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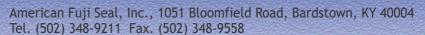


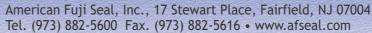




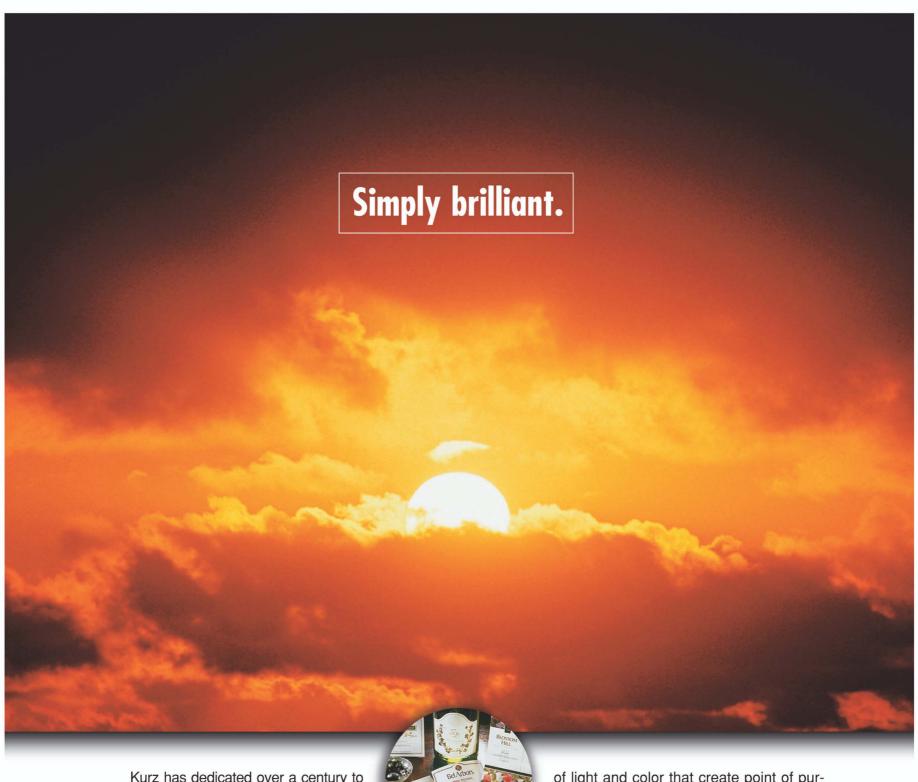
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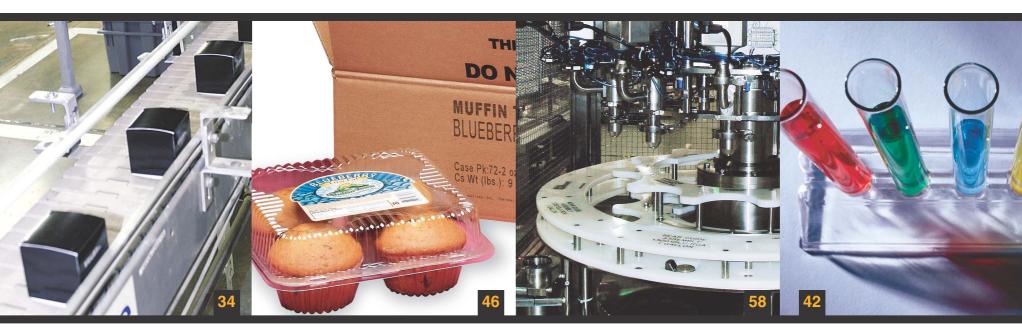
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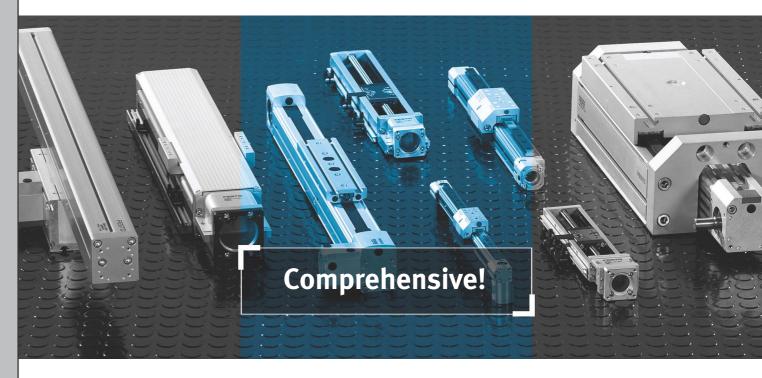


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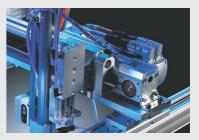
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design trends



PET jar soups up Campbell's in the U.K.

The U.K.'s Campbell Grocery Products Ltd. has launched two bestselling dry-soup brands in a handy polyethylene terephthalate jar manufactured by RPC Containers Blackburn (www.rpcblackburn.co.uk). Available since the fall, the three flavors in the line-Chicken, Golden Vegetable and Tomato—retail in the U.K. under the Batchelor's Cup a Soup brand and in France are part of the Royco Minute Soup brand. Already available in packets containing four to five servings, the larger jar size offers as much as 12 servings to provide a value for core

consumers. Following the success of RPC Blackburn's PET jar design for Campbell's Oxo gravy granules, Campbell decided to use PET again, stating that it's valued by consumers for its modern esthetics, light weight and shatter-resistance.

"The new, multiserve jar makes Cup a Soup more easily accessible for frequent use and gives consumers the flexibility to make their Cup a Soup as strong or weak as they like," says Nicola Richardson, senior brand manager. "Regular Cup a Soup users will also welcome the convenience of a longer supply, ready to hand."

The durable, 300-g PET jar is injection-stretch/blow-molded in a blue color for the Batchelor's brand and in red for Royco to add impact at point-of-purchase. Its curved shape stands out on store shelves and it's easy to handle. The jar is decorated with a full-body shrink sleeve from Fuji Seal Group (www.afseal.com in the U.S.), applied by RPC Blackburn using a steam tunnel to ensure a tight fit that contours to the jar. "Producing a value pack does not mean compromising on quality, and RPC Blackburn's eye-catching, user-friendly container achieves a strong brand image," comments Paul Finch of Campbell's Soups U.K.



Jumex debuts clear-film aseptic drink pack in Mexico

Mexican beverage company Jumex is the first anywhere to adopt Tetra Pak's (www.Tetrapak.com) Tetra Wedge Aseptic Clear package, a triangular-shaped, 100-percent transparent, film version of its Tetra Wedge paperboard/PET barrier package. Jumex rolled out the single-serve package into the Mexican market in May for its Mundo Nautix vitamin-enhanced drink line. The 6.75-oz package's proprietary barrier technology uses silicon oxide/polyethylene terephthalate instead of the paperboard and aluminum foil found in other Tetra Wedge packs, and provides the same oxygen barrier. The packaging material is moisture- and puncture-resistant and comes with a film-wrapped drinking straw attached to the back. The clear package not only provides product visibility but its barriers protect the product. The aseptic processing helps seal in taste and nutrition. With its slim design, smooth sides and no sharp edges, the clear package is a shoe-in for childrens' drinks.

The next step, says Tetra Pak, is to bring the new technology to the U.S. through brands looking for a distinct advantage in the competitive beverage category. In fact, Tetra Pak says it plans to bring the technology to commercialization in the U.S. some time this year.

The new package is the world's first high-barrier, totally clear aseptic package. "The initial response in Mexico to this new product, distributed initially through Wal-Mart, has been great," says Jeff Kellar, Tetra Pak's vp of strategic business development. "And, the initial response from consumers surveyed in the U.S. has been equally promising, with the most common reaction among kids being 'Wow! I've never seen anything like this."

Demand for healthy beverages is on the rise, and Tetra Pak's Vanessa Solmaz, business development manager, says the new package will help fulfill that demand. The 6.75-oz pack allows for both high- and low-acid applications and has a shelf life up to 12 months, depending on the product. Why did Tetra Pak move into film packaging? It says, "this type of packaging makes a unique solution."



Gourmet mint tins provide fresh inspiration

Described by its founders as "a mint company dedicated to making everyday objects beautiful," Oral Fixation LLC, Hopewell, NJ, is making breath freshening fashionable. Offering six varieties of hand-pressed mints in evocative flavors like 7 Deadly Cinnamon (hot cinnamon) and Mojito Mint (lime mint cocktail), "Oral Fix" uses sleek, brushed-metal tins reminiscent of the 1920s, decorated with spare, yet clever, graphics, to transform mints into a "lifestyle accessory." The slim and stylish 0.8-oz tins, sourced from China, hold 38 of the gourmet mints and, once empty, are sized to hold credit and business cards, "making impromptu wallets for a night on the town," says Oral Fix.

Each mint variety displays a diligent attention to detail, with sometimes irreverent, always clever, decoration. All of the tins prominently feature the Oral Fix logo, a stylized image of two figures with their hands crossed to one another's mouths (presumably partaking of the refreshing mints), with the resulting form in the shape of a heart, embossed on the tin's top half. Above the logo is the tagline "Get Your Fix®." From there, each tin is customized to play off the variety name. For example, Classical Peppermint uses a silver tin decorated at the bottom with a musical motif, featuring artistically rendered conductors across a musical staff. Inside the tin, a wax paper sheet atop the mints is delicately decorated with the draft of Beethoven's Sonata Pathetique. The mints, hand-pressed in a factory in Pennsylvania, bear an imprint of a treble clef note on one side, and the word "fix" on the other. On the back of the tin, along with the Nutrition Facts box and company information, is the directive "Compose Yourself."

In contrast, 7 Deadly Cinnamon, in a deep red tin, uses a Garden of Eden theme, with snakes sleekly slithering along each side of the pack, and an illustration of an apple core on the front. Declared "Damned Delicious" on the back of the tin, the mints are pink and are stamped with a "7" on one side. The wax-paper insert is a cartoon-like representation of "The Legendary Nostradamoo," who "predicted that in the year 2093, Oral Fixations will become the eighth deadly sin...Enjoy them while you can."

Other varieties include Sugar Free Tibet (wintergreen) in a blue tin; Night Light (caffeinated chai) in a black tin holding orange mints; and Spare Mint (spearmint) in a flatwhite-painted tin. According to Oral Fix, the mints are now available on more than five continents in more than 700 locations, including cultural centers, hotels, resorts, museums, gift shops, restaurants and cafés. Designed for gift giving, the Oral Fixation 6 Pack is available on the company's website (www.oralfix.com) for \$15 and includes each of the six flavors, with the tins standing upright in a colorful, compact case.

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Easy-open cans streamline meat spreads

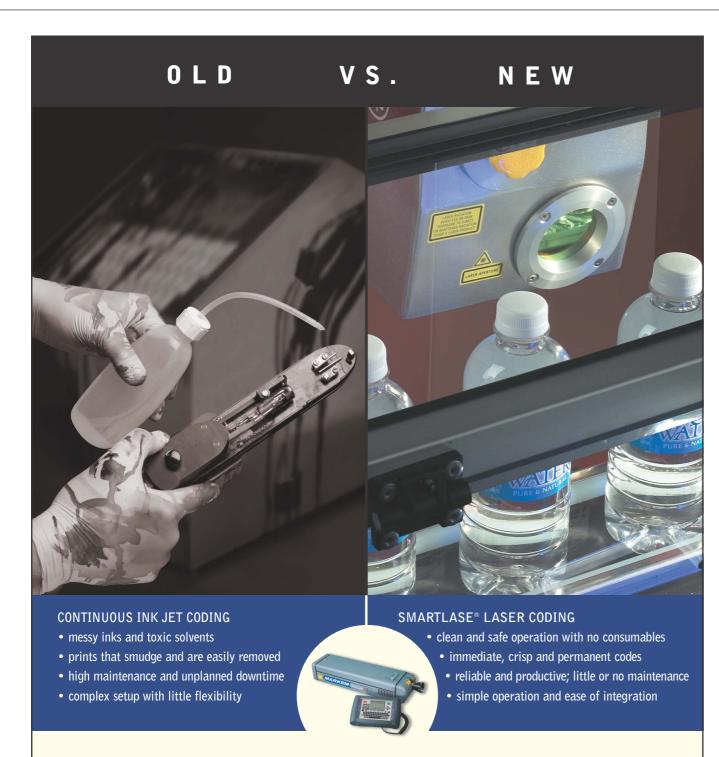
France's ready-made meal producer William Saurin has launched a new line of meat spreads called Délice Confit for its affiliated Paul Prédault brand in easy-open, easy-to-dispense-from cans. Provided by Crown Food Europe, an affiliate of **Crown Holdings, Inc. (www.crowncork.com)**, the gold cans are sleeved in a custom, decorative paperboard carrier and each contains 125-g of pâté and meat spreads in chicken, duck and pork-liver flavors.

The steel cans maximize consumer convenience with their advantages. Crown developed the cans with a wide-mouth end and "necked-out" shape that's suitable for

terrines, pâtés, rillettes, tuna slices and other similar products. The cans also feature Crown's Eole-IIITM easy-open ends in a new 73-mm size. This diameter enables

compatibility for the first time between a 125-g can and easy-open technologies, which include $\mathsf{Eole}^\mathsf{TM}$ ends and $\mathsf{PeelSeam}^\mathsf{TM}$ peelable lids, according to Crown.

The Delice Confit cans join those for Saurin's Salades Gourmandes meat salads, which were also developed by Crown and won a DuPont Diamond Award (see PD, Sept. 2005, p. 28). The new spreads debuted in September throughout France.



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Coca-Cola Blâk debuts worldwide in aluminum

The Coca-Cola Company, Atlanta, says it will launch Coca-Cola Blâk in January in France—the first of several countries, including the U.S.—that are expected to market the new beverage and coffee fusion in 2006. Described as an invigorating and stimulating beverage blend with the effervescence of Coca-Cola and natural flavors, with real coffee, Coca-Cola Blâk also features new packaging technology in the form of an aluminum bottle. The mid-calorie beverage is being unveiled in a distinct cola-colored, black/brown aluminum bottle, shaped similarly to the company's signature contoured green bottle in glass. The aluminum container is similar to the aluminum designer bottle Coke launched for regular Coke in upscale nightclubs earlier this year in five limited-edition designs. Coca-Cola Blâk, described as a lightly carbonated beverage, was created to appeal to adults and reaches out to new audiences and addresses new beverage occasions. "Coca-Cola Blâk is not just a flavor extension, it's a blend of unique Coke refreshment with the true essence of coffee and has a rich smooth texture and a coffee-like froth when poured," says Marc Mathieu, vp of Coke's Global Core Brands. Exal Group's (www.exal.com) Boxal facilities in France provide the proprietary aluminum containers in a 25-cL size for distribution in that country.

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design trendsfood packaging

Sargento looks to wine for cheese-packaging update

Sargento Foods has given the packaging for its large line of cheeses a new look. The 52-year-old leader and innovator of shredded and sliced cheeses decided the time was right for a graphic update. The result of a two-year research initiative to more deeply communicate brand identity and create more visual appeal in the cheese case, the changes apply to the entire product line of shredded and sliced cheeses and cheese snacks in

flexible barrier-film pouches, canisters and cups. Targeting busy moms who want dinner in less than 30 minutes, Sargento is also seeking to deepen its relationship with consumers who like to cook and view it as creative expression. Milwaukee-based design firm Hare Strigenz Design (www.hare-strigenz.com) helped Sargento create a burgundy-wine color scheme with scenic illustrations that help the proprietary, multilayer film packs

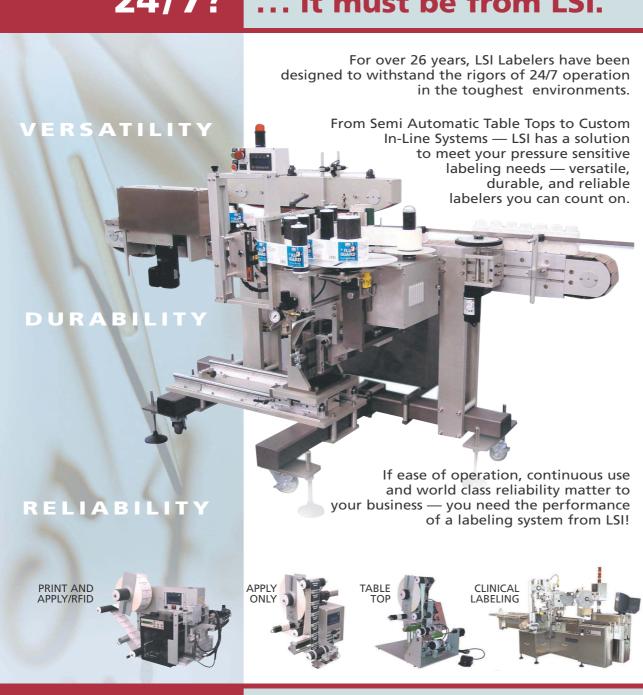
stand out. Alcan, Inc. (www.alcan.com) and Curwood (www.curwood.com) flexo-print most of the packs in up to eight colors. They began shipping in November.



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'Tastee' skillet meals come in pouch

Tastee Choice Food Products is launching a new line of gourmet frozen skillet meals featuring top-quality ingredients in brightly printed, flexible standup pouches. Featuring rich graphics, the packages hold 24 oz of meal components in four varieties, including two Asian Style meals with shrimp, rice and vegetables and two Mediterranean Style meals with shrimp, pasta and vegetables that are quick to prepare and can go from freezer to table in 10 minutes.

"We have control of the raw material from the land and ocean, to the factory, all the way to the finished product in U.S. stores," says Tastee Choice's president and CEO Jose Thomas. To maximize package appeal with superior print quality, the company says it chose a standup pouch produced and printed in India with design, prepress assistance and print assistance and brand innovation provided by California-based design agency

Pyramid Creative Studios (www.pyramidcreativestudios.com).

Available nationally, the glitzy, metallized film pouches are made of polyethylene terephthalate/PE extrudate/metallized PET/linear-low-density PE. They display vivid, eight-color, gravure-printed graphics and full-panel product photography of the meals to spur impulse purchases and whet the appetite. The line's price points are said to be equally pleasing to consumers and retailers alike, the company says. Combined with rigorous quality processes, exotic menu descriptions and



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The Internet can be a valuable tool for conducting research and finding information from reputable sources. For example, in early December, Kline & Company (www.klinegroup.com) held a webinar to discuss the findings of a recent study, *High-Performance Barrier Packaging Films USA 2005: Business Analysis and Opportunities.* Their research reveals that food applications represent a \$1.1 billion market for barrier packaging film in the U.S., with an overall \$3 billion market for flexible packaging that incorporates barrier films. According to Kline's analysts, barrier packaging films are forecast to grow at nearly 15 percent annually, as film suppliers and converters invest in process improvements in order to reduce costs and remain competitive.

According to Kline's study, the market for barrier films in packaging for perishable food is growing at about 5.3 percent annually, while growth in dry food applications is lower. Perishable foods represent an impressive 80 percent of the value of barrier films in food applications. This is mostly due to the higher barrier requirements typically achieved using film structures with more layers, which increases the value of the film significantly. "Convenience food is one of the fastest-growing segments of consumer packaged goods," says Sharon Derbyshire, senior associate in the Chemicals and Materials practice for Kline's research division. "The demand for products that cut down on meal preparation, such as value-added meat, heat-and-eat entrées, and products packaged in microwavable pouches, is expected to intensify, and this presents some significant opportunities to film suppliers and converters."

Food companies have resisted attempts by film suppliers and converters to pass along price increases that have been driven by jumps in resin and energy costs, the study says, but newer coextrusion technologies allow for higher performance at a lower cost. In addition to reduced material costs, food packagers favor flexible packaging for its reduced freight and means of source reduction. All of these trends bode well for a market that is poised for continued growth.

Derbyshire also notes that dry mixes, confections and snack bars, and petfood segments are growing quickly and offer attractive opportunities for growth. As a result of trends toward health consciousness and the demand for portable food, there has been a 20-percent spike in the growth rate of adult-oriented functional bars over the last few years. Metallic films are particularly favored for their high graphic appeal.

As U.S. consumers are focusing more on portion control, they are also depending on food packagers to help them determine a true single-serving size.

For information on purchasing this study, go to www.klinegroup.com/Y381a.htm or e-mail gillian_morris@klinegroup.com.





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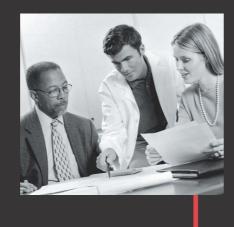
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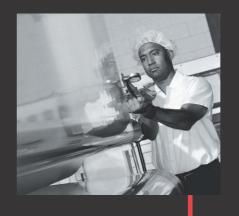


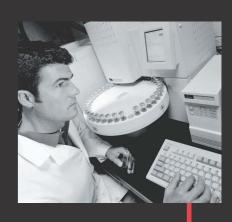


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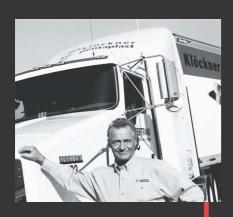
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Thermal-transfer printer The EasyPrint X in-line thermal-transfer printer has been enhanced with the ability to print on intermittent moving webs and a new, 5-in. printhead. Developed in cooperation with Sealed Air's Cryovac div. for applications that require protection from harsh environments, the printer combines the capabilities of the original model with an IP65 rating. It offers a viable thermal-transfer solution to markets such as meat processing and packaging, poultry, dairy and prepared foods. Variable data is printed directly onto substrates such as poly, film, foil and Tyvek™. The printer is mountable to packaging machines from a variety of manufacturers. Bell-Mark Corp., 973/882-0202. www.bell-mark.com

Digital case printer The Optimizer-HC is a high-capacity digital case printer that prints both RSCs and thin, die-cut blanks. Capable of speeds up to 60 cases/min, it features a 4-ft infeed magazine that accommodates



vacuum pick system pulls
the lower edge of each front case
forward, dropping it onto the horizontal feeder. The
feeder then moves the case to the print cylinder. The
printer's print mechanism employs a computergenerated printing stencil to achieve exacting
placement of high-resolution print anywhere within a 32×11 -in. print area.

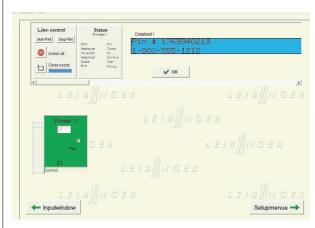
Iconotech, 800/521-0194. www.iconotech.com

www.satoamerica.com



Ink-jet printer The Model 4040 ink-jet printer has a Windows-based controller that makes selecting text, graphics, logos, bar codes and 2D codes for print easy. Producing true 180×200 resolution with ANSI-grade readability, it's capable of printing most fonts and alphabets up to 71 mm high, with a single head. It can drive up to four printheads for large messages, or simultaneously print on multiple sides of cases. Creating and editing messages is facilitated by a WYSIWYG display and a wide VGA screen. The printer features a choice of RS-232, 422 and 485 communication ports, as well as Ethernet and USB ports. A standalone floorstand eases integration onto existing production lines. Maintenance requirements are said to be minimal, with easy nozzle priming and cleaning.

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



Coding software Winjet software provides high-speed printing of database records utilizing up to 17 Jet 2 ink-jet printers. Unique data can be printed on individual items at high production rates. Winjet systems can be used for sequential or variable text and bar codes on most applications requiring variable data. **Leibinger Numbering Machines**, **L.P.**, 203/853-0022.

www.leibingerusa.com

XML-enabled printers The e-Series of printers now includes the co.'s XML-enabled 3.0 printing capability, providing a simple and easy-to-manage interface for printing RFID and bar-code labels from the SAP® Auto-ID Infrastructure component to the SAP NetWeaver® platform. The ability to simultaneously encode this data in an RFID tag and print the bar-code label without requiring middleware is designed to save users' time and money, the co. reports. SAP NetWeaver is an integration and application platform that works with existing IT infrastructures to enable and manage change. SAP Auto-ID Infrastructure, NetWeaver's key component, provides the capabilities to integrate all automated communication and sensing devices.

Sato America, Inc., 704/644-1650.

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new productsequipment

Thermal-transfer coders The SmartDate® 5 line of thermal-transfer coders includes two models and provides flexibility and reliability, the co. states. The SmartDate 5 can perform reconfiguration from intermittent or continuous mode in less than 5 min.



The SmartDate 5s features advanced, patented shuttle technology to achieve print speeds of up to 1,800 mm/sec, and it can be used on bagging machines with rapidly changing speeds. Both models feature Digital Ribbon Management (DRM), which offers direct drive of the ribbon using motor technology. Other features include Digital Ribbon Advance (DRA) and Digital Ribbon Save (DRS), which both offer ribbon-consumption savings. The coders

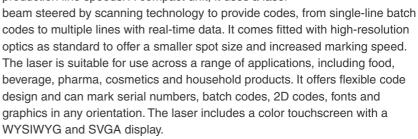
can accommodate a range of 2D and RSS bar-coding standards, and it's compliant with the 21 CFR Part 11 standard. PackML software is embedded for OMAC compliance. Applications include snack foods, confectionery, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, baked goods and frozen foods.

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

Ink-jet coders The Gottjet line is based on HP's industrial ink-jet cartridges and provides environmentally friendly, efficient drop-on-demand printing using color, black and UV/IR inks. Designed for easy installation and setup, the coders do not require priming or cleaning solutions. They're network capable and offer plug-andplay operation. Capable of printing dynamic and fixed text and data and bitmaps, and secured PDF files, the coders provide integrated bar code support for 2 of 5 and 3 of 9 Interleave, Code 128, Data Matrix, HIBC, UPC A&B and more. Options include a network-ready, pedestal-mounted industrial computer, a bulk pack-feed system, and an FDA 21CFR Part 11-compliant software module.

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

Scribing laser The S200W scribing laser system is designed for high-quality coding applications and is capable of printing large codes while meeting high production line speeds. A compact unit, it uses a laser



Domino Amjet, Inc., 847/244-2501. www.dominoamjet.com

Clip applicator The semi-automatic, 3M-Matic™ S-867 L-clip tape applicator applies high-performance Scotch™ tapes at speeds of up to 50 L-clips/min. Capable of handling 9- to 36-mm tapes, the system can handle filament tapes, high-performance box-sealing tapes and strapping tapes. The unit's design eliminates the

lubricator, simplifying operation and reducing maintenance, the co. says. A redesigned control panel deters operator tampering, making operation more consistent. Controlled tape-leglength prevents waste, and durable buffing rollers help ensure secure tape closures. Applications include fulloverlap, full-telescope, five-panel shipping containers and custom die-cut cases. 3M Industrial Adhesives & Tapes Div., 800/567-1639. www.3m.com/packaging

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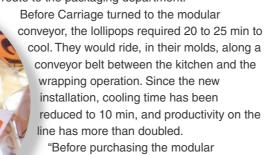
new products applications

Modular conveyour cools candy, doubles productivity

London, On-based Carriage Candy Co. has installed a DynaCon modular conveyor with a variable-speed drive and attached cooling fans from **Dynamic Conveyor Corp.** (www.dynamicconveyor.com) to provide a cost-

effective solution for cooling its Kapow! Pops brand of lollipops.

The lollipops are cooled by 215 deg F on a 14-ft conveyor en route to the packaging department.



conveyor, we were convinced that we could improve product flow. All we needed to do was efficiently lower the temperature of the lollipops,"

Bob Edgecombe, principal and plant manager for

Carriage Candy Co., tells PD. "Initially, we thought about purchasing a cooling tunnel for our existing conveyor. But they were

expensive and might not have been adaptable to our future needs."

Carriage purchased a modular system with 32 attachable fans that cool the lollipops in trays riding on a link belt. The fans draw air from underneath the open belt, blowing it onto the molds and cooling them, Edgecombe explains. The system's variable-speed drive enables the conveyor operator to adjust the speed of the belt as required to ensure that the candy is sufficiently cooled before it arrives for wrapping.

The system is efficient, expandable and easy to service, says Edgecombe. It can be expanded by adding the necessary number of 18-in. modules and adding links to the belt. The easy-to-clean belt can be removed from the conveyor, scrubbed in the sink and put right back on.

Dynamic Conveyor Corp., 800/640-6850. www.dynamicconveyor.com

Once-rejected bidder rescues new DC

A lost order for **Lantech (www.lantech.com)** and **Gerrard Ovalstrapping (www.goval.com)** turned into an opportunity to define the phrase "value-added" when the two companies put together a 9-1-1 rescue of the startup of a new consumer goods distribution center in Brantford, ON. Operating 24 hr/day, the pick-to-order operation ships a variety of goods to customers in quantities ranging from individual cases to entire truckloads.

Three weeks after its official opening date, the distribution center still didn't have the stretch wrappers that were promised for delivery six weeks before the opening date.

"We were limping along with loaner machines that were not like what we ordered," says Dhon MacKinnon, project manager for JNE Consulting, Ltd., of Burlington, ON, the owner's site representative responsible for the facility's operating equipment. "After listening to excuses for seven weeks, we turned to Lantech and Gerrard Ovalstrapping."

Two-and-one-half weeks after placing an order, the distribution center received two Lantech S-300XT overhead stretch wrappers, MacKinnon tells PD. The machines were assembled and run off the next day, and were put into full production, with guarding and fence enclosure in place, five days after their arrival.

The stretch wrappers, which are each capable of wrapping up to 40 loads/hr, are suitable for mixed-height loads. A push of a button is the only operator



intervention required to wrap a load, up to the machine's 110-in.-high capacity. The machines attach the film to the load and cut it after wrapping. Factory-configured for 250-percent film prestretch, they accommodate variable actual wrap force.

Lantech, 800/866-0322. www.lantech.com Gerrard Ovalstrapping, 905/632-3662. www.goval.com





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www.autobag.com

Barrier film Featuring Dow
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the co. offers coextruded, wide-width,
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as coffee, cheese, soup, snack foods, cereal, processed meats, pet food and medical products.
Targeted for highoxygen-barrier applications that are subjected to moisture, the

films are ideal for applications where flex cracking is an issue, the co. says. Also providing flavor and aroma barriers, the coextrusions are microwaveable and can be used in conjunction with other barrier resins to accommodate additional oxygen barrier or toughness properties. The film's thickness can be varied to produce longer shelf life, depending on the application.

Ampac Flexibles—Performance Films, 513/671-1777. www.ampaconline.com

Foil stick-pack The liquid stick-pack is a foil-laminate, tube-like packette for single-use applications. Available in sizes ranging from 1 to 30 mL, it features a directional flow-channel, can accommodate flexo-printing of text and graphics, and is suitable for use with cosmetics and more. **Unette Corp.**, 973/328-6800.

www.unette.com



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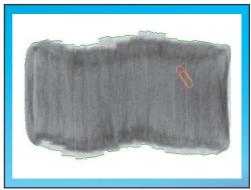
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MonoSol, LLC, 219/762-3165.

www.monosol.com

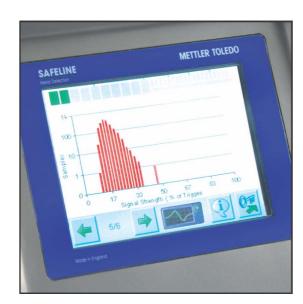
Cup/container technology Its rights recently acquired from Autonational BV, IMage™ technology is an expandable polystyrene (EPS) used to manufacture cups and containers that supports graphics and provides hot and cold insulation. IMage facilitates the molding and printing of stylish cups in a single step. It provides rigidity and strength, making it suitable for applications ranging from hot and cold beverage cups to containers for ice cream or soup. It's said to provide elegance, smooth texture and stunning graphics that present opportunities for growth and brand differentiation.

Nova Chemicals Corp., 412/490-4000. www.novachemicals.com

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Plastic-printing process

I-POP™, or Image-Printing on Plastic, is a printing process that can be used to print graphics on thermoformed packaging. Capable of printing full-color processes or up to six flat colors on most styrenic plastics, I-POP allows users to enhance product retail visibility and brand identity, the co. states. Graphics can be supplied by the user or developed by the co.'s design team. **Tray-Pak Corp.**, 888/926-1777. www.traypak.com

Closures NutraFlapper® closures feature a single-piece design that delivers dispensing convenience. Manufactured of PP. the closures are available for 33/400, 38/400, 45/400 and 53/400 bottle finishes and are suitable for applications such as dry food additives, weight control and sports nutrition supplements, vitamins and crafts, among

others. A selection of liners is available for each closure. The 53/400 closure comes with a glossy finish; the other sizes are available with a matte finish. Weatherchem Corp., 330/405-7733. www.weatherchem.com

Vegetable carton The Hydro-Armour™ carton utilizes a water-resistant paper and film-laminate technology to make it submersible and able to withstand the high-moisture chilling used in hydrocooling. An alternative for styrofoam boxes, it can be used for on-demand applications. It comes in black for retail display, or it can be printed to promote brand identity. Recyclable, the carton eliminates foam fragments and is said to allow more vegetables/pallet.

Amcor Fibre Packaging, 03 8805 7222.

www.amcor.com

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egaimpact Eric Greenberg, Attorney-at-Law

Will the road get bumpy for counterfeiters? And for you?



atch out: The U.S. Food & Drug Administration thinks that the voluntary approach to implementing radio frequency identification (RFID) for drug packaging is moving too slowly. If voluntary steps don't work, mandatory ones might be next.

This is just one of several recent developments in the realm of threats to drug product integrity.

The problem of drug counterfeiting is perhaps the greatest current threat to the drug marketplace. Aspects of the issue have been discussed here in the past (see, for example, PD, April '04, p. 22).

More and more consumers are shopping for prescription drugs and dietary supplements online, driven by the search for lower prices or by the perceived lack of available therapies in the U.S. The drug distribution system in the U.S. is already complex—many hands touch most of the drugs between the manufacturer and consumer, and FDA says that multiplies the opportunities for counterfeits to get into the distribution stream. These online

orders add another potential source of introduction of counterfeits.

As FDA has correctly noted, a range of packaging technologies, like latent codes and inks, holograms, bar codes and RFID, can work well to thwart counterfeiters and limit the effects of their nefarious actions. Technologies that allow manufacturers and distributors to confirm the authenticity of a particular product or package, and to track their movements, will be increasingly important to combat counterfeiting.

In November, FDA associate commissioner Randall Lutter, Ph.D., told a conference audience that when the agency had decided to allow industry to continue its steps to implement RFID as a method of "electronic track and trace," it had expected that market trends already in place would be sufficiently established by 2007 to make mandatory requirements unnecessary.

The 2007 date was relevant because FDA had decided to stay, or hold off on, its regulations fleshing out the requirement for drug "pedigree" recordkeeping under the 1988

Prescription Drug Marketing Act until the end of 2006. FDA figures that the electronic pedigree will more than meet the requirements of the law.

And the drug counterfeiting problem, while still evidently a bigger concern in other nations, is not going away by itself—not hardly. In keeping with the tendency of counterfeiters to pick on the big-name, big-sale drugs, sure enough, some counterfeit bird-flu drug was discovered and seized by customs agents in San Francisco in November. Labeled as generic Tamiflu, the counterfeit product was grabbed up as someone was trying to send it into the U.S. The seized product reportedly had none of the active ingredient of Tamiflu.

The fake Tamiflu, however, is a completely different problem than products making phony claims of effectiveness against bird flu, something that at least nine companies allegedly have been doing recently. FDA hit all of them with Warning Letters. Eight of the products were ostensibly dietary supplements (though their claims of effect on disease rendered them drugs). The fact that consumers are relying on these unproven products "increases the risk of catching and spreading the flu rather than lessening it because people assume they are protected and safe, and they aren't," notes acting FDA commissioner Andrew von Eschenbach, MD.

A further, different problem is the apparently false "Canadian" drugs being ordered online by consumers. An FDA investigation found that many of the drugs that consumers recently bought online, thinking they were from Canada—which many people consider an indicator of reliability when making such purchases—were actually from other countries.

FDA urges caution to any consumer ordering drugs or other medical products online. Many online pharmacies are legitimate and offer convenience, related services and, often, good prices. FDA warns that imported drugs ordered online

present additional questions, since they may not be approved by FDA or may not have been made, labeled or distributed in accordance with FDA requirements.

For example, an FDA release says, "Of the drugs being promoted as 'Canadian,' based on accompanying documentation, 85 percent actually came from 27 countries around the globe." FDA examined incoming parcels at three U.S. airports. The parcels came from India, Israel, Costa Rica and Vanuatu (a South Pacific island nation). Out of about 4,000 parcels, nearly 1,700 had been ordered from so-called Canadian Internet pharmacies. These drugs were said to be from Canada, but only 15 percent of them turned out to be from that country. Many of the products lacked proper English-language labeling. What's more, some of these products were counterfeit.

Because FDA's Counterfeit Drug Task Force identified RFID as a technology with unique promise to attack the problem, the agency is planning some steps to help speed the progress of the technology into the marketplace. It will hold workshops for the public in early 2006 aimed at helping industry efforts to set standards for RFID technologies and discuss pedigree issues generally.

The push and facilitation these meetings provide might aid in the further development of RFID for drug packaging in the next year. This could help the industry avoid the unpleasant prospect of an FDA-ordered implementation. The counterfeiting problem does not appear to be going away, so the pressure for these measures cannot be expected to lessen, either.

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@uhlaw.com, or by phone at 312/977-4647.

The counterfeiting problem does not appear to be going away, so the pressure for RFID measures cannot be expected to lessen, either.

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Glossy bags give entrées a boost

Advance Brands' sales soar with the launch of gravure-printed flexible pouches with enticing product photography for its Fast Fixin' lines of fully cooked chicken, beef and pork entrées.

Anne Marie Mohan, Senior Editor

hen it comes to taking the pulse of consumers, Advance Brands, Oklahoma City, has worked with almost medical precision to understand consumers' desires for flavorful and easy-to-prepare meal solutions delivered

in packaging that is convenient and inviting. Through trial and error and the willingness to break from tradition in order to address these needs, Advance Brands has become the third-largest brand in the processed poultry category, with an average growth rate of 30-plus percent per year for the past three years.

Advance Brands was formed in 2001 as a joint venture between Advance Food Company, a provider of portion-controlled meat products primarily for the foodservice industry, and Cargill Meat Solutions Corp., which distributes fresh, cooked and marinated meats to foodservice and retail customers. Explains Bill McPherson, vp of sales and marketing for Advance Brands, the new company was established to sell branded retail product.

In 1982, Advance Food Company entered the retail market with its Advance Fast Fixin'® line of trayed, fully cooked meat products, but it wasn't until 1998 that it began heavily promoting the brand. At that time, it redesigned the logo and packaging, moving from flexo-printed bags and cartons to

resealable, gravure-printed flexible pouches from Nordenia USA, Inc. (www.nordeniausa.com), and the brand took off.

Says McPherson, "You can really trace a lot of the growth of our company back to when we launched that type of packaging. We did a lot of focus groups to determine whether we should do boxes or bags, what

In this business, it's all about time-to-shelf, quickness to market. So really, your printer is your partner.

the packaging should look like and whether consumers should be able to see the product. Putting that all together and launching that line has really been the growth vehicle that we've ridden for the last four or five years."

dvance Brands' core convenience line is the Fast Fixin' Value Line, which is available nationwide in most retail grocery chains. Comprising fully cooked, breaded and charbroiled beef, chicken, pork, turkey and veal

entrées, the products are marketed in both the freshmeat and freezer cases. According to Bridget Little, senior manager of consumer marketing for the company, the line was created to provide quality, variety and value. Among the top-selling items in the line are Chicken Breast Nuggets, Chicken Breast Strips and Popcorn Chicken.

Introduced five years ago, the Fast Fixin' Restaurant Style line of chicken and beef entrées duplicates some of the more popular takeout items found in family-style restaurants. More than 25 varieties make up the line, including Chicken Breast Tenders, Country Fried Steaks, Fire Roasted Chicken Breasts, Steak Fingers, Philly Steaks, Beef Burgers and more. Earlier this year, Advance Brands launched its first ready-to-cook product, Fast Fixin' Sirloin Philly Beef Steak.

When the Fast Fixin' line was first introduced, it consisted of products such as chicken nuggets and strips packaged in polystyrene trays and covered with shrink-wrapped film that were displayed in the fresh meat case. Says Little, "Ten years ago, that's how most of these products were packaged. If consumers were buying meat out of the fresh-meat case, they wanted to feel that it had been wrapped up in the back of the store and was really fresh."

Advance Brands' first effort at rolling out a bag in 1996 "was a very poor one," McPherson recalls. "It Continued on page 28

Hewlett Packard Ink Technology is key to Nutec Systems' new In-Line Coding System

Unique system can be integrated into existing packaging lines.





A major challenge to many pharmaceutical and medical device carton printing

operations is met at WestPack 2006.

The challenge has been to find an integrated product handling and digital inkjet system capable of printing lot, expiration and bar codes with vision verification that is easily inserted into an existing packaging line to meet regulatory requirements. If that in-line carton coding system were available from a single supplier capable of providing validation documentation for the integrated system, that would be even better.

Such a system would allow existing packaging operations to add a high-resolution coding and vision system without having to go back to the OEM equipment manufacturer for major modifications. It would avoid the expense of revalidating existing equipment, and ensure a reliable, quality process.

That challenge is met with the introduction of Nutec Systems, Inc.'s new Pharmacarton Coding System. The Pharmacarton Coding System overcomes the problem of printing high-density codes within the packaging line by completely controlling the carton during the printing and vision inspection/verification process. Carton control is provided by a conveyer with top or side hold-down belts.

The turn-key system integrates a Wolke m600 thermal inkjet printer which uses Hewlett Packard inkjet technology, a SeaVision OCV Character

Verification System and an automatic reject station. The handling system and the printer are synchronized for vertical or horizontal printing at speeds of up to 300 cartons/minute. The handling system correctly positions the carton in front of the print heads to ensure crisp, letter-quality printing of intricate 2D, alpha numeric, RSS and bar codes.

Being water-based, solvent-free and capable of high-quality printing, HP inks are ideal for the pharmaceutical industry.

A true industrial printer, the Wolke m600 uses HP cartridges with HP specialty inks that enable instant-start printing on most porous and semi-porous substrates. Being water-based, solvent-free and capable of high-quality printing, the HP inks are ideal for the pharmaceutical industry. Each cartridge contains enough ink for thousands of carton codes and maintenance is minimized because the print head is integrated within the disposable ink cartridge. Printer resolution is adjustable for various substrates to ensure optimum ink coverage, promote fast drying, and allow for reliable and repeatable vision inspection.

The vision system uses true Optical Character Verification (OCV). It not only qualifies the code

print and readability, it also "knows" what constitutes a good 2D, alpha numeric, bar code or RSS code and "understands" serialization. If the code is not within print acceptability parameters, or if incorrect serial or out-of-sequence batch or lot codes are detected, the carton is automatically rejected.

The SeaVision vision system performs true ANSI/ISO on-line bar code grading and facilitates "track and trace" programs. It records every event and keystroke, storing information on its hard drive for a complete 21 CFR Part 11-compliant audit trail. Data can be entered once into the vision system and sent to the printer via serial port or ethernet.

All three components of the Pharmacarton Coding System can be validated as a single system and the system as a whole can be brought back to validation settings at any time. The configuration files of each component are "Backup and Restore" capable, providing for post-Validation System "Sustained Compliance."

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was actually just a white, nongusseted bag with very ugly artwork, which on paper, looked very good." In addition, the bags were surface-printed, which meant that the unprotected graphics were prone to scuffing and scratching.

In 1998, Advance Brands began its first set of focus groups to learn more about consumers' attitudes toward its entrée packaging. The feedback bolstered the company's decision to use bags, but indicated a need for new, more impactful graphics. After a bag redesign guided by Little, Advance Brands tried flexo printing its pouches, but found that the resulting graphics lacked consistency and real definition. "I know that in the past

seven years, vast leaps have been made in plate technology for flexo printing. But at the time, we found it to be fairly inconsistent," says Little.

However, notes McPherson, despite the fact that flexo failed to deliver the quality Advance Brands sought, the new bag design put the company on the right track for delivering a powerful packaging solution. "When Bridget came on board, she took us to the next level and started showing us gusseted bags and above all, the artwork to go on them," he says.



n 1998, Advance Brands introduced two new products under the Easy Beginnings name (now Fast Fixin' Restaurant Style), packaged in resealable, bright-red, flexible pouches printed via gravure by Nordenia. "Because of the problems we experienced with flexo," Little recalls, "we printed two bags with Nordenia and found a significant difference in print quality, consistency and definition. 'The light came on,' and we quickly moved all of our Fast Fixin'-branded bags to gravure printing."

Today, while Advance Brands still sells millions of tray-packs—although with more sophisticated labeling—sleeved tray-packs and cartons, depending upon the product and where the item is being displayed in the store, the majority of its entrées use gravure-printed, gusseted, standup pouches and gusseted form/fill/seal bags. This includes around 100 stockkeeping units in the Fast Fixin' and Fast Fixin' Restaurant Style lines and at least 77 private-label skus, in sizes ranging from 6 to 37.5 oz.

The bags are constructed from a 48-ga, reverse-printed polyethylene terephthalate layer laminated to a 3-mil PE sealant film. George Waldon, East Region sales manager for Nordenia, says that this construction was selected for its stiffness and high gloss, and the printability of the PET layer. The PE layer was extruded in-house at Nordenia's Jackson, MO, facility using one of the converter's six Windmoeller & Hoelscher (www.whcorp.com) extrusion machines that provide the company with the capability to create films with up to seven layers from 65-ga to 10-mils thick.

Fairly unique in the industry,
Nordenia also performs its own film
separation and gravure-cylinder
engraving services on-site, to speed
turnaround time and reduce its
dependence on outside suppliers. "The
fact that they do their own cylinder
engraving right there is incredible," says
Little. "It saves us a lot of time and
money in the long run. Because, if you
have a problem with a cylinder, they can
just walk right over and engrave another
one." She adds that when Advance
Brands began working with Nordenia,
Advance's in-house designers spent time



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When we asked the focus groups whether they would rather have these products in a bag or in a box, it was dramatic how many people wanted bags.

in the converter's prepress department "learning tricks that would make it easier for them to provide Nordenia with digital artwork."

Bag graphics, in vibrant red and blue, with tempting images of the entrées, are printed in seven to eight colors on one of Nordenia's four W&H Heliostar gravure presses, which together allow the company to print in up to eight colors on film widths ranging from 51 to 79 in. While some printed film is supplied to Advance Brands as rollstock later used to create bags on the company's f/f/s machines, the standup pouches are premade on Nordenia's range of bagmaking equipment. The bags formed from rollstock are produced at Advance Brands' Orange City, IA, production facility.

hroughout Advance Brands' entrée packaging evolution, its consumer focus groups encouraged the company to pioneer the use of bags for its fully cooked meat and poultry products. Recalls McPherson, "When we introduced the bags, everybody was in boxes. I remember doing presentations to retailers, and they would love the product, but they would want to know why it wasn't in a box.

"One of the things that these focus groups told us was that when the consumer would get this type of product home, they would throw away the box and put the product in something more convenient, like a clear bag. This basically eliminated the cooking instructions. Boxes definitely display well in stores, but they are not practical in a home freezer. When we asked the focus groups whether they would rather have these products in a bag or in a box, it was dramatic how many people wanted bags."

Another thing Advance Brands learned from focus groups was the perceived value of products packed in pouches versus cartons. They also discovered that, despite what consumers may say about their desire for product visibility, they are more attracted to packaging that is eye-catching and appetizingly decorated. "At the time, everybody felt like the consumer wanted to see the product," says Little. "But when we would put packaging down in front of them, they would all pick the bright graphics—the product that looked great in the photoshoot."

n today's competitive food and beverage market, Little advises, "the package is really your selling point." She adds, "Getting that billboard

effect behind that glass door [of the refrigerated case] is imperative. So you have to provide enough color and enough 'wow' to get the consumer to

open the door, because it's pretty dark back there. If you have dark, dull packaging, consumers are going to walk right by your product. Every time you print on a bag, you get a shiny effect, you get the 'bling,' because it's bright and it pops out.'

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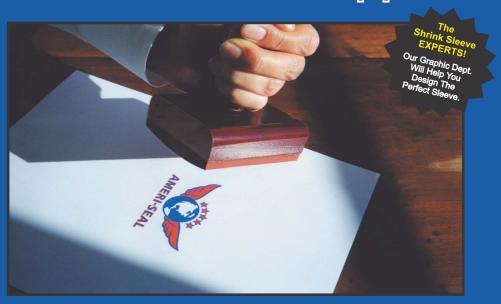
Advance Brands gives kudos to Nordenia for the speed and quality with which they implemented the transition of its brands to gravure. Says McPherson, "In this business, it's all about time-to-shelf, quickness to

market. So really, your printer is your partner. And Nordenia has definitely partnered with us on this program. They are a major supplier for us, and are worth their weight in gold."

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Shiner is shining

Spoetzl Brewery, Texas' Oldest Independent Brewery, redesigns its Shiner beer with nostalgic packaging and celebrates 96 years of brewing

tradition by introducing a limited-edition Shiner 96 commemorative brew.

Jack Mans, Plant Operations Editor

he K. Spoetzl Brewery, which produces the Shiner portfolio of products, is flexing its packaging muscles. In addition to rolling out new packaging that plays up Shiner's specialty beer pedigree, nearly century-old brewing heritage and handcrafted quality, the "little brewery" in Shiner, TX, is celebrating its 96th anniversary by launching Shiner 96, a limitededition, authentic Märzen-style brew. The commemorative ale is a tribute to the brewery's 96-year history and is reminiscent of the handcrafted specialty beers that first poured out of the brewery in 1909. Shiner 96 marks the countdown to the Spoetzl Brewery's centennial in 2009 and will be the first of five commemorative brews to be released, one each year until 2009.

"It took 96 years for this beer to happen," says brew master Jimmy Mauric. "Shiner 96 honors our nearly century-long brewing heritage and our ancestors who founded this little brewery. It serves as a 'thank you' to our loyal Shiner patrons. We are proud of our town, our brewery and this special commemorative beer."

he new packaging creates a consistent, more uniform look across the six Shiner specialty beers, including Shiner Bock, Shiner Blonde, Shiner Light, Shiner Hefeweizen, Shiner Kölsch (formerly Shiner Summer

Stock®) and Shiner Dunkelweizen (formerly Shiner Winter Ale). The new design is integral to the brand's maintaining its small-town roots, independent personality and place in American beer culture. Since 1909, Shiner has been brewing beer in small batches with great pride and doing its own thing with a selfassured indifference to industry trends. That independent spirit has resonated with such high-profile fans as Willie Nelson, Kris Kristofferson, Matthew McConaughey and Lance

To get the latest news and case studies on redesigning beer bottles as well as other containers, visit PD's Rigid Containers INFO CHANNEL at www.packagingdigest.com/info/rigid

Armstrong, and the beer is served on Air Force One.

"Shiner's new packaging launch represents a significant portion of our 2005 marketing investment," says Shamus Hanlon, brand group director of marketing for The Gambrinus Company, which purchased the K. Spoetzl Brewery in 1989. "It's also being backed by an aggressive advertising campaign and point of sale support that includes case cards, banners, neck hangers, posters and pole toppers to name a few of the available displays."

Designed by the Chicago firm Tom, Dick & Harry Advertising (www.tdhadvertising.com), Chicago, Shiner's new packaging gives the product line a consistent look. It includes bottle labels, secondary packaging, including 6- and 12-pack

carriers, cases and trays. "There is a lot of Shiner equity in their beers, and we didn't want to change that heritage. We took the existing elements from each brew and created a consistent look," says David Yang, one of the creative partners at the agency.

he new layout includes such design elements as brand name, style of beer, product icons, Shiner brewing credentials, brewery heritage and appetite appeal. Each style in the portfolio is marked by a distinctive color to create a billboard effect at retail outlets. The K. Spoetzl Brewery is highlighted on all neck labels as a tribute to 96 years of brewing tradition, while front and

The new layout includes such design elements as brand name, style of beer, product icons, Shiner brewing credentials, brewery heritage and appetite appeal.

neck labels replicate the facade of the brewery. Brand logos are displayed in angular fashion to add visual energy, and labels for individual beers illustrate unique iconography such as the Shiner Bock ram head (a traditional German image for Bock-style beers), the original brew kettle, some of the brewery's architectural elements, the Texas horned toad and Austin's Congress Avenue Bridge, which is home to thousands of Mexican free-tail bats.

The Bavarian-style Shiner 96 ale is hand-crafted in small batches and is served up in packaging reminiscent of the Spoetzl Brewery's early days. The packaging design features Shiner's traditional "cotton"

ball" logo that dates back to the early 1900s when a cotton mill once occupied the land adjacent to the brewery. The neck label features a photo of the original Shiner Brewing Association from 1909, and the back label tells the story of the "little brewery" in Shiner and its German roots.

Labels are produced by Inland Label and Marketing Services, La Crosse, WI. The labels for the Kolsh, Light, Blonde, Hefeweizen and Dunkelweizen are litho-printed in four-color process on a full wet-strength C1S white label paper and are finished with an overall aqueous coating. Labels for Shiner 96 are litho-printed on 60-lb uncoated paper, while the labels for the 12-oz Shiner Bock beer are gravure-printed with six spot colors. Carriers are printed and supplied by MeadWestvaco Corp. (www.meadwestvaco.com), bottles by O-I (www.o-i.com) and crowns and cans by Crown Beverage Packaging USA (www.crowncork.com).

Because the cans are printed at extremely high speeds (1,800 to 2,200/min) and the colors are laid down one at a time, with milliseconds between passes, Crown recommended 0.003 in. be inserted between colors to prevent bleeding. This minute adjustment ensured design consistency and quality on all of Spoetzl's cans.

hiner beer is available in 35 states. Six-packs sell for \$6.99, while 12-packs sell for \$10.99 to \$11.99. Shiner 96 is available in 6-packs as well as a special 24-bottle case, housed in a limited-edition wooden crate that contains a commemorative booklet showcasing photos and the unique history of the Spoetzl Brewery and the Shiner brand. It sells for \$29.99.

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New doggie bag zips up freshness



Masterfoods USA preserves the freshness of its Pedigree dogfood brands while making it easier for consumers to dispense the product through the addition of a patented slider-zipper closure on its 15- to 22-pound bags.

Anne Marie Mohan, Senior Editor

he company that proclaims "Dogs ruleTM" has found an innovative way to keep these adored pets' tails wagging, while bringing added convenience and value to dog owners. Masterfoods USA, Vernon, CA, the makers of Pedigree® Food for Dogs, has introduced what it says is the first major packaging innovation to hit the mainstream dry dogfood category in decades. The new Pedigree Slide-Rite[®] zipper bag, featuring a patented slider-zipper closure from Pactiv (www.pactiv.com) adhered to a multiwall paper bag from Exopack (www.exopack.com), is now available for all of the brand's 15- to 22-lb bags of dry dogfood.

"Our research tells us that dog lovers everywhere will love the new Pedigree Slide-Rite zipper bag not just for its ease of use, but also because it can assure dog owners that they are providing their dog with fresh food," says Rob Leibowitz, marketing director for Pedigree. "Like everything we do at Pedigree,

this new packaging is designed to enhance the lives of our four-legged family members."

hile zippered bags have become the norm in many consumer packagedgoods markets since introduction of the technology in the late '80s, Masterfoods says that its new Slide-Rite bag is the first in the that their biggest complaints about dry dogfood packaging related to ease of use and resealability, Masterfoods was no longer willing to let sleeping dogs lie. "Nearly sixty percent of dog owners said that they store their dry dogfood in a separate

container in order to retain its freshness and flavor, and prevent insect

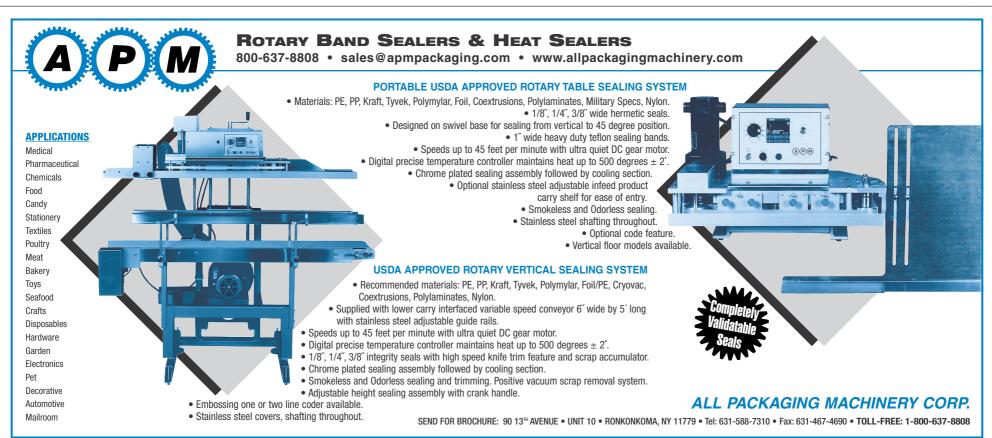
A survey of dog owners revealed that their biggest complaints about dry dogfood packaging related to ease of use and resealability.

dogfood category to introduce zipper technology to paper bags of dry dogfood packaging. In the past, issues of durability and ease of use for paper bags of this size and weight prohibited the use of zipper closures.

However, when a survey of dog owners revealed

infestation, while making the food easier and more convenient to dispense," says Erin Ferraiuolo, trade communications manager for Masterfoods.





"Dog owners and consumers inspired the Pedigree zipper bag."

The new zipper technology for the dry dogfood bag was designed to eliminate the need for a separate container by creating a closure that helps keep food fresh, while keeping insects or other debris out of the bag. It was also created to increase ease of opening and closing to make feeding time more convenient and less messy for the dog owner.

Although Ferraiuolo declines to comment on exactly how long the Pedigree Slide-Rite bag was in development, she does say that a great deal of time went into the innovation. "It wasn't about getting it done," she tells PD, "it was about getting it done right."

The design of the bag and zipper

Multiwall paper bag supplier **EXOPACK**has also won kudos for its work with
flexible packaging, including two awards in this
year's Flexible Packaging Association
competition. Learn more at
www.packagingdigest.com/info/fpa0504

involved perfecting existing zipper technology, through advancements in materials and tools to create a package that could withstand the rigors of daily openings and closings—an estimated 30 per package, according to Masterfoods—on a regular basis.

The result is a re-engineered zipper and paper bag, complete with a specially formulated, multiwalled liner and adhesives that help reinforce and strengthen the heavier-gauge zipper and packaging. Although much of the information on the bag design is proprietary, Ferraiuolo says that the package is constructed of a multilayer film liner, multiwall kraft paper, a treated, printed kraft ply and a zipper attachment, with the zipper-track profiles adhered with hot-melt adhesive.

Bag graphics were not altered with the packaging change, with the exception of additional text and graphics advertising the enhancement.

he new Pedigree Slide-Rite zipper bag technology represents a significant investment by Masterfoods, as well as an increased cost per bag, but Ferraiuolo says that the increase will not be passed on to consumers. The dry dogfood products will remain at their pre-zipper-bag retail prices of \$9 to \$13, depending on bag size.

The new packaging was launched in grocery, pet and mass merchandise outlets nationwide in August and is being used for all Pedigree dry dogfood varieties in 15- to 22-lb bags, including Pedigree Complete Nutrition Adult, Pedigree Puppy, and Pedigree With Lamb & Rice, as well as Pedigree Large Breed and Small Breed.

So far, response to the easy-open, resealable bag has been very favorable. "In consumer testing, more than ninety percent of those who tried the new packaging said they preferred the Pedigree Slide-Rite closure," relates Ferraiuolo, "and more than eighty percent believed that the slider zipper keeps the food inside fresher." In addition, earlier this year, the bag was awarded a 2005 AmeriStar Award for packaging excellence from the Institute

of Packaging Professionals (www.iopp.org).

Says Leibowitz, "We're excited to bring an innovation that is so original that it sparks a 'why hasn't anyone thought of this before' response from dog owners. The Pedigree Slide-Rite Zipper Bag demonstrates our love of dogs and our commitment to offering products that meet their needs and the needs of the people who care and nurture them.

"With this convenient, new packaging, we're bringing added value to dog owners and superior quality to their dogs by ensuring that the

More information is available:

Exopack, LLC, 877/447-3539. www.exopack.com. Institute of Packaging Professionals, 630/544-5050. www.iopp.org. Pactiv Corp., 888/828-2850. www.pactiv.com.



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Laser coding lowers downtime, production costs

Laser-coding technology improves CCB Packaging's contract-packaging efficiency, helps minimize downtime and saves more than \$1,200 annually in consumable costs.

atching a cold is a lot like downtime on a production line; there is plenty of preventative maintenance that goes into avoiding both, even though each is probably inevitable. But while Vitamin C may be a good way to stop the sniffles, CCB Packaging has found that laser marking can be a most proactive way to prevent downtime in the carton-coding process.

Read about how TALKING RAIN'S variety of flavored beverage and water bottles is ink-jetprinted with a product code on a high-speed line that achieves rates up to 100 packs/min at www.packagingdigest.com/info/talkingrain

Based in Hiawatha, IA, CCB Packaging is a family-owned, contract-packaging business that serves a wide range of end users. With several facilities throughout the Midwest, the company offers packaging, equipment and support services that are designed to maximize profitability and efficiencies for its customers, it says. It is that mindset that prompted CCB to adopt the Focus® S10 laser-coding system

from Videojet Technologies, Inc. (www. videojet.com) to complement its existing inkjet process on which it has relied for years. Used to code secondary cartons of product for customers including top cereal, snackfood and retail pharmaceutical companies, the new system requires no ink or other fluids, so has no problems with clogged nozzles or with the coder running dry. These benefits translate into less maintenance, which allows CCB's technicians to handle more crucial tasks to keep its packaging lines running.

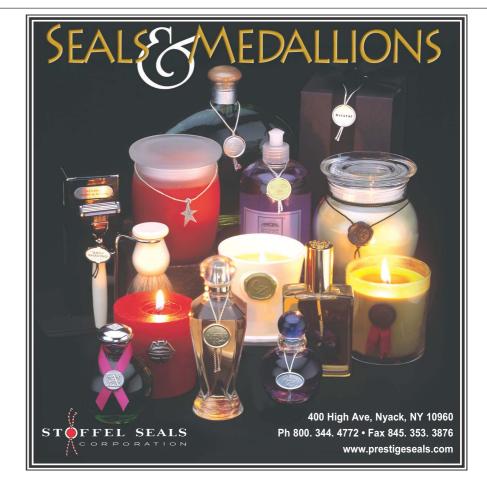
Equally important for CCB is the flexibility and ease of programming the laser unit offers, along with its ability to produce a quality mark. CCB says it also saves more than \$1,200 a year in consumable costs

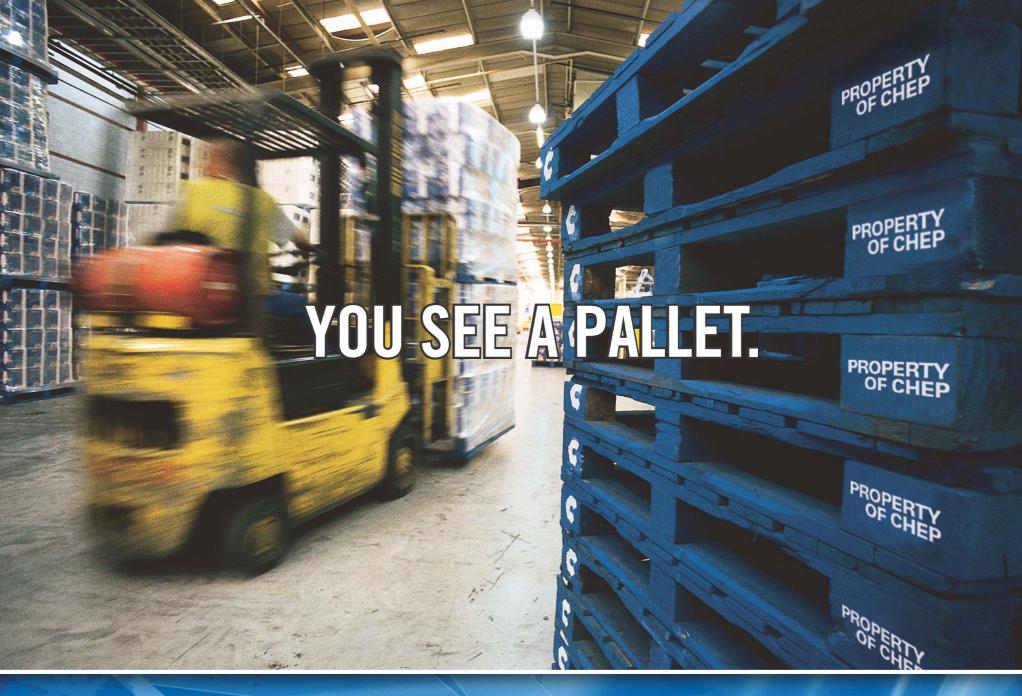
When its customers cannot fill orders on their own, CCB helps out by expediting the final packaging and shipping processes. For one snackfoods customer, CCB says it receives their products in bulk and fills, closes and seals their cartons for them before palletizing and shipping the packages to their final destinations. A similar process occurs Continued on page 36



Laser coding packages using the system above complements CCB's available printing services and provides a crisp, clear imprint.







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for an over-the-counter drug company that distributes single-dose packs of cold medicine. CCB blister-packs toothbrushes for another customer before placing the blister-packs into display totes and casing, shrink wrapping and shipping them.

uzzing like a beehive most days, CCB can operate as many as 10 packaging lines each day with different products during three shifts. All of the packaging has to be coded with use-by dates, expiration dates and closed-code characters, along with production time and production shift information. Coding parameter shifts, such as switching from one to two lines of text, are also common.

The sheer variety of packages CCB handles each day and the unique customer coding issues it faces can create coding challenges, which prompted CCB to try a variety of imprinting techniques over the years. Early on, the CP tried an embosser that

embedded date codes into paperboard cartons, but bits of the paperboard would accumulate within the coding wheel and the embosser's chain could jump, throwing off the timing position of the code. More recently, the company tried ink-jet systems, including small-character printers for individual packages and large-character case printers.

According to plant engineer Robert Arauz, ink-jet seemed to be the way to go, as its versatility made it attractive.





The laser-coding unit at CCB operates at an average of 40 to 60 cartons/min, top, and cuts consumable costs. The unit, above, delivers a permanent, steered-beam laser code in a small footprint to various secondary cartons.

CCB rarely had to shut down a line completely due to ink-jet-related problems. But Arauz cautions, "On average each month, perhaps four to six

We could use laser coding on almost all of our packaging lines. It's costeffective to operate and it prints a quality code.

hours of a technician's time could be spent on ink-jet issues." Arauz says he would have rather had the technicians working on other tasks to keep the lines running. If lines stop, workers must assist other lines or perform housekeeping tasks until the lines are running again.



Laser coding avoids those problems, he says. Capable of printing dates, times, bar codes, logos and foreign language characters, the Focus S10 system delivers steered-beam coding via a carbon dioxide (CO₂) laser, where CO2 laser gas is electronically excited to

By eliminating fluids, we have lowered the

cost per carton by at least two thousandths of

a cent, which equates to a \$1,200 per year reduction...

provide a laser-light emission. Videojet says the light creates an intense heat source for a microsecond, which affords



CCB says the laser coder is easy to program, facilitates code changes on-the-fly, minimizes downtime and provides quality imprints.

a permanent surface mark. Arauz says there are no fluid-related issues or maintenance, which is important when coding an average of 40 to 60 cartons per minute (or, as many as 300 cpm in the case of the cold medicine line). "Other than occasionally wiping the lens off and changing the air filters, we don't have to do anything to the laser," adds maintenance mechanic Craig Cross.

ne of CCB's larger customers considered installing laser coders several years ago, but instead allowed CCB to use

its then-current fleet of ink-jet printers. But when the customer saw the coding generated by the laser system, "they approved the application right away," explains Frank Cotty, director of operations. "The customer likes laser codes better than ink [codes]. The quality is a great improvement."

Cotty adds that the cost savings was a major reason to switch. "It's a significant factor," he says. "By eliminating fluids, we have lowered the cost per carton by at least two thousandths of a cent, which

equates to a \$1,200 per year reduction. It could even be more than that."

www.packagingdigest.com

The choice of the Focus S10 has allowed CCB to upgrade its technology to meet additional coding demands it might otherwise not enjoy, adds Cotty. He says this helps to maintain its reputation for setting a standard of excellence in packaging and complements its range of coding offerings. "A variety of coding products allows us to better meet customer demands, which increases our value to

customers," he points out.

Cross says he's looking forward to the days when laser coding is the norm. "We could use laser coding on almost all of our packaging lines. It's costeffective to operate and it prints a quality code.'

More information is available:

Videojet Technologies Inc., 630/860-7300. www.videojet.com.





High-graphic bags for horse-feed are winners

Sales of all horse-feed products increased dramatically at Intermountain Farmers Association when the packaging was switched to graphic-oriented polypropylene bags, with sales of horse treats increasing an incredible sixfold.

Jack Mans, Plant Operations Editor

hanging the bags it uses for selected horse-feed products from paper to oriented polypropylene with spectacular graphics has paid big dividends for Intermountain Farmers Association, Salt Lake City. IFA switched the 40-lb paper bags for its Horse Treats to 20-lb OPP bags in October 2004 and followed in February 2005 with new 50-lb OPP bags for two of its premium sweet horse feeds. Gold Horse

SHAMROCK FARMS added value to its dairy drinks with shrink-sleeve labels from Osio Intl. Read about it at www.packagingdigest.com/info/shamrock

Conditioner contains 14 percent protein and is aimed at working and athletic horses.

while Silver Horse Conditioner, a new product introduced when IFA switched to the OPP bags, contains 12 percent protein and is aimed at pleasure horses. The former bags for Horse Treats and Gold Horse Conditioner were made from red paper with a horse image on the side along with the product name.

Since making the switch to OPP, sales of the 50-lb bags of Gold Horse Conditioner have increased 5 percent, but sales for horse treats have increased an incredible six times. "Monthly sales of horse treats have increased from 50 of the former 40-lb paper bags to more than 600 of the new 20-lb oriented polypropylene bags since we switched to the new bags," says feed products manager Alan Johnson.

Sales of the new Silver Horse Conditioner are also doing well at more than 600 bags/month.

IFA is using 7.5-mil woven OPP bags from Osio International, Inc. (www.osiopack.com). The threelayer coextruded bags have an 80-gauge outer layer of OPP coextruded with an additive that provides a 0.5 coefficient of friction so they don't need an anti-skid coating. The inner layer is 1.6-mil PP containing eight-by-eight strands/in of woven PP for additional strength. The gusseted bag is reverse-gravure printed in seven colors. Osio supplies the bag with the top preclosed by a chain stitch with a reinforcing strip across the top. IFA bottom-fills the bag and then sews the bottom closed. The bag has a pull-tab on the bottom for easy dispensing of its contents. Because the horse-feed products are filled warm, the walls of the bag are perforated with 1/32-in. holes on a three-in. grid to allow the hot air to dissipate.

"We decided we needed to upgrade our bags in mid-2004, and I saw some Osio bags at a dogfood plant. They looked so good, that I decided to contact them, and we've been very satisfied," says Johnson. "The graphics are great, and the oriented polypropylene bags are very tough. Between the plant, the warehouse and the store, we used to have a lot of torn paper bags. The woven polypropylene bags have reduced losses due to tears by 70 percent. The film bags only cost five cents more than paper, so we've more than recovered the higher bag cost."

Another advantage of the OPP bags is that they can be filled on the same equipment as the paper



Monthly sales of horse treats have increased from 50 of the former 40-lb paper bags to more than 600 of the new 20-lb oriented polypropylene bags since we switched.

bags. At IFA, a worker places the empty bag on a scale and triggers an auger that dispenses product until the weight reaches the set point, and the auger stops.

We have forty more bags to change from paper to oriented polypropylene," says Johnson. "Next will be new bags for poultry and rabbit feed, and we are also getting those from Osio. After all, why change a winner?'

More information is available:

Osio International, Inc., 714/808-9562. www.osiopack.com.





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WestPack rounds up materials, equipment

www.westpackshow.com

Co-located with five other shows, WestPack 2006 runs Jan. 31 to Feb. 2 in Anaheim, CA. Two medical packaging conferences open on Jan. 30.

estPack 2006 brings together more than 400 key suppliers of packaging equipment, materials and services representing a range of industries, such as food/beverage, pharmaceutical, medical, cosmetics/personal care, electronics/IT, consumer goods, printing and industrial. The show co-locates with five other events: Automation Technology Expo West, PLASTEC West, Pacific Design & Manufacturing,

MD&M West and Electronics West. Three pavilions address specialized focuses: Pharmaceutical & Nutraceutical Packaging, Cosmetic & Personal Care Packaging and Material Handling & Logistics. Two packaging conferences are being offered: "Packaging Engineering" and "Packaging Validation and Compliance" will both be held on Mon., Jan. 30. To register for either conference, call registration services at 800/827-8323. The cost is \$725. WestPack is organized by Canon

Communications. For a complete listing of exhibitors and to register, visit www.westpackshow.com. Following is a list of exhibitors who have a marketing message in this issue.

All Packaging Machinery Corp.—Booth 5535: p. 32

AMS Filling Systems—Booth 5188: p. 3.

Automated Packaging Systems—Booth 5347: p. 67.

Bell-Mark Sales—Booth 5401: p. 30.

CVC Technologies—Booth 4801: p. 71.

Morrison Container Handling Solutions—Booth 5393: p. 37

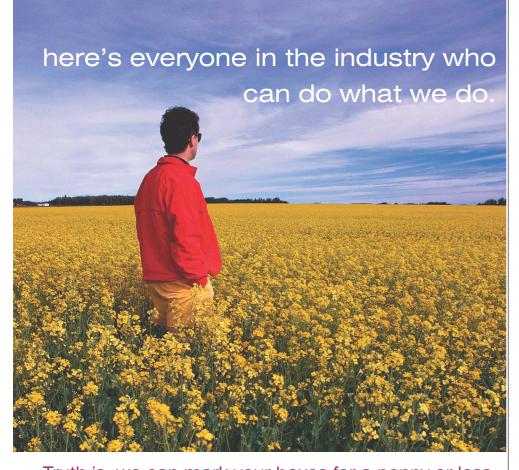
Nutec Systems, Inc.—Booth 5557: p. 27 QuickLabel Systems—Booth 5425: p. 7.

SATO America—Booth 4942: p. 21.

Tharo Systems—Booth 5670: p. 59

Wexxar Packaging, Inc.—Booth 4901: p. 41.

Zebra Technologies—Booth 5075: p. 43.



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JANUARY 2006 PACKAGING DIGEST





RFID stays well in healthcare, pharma markets

Radio frequency identification (RFID) will give healthcare and pharmaceutical applications a booster shot, with revenue increases of as much as sixfold, says a market report from Frost & Sullivan. Economics and supply chains aside, potential benefits extend to patient safety and process efficiency.

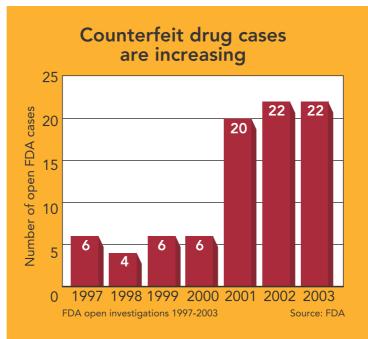
Edited and excerpted by Lauren R. Hartman, Senior Editor

The excitement over radio frequency identification (RFID) technology has gained momentum in the last five years, with a diversification in the range of applications. The market is experiencing tremendous growth predictions with the increasing use of passive RFID technology in volume-driven vertical markets such as pharmaceutical and retail.

The healthcare and pharmaceutical market is slated to become one of the most promising verticals for the future of RFID technology. Patient safety and process efficiency can be improved by RFID in the development of drugs and the running of clinical trials of drugs. It may also increase patient safety, manage critical-care assets and hospital equipment and reduce counterfeiting and diversion of pharmaceutical products. The commercial feasibility of the technology makes for a stronger business case in this market, due to the presence of high-value products and the resultant margins. But RFID is still relatively new in the healthcare market, where end users rely most on bar coding, and many have traditionally been slow to adopt technological advancements.

The following analysis from "World RFID in Healthcare and Pharmaceutical Applications Markets," reveals that RFID in healthcare and pharmaceutical applications markets earned revenues of \$370 million in 2004, and estimates indicate that it will reach \$2,318.8 million in 2011. During 2004, the market grew at a modest rate of 11.8 percent over the previous year. During the forecast period, this market is expected to grow at a very healthy compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 29.9 percent.

However, increased investments in RFID are taking place in pharmaceutical and patient-



tracking applications with the advent of regulatory recommendations. Initial interest was triggered by retail mandates in North America and Europe that require pharmacy chains supported by such stores to adopt RFID tagging. Pharmaceutical companies are now focused on pilot activities to integrate the technology in their supply chains.

The deployment rates, however, are expected to see regional disparities, with most deployments likely to be centered in the North American region. The European region is still grappling with issues related to standards, frequencies and the lack of government-driven initiatives. The Asia Pacific region holds huge promise for growth in

> light of their existing initiatives in patienttracking applications and anticounterfeiting measures.

RFID technology has been traditionally used in asset-management and equipmenttracking applications. The technology is expected to have huge potential in drugtracking applications following regulatory and legislative developments, while the security of pharmaceutical supply chains is driving a number of large deployments. Benefits of the technology remain focused on safety concerns across the applications.

The full report indicates that the American market is the biggest for RFID applications in healthcare and pharmaceutical markets in terms of revenues as well as growth rate, and is expected to grow the fastest, at a CAGR of 31.3 percent. Growth rates across geographic regions are marginally different. The U.S market is the driver within the American

region, followed by Canada, which is followed by Asia Pacific, Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

Of the three applications analyzed, the drugtracking applications market is expected to have the strongest CAGR of nearly 32.8 percent during the

It's expected to be closely followed by the

EPCglobal ratifies ALE, the first software standard for RFID

Standards will no doubt be a factor in RFID's development, future and acceptance. Now, EPCglobal has announced the ratification of the first standard for software for using electronic product code (EPC) technology. Known as the Application Level Events (ALE), the standard enables efficient collection and movement of EPC data, making supply chains visible and traceable in real time, and opens the door for a proliferation of standards-based software. ALE was developed by more than 100 companies within the **EPCglobal Software Action Group and** establishes the approach EPC-enabled software products will take in collecting, managing and routing the data that EPC technology generates in the supply chain, EPCglobal states in a press release. The royalty-free standard joins other EPCglobal standards, including the UHF Generation 2 standard, ratified in December 2004.

"The community is making swift strides in the commercialization of RFID and EPC technology," says Chris Adcock, president of EPCglobal, Inc., a subsidiary of GS1, a not-for-profit standards organization entrusted with driving adoption of EPC technology and the EPCglobal Network worldwide.

Adds Adcock, "This software standard will facilitate the creation of a standardized approach for filtering and collecting EPC information within the EPC-enabled enterprise, allowing the development of systems that will achieve business value more efficiently."

Announced in September, the ratification of the standard follows the successful interoperability testing of prototype software from several technology providers to ensure that the implementations built to the standard will work with each other to meet the requirements of suppliers, manufacturers and end users operating across multiple industries.

More information is available: **EPCglobal**, **Inc.**, 609/620-4555. **www.epcglobal.org**.

medical-equipment tracking applications market, with a CAGR of 28.9 percent compared with the forecast period.

he RFID
application market for
healthcare has
progressed from the
initial iteration stages
of experimentation
toward early adoption.

To keep up to date with the **LATEST NEWS** on pharmaceutical, healthcare, medical and RFID technology, sign up for Packaging Digest's free pharmaceutical packaging and RFID e-newsletters at www.packaging.com/eletter

The potential of RFID in the healthcare vertical is quite promising, since it would have a direct impact on the service offering. The success of RFID implementation would depend on its compatibility with systems that

are already in place. The U.S.
Food and Drug Administration
and the Health Insurance
Portability and Accountability Act
of 1996 (HIPAA) security
mandates could further the
option of the technology in the

adoption of the technology in the healthcare vertical.

RFID has a wide variety of applications within the healthcare market and the pharmaceutical supply Continued on page 44





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chain. These applications can be broadly classified, in terms of application areas, into healthcare and pharmaceutical applications. Within the healthcare vertical market, there are categories including personnel and patient tracking, equipment tracking, patient admission and registration, patient self services like bill payment, dosage and disposal of medicines and updating medical records. On the other hand, for the pharmaceutical supply chain, typical application areas are drug development laboratories and drug

tracking along the supply chain from development to retail sale.

A tough road ahead

In the present market, there are a number of issues that are restraining the growth of RFID technology. One such issue is compatibility. RFID solutions call for integration with existing technologies. A complete overhaul of the system wouldn't be a sensible ROI decision in the short term. This would prove critical to manufacturers

RFID in the Healthcare and Pharmaceutical Markets: Revenue Forecasts (world), 2001-2011				
Year	Revenues (\$ millions)	Revenue Growth Rate (%)		
2001	278.0	-		
2002	300.8	8.2		
2003	330.8	10.0		
2004	370.0	11.8		
2005	432.4	16.9		
2006	526.0	21.6		
2007	667.9	27.0		
2008	883.3	32.3		
2009	1204.0	36.3		
2010	1677.5	39.3		
2011	2318.8	38.2		
Compound Annual Growth Rate (2004-20011) 29.9%				
Note: All figures are rounded; the base year is 2004. Source: Frost & Sullivan				

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integrating the RFID tagging process further up the supply chain at the point of manufacturing itself. Existing RFID systems would also require a certain level of compatibility to upgrade to newer protocols and advancements.

The cost of adopting RFID is also another cause of concern for the industry. Whereas bar-code labels are available for \$0.001 per unit, RFID tags cost around 20 to 25 cents per unit. The challenge of the cost factor is particularly relevant since the healthcare vertical has not traditionally been a market for tagging. Pharmaceutical companies have only recently begun tracking their supply chains. However, the high price of items to be tagged, particularly in the medical equipment and devices segment, would justify the implementation of RFID systems.

Privacy infringement in RFID systems constitutes security concerns among end-user segments. The issue seems to be more acute after the FDA's approval of human implant chips. Manufacturers would have to address issues here, since the same could hinder early adoption of the technology.

Reasons to smile

Along with the above restraining factors, there are factors that can help the market grow. One such factor is the possibility of improving operational efficiency. The use of RFID calls for an in-depth understanding of business processes. This provides good opportunities for companies to improve processes resulting in a competitive advantage. It would also enable a realtime location of key personnel and critical equipment, thereby improving operational efficiency. Real-time tracking of mobile medical equipment would enable cost containment in terms of rent and labor. Healthcare facilities, especially hospitals, would gain a competitive advantage in their service delivery.

The same tracking ability is also expected to result in avoidance of lawsuits filed by patients who have been administered the wrong tests or faulty medication. Though errors are still prone to happen, RFID systems are expected to reduce the frequency and magnitude of such errors, if they are used properly.

Another factor that can also be considered a driver is the possibility of curbing down losses that happen from the counterfeiting of drugs. An estimated \$15 billion is lost globally every year due to counterfeits. (The first chart presents the increasing number of drug counterfeit cases in the world.)

There's also the issue of parallel trading and online pharmacies. RFID technology provides a means to authenticate drug products from development to dispensing from pharmacies. But compared with bar codes, the higher tag costs are a concern.

The FDA report, "Combating Counterfeit Drugs," published on Feb. 18, 2004, envisages RFID technology being critical in drug supply safety. Close on the heels of the above-mentioned report, a compliance policy guide was issued in November 2004 to facilitate the implementation of feasibility studies and pilot tests related to RFID. The FDA recommendations have resulted in several states, including California and Florida, requiring tracking of drug shipments through the supply chain. There are a number of other initiatives that have been taken by authorities like the CIMIT Operation Room of the Future (ORF) project. This project was initiated to explore the impact of the new technology platforms and systems on the safety and efficiency of patient care in a high-tech and minimally invasive environment. Another such example is the HIPAA of 1996 and Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) security mandates expected to enable hospitals to meet security and privacy regulations.

Pilot studies: A possible indication of future potential?

A three-month pilot study involving eight manufacturers, including Merck, Novartis and Solvay, ended in January 2005 after tagging approximately 180,000 medicines to counter illegal drug trafficking. The system, called Authentication at the Point of Dispensing (APOD), would verify prescribed name and dosage, expiry dates and recalls. Other companies implementing pilot projects include GlaxoSmithKline and Purdue Pharma (for the painkiller Oxycontin). Both companies have already begun pallet tagging in compliance with the Wal-Mart mandate.

The article was written by Soumilya Banerjee and Priyanka Gouthaman, analysts at Frost & Sullivan, a Palo Alto, CA, research firm that provides growth consulting and corporate training services to clients in more than 50 countries. The full report, "World RFID in Healthcare and Pharmaceutical Applications Markets," is available from Frost & Sullivan as part of the firm's 9201 subscription.

More information is available:

Frost & Sullivan, 877/463-7678. www.frost.com.

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Boston Gear Warner Electric

Formsprag Clutch





Installed on a main packaging line that packs about 300 items/min, the new ink-jet printer is used with about 20 different shipping case sizes. Mounted on opposing sides of a main packaging line are two 4-in. printheads, below.

Muffin Town makes the most of ink-jet coding



Coding cases of its muffins, donuts and other baked goods is easy for family-owned J.S.B. Industries' Muffin Town, which relies on dual-head, large-character ink-jet coding and network software to meet case-coding needs on-the-rise.

Lauren R. Hartman, Senior Editor

S.B. Industries' Muffin Town Div., Chelsea, MA, has whisked into an extensive baking operation over the years. J.S.B. produces more than 700 stockkeeping units of baked goods, including muffins, cornbread, sweet goods, donuts and bagels (the initials J.S.B. stand for the names John, Scott and Brian, all vice presidents and sons of the company founder Jack Anderson). The company now has two semi-automated, large-capacity bakeries in Winthrop, MA, and in Chelsea that produce orders for supermarkets, clubstores, coffee shops, hotels, restaurants, school systems and other outlets.

Muffin Town, along with Aesop's Bagels, the

Our objectives were to more efficiently mark our cases and to gain reporting functionality.

other half of J.S.B.'s business, bakes and freezes quality baked goods under its own label and under private labels and ships them to retail and foodservice customers across the U.S. Primary

containers include cartons, clear plastic, compartmented clamshells, bulk trays, individual film wrappers and structures that meet customer requirements. Quality-control personnel constantly monitor all aspects of the operation, and a product-development team is there to work directly with customers to create baked goods that meet their precise requirements.

nown as a premium value bakery, the company now makes millions of muffins a week, producing and shipping 100,000 cases of product a month.

Coding so many packages and shipping cases properly and precisely could become a muffin

malady, but it's not an issue for Muffin Town. The

company relies on the IJ3000® Impulse Jet large-character ink-jet coder from Diagraph Corp., an ITW co. (www.diagraph.com). Equipped with two IJ768 printheads, the Trident®powered (www.trident-itw.com) system codes opposite sides of the bakery's corrugated shipping cases with at least eight lines of text per side and a 14digit, Interleaved 2 of 5 bar code. The text includes a product description, ingredients, the company name, a numerical production code, the case quantity, a manufacturing date, an expiration date, the case weight, a product count and ounces per individual package. The system also includes network software to manage Muffin Town's 700-plus product database, which contains assorted product descriptions, ingredients, traceability codes and bar codes. The system's reporting feature tracks production data such as item numbers and production start times and dates, stop times and dates and quantities.

Installed in September 2005, the ink-jet unit marks Muffin Town's cases in black ink with crisp, easy-to-read characters and codes from one of the two printheads mounted on each side of a conveyor. The baking company uses the printer with approximately 20 different case sizes, including 200#-test and 32 ECT single-wall corrugated cases from Smurfit-Stone Container (www.smurfit-stone.com) and Southern Container (www.southerncontainer.com). A centralized ink supply pumps ink from one location through a single tubing line to both of the printheads in the system. This also keeps the ink supply away from critical electronic components in the printhead.

Offering a user-friendly graphic interface and a color touchscreen, the

Read how celery packer/processor

LEACH FARMS uses a portable ink-jet

case coder with an integrated valve to print

customer-specific information on its shipping

cases. Visit

www.packagingdigest.com/info/leach

system can print up to 10 lines of characters in sizes from 1/4- to 4 in. tall at speeds rated at more than 200 ft/min, and can store up to 500 messages. Though Muffin Town's printer is equipped with two 4-in. printheads, the system can be equipped with up to four 4-in. printheads supplied with 1 L of ink. To merge the IJ3000 into the company's main packaging line, Diagraph outfitted Muffin Town's printer with a customized conveyor with centerline printhead mounts on the guiderails. A dual-crank option enables line operators to simultaneously adjust both of the ink-jet system's printheads and the guiderails with ease when running multiple bakery carton sizes. This ensures that both printheads are aligned properly.

The system has successfully replaced label printer/applicators that were applying 4×12-in. corner-wrap labels to the cases. Says vp Brian Anderson, Muffin Town particularly likes the inkjet system's easy-to-manage touchscreen controller and the printheads' automatic cleaning feature, which requires little

involvement in printhead maintenance. "Our objectives were to more efficiently mark our cases and to gain a reporting functionality," he adds.

Operating three eight-hour shifts a day, the Muffin Town plant in Chelsea has a rigorous schedule for any packaging equipment. The plant houses 250,000 lb of product each week. The plant's three semi-automatic packaging lines (the company is about to add a fourth) include a main line and another line that individually wraps and finseals baked items in clear film at "close to" 300 pieces/min or 4 cases/min. A third bulk line can pack 100 cases/hr.

We like the reporting feature the controller provides. We also like [the printer] because it is able to print the UPC code that we need to use.

maintenance. The Autoclean system also purges ink residue and removes any dust from the printheads, which Anderson says minimizes human a 9,000-sq-ft freezer and about 40,000 sq ft of manufacturing space. There are three muffin-manufacturing lines with one main line that produces more than

one main line that produces more than

The ink-jet printer, a companion graphical user interface and a color touchscreen are in place on Muffin Town's main packaging line, above. A second unit will be added this year.



The cases are coded with at least eight lines of text per side that includes product and manufacturing data and an I 2 of 5 bar code.

n production, after the products are baked and packaged in their primary containers, they convey downline to a manual case-packing area, where they will first pass through a metal detection system from Safeline Corp. (www. metaldetection.com) and undergo a final inspection before being loaded into the cases. The sealed cases pass by the ink-jet unit. Each side of the cases is quickly imprinted with customerspecific information by the two integrated-valve printheads on either side of the line. The codes are crisp and legible. And lastly, the cases are manually palletized.

o change the print information on the IJ3000, operators can select a new message programmed into the touchscreen controller. The message is sent to the IJ3000 printhead and is ready to go when the next case passes the printer. While the system is currently used as a standalone unit, it can also be networked to other printers in the future. In addition, print message changes or updates can be quickly downloaded to the controller on the production floor from a PC simply by entering a product number on the touchscreen keypad. "We like the reporting feature the controller provides," notes Anderson. "We also like the IJ3000 because it is able to print the UPC code that we need to use."

Anderson says Muffin Town should see a return on its ink-jet printer investment within a year, mainly because it will enjoy an annual cost savings. In fact, Muffin Town has been so pleased with its ink-jet system that it's about to add a second system this year when it completes a plant expansion and it gets another packaging line up and running. "So we'll be adding [even more] ink-jet equipment," Anderson says happily.

More information is available:

Diagraph, an ITW co., 800/722-1125. www.diagraph.com.
Safeline Corp., 800/447-4439. www.metaldetection.com.
Smurfit-Stone Container Corp., 312/346-6600. www.smurfit-stone.com.
Southern Container Corp., 631/231-0400. www.southern-container.com.
Trident, 203/740-9333. www.trident-itw.com.



The bag filler was upgraded to a system with automatic controls and a loadcell for more efficient use of older technology. Filling time has improved from 12 to 15 sec/bag previously to 8 or 9 sec/bag now.

Checkweigher increases accuracy and productivity

inker Materials Corp. is one of the largest producers of bagged cement, ready-mix concrete and concrete block in the U.S. Its cement terminal in Port Everglades, FL, is a major packer and supplier of bagged cement and bulk products. Rinker wanted to increase cement production at their Port Everglades terminal by improving the efficiency of production and the weight consistency of their cement bags. They were looking to set up a system that would help their packaging process run smoother and produce bags that were even closer to their targetweight goals, while providing the safest environment possible for their employees. The requirements included an in-motion checkweigher, data collection software and a packer upgrade.

When asked what first inspired Rinker to look for a checkweigher for their terminal, Juan Alvarez, who was terminal manager at Rinker Materials at the time of this project, says, "We were looking to increase our production rate, and safety was another main reason. We were using manual labor to determine the weights of the bags. This required us to stop the process and have someone pull a bag and put it on a scale to check the weight. We were checking bag weights every thirty minutes, which was difficult for our workers and took away from production time.'

Thompson Scale Co. (www.thompsonscale.com), in conjunction with Choice Bagging Equipment (www.valvebagfiller.com), had already developed and successfully installed electronic upgrades in

A new heavy-duty checkweighing unit complete with a sophisticated data gathering system at cement producer Rinker Materials Corp. has doubled the fill accuracy and has drastically increased line speed. The system can run bags from one to 500 pounds at production rates in excess of 50 units per minute.



The checkweigher's controller monitors 100 percent of production and is very easy to use, the company says.

Rinker's sister plant in Miami, as well as at several other companies in the same industry. This made Thompson Scale and Choice Bagging obvious vendors for this upgrade, says Alvarez.

The small amount of space available in the existing conveyor line made installation of a checkweigher a real challenge. Normally, heavy-duty checkweighers require about four feet of linear space to properly weigh a bag. Rinker only had three feet in which to install the unit. They also needed a product rejector powerful enough to remove offspec bags from the production line, yet able to be located within the same space. The bag-flattening incline conveyor in place immediately following the checkweigher would also make it more difficult to obtain accurate bag weights. The immediate slope at the infeed of the incline causes the bags to create a downward force on the checkweigher as they go up the conveyor, potentially altering the readout. "We only had a small amount of space available between the turning conveyor and the bag-flattening conveyor. This made the addition of a checkweigher more difficult," says Alvarez.

To assist in targeting their optimum bag weights, Rinker knew they would need data collection to analyze weights and generate reports. These reports would be a valuable source of data, assisting management in making informed decisions. The challenge with this phase of the project was that the management office is located in a different building than the packing warehouse. To complicate matters, the road between the two buildings is a heavy traffic Continued on page 50





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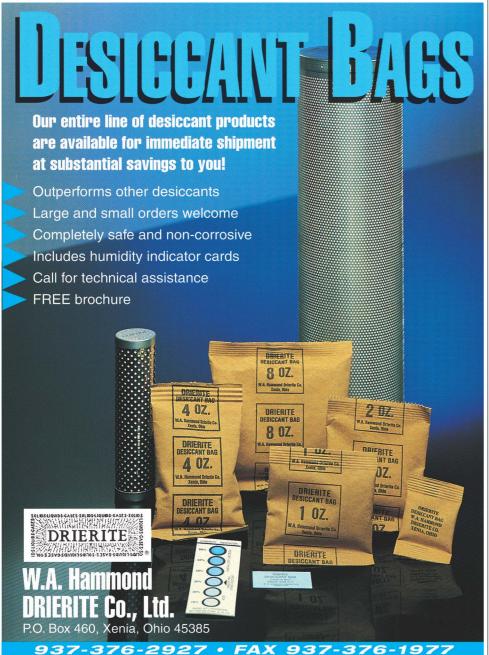


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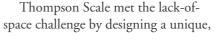
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environments found in the cement, soil, bark and carbon-black products industries.

area for semi trucks. Any cables would have to be hung high overhead or dug into the ground, which would be expensive, says Alvarez.

he four-spout impeller packer used by Rinker has the spouts on close center-lines, which presented several engineering challenges. The loadcell flexure assemblies would have to fit into an extremely restricted access area. A fill spout and product cutoff assembly needed to be designed to place the fill spouts in exactly the same position as the old mechanical system, so that the existing automatic bag placers and takeaway conveyors could be used without modification. The product cutoff assembly would also have to be designed to eliminate product spillage, yet keep the fill nozzle and spout from plugging between fills.

To meet these requirements, Thompson Scale installed a Model 4693 heavy-duty checkweigher and StatPak-PC real-time data collection and reporting software from its wholly owned subsidiary, Telemetry Solutions Co. (www.statpak-pc.com). Thompson Scale also upgraded "We have another terminal in Miami

Rinker's cement packaging machine. that has a couple of these checkweighers installed, and we are very pleased with their performance," says Alvarez.

The 4693 checkweigher, with weight ranges from 1 to 500 lb and production rates in excess of 50 units/min, is specifically designed for the harsh, abusive, dirty environments commonly found in the cement, concrete, soil, bark and carbon-black products industries. Conveyor belts are laced and include a V-guide for positive tracking. The checkweigher uses a single S-Type loadcell in an extremely accurate flexure-scale base residing below the conveyor.

Telemetry Solutions' StatPak-PC system allows users to easily view

fast weighment cycles to meet the application requirements. The innovative reject device is built onto a support that is isolated from the scale, yet places the reject pusher plate directly at the discharge end of the scale. The plate is suspended from an oversized, rodless cylinder capable of ejecting an off-spec bag and returning to the home position before the next bag enters the scale, even at high

compact checkweigher with a space-

accuracy, features and functionality of a full-sized unit, along with extremely

saver reject ram. The smaller-sized

4693 unit still provides the same

For a look at STRETCH WRAPPING bags of cement, go to www.packagingdigest.com/info/rigid

production rates.

Helping make this installation possible, a photoeye on the checkweigher quickly terminates the weight, which allows for more accurate weighing in such a tight space. This also assists the bag-reject system by obtaining the weights quicker than normally possible.

Another feature of Thompson Scale checkweighers are their easy-to-use controllers. "The checkweigher controller is very simple for our operators to use. There are even additional functions available that we could also use if needed," says Alvarez. These include options such as settable filters and bilingual menus, as well as the ability to store 75 different product types and to display errors for mechanical and system faults.

n important part of Rinker's production process is the realtime data-collection and reporting software system that they wanted installed. With its concise design and powerful reporting tools, production data on a PC, so they can

quickly and easily adjust production to optimal levels and analyze production flow over a period of time. "We installed the system to double-check the paperwork that the bagging employees submit by comparing it to the production rates we show in the system to monitor performance in the terminal," says Alvarez.

The software proved to be easy to install, configure and use. A wireless modem was set up to transmit data to the PCs in separate management offices without incurring the additional expenses of running cable. This worked very well, even with the heavy truck and plant radios used throughout the day, says Alvarez. Data was flawlessly received without running any wires.

StatPak-PC monitors 100 percent of production in order to track production rates. "We bag throughout the week, and we monitor production rates at the close out of each day by

We did a quick study that showed an increase in production while there was a sharp decrease in labor and maintenance. It's significant enough that we should see a return on investment within a relatively short time.

running a report from StatPak-PC," Alvarez adds. Everyone from line operators to experienced production supervisors and corporate management has access to the information they need to help them make more informed decisions that have an effect on the profitability of the company.

Thompson Scale upgrades filling machinery from counterweights and manual controls to a system with automatic controls and a loadcell for more efficient use of older technology. The company worked with Choice Bagging Equipment, which was involved with the design of a number of mechanical parts, mechanical fabrication, installation and startup of the filler upgrade. Thompson Scale provided the controls and technology to complete the upgrade process.

"The machines were getting old and required a lot of maintenance. We used mechanical scale beams that were only accurate up to plus or minus one

pound," says Alvarez. "We wanted to get the accuracy to plus or minus half a pound. The other goal was to increase the overall speed. The terminal in Miami upgraded their packing equipment first, which worked well. The equipment is almost maintenance-free. That made our decision very easy. The installation went smoothly, and there weren't any major issues. Three different companies worked together to upgrade our equipment, and everything worked out great." The system that Thompson Scale designed

for Rinker is extremely easy to maintain, with few wear parts and quick changeover of replacement parts.

www.packagingdigest.com

inker has experienced many benefits since installing the 4693 heavy-duty checkweigher in their cement-production system. "The main improvement is our increased bag-per-manhour rate, which has gone up over the last couple of months. Now, we can constantly monitor weights without having to stop

the operation," Alvarez says. "The other important aspect is safety. The risk of injury is less. Our employees enjoy the improved safety and have more comfortable working conditions by not having to handle the bags to weigh them. Also, if we have any reject bags, the checkweigher rejecter pushes them off the conveyor without someone having to handle the bag. We have really noticed the increase in our cementproduction rate." Continued on page 52

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StatPak-PC allowed Rinker to quickly and easily adjust their production lines to even better levels. Since installing the reporting software, they have noticed the benefits through more efficient production. "We track and monitor production through the data we get from the StatPak-PC system," says Alvarez. "We also track inventory better through the computer and analyze data, such as number of bags per minute, total weight and any variance. The reports we generate are

really helping us in monitoring the terminal. The software helps us maintain a constant quality and weight on the bags. This accuracy also makes the appearance of the bags on the pallets look even better."

When StatPak-PC software is used, the results are an increase in efficiency and quality. This optimized production leads to decreased expenditures and substantial cost savings over time. Says Alvarez, "We like the StatPak-PC reports that can be run. We get a lot of

valuable information that used to be created manually."

When asked about the improvements seen due to the packer upgrade, Alvarez says, "The number-one thing is a significant increase in production. Before, our filling time was twelve to fifteen seconds per bag. We operate at eight or nine seconds now. Another bonus is that only one person has to run the bagging equipment since it's automated. Now, the system can be run with one operator, who can see the



An all-inclusive data collection, viewing and reporting program is specifically designed for production filling and weighing applications. It collects data and sends it directly to PC desktops.

automatic bag placer at the same time as the controller and can easily check the weights of each bag. This has saved us a lot of manhours. Along with that is improved safety, because our employees do not even have to be near the conveyor belts anymore.

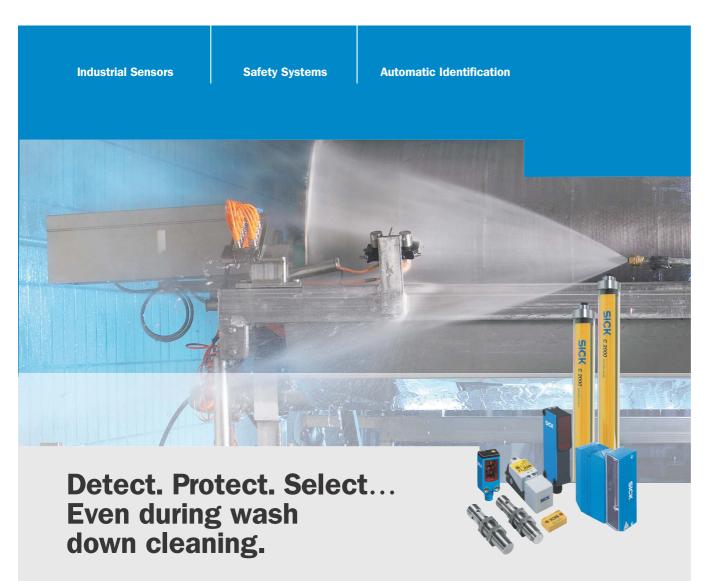
"In addition, the operation is running smoother now with almost no maintenance required. The calibration is simpler, too. Before, we would have to have an outside contractor come in to do the calibration for us. It's easy enough for us to do it ourselves now. The changeover is also greatly improved, and the equipment is more reliable now."

Another improvement made to the packer was in product spillage at the fill spouts. The original filler design allowed product to spill freely from behind each spout, even when the spout was filling a bag. The upgrade eliminated almost 90 percent of this spillage, reducing dust in the area and greatly reducing reclaim. "We did a quick study that showed an increase in production, while there was a sharp decrease in labor and maintenance. It's significant enough that we should see a return on investment within a relatively short time," says Alvarez.

The consistent drive to make continuous improvements such as these is one of the reasons Rinker Materials remains a leading manufacturer and distributor of high-quality cement. Thompson Scale, along with its subsidiary, Telemetry Solutions, met the challenges that Rinker faced with adding new equipment to their packaging line by using innovations and new product designs. To sum up the installation and Thompson Scale's products, Alvarez says, "It was a very good experience. I will definitely recommend Thompson Scale."

More information is available:

Thompson Scale Co., 713/932-9071. www.thompsonscale.com. Choice Bagging Equipment, 512/352-3694. www.valvebagfiller.com. Telemetry Solutions Co., 713/932-9071. www.statpak-pc.com.



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Interphex Puerto Rico gains momentum

With a 56-percent increase in exhibitors over last year's event and a full conference agenda, the third edition of Interphex Puerto Rico is set to meet the educational and networking needs of the island's pharmaceutical manufacturing community. The show runs Feb. 16 and 17.

omprising a potent mix of technology exhibits, educational sessions and networking opportunities, the third annual Interphex® Puerto Rico conference and exhibition, scheduled for Feb. 16 and 17 at the Puerto Rico Convention Center in San Juan, is organized to provide the right prescription for those seeking information on the pharmaceutical industry. Last year, the show attracted more than 2,000 visitors from around the island and approximately 175 exhibitors, reports show organizer Reed Exhibitions. This year's event will feature more than 300 exhibitors showcasing the latest equipment, materials and technologies for the processing, packaging and

distribution of pharmaceutical products. This 2006 show will also be co-located with Supply Chain & Logistics Puerto Rico, in its debut year, and Medical Device Puerto Rico.

The two-day event also offers a full agenda of conference sessions, with tracks that focus on regulatory issues, manufacturing technologies, facilities, biotechnology and packaging. Several sessions are also open to all badge holders. These include Thursday's keynote session, presented by Gary Dykstra, regional food and drug director, Southeast Region, U.S. Food & Drug Administration; a free exhibitor/supplier forum on Friday titled "Establishing Your Business in Puerto Rico"; and Friday's keynote presentation, "21st Century Manufacturing: Managing Product Risk, Reducing

Operational Costs and Increasing Supply Chain Responsiveness," presented by Jim Bradburn, principal consultant, IBM Business Consulting Services.

Exhibit hours are 2 to 7 p.m. on Thursday and Friday; conference sessions run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. both days. For more information or to register, visit the show website at www.interphexpuertorico.com or call 888/745-2529.

The following Interphex Puerto Rico exhibitors have a marketing message in this issue:

Nutec Systems, Inc.—Booth 109: p. 27. Mettler-Toledo Safeline, Inc.—Booth 405: p. 22-23. Zebra Technologies—Booth SC202: p. 43.







After redesigning the label for its popular Christian Brothers Brandy line with a shot of sophistication, Heaven Hill Distilleries, Inc. turns to converter J.R. Cole Industries to duplicate the cold-glue label format in a pressure-sensitive design for copacking versatility.

Anne Marie Mohan, Senior Editor

JANUARY 2006 PACKAGING DIGEST

hristian Brothers® Brandy, distilled in the U.S. since 1882, is one of the most well-known brandies in the domestic distilled spirits industry and is often referred to as the number-one "call" brand, or brand that consumers most often identify by name to a bartender when ordering a brandy. The smooth, amber-colored spirit, acquired by Heaven Hill Distilleries, Inc., Bardstown, KY, in 1999 from United Distillers and Vintners, is the only American brandy that uses the same pot-still production method used with fine cognacs—a process that Heaven Hill says yields a superb, rich flavor that is enhanced by years of aging in handselected, oak casks.

In 2004, Heaven Hill upgraded the product's packaging to enhance its shelf presence, broaden the brand's appeal to a more contemporary demographic and to more clearly communicate the quality of the Christian Brothers brand. Says Josh Hafer, corporate communications manager, "We redesigned the label with an elegant, black look, accented with gold, and with a very heavy emphasis

on the 'VS' [a U.S. branding designation used to indicate the quality of the brandy] as a means of elevating the brand's sophistication."

Until last year, these labels acquired their striking, yet refined decoration through sheetfed-offset printing only and were individually die-cut and glue-applied to the Christian Brothers' bottle. In

At FRANK-LIN DISTILLERS, a complex control system accumulates pallet loads of cases from six packaging lines on three conveyors for delivery to three palletizers. Read more at www.packagingdigest.com/info/frank-lin

early 2005, upon its transition to a new West Coast copacker, Heaven Hill charged converter J.R. Cole Industries (www.jrcoleinds.com) with the task of precisely replicating the cut-and-stack, cold-glue label in a pressure-sensitive format to meet the new copacker's labeling capabilities.

Relates Millard Sims, operations manager, "We challenged J.R. Cole to duplicate the cut-and-stack, cold-glue label, and they did an excellent job. In fact, if the labels were side-by-side, it would be very difficult for a consumer to pick out which one was pressure-sensitive and which was cut-and-stack."

ith the packaging redesign of Christian Brothers Brandy in 2004, Heaven Hill used the opportunity to reposition its product within the distilled spirits market. To suggest the brandy's usage as a lifestyle brand, as well as extend Christian Brothers' reach to the younger, legal-age drinker, Heaven Hill introduced a new tagline—"CB & (any occasion) completes whatever you start," which implies that "Christian Brothers plus any occasion equals the perfect occasion," explains Hafer.

Aware that the bulk of its buyers are "white consumers of a reasonable household income," Heaven Hill also positioned Christian Brothers as a merchandisable brand, with in-store, on-pack promotions, sweepstakes and giveaways. Hafer adds that two other marketing strategies focus on the brand's African American and Hispanic consumers.

To maintain the product's brand equity while revitalizing its packaging, Heaven Hill worked with design firm Keller Crescent Co. (www.kellercrescent.com), which it says has helped it successfully redesign several of its other brand labels,

as well. The Christian Brothers redesign retained the

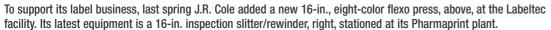
classic, "cathedral"-style bottle, as well as some key



If the labels were side-by-side, it would be very difficult for a consumer to pick out which one was pressuresensitive and which was cut-and-stack.

Capital investments, like this new folder/gluer, left, have lately been fast and frequent at J.R. Cole.





do provide a broad range of services, we don't serve all

We get to know our customers requirements very well

in certain markets and make the best product possible."

markets. That can hurt your business in the process.

One way of achieving that goal is through the

company's new Heidelberg (www.heidelberg.com)

Speedmaster CD 102 sheetfed-offset press, installed at

the Southern Converters plant last March. The 40-in.,

six-color-plus-coater system is expected to help shorten

job makeready times and speed changeovers with its

automatic inking unit, automatic plate hangers and

rapid registration. Although J.R. Cole currently uses

interdeck dryer is prewired for ultraviolet curing.

only water-based coatings on the press, each print

label elements, including the CB "grape wreath" graphic, the "Since 1882" heritage statement and the CB logotype. Changes to the label included replacing the burgundy "velvet" look of the old face label with a glossy, black background and adding the prominently positioned "VS Very Smooth" copy.

A black-and-gold-foil neck wrap and capsule, with the repeating copy "Christian Brothers/Very Smooth Brandy," elegantly completes the package.

The new cut-and-stack labels made their debut in June 2004 on Christian Brothers' full range of bottle sizes, including the 50-, 100-, 200-, 375- and 750-mL and 1- and 1.75-L sizes, and were "very well received by consumers," relates Hafer. "There's always a fear that you're going to damage the brand equity a little bit with a redesign. The good thing is that Heaven Hill is an independent, familyowned business; we're not a massive company, so we're pretty agile. We've gone though several package changes with our brands, and we have a very good track record.

"One of the key equities of the Christian Brothers brand is the cathedral bottle, which didn't change. It's an eye-catching element and probably helped consumers recognize the brand."

Heaven Hill packages its Christian Brothers Brandy in two locations—one at its facility in Bardstown, the other on the West Coast. In 2004, it switched its West Coast business to contract bottler Frank-Lin Distillers (www.frank-lin.com) in San Jose, CA. While excellently equipped to bottle the Christian Brothers Brandy, Frank-Lin did not have the capabilities to apply the cold-glue labels. "Their equipment was designed to run a pressure-sensitive label," explains Sims. "We could have stayed with the cut-and-stack, with some additional equipment costs, but we decided to let J.R. Cole try to duplicate this label, which they did-to perfection."

converter of p-s labels and folding cartons, Charlotte, NC-based J.R. Cole comprises four converting operations, all of which are located within a 10-mile radius. Together, they cover

approximately 159,000 sq ft. The flagship foldingcarton division, Southern Converters, Inc., was founded in 1979. The Labeltec roll-label and insert subsidiary, which converts Heaven Hills' p-s Christian Brothers label, as well as p-s labels for other Heaven Hill brands, was established in 1982 to serve a growing demand from existing carton customers for colormatched p-s labels. Ten years later, J.R. Cole spun off Pharmaprint to convert pharmaceutical roll labels and inserts; in 1987, it launched Carolina Prepress to

provide artwork and plates for its sister companies, as

"It's an excellent piece of equipment," says Southern Converters general manager Lee Swope, who goes on to say that although the company has state-of-the-art equipment, that's not necessarily what makes J.R. Cole special. "Our

responsiveness to customers is our strong suit," he says. "When they put an order in, they want it turned and shipped in ten days—sometimes even less in the label division.

'We're still small enough to turn on a dime. We react very quickly. It's not a case where we have a big committee; decisions are made almost overnight."

To support its label business, last spring J.R. Cole added a new 16-in., eight-color press from Multi Print Systems (www.mps4u.com) at the Labeltec facility. Manufactured by MPS in The Netherlands, the completely servo-driven equipment features interchangeable print stations with a combination of UV-flexo and rotary-screen printing. It handles substrates from 1-mil unsupported films to .020 paperboard, as well as shrink-sleeve materials. Subsystems include in-line hot-stamping and laminating capabilities, three die-cutting stations and web turning.

'Changeover between screen and flexo takes only minutes," says Darrell Somerville, label operations manager. "The servo drives cut waste to only 200 feet of material, and once registration is set, there's Continued on page 56

well as for some noncompetitive converters.

J.R. Cole's customer base includes health and beauty, healthcare, household care, wine/spirits and consumer electronics packagers across North America. This long list of Fortune 500 businesses employs the converter's flexo, offset, rotary screen and rotary letterpress printing, embossing/stamping, die-cutting and folding/gluing services.

We serve the high-end customers of various markets," says Joe Richards, vp of sales. "The cliché of being 'a one-stop shop' is true at J.R. Cole. We will handle today's demands for shorter runs, and even manage inventory for customers."

Adds Larry Long, vp of manufacturing, "While we



A new 40-in, sheetfed-offset press is expected to help shorten job makeready times and speed changeovers for cartonconverting jobs.

no manual adjustment."

The latest equipment addition to J.R. Cole's arsenal, installed in September, is a 16-in. KOR Engineering $(www.korengineering.com) \ VR \\$ inspection slitter/rewinder stationed at its Pharmaprint plant. Fitted with an AVT Advanced Vision Technologies (www.avtinc.com) digital defect-detection system, the unit also uses up to four Domino Amjet (www.domino-printing.com/us/) A400 ink-jet printheads to sequentially number the back of pharmaceutical labels.

J.R. Cole's Carolina Prepress operation is truly a "start-to-finish" business, offering everything from original label and carton graphics and structural design to final printing plates for both offset and flexo work. For narrow-web flexo labels, Carolina Prepress recently added an Esko-Graphics (www.esko-graphics.com) CDI Spark digital flexo plate imager and a **DuPont Packaging Graphics** (www.cyrel.dupont.com) Cyrel® FAST 1000 TD flexo plate processor. Along with film imagesetting, Carolina Prepress also provides contract proofs.

Capital investments have lately been fast and frequent at J.R. Cole, but that's also one of its strengths, says Dave Harris, technical manager of label operations. "What's unique to our management is that



One of two die-cutters finished printed carton sheets. The side-by-side systems are immediately upstream from a team of folder/gluers.

we don't have a lot of levels to act as a stumbling block to progress," he says. "It's given us the freedom to make commitments and live up to them."

Adds J.R. Cole president and CEO Bob Cole, "The roll-label business is as wide open as it was forty years ago. The entry level is such that a garage and a credit card will put you in business. Converters come and go on an almost weekly basis. The fragmentation of the

industry is almost beyond belief.

"The consolidation of retailing has provided opportunities for nimble, customer-oriented converters. I believe there will always be a market for converters fitting this profile.'

t Heaven Hill, Sims confirms J.R. Cole's commitment to service. 'There are several very good pressure-sensitive label converters



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The consolidation of retailing has provided opportunities for nimble, customer-oriented converters.

out there," he says, "but what we have found with J.R. Cole is that they have always met our quality requirements, their customer service is excellent, and their pricing is fair." When Heaven Hill approached J.R. Cole in February 2005 about replicating its cold-glue labels in a p-s format, the converter was already supplying Heaven Hill with p-s labels for some of its other brands.

For J.R. Cole, the process of creating the p-s label involved testing materials in its lab and experimenting with postprint processes to achieve the desired results. For the label stock, J.R. Cole selected Raflatac's (www.raflatac.com) Silver Vac, a 2.7-mil metallized, paper-based facestock, coated with RP51 modified acrylic dispersion permanent adhesive and laminated to a 40# white kraft release liner. "This particular label construction allowed us to match the glue-applied labels," says Ken Fender, Labeltec plant manager. "We had to be able to tint the silver foil gold to match

the labels exactly. The tints available with the gold-metallized papers in pressuresensitive were not an exact match. This was unacceptable to the customer.

"We tested materials in our lab from several different suppliers, and the Raflatac material seemed superior for this particular application."

Labels are printed on a Mark Andy (www.markandy.com) 12-color, UV-flexo press with 600-line anilox rolls, using UV-flexo inks in black, gold tint, red and white from Zeller+Gmelin (www.zeller-gmelin.com). The 150-line-screen printing is topped with a UV-flexo coating, then embossed in-line using a male/female brass die from RotoMetrics (www.rotometrics.com). Die-cutting is also performed in-line, using magnetic dies from Gerhardt (www.gerhardt.dk).

According to Fender, the Mark Andy press was selected for this application because of its in-line embossing, coating and die-cutting features and because "the UV-flexo stations were

required to achieve the desired density of the black background."

From Millard Sims' perspective, one of the biggest challenges for J.R. Cole was matching the embossing of the cut-and-stack labels. "They ran several tests to ensure that they met our criteria and our quality requirements, and they sent samples to us to review," he recalls. "After a couple of attempts, they were able to match the embossing perfectly with that of the cut-and-stack label."

In April 2005, the p-s labels were introduced into the market served by Frank-Lin on the 50-, 200-, 375- and 750-mL and 1- and 1.75-L sizes of Christian Brothers Brandy. For the 200- and 375-mL sizes, J.R. Cole also converts a partial/spot trapezoidal neck label, using the same Silver Vac label facestock, printed with black and gold-tint UV-flexo inks and a UV-flexo coating.

or Heaven Hill, when it came to the switch to p-s labels for its West Coast-packaged Christian Brothers Brandy products, no news was good news. "We have not had one complaint since we switched to the pressure-sensitive labels," says Sims. "I'm not even sure that a customer would even know we made the change."

More information is available:

J.R. Cole Industries, Inc., 704/523-6622. www.jrcoleinds.com. AVT, Inc., 770/541-9781. www.avt-inc.com. Domino Amjet, Inc., 800/486-7351. www.domino-printing.com/us/. Esko-Graphics, 800/743-7131. www.esko-graphics.com. **DuPont Packaging Graphics,** 800/345-9999. www.cyrel.dupont.com. Frank-Lin Distillers Products, Ltd., 408/259-8900. www.frank-lin.com. Gerhardt USA, 717/417-1313. www.gerhardt.dk. Heidelberg USA, Inc., 888/472-9655. www.heidelberg.com. Keller Crescent Co., 800/457-3837, ext. 625. www.kellercrescent.com. **KOR Engineering, Inc.,** 905/842-8452. www.korengineering.com. Mark Andy, Inc., 800/700-MARK. www.markandy.com. Multi Print Systems, 513/831-2483. www.mps4u.com. Raflatac, 800/992-3882. www.raflatac.com. RotoMetrics, 800/325-3851.

www.rotometrics.com.

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Zeller+Gmelin Corp., 800/84U-VINK.

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JANUARY 2006 PACKAGING DIGEST

Coriolis meters measure flow in paint-filling machines

Coriolis mass-flow meters provide accurate fills without contamination problems on fillers running a variety of paint colors and textures.

nationally known paint manufacturer has recently switched to using machines from Pneumatic Scale Corp. (www.pneumaticscale.com) equipped with Coriolis flow meters from Micro Motion (www.emersonprocess.com/ micromotion) to fill cans of paint. A Coriolis meter

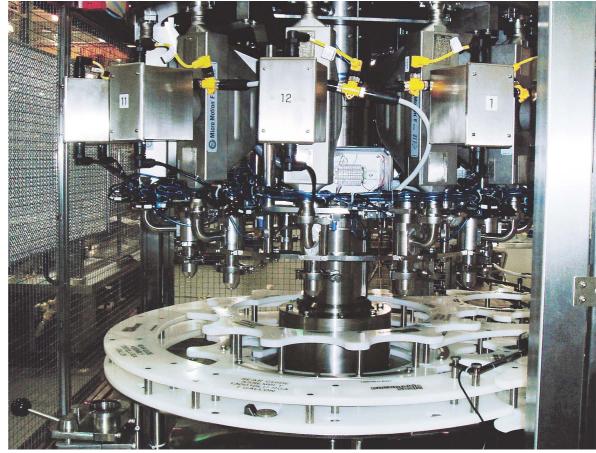
For more information about automation and controls, go to Packaging Digest's CONTROLS, MOTORS INFO CHANNEL at www.packagingdigest.com/info/controls

measures the mass of the product flowing through

it, whether running liquids or gases. This is an absolute measurement of quantity that is unaffected by changing fluid properties, such as viscosity or density. In addition, changing fluid process conditions, such as temperature or pressure, do not introduce additional measurement uncertainty. Coriolis meters eliminate the need for densitycompensation-correction systems to adjust the actual measured volume flows to standard, or reference conditions, because a direct mass measurement has no need for density compensation. In fact, the multivariable measurement principle of Coriolis technologies also provides a measure of fluid density as a secondary output.

A Coriolis meter requires two components: an inline fluid-flow sensing element and an electronic unit with a transmitter that interprets the signals from the sensor and converts these signals into useable outputs, usually pulse, 4 to 20 mA analog, and digital outputs. The sensing element usually consists of a manifold that splits the flow into two parallel tubes, although the smaller meters used for lower flow ranges often are configured to use only a single tube. The flow tubes are driven so that they vibrate in opposition at a resonant frequency, similar to a tuning fork. As the flow passes through the tubes, the fluid momentum, coupled with the oscillatory motion created by the vibration, induces a Coriolis force directed along the length of each tube. This force produces a phase shift (or time difference) along the length of the tube, which is directly proportional to mass flow rate. Two electromagnetic sensors located on opposite legs of the flow tubes sense the vibration of the tubes, which produce sinusoidal signals, and the phase shift between these signals can be measured.

Micro Motion Coriolis meters do not require special installation procedures, flow straighteners or



This rotary paint filler has 12 Coriolis meters installed in the numbered housings mounted above the fill nozzles, Five of these rotary units have been installed; four with 12 heads, as shown, and one six-head machine.

Coriolis mass-flow meters take advantage of the Coriolis effect to very precisely measure massflow of a fluid as it passes through the meter.

special lengths of straight pipe to correct the fluidflow profile. Eliminating these piping requirements reduces the size and cost of many Coriolis-based flow measurement systems.

he paint company has long been using machines from Pneumatic Scale Corp. (PSC) to fill cans of paint using traditional pistondisplacement technology and, more recently, loadcell weight-measurement technologies. Volumetric-displacement piston fillers are a reliable way to fill a lot of cans quickly, says the filler manufacturer. The piston pulls product from the filler's supply line into a cylinder on the upstroke, and then pushes the contents of the cylinder into the paint can on the downstroke. Valves open and close in concert with the pistons' strokes to ensure that the product is always going in the correct direction. Piston fillers can sometimes have problems with hightexture paint products or in applications requiring frequent product and/or color changes. The texturing

in the high-texture product wears down the piston's rings and other contacting parts, while switching between products and colors is difficult, because the previous product can get trapped in the system.

Loadcell fillers, in general, are an accurate way to fill cans of product, says the company. The system is controlled by the weight measurement taken before the can is filled. A can is placed under the filler, and the empty container weight is tared, after which a valve opens, letting the product enter the can until the weight reaches a predetermined value. The product settles in the can, and the loadcell takes a final weight reading. The main problem with using loadcells to fill paint is the spilled paint that accumulates quickly and becomes nearly impossible to clean. The spilled paint skews the accuracy of the product measurement or even gums up the loadcell to the point where it does not function properly.

Coriolis meters take advantage of the Coriolis effect to very precisely measure the mass flow of a fluid as it passes through the meter. When the meter's Schematic diagram of a three-head, in-line filler with Coriolis flow meters

mass-flow fillers have met its expectations and provide a number of benefits. The filling machines are at least as accurate as those with loadcells, but require very little maintenance. Because the working components are inside of the flow meter, there are no concerns about paint spillage or frequent cleaning, maintenance or calibration. The design of the flow tubes makes them ideal for the heavily textured paints because there are no tight, moving seals that the paint texturing can wear down, and there are no cracks or crevices where previously colored product can hide, waiting to contaminate the color of the next product to be used. Vibration on the filling line

has little or no effect on the measurement accuracy of the fillers.

The new fillers are simple and reliable to operate. Their networked configuration uses just one PLC in the main electrical cabinet. The only wiring to the filler is power and communications to the mass-flow meters.

More information is available:

Pneumatic Scale Corp., 330/923-0491. www.pneumaticscale.com. Micro Motion, 303/527-5200.

www.emersonprocess.com/micromotion.

totalizer has counted the preset mass of fluid, the unit communicates to other devices in the system to open or close valves or to operate other automated equipment. Given the difficulties that PSC says it needed to overcome in its paint fillers, using a Coriolis flow meter in some new filling machines was a clever solution, it reports. PSC has introduced two new types of filling machines, one rotary and the other inline, that have Coriolis flow installed above the cans to be filled. When a can moves into place, the fill valve opens, and paint flows through the Coriolis meter, which measures the mass flow and sends a signal to the valve when the preset product mass has been reached. The valve closes, and the filling machine exchanges the filled can for the next empty one and repeats the process.

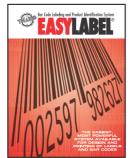
he Micro Motion flow meters on the new machines have batching control and constant correction built into them via their transmitters. Each flow meter controls its fill and blow-down valves directly, but also communicates with the filling machine's single PLC via an RS-485 Modbus network. The PLC then communicates with other equipment and devices in the filling line and with the plant's network via Ethernet.

PSC has installed seven machines with Coriolis mass-flow meters. Five of the machines are rotary-style. Four have 12 heads (shown in the photograph) and one is a six-head machine. All of these machines have turrets with 900-mm pitch-diameter. Two of the machines are in-line machines with three heads; each head fills a 2- to 5-gal pail. The basic layout of the in-line machine can be seen in the control/line drawing.

Six of the machines are used for latex paints, including anti-skid, textured paints, while the seventh is used for solvents and sealers. Each filling head has its own Micro Motion F-Series flow meter. All of the machines are currently set up for filling different container sizes between 1 qt and 5 gal, but unlike other filler types, there is no maximum weight or volume imposed by the measurement technology. Only the containerhandling parts would need to be changed or modified to run other sizes or types of containers.

The customer says the new PSC

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system The in-line pneumatic batching system facilitates simultaneous weigh-batching of major ingredients supplied in bulk bags, manual dumping of preweighed minor ingredients and blending of the material while a subsequent batch is accumulated. Each bulk-bag discharger is mounted on a load cell, allowing loss-of weight batching from either or both bulk bags. A system controller starts and stops each discharger's rotary airlock valve to weigh ingredients, first at high-feed rate for rapid filling, then at dribble-feed rate, stopping material flow once the desired batch weight has been discharged. System software allows for mid-batch bag changes. Minor ingredients are added at the manual dumping station, after the major ingredients have been discharged. A dilute-phase vacuum conveyor line terminates at a filter receiver, which accumulates the batch before discharging it through a slide gate valve into a ribbon blender, allowing concurrent batching and blending of materials. Other features include FLOW-FLEXER™ bag activators and POP-TOP™ stretching devices. System components are available constructed of carbon steel with an industrial finish, or in stainless steel finished to meet industrial food, dairy or pharmaceutical standards.

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

Safety controller The Allen-Bradley GuardLogix controller features a two-processor safety architecture and is rated up to a Safety Integrity Level (SIL) 3 functionality. Suitable for a range of safety applications, the controller is based on the same Logix control engine, networking and I/O as other Integrated Architecture control systems the co. produces. This design commonality,

coupled with the use of RSLogix 5000 software, is said to allow for better sharing of information.



and commissioning. The architecture features multidisciplined control across process, discrete, motion, drive and safety applications, as well as seamless connectivity to plant-wide information systems. It allows users to program and manage the safety control system using familiar standard control methods, the co. says. Safety memory can be read by standard logic and external devices such as HMIs and other controllers.

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

Case erectors Available in two models, 2-EZ® side-belt-drive case erectors form and bottom-seal cases at speeds of up to 20 cases/min. Built with many of the same aspects of previous models in the 2-EZ family, the side-belt-drive units are designed for durability and longevity and are capable of handling a variety of case materials, including single- to triple-wall corrugated. Capable of erecting cases ranging in size



from $8\times6\times5$ in. to $24\times16\times18$ in. at speeds of up to 20 cpm, the 2-EZ HS features a standard, 45-in. EZ-load, walk-in, powered case magazine, and an HS highspeed, 2-in. tapehead. The carriage assembly is servo-driven, and the machine includes a self-cleaning PIAB vacuum system. The 2-EZ SB erects cases ranging from 8×6×5 in. to 20×16×18 in. in size, at speeds of up to 15 cpm. It includes an EZ-load, walkin case magazine and a 3M Accuglide II™ 2-in. tapehead. Structural welded steel framework is standard on both models.

Combi Packaging Systems, LLC, 330/456-9333. www.combi.com

Top and bottom labelers Designed specifically for top- and bottom-labeling of media products such as DVDs and CDs, Series 7700 labelers can be supplied with one, two or three labeling heads. The labelers use the air-cylinder-tamp method of label application to provide positive label control, and rigid mounting of the heads facilitate accurate labeling. PLC controls are standard, flexible and upgradable; an I/O expansion kit also is included. Storage for up to 50 product recipes can be accommodated, and an LCD provides easy-to-read, simple menus. Remote mounting of the LCD is available. Other features include an adjustable product sensor delay, resettable product and label counters and fiber optic, tip-ofpeeler-bar label sensing for apply-only labeling heads. The units also feature a heavy-duty, aluminum-plate and stainless-steel construction. Options include leftor right-hand configurations, a low-label/web-break alarm package with beacon, an ultrasonic clear-label sensor with auto-teach function and a capacitive clearlabel sensor.

Labeling Systems, Inc., 201/405-0767. www.labelingsystems.com



Hot-melt system The Shure-Melt™ hot-melt system is suitable for packaging and product assembly tasks where low cost and simple operation are required, the co. reports. The tank has a slice-grid

design that provides brisk melt rates for fast warmup. It also permits the use of sausage-pack p-s adhesives. Heat zones are individually adjustable, controlled by easy-to-use thermostats. No heat zones are slaved. The unit has two hose ports, and hoses are available in 8-, 12- and 16-ft lengths. Programming plugs allow



easy field configuration of the melt unit for either 120or 240-v operation. Self-programming peripherals automatically configure for 120- or 240-v operation when connected to the unit.

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

Medical heat sealer The Cryo530 medical pouch sealer is a high-temperature, validatable heat sealer with a CryoBand® sealing element. It's designed for sealing fluorinated ethylene propylene

(FEP) Cryo bags and sterile barrier products intended for cryopreservation of tissues and cells, which require high sealing temperatures near the point of material destruction. Digital controls ensure that all seal parameters.



temperature, time and pressure are maintained, sealto-seal. The sealer has external calibration ports, and a laser cut, welded stainless-steel case that makes it resistant to harsh, anti-microbial agents.

Accu-Seal Corp., 800/452-6040. www.accu-seal.com

Strapping machine The D2400 strapping machine is capable of more than 50 cycles/min. It accepts 5-, 6- and 9-mm strapping material, with no

additional parts required. Cycle initiation is by start switch, photoeye or footbar, and the table height can be adjusted from 291/2 to 351/2 in. Equipped with an LCD that can be set to display in one of six different languages, the unit operates on singlephase power and can be plugged in wherever needed, the co. says.



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Clear packaging New styles and features are part of the co.'s expanded line of clear packaging. Round and square tubing, with a selection of closures, are available, and new clear caps can provide a finished look to packages, the co. says. Extend-A-Paks and permaseal tubing also are available in round and square styles with a new, improved bottom. A choice of closure options is available for the open

end. Labeling and header cards can also be provided.

VisiPak, 800/797-7886.

www.visipak.com

Round containers The Camber Round line, an alternative to typical bulletround bottles, is expanding with new sizes. Made of OPET, it's now available in 200-



mL and 8-oz sizes with a 24/410 finish. Custom designs can be accommodated. The co. also has under development a variety of new sizes for the Camber Round line, in a selection of materials, including OPET, PETG and HDPE.

Fenton, Weber & Jones Packaging, Inc., 716/568-1290. www.fwjpackaging.com

Flow-wrapping system A new Hitech flow-wrapping system consists of

two modules. The first module is the Model ABS-5 continuous-motion, tear-tape applicator. Patented, it provides packages with easy-opening capabilities and features adjustable strip positioning during operation. During application, two knives perform cuts on the packaging material. The second module is a Hiwrap 303 horizontal flow wrapper. A servodriven system, the flow wrapper is said to be



simple to operate and can reach speeds of up to 500 packs/min. It has a welded frame with a cantilevered design, easing cleaning and accessibility. Three servo motors service the infeed chain, the cross-sealing crimper head and the fin-seal rollers. Electronically controlled film print registration is available for higher-quality packages. Other features include an Allen-Bradley Control Logix platform and a Panel View color touchscreen.

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

Shrink tunnels The Shrink Mate™ shrink tunnel is a portable, desktop shrink tunnel that is suitable for manual and startup applications. It's capable of finishing sleeves at speeds of up to 10 packages/min. The Shrink Master™, a standalone unit, finishes sleeves at speeds of up to 20 packages/min and can be incorporated into existing production lines. Both units have a rugged steel construction and can shrink a range of film sizes and sleeves. Multipack sleeve capabilities can also be accommodated.

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Laser sensors world-beam® QS18LD laser-diffuse and QS18LLP laserretroreflective sensors deliver highperformance sensing with visible Class 1 lasers, tightly collimated sensing beams and extended sensing ranges. Both models use the co.'s QS18 standard housing to provide mounting and application flexibility. The QS18LD senses targets up to 300 mm away;



the QS18LLP delivers retroreflective sensing up to 10 m. Designed for use where a high-power, small beam size is important, the sensors are suitable for applications in the pharmaceutical, medical, cosmetic and material handling industries, among others. Features include six connector options, including a 2- or 9-m integral cable, a four-pin Euro-style or integral pigtail QD and a four-pin Pico-style or integral pigtail QD. A crosstalk algorithm protects against optical disturbance from adjacent sensors, and bright green and amber status LEDs are visible from 360 deg. Banner Engineering Corp., 888/373-6767.

www.bannerengineering.com

Unit-load stacker The PS600

slipsheet unit-load stacker is designed to stack unit loads without pallets. It mounts on one side of the unit-load conveyor and holds the stretch-wrapped unit-loads in position with a positive stop-gate. The load stacker uses linear rails and bearings to move multiple support bars between the rollers under the unit-load. A PLC controls the unit and can communicate with the conveyor, the stretch wrapper and the unitizer. Loads are raised



and lowered with a variable, electric drive system. The PS600's standard setup handles 40×48-in. unit loads traveling broadside first. The carriage can be adapted to handle a range of unit-load sizes. Featuring a heavy-duty, four-post steel frame, the stacker is suitable for high-volume warehousing operations.

Kolinahr Systems, Inc., 513/745-9401. www.kolinahr.cc

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Sidel, Inc. makes David Schroeder its



David Schroeder Zone VP, North America Sidel Inc

zone vp for North America. Gregory Luka assumes Schroeder's previous responsibilities as vp of sales and business development for North America. Ampac Flexibles, a div. of Ampac Packaging, LLC, adds Dave Bartish as

adds Dave Bartish as director of sales for the co.'s Performance Films group. Most recently, he led the sales and business development team for a major account at Curwood, a Bemis co. Tricia Reighard joins as director of technical marketing of



Gregory Luka /P of Sales & Business Development Sidel Inc

the co.'s Converted Products group.
The Packaging Machinery
Manufacturers Institute (PMMI) adds

Tim Cook, Nick Wilson and Paul Irvine to its board of directors. Cook is the vp of sales and marketing for Richmond, VA-based AMF Automation Technologies and serves on the Institute's show committee. Wilson is the president and founder of Morrison Container Handling Solutions, Glenwood, IL, and Irvine is CEO of Plexpack Corp., based in Toronto. He has served on the Institute's global marketing committee and recently was part of its competitiveness task force.

Nordson Corp. appoints William Donges and Edward Lash to the positions of container marketing manager and product manager, respectively, for its liquid and container businesses. HP names Gal Barak the director and gm of HP America's Inkjet Industrial Division,

of HP America's Inkjet Industrial Division, formerly known as Scitex Vision America.

Intl. Paper's Robert M. Amen retires after



Robert M. Amel President

26 years with the co.
Amen has served in a number of capacities, most recently as president.
Wayne Brafford is named senior vp, printing and communications papers; Paul Herbert is senior vp, strategic

initiatives; and Carol Roberts is senior vp, IP-packaging solutions.

Sato America, Inc. appoints Terry Bresin as its Western regional sales manager. Prior to joining the co, Bresin spent eight years with Intermec Technologies Corp. in various, senior-level positions.

The Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc. promotes Walt Bishop to the position of vp in charge of trade shows. He steps in for the recently retired Jordan L. Morgenstern.

SCA Packaging North America appoints Andrew MacLeod as divisional vp of sales & marketing. He was most recently vp of sales & marketing for the Titan Plastics Group, a position he held since '01. The Robotics Industries Association (RIA) selects Trevor Jones as its new president. Jones is the director of OEM business development for Thermo Electron Corp.'s Laboratory Automation and Integration Business. He succeeds Åke Lindqvist, group vp, Robotic Products and Automation N.A. of ABB, Inc., who remains on the RIA board as past president.

Continued on page 69

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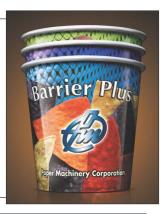
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Jan. 18-20 Fundamentals of Packaging Technology—Semester 2. Hilton Garden Inn at SeaWorld

Jan. 22-24 Winter Fancy Food

Show. Moscone Convention Center,

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newsmakers

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Klöckner Pentaplast Group opens new

ON THE MOVE

sales offices in India and Australia, and a one-representative office is scheduled to open in China. Additionally, the group's Thailand-based plant expands its capacity with an \$8 million investment. New England Machinery, Inc. adds Inrumec, Inc., Eurotecsa and Western States Machinery Corp. as sales representatives for customers throughout the Western Hemisphere. Barry-Wehmiller Cos., Inc. establishes a new office in Nottingham, England. Siemens Energy & Automation, Inc. invests approximately \$30 million in the revitalization of its Norwood, OH, manufacturing facility. Construction is expected to begin this month. Alcan, Inc. closes its Centralia, IL-based plastic packaging operation. With the facility scheduled to close by March 1, production will be transferred to various plants throughout North America. MeadWestvaco Corp. opens its new Packaging Innovation Center. Located at the co.'s Richmond, VA office, the facility features demonstrations of innovative packaging technologies and capabilities. Syfan U.S.A., Corp. relocates its U.S. corporate hq from Florida to its recently opened manufacturing facility in Everetts, NC. MonoSol, LLC moves its world hq to a

HAPPENINGS

PMMI adds the new membership category of supplier members. The first expansion of this kind since the Institute's creation in 1933, it requires potential members in the category to be identified as original manufacturers of commercially available packaging machinery components, who are not engaged in manufacturing packaging machinery and packaging-related converting machinery as defined by the Institute's bylaws.

new facility in Merrillville, IN. The move

allows the co. to expand its laboratory

and R&D facility in Portage, IN, where

the hq was previously housed.

White Systems, Inc. and Management Capital, LLC recently completed the buyout of White's Kenilworth manufacturing div. from FKI Logistex Manufacturing Systems.

Heat and Control becomes the exclusive representative for CEIA industrial metal detectors in the U.S., Mexico and Latin America, excluding Chile. Sales and service of CEIA metal detectors and Ishida checkweighers is handled through the co.'s new Hayward, CA-based Inspection Systems div.

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Online Exclusive: Label puts TLMI under a spell

The best of what tag and labelmakers have to offer was center stage during the Tag and Label Manufacturers Institute, Inc. (TLMI) Annual Meeting Oct. 19-22 at The Ritz-Carlton, Lake Las Vegas in Henderson, NV. During the TLMI Awards Dinner on Oct. 21, the hard work and creativity of converters were recognized with one Best of Show award, 52 first-place and 35 second-place awards, and 16 honorable mentions.

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Coke considers aluminum bottles

Coca-Cola has discussed plans for new carbonated and noncarbonated drinks and for attractive packaging in the form of colorful, 200mL aluminum bottles. Also, Coca-Cola Blak is a new colacoffee beverage that will debut next month in France (see page 8).

Innovative packs shake up the sugar aisle

Sugar packaging has undergone a revolution, driven by consumers demanding convenience. Those old four- and five-pound paper packages are giving way to airtight plastic pouches, pre-measured cups and easy-to-grip sugar shakers. The makeovers are making it easier than ever for bakers to use sugar this holiday season.

Oxygen scavengers in barrier plastic cups ensure freshness of long-shelf-life pâtés

Food company Tartex and Dr Gitter GmbH recently launched its finest pâtés in a new plastic cup. This innovative packaging is produced by Säntis J. Goldi AG and was developed in cooperation with EVAL™ Europe and Ciba Specialty Chemicals. The polypropylene cups have a multi-layer structure containing EVAL™ EVOH resin as a gas barrier and Ciba® SHELFPLUS® O2 as an oxygen scavenger.

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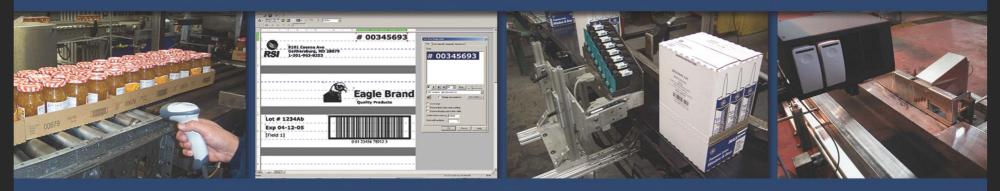
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