumers' minds, too, since refrigerated milk has a relatively short life [Editor's note: Freshness of all foods, and packaging's role in extending shelf life, is examined in our online exclusive this month at www.packagingdigest.com/info/survey10]. In Europe, shelf-stable aseptic milk has long been a common staple, but U.S. consumers have been reluctant to accept milk that is not refrigerated.

Other findings from the survey involved consumer preferences. For example, two-thirds of consumers drink milk (this could include on cereal) at least three times each week, with 42 percent claiming to drink milk at least once a day. The survey found that most people are either great fans of milk or are milk avoiders; very few consumers would fall into that middle ground of occasional drinkers. One-fourth of respondents say they have three or more different kinds of milk in their refrigerator at any given time. Half keep 2-percent milk on hand, and one-third buy whole milk. Only about 20 percent of consumers keep flavored milk, but of those that do, chocolate was by far the favorite, followed by vanilla. Two-thirds of the consumers say they become aware of new milk products while just browsing the store, and more than half attribute such awareness to television and magazine advertising.

Whether dressed in a dazzling, full-body shrink sleeve label, or packaged in the common, handled plastic jug, milk's got it!

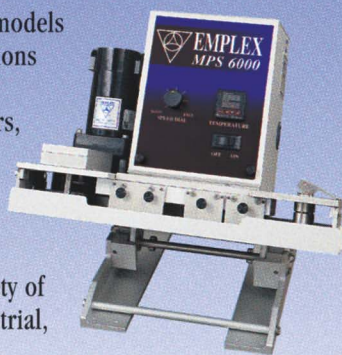
Mary Ann Falkman

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Form/Fill/Seal & Bagging

Bag filler The 3CM-PDS double-spout packaging system features servo technology and can handle up to 2,000 bags/hr. A bag-detection system monitors bag position and prevents product spillage if a bag is not present under the spout. A bag-open detection system senses if the bag successfully opens. Unopened bags are automatically rejected, and a replacement is conveyed into position. Bag control is maintained throughout the bagging and closing process. The system is also available in a single-spout configuration. It's capable of speeds up to 1,200 bags/hr and has a smaller footprint than the double-spout configuration.

American-Newlong, Inc., 317/787-9421.
www.american-newlong.com



Bulk-bag unloader The half-frame bulk-bag unloader offers dust containment at a low cost by eliminating upper-frame components to lift and/or position the bag, the co. says. Instead, the unit relies on the user's forklift or plant hoist to suspend the bag above the unit during operation. The bag-to-hopper interface consists of a Spout-Lock® clamp ring positioned atop a pneumatically



actuated Tele-Tube® telescoping unit, facilitating dust-tight connections and unrestricted flow between the bag spout and the hopper, as well as automatic tensioning of the bag as it empties. The seal between the bag spout and the clamp ring allows full-open discharge from bag spouts of most popular diameters, eliminating the need for iris valves. The discharger is also equipped with Flow-Flexer™ bag activators that raise and lower the opposite bottom edges of the bag at timed intervals, loosening compacted materials and promoting material flow. The transition hopper is equipped with pneumatic flow-promotion devices, and a

flexible screw conveyor is optional. Other options include a Power-Cincher® flow-control valve and a Bag-Vac® dust collector. The unit has a carbon-steel construction with an industrial finish. Stainless-steel finishes are available to meet food, dairy, pharmaceutical and other standards.

Flexicon Corp., 888/353-9426.
www.flexicon.com

Vf/f/s machine

The VPK-260 is a high-speed, continuous vf/f/s machine for producing pillow-style bags. A servo-driven bagger, the machine is capable of speeds up to 180 bags/min. Its patented, D-motion jaws, which allow for longer filling and sealing times, facilitate higher speeds and gentle product handling. Also capable of forming flat-bottom and Stabilo® Seal packages, the unit can accommodate various other f/f/s-style packaging. The system features Allen-Bradley ControlLogix controls, and with its few moving parts and easy access to machine components, it simplifies inspection, lowers maintenance costs and results in higher uptime, the co. states. Size changeovers are said to require less than 10 min.

Rovema Packaging Machines, LP, 770/513-9604.
www.rovema.com



Pouch machine The C-50 standup pouch machine is a compact, high-speed f/f/s system that has quick-change features for versatile operation. Capable of speeds up to 50 pouches/min, the unit can handle either laminate or PE materials. It's equipped with servo drives and is said to be easy to maintain and quick to change over. Applications include food, pharmaceuticals, electrical components and more.

bodolay Packaging Machinery, 813/754-9960.
www.bodolaypackaging.com



Filler The GlobalFill is designed to provide production flexibility. Its dual-row design creates a filler that can maintain high production volumes in a footprint 40-percent smaller than that of traditional fillers of equal output, the co. says. It can simultaneously fill two container sizes as well as multiple flavors. The system changes over quickly, requiring only one change part.

Hartness Intl., Inc., 864/213-1706.
www.hartness.com



Tf/f/s machine

The Sarong Model SD-4 tf/f/s system is designed for unit-dose containers. Suitable for use with food, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and health and beauty aids, it's particularly appropriate for use with sample items, the co. says. The machine uses various molds to form the container into most shapes. It then fills and seals the container. The machine can also die-cut the container or cut strips from the web material, and it accommodates standup containers.

Key Intl., Inc., 732/536-1500.
www.keyinternational.com



Vf/f/s machine A versatile, twin-tube vf/f/s, the Advantage BT has the ability to run two products and/or package styles simultaneously. Suitable for portion packs and powdery products such as coffee, the machine can produce three-side-seal bags at speeds of up to 240 bags/min. Its compact footprint of 16 sq ft makes it an alternative to hf/f/s equipment.

Triangle Packaging Machinery, 800/621-4170.
www.trianglepackage.com



F/f/s systems Repak f/f/s packaging machines offer a high-quality, stainless-steel construction for reliable, heavy-duty performance, the co. says. Suitable for washdown environments, the systems' two, four-point lifting systems ensure secure seals.

A user-friendly touchscreen interface facilitates operation with programmable and fault-finding, diagnostic software.

Reiser, 781/821-1290.
www.reiser.com





Vision sensor The F210-ETN Ethernet vision sensor controller has onboard storage for compressed inspection images, which can be streamed via Ethernet to a remote PC or laptop for analysis and long-term storage without interfering with ongoing production. The controller features parallel processors for measurement and communication functions, enabling it to continue inspecting without interruption while processing and sending data. Access from a remote location, using the co.'s Vision Composer Net software, lets users start or stop sensing and set or change scan parameters without requiring direct access to onboard controls. The sensor uses digital cameras to capture high-resolution inspection images, with minimal noise interference, in real time. Access to the images facilitates timely adjustment of inspection conditions during setup and production. Nonconforming products can be immediately detected and corrected, reducing rejects and increasing output, the co. says. The sensor is suitable for applications where quality control and the production floor communicate via Ethernet.

Omron Electronics, LLC, 800/886-6766.
www.packaging.omron.com

Programming software The latest version of RSLogix 5000 programming software offers expanded programming and batch configuration functionality, while easing information integration. Key features of RSLogix v.15 include PhaseManager, an S88 batch configuration tool, RSLogix Architect and a navigation tool to help improve system configuration, organization and management. It also allows users to add Allen-Bradley 1756 I/O to a running Allen-Bradley ControlLogix system.

Rockwell Automation, 800/223-5354.
www.rockwellautomation.com

Optical distance measurement sensor The efector PMD laser sensor provides noncontact distance measurement with a 10-m sensing range. Contained in a compact, robust metal housing that measures 42×42 mm, the sensor is designed for industrial applications and is said to easily mount in limited spaces. The sensor is a visible red, Class II laser featuring integrated extraneous light suppression, and the sensing technology is based on time-of-flight. The sensor incorporates a smart-pixel receiver element that is a system-on-a-chip design, the co. says, facilitating the unit's compact design. Both sensor element and signal



Label-inspection unit The Checkmat DART is a multifunction inspection system that ensures that packaged product meets quality standards. It utilizes a centralized CPU to manage a distributed network of inspection processes, such as cameras or sensors. Its expandable, modular design allows components to be added to meet future inspection requirements. It has a slender, single-column control enclosure that houses the electronics and I/O that support the system. An I/O component slide rack facilitates access for setup, wiring and component expansion.



Krones, Inc.,
414/409-4000.
www.kronesusa.com

Bag sealer The Maxx 5 is a peg-bag top sealer/labeler. Operators feed filled bags into the machine. Labels are then folded over the top of the bag, heat-sealed and hole-punched. Quick changeovers can be performed by the operator. Suitable for candy, nuts and novelty applications, the machine is designed primarily for small cos. that package numerous products each day, the co. says.



American Design & Packaging, Inc.,
715/246-6020.
www.amdesign.us

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new products equipment

Printers Suitable for real-time printing of information such as use-by dates and production codes, the Freedom Marker prints up to four lines of text at 80 characters/line. Maximum message height is ½ in. It joins the Series 400 four-head printer as the newest member of the co.'s AUTOPRINT® family of printers. The Series 400 has a rugged, industrial enclosure and is designed for in-line printing of product and SKU descriptions, bar codes and graphics and logos in spot colors. Messages printed by the Series 400 can be up to 2 in. high and 40 in. long. It's capable of speeds of up to 240 ft/min. Functions of both printers are controlled through a PC with WYSIWYG message composition software. They also offer status displays and automatic diagnostics, and are compatible with eco-friendly HP inks.

AT Information Products, Inc.,
201/529-0202.
www.atip-usa.com

In-line puck remover The in-line puck remover accepts various products that are already inserted into pucks from an infeed conveyor. It separates the product from the puck, discharging it onto separate conveyors at rates of up to 180 units/min. The in-line design is available in left- and right-hand versions and is fully adjustable to handle a range of container and puck sizes.

Simplimatic Automation,
434/385-9181.
www.simplimaticautomation.com



Filler/capper The FMB210 monobloc filling and capping machine is designed especially for filling vials, inserting of lyophilisation or injection plugs, and for overseal capping of aluminum caps. Capable of outputs up to 85 units/min, the machine is suitable for sterile filling of product volumes ranging from 0.1 to 100 mL, with an accuracy of ±1 percent. Its peristaltic design eases cleanup and product changeovers and provides 100-percent protection against product cross contamination, the co. reports.



All format parts are mounted by finger screws, facilitating complete changeovers in about 15 min. The system offers individual optimization of each function with automatic synchronization, and a color touchscreen interface allows users to select desired functions from up to 30 stored recipes. The machine meets GMP standards for aseptic filling. An integral, Class 100 laminar airflow unit is optional.

Flexicon America, Inc.,
802/657-3232.
www.flexiconamerica.com

Printers Capable of printing on Tyvek®, laminates and most types of film, foil and paper, the 800 Series of platen printers is designed for use with intermittent-motion thermoforming, pouch or blister machines. Maximum imprint sizes range from 6×4 in. to 18×18 in., depending on the model. The printers have a compact, modular design and do not require a mechanical drive connection to a parent machine. Said to be simple to operate, they facilitate quick printing-mat changeovers with a removable printing-mat plate. Ink comes in prepackaged dispenser bottles, in a variety of colors. All printers have a heavy-duty, rugged construction.

Adolph Gottscho, Inc.,
908/688-2400.
www.gottscho.com



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Rollon Corp.,
877/976-5566.
www.rolloncorp.com



Digital case printer Capable of printing on multiwall kraft bags, flat cases, blanks and die-cuts, the Maximizer digital case printer prints one side at a time, in one color. A computer-generated stencil facilitates placement of high-resolution print anywhere within a 32x11-in. area, including text in most Windows™ fonts, fine-line graphics and logos, and verifiable bar codes in a variety of symbologies. It's equipped with a vacuum feeder that picks from the top of a magazine lift table, which can hold up to 90 B-flute or 60 C-flute, single-sheet corrugated die-cuts or trays or up to 100 bags, depending on the bag design. Reaches speeds to 50 cases or bags/min, printing at a resolution of 200 dpi.

Iconotech, 800/521-0194.
www.iconotech.com



High-current relay module

The cFP-RLY-425 relay module delivers up to 5 A of switching and is particularly suitable for use in industrial environments using high-current actuators and electromechanical devices. Designed specifically for industrial control applications, the module has a double-width housing that facilitates easy connectivity and internal cooling at high currents, and it eliminates the need for a separate terminal block. The module also includes eight nonlatching, single-pole, single-throw, Form A relays for switching general-purpose signals and loads. It can be used to switch 5 A of current up to 18 VDC or 150 VAC, 3 A at 250 VAC, and 0.2 A at 125 VDC. The relay module also features 2,300-V transient isolation between output channels and the backplane, as well as hot plug-and-play operation to automatically detect and identify configuration software.

National Instruments Corp.,
866/463-5413.
www.ni.com



Label printer/applicator The Cimjet® 200 label printer/applicator is engineered to a value-oriented set of features. It's equipped with a tamper-with-blow-assist applicator for applying labels to the sides of corrugated cases and shrink-wrapped packs, at speeds of up to 30 labels/min. Capable of printing high-quality bar codes, graphics and variable, real-time data, the printer is designed for simple operation, requiring minimal operator training. Internal data storage eliminates the need for a computer on the factory floor, the co. reports. The unit's compact design facilitates integration into existing production lines.

Markem Corp., 866/263-4644.
www.markem.us/cimjet200



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new products applications



Metallic inks finish shrink sleeves

Featuring innovative, glossy finishes, **Ameri-Seal, Inc.'s** (www.ameri-seal.com) newest shrink sleeves feature metallic inks and are being used with the Silken Child line of personal care products, which includes moisturizing shampoos and conditioners. Four shimmering, metallic sleeves are gravure-printed in turquoise, violet, orange and purple. The heat-shrinkable PETG sleeves were chosen over Polyvinyl chloride because the tops of the bottles narrow significantly, calling for a wider range of shrinkage.

Ameri-Seal, Inc., 800/220-7981.
www.ameri-seal.com

Flowrapper gets control with new platform

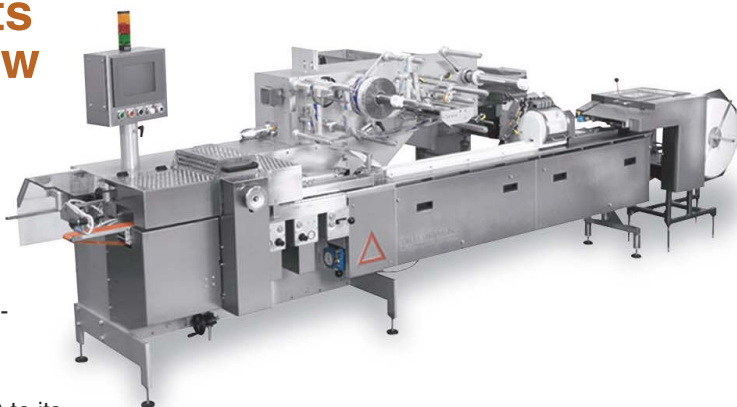
Factory floor automation company **Delta Systems, Inc.** (www.delta-systems-inc.com) has added an integrated, sequential and motion-control platform from **Rockwell Automation**

(www.rockwellautomation.com) to its high-speed Eagle horizontal flowrapper. Designed to help users handle a range of product sizes and shapes at speeds of up to 1,000 parts/min, the Eagle flowrapper is now available with Kinetix integrated motion. The Kinetix solution uses a single controller and software package to integrate sequential and motion control using a SERCOS interface.

Using an Allen-Bradley ControlLogix controller, the Kinetix offering leverages Rockwell's Logix architecture, combining control, networking, visualization and software development technologies. The controller addresses a range of automation application needs, including sequential, motion, process, drive and safety control, as well as information integration, with the rest of the enterprise. The integrated control platform enhances packaging performance and reduces engineering time because system control elements reside within the same multiprocessor controller. Its high-performance execution and integrated motion functionality help the machine achieve tight seal and cut accuracy for high throughput.

The multiaxis wrapper also uses an Allen-Bradley VersaView industrial computer, Kinetix 6000 digital servo drives with a SERCOS fiberoptic interface, MP-Series, food-grade servo motors and PowerFlex variable-frequency drives.

Rockwell Automation, 800/223-5354.
www.rockwellautomation.com
Delta Systems, Inc., 479/631-2210.
www.delta-systems-inc.com



SQUARE CONTAINERS MAKE THE CASE FOR SALADS, DESSERTS

With products in more than 600 stores and almost 8 million units sold each year, Allison's Gourmet Kitchen of Moore, OK, has tasted quite a bit of success. Its prepackaged salad and dessert offerings have found growing popularity among consumers, a result of the combination of its quality products and Shure-Lock® packaging from **IPL Packaging** (www.ipl-plastics.com).

Herb Grimes, president and CEO, opened Allison's in 2003, with the knowledge that success would hinge not on taste alone, but on the whole presentation of the product. Grimes knew packaging would be key to getting the company's product onto store shelves and ultimately into consumers' hands.

"I knew I didn't want a round container," Grimes recalls. "I had seen IPL's range of packaging and was immediately drawn to their square options. The four-cornered packages not only are easier for stores to display, but they also allow maximum use of case space. Basically, we have more cubic volume for more product in each package."

Allison's chose IPL's Shure-Lock line of square containers, which offers at least a 16-percent savings over conventional containers, IPL says, placing more product in a case, or on a pallet or store shelf. Additional benefits Grimes looked for were tamper-evidency, a package that would ensure product safety and freshness, and consumer convenience. The Shure-Lock line presented all of these.

"The IPL package is not only tamper-evident, but it's also easy for consumers to use," Grimes explains. "All they have to do is break the corner tab, pop the lid and take out what they need. Then they can reseal what's left."

Allison's is using the Shure-Lock containers in 12-oz and 1-, 2- and 3-lb sizes. Using different combinations of these packages allows them to meet the needs of a variety of stores and foodservice operations. Also available in an 8-oz size, the 12-oz and 1-lb containers all use the same lid. Likewise, the 2- and 3-lb container sizes use the same lid.

IPL Packaging,
800/463-0270.
www.ipl-packaging.com

Linear motion enhances case-packing systems

Based in Quebec, Canada, **RPT Motion** (www.rptmotion.com) has provided its customers with

solutions for automatic, industrial applications since 1984. In recent years, it has experienced increasing demand for case packers and other linear motion solutions from manufacturers of all kinds. A key segment of the company's business is based upon updating existing

subsystems on machinery with higher-performance linear motion to increase production rates and reliability.

"So much of our business is driven by speed," says Peter Ratcliffe, president of RPT Motion. "We have

observed an intense pressure to provide solutions that reduce downtime, and thus increase overall productivity."

Recently, RPT teamed with **Kerk Motion Products** (www.kerkmotion.com) for a retrofit project involving a major tissue manufacturer whose operation was bottlenecking at the case-packing stage. The manufacturer planned to add a second case packer to increase speed and prevent the slowdown of production. However, the second case packer by itself was insufficient.

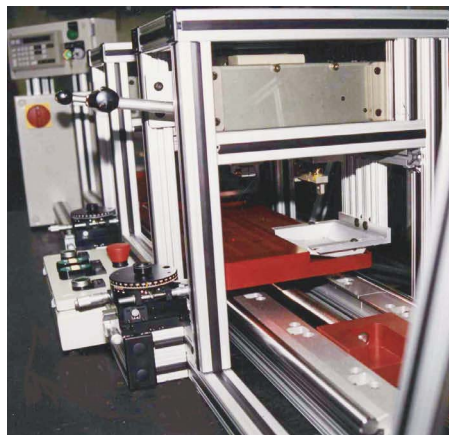
The major obstacle lay in the fact that the existing system, which had a two-position lane changer powered by a pneumatic cylinder, wouldn't provide the four positions or the higher speeds required. In order to service four lanes, a stroke in excess of 40 in. was required, and the lane changer needed to index, on average, every 10 sec or less while maximizing time available for product flow.

"We couldn't fit the ball screw and nut into our existing design with a fast enough pitch to suit the higher speeds,"

says Ratcliffe. "It would hit its limits and not allow us to reach the high linear speeds we needed."

In finding a solution, RPT and Kerk designed a motion system to feed the required four lanes. The collaboration includes a Kerk screw and nut in RPT's modular slide system, creating a smooth, high-speed, servo-powered system with an anti-backlash lead-screw assembly. The system features Kerk's VHD Series of lead screws, which come in a variety of different leads in the same size package. Components to mount the nut, as well as to support and drive the screw, remain the same over a selection of feeds and speeds. In order to meet the high speeds required by the tissue manufacturer's application, RPT chose a 2.400-in. travel/revolution screw of 3/4-in. nominal dia, which proved to have approximately the same efficiency as a ball-nut configuration.

RPT Motion, Inc., 514/683-1612.
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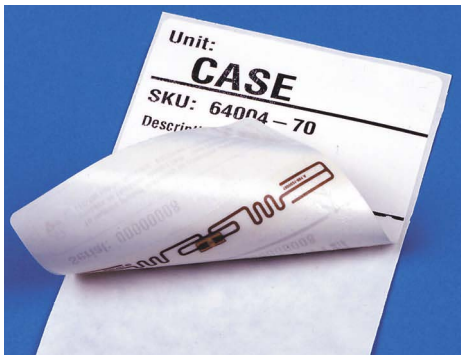
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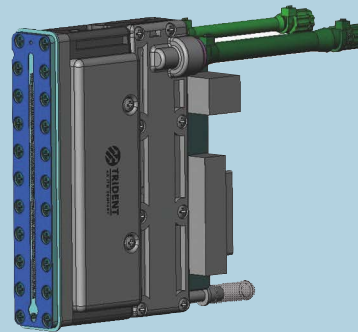
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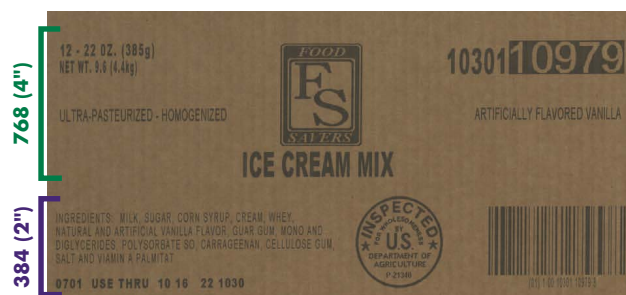
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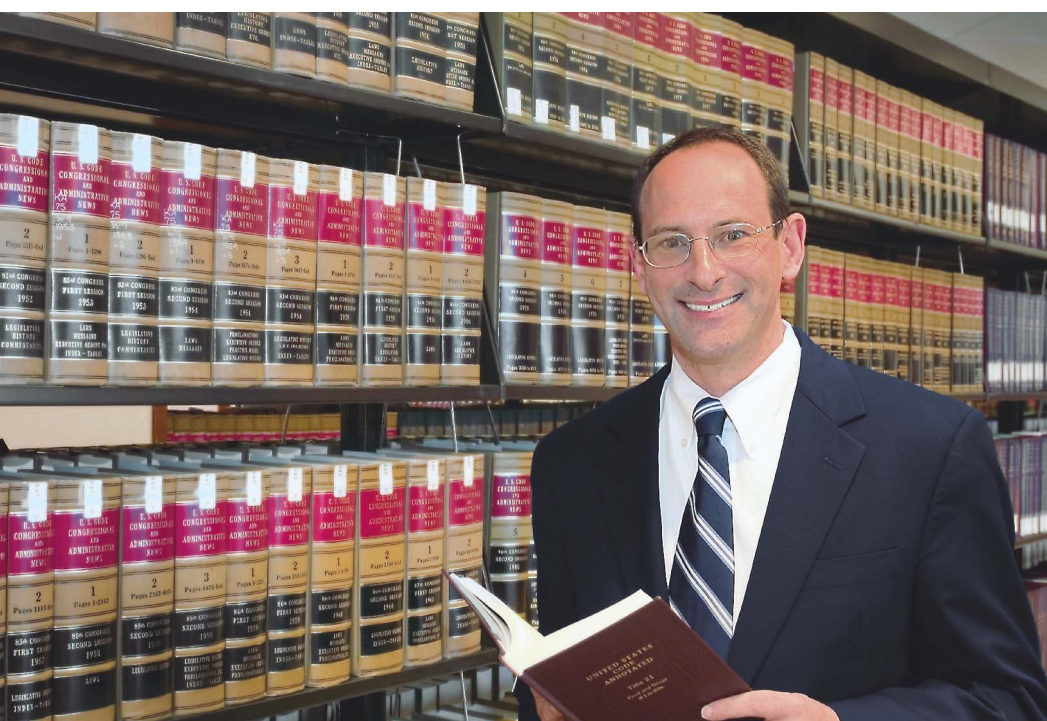
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Eric Greenberg, Attorney-at-Law

Claims, not chemistry, often make for product problems



Some recent food and drug enforcement actions highlight two things: first, the importance to compliant companies of tough government enforcement against those companies that don't comply with the law, and second, the central concept of "intended use," which is an exceedingly important, sometimes counter-intuitive and ultimately fascinating centerpiece of the way the law defines these products.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Federal Trade Commission have been reasonably active in going after some of the more egregious examples of products that make what are legalistically referred to as unsubstantiated, false or misleading claims, and are more casually referred to as bull.

Last month, we examined trends in FDA enforcement and some of the recent political issues that are making life complicated for the agency (see PD, Nov. '05, p. 22). This month, we'll take a closer look at the enforcement steps that FDA and FTC are directing against what they contend are some of the phoniest

products and claims around.

And, when it comes to traditional foods and dietary supplements, these enforcement actions are an even more essential part of the regulatory scheme than with drug products, since traditional foods and dietary supplements are not approved by FDA or any other agency before they enter the market.

The law places the burden on the product's marketer to assure that the product is made in accordance with current Good Manufacturing Practices and is labeled in accordance with the law and regulations, and that they have substantiation for any label claims that they make for the product, especially those claims relating to health conditions. Companies whose products won't hit the market until all the necessary conditions are met should not have to compete with the fast-and-loose crowd.

The law permits some foods and dietary supplements to make some specified claims of effect on specified diseases, but generally speaking, such claims are off limits. Dietary supplements and traditional foods can

make claims of effect on the structure or function of the body, but marketers need substantiation that the claim is true, and they need to give FDA notice that they are making the claim.

Also, FDA's late October and early November salvos against fruit products and "alternative hormone therapies" are excellent examples of the slightly nutty, metaphysical truth at the center of food and drug law. It is this: If your product is labeled with a claim that says it can cure or treat a disease, the law says your product is a drug.

It doesn't matter if your product is a jar of cherry juice, a tube of skin cream or a glass of water. That's because the law says that an article is a drug if it is intended to do something about a disease or to affect the body's structure or function, among other things. Those who tend to think a product won't legally be regulated as a "drug" unless it chemically contains a substance the medical profession thinks of as a drug are often unpleasantly surprised.

So it is, then, that 29 different marketers of products made from cherries and other fruits got the bad news in October. FDA notified them that their fruit juice concentrates, dried fruits and the like, which had been sold with labels touting their benefits in fighting cancer, heart disease, arthritis, gout and other diseases, were drugs. And they were illegal drugs, to boot, because they were "new drugs" lacking FDA preapproval for marketing. These FDA Warning Letters told the companies—as such letters typically do—that FDA thought that the companies were violating the law, and threatened product seizure, injunction against sales and criminal prosecution if they didn't cut it out.

Also, FDA told 16 different companies and FTC told 34 websites to cut out their touting of dietary supplements and hormone creams for reversal or prevention of osteoporosis, cancer and other diseases.

At the root are the agencies' assertions that the companies' claims are false. False statements about a product's ability to prevent or cure one or more heartbreaking, serious diseases prey on vulnerable, desperate people who might forego legitimate preventions or cures and waste their money on the phony product.

The Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act outlaws the sale of food or drugs with labeling that is false or misleading in any particular. False statements in commercial settings are not accorded the protections of free speech guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. Certain authors of best-selling "natural cures" books would be well advised to remember that as they incessantly wonder why people want to shut them up. Sincerity of belief in a product's effect is not, to put it mildly, the scientific standard of proof.

In addition to these actions, the FTC has recently shut down sales of weight loss products and other dietary supplements making false claims of effect.

You often hear it said that business needs a "level playing field." That phrase is interpreted in various ways. A level playing field for companies trying to comply with the law can be maintained if FDA and FTC stay diligent in combating unsubstantiated claims and products.

Eric F. Greenberg is principal attorney with Eric F. Greenberg, PC, with a practice concentrated in food and drug law, packaging law and commercial litigation. Visit his firm's website at www.ericfgreenbergpc.com. Contact him by e-mail at efgreenberg@uhl.com, or by phone at 312/977-4647.

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Robotic palletizing suits soy milk just fine

A custom end-of-line robotic palletizing station with a specialty end-of-arm tool handles the output of SunOpta's three aseptic soy milk packaging lines with ease, taking up little floorspace but offering plenty of accumulation.

Lauren R. Hartman, Senior Editor

Soy milk and organic products manufacturer SunOpta, Inc. has become synonymous with soy. A strong, vertically integrated player in the natural, organic, kosher and specialty food and ingredient industries, SunOpta, through a combination of internal growth and acquisitions, is committed to its products. Based in Norval, ON, about 45 minutes northwest of Toronto, the company has a food operation comprising specific groups devoted to grains and soy products, fruit, ingredients, packaged products and distributed products. In January 2005, SunOpta Aseptic, the company's aseptic packaging facility in Alexandria, MN, a few hours northwest of Minneapolis, opened a new 45,000-sq-ft addition of office and warehouse space that consolidates warehousing previously located in five regional facilities. The Alexandria plant aseptically copacks soy milk for various customers and its own label in 1-L "Slimliter" and 1/2-gal paper/film rectangular carton sizes at a rate of 500

and 625 cases/hr, respectively. The finished, shelf-stable packs are loaded into wraparound, corrugated shipping cases in three different configurations. The cases hold six or 12 Slimliter packs each or eight 1/2-gal packs each.

SunOpta Aseptic is accountable for packaging about 130 stockkeeping units of soy milk products in several varieties and flavors that are distributed across the U.S. under at least 11 brand names. The company is also drinking in more business, so has

been in need of more plant space and more automated packaging equipment. Running three eight-hour shifts, six days a week until this month, the company is increasing production to three eight-hour shifts, seven days a week, in order to better meet the needs of its customers and the demand for its products, says plant manager Paul Empanger. "We've grown so much in such a short period of time that our capacity has increased nearly fourfold in the past few years," he says.

As part of the expansion and to further solidify its position as a key innovator in soy products and other foods, the company decided to upgrade its palletizing operation with fully automated robotic equipment, which has improved efficiencies and has helped support its growth. After evaluating three or four different equipment vendors, SunOpta Aseptic found a solution in the form of a robotic system custom-



A robotic palletizing workstation added in 2005 occupies a minimum of space, but handles the maximum in payloads. Left, the robot's arm swings into action, grasping as many as seven cases and placing them on one of three pallets.



An automatic, built-in basesheet and a pallet dispenser in the workcell are activated, above, to ready a pallet for the case loading/pick-and-place process. Right, one of several aseptic cartoning systems upstream outfits each drink-pack with a flip-cap.



built by **Brenton Engineering** (www.brentonengineering.com) that adds flexibility, helps prevent injuries, provides tight, secure and neat caseloads and keeps labor to a minimum. Today, only one operator is needed to oversee the new palletizing process, which replaces a manual operation.

"The system has eliminated a labor-intensive operation," Empanger tells PD during a visit to the plant. "We used to need about nine people, three per shift, to palletize, so we utilized a temporary labor force, but scheduling that can be difficult, especially as our volumes continued to grow. We knew we'd have to automate the process in order to keep up."

The robotic palletizing station Brenton designed incorporates a **Fanuc** (www.fanucrobotics.com) M-410iB160 industrial palletizing robot, outfitted with four **Lock 'n Pop** (www.locknpop.com) adhesive applicators that secure the cases with a water-based adhesive. At the end of the palletizing sequence, the loads are secured further by an **Orion** (www.orionpackaging.com) FA-44 conveyORIZED turntable stretch wrapper.

Says Neil Hammer, director of customer accounts and service, "We looked at several options for palletizing, but always kept going back to Brenton for their reliable equipment. We visited a dairy nearby to see how their systems worked and

We were able to see our palletizing equipment **being built**...This made it easy to work with their engineers and programmers.

were impressed. Brenton's also conveniently located nearby, and we were able to see our own palletizing equipment being built in their plant. This made it easier to work firsthand with their engineers and programmers."

With a compact design that makes it suitable for a limited amount of floorspace, the system uses a multizone, vacuum-picking, end-of-arm tool (EOAT) with 11 vacuum-gripping zones and 62 suction cups. The four-axis robot also features a modular construction, an electric servo drive and Fanuc's System R-J3iB programmable machine controller. An integral Fanuc iPendant™ portable operator interface teach pendant control maximizes performance and makes it easy for operators to use the system.

In addition to the integral robot interface functions, the intuitive teach pendant provides help and diagnostic functions as well as enhanced robot and process data, allowing SunOpta operators instant access to critical information. It also serves as a human machine interface (HMI) for conveyor jog functions. The robotic palletizer can build virtually any pallet pattern, and can handle palletizing setup and sequences, basesheet insertion and various case weights, picking speeds and picking and placing patterns. The standard robot memory configuration stores 50 to 100

Continued on page 24

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If a standard, built-in pallet pattern doesn't meet certain application requirements, the Fanuc PalletTool PC software automatically calculates a number of optimal patterns. With a usable payload capacity of 160 kg (about 352 lb) and 0.5-mm repeatability, the robotic palletizer can simultaneously pick and place



Filled cases of soy milk travel overhead from the capping and case-packing areas and descend on a conveyor toward the palletizing robot's picking station.

the shipping cases on three separate pallets within the workstation, simultaneously remembering each of their pack patterns. This is accomplished, says Brenton's Jim Horton, by unit-load data resident in the robot's memory. SunOpta's line operators can modify the patterns using the teach pendant or they can then create their own new patterns using the PalletTool software.

Brenton provided the robotic workstation with assorted conveyors, automatic pallet and basesheet dispensers that are controlled by the Fanuc PMC and a ladder-logic system resident in the robot controller.

The system has 360 deg of base rotation and a 10-ft reach and picks cases from a 5-ft-high pick-and-place platform, all within a tight 50×50-ft space. Able to handle the output of three of SunOpta's production lines (a fourth can be put into service as needed), the system was installed in January 2005, just after a Slimliter cartoning line was added. The new palletizing station has freed up floorspace and provides more access to and from product processing and from the upstream packaging area. Enclosed in a safety cage, the robotic system cell resides at one end of SunOpta's warehouse floor, flanked on the outside by an empty-pallet magazine that can be replenished without interrupting the palletizing operation and by stacked

about 25 cases/min. SunOpta uses wraparound cases in various weights and configurations, depending on customer requests. The cases, most of which are supplied by Menasha (www.menasha.com), are filled with the primary soy milk drink packs, and are ink-jet-coded on two sides with product, brand details and production information by a Zanasi (www.zanasi.it) unit. The cases are also marked with a colored dot by a Zanasi roller coder to segregate them to the proper pallet load on which they will later be placed, and they're labeled with a corner wrap "identification" label on a labeler from Paragon Labeling Systems (www.paragonlabeling.com) before they convey on three production lines out of the room with the narrow side leading. Then, they merge onto two overhead conveyors.

Brenton also furnished an electric eye and a bar-code reader that spot the color dot and code on each

We had a limited amount of **space** to work with, but the new system fits in well.

caseloads on the other side, which keeps system uptime on schedule. SunOpta uses the basesheets to protect the bottom layer of cases on each pallet. A magazine holding the corrugated basesheets next to the empty-pallet dispenser inside the cell holds about 250 sheets, which requires replenishment by an operator approximately every four hours, with little effect on production time.

In production, the soy milk products are aseptically packaged in the Tetra Brik® cartons from Tetra Pak (www.tetrapak.com) in an adjacent but separate filling room on a set of Tetra Pak hermetic form/fill/seal systems. A set of three TBA/8 machines produce, peroxide-sterilize, fill and hermetically seal the Slimliter packs while one A3/Flex aseptic system does the same for the shelf-stable product in the 1/2-gal Tetra Brik container. Next, regardless of package configuration, the soy milk packs travel through an accumulation conveyor and then through an opening in the wall to the capping/case-packing room, where Tetra Pak's ReCap™3 applicators first outfit each package with a hinged flip-cap applied over the packs' laminated membrane openings. The flip-cap's specially designed grooves guide the soy milk during pouring, allowing good control of the outflow with little product residue.

The cartons of soy milk are then case-packed on Tetra Pak's Tetra 70 casing equipment, which generates

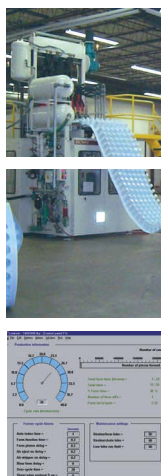
case, confirming each case's specifics and production-line source and direct the cases to the proper accumulation/infeed conveyor leading to the palletizing unit. Cases filled with the 1/2-gal packs of soy milk are directed to travel on one conveyor, and cases holding either the six- or 12-packs of Slimliter packs move onto the other. An optional fourth conveyor line can be set up as needed to transport cases of the 6- and 12-pack Slimlitters to the robot.

As the cases enter the palletizing area, they descend on an Ermanco (www.tgw-ermanco.com) roller conveyor into two conveyors to the palletizing cell. At this point, the two conveyor lanes make a 90-deg turn to the picking area. Empanger says SunOpta Aseptic packs 150 cases of six-pack Slimlitters per pallet, 30 per layer, five layers high, or 75 of the 12-pack cases per pallet, 15 per layer, five layers high or 56 cases of 1/2-gal cartons per pallet, 14 cases per layer, four layers high.

Just prior to reaching the picking section of the workstation, an infeed conveyor accumulates cases in front of the robot and forms a partial row of cases (the EOAT can grasp up to seven cases at a time, depending on their size and weight) before it cross-pushes the row into picking position. When handling the eight-count cases of 1/2-gal soy packs, three of the cases convey into the accumulation area and are cross-pushed onto the picking table, followed by three more cases. The last three are then cross-pushed on to form a group of six cases to be picked. This process is repeated

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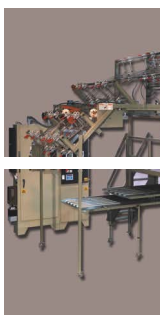
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to form the optimum layers of cases. As rows of cases form, the conveyor aligns them before the picking process begins. Bump turners are found on all of the accumulation conveyors and activate according to what pallet pattern is desired.

Meanwhile, the empty-pallet and basesheet dispensers

activate and the pallet dispenser supplies an empty, wooden, 40×48-in. pallet (from several sources) and a corrugated basesheet (from Menasha) to the pallet-loading positions on-demand.

As the empty-pallet conveyor system transfers a pallet to the robotic workstation, the pallet stops in front of the basesheet dispenser, after clearing a sensor on the system. The dispenser then places a basesheet on the pallet, and the two sequence forward to the



The turntable stretch wrapper finishes the load of soy milk cases, securing it in clear film. The robotic palletizer can handle more than 3 million lb/week.

on the correct pallet. The process is repeated until the pallet load is full and ready to be wrapped. Next, the load conveys out of the robotic cell and moves a jog or two downstream onto a trolley conveyor adjacent to the stretch wrapper. This shuttle conveyor merges two of three pallet-

discharge conveyors together into the stretch-wrapper infeed. Then, the robot and stretch wrapper send each other "handshake" signals to sequence the pallet into the wrapper, and the load is stretch-wrapped in clear film by the dual-adjustable-carriage wrapping system. When the load is completely wrapped, it receives a "license plate" label printed with product identification, a bar code, a date of manufacture, an expiration date and production information. Finally, the load is forklifted and moved to the 35,000-sq-ft, 20-row warehouse, where it can be neatly stacked up to five loads high and five loads deep.

If the palletizer goes down for any reason, it won't affect production on the packaging lines, Hammer says. "The cases simply wait on the accumulation conveyor."

Empanger points out that productivity is reaching 100 percent on the three cartoning lines. "We'll see a return on our palletizing equipment investment within three years' time," he tells PD. "We're impressed. We'd like to add another system like this one soon. It's a well-designed system." He says SunOpta Aseptic may soon add another robotic palletizing station if demand calls for adding another packaging line upstream. Brenton developed the workstation in about 20 weeks. Says Hammer, "We had a limited amount of space to work with, but the new system fits in well. The Brenton crew really knows its stuff. The system is quite reliable and can handle more than three million pounds of product in a week. Labor costs in palletizing have dropped dramatically and we enjoy more consistently wrapped loads."

last position on the empty-pallet trunk line. The empty-pallet conveyor, in turn, feeds the pallets into the workcell to one of the three robotic picking locations. The cases accumulate and are turned and properly oriented by grippers as they move into place in the three respective picking sections. This sequence repeats until all three stations on the pallet trunkline are filled.

With a whirl of motion, the robot's EOAT starts its sequence and moves to the first pick station to form a partial layer of cases on the proper pallet. After it places a layer on the pallet at the dedicated pallet station, the arm then retreats back to its original position and, once a layer is ready, the EOAT's adhesive nozzles spray the Lock 'n Pop adhesive to the tops of the cases. The robot then begins placing another layer of cases on the pallet and counts its way down. The robot then moves to the next pick station that is complete and places another partial layer of cases

More information is available:

Brenton Eng. Co., 320/852-7705. www.brentonengineering.com.
TGW-Ermanno, Inc., 231/798-4547. www.tgw-ermanno.com.
Fanuc Robotics North America, 800/477-6268. www.fanucrobotics.com.
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Menasha Corp., 800/558-5073. www.menasha.com.
Orion Packaging Systems, 800/333-6556. www.orionpackaging.com.
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Thermoform/fill/seal boosts meat production 200 percent

Maplewood Meats enhances the consumer-friendliness of its packaging and strengthens its food safety initiatives, while also alleviating operational challenges.

Maplewood Meats, a family-owned business specializing in award-winning cuts of beef, pork, sausages and smoked meats, has dramatically boosted its output by making a switch from its labor-intensive packaging process to an automated thermoform/fill/seal packaging system. After consulting with Multivac (www.multivac.com), a manufacturer of rollstock and other packaging solutions, the company was able to leverage thermoforming technology to not only alleviate operational challenges, but also to increase production by 200 percent. The integration also enabled the company to enhance the overall



TRAPPER'S CREEK uses a thermoform/fill/seal system to pack its smoked salmon. Read about it at www.packagingdigest.com/info/trappers

quality and consumer-friendliness of its packaging while strengthening its food-safety initiatives.

Roger Van Hemelryk and his wife, Patricia, founded Maplewood in Green Bay, WI, in 1983. With Roger working in a meat processing plant and Patricia being a butcher's daughter, the couple had the combined experience and passion to run their own business.

Twenty-two years later, Maplewood successfully offers a wide variety of fresh-cut meats in more than 80 ft of full-service cases in its own meat market located near Green Bay.

Maplewood originally utilized a vacuum chamber system to package its savory products. The system required that company personnel place portion-sized meats into a preformed pouch and then accurately place the pouch on the machine to be vacuum-sealed and trimmed. The process was time-consuming, and the system would sometimes produce leaky packages, necessitating that the production cycle had to be repeated. "If you combined the amount of time it took us to package our products the first time and then add in the time for



Product is easily loaded into customized compartments that are formed from a bottom web of roll-fed, flexible film that is heated and stamped.

repackaging the faulty ones, the system was extremely time- and labor-intensive," says Van Hemelryk.

"The Multivac machine has made our everyday lives easier," he explains. "Our packages look first-rate with less work, and they convey the quality of the products we've been providing our customers for the last twenty-two years. Simply, the change to a Multivac machine has given us a better production process and a better package."

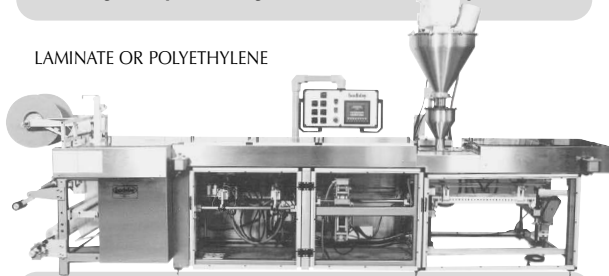
Maplewood spends a great deal of time focusing on the quality of its products, and the company did not feel the original system was producing a package that did justice to the product inside. The company decided to partner with Multivac to formulate a new strategy that would heighten the efficiency of its



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operation as well as the quality and attractiveness of its packages. Upon assessing the company's needs and current operation, Multivac's food packaging team recommended using a compact, tf/f/s rollstock system.

Within days of the integration, Maplewood noticed a considerable difference in its packaging. Product is easily loaded into customized compartments that are formed from a bottom web of roll-fed, flexible film that is heated and stamped. Then the machine's top web securely seals each package in-line.

With its new automated thermoforming technology, Maplewood has dramatically simplified its packaging process, boosted productivity and eliminated the problem with leakers. "We are now packaging the same amount of product in three hours that would normally have taken a full nine- to ten-hour cycle," remarks Roger Van Hemelryk. "Our production speed has increased by 200 percent."

We are now packaging the same amount of product in three hours that would normally take a full nine- to ten-hour cycle. Our production speed has increased by 200 percent.

Simplifying this process has also helped Maplewood move forward with its food-safety initiatives. By quickly placing product into the thermoformed sections, the amount of time the meat needs to be handled is minimized, and any opportunity for product to come into contact with machine components is eliminated. "I worry less about contamination because of the machine's engineering. The stainless-steel, washdown design really gives us peace of mind," says Roger Van Hemelryk.

The new system has also afforded Maplewood greater operational flexibility. With the company's expansive product line, it often needs to package more than one type of meat over the course of a production day. The quick and easy changeover procedure on the rollstock system enables plant personnel to change the plates, compartment sizes and appropriate films in roughly 10 minutes. Depending on the day, this switching can occur multiple times, making the simplicity of the changeover feature essential to minimizing downtime.

In addition to the many other benefits the tf/f/s machine has

provided, the integration of the system into Maplewood's facility was accomplished quickly. "The computer system on the machine is user-friendly, so we picked up the technology in no time," says Van Hemelryk. "The Multivac technical team was knowledgeable and had us up and running in a few days."

The integration was not only beneficial to Maplewood, but also to its customers. The speed and accuracy of the new rollstock machine allows the

company to sell a more compact and convenient package. To outweigh the material costs and time it took with the previous process, the company used to portion its products in 1-lb assortments to reach its cost-per-unit target. "The new system efficiently utilizes the packaging material so we can offer our customers more convenient half-pound portions," notes Van Hemelryk. "Customers appreciate the added value of our smaller packages."

■ **More information is available:**

Multivac, 800/800-8552. www.multivac.com.

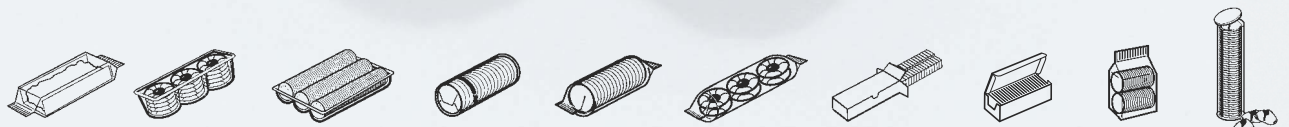


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Tilt-neck bottles add a new angle to auto care

Tenneco Automotive is packaging the DuPont Performance Chemicals line of auto care treatments in tilt-neck PVC containers. The new marketing slant is sure to attract attention on shelves.

When a major U.S. manufacturer introduces a new line of auto care products and expects to win the battle for attention over established brands on retail shelves, it has to have a big packaging idea. That's why a group of tilt-neck containers is putting a new spin on DuPont Performance Chemicals' auto care products.

The products include a fuel system cleaner, a fuel injector cleaner and an engine treatment additive. The custom, extrusion/blown polyvinyl chloride containers feature long, tilted, angled necks and sleeve labels to differentiate the products from competitive brands on retail shelves. They also have color-coded caps and racy label graphics.

The products are Tenneco Automotive's newest line of car-performance products, which it is introducing under a licensing agreement with DuPont.

While Tenneco says the labels couldn't get much snazzier or the containers any more colorful, it decided

to take a radical approach to the structural design—by angling the neck of the additive bottles.

To mold the unique bottle shape, the company contacted Kaufman Container (www.kaufmancontainer.com), which partnered with several vendors to complete the finished packaging. Kaufman selected Novapak Corp. (www.pvcc.com) for help with the



For another look at distinctive rigid containers, visit the Rigid Containers INFO CHANNEL on PD's website at www.packagingdigest.com/info/rigid

tooling and with the extrusion/blow molding of the PVC containers.

The base of the bottle is bulb-shaped and tapers into the neck and a spout that ends in a 22-mm opening that fits conveniently into the fuel tank and crank-case openings of automobiles. "It was imperative that the angled neck did not protrude beyond the sides of the bottle, ensuring that the bottle would not interfere with other packages on the shelf," explains Lela Prica, accounts



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manager for Kaufman Container.

The unusual shape created several

challenges, one of which involved packaging logistics. According to Michele Heinle, Novapak's project manager, the bottle doesn't pack into a conventional stack-layer configuration for shipping, so requires what Heinle calls "tumble packing." Labeling also proved challenging, due to the bottle's shape. The proprietary shrink sleeves maximize the container's decorative area. "The bulb makes it more challenging to apply the labels and shrink them without wrinkles," says

People reach for it because of the angle of the spout and the richness of the graphics. It is ergonomic to hold, which makes pouring into the gas tank or crank case even easier.

Heinle. Care must be taken not to skew the graphics around the angled neck. Orienting the bottles for consistent label application also proved challenging, Heinle adds, but was accomplished successfully.

Tenneco chose a silver and black color scheme for the label graphics to provide continuity with the decorating of other graphics featured on the rest of the auto chemical line, which includes waxes, protectants, a car wash product and tire- and wheelcare products. "We wanted consumers to recognize that we had introduced a new product in the performance chemical arena, but also wanted to associate it with the existing products in the car-care line," says Laura Morris, Tenneco's marketing manager

for the DuPont family of products.

Color coding differentiates the gas and oil additives and provides easier identification and differentiation of the products on the shelf for consumers.

The bottles for the 10-oz fuel system cleaner and 12- and 20-oz fuel injector cleaner have a red cap and red-circle label graphics. The engine treatment product, packaged in a 16-oz bottle, is decorated with blue-circle graphics and sports a matching blue cap.

Due to the unique container shape, Novapak built disposable, unit-cavity tooling for each bottle size and ran samples prior to production. The 16-oz bottle was tested first. To meet Tenneco's tight timeline, Novapak began

construction of the six-cavity production tools for all three sizes while constructing the two-unit cavity tools for the 12- and 20-oz bottles. Production tooling was ready in four to five weeks, says Heinle, and is geared for runs of 1 million to 1.5 million bottles annually.

"This packaging design was on an extremely aggressive timeline, from concept to delivery. The process took approximately seven months," says Morris. "The program just began shipping this year, and we are already seeing great success via the reorders. The product is clearly selling."

Judging by retailers' reactions, the new bottles have achieved their goal. During presentations, the bottles were placed on the table, slightly out of reach.

"It was amazing how many customers reached for the bottle because of its shape," notes Morris. "People reach for it because of the angle of the spout and the richness of the graphics. It is ergonomic to hold, which makes pouring into the gas tank or crank case even easier."

The bottles also caught attention elsewhere; they won a Gold Award in 2005 from the National Association of Container Distributors in its annual packaging competition.

More information is available:

Kaufman Container, 800/824-4119.
www.kaufmancontainer.com.
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Popularized in Chinese restaurants, crab rangoon, available frozen from The Original Rangoon Company in Norwell, MA, is in big demand. That's not a problem, thanks to the labor-saving installation of a horizontal cartoner and carton sealers geared to handle expanding output from two packaging plants.



Cartoning frozen crab rangoon

Lauren R. Hartman, Senior Editor

Frozen snacks, appetizers and hors d'oeuvres are available from the supermarket freezer case in so many varieties that the choices are endless—from mini tacos to bite-sized quiches to Thai satay with peanut sauce. But Greg and Jeanette Bukuras have created tasty recipes for frozen heat-and-serve appetizers, such as Chinese Crab Rangoon, that are a leap beyond the traditional. After conducting market research, they discovered that since it's such a popular item in Chinese restaurants, Crab Rangoon might be a hit as a cartoned frozen food item.

Bringing years of experience and contacts in the seafood business, the Bukuras went to work on establishing their venture in frozen and other fine foods, such as bacon-wrapped seafood and filet mignon, and in August of 1996, started The Original

Rangoon Company in Norwell, MA. Sold under the Caterer's Choice label, their products come in various quantities, from 8- to 24-oz and up to 30-pc package counts. The Bukuras determined that a paperboard folding carton was the best way to package the products, because folding cartons offer excellent graphics and a professional look. The cartons had to be sealed properly in order to ensure consumer confidence and meet the sealing requirements of retail outlets. But the upstart budget was limited, Greg Bukuras says, and the company started out manually gluing its cartons with glue guns.

But as volumes continued to grow, and distribution expanded nationally to supermarkets and clubstores, it became obvious that the cartoning process was a labor-intensive operation. The glue could be messy, and there were some safety issues, so automation was quickly becoming necessary. All the more reason to upgrade with cartoning equipment

from Econocorp (www.econocorp.com), says Bukuras. First he found a used Econoseal Twinseal semi-automatic carton sealer and approached Econocorp to see about putting it into service. "I found Econocorp to be friendly, informative and willing to help," he states. "After we took the machine to our plant, Econocorp prepared the machine to glue-seal our cartons reliably, quickly and economically."

The company's initial frozen crab rangoon product has become such a hit with consumers, that the company now packs it as well as a net full of other frozen appetizers, including scallops wrapped in bacon, crispy shrimp wontons, filet mignon wrapped in bacon, barbecue shrimp wrapped in bacon and more out of two locations in Boston and St. Louis. Growing over the years, the company has met with much success, Greg Bukuras says.

Demonstrating that it could produce a quality seal on the crab rangoon cartons every time, the Econoseal Twinseal system soon increased productivity and reduced labor. Greg Bukuras adds

We can change carton sizes in about ten minutes. . . We're definitely pleased with their performance.

that it's difficult to provide specifics here because the business continues to evolve. "We have been growing so much every year, that we haven't really been able to compare one period to the next to look at [specific] savings, because we have [continued to] increase our workforce.

"But everyone at Econocorp has given us that little extra effort," he notes. "When we first started



What started out as a small company making frozen crab rangoon for home use that taste like those in Chinese restaurants, The Original Crab Rangoon Company now has one automatic, horizontal cartoning system and three semi-automatic carton sealers. It plans to add more.

in business, we consulted with a customer that had a Twinseal system it wasn't using. We were impressed that we could get that machine instead of having to purchase a brand new one, as our finances were extremely tight. This helped us get the kind of machine we needed at a price we could afford. We have never forgotten this, and appreciated Econocorp's integrity. The Twinseal machine works great."

The company's present offerings have blossomed to include an array of frozen seafood and several meat appetizers. Priced in supermarkets from \$5.99 to \$15.99, the Caterer's Choice line of products can be oven-heated, broiled or heated in the microwave.

As demand has continued to climb, the company knew it had to automate even further, so it asked Econocorp to again assist in selecting more cartoning equipment. The Original Rangoon Company now owns four



Read how **CORKY'S** packs its tasty ribs in single and double carton packs that save labor with a cartoner also geared to handle an expanding barbecue business at www.packagingdigest.com/info/corkys

Econoseal sealing machines, including three semi-automatic Twinseal carton sealers and an Econoseal E-System 2000 fully automatic, horizontal cartoner.

The cartoning machines accept four different container configurations that accommodate at least eight different products. Many of the tasty, frozen appetizers are first loaded into aluminum foil trays before being packed into the glossy end-seal cartons. The vibrantly printed, natural kraft and bleached-white folding cartons are provided by Pioneer Packaging (www.pioneerpackaginginc.com).

After we took the machine to our plant, it was prepared to glue-seal our cartons reliably, quickly and economically.

With a rated top speed of 30 cartons/min, the Twinseal sealers automatically apply hot-melt adhesive to two of the carton flaps and close the flaps, resulting in a finished package, ready for case packing. Greg Bukuras says his sealers achieve the 30-cpm speed on a regular basis. With few moving parts, the semi-automatic sealer operates when a loaded carton is placed into the machine with its inner flaps closed. A machine operator presses the dual-button start, and the machine automatically applies glue to the underside of carton flaps. The carton is then elevated into a vertical squaring/compression chamber and the completed, sealed carton is then ejected. The system accepts carton sizes from $\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{3}{4} \times 3$ in. to $12 \times 4 \times 12$ in.

Chosen for its economies, reliability, low maintenance and high throughput, the intermittent-motion E-System 2000 automatic horizontal cartoner is outfitted with PLC controls and hot-melt application and can reach speeds up to cartons 25/min, depending on carton style and other factors. Featuring a sanitary construction, the system can accept carton sizes from $1 \times \frac{3}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ in. to $12 \times 4 \times 12$

in. as standard. "Both machines are extremely customer-driven," adds Greg Bukuras.

On the E-System 2000, an end-loading carton blank is removed from a supply magazine via vacuum and the blank is erected at a single product-loading station. After the frozen products are cartoned, the filled packages are then transported to the closing position for sealing with hot-melt glue. The filled, sealed carton is then ejected from the machine, ready for case packing.

Minimal changeover time was also important, Bukuras points out. Changeovers are a matter of adjusting the carton-blank magazines to accommodate a different carton configuration. Besides the magazines, there are a couple of hand-wheel crank-shaft adjustments, a few mechanical adjustments and some tweaking of the folding cylinders. The machines, he says, are versatile in that they accept so many different carton sizes.

"We can change carton sizes in about ten minutes," he sums up. "We simply change the magazines that hold the cartons as well as adjust the width to accommodate the boxes. We're definitely pleased with their performance."

In fact, Bukuras adds that The Original Rangoon Company expects to automate further very soon. "We will be purchasing another of these cartoning machines and won't even have to shop around. It's convenient having Econocorp right in our own backyard."

More information is available:

Econocorp, Inc., 781/986-7500.

www.econocorp.com.

Pioneer Packaging, Inc., 413/378-6930.

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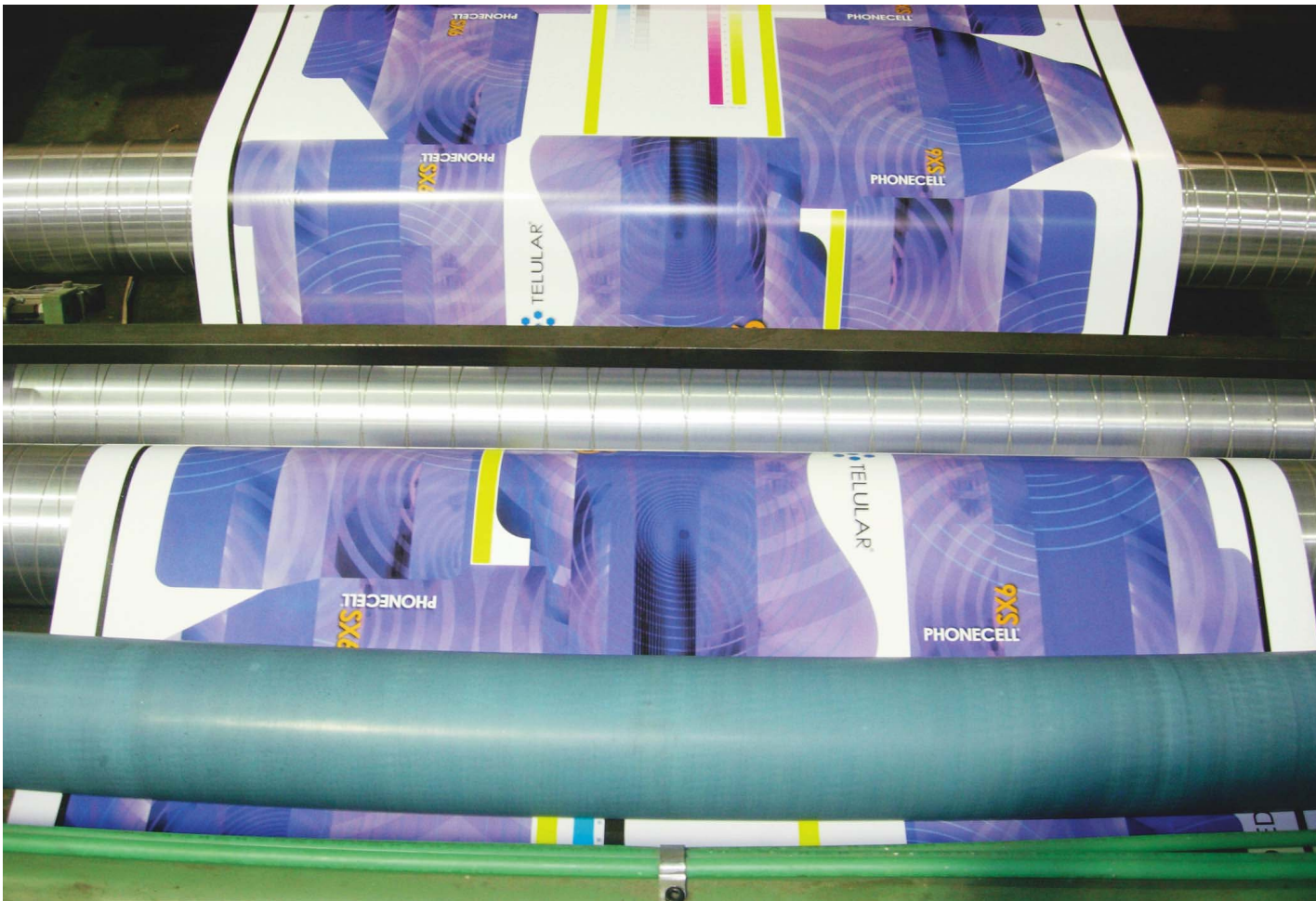


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Linerboard shines with UV coating

Genesis Packaging's new central-implosion flexo press brings life to the printed web with eye-catching colors.



Jorina Fontelera,
Associate Editor,
Converting Magazine

Genesis Packaging & Design (www.genesispkg.com), a corrugated and preprinted-linerboard converter in Lemont, IL, continues to push the limits of high-quality graphics by staying current with the latest technology and listening to customer demands.

"We're always looking at new equipment, new personnel and new computer systems to help us do a better job for our clients," Genesis president Vince Baratta says. "It's important for us to stay up-to-date with new technologies, since our customers are demanding it."

Along with customers looking for ways to make their packages stand out on the shelves, many were also looking to Genesis to fill their short-order needs. "Our clients came to us and said, 'There's no one in

the Chicago area with a preprint press that will run small quantities," Baratta recalls. "Our clients were asking us to do that. They are the type of customers that will order from 150 to 20,000 cartons as promotional pieces."

To meet their clients' needs, Genesis invested in a Model #PW-65 central-implosion (CI) flexo press from **Wolverine Flexographic Mfg. Co.**

(www.wolverineflexo.com). The 65-in., six-color preprint-linerboard press was installed in January with the help of **Dri-Tec Mfg. Group** (www.dri-tec.com), which also manufactured the enclosed, reverse-angle doctor blades and custom-designed BCD dryers.

The press can handle web widths of 66 in., with up to 50-in. repeats at maximum speeds of 1,000 ft/min. Genesis prints on metallic papers, 4- to 10-mil films, all types of linerboard for B-, C-, E-, F- and N-flute corrugated, as well as SBS paperboard in calipers up to .026.

"One of the nice things about this press is that it can also do UV [ultraviolet] coating," says Tom Beemsterboer, Genesis general manager. "This is one of the few presses in the Chicago area that does preprint with UV coating in-line."

To create printing with that customer-friendly appeal, Genesis installed a **Prime UV Systems** (www.primeuv.com) Prime Optimum two-lamp UV-curing system. The

68-in. units allow curing of coatings across the press's entire 66-in. web width. "It was a very simple decision to make," Baratta says. "That's what our customers wanted, something that is eye-opening, and UV is the way to go." Genesis also has the ability to use all types of UV inks and coatings. "It's been a very great investment for us. It's been up and running fully since the end of January, and it's been fantastic," he adds.

Not only did the new CI-flexo press and curing system satisfy the needs of current customers, but it has also opened up new markets for the converter. Genesis has been able to tap into the cosmetics, automotive, and food and beverage industries with



To learn more about package decoration—through printing or labeling—visit **Packaging Digest's LABELING Information Channel** at www.packagingdigest.com/info/labeling

the kind of high-definition printing these markets want. Using **Pamarco Global Graphics** (www.pamarcoglobal.com) anilox rolls with screens in the 700-line/in. range, it regularly achieves print levels of 120 to 133 lpi.

Genesis has been growing steadily since Baratta and Beemsterboer started the company in a 27,000-sq-ft building in Addison, IL, in 1999. Six years later, Genesis has grown to 22 employees and has relocated to a facility about three-times larger. Their current location in Lemont houses three flatbed die-cutters, including two 42×62-in. **Bobst** (www.bobstgroup.com) units and a 50×70-in. unit



A press fingerprint, top, runs past the 68-in., two-lamp UV curing system. Press operator Oscar Ramirez, above, uses a video web-inspection system to check print quality on the new six-color CI-flexo press.

from Thomson Industries (www.thomsonind.com); a 49×63-in. stock laminator; and other finishing equipment. "The company has been growing every year, and the most important thing we have is the people," Baratta says. "You can have the best equipment in the world, but if you don't have the right people running it, it doesn't mean anything."

At the prepress end of the spectrum, Genesis has an in-house team to handle graphic design for the customer, as well as to fine-tune the artwork clients provide. The company has a Kongsberg CAD table and Artios 3D Dimension & Animation software, supplied by Esko-Graphics (www.esko-graphics.com) for designing point-of-purchase displays.

Currently, the converter is planning on purchasing a Hewlett-Packard (www.hp.com) large-format printer/plotter to create proofs. This will allow them to preflight the customers' art files and make any changes necessary. Right now, Genesis has its plate suppliers, OEC Graphics (www.oecgraphics.com) and PRP Flexo (www.prpflexo.com), provide proofs, while they do the mockups in-house.

When installed, the HP plotter is expected to cut proof turnaround time from several days to only hours. "We'd rather take it slow in the beginning and work our way up to it," Baratta says. "So the plotter is very important to us."

Along with being able to offer more and more printing options for its customers, Genesis also offers a number of nonprinting services. Two years ago, the company added fulfillment and assembly to its list. Challenging itself to

be a "one-stop shop," Genesis also offers printing, die-cutting, label mounting and assembly. Along with self-imposed challenges, Genesis is also up for customer challenges, stresses Baratta. "If your customers don't challenge you, you're going to become stagnant," he says. "You'll never grow, and you'll never be the company that you want to be."

Part of being "the company you want to be" is not only being aware of the customers' needs, but also being aware of community's needs, Genesis says. So the company installed a wastewater treatment system per Genesis graphics coordinator John Calenberg's recommendation. "We wanted to make sure that the water we were outputting was almost as good as the water coming in," Baratta says.

All the inks Genesis uses are water-based. The water treatment system allows Genesis to take the solids out of the water and dispose of them with the garbage. "What started out as black water is now coming out the backside as clear water," Calenberg remarks. "I wouldn't drink it, but it's probably cleaner than what leaves your house."

Baratta sees the installation of the water systems almost like an example of how the company is run. Putting in that extra effort is not something they needed to do, but they did it anyway. "We wanted to take it one step further. That's how we want to do things here," Baratta says. "We try to do things the right way, and we do the best we can."

More information is available:

Bobst Group USA, 973/226-8000.

www.bobstgroup.com.

Dri-Tec Mfg. Group, 414/354-3540.

www.dri-tec.com.

Esko-Graphics, 770/427-5700.

www.esko-graphics.com.

Genesis Packaging & Design, Inc.,

630/739-9101. www.genesispkg.com.

Hewlett-Packard, 800/277-8988. www.hp.com.

OEC Graphics, 800/388-7770.

www.oecgraphics.com.

Pamarco Global Graphics, 908/241-1200.

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Package accessorizing has its rewards



Estée Lauder's Island Michael Kors fragrance containers and Soothing Scents' Quease Ease flex their packaging prowess, while ACH's Mazola Pure bottle proves the growing impact of shaped aluminum bottles.

Bernard Abrams, Contributing Editor

There seems no limit to packaging's adaptability to new situations. If the package can be conceived, it very likely can be made.

Underlining this message is the job given several winners in the New Jersey Packaging Executives Club's (www.njpec.com) annual packaging competition. Of the 79 entries judged in this year's contest, more than a few highlight packaging's role in accessorizing while serving all of its other functions successfully.

Perfectly illustrating this ability is the Package of the Year winner, emerging from the recent judging at the Rutgers University campus in New Brunswick, NJ, and presented last month. The Island Michael Kors eau de parfum package marketed by New York City-based Estée Lauder captures not only the top spot, but also the gold award in the fragrance category.

Named for the leading American fashion designer, the fragrance for women is aimed, Estée Lauder says, at creating a feeling of relaxed luxury. The island image captured in the packaging is a symbol of ease and indulgence.

Communicating the Michael Kors style are the folding cartons submitted by Cartondruck USA (www.cartondruck.com). Under the direction of Estée Lauder executives, including director of package development Kevin McCarthy, design firm Chad Lavigne LLC (www.chadlavigne.com) requests a true clothlike feeling to Kors' fashions.

Cartondruck responds with a white .018 SBS board laminated to a 100-percent cotton linen weave fabric, believed to be the first use of this material for a major fragrance line's outer package. The fabric is ultraviolet-printed, and an attractive, silvery plaque is combination-hot-stamped and embossed, with the fragrance and designer name also hot-stamped in white relief. With its turquoise color and four-color-printed island imagery on the inside surfaces, the carton combines tactile and visual sensations linking fashion to fragrance.

The eau de parfum bottle, marketed in 100-, 50- and 30-mL sizes, is inspired by "the sparkling water of the Caribbean," Estée Lauder notes. "Layers of turquoise-color glass shimmer like waves beneath the clear bright surface of the rectangular bottle..."

Achieving this effect with perfect edges, with the 100-mL bottle weighing in at a remarkable 250 g, is Pochet of America, which also does the decorating by screen printing an end panel and then masking and spraying the base.

A tight-seal pump produced by Valois (www.valois.com) sits beneath the closure from Rexam

(www.rexam.com/closures). Almost as decorative as the bottle, the rectangular closure is injection-molded of a Surlyn ionomer from DuPont (www.dupont.com/packaging). Applied at one end is an aluminum plate stamped and debossed with the logotype. The closure's base is decorated in turquoise via tampography, Kevin McCarthy says. The total effect is playful and prismatic, with the turquoise shade radiating from several planes at once.

Somewhat simpler but no less impressive is another dual-award winner. A perfect capsule shape distinguishes the package for Quease Ease™ from Soothing Scents, Inc. of Enterprise, AL. The aluminum package captures both the gold award in pharmaceutical/medical device and in packaging innovation.

In test markets since June, Soothing Scents president Roy Nichols tells PD, the capsule contains a drug-free anti-nauseant for patients undergoing chemotherapy, recovering from surgery and even for motion sickness. A blend of three essential oils in a saturated membrane filled into a 2-g glass vial, the product is inhaled through a custom aluminum collar with holes that thread onto the vial.

The vial with collar is loaded into a polypropylene-lined aluminum base, and a similarly lined, tight-friction-fitting aluminum closure discourages evaporation. A single package reportedly can last up to six months when tightly capped and kept away from excessive heat. All components of this patent-pending package are provided by HCT Packaging (www.hctusa.com), which also silk-screens the capsule in purple; another decorative touch is the gleaming ring that sits at the base of the overcap. It's part of the collar fitted on the vial.

Nichols says he's conducting tests with Quease Ease at some independent pharmacies, where reception to date has been "very positive." However, he adds, "I have a sister who is a nurse who urged me to start testing among hospital patients, and the response there has been tremendous."

Initially, he adds, he accessorized the capsule with a supply of black lanyards with cords that he bought from a promotional company. Whether that continues as Quease Ease expands distribution is undecided. "They don't go over well in hospitals," he confesses.

Another significant winner in the NJPEC competition personifies the remarkable expansion of aluminum containers beyond their traditional markets. This is the gold award winner in the food/beverage category, Mazola® Pure™ cooking spray aerosol



marketed by Memphis-based ACH Food Companies.

Dispensing 5-oz quantities of nonsticking cooking oil in olive oil, butter and canola oil varieties, the package represents rebirth for a venerable brand sold to ACH by Unilever in 2003. The impact-extruded aluminum bottle, already finding numerous applications in personal care products, is the ComfortHold™ from CCL Container (www.cclcontainer.com).

Through an automated necking process, CCL uses a relatively soft, 1070 aluminum alloy that starts with a standard 53-mm lined canister that tapers to a rounded shoulder and then to a 35-mm neck. During filling and pressurizing, the container is fitted with a rounded, injection-molded PP-copolymer actuator made by Summit Packaging Systems attached to Summit's SV-77 vertical action pressure-fill valve system used with its aluminum lathe-cut gasket-mounting cup. Summit's custom-domed overcap is molded of clarified PP and is an economical, single-shell, snap-fitting style.

The color-coded containers are lithographed in six colors with a pearl basecoat and a semi-matte finish. Entering them in the competition, CCL executive Joe Iapelli cites "the distinctive benefits of aluminum, as it is lightweight, shatterproof, UV-light-resistant and preserves flavor."

More information is available:

New Jersey Packaging Executives Club, 908/233-1234. www.njpec.com.
Cartondruck USA, 201/313-4790. www.cartondruck.com.
Chad Lavigne LLC, 646/244-5450. www.chadlavigne.com.
Pochet of America, 973/942-4923.
Valois of America, 845/639-3700. www.valois.com.
Rexam Closures & Containers, 914/251-8431. www.rexam.com/closures.
DuPont Packaging & Industrial Polymers, 800/628-6208. www.dupont.com/packaging.
HCT Packaging, 908/203-8610. www.hctusa.com.
CCL Container, 724/981-4420. www.cclcontainer.com.
Summit Packaging Systems, 603/759-1150.

Say cheese! Consumers smile over easy-open pack

dairy packaging

U.K. consumers are now benefiting from a new style of cheese pack from Dairy Crest. The hermetically sealed pack is an easy-to-open wrap that is reclosable. Once the pack is opened, consumers can keep the cheese fresh longer.

Dairy Crest is the largest dairy in the U.K., with leadership positions in all sectors of the dairy market. Serving both the retail grocery trade and major food manufacturers, the dairy has manufacturing and packaging sites throughout the U.K.

At Maelor, in North Wales, Dairy Crest operates one of the most advanced, large-scale cheese packaging plants in the U.K. It is here that the company cuts and packs a wide variety of Dairy Crest cheeses, including the Cathedral City brand.

In order to differentiate its product on the supermarket shelves, Dairy Crest recently introduced a new package style for Cathedral City. Extensive research showed that cheese packs prove to be an irritation to consumers, because they are difficult to open, and it's hard to store unused portions to keep them fresh. In order to develop a new pack that would be more convenient and reusable, Dairy Crest carried out consumer tests before selecting an option offered by Sigpack Systems AG (www.sigpacksystems.com).

The new Cathedral City package is hermetically sealed and offers an easy-to-open wrap that is reclosable. It is now being produced at the Maelor creamery on a semi-automated line that packages up to 150 200-g cheese wedges/min. The entire line, which can also package 400- and 500-g wedges, can be changed over from one size to another in only 10 min.

Matured cheese arrives at the Maelor plant in 20-kg vacuum-packed blocks. These are opened and passed through a cutting wire to form "logs." The logs then pass through another cutter, which calculates where to make further cuts to produce the 200-g cheese wedges that are ready to be packaged.

As the wedges pass down the first part of the Sigpack line, the first cuts are normally rejected, as they are not of sufficient weight, due to the nonuniform nature of the original cheese logs. The remaining wedges pass through an aligning belt, which repositions them. Every second wedge of cheese is then gently rotated 180 deg by a robotic turning arm, specially developed by Sigpack Systems for this application.

The wedges pass along a Model FBP noncontact, in-line feeder with a double-pull nose that provides infeed compensation to position the cheese at even intervals along the line. This accurate spacing is essential to position the cheese wedges for wrapping.

A Model HSF long-dwell wrapping machine wraps the cheese in a hermetically sealed, pillow-pack-style wrap, in a three-side-sealed pouch, with a zipper fastener and easy opening. As the cheese approaches the wrapper, a sensor automatically locates its position and



The new easy-open/reclosable package is hermetically sealed on a semi-automatic line that runs 150 200-g packs/min.

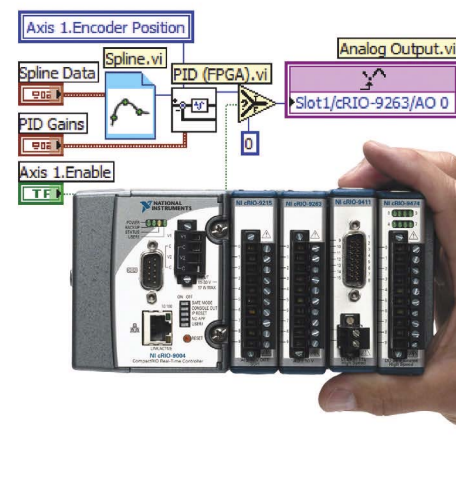
speeds up or slows down the acceleration belt on which it is traveling. This accurately places the cheese wedges in the correct position on the inside of the wrapping film. The film reels are located under the piece track, and product friction ensures that the cheese is kept in the correct position. As the film passes around the wedges, its top end is both sealed and fitted with a zipper. At this stage, the film is also wrapped around a gas lance, which flushes out any oxygen and fills the pack with a mixture of carbon dioxide and nitrogen. As the now half-formed wrapper slips off the gas lance, it is sealed on both its sides and separated from the next pack by a thin end sealer. The pack is now hermetically sealed and free of oxygen, which prevents the cheese from spoiling in the pack.

At the wrapper exit, the packs are discharged over an air-blast reject station to ensure that only good wraps proceed to downstream packaging, where they are put into cartons and cases for immediate distribution.

More information is available:

Sigpack Systems AG, 41 52 674 7777.
www.sigpacksystems.com.

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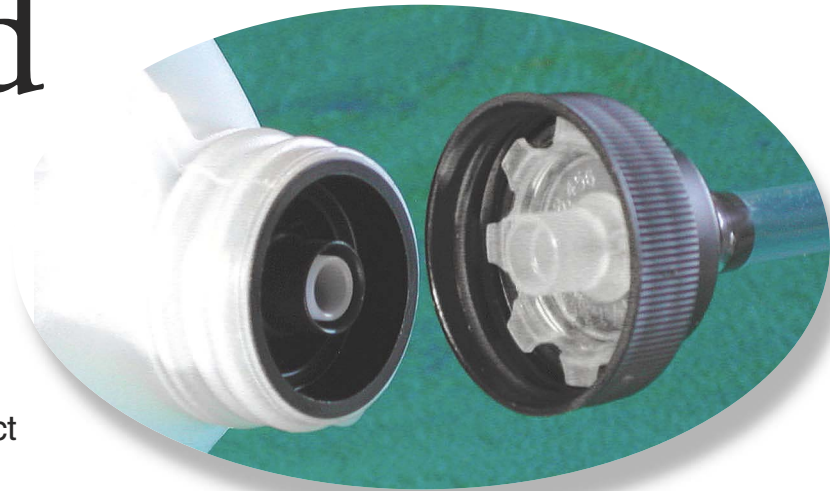
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Bottle insert ensures safe, accurate liquid dispensing

An automatic, self-venting, closed-loop filling and dispensing system at Kaivac, Inc. assures accurate product metering and prevents costly mixing mistakes.



Jack Mans, Plant Operations Editor

As long as there have been toilets, janitors have been on their hands and knees swabbing and wiping them clean (or almost clean). No wonder the worker morale has been so low and the turnover rate so high.

To address this issue, Bob Robinson Sr., founder and president of Kaivac, Inc., set out to develop a more dignified, yet more productive method of cleaning restrooms. By combining pressure washing, chemical injection, wet vacuuming and other tools on a single platform, Robinson revolutionized restroom cleaning. This combination resulted in the first No Touch Cleaning system, called the KaiVac. This system is easier and faster, and completely removes soil better than any other

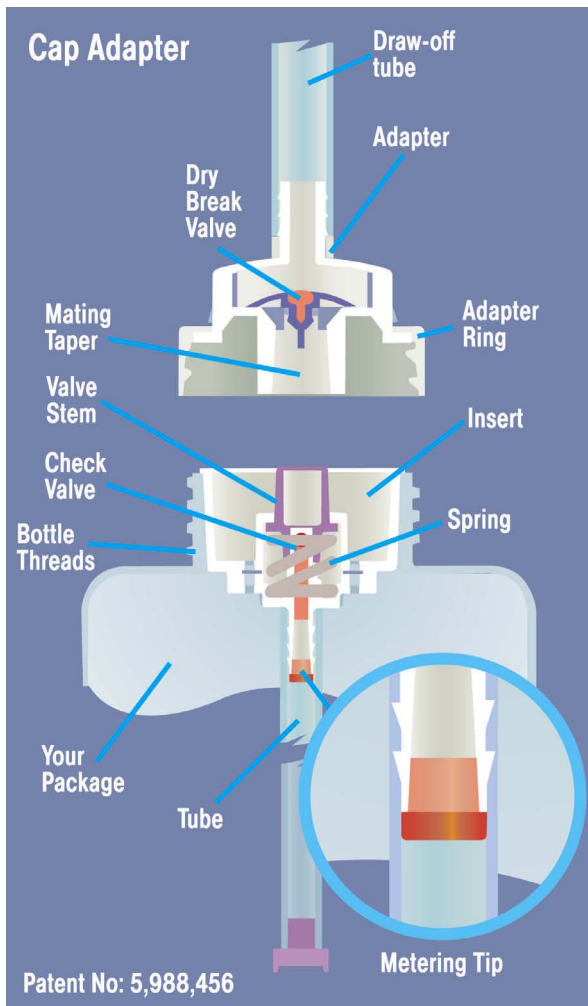
One of the system's primary components is a patented, breathable membrane that allows gases to escape.

method, Robinson claims.

However, the possibility of toxic spills and workplace contamination when chemical concentrates are mixed and dispensed manually by untrained personnel has always been a concern. To eliminate this problem, Kaivac is using an automatic, self-venting, closed-loop filling and dispensing system called SAFTFLO™, developed by RD Industries (www.rdindustries.com), a designer and manufacturer of closed-loop dispensing systems. One of the primary components within the system is a patented, breathable membrane that allows gases to escape, relieving positive or negative pressure in the container for accurate and continuous liquid dispensing. This automatic, self-venting feature assures accurate product metering and prevents costly



The no-touch cleaning system incorporates a hose with a spray gun, as well as a vacuum hose to suck up dirty water. Bottles of solution incorporating the liquid dispensing system are mounted on top of the tank.



The self-venting insert eliminates negative pressure for accurate and continuous liquid dispensing. An optional, precalibrated, automatic dilution-control module installed in the bottle insert tube measures a prescribed amount of concentrate.

The system has worked very well for us. It insulates workers from chemicals and prevents accidental spills by the way it seals the bottle.

mixing mistakes. The closed-loop SAFTFLO system provides spill containment and prevents the loss of costly product. Filling and dispensing operations are cleaner and safer.

The SAFTFLO bottle insert, which is available for both upright and inverted bottles, includes a standard, pigmented, polypropylene plug insert, a standard valve stem, a self-venting valve with eight perforations, a stainless-steel spring and a liner retainer with a 1/4-in. diptube that is up to 16 in. long. The top surface is recessed into the bottle throat for shipping and storage. When the cap adapter is

attached to a bottle, a check valve opens to allow liquid flow. An optional, precalibrated, automatic dilution-control module installed in the bottle insert tube measures a prescribed amount of concentrate, thus eliminating costly dilution mixing mistakes by untrained personnel.

"The SAFTFLO system has worked very well for us," says Kaivac vp of marketing Tom Morrison. "It insulates workers from the chemicals and prevents accidental spills by the way it seals the bottle. The check valve prevents chemicals from flowing back into the bottle and ensures against accidental mixing when a worker changes the cleaners he's using."

More information is available:

RD Industries, 800/759-7090.
www.rdindustries.com.

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More than 1,200 exhibitors, one-fourth of them from countries other than Italy, have bought space at the IPACK-IMA 2006 show at Milan's new Fieramilano Center. Next year's show layout has been redesigned around production cycles for specific industries. For beverage (Bevertech), as an example, the area is integrated with exhibits for packaging, materials, components, labeling, traceability and industrial logistics. Other thematic areas at the show include packaging, grain-based foods, materials and solutions for packages, labeling and material handling.



IPACK-IMA will be co-located with Plast, the international exhibition for plastic and rubber industries. Between the two shows, about 3,500 exhibitors are expected, as well as 100,000 visitors—45,000 of them at the packaging show. Approximately 25 percent of the show's visitors are from countries outside Italy. Co-location of these two shows is enabled by the completion of the very large, new exhibition site in Rho-Pero, just outside of Milan.

According to Guido Corbella, managing director for the show, the European Union is a large market for packaging. Twenty-five EU nations consume \$7.1 billion [USD] in packaging equipment annually. Italy itself accounts for 10 percent of the European consumption.

A breakdown of exhibitors shows 57 percent in technologies and accessories for processing and packaging; 33 percent in materials, logistics, labeling and coding; and 10 percent in machinery components. Target markets, in order of size, include food, nonfood consumer goods, grain-based foods and chemical/pharmaceutical products.

The Packaging Machinery Manufacturers Institute will sponsor a pavilion for North American exhibitors.

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Dairy selects printers for sour cream bags and buckets

A new thermal-transfer overprinter combines with a vertical pouch machine at Farmdale Creamery, Inc. to help the dairy deal with rising resin prices for its sour cream packaging. In addition, new ink-jet printers provide more flexibility for coding containers and cases.

Anne Marie Mohan, Senior Editor

In recent years, plastic's use in food packaging has far outpaced that of its can, paperboard carton and glass counterparts. Last year, **The Freedonia Group** (www.freedoniagroup.com), an industrial market research firm in Cleveland, reported that plastic pouches and bags made up 39 percent of the \$17.7 billion food-container market, while rigid plastic containers comprised 15 percent. In contrast, only 23 percent of food packaging was made of paperboard, 18 percent of metal and 5 percent of glass. Among the advantages plastic packaging can offer are enhanced barrier properties, resealability, flexibility, a lighter weight and high-impact graphics, among others.

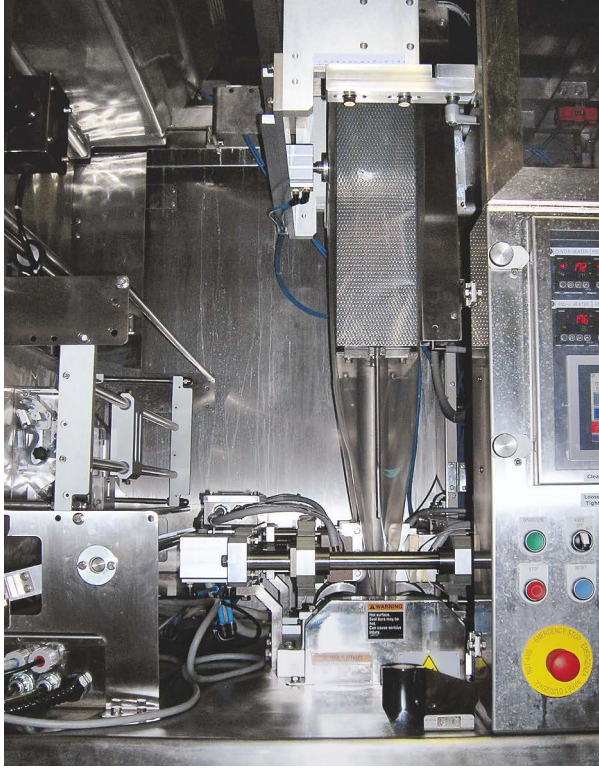
However, in today's present environment of unstable fuel costs, the advantages of plastic packaging come at a cost. Derived from petroleum, or natural gas, plastic resins have increased tremendously in price in 2005, and there seems to be no relief in sight.

It is because of this volatile economic atmosphere that San Bernardino, CA-based Farmdale Creamery, Inc. equipped itself earlier this year to reduce the amount of polyethylene used in its sour cream packaging, by moving some of its product packed in rigid plastic containers into plastic pouches. "With the price of oil increasing, resin is now more expensive, and this affects the cost of plastic containers and bags," relates Norman Shotts, Farmdale's systems engineer and grandson of the company's founders. "But there's so



The intermittent TTO uses a 2-in.-wide, black wax/resin ribbon to print a batch number and an expiration date onto clear, PP rollstock before the film is formed, filled with sour cream and sealed in a new vf/f/s machine.





A view inside the vf/f/s machine shows how the TTO, left, has been installed within the machine for its protection.

The main requirement was that the ink have **good adhesion** to the bag, which is why we chose thermal transfer—it's more permanent.

one fills smaller, retail sizes, such as 1/2- and 1-pt containers; and the newest line fills plastic pouches in sizes from 16 to 32 lb. The pouching line, running since last spring, comprises a Cryovac® Onpack Model 2100 vertical form/fill/seal machine from the Cryovac Div. of Sealed Air

(www.cryovac.com), equipped with ID Technology's intermittent TTO.

The automated, vf/f/s machine creates pillow-style pouches in volumes from 1.5 to 5 gal; Farmdale uses it for 16-, 25- and 32-lb bags of sour cream. The pouch film is a polypropylene construction from Cryovac.

Per Cryovac's recommendation, Farmdale installed ID Technology's TTO in-line on the vf/f/s machine in order to cleanly and clearly add an expiration date, a batch number and Julian date information to its sour cream pouches. As Shotts relates, there were several requirements that the printing equipment had to meet before being considered for the dairy packaging application.

"The main requirement was that the ink have good adhesion to the bag, which is why we chose thermal transfer—it's more permanent. The ink is very difficult

Continued on page 40

much more resin in a plastic container. To offset that, we are using bags to save some money."

Last May, Farmdale installed a new vertical form/fill/seal machine for filling sour cream bags. Vital to the line is a new, in-line, thermal-transfer overprinter (TTO) from ID Technology (www.idtechnology.com) that applies essential product information, including a batch number and an expiration date for the perishable product, onto the pouch.

In addition, to enhance the consumer's experience with its sour cream containers, Farmdale began the installation in August of several continuous ink-jet printers, also from ID Technology, that move product coding from the bottom of the bucket to the side, while increasing legibility.

Family-owned Farmdale has been in business since 1979, supplying sour cream, buttermilk and cheese to an assortment of end users. In its 90,000-sq-ft facility, the dairy packs cheddar, jack and low-fat cheeses in 44-lb blocks under its Taco Lada and Lada Jack brand names for wholesalers and distributors. Buttermilk—in sizes anywhere from "a half-pint size all the way up to a truckload tanker," says Shotts—is copacked for retail, bakeries and other large food manufacturers.

Farmdale's staple product, however, is sour cream, which it produces in a traditional, gelatin-based version, as well

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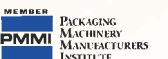
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A new distribution center for arts and crafts supplier **MICHAELS STORES, INC.**

includes a print-and-apply labeling system from ID Technology that helps keep the crafts flowing to nearby retail stores. Read more at www.packagingdigest.com/info/michaels

as in Russian, Hispanic and kosher varieties, in package sizes from 1/2-pt containers up to 32-lb bags and buckets. Farmdale offers its own brand of sour cream "in most sizes," says Shotts, as well as copacked product prepared according to private-label customers' recipes. The larger-volume packs are targeted at bakeries, restaurants, dressing manufacturers and others.

Farmdale uses four packaging lines to fill its range of sour-cream products. One handles pails; one packs 5-lb buckets;



A new noncontact, ink-jet coder, left, applies the expiration date, batch number and time to the outside of an HDPE pail of sour cream. The inner workings of the ink-jet printhead, right, are revealed.

to rub or scratch off, whereas ink-jet printing would not work in this application," Shotts explains.

During thermal-transfer printing, a printhead containing resistive elements in a linear array heats ink- or resin-coated ribbons. In this process, the printhead is in direct contact with the uncoated side of the ribbon, while the ink-coated side is in direct contact with the printing surface. When the ink is heated, it melts and adheres to the printing surface.

The ID Technology intermittent overprinter is offered in 2- or 5-in.-wide versions that can create text and bar codes at 300 dpi. Farmdale chose the 2-in. version with a black wax/resin ribbon, which enables the overprinter to produce a message that is 2 in. wide by 2 in. long with excellent scratch- and rub-resistance. Shotts says that the dairy selected the 2-in. model in order to save on ribbon costs, but nonetheless, he says that the resulting codes are "very readable." He adds: "It's very clear, more of a solid font than a dot matrix. The type is not very large, but it works very well for our needs."

Keeping pace with the vf/f/s machine's top-rated speed of 20 packs/min (depending on film type, package size and product viscosity), the intermittent TTO can print at speeds from 10 to 120 ft/min. At Farmdale, the overprinter is positioned on the pouching machine so that it adds the printed information onto unformed film rollstock as it feeds into the vf/f/s system.

Another requirement for the overprinter was its durability for use in the damp, washdown environment of the dairy. "Since we're a dairy, we use a lot of water, so we needed equipment that was water-resistant," Shotts says. To address this need, ID Technology installed the TTO within the vf/f/s machine so that the unit is protected behind Plexiglas® doors. Farmdale also chose the upgraded Unicontroller control and input device, designed for harsh environments.

Used to create and adjust the messages printed with the TTO, the Unicontroller is an industrial, Windows-based PC with a built-in, 32-MB Flashcard and Ethernet port. Operators program the overprinter by way of a 5.7-in. LCD touchscreen with an intuitive menu. Each job requires the operator to select an expiration date—either 30 or 60 days, according to the customer's preference—and input a batch number. "After that, you push the enter button, and the overprinter starts running," Shotts says.

He adds that the final feature necessary for the overprinter was low maintenance, which so far, the intermittent TTO has delivered. "You have to clean the printhead with a swab and alcohol every time you change the ribbon," Shotts says. "We've only had to do it once so far. We have yet to have any other maintenance issues."

Although some of the larger-volume product previously packed in buckets has been moved into pouch packaging, Farmdale still offers its customers the option of using high-density polyethylene containers. "There are some advantages to the buckets versus the bags," explains Shotts. "They can be resealed, and, with the bags, you have to work a little harder to get all of the sour cream out of the package."

Farmdale has made an adjustment to its bucket packaging, however, to enhance its ease of use. In August, the dairy purchased six ink-jet printers, three of which are being used to print the expiration date, batch number and time onto the side of the sour-cream buckets; the balance are being used to apply codes to corrugated cases. Previously, Farmdale used wet-ink

We're at the point where the price of resin is still changing all the time, so the financial impact of this packaging change still needs to be evaluated.

stamping machines to apply data onto the bottom of the buckets. Not only was the information inconvenient for the end user to access, but the stamping machines also produced inconsistent results. "We had to constantly monitor the printers," says Shotts, "and sometimes we would have to get rid of product when the codes were not legible."

Another problem was the time it took to change the printers over from one batch to the next—up to 15 minutes, Shotts says. This ate up a lot of time, considering the dairy typically runs up to 12 batches per day on its container lines.

Installed two at a time, beginning last August and ending in November, the new printers are Ci1000 noncontact, continuous ink-jet printers from Citronix (www.citronix.com), supplied by ID Technology. "We were looking for new small- and large-character coding systems and evaluated a few different brands," says Shotts. "From our review, the Citronix ciSeries products provided the best fit for our applications. Not being fans of ink-jet, we needed something that was easy for our staff to understand and operate."

The Citronix ciSeries technology allows Farmdale

to meet both its small- and large-character coding requirements, eliminating the need for two different coding systems through the use of its PixelPlus feature. This feature provides a software selection of different drop sizes, throw distances and print heights.

"To our surprise," says Shotts, "we were able to mount the printhead quite a few inches away from the product. This eliminated the potential for corrugated debris or sour cream to clog the printhead, which is what we had experienced with our former coding systems. The ciSeries technology is a robust technique."

"The user interface provides us with a very simple message input method and allows for quick changeovers. Minimal training was required to operate the graphical user interface, it is so simple to navigate. Looking towards the future, we opted for the ci1000, which has a fully integrated Ethernet communications port that allows for remote access and delivery of system warnings to our networked computers."

The Citronix printers are capable of printing up to five lines of text, but Farmdale prints just one to keep consumables' costs low, says Shotts. The dairy uses methyl ethyl ketone (MEK)-based ink that adheres well to the slick, HDPE surface of the pails.

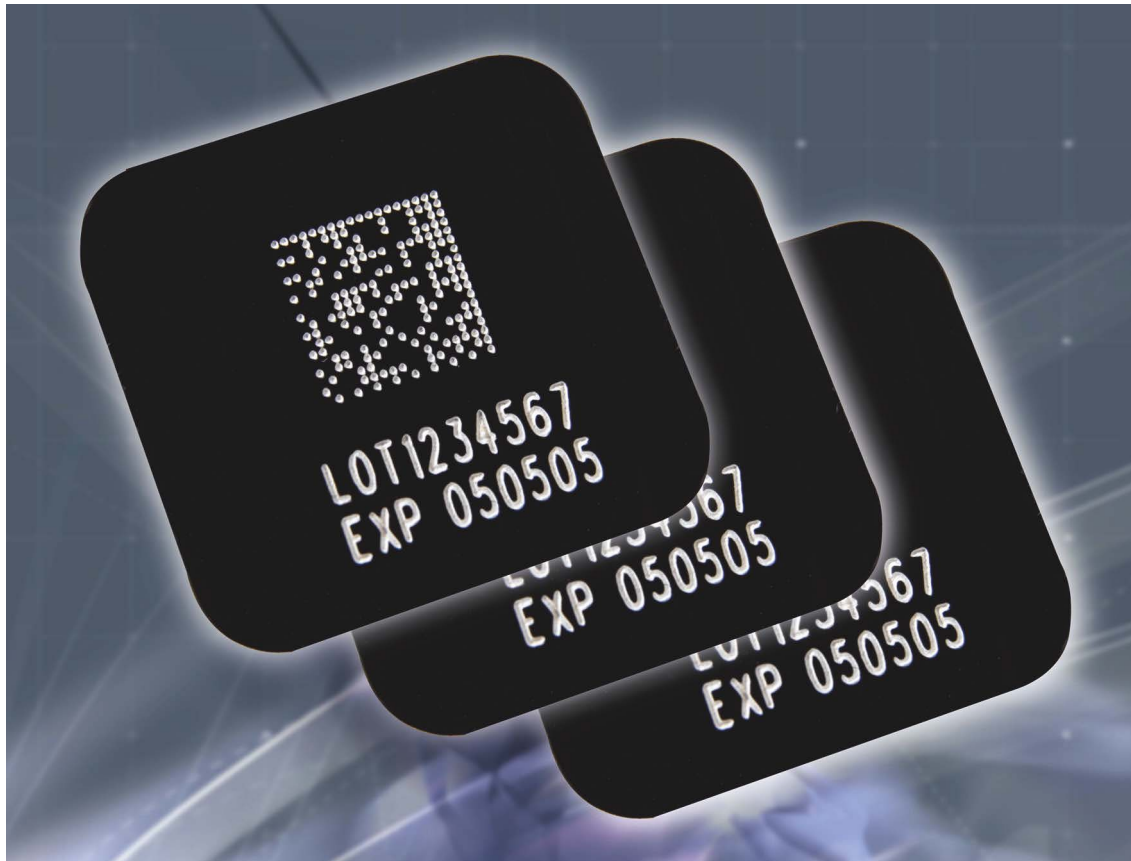
Like the TTO, the new ink-jet printers are low-maintenance, requiring only daily ink purging before line startup, and a change in the filters every six months.

Since installing the new TTO and its six new ink-jet printers, Shotts says that Farmdale is very pleased with the quality, reliability and ease of use of the equipment. However, he adds that it's too soon to calculate the financial savings. "In terms of the overprinter, we're still researching whether the economics have worked out the way we had anticipated they would when we replaced some containers with bags. We're at a point where the price of resin is still changing all the time, so the financial impact of this packaging change still needs to be evaluated. But there definitely is a savings in using the bags."

He adds that Farmdale has so far been able to run the ink-jet printers at the same cost as the previous, stamping method, but with a much greater level of legibility and reliability than formerly possible.

More information is available:

ID Technology Corp., 888/438-3242.
www.idtechnology.com.
 Citronix, 817/568-9800. www.citronix.com.
 Cryovac Div. of Sealed Air, 800/845-3456.
www.cryovac.com.
 The Freedonia Group, 440/684-9600.
www.freedoniagroup.com.



2D datamatrix codes with a lot number and an expiration date can be printed at the batch or item level.

Ink-jet technology provides security solutions

Ink-jet printing provides brand owners with a versatile and affordable solution to securing their products through track-and-trace and authentication methods.

Packaging converters and printers choose to work with ink-jet because of its versatility. It can be used to produce short runs economically, and printing can be done immediately, because no platemaking or other cumbersome preproduction work is needed.

What's more, improvements to ink-jet inks and components are bringing the technology within reach of some companies that could not find a use for it in the past.

Ink-jet printing is certainly useful for many applications, but one, in particular, is becoming increasingly interesting to end-users concerned with brand protection. With special software, an ink-jet printer can be programmed to write a different mark on every product, which is a



Asthma inhalers are coded with ink-jet technology that allows for track-and-trace capabilities.

Depending on its level of complexity, an ink-jet code can be used as the main security feature of a package. However some brand owners will choose to combine a track-and-trace code with a hologram or another type of security feature, in order to have the highest level of protection.

Counterfeiting is a growing problem in the world economy, and the phenomenon shows no sign of slowing down. According to the Washington-based **International AntiCounterfeiting Coalition** (www.iacc.org), counterfeiting may account for between 6 percent and 10 percent of global trade, and cuts into brand-owner profits upwards of \$250 billion.

To fight counterfeiting, many brand owners apply security features to their product packaging. There are two main types of security features that help in the fight against counterfeiting: track-and-trace and authentication. Ink-jet can be used to print a security feature that combines both. For example, a printer can generate an encrypted, nonsequential code using an ink-jet ink that contains a taggant. The presence of the tagged ink will demonstrate that the product is authentic, while the code will allow an investigator to find out where the product has come from and where it should be.

Product diversion is another problem plaguing brand owners. Diversion occurs when a product meant for one market is diverted to another. This diversion is often initiated by a distributor or a warehouse, and it is often at the expense of the

Continued on page 42



To get a comprehensive list of suppliers of ink-jet and other printing equipment and supplies, with complete contact information, access our **ONLINE 2005/2006 BUYERS GUIDE** at www.packagingdigest.com/buyersguide

relatively simple way to create a track-and-trace feature on a package without having to change it dramatically. This is a valuable tool for a consumer goods manufacturers looking to prevent counterfeiting and diversion.

Track-and-trace features can also be used to ease product recall, monitor product quality and track products internally, and can consist of a simple, sequential code, a nonsequential code, a covert code or a machine-readable code. They can also be two related codes—what the industry calls

“matched pairs.” Another type of track-and-trace code that can be applied using ink-jet is a tag containing radio frequency identification (RFID) data—a non-line-of-sight, machine-readable tag. Ink-jet can now also be used to print the antennas for RFID tags.

Track-and-trace features are especially important in the food and pharmaceutical industries, and for manufacturers of consumer electronics and automotive parts. This is because these companies need to be concerned about product tracking and tracing for the protection of both the public and their brands. For example, brand owners need to prevent counterfeit drugs and faulty machinery from infiltrating the supply chain before these products hurt anyone.



Track-and-trace features are especially important in the pharmaceutical industry because these companies need to be concerned about product tracking and tracing for the protection of both the public and their brands.

brand owner. For example, a product meant for sale in a country such as Turkey might get diverted to the U.S., where it will be sold at a much higher price. While the distributor might profit from this, the manufacturer will lose out.

Diversion is harmful on many levels. It can be harmful to a consumer because diverted product is often old, tainted, improperly labeled or damaged. It hurts retailers because their credibility is questioned, and it hurts distributors because their actions are scrutinized.

A track-and-trace code can be used to deter distributors from attempting to divert products. In addition, if the feature is printed with invisible ink, brand owners can monitor what their distributors are doing, without the distributors knowing.

Lee Metters, pharmaceutical sector development director at **Domino Printing Sciences** (www.domino-printing.com/uk/), a U.K.-based ink-jet and laser printer manufacturer, believes that coding is a great way to protect against counterfeiting and diverting. “The battle between the counterfeiter, the diverter and the manufacturer is never-ending,” he says. “The beauty of the coding-based technique is that, as the threats change, they can be used together to upgrade security over time, all at a cost that can be justified.”

Kenneth Stack, president of **Jettrion** (www.jettrion.com), a U.S.-based ink-jet ink and printer manufacturer, says that ink-jet is also ideal for applying machine-readable taggants to product packaging. “Ink-jet is so versatile because it is a noncontact printing solution,” he explains. “From a manufacturing process point of view, that makes it a good technology for taggant application.”

Stack says he often recommends a multilayered solution for customers. “This is a system with a variable security code and a date code. For added security, you should change the taggant every month,” he advises.

With ink-jet technology getting better and cheaper, there is no obvious reason for brand owners to stay away from it. Still, the technology is not as widely used as ink-jet providers would like. Jettrion president Kenneth Stack believes that one of the major obstacles preventing printers from using ink-jet is a reluctance to change from something that is tried and tested—such as flexo printing—to something that’s not familiar. Stack says that this challenge can be overcome by suppliers educating

potential users about the compatibility of ink-jet with traditional printing technologies.

Track-and-trace codes using ink-jet are already being used in the commercial market, although for security reasons, most end-users will not discuss these applications. It is therefore difficult to know how widespread it is. But, one can predict that as problems with counterfeiting and diversion increase, so too will interest in the use of secure codes. Although it’s not there yet, ink-jet coding may soon be the tried-and-tested model.

Presently, there are several varieties of ink-jet codes that are useful for security applications:

Sequential or nonsequential coding

The basic idea behind sequential or nonsequential coding is that each product has a unique serial number, recorded in a secure database. The product is printed with this code, and that

The battle between the counterfeiter, the diverter and the manufacturer is never-ending.

information points to a product pedigree in a database that only legitimate users can access.

The pedigree is the product’s history. Every time a product is moved in the supply chain, its movement is recorded, and that information is added to the product pedigree, making it an

electronic pedigree, or “e-pedigree.” Metters says that the system is an ideal track-and-trace solution. “While this system tracks every product supply-chain transaction from manufacture to consumption, other aspects of the product are also recorded to guarantee identification of the real product,” he says. “The most valuable feature is that you have the pedigree securely stored somewhere, and you know where the product has been. Therefore you can differentiate between the real and the fake version, providing both traceability and security in one system.”

2D datamatrix codes

2D datamatrix codes can be thought of as encrypted bar codes. While the codes are not just available using ink-jet, with ink-jet, the data can be variable. In other words, each encrypted code on each product can be different. A special reader is

| Table 1 Commercial ink-jet solutions today and in the future | |
|--|--|
| Primary application | Commercial ink-jet printing |
| Uses today | Bills, statements and administrative applications, some with variable-data requirements, high-volume printing, corporate mail-shots and the like |
| Current resolution | From around 300 to 600 dpi, roll-fed and flatbed, with low to medium graphics capabilities |
| Colors | Generally one to four colors |
| Inks | Water, solvent and UV, pigmented and dye-based, solid and liquid inks |
| Future outlook | 2005-2007 Higher resolution, faster production speeds up to 2,000 ppm, with ink-jets to challenge current machinery; higher-quality results, improved image resolution to near-photographic standards, application of full-color imaging. Wider range of inks and substrates. Variable data with full-color logos and graphics printed on-demand and personalized to suit user profiling. Increased use of variable data as databases are mined for personalization. |

‘Smart’ events - 2006

A number of events are already scheduled for the coming year that specifically target brand protection strategies, smart and active packaging technologies and RFID. Use the phone numbers or websites listed to get details on agendas, registration and exhibitors, where applicable.

- JAN 25-26 Pack Electronics: The future of low-cost electronics in consumer packaging applications.** The Palace Station, Las Vegas. 207/781-9800. www.pira.uk.co.
- FEB. 22-24 RFID Interactive**, hosted by AIM, The Association for Automatic Identification and Mobility. Hyatt Regency, Newport Beach, CA. 724/934-4470. www.aimglobal.org.
- FEB. 27-MARCH 1 RFID World.** Gaylord Texan Resort, Dallas. 949/443-3735. www.rfid-world.com.
- MARCH 27-30 NA 2006 The Material Handling & Logistics Show and Conference, with RFID Education Center.** International Exposition Center, Cleveland. 800/345-1815. www.na2006.org.
- MARCH 28-29 Smart Labels USA 2006.** Westin Copley, Boston. 305/572-7831. www.smartlabelsusa.com.
- MAY 1-3 RFID Journal LIVE!** MGM Grand, Las Vegas. 617/916-1712. www.rfidjournal.com.
- JUNE 27-28 Smart Label Summit Americas 2006.** Hotel Intercontinental Miami, Miami. 44 (0) 20 8846 2731. <http://smartamericas.labelsummit.com/>.
- SEPT. 11-14 Labelexpo Americas 2006.** Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, Rosemont (Chicago), IL. 44 (0) 20 8846 2700. www.labelexpo-americas.com.

they offer much higher data densities than do traditional bar codes. In addition, they are damage-resistant and can contain fully or partially encrypted data.

Matched pairs

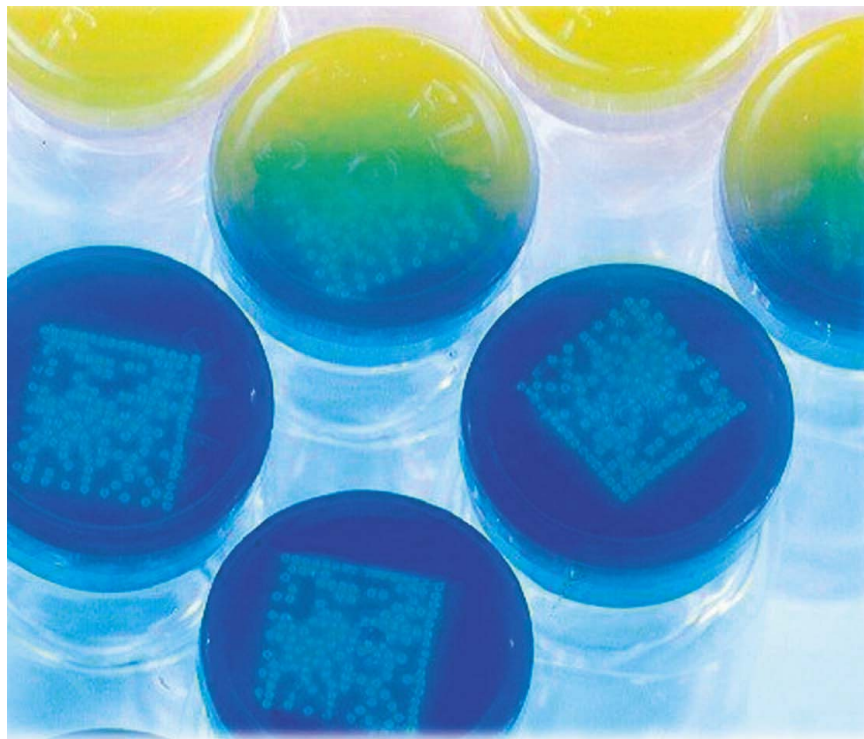
This technique puts more than one code onto a product—sometimes a mixture of visible and invisible. The two codes are related, but not directly. One may be human-readable, the other an encrypted, invisible, 2D datamatrix. When both codes are read, the authenticity of the product can be verified.

Recently, several new ink solutions have been developed specifically for the security printing market. Among them is a new edible ink with the potential to be used in track-and-trace applications for food and pharmaceutical companies. For example, pharmaceutical manufacturers could potentially print a code directly onto a pill or a capsule, so that every single pill or capsule would be traceable.

The ink under development is being designed so that it meets with U.S. Food & Drug Administration and European food-legislation guidelines, while also having the makeup to “jet” properly from an ink-jet printer. The resulting edible ink, then, should be compatible with standard ink-jet printers and be suitable for human consumption.

Ink-jet is not the only technology that can be used to print variable information. Magnetography, which uses magnetic particle transfer technology, is an example of another digital printing technology that is suitable for printing sequential or nonsequential codes.

In magnetography, a magnetic imaging head on a special, coated, magnetic cylinder is responsible for the imaging process. The magnetic parts of the



Using ink-jet printing, manufacturers can print machine-readable, 2-D datamatrix codes that are invisible until exposed to UV light, such as on these plastic pharmaceutical caps.

print sequential or nonsequential codes and 2D datamatrix codes. Because ink is not often used when marking with lasers, the solution nearly always produces accurate codes. With lasers, manufacturers don't have to worry about smudging, messy printheads or food-contact issues. However, lasers are more expensive than ink-jet printers and can be more difficult to maintain. Also, because they mark, rather than print, lasers cannot be used for taggant application.

In the pharmaceutical market, a New York-based brand security company has developed a system that applies track-and-trace features to pharmaceuticals using ink-jet or laser printing equipment. **Secure Symbology, Inc.** (www.securesymbology.com) and the Pharmaceutical Technologies and Services arm of

National Drug Code (NDC) into one area. The company can also use electronic product codes (EPCs), which allows their customers to bridge the gap between bar codes and RFID. The codes can be printed at high speeds using ink-jet or laser printing methods.

SSI director of technical sales and marketing Ron Barenburg says that until now, no company has been able to offer a solution that prints serialized codes, verifies them and captures the data in a database without slowing down production lines.

The eTangent system also provides authorized supply chain members, such as pharmacists, with access to the database, which is located on a secure, Internet-based platform. Just by scanning the codes with a regular EAN/UPC scanner, pharmacists can access the product's electronic pedigree.

The database has been designed to contain a pedigree of each drug shipment for all packaging levels, including unit-dose, case, pallet and container. The information in the code

Table 2 Average growth of ink-jet by geographic region 2002-2007

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| Asia | 14.7% |
| Eastern Europe | 12.2% |
| North America | 10.8% |
| Western Europe | 10.3% |

Source: Pira International

will include the product's packaging history. Barenburg says that the pedigree can be traced from the pharmacy to the original manufacturer, whether it is a direct or repackaged shipment. “The important part is that it can be used anywhere in the world, with no need for extra equipment,” Barenburg says. “No new software or hardware is needed.”

Barenburg also points out that customers can add another layer of security to their product by adding a covert or forensic feature. The codes can be made with UV or infrared ink, or ink containing a security taggant.

In the battle to deliver genuine goods to the marketplace, security is vital. Ink-jet coding offers a simple, upgradeable and relatively low-cost way of securing a supply chain.

Ink-jet can be used to print a variety of track-and-trace features. Not only can the codes help fight counterfeiting and diversion, but they can also be used to ease product recall, monitor product quality and internally track products. These ink-jet codes come in a variety of shapes and sizes, and can be both overt and covert. What's more, a code can be used as the main security feature of a package. However, some brand owners will choose to combine a track-and-trace code with a hologram or another type of security feature, in order to have the highest level of protection.

A printer can generate an encrypted, nonsequential code using an ink-jet ink that contains a taggant.

coating attract particles, and the image then transfers from the cylinder onto the paper.

Magnetography press maker **Nipson** (www.nipson.com) has combined magnetography with cold-flash toner fusing. This process uses bursts of light instead of heat to fuse toner to the substrate. Energy is absorbed by the black toner, but is reflected by the substrate, so heat is not an issue. While magnetography may provide an advantage over digital presses that use heat, because ink-jet does not need heat either, there is no obvious advantage to using magnetography over ink-jet. Also, because it uses toner, magnetography is not as useful as ink-jet for taggant applications.

What should also be noted is that magnetography can so far only produce black-and-white imaging. But it can print high-resolution images very quickly.

Lasers are another technology that can be used to

Cardinal Health will work on a pilot that will see SSI's sequential code technology used in the pharmaceutical market.

Cardinal Health, a leading supplier of medical services to drug companies, launched an anti-counterfeiting packaging line for pharmaceuticals late last year. They offer a variety of overt and covert packaging solutions, as well as RFID tags and the track-and-trace solutions offered through their partnership with SSI. At presstime, however, SSI could not report on the start date of its pilot program with Cardinal.

SSI has a patent-pending method it is calling its eTangent System, which can provide a drug company with a way to mark products at the item level with a serialized bar code. The company can combine a European Article Number/Universal Product Code (EAN/UPC), a lot number, an expiration date and a

The author, Rebecca Roberts, wrote this article for Pira's Brand Protection News, a bimonthly technical journal published by Pira International (www.piranet.com) that publishes in-depth assessments of revolutionary technologies and innovations for brand owners and packagers. In particular, Brand focuses on brand protection devices such as RFID, security inks/taggants and holograms; intelligent packaging, such as time-temperature labels, oxygen sensors and printed electronics; innovative packaging materials, such as nanocomposites and smart film; and disruptive production methods, such as digital printing for packaging. Each article is a consultancy-style report that analyzes how the technologies work, costs, future and current applications and case studies of users, plus five-year forecasts of technology development and market size. The article was reprinted with permission from the November/December 2005 issue (Volume 5 Issue 1).

To order a free trial copy (worth \$120), e-mail Julianb@pira.co.uk with your address details.

Pictures were provided courtesy of Domino Printing Sciences.



new productsmaterials

Authentication technology ARmark™ Authentication Technologies is a new business focusing on anti-counterfeiting technology in the form of covert markers that can be combined with custom-developed delivery systems. The markers are identified via digital, micro-imaging hardware and customized software programs. Applications include packaging materials, pharmaceuticals, food, apparel, currency, medical devices, toys, electronics and more.

Adhesives Research, Inc., 800/445-6240.
www.adhesivesresearch.com

Cushioning material Instapak Quick® Room Temperature (RT) foam packaging provides users with a custom-fit, protective cushion that's suitable for small- to medium-volume packaging applications. The foam packaging consists of a bag containing two liquid components in separate compartments. Users activate the components by manually pressing on the compartment marked "A," breaking the seal that separates the two compartments. After intermittently patting the two compartments several times to mix, the user places the bag into the shipping container, and the foam begins to expand, forming a protective cushion around the product. Instapak Quick RT does not require a warmer like traditional Instapak Quick foam packaging does. It's available in five sizes and is designed to accommodate a variety of products.

Sealed Air Corp., 800/638-0557.
www.instapak.com



Promotional disk sleeve

The Bottle Sleeve is designed to provide food, beverage and other consumer product marketers with a solution for additional promotional and/or branding messages with their product, the co. reports. A variation of the co.'s Safety-sleeve® line, the Bottle Sleeve is designed to hold an 80-mm disk to be distributed on bottles. The clear sleeve offers full disk visibility while securing it in place. It fits a variety of bottle types and sizes, and branding with flexo printing is available.

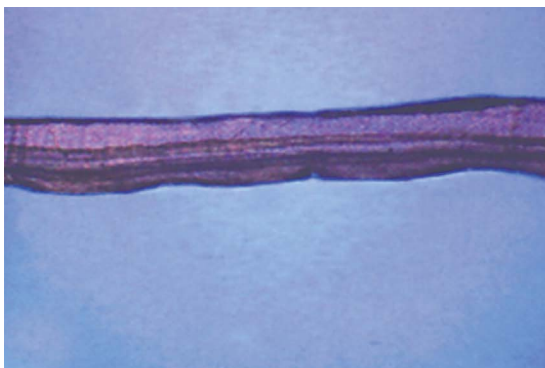
Univenture, Inc., 937/645-4600.
www.univenture.com

Gen2 RFID tag Designed as a high-performance, general-purpose RFID tag for use in a range of carton- and pallet-labeling applications, the AD-220 is a UHF Class 1 RFID tag that's based on Gen2 EPC Protocol. It features a 96-bit read/write memory and an operating frequency of 902 to 928 mHz. The tag is produced with a Monza™ chip and is small enough to fit into a 4×½-in. label. It has a flexible, robust antenna design with an ultra-smooth surface to deliver superior label printability and performance, the co. reports.

Avery Dennison RFID, 866/903-7343.
www.rfid.averydennison.com

Zipper material Fresh-Lock® Soft-Seal® zipper profile material requires less heat and overall energy for improved seals at the zipper-crush area, the co. reports. A safeguard against leaks, it helps provide a pleasing package appearance with its smooth seal. It also facilitates the use of larger-profile zippers. Fresh-Lock Soft-Seal is compatible with existing equipment both in-line using f/f/s technology or with premade bags.

Presto Products Co., a business of Alcoa Consumer Products, 800/265-0750.
www.fresh-lock.com



Security inks

Microtaggant® security inks allow printers to apply anti-counterfeit technology to any printed material using flexographic or screen-printing processes. A robust, traceable anti-counterfeiting technology, Microtaggant is a unique numeric code sequence in a multicolored, multilayer format that delivers security through a single, microscopic particle. The inks are formulated with Microtaggant-encoded particles that are certified and registered to each customer or application. Once produced for a customer, that formulation becomes its "fingerprint" and is not used for any other customer or application. The inks are read and decoded with a hand-held reader or a scanner. They're compatible with certain UV-curable ink systems available from XSYS Print Solutions.

Microtrace, LLC, 763/784-9725.

www.microtracesolutions.com

XSYS Print Solutions (USA), 800/328-7838.

www.xsys-printsolutions.com



Rigid container

The Kangaroo tub is a dual-product package that eliminates production headaches, allowing users to easily store and use the product, the co. says. The previous container required taping of a 4-oz bottle to the tub, slowed filling times and was an awkward shape to ship. The co.'s design and engineering department won a 2005 AmeriStar award for this design.

TricorBraun, 314/569-3633.
www.tricorbraun.com



Bulk-container liners Form-fit liners for intermediate bulk containers (IBCS) are cube-shaped and designed to fit the internal shape of a container. They're suitable for top-fill applications using a bridge or an automated filler,



containers with no access doors for placing a liner at the bottom, high-speed fills and viscous or inhomogeneous products that would get caught in the folds of pillow-shaped bags. The liners are designed to accommodate high-speed fills utilizing an auto-unfold feature, reducing bag handling during the fill. Their square bottoms eliminate the need for a cassette and minimize folds or pockets that trap residual product during dispensing, the

co. says. Custom designs are available and can be manufactured in a selection of liner materials, including multilayer, barrier and metallocene varieties.

CDF Corp., 800/443-1920.
www.cdf1.com

Round bottle

The 12-oz Boston Round bottle is suitable for packaging personal care items. Available with a 24/410 or a 24/415 neck finish, it accommodates most flip-top, disc-top, pump-spray and lotion-pump dispensing closures. It comes in 2-, 4-, 6-, 8- and 16-oz sizes.

Silgan Plastics, 770/243-5280.
www.silganplastics.com



Tap closure Developed for use with 300-oz. packages, the assembled tap closure performs like a spigot with an easy-to-use, pushbutton dispensing system, the co. says. It can be custom designed for use on other sizes and types of containers. Applications include laundry detergents, pesticides and herbicides, and motor oil and vegetable oil, among others.

O-I, 800/537-0178.
www.o-i.com



Produce carton The DEFOR® packaging system is specifically designed to satisfy produce grower, distributor and retailer needs. The system offers product protection and retail appeal with its display-ready trays. The DEFOR PL (Partially-Lidded) carton incorporates attached top flaps. It has been used in the grape market and is now available for use with tree fruit. Manufactured in one piece, the DEFOR PL carton can be supplied with the addition of a full lid to provide further product protection.

Intl. Paper, 203/419-7156.
www.internationalpaper.com



Barrier films

Torayfan® CBS heat-sealable clear barrier film and Torayfan CBP nonsealable clear barrier film are designed to improve product freshness at original code dates and to extend the shelf life of packaged snack foods. Used to create high-performance, uncoated BOPP packaging that reduces moisture-vapor transmission rates by up to 50 percent, they offer maximum freshness and better aesthetic performance than ordinary OPP laminations, the co. says. They're made with proprietary resins to offer greater strength and improved feel compared to standard BOPP films, the co. reports. Improved mechanical properties are said to yield higher puncture-resistance. Other characteristics include oil-resistance and nonyellowing, microwavable and environmentally friendly traits.

Toray Plastics (America), Inc., 401/294-4511.
www.torayfilms.com



Directional flow tip Single-use tubes are now available with an extreme directional flow (EDF) tip option that facilitates more accurate dispensing of product. Particularly suitable for hair-dye kits and similar applications where accurate dispensing of the product is crucial, the EDF tips are available on all of the co.'s single-use tubes, including multilayer PE structures, Saran and laminated foil.

Unette Corp., 973/328-6800.
www.unette.com



Peelable lid Suitable for a variety of products, including petfood, fish salads, meat recipes, fruits and vegetables and dry powders, the PeelSeam™ opening system consists of a thin, flexible panel that is heat-sealed to a rigid steel or aluminum ring that is conventionally flanged for double seaming. Available in round or rectangular shapes, it can be quickly and easily removed, leaving no sharp edges, the co. reports. The panel features a small tab to facilitate lifting. It is constructed from aluminum foil that is laminated with PP film on the inside and lacquered on the outside. The lid is designed to run through overpressure retorts and conventional filling and seaming equipment. Both the panel and the pull-tab can be used for branding through decoration with logos, graphics and promotions. Embossing can also be accommodated.

Crown Food Packaging USA, an affiliate of Crown Holdings, Inc., 215/698-5264.
www.crowncork.com



Formable bottom web

ClearForm™ thermoformable bottom web is a new option for tf/f/s applications in the medical and frozen food markets. A proprietary copolymer blend that offers toughness and clarity, it provides an unusually wide thermoforming processing window, the co. reports. When coupled with the co.'s Allegro® line of peelable top webs, the total package offers machine-friendly forming and sealing characteristics, durability and a smooth, peelable, tamper-evident seal. Also appropriate for use with coated Tyvek® or paper, ClearForm is suitable for EtO and gamma sterilization.

Rollprint Packaging Products, Inc., 508/520-9784.
www.rollprint.com



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new productsmaterials

Scented desiccant canister

Aroma-Can® desiccant canisters are licensed to use CompelAroma®, an Encapsulated Aroma Release® technology developed by ScentSational Technologies, LLC. Aroma-Can is a scented canister that releases flavor-based aromas such as orange or lemon. Based on the co.'s desiccant canisters, Aroma-Can canisters can also include standard desiccant fills, providing both moisture protection and a pleasant aroma. The canisters can be automatically inserted into bottles at high rates of speed, using existing canister-insertion equipment. Applications include fish-oil tablets, herbal supplements, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and food. The canisters may also be used to enhance the branding of odorless products.

Süd-Chemie Performance Packaging, 800/989-3374.
www.s-cpp.com



Decorative graphics technology An alternative to silk-screen printing and hot-stamping, thermally applied graphics open up possibilities that have previously been costly or impractical, the co. states. The process allows users to add to package designs that have up to 14 individual colors or graphics created with a four-color press. Thermally applied graphics—heat transfers—are preprinted images that are transferred to a jar or closure with heat and pressure. They require only one pass for application, and because they're preprinted, they don't cause registration mistakes. A variety of effects are available, including matte, shiny, white, multicolor, semi-transparent and opaque colors.

Portola Tech Intl., 800/556-7630.
www.portolatech.com



Insulated shipping container The Cool Crate™ packaging system is designed for shipping temperature-sensitive products, such as food and medical items. The system consists of polystyrene foam panels that insulate all sides of a palletized load. The panels interlock for quick and easy assembly. Users simply lock the bottom and edge panels together, place their product inside the crate and fill the empty space with dry ice or other insulating materials. The top is then secured, and the pallet is stretch-wrapped and banded. Applications include products such as fish, meat, poultry,



cheese and desserts, as well as biological and medical samples, cultures, enzymes, blood plasma and other laboratory samples. The Cool Crate is delivered to end-users unassembled.

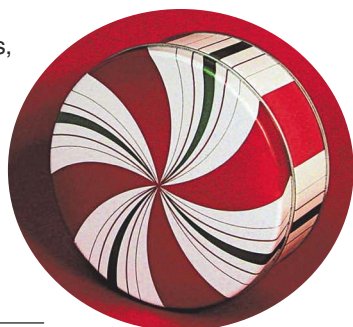
Great Northern Corp., 800/236-3671.
www.greatnortherncorp.com

Food containers Part of the Cups4you family and available in three sizes, the Elito cup is suitable for use with cheese, spreads and salads. It has a tamper-evident design with a built-in fork/knife/spoon formed into the lid for consumer convenience. It comes in 6-, 12- and 18-oz sizes and is available for film sealing. Products in the Cups4you family offer in-mold labeling and come in unique shapes and styles, such as elliptical and hexagonal. Available in a selection of vibrant colors, the containers are freezable, microwaveable and leak-resistant.

Packaging Resources, Inc., 888/722-9976.
www.pripackaging.com

Decorative tin Designed for the holidays, the Peppermint Swirl tin features a metallic finish and comes in swirling red, green and silver colors. Measuring 5¼×2¼ in., the tin comes with a matching cover and body. Custom designs are also available.

U.S. Can Co., 800/436-6830.
www.uscanco.com



Thermoformed packages By combining a mix of sheet material and package design, the co. can develop custom packages that offer optimal function. Its high-barrier extrusion line can be coupled with either a batch thermoformer or a roll-fed, continuous thermoforming machine to produce containers. Up to seven-layer extruded sheet is processed on a high-barrier sheet-extrusion pilot line. Sheet up to 34 in. wide and 20 to 100 mil thick can be extruded with barrier layers up to 25 percent of sheet thickness. Total thickness, distribution, barrier distribution, surface quality, opacity, gloss, haze, internal stress, molecular orientation and microstructure can all be quantified. Different performance properties can also be achieved by extruding sheet using a variety of polymers.

Sonoco, 800/576-6626.
www.sonoco.com

Resin Marlex® ALN-070 PP resin is designed to meet stringent impact-resistance, durability and stiffness requirements of returnable plastic packaging. Incorporating Hyperform® HPN-68L by Milliken Chemical, the resin is specially formulated for use in the manufacture of trays, containers, nestable totes and pallets used to ship consumer and commercial goods. Characteristics of the material include reduced warpage, and it facilitates faster cycle times, the co. reports.

Phillips Sumika Polypropylene Co., 832/813-4216.
www.phillipssumika.com

Container Featuring rigid sidewalls and a one-piece, molded base with wood flooring, the MAX3™ 8844 container is designed specifically to handle both storage and shipping of large quantities of finished products, including stacks or bundles of small parts and packages. The container has an 88×44-in. footprint and stands 100 in. tall, and it accommodates four-way fork entry. Offering 190 cu ft of storage volume, it can be compartmentalized with up to three tiers of interior shelving and holds up to 3,000 lb of cargo. When empty, the container can be stacked three-high; filled containers can be stacked two-high. Constructed of HDPE to withstand multiple shippings, the container's sidewalls are secured with strapping or locks; users remove one of the sidewalls to access the container's contents. It's water-resistant and RFID-ready, and it can be recycled at the end of its useful life.



Linpac Materials Handling, 888/209-7052.
www.linpacmh.com

Resealable zipper Leak-Proof™ zipper profiles enable manufacturers of food products that contain liquid to provide a leak-proof, resealable feature on consumer packaging, the co. reports. The series of zippers allows frozen foods, prepared foods with sauce and marinated meats in flexible pouches to remain inside the package without leaking. After the zipper is engaged, pressure exerted by the contents of the pouch cause the specially shaped profiles to lock together, creating an airtight seal. The seal protects food products from bacteria in the air that accelerate spoilage, maintaining peak freshness throughout multiple servings. With an internal opening force of more than 20 lb, the Leak-Proof zipper is said to remain closed under high pressure, ensuring package integrity during shipping and throughout retail and consumer use. It's also capable of sustaining a vacuum. The zipper seals to a variety of laminates and PE films. It runs on hf/f/s, thermoform and premade-pouch converting equipment, and it can be accommodated on existing zipper-ready machines following minor modifications.

Zip-Pak, an ITW Co., 815/468-6500.
www.zippak.com



Absorbent pads Premier Dri-Loc® absorbent pads for fresh, red meats, poultry and fish provide moisture absorption and a new, opaque top that hides otherwise visible meat juices, ensuring a clean, neat appearance for retail merchandising. The pads are crafted with a proprietary opaque-polymer top layer that is designed to mask unsightly purge. A cloth-like bottom layer enables fast absorption of the juices so they do not collect in the tray and become noticeable. Super-absorbent polymers, which can hold up to 50 times their weight in liquid, are also included in the structural absorbent layers of the material, to lock juices into the pad. The cloth backing extends to the edges of the pad to attract purge regardless of how the package is displayed. Premier Dri-Loc is available with guaranteed absorbencies of 40 and 50 g of liquid. The pads come in a selection of colors, in sizes ranging from 4×6 in. to 5×7 in.

Cyrovac Div., Sealed Air Corp., 800/845-3456.
www.driloc.com



Drug-delivery pouches Flexi 6833 is a polyester/foil/sealant-layer lamination that can be converted into a drug-delivery pouch for liquid or powder-based products. A high-barrier, very thin-gauge material, it's designed to be converted into a small pouch and work in conjunction with devices that currently rely on either glass vials or aerosol containers, such as inhalers. The structure is capable of accepting a small, plastic fitment that would be used to dispense the drug. The thin structure allows the flexible pouch to fully collapse, facilitating evacuation while preventing air from entering. It also eliminates the need for the pressurization found in aerosol containers, and the fully filled container eliminates headspace, which can extend shelf life.

Ampac Flexibles, 847/639-3530.
www.flexiconinc.net

Hot-melt adhesive EASY-PAC™ 200-deg-F packaging hot melt has been developed for case- and carton-sealing applications in the food processing, beverage, personal care, household and consumer electronics industries, as well as for anything in volume that goes in a case or carton. The adhesive produces strong, fiber-tearing bonds in most applications, the co. reports. Despite its low, 200-deg-F operating temperature, it's said to maintain package security in both hot and dry, and cold climates. The adhesive was designed to eliminate the problems commonly experienced with traditional, 350-deg-F hot melts, which can cause downtime. It virtually eliminates char, allowing it to run cleanly and resulting in decreases in clogged nozzles and hoses. The adhesive also provides a greater margin of safety than higher-temperature hot melts.

Natl. Adhesives, 866/266-5565.
www.nationalstarch.com



Multilayer and peelable films The co.'s multilayer film process takes what traditionally has been a two- or three-pass lamination process—such as reverse-print outerfilm; barrier; sealant—and transforms it into a one- or two-pass process. The new process—reverse-print outer film; multilayer barrier coex film with sealant—provides users latitude in processes and conversions, the co. states. The combination of user-specific formulations and sealants is said to improve package performance over a range of temperatures, while line speeds can be increased due to the simplified process. Peelable-seal technology features high-performance sealants in combination with polymers, providing seven-layer structures. The technology delivers a wide seal range, the co. reports, for target seal strengths, hot tack for high-speed lines and seal-through contamination properties. Available for laminations or single-web applications, the peelable seal technology is suitable for crackers, cereal, coffee, snacks and other foods where easy-opening packages are required.

Pliant Corp., 812/355-1717.
www.pliantcorp.com




Cosmetics compacts The co. offers a full line of compacts for use in the cosmetic and skincare industries. The compacts share similar “family” characteristics and come in a variety of finishes and colors. Options such as windows and mirrors are available. Products including eye shadow, lip gloss, blush, bronzer, and more can be accommodated.


World Wide Packaging, Inc., 800/950-0390.
www.wwpinc.com


Metal closure The 63 High Unishell® metal closure features a 63/640 finish with a modified stack bead. Like other members of the Unishell family, it has no exposed threads, providing a smooth exterior side. It's designed to create the illusion of a taller container, has a gold coating and can be custom-embossed. Unlimited print and color combinations make it versatile for a range of products and markets.

Penn-Wheeling Closure, 800/999-2567.
www.p-wc.com



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new products equipment

Actuator The HGDS is a combination of the semi-rotary vane actuator with the DSM principle and the parallel gripper HGPP housing. The linear movement of the gripper's operating cylinder is transmitted to the gripper jaw by means of a piston rod passing through the rotary actuator, providing for a low overall height. The modified DSM features a new stop system, allowing the setting of the desired swivel angle between 0 and 210 deg. A flexible and compact unit, the HGDS can be used in a number of applications, and it's particularly suitable for jobs requiring rotating and gripping functions in confined spaces. The design features elastic dampening or a hydraulic shock absorber and SMx-10 proximity sensors for sensing on linear and swivel axes. Air ports and sensors are located outside of the swivel range to facilitate installation, and all adjustment functions and connections are on one side.

Festo Corp., 800/993-3786.
www.festo.com/us



Packaging system The FlexsysPAK™ packaging system is suitable for a plethora of applications, including bottle dispensing, labeling and capping, and cartoning and packing, among others. It has a modular design and features a Supertrak™ pallet-conveyor system, which, unlike conventional chain- or belt-driven conveyors, consists of programmable pallets, each carrying product in its pallet fixture. Each pallet is inductively driven by linear servo technology embedded in the system track. The direction, acceleration, speed and position of each pallet can be programmed or slaved to third-party equipment controllers independently from the other pallets. This enables continuous and indexed operations to run simultaneously on a single-system platform, the co. reports. It also allows FlexsysPAK to handle varying pallet types and to run multiple product styles on the same line.

ATS Automation Tooling Systems, Inc., 519/653-6500.
www.atsautomation.com



Ink-jet printers The 9000 Series of small-character ink-jet printers is equipped to provide easy operation. Designed with ergonomics in mind, it includes an intuitive user interface, easy accessory connections and simple consumables access and replacement, the co. reports. Its i-key feature provides onscreen help at the touch of a button. The printers can be easily integrated into most production lines, continue printing during cartridge change and adjust parameters automatically in response to the environment. Stainless-steel cabinets, rated either

IP54 or IP65, are available for use in harsh environments.

Imaje USA, 770/421-7700.
www.imaje.com



Software ReaderWare™ is an open-architecture software suite that comes in versions for both HF and UHF RFID tag readers. ReaderWare's architecture allows value-added applications to reside partially or fully on-reader; code portability across different hardware platforms and applications to control low-level hardware functions; and an à la carte menu of reader technology building blocks. It's available as a licensed development platform for new and existing OEM readers or for use with the co.'s Tagnostic™ reader-reference designs.

SkyeTek, Inc., 720/565-0441.
www.skyetek.com

RFID UHF reader module The MP9311 RFID reader supports EPC Generation 2 tags and can handle most tag protocols and global frequencies in a single SKU. Available in a world version that can be used in any geography, and in a North American version that exclusively supports frequencies in that region, the MP9311 is compliant with all regional regulations, the co. says, and has a footprint of 2¾×3¾ in. The module is currently in use as a component of RFID label printers manufactured by Datamax Corp.

Samsys Technologies, Inc., 877/367-4342.
www.samsys.com

Conveyor system The Maximizer™ continuous motion conveyor system is specifically designed to optimize speed and productivity and can double the speed of hand-loading operations, the co. reports. Capable of being integrated with Autobag bagging equipment and particularly suitable for packaging kits comprising small components, the unit offers operator speed control and facilitates speeds up to 70 batches/min. It can also be integrated with robotics and an in-line printer to create a Print-n-Pack™ system. Equipped with sensor technology, the unit can detect and count product from ¼ to 5½ in. in length and up to 3 in. wide. Multiple adjustments allow the user to set height, angle and speed mode. Features include a cantilevered frame for easy pivoting and adjustment, and an adjustable, stainless-steel load shelf for easy operation. Options include side- or front-feed configurations, a range of infeed tunnels and spare-parts kits.

Automated Packaging Systems, 888/288-6224.
www.autobag.com



Compact PLC The Twido PLC's communication capabilities make it suitable for use in packaging applications such as filling, bottling, wrapping and palletizing. An ultra-compact PLC that offers modularity and communication capabilities typically found in larger PLCs, it's designed for small and medium-sized control systems with between 10 and 200 I/Os. Its Twidosoft programming software provides a graphical development environment and offers integrated CANopen and Modbus communication function blocks and online programming. It includes numerous standard features.

Schneider Electric, 416/752-8020.
www.schneider-electric.ca



Junction boxes pentafast junction boxes are available in 4- and 8-port versions, providing multiple I/O points for flexibility. The boxes are equipped with an integrated PUR cable or an M12 eurofast® 12-pin quick disconnection, and LEDs provide power and signal status. The junction boxes' small footprints make them suitable for small OEM machine builders and robotic applications that require compact junction boxes. They also facilitate existing applications to be retrofit for individual cable runs. The nylon-encapsulated units provide IP67 protection and meet UL, CSA and NEMA 1, 3, 4 and 6P standards. Their operating current is 1 A/port and 3 A total with one power pair, with an operating voltage of 10 to 30 VDC.

Turck, Inc., 800/544-7769.
www.turck.com



Roll-fed labeler

The Rollmatic roll-fed bottle labeler features interchangeable stations for p-s, hot-melt and cold-glue applications. It uses a patented roll-handling system that maintains constant roll tension without requiring a separate tension-control system. The labeling station is equipped with an automatic, self-aligning label system, a label-cutting roller and a label-transfer roller. It also provides label leading and film-length control. The machine has a pressurization system to assist in labeling empty containers. The machine is available in both clockwise and counter-clockwise configurations. It's capable of labeling up to 1,000 bottles/min.

P.E. USA, Inc., 513/771-7374.
www.pe-us.com



RFID-ready thermal printers The B-SA4 range of thermal printers produces high-quality outputs, has a versatile design and is suitable for industrial performance, the co. reports. The printers offer a Central Network Management Suite and an RFID-ready capability. They're available with either a metal or a plastic enclosure and are capable of print resolutions of 203 or 300 dpi. High-speed USB, LAN (10/100 base) and bidirectional parallel interfaces are standard. Options include a cutter, a serial keyboard interface, a wireless LAN interface and an RFID module upgrade kit.

Toshiba TEC America, 770/449-3040.
www.toshibatecusa.com



Robotic case packer A robotic case packer that utilizes the Fanuc M16iB six-axis robot with a 20-kg payload capacity can automatically load empty plastic bottles into corrugated cases. The unit provides the flexibility to handle a wide variety of bottle shapes and sizes, as well as the case sizes and pack patterns necessary to satisfy the needs of the plastic blow-molding industry, while staying within a compact footprint. The advantage of using the Fanuc robot in the case packer is the reduction of risk and overall system costs, as well as minimizing delivery time, the co. reports.

Schneider Packaging Equipment Co., Inc., 315/676-3035.
www.schneiderequip.com



RFID solution MandatePLUS™ 1.0 is designed to be a cost-effective solution for suppliers driven by mandates from the Dept. of Defense, retailers and the FDA. Comprising hardware, software and services to deliver compliance, it includes mechanisms allowing it to integrate with various networks. The solution typically includes rPlatform™ 2.0 middleware software, readers, antenna, tags, printers, integration, consulting, training and support package. The core component of the solution, rPlatform 2.0 collects RFID data from hardware devices, analyzes them for business relevance and integrates with the enterprise systems and trading partners. Based on EPCglobal standards, it supports open and extensible architectures to seamlessly integrate businesses with suppliers, partners and customers.

Supply Insight, Inc., 203/281-7343.
www.supplyinsight.com

Swiveling casters The co. adds metric, synthetic swivel casters with combination directional and wheel-brake locks to its product line. The casters feature swivel brackets made of glass-fiber-reinforced plastic, with double-sealed, grooved ball bearings in the swivel head, and combination, two-stage directional and wheel-brake locks. Wheels have gray, thermoplastic rubber treads, nonmarking, 85-deg shore A, and centers of gray PP with ball bearings and thread guards. Various standard mountings, including threaded-stem, expander-fitting and plate-style, are available. Casters are also available with a stop-fix brake. Suitable for loads ranging from 200 to 285 lb, the casters are available with wheel diameters from 100 to 200 mm.

J.W. Winco, Inc., 800/877-8351.
www.jwwinco.com



RFID reader Based on the co.'s new Enterprise RFID platform, the ALR-9800 Enterprise RFID reader is designed to take advantage of the features included in the EPC Class I Gen 2 specification. It's compatible with the co.'s reader protocol and is said to meet all current performance, management and EPC protocol requirements, including reading Class 1, Class I Gen 2, Class 0 and Class 0+ tags. The reader employs an Intel Xscale processor running Linux for enterprise-class system and network management, and a digital signal processor (DSP) for high-read performance of current and future RFID protocols. The DSP also enables rapid interleaving of different protocols with minimal switching of overhead. The reader's integrated, industrial-class, general-purpose I/O capability eliminates the need for external PLCs when integrating it with sensors, indicators and actuators. Its multistatic antenna design facilitates conveyor and dock-door read performance with less equipment, the co. says.

Alien Technology, 408/782-3963.
www.alientechnology.com

Candy packaging line

An all-servo carton erector and an end-of-line case packer highlight a new, fully automated, electronically linked packaging line for candy bars and other, similar products. An in-line bar turner and phase feeder send a stream of candy bars into an Autowrapper Flowtronic 120 flowrapper. Next, an AMI double-head servo carton former erects cartons and trays in solid or corrugated board by lock-forming or hot-melt gluing. It runs at speeds of up to 80 strokes/min, providing carton speeds of up to 160/min. Product collating takes place on a racetrack conveyor, and pick-and-place loading is handled by an LJ/SRT robotic system. Cartons are then sealed on a Compact R right-angle, lugless carton closer with flexible carton technology. The cartons are then packed by a side-load, corrugated case packer.

Bradman Lake, Inc., 704/940-1431.
www.bradmanlake.com



Camera system

The latest RetroSpek™ two-camera laptop system offers dual NTSC and Digital IEEE 1394 Fire-wire camera capabilities, in addition to an updated computing and imaging hardware package. Higher frame rates and resolution are offered with a fully digital solution, along with an enhanced Ethernet and PLC communications package. The system is completely self-contained and specially designed for easy transport between production lines and facilities.

Carotek, Inc., 864/590-1608.
www.carotek-ecs.com




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new products equipment

Blister plate-exchange system Designed to ease the process of changing heat plates in blister-packaging operations, the Automated Heat Plate Exchange System (ATEX) uses a combination of transfer trays and automatic locking and unlocking mechanisms to make the process safer and operator-friendly. All that is required of the operator is manual loading or unloading of the transfer trays. Once the process is completed, the operator pushes the appropriate load or unload switch, and the system achieves a positive connection with perfect alignment, the co. says. The system also facilitates uniform heat distribution from the platen to the plate, ensuring even seals.

SCA Packaging, Consumer Products, 815/787-5862.
www.scapackaging.alloyd.com



Case labeler The integrated case-labeling system comprises a print engine and a label applicator controlled by the co.'s SoftFlow™ software platform. The labeling system features built-in network connectivity to assist in product tracking and data collection, and to improve product recall capabilities. It can be seamlessly integrated into existing operations. The SoftFlow platform runs on Microsoft XP operating systems and provides easy connectivity to the user's plant database software and other manufacturing execution systems. A color touchscreen offers an intuitive help system and diagnostic tools, providing one point of reference to view all functions of the integrated system. Suitable for washdown applications, the labeling system feeds, prints and applies labels to cases and includes a case-loading hopper system.

Delta Systems, Inc., 479/631-2210.
www.delta-systems-inc.com



Wraparound labeler

Featuring a modular design, the CVC-300 wraparound labeler has a stainless-steel construction, a stepper motor and interchangeable components to ensure long life and reduced maintenance, the co. reports. Easy to operate, the unit begins labeling at the touch of a button. A microprocessor measures the label and automatically adjusts the label sensor. Up to 50 job setups can be stored in memory, and a low-label alarm alerts the operator when the quantity of labels falls below 500. A hot-stamp printer is available.

CVC Technologies, Inc., 877/282-7333.
www.cvclabeler.com



Washdown clutch/brakes

Electro Pack washdown clutch/brakes are designed specifically for use in sanitary, food and other washdown applications. Completely enclosed, the clutch/brake package is both air- and watertight. BISSC-certified, all clutch/brakes are protected with a USDA-approved coating, while their smooth exterior prevents food particles and bacteria from lodging and propagating. The shielded-sealed bearings, and stainless-steel shafting and hardware, can withstand even the most demanding environments and applications, the co. reports. The clutch/brakes are factory-aligned, assembled and burnished for easy installation and consistent performance. They feature the co.'s patented Autogap system to self-adjust for wear, reducing maintenance requirements.

Warner Electric, 800/234-3369.
www.warnerelectric.com



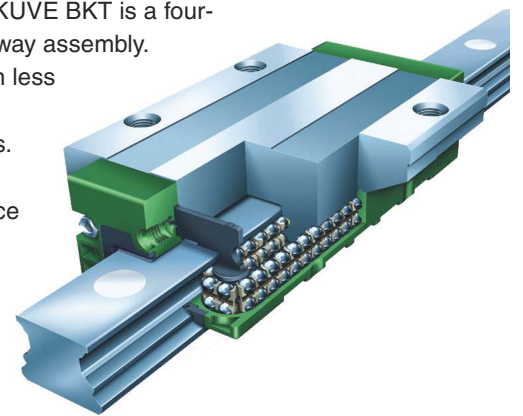
Labeler The Anker Roland 8/4 labeler is suitable for labeling cylindrical and shaped containers. Capable of applying labels to the container's body, shoulder, back and neckring, it also can apply seals and strips. Precision alignment is achieved for all container shapes, the co. says. Round containers are aligned in the infeed star by a nose or a notch, and shaped containers are aligned in the carousel by a bottle platform with a sinking device. The spring-loaded grippers with metal anvils in the gripper drum facilitate gentle handling, preventing imprints on the label.

KHS, Inc., 386/424-0202.
www.khs-inc.com



Linear ball bearing The KUBE BKT is a four-row linear ball bearing and guideway assembly. With its quad spacers, it runs with less noise than alternative, full-complement designs, the co. says. Features include a high load-carrying capacity, low maintenance and a small space requirement. It's particularly suitable for low-noise requirements.

INA USA Corp., 803/396-3680.
www.us.ina.com



Ink-jet printer The SureCode® 5000 high-resolution ink-jet printer system is equipped with a Xaar XJ 500 print engine to print crisp images on corrugated cases. It prints verifiable bar codes at a resolution of 180 dpi, at speeds of up to 100 ft/min, and is capable of producing Code 39, 12 of 5, UPC-A, EAN 13, Data Matrix and Code 128 bar codes, among others. Most variable-data functions can be embedded in bar codes. The printer has a touchscreen user interface with a WYSIWYG display. Standard features include 10/100 Ethernet capabilities, an HSAJet-5000 printhead with an automatic ink-delivery system, a printhead stand, a printhead bracket and a product detector. A low-ink-level alarm light is optional. Ink usage is automatically calculated for each message.

Graphic Controls, LLC, 716/669-1535.
www.graphiccontrols.com



Hot-melt unit

Built for medium-speed case sealing and high-speed cartoning, the NC-20 Pro Series hot-melt applicator delivers flexible performance. Solid-state controls, RTD temperature sensors and a motor-driven gear pump optimize system performance. Its melt rate of 21 lb/hr and holding capacity of 19 lb make the unit suitable for a range of operations, including low-consumption applications. It features a touchscreen control panel that includes a multilanguage display, programmable, sequential zone startup, automatic temperature setback, high/low temperature protection, high-pressure protection, and a Fahrenheit or Centigrade option. The controller also provides system diagnostics, an RS-232 temperature control interface, a seven-day programmable clock and a digital RPM readout. Two-channel adhesive level sensing is optional.

Shure-Glue Systems, Inc., 513/874-5581.
www.shure-glue.com



Motion controller The SMC-4000 multiaxis motion controller is available in two- and four-axis versions and comes standard with Ethernet communication capabilities. Featuring the same, BASIC-like text programming of previous models in the SMC product family, the unit is designed for use with the co.'s LEGEND and Sigma II servo amplifier series, and it complements the co.'s 7 Series of variable-speed drives. Plug-and-play cables provide a quick and easy amplifier connection, while the standard Ethernet feature provides seamless communication. The controller provides several modes of operation, including point-to-point positioning and multiaxis interpolation, among others. Prewired cables and simple configuration and programming software ease initial startup.

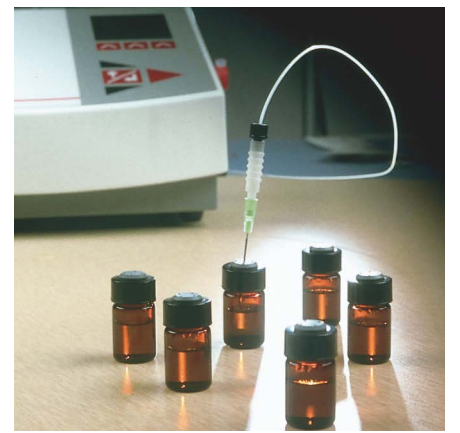
Yaskawa Electric America, Inc., 800/932-7359.
www.yaskawa.com



Gas analyzers

Designed for manufacturers and packagers of low-headspace packages such as pharmaceutical vials and medical devices, a line of gas-monitoring equipment provides readings of package oxygen from the lowest-volume sample. The analyzers are precision-engineered to operate without regular calibrations, and they provide fast, reproducible, non-operator-dependent readings, the co. says. They accommodate difficult-to-measure, low-headspace packages by requiring low levels—as little as 2 cc or 2 mL—for analysis.

PBI-Dansensor America, Inc., 201/251-6490.
www.pbi-dansensor.us



Unscrambler The Posipharma unscrambler is designed for tablet containers and other pharmaceutical bottles. It's capable of reaching speeds of up to 300 bottles/min, depending on the bottle, and changeovers are reported to be fast and easy, requiring minimal or no change parts. The system has a heavy-duty, stainless-steel construction with a compact footprint. An ionized air rinse with vacuum system is optional.

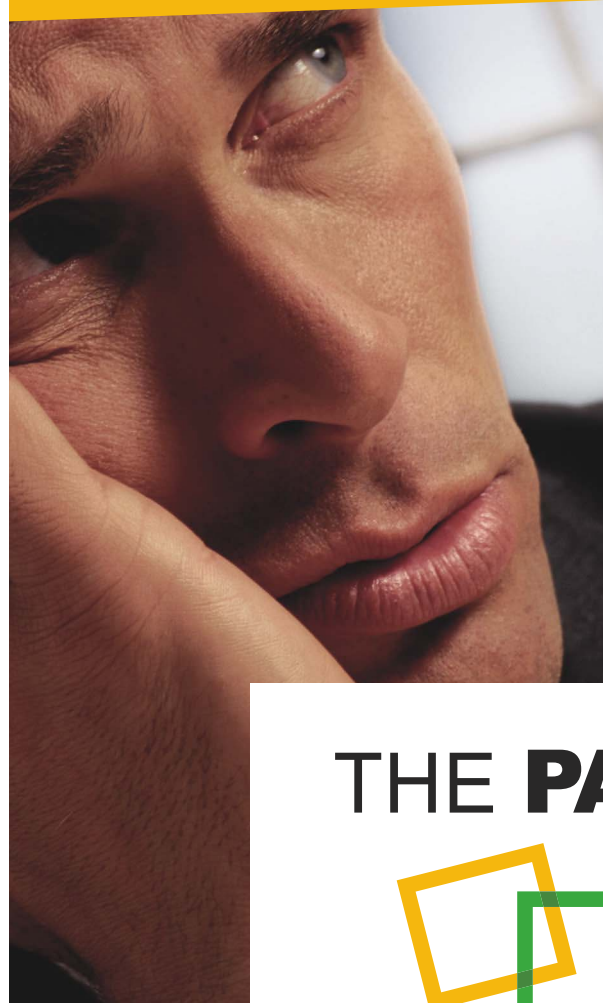
Posimat, 305/477-2029.
www.posimat.com



X-ray inspection system

The Eagle™ combo x-ray inspection system features automatic detection and rejection, a built-in modem and Ethernet card for remote technical support and a variable-speed drive. The system is capable of high-speed imaging at speeds of up to 400 ft/min, and its Simul-Task™ proprietary imaging software optimizes each detection target. It has an auto-learn setup feature for new products. It also has a glass-beaded, stainless-steel construction. The unit meets IP64 and IP65 protection class ratings. Options include high-performance detectors for smaller contaminant detection, multiple reject stations and Multi-Task™ imaging, which adds checkweighing capability, selective area weighing, missing-item detection and void detection.

Smiths Detection,
865/379-1670.
www.smiths-detection.com



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new products equipment



Robot partnership The co. partners with Kuka Robotics Corp., combining its experience in packaging and material handling systems with robotic products. The partnership offers customers a number of advantages, the co. says. Among Kuka's variety of products is a sub-zero robot capable of operating in temperatures below 20 deg F, and a carbon fiber arm that provides faster lifts and allows more payload than previous designs. The KR180 PA palletizing robot palletizes and depalletizes mixed loads.

Nercon Engineering & Manufacturing, Inc.,
920/233-3268.
www.nercon.com



Stainless-steel vision sensor The In-Sight® 5400S vision sensor meets IEC specifications for shock and vibration, and it achieves an IP68/NEMA 6P rating for chemical washdown and submersion. A polished, stainless-steel surface makes the sensor suitable for FDA-regulated wet-side and dry-side food, beverage, cosmetic and pharmaceutical installations. It includes a library of vision software and built-in Ethernet communications capabilities. In-Sight Explorer software is standard, providing integrated vision sensor configuration, management and operator interface within a single package.

Cognex Corp.,
508/650-3000.
www.cognex.com

Combo stretch wrapper

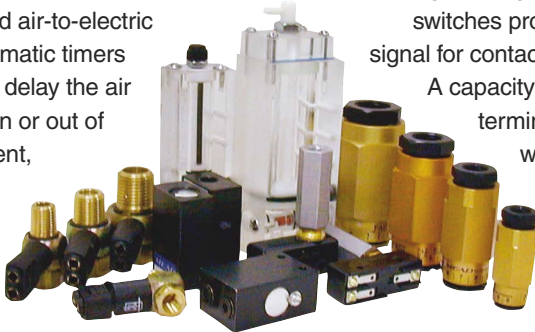
A heavy-duty, semi-automatic stretch wrapper, the Sidewinder 4 low-profile Wrap-N-Weigh stretch wrapper combines wrapping and weighing in one operation. It integrates a precision scale and digital controls with the turntable. The system handles pallets weighing up to 4,000 lb and includes an Allen Bradley MicroLogix PLC, steel-ite paint to prevent corrosion and antistatic prestretch rollers. User-friendly operator controls include dual LED wrap counters, built-in self-diagnostics, three wrap-pattern selections and an electronically controlled film-tension adjustment feature, among others.

Arpac Group, 847/678-4081.
www.arpac.com



Valve products

The co. offers a series of specialty valve products that's designed to meet the specific needs of circuit-design applications. The range of products includes pneumatic timers, stroke completion timers, impulse relay valves and air-to-electric switches. Pneumatic timers can be used to delay the air signal coming in or out of an air component, and the delay can be adjusted from 0.75 to 30 sec. Timers are available in normally closed and normally open versions, and they reset when a new pilot signal is introduced. Stroke completion timers provide an output signal when rod movement stops.



Impulse relay valves stop constant pneumatic signals with buildup of backpressure to allow the user to shift a double-pressure-piloted or double-bleed-piloted valve, even in circumstances with overlapping pilot signals. Air-to-electric switches provide an air-pilot signal for contact closure up to 15-

A capacity and solder terminals that accept wire up to #14. The series also includes binary valves and Dyla-Trol in-line flow controls.

Each product in the series can be modified for specific applications.

Mead Fluid Dynamics, Inc.,
773/685-6800.
www.mead-usa.com

Gearheads

Victory gearheads have a compact, true planetary design. Manufactured of high-strength steel, they incorporate sealed ball bearings and feature a proprietary heat treatment on all gear components. Capable of generating low startup torque, they meet NEMA mounting standards and can be installed quickly. Metric motor mountings are available. The co.'s line of gearheads is suitable for material handling, pharmaceutical and medical and packaging applications.

CGI, Inc., 800/568-4327.
www.cgimotion.com

Motion system

The Cartesian Motion System (CMS) has been engineered to reduce the time required to specify, design and install multiaxis systems. Equipped with one-, two- or three-axis, preconfigured Cartesian robots, the system uses standard, compact modules and servo drives, and comes either completely assembled or as a ready-to-assemble kit. It's designed for payloads up to 25 kg, speeds up to 1 msec and acceleration rates of up to 15 ms². Depending on the chosen axis combination and size, the motion system can execute strokes up to 1,000 mm in the X axis, 700 mm in the Y axis and 800 mm in the Z axis. The range of motion makes the unit suitable for various pick-and-place applications.



Bosch Rexroth Corp., 800/438-5983.
www.boschrexroth-us.com

Servo wrapper

The Fuji-Formost FW-3400 Alpha VI horizontal servo wrapper incorporates four individual servo motors to drive the film-feed, cantilevered-cold and heated-center fin sealers and end sealers. Its improved regi-mark control system features a digital sensor mounted closer to the forming box. The short distance to the end sealer offers quicker corrections of the cutting position, the co. says.

Formost Packaging Machines, Inc., 425/483-9090.
www.formostpkg.com



Liquid-nitrogen injection system

NITRODOSE® MS is a multiple-speed, liquid-nitrogen injection system designed to provide discreet dosing of up to 550 containers/min and constant steam thereafter, facilitating liquid nitrogen dosing at most line speeds. The system is equipped with a touchscreen, PLCs, dose-compensation logic and the co.'s advanced dosing valve that delivers single-phase liquid nitrogen to meet the most stringent specifications, the co. says. The design features an integral inlet valve for quick isolation from supply piping and a rapid warmup capability for fast servicing. Its low-profile dosing head allows it to fit into confined spaces. Alarm outputs provide alerts for conditions such as low liquid-nitrogen levels and power faults.

Vacuum Barrier Corp.,
781/933-3570.
www.vacuumbarrier.com



Cushioning machines

PAPERplus® vertical paper cushioning machines attach two sheets of kraft paper together to form a protective paper mattress, which protects products during shipment and is suitable for most protective packaging applications. The systems can be adjusted for manual, automatic, foot-pedal or special-mode operations. It produces output lengths ranging from 6 in. to infinity, for coil, S-shape, foldover, criss-cross and block-and-brace packing methods. The matted paper can be directed to either the front or the rear of the machine by rotating the discharge chute. The pliability or rigidity of the mattress can be varied based on the basis weight of the paper used. The paper mattresses are resistant to tearing and perforation and can be reused or recycled.

Storopack, Inc., 800/827-7225.
www.storopackinc.com



Label printer/applier

The P3400 label printer/applier has a modular design for seamless integration of the base system, a print engine and one of eight standard application modules. The P3400 prints high-resolution bar codes and text for shipping labels and is compatible with a variety of thermal-transfer and RFID print engines, from various manufacturers.

Ethernet connectivity with a host PC makes the unit setup and control simple through a web-page interface. It features a multiple-label configuration menu, a user-configured beacon and status output. The system has a standard, 14-in. unwind reel that facilitates fewer label changes during operation. An optical, low-label sensor and a one-screen setup are also standard. A 16-in. unwind reel is optional. Other features include flight-time compensation for automatic label placement control, shaft encoder input for variable-speed conveyors and a rugged construction.

Videojet Technologies, Inc.,
800/843-3610.
www.videojet.com



Adhesive-pattern controller

The MCP-4 is a low-cost, full-featured adhesive-pattern control system. It offers four channel outputs capable of multiple glue patterns, and four product sensor inputs. An integral, automatic glue-flow control is optional. Program changes and adjustments can be made on-the-fly. Features include plug-and-run connectors and a compact design for fast, easy installation. The controller can be used with a selection of the co.'s cold-glue or hot-melt adhesive dispensing valves, including high-speed, noncontact, spot-gluing, fine-line-gluing and ribbon-pattern gluing valves. It's suitable for applications such as folding carton production, corrugated box-making and other high-speed converting requirements, among others.

Valco Cincinnati, 513/874-6550.
www.valcocincinnatiinc.com

Case erector

The CE-10 case erector is suitable for applications requiring more throughput than manual case erecting can provide, the co. says.

Designed to meet the needs of a range of medium-speed production lines, it erects and bottom-seals corrugated cases at speeds ranging from 500 to 700 cases/hr. Standard features include a low-case, low-tape alarm with a stack light, a powered case magazine and a case counter.

Combi Packaging Systems, LLC, 800/521-9072.
www.combi.com

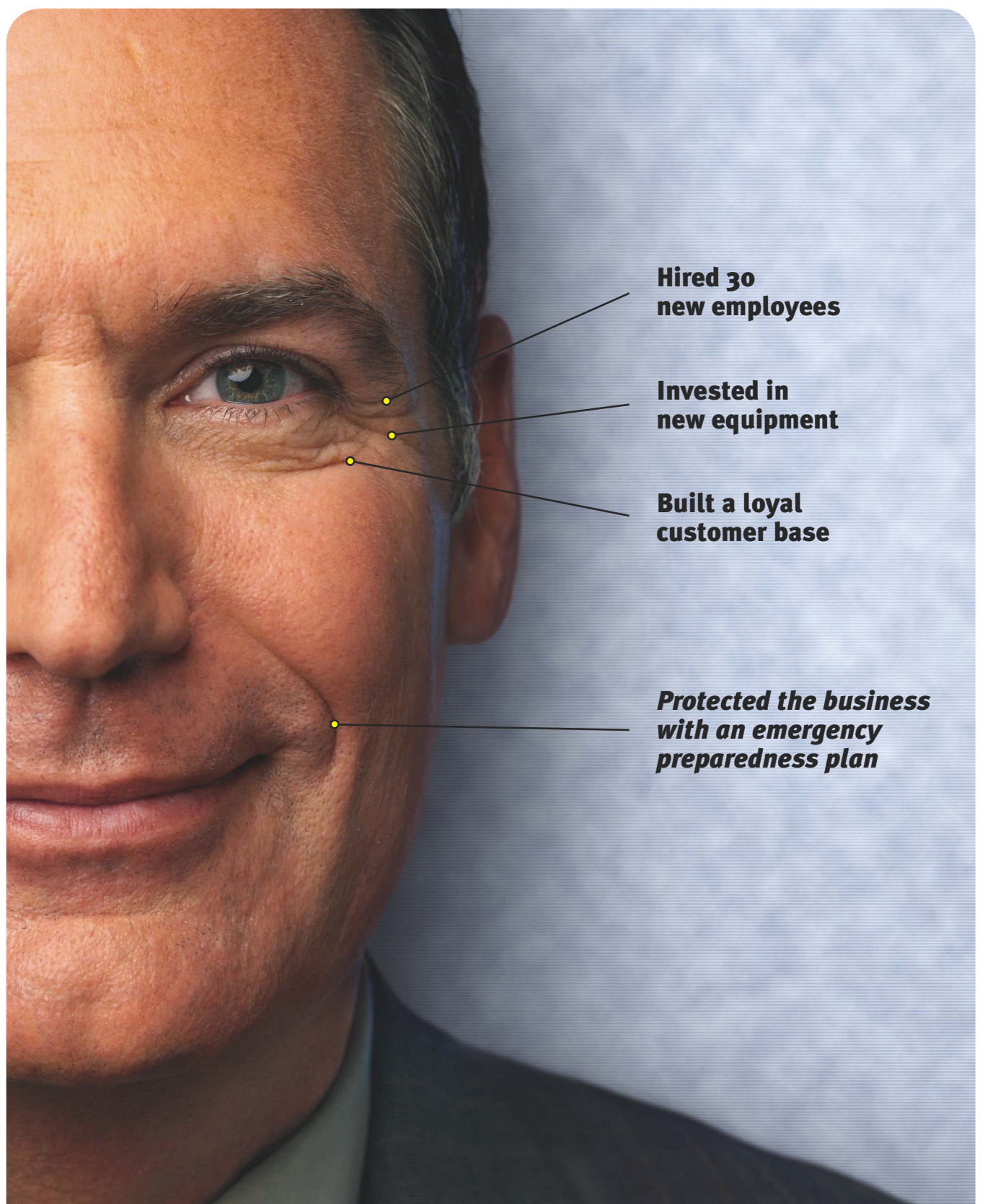
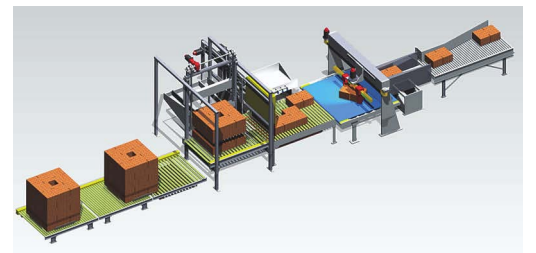


Bundle unitizer

The corrugated bundle unitizer automatically squares flat or taped, loose or tied bundles at rates of up to 20 bundles/min. Featuring a modular design, the unit is available in various configurations to meet the flow requirements of most applications.

Other features and capabilities include soft setups for production changeover and automatic sheet placement. It also supports most industry-standard stack patterns.

Sage Automation, 800/731-9111.
www.sagerobot.com



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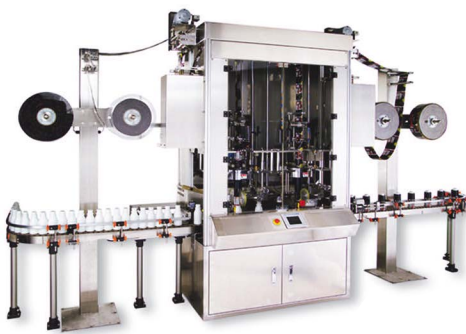


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new products equipment



Shrink-sleeve label applicator

Capable of production rates exceeding 600 containers/min, the EZ-Seal® 600SL can operate in either single- or dual-head mode and features an all-mechanical design with minimal moving parts to ensure smooth operation. Its patented cutting assembly provides high productivity and long blade life, the co. reports. The design facilitates quick, easy container size changes, and a touchscreen operator interface offers ease of operation and system control. **Axon Corp.**, 800/598-8601. www.axoncorp.com

Flat-panel industrial computer

The 4115T is a compact, 15-in. LCD flat-panel industrial computer with a 2.0-GHz Intel Pentium 4 processor, with a 533 MHz system bus and a 512-KB cache. Equipped to run demanding factory automation applications, it also has a 4X AGP graphics controller with up to 64-MB video RAM, and it can handle 3D graphics. Standard features include 10/100 Base-T Ethernet capabilities, two USB 2.0 ports, a parallel port, two RS-232 serial ports and one configurable RS-422/232/485 serial port. It includes PS/2 keyboard and mouse ports, and an additional video port. The unit can also accommodate a half-length PCI expansion card and a Type II CompactFlash™ device. The design also provides several mounting options, including panel mounts in a NEMA enclosure, wall mounts with an included bracket or mounting to a VESA standard arm. It operates in environments ranging in temperature from 32 to 122 deg F and can be configured with up to 1 GB of memory. Additional rotating media devices are available.

Xycom Automation, 734/429-4971. www.xycom.com

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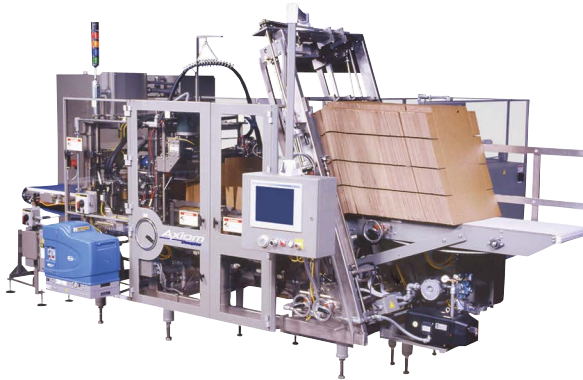
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Case packer The Axiom™ servo case packer incorporates electronic motion control technology to enhance changeover repeatability, machine flexibility and speed. Its scalable design simplifies the addition of future products, the co. says. Smartrak™

steady-stream infeed or other, industry-standard infeed systems are available to provide product handling. The case packer has a stainless-steel frame with a compact footprint and is capable of speeds up to 45 cases or trays/min, depending on the application. Options include a Velocity™ high-speed stacker, servo or mechanical lane dividers and extended-capacity magazines.

Douglas Machine, Inc., 320/763-6587. www.douglas-machine.com



Thermal-transfer printer Available in intermittent and continuous-motion models, the Swing thermal-transfer printer offers high-quality marking—up to 300 dpi—with instant dry time, directly onto plastic packaging film or other smooth surfaces. The Swing printer offers high-speed printing capabilities, up to 196 ft/min. It's capable of printing bar codes, lot codes and other messages, all of which can be input and changed via a built-in keyboard. Applications include plasma bags and lidstock for syringes or pharmaceutical blister-packs. An IP65-rated enclosure is available for use in wet environments.

Matthews Intl., 412/665-2488. www.matthewsmarking.com

Robotic packager/palletizer The Model VP-M200 Series robotic pack/pal cell is an end-of-line system offering case-packing and palletizing capabilities. Its modular, monobloc design promotes flexibility with quick changeovers. It supports most corrugated and chipboard case and tray styles, erecting from flat blanks or knockdowns. The machine's small footprint and flexible layout options make it an alternative to hand-packed lines. Features include a



modular collation station and multifunction, end-of-arm tooling. It provides gluing or tape-sealing of finished cases and trays using an integrated indexing system, and shrink-wrapping trays of product is an option. Systems are available with fully automatic pallet-handling and conveying. The unit is suitable for various food, beverage and other consumer goods applications.

Meypack Packaging Systems USA, LLC, 386/763-3312. www.meypackusa.com

RFID products Designed to make logistical processes more transparent and efficient by reducing storage costs and enhancing supply chain repeatability from a single platform, the SIMATIC RF600 line of RFID products is a coordinated system of matched hardware and software components that utilizes UHF technology. Said to be easily integrated into existing automation and IT systems, the line of components includes stationary and mobile read/write devices and antennas, data carriers, including smart labels and tags, and RFID software that links RFID devices to manufacturing execution systems and enterprise resource planning applications.

Siemens Energy and Automation, Inc., 770/751-4959. www.siemens.com/automation/ms/rf600

Touchscreen control A new PLC touchscreen interface is available for all of the co.'s automated stretch-wrapping systems. The unit provides a range of productivity capabilities, including five preprogrammed wrap patterns that can be changed by the user and switched on-the-fly. The control accommodates custom wrap patterns with separate settings for film overlap, and it includes a new ANSI-compliant signal light and horn for alarms, a complete alarm history and animated help screens that are keyed to faults. The control eliminates the need for a laptop PC to change standard program timers or monitor the PLC I/O for troubleshooting. Free PLC programming software allows access to the control's code for in-depth changes.

Lantech.com, 800/866-0322. www.lantech.com

I/O module The IE2808 IP-Link extension box is an IP67-rated I/O and pneumatic solution for direct mounting on machines. It offers 16 digital 24-VDC outputs, with a 25-pin D-Sub connector providing connection. Each channel handles 0.5 A at 24 VDC, with a total current of 4 A for all connected outputs. Each channel is short-circuit-proof, the co. says, and offers diagnostic capabilities. The IE2808 can be connected at the control level via I/O coupler box modules with a variety of fieldbus interfaces, including PROFIBUS, DeviceNet, CANopen or Ethernet.

Beckhoff Automation, LLC, 952/890-0000.

www.beckhoffautomation.com



Contrast sensor The DK12-11/124/136 contrast sensor provides reference-mark detection in a compact, rugged metal housing. Featuring a three-color lightsource, the DK12 adapts to solve difficult contrast applications, the co. reports. Other features include LEDs for visual status indication and diagnostics, remote or potentiometer teach-in capabilities, a four-in-one output and adjustable M12x1 quick disconnect.

Pepperl+Fuchs, 330/486-0001. www.am.pepperl-fuchs.com





Control panel The PP15 provides users with integrated I/O points for control, positioning and visualization tasks. The display, which is protected to IP65 standards on the front, accommodates 4×20 character resolution and is suitable for simple control and visualization tasks. Its 26-key design simplifies numeric input, allowing the function keys to be dedicated to specific functions. Ten of the keys are equipped with LEDs. The PP15 can access decentralized I/O points or servo drives via a CAN interface. It's available in two models with varying numbers and types of inputs and outputs, and its compact design facilitates functionality across a variety of applications.

B&R Industrial Automation Corp., 770/772-0400.

www.br-automation.com

RFID-printed antenna The Flex Wing™ is a low-cost, RFID-printed antenna, utilizing conductive ink technology to deliver performance comparable to similarly sized copper and aluminum antennas, the co. reports. Available in low-volume quantities, the versatile Flex Wing performs across most EPCglobal-compliant protocols, including Class 1, Class 0+ and Gen 2. It also adapts to most chips used in the industry. The design provides universal functionality at most UHF frequencies. The antenna measures 91×24 mm.

Precisia, LLC, 734/205-6600.

www.precisia.net

Wireless connectors The RadioLinX line of products adds four wireless options. The RLX-FHE frequency-hopping Ethernet component provides simultaneous support of most Ethernet 802.3-compliant protocols, including TCP/IP, EtherNet/IP and Modbus TCP/IP. The RLX-FHES is a frequency-hopping Ethernet component with a serial server.

Users can connect serial and Ethernet devices to one RadioLinX network. The RLX-FHS, a frequency-hopping serial component, provides support for serial protocols including Modbus, DF1, DNP 3.0 and ASCII, with data

rates up to 115 kb/sec full duplex. The RLX-IH is an industrial hot-spot component that provides industrial-grade, high-speed wireless Ethernet links for fixed devices and plant-wide connectivity for mobile users and/or devices. All RadioLinX products provide dual-antenna support, flexible connectivity and peer-to-peer communications and diagnostics. Their rugged design meets CSA and cUL Class 1, Div. 2, Group A-D certifications.

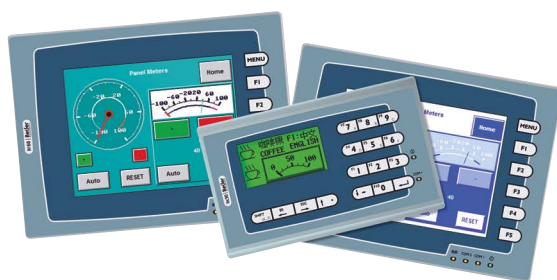
ProSoft Technology, Inc., 661/716-5100.

www.radiolinx.com

Touchscreens The H Series of touchscreen, function-key and hybrid operator interfaces includes 12 different models with screen sizes ranging from 3 to 10.4 in. Equipped with bright, backlit screens ranging from blue-mono STN to 256-color, TFT LCDs, the touchscreens come in Standard, Plus and Network versions. The Standard version features alarm and event management, fully animated graphics, macro or ladder features and flexible, multilanguage support for up to five switchable languages. The Plus version adds to these features comprehensive data and recipe handling and a multifunction port for connecting an external printer or keyboard. The Network version includes all capabilities of the Plus, as well as an integral 10 Base T Ethernet port. The touchscreens include a 32-bit RISC processor and 4 MB of flash ROM.

Beijer Electronics, Inc., 847/619-6068.

www.beijerelectronics.com



Mini conveyor The Tablex MC mini conveyor metal-detection system has a compact, material-handling design and is engineered to detect and remove metal-contaminated tablets and capsules. The system accepts tablets directly from the table-press outlet and conveys them through the metal detector, without any compromise in sensitivity over traditional, gravity-slide systems, the co. reports. The adjustable conveyor infeed and outfeed heights allow the option to eliminate a deduster or vacuum system to lift tablets up to the catch bin. Other features include a diverter-style reject mechanism and a Lexan cover.

Mettler-Toledo Safeline, 813/889-9500.

www.metalldetection.com

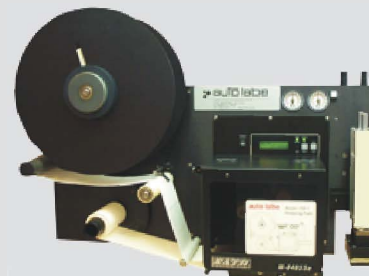


Touchscreen interfaces The Ivory Series is a family of open-platform, CE touchscreen operator-interface computers. Features include USB ports, a compact flash port and RS-232 and RS-485-compatible ports. Internet and network access are facilitated by 10BaseT Ethernet. The series is built on the same platform as the co.'s Silver Series interfaces. The units have a small footprint and a fanless cooling system for ultra-quiet operation.

Maple Systems, Inc., 425/745-3229.

www.maple-systems.com

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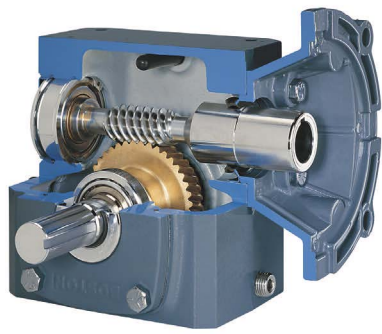
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new products equipment

Pressure-equalization system The PosiVent™ is a pressure-equalization system that's designed to keep water, washdown solutions and airborne contaminants out of gear boxes in food processing and material handling



applications. Featuring a patented design, the system is available on all of the co.'s 700 Series speed reducers, as well as products with washdown protection, such as Bost-Kleen™ or Stainless Bost-Kleen™ treatments. PosiVent is an alternative to traditional vent plugs that can allow contaminants to enter the gearbox during cooldown. It can be mounted in any position without fear of leakage, the co. says.

Boston Gear, 888/999-9860.
www.bostongear.com

Checkweigher The X-Series checkweigher features a stainless-steel body with smooth contours and tool-free maintenance. Designed to meet stringent sanitation standards while reducing line cleaning and changeover time, it includes open modular architecture controls that allow it to bring data from multiple inspection functions together onto a single screen. A 15-in. user interface increases the number of processes a single worker can monitor and control.

Mettler-Toledo Hi-Speed, Inc., 800/836-0836.
www.hispeedcheckweigher.com

Roll-fed labeler The Marathon SL roll-fed labeler is available in a stainless-steel version especially for dairy applications. It's built on a modular platform for application versatility and features SMARTdrive™, a multiaxis servo-motor motion-control system. SMARTdrive uses independent servo motors, communicating on a high-speed digital bus, to synchronize labeling operations. Capable of speeds ranging from 50 to 250 containers/min, the labeler is designed for easy operation. A 10-in. color touchscreen interface provides intuitive drop-down menus, graphics, navigation bars and drop-down keyboards. Key machine setup parameters are stored in a recipe database and are downloaded for each new container type. Security access levels for displays, data entry and system operations are custom-configurable.



B&H Labeling Systems, 209/537-5785.
www.bhlabeling.com

Gen2 RFID labelers The co. modifies its line of RFID-embedded labeling systems, making it compliant with the EPCglobal Class-1, Gen2 UHF RFID standard. The labelers are capable of reading, writing, printing and applying Gen2 tags at speeds of up to 20 to 40/min. Good tags are printed with EPC smart labels and applied to the product, while a quiet tag reject mechanism removes defective tags from the production stream. The design allows the printhead to lift over the RFID chip, preventing damage to the chip and printhead. A foil-save feature prevents transfer-film waste on unprinted areas of the label.

Accraply, Inc., 763/557-1313.
www.accraply.com

Stepper-drive label applicator Designed for high-speed applications, the Model 160 stepper-drive label applicator features a remote keypad control system and self-teach



operation to facilitate setup. Capable of speeds up to 3,000 in./min, the applicator handles web widths up to 6½ in. The stripper plate assembly is fully adjustable and can be extended away from the applicator for precise label placement close to the product. The unit includes a photoelectric sensor for placement accuracy and an LCD operator interface that eases menu selection. Label roll capacity is up to 16 in. outer dia. Left- and right-handed models are available. Options include conveyor systems, spare parts kits and a heavy-duty, adjustable stand, among others.

Auto Labe, 800/634-5376.
www.autolabe.com

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Dec. 7-9 Labelexpo China 2005. *Shanghai New Intl. Centre, Shanghai, China.* 020 8846 2731. www.labelexpo-china.com

Dec. 8 Supply Chain Execution Systems & Technologies Seminar. *Radisson Hotel Atlanta—Windy Hill, Atlanta.* 800/345-1815. www.mbia.org

Dec. 13-16 Upakovka/Upak Italia 2005. *ZAO Expocenter at Krasnaya Presnya, Moscow, Russia.* 312/781-5180. www.mdna.com

2006

Jan. 16-18 Fundamentals of Packaging Technology—Semester 1. *Hilton Garden Inn at SeaWorld Intl. Center, Orlando, FL.* 630/696-4010. www.iopp.org

Jan. 18-20 Fundamentals of Packaging Technology—Semester 2. *Hilton Garden Inn at SeaWorld Intl. Center, Orlando, FL.* 630/696-4010. www.iopp.org

Jan. 18-20 Environmental Summit and Safety Conference. *Trade Winds Island Grand Resort, St. Petersburg Beach, FL.* 410/690-0800. www.flexpack.org

Jan. 22-24 Winter Fancy Food Show. *Moscone Convention Center, San Francisco.* 212/482-6440. www.fancyfoodshows.com

Jan. 24-25 Packaging Innovations in Food & Beverage II. *The Omni Colonnade Hotel, Miami.* 246/417-5420. www.marcusevansbb.com

Jan. 26-27 Career Fair 2006, School of Packaging, Michigan State University. *Kellogg Banquet and Conference Center, East Lansing, MI.* 517/353-6797. www.cc.pkg.msu.edu

Jan. 30-Feb. 1 Package Design 2006 Conference & Technology Exposition. *Hilton Clearwater Beach Resort, Clearwater Beach, FL.* 610/935-2183. www.packstrat.com

Jan. 31-Feb. 2, 2006 WestPack 2006. *Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim, CA.* 310/445-4200. www.westpackshow.com

Feb. 5-7 NovaPack Americas 2006. *Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island, FL.* 609/466-9191. www.schotland.com

Feb. 13-15 Fundamentals of Packaging Technology—Semester 3. *Hilton Garden Inn at SeaWorld Intl. Center, Orlando, FL.* 630/696-4010. www.iopp.org

Feb. 14-15 Aseptipak 2006. *Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Atlanta.* 609/466-9191. www.schotland.com

Feb. 14-18 IPACK-IMA 2006. *Fiera Milano New Exhibition Complex, Rho-Pero, Italy.* 39 02-3191091. www.ipackima.it

Feb. 15-17 Fundamentals of Packaging Technology—Semester 4. *Hilton Garden Inn at SeaWorld Intl. Center, Orlando, FL.* 630/696-4010. www.iopp.org

Feb. 16-17 Interphex Puerto Rico. *Puerto Rico Convention Center, San Juan, Puerto Rico.* 888/745-2529. www.interphexpuertorico.com

Feb. 27-March 1 4th Annual RFID World. *Gaylord Texan Resort, Dallas.* 617/742-7270. www.shorecliffcommunications.com

Feb. 27-March 1 Packaging Strategies 2006 Summit Meeting of the Packaging Industry. *Sawgrass Marriott Resort & Beach Club, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL.* 610/935-2183. www.packstrat.com

March 14-15 HealthPack 2006. *Crowne Plaza Market Center, Dallas.* 763/229-6773. www.healthpack.net

March 21-23 Interphex 2006. *Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, New York.* 888/334-8704. www.interphex.com

March 27-30 Material Handling & Logistics Show and Conference. *I-X Center, Cleveland.* 704/676-1190. www.na2006.org

March 27-30 Westec 2006. *L.A. Convention Center, Los Angeles.* 800/733-4763. www.sme.org/westec

March 27-30 The Total Manufacturing Experience (co-located with Westec 2006). *L.A. Convention Center, Los Angeles.* 800/733-4763. www.sme.org

March 27-30 Automation & Assembly Conference & Exhibits (co-located with Westec 2006). *L.A. Convention Center, Los Angeles.* 800/733-4763. www.sme.org

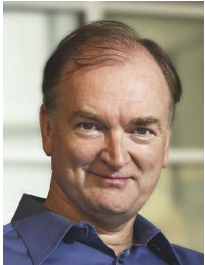
March 28-29 Smart Labels USA 2006. *Westin Copley, Boston.* 305/572-7831. www.smartlabelsusa.com

April 2-5 Adhesive and Sealant Council Spring 2006 Convention and Exposition. *Norfolk Marriott Waterside, Norfolk, VA.* 301/986-9700. www.ascouncil.org

Continued on p. 63

newsmakers

MOVERS & SHAKERS



Chris Lynn
VP of Sales & Marketing
Xaar

Xaar appoints Chris Lynn to the position of vp of sales & marketing. Edsel Lonza is made sales manager for Latin America. With 20 years of experience in the graphics industry, Lynn has held various senior management positions and has

served as a consultant and speaker on technologies for marketing and publishing. Lonza joins the co. from AlphaGraphics, Inc., where he helped establish the franchise in Brazil.

Key Technology, Inc. appoints Jarrod Li to the new position of country manager



Jarrod Li
Country Manager, China
Key Technology, Inc.

for China. He is responsible for bringing the co.'s products and capabilities to Chinese customers in food processing and industrial markets. He's based at the co.'s Shanghai office, which is scheduled to open in '06.

FKI Logistex elevates Ken Thouvenot to

the position of vp of project management and engineering. A 10-year veteran of the co., he most recently served as vp of project management and marketing in the Manufacturing Systems unit. Other promotions include Matt Wicks to director of systems engineering and Brett Felton to the position of intl. sales manager.

Rockwell Automation names Mike Jamieson vp of its beverage industry initiative. Jamieson joined the co. in '98 as a project manager in its global technical support group and has held a



Peter Parker
Business Development
Manager
Gilbreth

variety of management positions. **Gilbreth** welcomes Peter Parker as its new business development manager. He has experience in package engineering and



Ken Thouvenot
VP of Project
Management and
Engineering
FKI Logistex

shrink-sleeve development.

CMM adds Jeff Gallagher as a sales director for the Southeast and West Coast regions. He brings with him more than 15 years of event sales experience with TechTarget, Questex Media and Key3Media.

Sandiacre Rose Forgrove appoints Simon Lagoe to the position of managing director. He has 28 years of experience working in the packaging machinery sector, most of which he spent with Barry-Wehmiller.

Dorner Mfg. Corp. appoints Richard



Richard "Rich" Ryan
COO
Dorner Mfg. Corp.

"Rich" Ryan to the position of COO. He joins the co. after serving in a variety of executive management positions with Rockwell Automation.

Ampac Flexibles—

Converted Products Div. adds Kenneth L. Pouliot, Matt Conlin and Robert L. Biddle as account managers.

Novapak Corp. brings on Rich Frungillo as a regional sales manager.

FleetwoodGoldcoWynd adds Jerry East as its vp of PET bottle technology.

Formerly president of Crown Simplimatic, East has 36 years of experience in the packaging market.

EPG (Essex Products Group) names

Helga Kollegger as sales administrator. In her new role, Kollegger becomes the first contact for current customers and sales inquiries, in addition to serving as the liaison for EPG manufacturer representatives.

Smurfit-Stone Container Corp.

appoints John M. Riconosciuto to the position of COO. He joined the co. in '86 and has served most recently as senior vp and gm, consumer packaging operations. Lane W. Hunter is named senior vp, sales and marketing for the corrugated container operations; John L. Knudsen is made senior vp of manufacturing for corrugated container operations; and Mark R. O'Bryan is appointed as senior vp of strategic initiatives. James P. Davis resigns as senior vp and gm of the container div., **The Institute of Food Technologists' Food Packaging Div.** elects Jung Han as its chairperson for 2005-'06.

Cont. on p.59



Helga Kollegger
Sales Administrator
EPG

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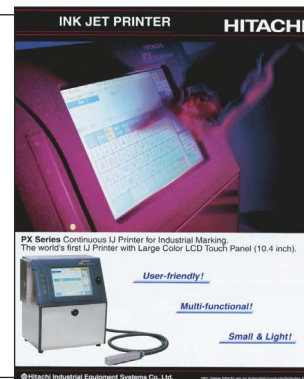


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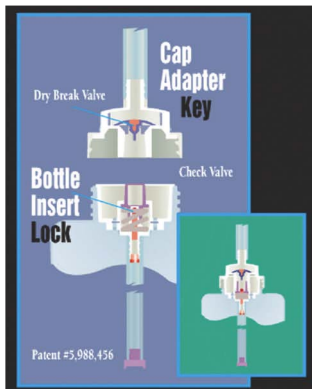


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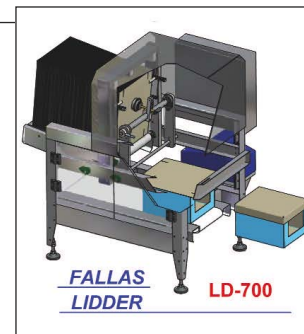
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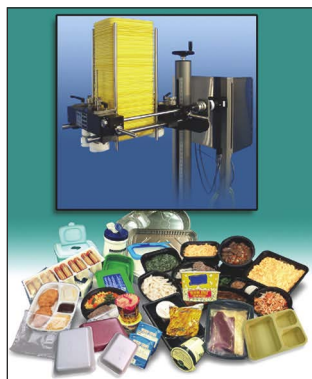


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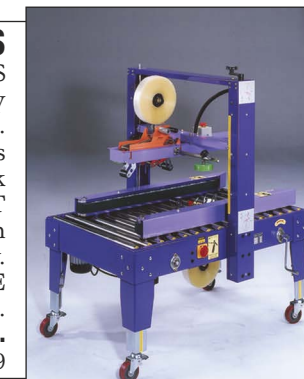


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newsmakers

Cont. from p.57

Beckhoff Automation hires Don Seichter to handle regional sales for the state of Wisconsin. His experience includes 16 years with Giddings & Lewis, where he served as drive and motor product manager.

DS Containers adds Michael Stack as an account manager.

Multivac, Inc. appoints Mark Douglas to the position of director of service operations, where he will oversee the development of the co.'s service and parts business. Dan Mack joins the co. as medical, consumer and industrial market development manager.

UPM Rafsec adds Didier Monchot as area sales manager for South Europe.

Labeltronix promotes John Trail to the position of president. Promoted from vp of operations, Trail has nine years of service with the co. and 20 years of experience in industrial labeling.

Maxcess Intl. appoints Mike Flannigan to sales manager of corporate user accounts. He served most recently as a district sales manager.

IZZE Beverage Co. hires Gil Fronzaglia as executive vp of operations. He has eight years of executive level experience, most recently co-founder and executive vp of Blue Buffalo Co., LLC, a holistic petfood manufacturer.

Cryotech Intl. brings on Tom Bissett as engineering manager, filling the position vacated by Alan Ziegler, who moves up to vp of research and development.

Design North hires Kristin Bochenek as a designer.

warehouse space

Smiths Detection expands its Product Inspection Div. manufacturing facility in Alcoa, TN.

Beckhoff Automation opens regional offices in Duluth, GA, and Bellevue, WA.

Schneider Electric's Industrial Automation & Controls Group creates an Applications & Solutions department to develop customized solutions.

Stahlman Group expands its engineering and design operations, relocating them to a new facility in Concord, NH.

Empire Magnetics moves to a new facility in Rohnert Park, CA, to accommodate increasing demand for its specialty motion control products.

De-Sta-Co opens a new office in Bangalore, India.

DMI, a contract manufacturer and packager of cosmetics, personal care products, health and beauty aids, nutritional and OTC products, expands its Wharton, NJ-based hq to 275,000 sq ft. The addition accommodates the co.'s manufacturing, filling and packaging of aqueous products.

an IT products distributor and systems integrator, making it the value-added distributor for Zebra in China.

MGS Machine Corp. teams up with ProSys to provide a one-stop shop for tube packaging. Integrated systems include an automatic tube-filling machine and an intermittent cartoner.

Smurfit-Stone Container Corp. agrees with Weedon psc, a corrugated point-of-sale display and packaging business, to launch an i2i design center in the U.K. called i2i Europe.

Bosch Rexroth Corp. makes Nashville, TN-based Handling Systems, Inc. a distributor for its aluminum framing and workstation products for Alabama, Mississippi and parts of Florida.

Alliantz Flexible Packaging Pte., Ltd. has been formed as a joint venture between Rollprint Products, Inc., Addison, IL, and Acme Packaging Co. (Pte), Ltd., Singapore. The co. will serve the flexible packaging supply needs of Southeast Asia and China.

AutomationDirect sponsors the Forsyth Alliance team's entry into the 14th Annual FIRST Robotics Competition.

The team, which comprises high school students from across Forsyth County, GA, will be given a 300-lb crate of spare parts and a specific task. It will then have 42 days to design, build, test and ship a robot to accomplish the task.

NatureWorks, LLC achieves a greenhouse-gas-neutral position for its NatureWorks PLA polymer, making it the first such polymer commercially available in the industry, the co. says.

Intl. Paper's Smart Packaging

business changes its name to ASURYS™.

The **Independent Carton Group (ICG)** welcomes Lindenmeyr Munroe Paper Co. as an approved vendor. Headquartered in Purchase, NY, Lindenmeyr will offer a variety of papers to ICG members.

Craig Adhesives and Coatings focuses on three primary market segments—label products, paper, packaging and commercial products and specialty products—to make it more responsive to marketplace demands.

CELEBRATING

Morrison Container Handling

Solutions congratulates Lois Hayworth, vp, for 30 years of service with the co. The **SERCOS interface** for digital controls, drives, I/O and sensors marks its 20th anniversary. First developed in the mid '80s, the interface continues to evolve with the SERCOS III, which it is said will soon be commercially available.

Erie Plastics marks its 45th anniversary. Currently located in a 465,000-sq-ft facility, the co. has grown from humble beginnings in an 8,000-sq-ft building with two injection-molding machines.

Network Services Co. receives the 2005 CIO 100 Award, an annual honor created by CIO magazine recognizing organizations for excellence in IT.

Yaskawa Motoman Mexico, a wholly owned sub. of Motoman, Inc. and Yaskawa Electric America, Inc., celebrates 10 years of operation in Mexico.

BUYING & SELLING

Rexam PLC acquires Precise Technology, Inc., a manufacturer of plastic packaging that's based in Pittsburgh, for \$257.5 million. Precise Technology employs approximately 1,700 people and comprises 15 plants in the U.S., one in The Netherlands and one in the final stages of construction in Poland.

Sun Capital Partners, Inc. adds Exopack Holding Corp. to its stable. Operating as Exopack, LLC, it will continue under the leadership of president and CEO Stan Bikulege.

TGW-Ermanno, Inc. acquires the intellectual property of Quantum Conveyors, LLC, making it the exclusive manufacturer of narrow-belt sortation technology in North America.

Sokymat SA acquires Imasys, a German supplier of RFID inlay manufacturing equipment.

ON THE MOVE

Sonoco closes its Charlotte, NC-based flexible packaging printing plant. The plant employs 67 workers and primarily prints flexographic images on packaging film for confectionery, gum, beverages, cookies, crackers and other salty snacks. The closing is scheduled for completion at the end of Q1 '06.

ID Technology, a div. of Pro Mach, opens a Northwest Region office in Sacramento, CA. It will serve Oregon and the Northern portions of California and Nevada.

Systech Intl. moves into a new worldwide hq in Cranbury, NJ. Twice the size of its previous facility, the new building allows the co. to expand training, demonstration, development and

ACCORDS

Zebra Technologies Corp. forms an alliance with Digital China Holdings, Ltd.,

CALL FOR ENTRIES

The **Healthcare Compliance Packaging Council** opens its competition for the 2005 HCPC Compliance Package of the Year awards. A new category, Innovative Design, has been added to recognize packages not yet commercially available. Entries will be accepted through Feb. 15, '06. For more information, log onto www.unitdose.org or call 703/538-4030.

The Adhesive and Sealant Council is looking for speakers for its '06 spring convention. Abstracts should be submitted by Monday, Jan. 9, '06. Log onto www.ascouncil.org for more information.

CLARIFICATION

In the October issue of PD, the PVC sleeve label supplier named in the Noga Dairy story, p. 22, is Ultrapak. Its facility is located at 134 Franklin Ave., Dunkirk, NY, 14048. For more information, log onto www.ultrapak.net or call 800/228-6030.

HAPPENINGS

Institute of Packaging Professionals (IoPP) selects the Packaging Summit as the new home for its AmeriStar Package Awards Reception.

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5D9472 Moll Auto P/S Front & Back Labeler 800 inches/min
5D9791 Omega Vacuum Pocket Rotary Unscrambler 250cpm
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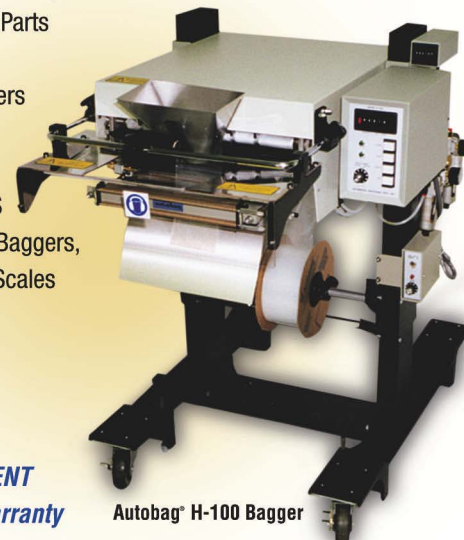
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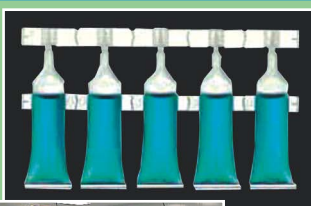
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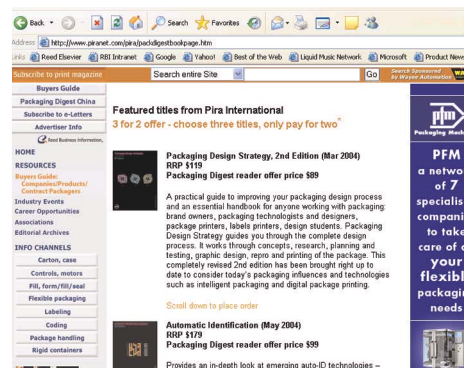
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U.S. food containers demand to reach \$20.7 Billion in 2009

U.S. demand for food containers is projected to expand 3.0 percent per year to \$20.7 billion in 2009, representing 249 billion units. Advances will be stimulated by an expanding population base, rising disposable personal income levels, smaller household sizes, consumer demands for more convenient prepared foods, and trends toward value-added packaging.

Does your packaging, umm, smell?

Does your packaging, umm, smell? If it doesn't, perhaps it should. The latest and greatest packaging innovations are packages that smell. They give those olfactory glands a workout. Watch for packages sporting "fragrances" such as chocolate and vanilla.

Plastics emerge as a favorite for food packaging despite impact of regulations

The rising emphasis on improved quality and extended shelf life for packaged foods are placing greater demands on food packaging. Frost & Sullivan points out that the passing of regulations all over the world only reinforces the need for more innovative and intelligent packaging concepts.

Online Exclusive: Survey says consumers demand better packaging that ensures food freshness

A DuPont survey says that nearly three quarters of U.S. consumers (72 percent) are willing to pay more for improved food and beverage packaging that guarantees freshness. Released in October, the survey was sponsored by DuPont and conducted by Ipsos Public Affairs. It queried 1,172 U.S. consumers in order to identify their food-purchasing attitudes and behavior.

Visit www.packagingdigest.com/info/survey10

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