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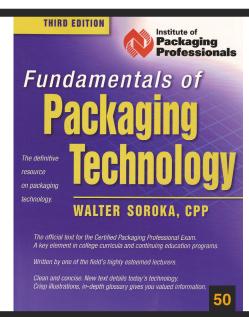














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## 50 Globalized packaging drives global certification

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# web exclusive

# RFID application for real-time tracking

McKesson, a leader in healthcare services, will implement a new wireless radio-frequency identification (RFID) solution to track and electronically record the location history of 550 intravenous infusion pumps. For more details, go to www.packagingdigest.com/info/mckesson/

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# Photo-Quality Digital Label Printer



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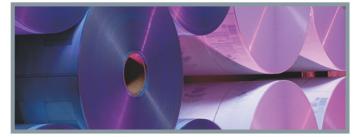






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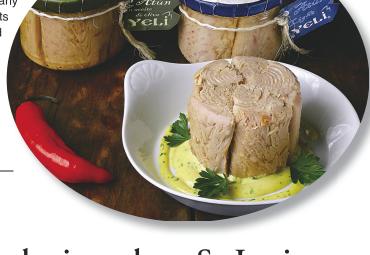
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# design trends

Glass jars re-tune tuna in Ecuador

Yeli light tuna and tuna hand-packed in olive oil from Marbelize, a tuna manufacturer based in Ecuador, stand out in a distinctive glass jar package that adds value and clearly separates the Yeli brand from canned tuna. Researching the packaging preferences of its market, the company found that its target European market prefers products packaged in glass. It then turned to **O-I (www.o-i.com)** in Ecuador to help design a jar to best display the premium tuna. Within a year, the project was complete, resulting in a 260-cu-cm jar filled with 240 g of product. The new glass packaging allows consumers to clearly view the freshness of the product on the shelf, according to Marbelize, which adds that the brand of tuna is performing well. The tuna rolled out internationally in January 2006 and in Ecuador in March 2006.





# Infused waters break the ice in a hot-fill bottle

O Beverages of Cambridge, MA, has launched O Infused water in a custom, 17-oz PowerFlex<sup>™</sup> polyethylene terephthalate (PET) panel-less, hot-fill bottle from **Amcor PET Packaging (www.amcor.com).** Featuring etching on the shoulder and base (a first for the PowerFlex), the bottle has a 38-mm neck finish and a larger capacity than past PowerFlex versions.

In 2005, O Beverages launched its first product, O Water, an "ultra purified" water with natural fruit flavors. But it didn't want to stop there. Consumers asked for more, explains Tom First, founder of O Beverages. His company wanted to differentiate itself in a crowded market and also wanted a premium look. "We looked at hot-fill PET bottles when we had our first launch, but the only ones available had ribs. We didn't like the way the ribs affected the ability to label the bottle, so we went in a different direction," First says. The product's development coincided with the commercialization of Amcor's PowerFlex bottle. O Beverages found the new bottle through distributor **Zuckerman-Honickman (www.zh-inc.com).** 

The PowerFlex bottle features a patented structure that eliminates side panels and offers a smooth label panel that is free of ribs that might distort the labeling. A vacuum-absorbing base also prevents distortion that previously required the sidewall panels to absorb the vacuum caused after hot-filled beverages cool to room temperature. For the O Beverages custom bottle, Amcor used a patented stereo lithography (SLA) process to create rapid prototyping molds out of a liquid resin. The molds are built by adding multiple layers of resins over each other, so that the surface becomes a little grainy, and the texture is blown into the bottle prototypes. The infused-flavor water is available in seven varieties—Hydrate in black raspberry/orange; Vitalize in blueberry and peach mango; Replenish in lemon-lime; Soothe in lemon; and Energize in strawberry.

# Budweiser salutes St. Louis Cardinals with commemorative 2006 World Series bottles

Budweiser, a partner of the St. Louis Cardinals for more than 50 years, honored its hometown team's 2006 World Series Championship victory with a limited-edition Budweiser magnum and aluminum bottle in time for the holiday season. As further recognition, Budweiser donated \$100,000 to the St. Louis Cardinals Care Foundation to benefit area youth through outreach programs and financial grants.

"Budweiser is a proud supporter of the Cardinals. These attractive and distinguished bottles recognize their momentous victory in the new Busch Stadium," says Randall Blackford, director of Budweiser for Anheuser-Busch. "They are the perfect holiday gift for adult fans and will be enjoyed as keepsakes for years to come."

The commemorative 46.5-oz magnum bottle features the Cardinals 2006 World Series Champions logo on the front, with a summary of the World Series on the back label. The World Series magnum is sold individually in a red and blue box featuring the Cardinals and World Series Champions logos. The 16-oz Budweiser aluminum bottle features the Cardinals 2006 World Series Champions logo and lists the years of each of the Cardinals 10 titles. The aluminum bottle is sold in 15-packs of specially labeled Budweiser cases featuring images of

the Cardinals World Series bottles.

This was a limited-edition run for the holidays, but both bottles will be reintroduced in March when they will be more widely available, as the city gears up for the 2007 Major League baseball season. Both will be available in liquor, grocery and convenience stores in the greater St. Louis metro area.

grocery and convenience stores in the greater St. Louis metro area.

Budweiser is the longest-running corporate partner of the Cardinals and has supported Cardinals baseball for more than 50 years. The brand is also the Official Beer of Major League Baseball, the MLB World Series and 26 MLB teams, including the St. Louis Cardinals.

**>>** 

Be sure to turn to our special Sustainable Design Trends section this month on page 42.



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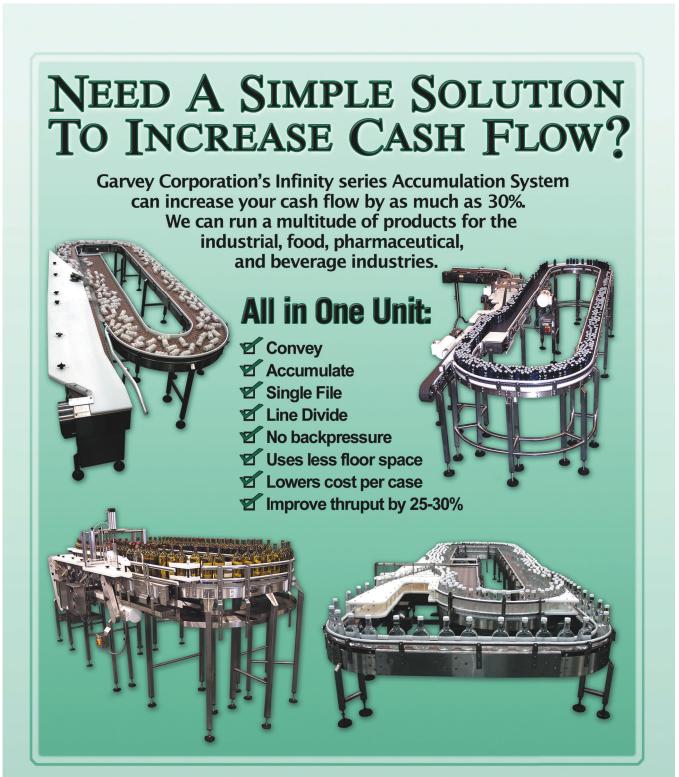
# Portable packet platforms a drink mix for women

With a "Just Add Water!" ease of use, Clif Bar, Inc., Berkeley, CA, maker of the Whole Nutrition Bar™ for women, recently launched a new drink mix designed to help women stay hydrated throughout a busy day. Its LUNA

Elixir™, what it defines as the first organic drink

mix formulated specifically for the nutritional needs of women, is made portable by a convenient polyester/foil packet. Label Technologies (www. labeltech.com) provides the packet, which is flexoprinted with lively, animated, fruit-filled graphics in bright colors. "The benefits of hydration go beyond quenching thirst. Staying hydrated aides digestion, reduces the risk of disease and infection and encourages healthy skin, among other benefits," says Tara Dellolacono Thies, RD, a nutrition strategist for LUNA. The new drink mix comes in

four flavors: Orange Passionfruit; Pomegranate Berry; Raspberry Lychee; and Dragonfruit Kiwi. Designed for use on-the-go, the palm-sized, shaped packets easily fit in a purse, a desk or a backpack. Each one has a tear-tab top for easy opening and contains 0.5 oz of mix featuring 16 women-specific vitamins and minerals. The mix makes a 50-calorie drink when combined with water. Available nationally at Whole Foods, Wild Oats, Amazon.com and Drugstore.com, the product carries a suggested retail price of \$1.29.









mushrooms in the U.S., has introduced its Clean N Ready® ready-to-eat mushrooms in a new resealable bag, making it the first and only supplier to package mushrooms in a resealable bag. This is an extension of the Clean N Ready product line that it introduced previously, which consists of four mushroom categories: sliced white, sliced Baby Bella and whole Baby Bella mushrooms in 10-oz bags and thick-sliced Steak Mate mushrooms in 6-oz bags.

The key to the new bags are Fresh-Lock® Style 109 ribbed zippers from **Presto Products Co. (www.fresh-lock.com)**. These zippers have several desirable features that enhance the bags:

- The zipper includes patented sealant ribs on the backside of its flange to improve its sealability to the film at lower temperatures. Lower temperatures help minimize film distortion and allow faster pouch-forming speeds.
- The sealant ribs create concentrated pressure points that may enable the packager to reduce the amount of time, temperature and pressure needed to apply the zipper to the packaging substrates. In addition, the sealant ribs are engineered to caulk off peaks and valleys on the side seals and end crushing of the package.

The packages are formed on a Model 9500 vertical form/fill/seal machine from Pacmac, Inc. (www.pacmac.com).

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# design trendshealthcare

# Cold-sore remedy gets packaging relief from theft

Merix Pharmaceutical Corp. has made a change to its retail packaging for RELEEV™

1 Day cold-sore treatment to prevent theft.

The award-winning BlisterGuard® security package from Colbert Packaging (www.colbertpkg.com) is helping Merix thwart tampering and pilferage. The new package is now being distributed nationally at Walgreens and Kmart stores, with broadened retail distribution

planned for 2007. The cold-sore medication has proven to relieve the painful symptoms in one day. Although expensive, RELEEV has an impressive following. But its higher price subjects it to pilferage, and theft has been a problem. The tube of product can easily fit into a pocket or a purse if the outer carton containing the tube is breached, says Dori Squires, vp of Merix. "We moved forward with the plan to improve tamper-

evidence for our packaging," she says. The paper-based BlisterGuard package is highly printable, enabling a manufacturer to present the product on-shelf effectively. BlisterGuard is made of International Paper's (www.internationalpaper.com) Everest® Safe-Pak foldover board, a heat-sealable, bleached stock, laminated with a multilayer, highstrength film from Valéron Strength Films (www.valeron.com) for tear-resistance.

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# device is deemed worthy of a WorldStar After its meeting in Poznan, Poland, a jury

for the 2006 WorldStar

**Auto-injection** 

packaging awards selected by the World Packaging Organization (WPO [www. worldpackaging.org]) generated six nominees for the 2006 President's Award, including a single U.S. entry in the pharmaceutical/medical category. The awards selection is based on the inventiveness, creativity and functionality of a package. Big biotech products manufacturer Amgen Inc., Thousand Oaks, CA, was nominated for the distinguished top merit for its Aranesp® prefilled SureClick™ autoinjector. Recognized for the way in which it provides a simple, secure way to administer Aranesp, an anemia treatment designed to fight fatigue in patients with chronic renal failure a well as for those with chemotherapy-induced anemia, the combination product/package/medical syringe is unique for the way in which it delivers a device and a drug in one injection unit. The auto-injector helps to minimize potential needle-stick injuries (the second most common form of healthcare injuries) with benefits for healthcare providers and patients. The proprietary device also helps to assuage the fears of needle-phobic patients.

Amgen will reveal little about how the package works, except to describe it as a more robust design than previous delivery systems. The prefilled unit is noteworthy because patients do not see the needle of the syringe before, during or after they receive an injection.

The WorldStar 2006 competition attracted 265 entries from 35 countries around the world. Of these, 130 were selected as winners by the jury in November, and six entries were nominated for the President's Award for special qualities in their packaging solution. The President's Award winners will be presented in Chicago on May 15.

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# comme



# Sustainability: The Wal-Mart way

hat happens when one of the world's largest corporations—the world's largest retailer—decides to both live and preach a sustainable way of life? Uniquely positioned to have both upstream impact on its suppliers and downstream impact on its customers, plus internal influence on its employees, Wal-Mart is sure to not just make the wheels start to grind but to spin. This issue's special focus on sustainability in packaging would not be complete without a close look at Wal-Mart's initiatives.

Wal-Mart did not invent the concept of sustainability. Many small and large corporations have been supporting sustainable practices for years, even decades. The giant retailer's role in the saga began about two years ago when Rob Walton (Sam's son), an avid outdoorsman, was persuaded by an environmentalist friend that the giant retailer could effect a profound difference. Because he had by then removed himself from operational responsibilities in the corporation, Walton was at first reluctant. Also, he was keenly aware that personal interests and campaigns were never welcomed in the boardroom. But Walton succeeded in securing an audience for his friend with Wal-Mart's Lee Scott, perhaps the world's most powerful CEO. Plagued of late by intensely negative PR, Scott saw merit in the

In a highly publicized speech watched by Wal-Mart's 1.8 million associates, Scott carefully outlined his three-pronged sustainability plan: renewable energy, zero waste and products that sustain our resources and environment. What will make this work is the corporation's scope, he said. For example, if Wal-Mart were a country, it would be the 20th largest in the world. If it were a city, it would be the fifth largest in America. A recent cover story in Fortune magazine points out that if, during just one week, each of Wal-Mart's 176 million customers that week were to buy one long-life compact-fluorescent light bulb, electric bills would be reduced by \$3 billion, 50 billion tons of coal would be conserved and 1 billion incandescent light bulbs would be kept out of landfills.

That's the potential effect of the retailer's impact on customers. But what about its 60,000 suppliers? Last November, Wal-Mart announced its commitment to reducing packaging across its global supply chain by 5 percent by 2013. At a keynote session during PACK EXPO International 2006, Sam's Club executives revealed a metrics scorecard by which suppliers can ascertain their level of sustainability [www.packagingdigest.com/info/walmart]. The scorecard's metrics evolved from attributes known within Wal-Mart as the "7 Rs of Packaging": Remove, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Renew, Revenue and Read. Access to the scorecard begins this month, so it's too early to evaluate how many of those 60,000 suppliers will make use of the metrics system or what impact it may have on their packaging. It's definitely a topic Packaging Digest will revisit later.





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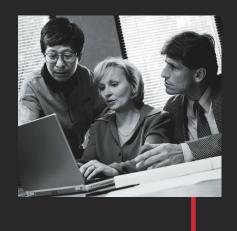


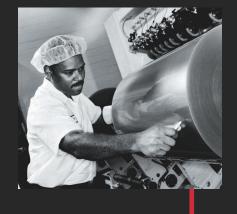


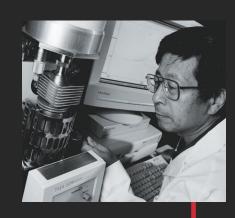


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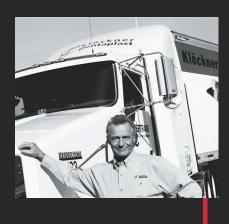
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they can grab using only 30 psi of pressure. They are made from a combination of high-impact plastic, aluminum and metal parts with soft, rubber bladders on the inside and are field-serviceable by hand.

Anver Corp., 800/654-3500.

www.anver.com



Belt conveyor The co.'s 7600 Series curved, flat belt conveyor is designed to transfer small products like cookies, pastries and other small snacks effectively and continuously around curves. The product is a member of the AquaPruf family of sanitary conveyors and is recommended for customers in industries such as bakery/snackfoods, confectionary, ready-to-eat foods, raw meat, poultry and seafood and pharmaceutical and cleanrooms. It features curve-angle configurations of 45, 90 and 180 deg; a pinch-roller drive-belt system for longer nosebar bearing life; and the ability to handle loads of up to 150 lb, widths of 12, 18, 24 and 36 in. and speeds up to 173 ft/min at the curve centerline.

Dorner Mfg. Corp., 800/397-8664.

A,

Prefeeder The co. introduces the OP Series prefeeder to store and feed bulk product. The series features 3- to 20 cu ft of standard, variable-speed drives and all contact parts made of stainless steel or elastomeric material. The prefeeder offers 25 to 500 parts/min, a heavy-duty nonvibrating

www.dorner.com

design and gear-driven mechanical transfers. **SouthCoast Control Eng. Inc.**, 774/206-5649.

www.scceinc.com



Feeding machine A new generation of the co.'s DS1100 flagship parts-feeding machine eliminates semi-autiomatic loading machines, which reduces the health problems associated with repetitive motion. A seven-axis, articulating robotic arm is said to provide greater dexterity for unloading parts from trays to conveyors and reloading them. The system can accommodate virtually any tray for any application, feeds parts to assembly operations and can also be specified as a compact machine-tool loader.

Distech Systems, Inc., 585/254-7020. www.distechsystems.com

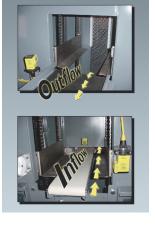
Rotary feeders A new line of boot-mounted rotary feeders can be retrofitted onto existing bucket conveyors from 9 to 48 in. wide for added

productivity, the co. states. The feeders are powered by two vibratory motors mounted directly onto the load unit of existing bucket conveyors and elevators. They are designed to transfer the product at a velocity consistent with bucket travel for gentle handling using minimal energy to eliminate spillage.

Gough Econ, Inc., 800/264-6844. www.goughecon.com

flexibility and

Flighted lift A flighted, indexing lift is designed for either vertical storage or for buffering products during peak production times or when there is a surge during conveyance. The system is effective in either a FIFO or LIFO material-handling setup and provides good vertical storage density, the co. says. The lift is controlled through mechanical linked drive chains that allow the lifting chains to run in opposite directions. TKF, Inc., 513/241-5910. www.tkf.com



# new products<sub>materials</sub>

# Rigid Packaging

Lotion dispenser Designed for maximum visual impact and sales appeal, the Prodigio™ lotion-dispensing system features unique clean-point technology for unsurpassed dispensing performance, the co. says. The uniquely shaped dispenser also has a closure mechanism that prevents leftover lotion from gathering at its exit point by means of an actuator channel that mechanically closes to keep the point free of residue

buildup, the co. says. The proprietary system's wide-channel airless-pump mechanism allows the lotion to dispense without splattering, preventing elastomer or metal contact with the lotion. The closure also prevents product return after air or skin contact. Prodigio is recyclable. Production is being planned for April 2007. Rexam Dispensing Systems, 914/251-8420. www.rexam.com



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### Pressbutton closure The

Pressbutton dispensing closure is a new component to top off bottles with style,

according to the co. A snap-on structure, the cap can be customized to specific neckfinish sizes. It has an innovative pushbutton mechanism that opens the cap quickly and allows for flawless product dispensing, the co. says. The pushbutton is



available in custom colors to accommodate many brands and pairs perfectly with the co.'s Styleline Cylinder (also pictured).

**Continental Packaging Solutions,** 888/676-5277

www.continentalpackagingsolutions.com



### **Dustcover handles for**

**Cans** To provide increased consumer safety for canned beverages, soups, fruits and vegetables and other products, and to prevent can tops from getting dirty and requiring cleaning before use, the co. has designed new handles with a completely covered can top. The injection-molded design unitizes groups of cans and protects the can mouths with a thin layer of HDPE. The co. reports that the package holds together securely during distribution, and an individual container can be removed with a clean top. Various handle styles are available, as is automated application.

PakTech, 541/261-5005. www.paktech-opi.com

# new products equipment



Case printers

Supporting sustainability in packaging, the co. offers case-printing equipment that optimizes the use of corrugated and associated resources by "cutting the cord" to preprint and going to a generic case-printing program.

the co. says. On-demand printing eliminates or reduces preprinted inventory, resulting in less scrap, reduced landfills and fewer loads to recycling plants. The co. also advises that the level of purchasing complexity and human resources required to monitor. order and warehouse preprinted cases is also dramatically reduced through generic case printing. The system uses easy print-message software and disposable printing film and provides an 11×32in. print area. With a 200-dpi resolution, the printer can produce fine-line graphics and bar codes on corrugated substrates. Another benefit of the system is the co.'s ink, which contains no toxic chemicals. Iconotech, 800/521-0194.

www.iconotech

Metal detector The new HDS (heavy duty sausage) Pipeline metal detector is said to offer



extreme sensitivity to all metal types for the sausage industry. The system is designed for full integration with leading vacuum-filling machines, the co. savs. as well as with other process equipment. A single, vertical gas strut makes the height of the detector head easy to adjust, while large castors provide mobility. As the co. explains, its patented ICF (internal cancellation field) technology allows

for a shorter throughput pipe, which reduces product creaming and results in a compact system. The HDS Pipeline design can be configured to suit continuous, twister or clipper sausage applications.

Mettler-Toledo Safeline, Inc., 800/447-4439.

www.mt.com/safelineus

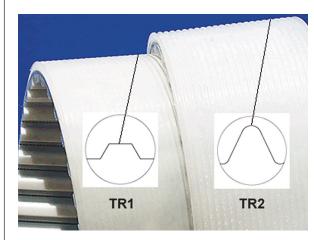
**Tablet line** The co.'s compact tablet line can includes a turntable, a tablet and a capsule counter, a cotton inserter, a metal detector, a capper, a labeler, a heating system and an outfeed turntable. The line features quick and easy setup and can be supervised by only one operator, the

Capmatic Ltd., 514/322-0062. www.capmatic.com



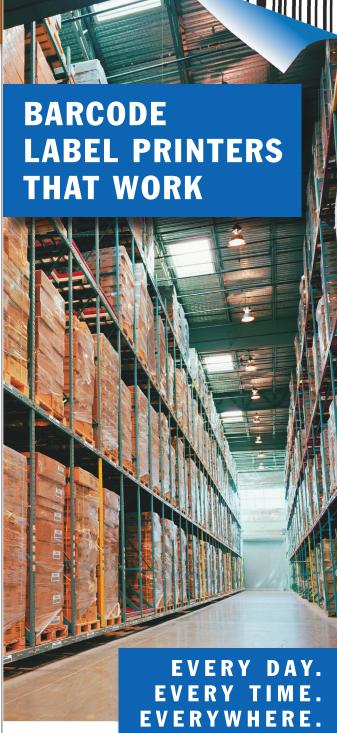
**Ink-jet printers** A new family of high-resolution ink-jet printing systems uses the IP9000 controller for printing on one or two sides of secondary packages, such as cartons or trays. According to the co., the system has minimal maintenance requirements and uses as little as 2 percent of the ink needed for dropon-demand ink-jet systems. The controller can be paired with four different printheads—the LC2, the 96/32, the 192/32 or the 352/32—for increasingly higher resolutions and for various types of printing, from alphanumeric characters and graphics to scannable bar codes. The system uses Trident's repairable print engine, coupled with the co.'s printheads, which are said to function reliably in industrial environments. Matthews Marking Products, 412/665-2488.

www.matthewsmarking.com



Backing materials The co. introduces TR1 and TR2 polyurethane backing materials with different longitudinal groove profiles. Available respectively in thicknesses of 2.4 and 2.5 mm and with groove depths of 0.5 and 1.4 mm, the backings can resist temperatures of -4 to 176 deg F.





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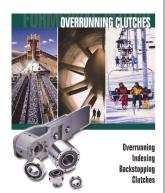
1318 Quaker Circle • Salem, OH 44460 Telephone: 330-332-1800 • Fax: 330-332-2144

www.ctmlabelingsystems.com

# new productsequipment

# **Clutches, accessories** The co. has published a new catalog featuring information

on its clutches and clutch accessories.
The reference catalog details differing load characteristics of overrunning, indexing and backstopping clutch applications that call for variations in the technical details of clutch construction.
The catalog includes



selection and engineering information and a Steiber interchange chart and part number cross reference. Formsprag Clutch, 800/927-3262.

www.formsprag.com

**Sorter** The UniSort® VII entry-level sliding shoe sorter takes its place as the successor to the co.'s UniSort V model. Among the upgrades are a quieter,

more economical, all-electric switching system and available aluminum slats designed for smallitem sortation as an alternative to standard metal



tubes. The co. cites a standard, 350-ft/min operating speed with the new model.

FKI Logistex North America, 513/881-5239. www.fkilogistex.com



Cartoning machine The new CUT130SW SmartWallet machine offers pharmaceutical manufacturers a wallet solution that is cost-effective, easy-to-use, reclosable and tamper-evident, the co. claims. The machine produces both wallets and conventional folded cartons. In dual production, where both types of packaging are produced alternately on the machine, the system is capable of production speeds of up to 100 wallets/min.

Bosch Packaging Technology, 763/424-4700.

www.boschpackaging.com

**Towelette maker** The growth of the premoistened disposables market has spurred the co. to supply automatic and semi-automatic equipment to manufacture a variety of premoistened wipe and towelette products, noting that many systems can be integrated with f/f/s equipment. The co. adds that products with viscosities ranging from alcohol to heavy creams can be dispensed with its Filamatic® pumps at a  $\pm$  0.5-percent fill accuracy.

National Instrument LLC, 800/526-1301. www.filamatic.com



# Tray shrink wrapper The Continuum™

integrated tray/shrink system is designed for food and beverage applications for loose containers and multipacks in various materials, including glass, PET, HDPE, metal and fiber cans, HiCone, shrink bundles and paperboard overwrap, the co. says. Said to operate at speeds to 100 trays/min, the system offers quick changeover with minimal parts requiring no tools, the co. adds.

Standard-Knapp, 860/342-1100. www.standard-knapp.com



Case packer Introduced is a case packer that utilizes dynamic servo operation to ensure top precision and accuracy at speeds up to 30 cases/min, the co. says. The machine utilizes servo motors to control the main case drive, the infeed, the downstacker and the upload pusher for precise case and product movement and gentle handling throughout the machine. It offers motorized size adjustments to eliminate tweaking that often slows case-packer changeover and occupies only 15.4 linear ft on the production line to reduce the time requirements and the cost of installation. Electrically interlocked polycarbonate hinged guarding halts machine operation when opened.

A-B-C Packaging Machine Corp., 800/237-5975. www.abcpackaging.com



**Bagging system** The Rollmaster is a new paint-roller bagging system that works with center-folded PE and shrink film. The system features the co.'s standard Packmaster platform along with a conveyorized roller infeed, an automatic cycling option, an electric eye for printed film and an uphill conveyor for easy product exiting, the co. says. The system has a smokeless and odorless sealing design and can form, fill and seal up to 30 packages/min.

All Packaging Machinery Corp., 631/588-7310. www.allpackagingmachinery.com



IV bag filler/closer The co. introduces its Type 529 semi-automatic IV bag-filling and closing machine for aseptic packaging of infusions, parenteral drugs and biotech fluids. The machine handles IV bags made of EVA, PVC, PP and other materials, producing up to 2,000 100-mL to 10-L aseptic bags/hr. The system features a fully-integrated automatic closing system to eliminate possible contamination, includes various options to meet each customer's requirements, and has an easy-to-use. flat color touchscreen and a system that meets or exceeds FDA, cGMP, PIC and GAMP pharmaceutical guidelines. Alphacos SA, +41 (0)32 421 44 52. www.alphacos.ch/en



Weigh/counter The new Accu-Scale® 220 weigh/counter is designed for bulk-packaging operations and features a range-counting function that is said to improve flexibility while increasing packaging speed and accuracy. This function allows the user to select a range for the number of parts in a batch, which provides higher throughput in applications where speed is the primary performance requirement. Upper and lower target counts can be set, and automatic cycling will only occur once the value falls within a preset range, enabling full control of packaging accuracy, the co. says. The counter features advanced sensor technology that can detect and count products as light as 1/10 g in weight (0.003 oz).

**Automated Packaging Systems,** 888/288-6224.

www.autobag.com



**Label applicator** The co. releases a new label applicator that can be optionally equipped to withstand direct-water washdowns. The ALS 206 securely applies preprinted product ID labels in widths up to 6.4 in. to target items like cartons and boxes. The product is available in right- and left-hand versions, and its dispensing edge can be rotated 90 deg for added flexibility. The applicator features advanced electronics and dual precision stepper motors for label placement to an accuracy of  $\pm$  0.5 mm. The applicator can be controlled directly or from a remote PLC via serial, parallel, wireless, Ethernet or software interfaces.

Avery Dennison Printer Systems, 800/395-2282. www.ris.averydennison.com

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# Computer-controlled filler runs all fat levels of milk



Creative Edge, part of Superior Dairy, reinvents milk packaging with a unique bottle design and a new computer-controlled, two-bowl filler that combines whole and skim milk to produce each individual bottle of milk with a specified fat content.

The filler, left, has two filling heads. One fills 3.25-percent whole milk, and the other fills zero-percent, nonfat skim. For each order, Superior prints labels, top, for the bottles to be filled, and a bar-code scanner just before the filler reads the label to determine the type of milk to be filled.

Jack Mans, Plant Operations Editor

an Soehnlen of Superior Dairy, Canton, HO, believes that if something doesn't add value, it ought to be eliminated. He and his son Greg incorporated an innovation firm called Creative Edge to reinvent the way their 80-plus-year-old family dairy does business. Working with tightly knit employees and a few trusted vendors, they installed a highly efficient micro-dairy operation at the Superior Dairy facility that eliminates the need for milk crates. They no longer process 1-percent and 2-percent milk as separate operations. And they've done away with a host of unproductive labor and warehousing steps at their own and at their retail customers' locations. At the heart of this revolution are a brand new stackable bottle design

from Creative Edge and an innovative new filler/capper from **Serac, Inc. (ww.serac-group.com)**.

Today, Superior Dairy ships 230,000 gal/wk from its micro dairy to customers in the northeast retail market. This is in addition to the output from its conventional dairy operation. The innovative micro-

For more information about fillers, visit
Packaging Digest's FILL, F/F/S INFO CHANNEL
at http://www.packagingdigest.com/info/formfill/

dairy approach allows it to serve a larger geographic region, and it allows their medium-size dairy to thrive in an environment ruled by giant dairy operations.

Creative Edge has taken the Soehnlens into a whole new business. Having made a considerable

investment in developing the technology, the dairy now licenses it and provides technical support to other dairies. Another son, Mark Soehnlen, partner in **Structura Architects, Ltd. (www.structuraltd.com)**, works with Superior to provide turnkey design, project management and construction services to build microdairies to order. Since Structura has been through the design and startup process at its own facility and at a handful of first clients, it has confidence in its expertise.

The Soehnlens started by cutting away everything that did not add value. The first target was the crate. Milk crates must be loaded, unloaded, collected, shipped back to the dairy empty, washed, warehoused, reused and replaced (visit any campus and you'll find pilfered milk crates furnishing the Continued on page 24



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dorm rooms). One of Superior Dairy's first big customers reported an added advantage. It had more health claims filed due to labor performed inside freezers than anywhere else. Eliminating milk crates reduced the time workers spent in the freezers.

The Soehnlens went to work on a new plastic milk bottle that would be sturdy enough to stack. It took considerable trial and error. The naysayers who said it wouldn't work even included the blow molders that ran their prototypes. In the end, Creative Edge was vindicated.

The new bottle includes a recessed pour spout that puts the top of the cap flush with the flat top of the cuboid bottle. The walls, top and bottom are reinforced with fluted structures for strength. Under the cap is a foil inner seal, heat-sealed in place.

The solid seal allows the bottle to resist compression so effectively that the plastic walls of the bottle need only be slightly heavier than those of a conventional milk bottle. The full bottles are sturdy enough that they could be stacked sixhigh. However, at four-high, the Soehnlens can stack 224 gal on a pallet. A pallet stacked six-high with traditional milk cases holds only 216 gal. Thus, cube space in the truck is saved



After passing through an induction unit that seals foil membranes contained inside the caps across the tops of the bottle, the containers are transported up a conveyor to an accumulation system.

for stacking lightweight products like produce atop the pallets of milk.

Creative Edge built a few consumer advantages into the bottle design, as well. It placed the pour spout and the handle on opposite corners of the cuboid shape so that the bottle would pour like a pitcher. It also rounded the bottom corner beneath the pour spout so that milk could be poured without lifting the bottle—a great advantage for consumers with less arm strength. To herald the advantages, it named it the Rock 'N Pour milk pitcher. Creative Edge also adds just enough white pigment to the plastic to protect the product from light, while still keeping the bottle translucent enough that consumers can see how much milk

The Rock 'N Pour milk pitcher design needed a new method of filling and capping. Serac's team of North American engineers worked with each of the prototype gallon, half-gal and 3-L bottles that Creative Edge developed. Creative Edge and Serac continually redesigned a filler/capper until they had a bottle and machine combination that worked. The resulting machine reduces direct labor costs and provides an extended shelf life (ESL) product.

The Serac R16R16V8/1080 ESL netweight Monobloc filler/capper does away with the need for processing and filling 1-percent and 2-percent milk as separate operations. It also does away with downtime for switching from milk of one fat content to milk of another fat content. The filler has two 16-valve rotary fillers working in tandem. One unit fills 3.25-percent whole milk, and the other fills zero-percent, nonfat skim. As bottles come down the conveyor line, a bar-code scanner reads the label on the bottle to see what variation of milk should be filled. As the bottle goes through the two filling stations, the precise combination of nonfat and/or whole milk is filled to result in the fat percentage that is on the label.

The filler can handle Creative Edge's patented gallon, 3-L and half-gal Rock Continued on page 26

Revolutionary design eliminates 4 bulk bag unloading

problems

Cinch spouts concentrically with POWER-CINCHER® flow control valve\*

Unlike opposing bars that pinch the spout of partially empty bags from two sides, the POWER-CINCHER® flow control valve\* cinches the spout concentrically—on a horizontal axis for easier tie-offs and greater flow control, and vertically in a tight zigzag pattern to prevent leaks. In addition, it resists jamming, breaking and leaking, and allows full-open discharge from bag spouts of all popular diameters. USDA Dairy Accepted.



Eliminate dust during hook-up/discharge with SPOUT-LOCK® clamp ring®

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

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



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

The BAG-VAC® system vacuums displaced air and dust from the receiving vessel and returns clean air to the plant. The vacuum also causes empty bags to collapse dust-free prior to disconnect, eliminating the dust emitted during manual flattening of empty bags. With optional

double-wall telescoping
tube, it vacuums any particles dropped from spout
creases during disconnect, while eliminating
awkward access ports.



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

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

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tacting material is a rugged flexible screw, increasing reliability and cutting maintenance. Enclosed conveyor tube prevents contamination of product and plant environment. Cleans quickly, easily. Individual conveyors available as well as plant-wide systems with automated controls.

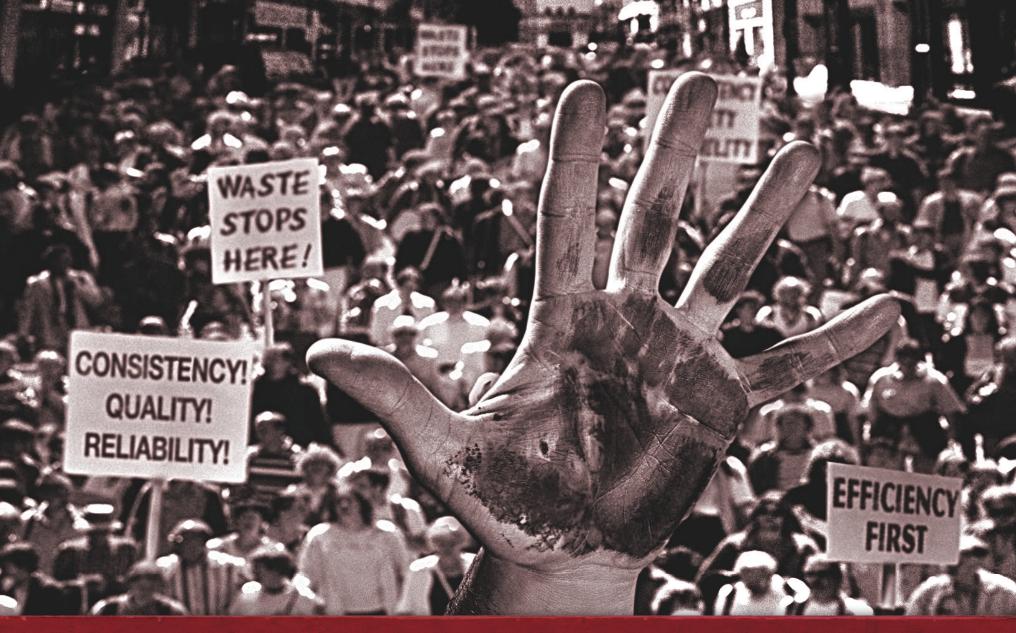
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nection collars, standing on the conveyor with head and arms inserted beneath operational fill head components, and straining to pull bag spouts upward over inflatable collars while reaching for bag inflator buttons. Available to industrial, food, dairy and pharmaceutical standards with numerous performance enhancements.

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'N Pour milk pitchers, as well as conventional quarts and pints. It handles any liquid dairy or beverage product.

The Serac filler precisely measures the milk that flows into the bottle, eliminating the need for a contact nozzle to penetrate the bottle and potentially add bacteria to the milk. Serac's noncontact, free-flowing, ultra-hygienic filling nozzle eliminates the slight overfilling inherent in the older technology, saving product while guaranteeing the consumers full value for their money. Without the contact nozzle, the Serac filler is much easier to maintain and clean.

The micro-dairy model is micro in three major ways. It allows for massive milk production (a capacity of 500,000 gal/wk currently) in a small-footprint facility. It reduces the direct-labor staff to four workers per shift. And it integrates all the production equipment into a microprocessor-controlled business system. Creative Edge says that it can integrate its proprietary software with the vast majority of business systems in use by dairies.

The system allows a facility to operate in a fully just-in-time mode. Milk is processed and bottled to-order, rather than warehoused. As bottled milk comes off the production line, it goes directly onto a pallet with other Superior Dairy products to fill a specific order. Within a short period of time, that pallet will be on a truck on its way to its retail destination.

The entire facility is operated at nearpharmaceutical levels of cleanness, with dry, high-



The unique bottle design allows a four-high stack to contain more gallon bottles than the six-high stack with the usual bottle design. After palletizing, the pallets are stretch-wrapped for shipment.

efficiency-particulate-air (HEPA)-filtered air constantly pumped in to keep a positive air pressure resisting the entry of any airborne contaminants. The walls are shielded in easy-to-clean stainless steel.

Superior also pasteurizes its milk at 180 deg F for 25 sec, extending its shelf life considerably. Testing has shown that Superior's milk lasts two weeks past its printed sell-by date. In fact, the combination of its ESL techniques and its immediate shipping, with

no days wasted in storage, means that Superior's sell-by dates on the retail shelf are much later than its competitors. Consumers see the sell-by date, and they can consider buying two gallons rather than one.

The operation requires just four people per shift. One for blow molding the bottles, one for filling, one for palletizing and a forklift operator. Thus, Superior has the lowest direct-labor cost in the country. The facility has room to install a second blow molder and filler, which would increase the capacity to 1 million gal/wk in the same 20,000-sq-ft space.

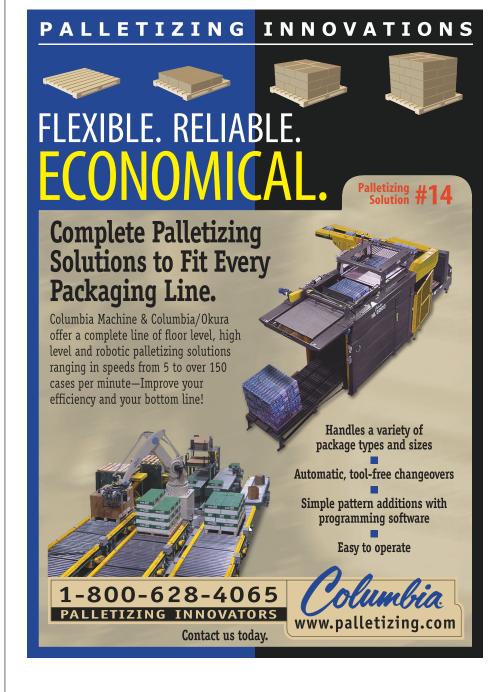
A shrink-wrap station is built into the line that allows bottles to be packaged in pairs, fours or eights, if the retailer so desires. Bottles can also be palletized as individual units, so that a shrink wrap around the whole pallet is all that need be removed at the retail location.

Consumers enjoy the extended shelf life. They prefer the Rock 'N Pour pitcher design to the traditional gallon, which is difficult for children and the elderly to handle. And the economies built into production allows retailers to price the milk lower than conventionally produced milk—something that everyone enjoys.

### More information is available:

Serac, Inc., 630/510-9343. www.serac-group.com. Structura Architects, Ltd., 330.923.4022. www.structuraltd.com.





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# System integration Control association benefits integrators and end users alike

Since its inception in 1994, the Control System Integrators Association (CSIA) has been the leading trade organization for system integrators that specialize in factory automation and information technology. The organization's 246 corporate members hail from all over the U.S. and 14 other countries. The members provide integrated control and information systems for clients in industries as diverse as automotive, chemical, food, packaging and plastics.

Collectively, CSIA member firms design and install more than \$1-billion worth of industrial automation systems annually, accounting for \$400 million in automation product sales. Not coincidentally, most of the automation industry's major vendors have joined the CSIA as partners, eager to encourage the growth of the system integration industry.



Not coincidentally, major vendors have joined the CSIA as partners, to encourage growth of the system integration industry.

# Reducing end-users' risk

The CSIA's purpose is to help system integrators become better businesses, which in turn helps reduce the risk that end users face when hiring an integrator. The organization provides its members with a self-evaluation process by which they can measure their performance and rate their progress toward meeting the CSIA's Best Practices and Benchmarks in general management, human resources, project management, quality management, financial management, business development and technical management.

CSIA members who have demonstrated compliance with these best practices are entitled to style themselves as CSIA-certified members and display the CSIA's seal of approval. Certified members must pass an audit of their business practices every three years in order to maintain their status.

CSIA certification is more than just another plaque on the conference room wall. It helps to demonstrate to a potential client that the certified integrator has a bona fide business that's likely to remain viable for the foreseeable future. Whereas more than seven percent of all industrial automation system integrators disappear in any given year, none of the 90-plus CSIA members certified since 2001 have ever gone out of business.

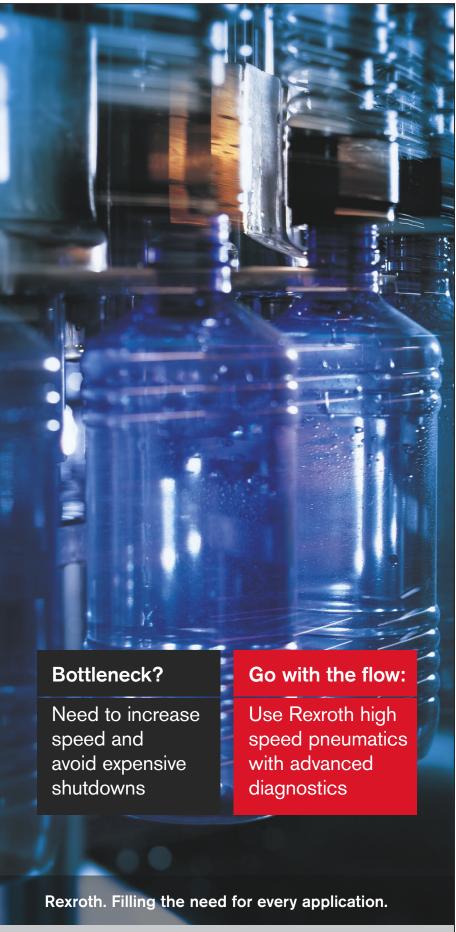
The certification process is also intended as a learning experience for members, helping identify the strengths and weaknesess of their business procedures and offering insight into potential improvements. The CSIA also sponsors an annual executive conference where integrators meet to share collective wisdom and to discuss common business issues.

# Covering end-users' assets

A pressing issue addressed at recent conferences is one taken for granted: Insurance. Most insurers have little or no idea what an automation system integrator does, leaving many integrators with inadequate or inappropriate insurance coverage. The CSIA will launch its own insurance program designed to protect against the exposures inherent in control system integration. Coverage will include professional errors and omissions to general liability and auto insurance.

For more about the CSIA, see www.controlsys.org or consult *Control Engineering Magazine's* CSIA coverage at www.controleng.com.

Consulting Editor Vance J. VanDoren, Ph.D., P.E., contributes articles on process control, advanced control and systems integration. Dr. VanDoren also edits Control Engineering's and Packaging Digest's annual Automation Integrator Guide. Dr. VanDoren previously served the industrial automation industry as an applications engineer for General Electric and as a product marketing and development engineer for Texas Instruments' Industrial Automation Division. He currently manages a firm of consulting engineers in Lafayette, IN, where he develops custom control strategies for advanced process-control applications.



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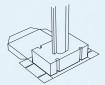
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ACH

Lassie comes home to grocers' shelves

Classic Media and Sunshine Mills team to give supermarkets a line of upscale dry dog food that features the channel's only standup, resealable PET pouch offering in 20-lb bags.

hen a beloved canine icon barks her approval of a new line of premium dog food, grocers listen. And that's exactly what's happening with new Lassie<sup>TM</sup>-endorsed Natural Way<sup>TM</sup> dog food. Sporting a consumerfriendly, flexible pouch design, the all-natural dog food is set to give the supermarket channel a loyal ally in the battle for petfood sales.

Lassie is even teaching grocers a few new tricks for reaching dog lovers. Classic Media, owner and licensor of the Lassie property, and petfood processor Sunshine Mills collaborated to develop the premium line of natural dry dog food and treats with no animal byproducts and no artificial colors, preservatives or sweeteners. The team also knew that the packaging needed innovative convenience features and standout graphics for consumer appeal. For that, they turned to Alcan Packaging Food Americas (www. alcanpackaging.com).

With direction to create a high-end bag that emulated the look and feel of premium products at pet specialty outlets, Alcan Packaging designed a 3-ply polyethylene terephthalate, quad-seal pouch. A press-to-close zipper provides easy opening and resealability. The standup bag not only offers handling convenience, it gives retailers powerful shelf presence that commands consumers' attention.

"This is a high-end bag, far superior to what typically appears on grocers' shelves and perfect for premium

# This is a high-end bag, far superior to what typically appears on grocers' shelves.

pet food," says Richard Young, director of packaging for Sunshine Mills. "Much of the current offerings in supermarkets are multiwall paper. The rest of the world has forgotten about paper bags. From a market-demand standpoint, flexible plastic packaging delivers consumer convenience preferences and tremendous graphic appeal. Comparing plastic to paper petfood packaging is

like comparing a Lexus to a Ford."

Natural Way

Natural Way

ADULT DO

Glenn Pecoraro, vp of retail development for Classic Media, adds, "The Lassie Natural Way brand has given supermarkets what they need to compete: a high-quality product, packaging innovation, including the channel's first 20-lb, standup petfood pouch and the endorsement of Lassie, an enduring cultural touchpoint and trusted brand."

Natural Way

ADULT DOG

upermarket petfood aisles could, indeed, use help from a "best friend." A recent study, "Pet Food in the U.S.," published in September 2006 by Packaged Facts, confirms that the supermarket channel continues to lose share of sales. With a 26-percent market share in 2005, supermarkets have lost ground, as mass merchandisers and pet specialty stores sink their teeth into this key growth market, with a 34-percent share and 25-percent share, respectively.

These statistics—and the scent of opportunity—weren't lost on Classic Media. Charged with finding Continued on page 33

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# Barrier retort technology adds another life to catfood

U.K.-based Butcher's Pet Care Ltd. takes advantage of new technology to produce

Lauren R. Hartman, Senior Editor

ow, a retortable, plastic catfood package with a peelable seal is getting a paw up on barrier technology with some creative twists. And the folks at Butcher's Pet Care Ltd., Crick, Northamptonshire, England, a privately owned company that manufactures petfood for the U.K. and European markets, are purring with pleasure about their new line of  $Olli^{TM}$ premium catfood. Also known for the Butcher's TM



**Blister Pack** 

Inspection

(Missing or broken tablets and contamination)

**Packaged** 

Goods

(Crushed pie pan)

Jar or Can

(Metal in metal or glass in glass)

and Butcher's Choice<sup>TM</sup> dogfood brands, Butcher's Pet Care considers its new plastic, retortable, singleserve container a first for a wet catfood product in the U.K. and in Europe. Each single-serving size package contains 100 g of product and is designed to allow the pet owner to simply peel off the lidding, feed the cat straight from the dish and dispose of the container when it's empty. With the slogan, "good for your cat, easy for you," the Olli line includes specially formulated meals in four "supreme" recipes to keep cats happy and healthy.

Butcher's Pet Care believes it may be on the whiskers of an entirely new catfood segment with a preservative-free product in a retortable, plastic dish package. On the prowl to provide pet owners with a wet catfood made with fresh ingredients that contains no cereal, soya, artificial coloring or preservatives, the company says it hoped to create a user-friendly container that would meet consumer convenience expectations. The single-serve Olli line was also created to cater to consumers' strong preferences to pamper their pets, which has been a growing trend in Europe for several years. The company finds that devoted pet owners want to feed their cats food made with top-notch ingredients that's tasty, nutritious, simple to handle and free of extraneous ingredients.



aunched with much success in March 2006, first in two major U.K. stores and then later to other retailers, the four sophisticated gourmet-style Olli varieties include flavors such as Salmon in a Light Parsley Sauce, Fresh Haddock in Tomato Sauce, Fresh Chicken and Turkey in Mushroom Gravy and Lamb in Mint Gravy.

The company says it favored a plastic container for its new catfood formulation because the dish could offer a wide design scope, as well as easier handling than cans and other packaging made of conventional materials. The container had to withstand the rigors of retort sterilization and protect contents effectively against oxygen during the retort process. It also had to do so for a whopping 18 months on the shelf while avoiding the growth of bacteria and preventing rancidity and discoloration, loss of flavor and nutritional value and any changes in product texture. Continued on page 32



www.eriez.com

**Divided** 

**Packages** 

The resulting easy-open dish is provided in part by **Huhtamaki U.K. Ltd.** (www.huhtamaki.com), a producer of high-performing consumer packaging, with experience in barrier retort technology, and **Ciba Specialty Chemicals** (www.cibasc.com/packaging), which, through its Market Platform Packaging group, offers a variety of rigid, flexible and paper packaging featuring Shelfplus® O2 oxygen-barrier protection technology.

Huhtamaki worked with Ciba Specialty Chemicals to develop a barrier container that can achieve Butcher's Pet Care's specific barrier and performance requirements. Huhtamki thermoforms the opaque white dish of polypropylene/ethylene vinyl alcohol/ PP with Shelfplus 02, the latter of which combines what Ciba Specialty Chemicals calls a passive EVOH barrier and the Shelfplus O2 oxygen scavenger, which absorbs oxygen present within the package and oxygen that may permeate the package wall.

With a 113-mm diameter, the single-serve dish is thermoformed

to a 140-mL depth by Huhtamaki's Portadown facility in Ulster, Northern Ireland, using a 1-mil film sheet thickness. The foil/film barrier lidstock from Huhtamaki is described as a polyethylene terephthalate/foil/PP, that's gravure-printed in six colors.

The Shelfplus O2 is incorporated in the second of the PP layers, PD is told by Marie-Raphael Morvillier at Ciba Specialty Chemicals in Switzerland.

She reports that that the Shelfplus O2 oxygen scavenger has a natural synergy with EVOH resin when used

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in rigid polypropylene containers for retort-processed food. Shelfplus O2 compensates for any loss of barrier properties during and after the retorting

Read how Unilever restaged a shampoo line with a PET bottle with a COLOR THAT'S RESISTANT TO UV LIGHT, chosen under license from Ciba Specialty Chemicals. Visit www.packagingdigest.com/info/colormatch

process until the EVOH recovers its original barrier properties. Basically, the scavenger is at its most active state when the EVOH barrier is at its weakest. The convenient dish also features a peelable foil membrane seal and a proprietary anti-slip base that prevents it from slipping so that it can easily be used on plastic mats or hard floors. Multipacked in counts of six and 12 and merchandised in die-cut paperboard sleeves, the dish is neither resealable nor able to be refrigerated after opening. The foil peel-seal locks out air and other harmful elements to protect the food's nutrients. The required amount of the oxygen scavenger was calculated through a simulation program based on the barrier performance of the EVOH during the retort process.

In this dish incorporating the Shelfplus O2 oxygen scavenger, the oxygen transmission rate has shown that the barrier performance remains the same through the retort process and over the product's shelf life.

The pack was tested over a 16-month timeframe and the trials of barrier performance was successful. The packaging technology also proved to be competitive with steel cans.

ince the launch, the Olli line has wowed cat owners and cats who are looking for a convenient feeding solution, notes Butcher's Pet Care. Morvillier says that Shelfplus O2, which is available in the U.S., is being evaluated by U.S. packagers and is generating interest with other companies besides Butcher's Pet Care. "Similar packages containing Shelfplus O2 are already being used by other food companies," she points out.

Butcher's Pet Care packages the catfood in the U.K. on a new packaging line installed to handle the Olli foods. Sarah Thomas, head of marketing for Olli, says the consumer reaction to the new line has been the cat's meow. "Olli has been a hit across the country."

# More information is available:

Huhtamaki (U.K.) Ltd., 44 (0)28 3836 7205. www.huhtamaki.com. Ciba Specialty Chemicals, 914/785-2000. www.cibasc.com/packaging.



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licensing prospects that were not only favorable to the company, but also complemented the venerable Lassie brand image, the company realized dog food was a key category.

"Participating in the dog food market was essential," Pecoraro explains. "About eighty-five to ninety percent of all petmarket dollars is spent on consumable petfood, so it represents tremendous potential for our brand.

"We saw strategic advantage in marketing Lassie Natural Way premium dog food exclusively to supermarkets," he says. "The brand is affordably priced to compete with high-end pet specialty store brands. Its natural formulation and upscale positioning are what consumers are looking for."

remendous interest from retailers meant everyone on the team had to act fast to deliver product.

In particular, a key retailer had scheduled a pet food category review and planned to reset its stores in 12 weeks, whether Lassie Natural Way was ready or not. Alcan Packaging took the lead to ensure deadlines were met.

Alcan Packaging held a meeting of all supply-chain partners, including bag converter **TechniPac Inc.** (www. technipacinc.com). They created a production schedule and got all parties to agree to key dates.

"We frankly never expected to hit these deadlines," admits Young, referring to the three-month time horizon. "We had never produced dry dog food in a flexible, resealable, standup pouch. We had partnered with Alcan before on a number of products, but this was totally unique. I believe it would have taken our competition a year and a half to complete this product line."

Alcan Packaging started the process by conducting an analysis of bag structures to determine the best packaging solution for the market. Raw materials were specified and procured. Approved packaging graphics and die lines had to be secured. Sunshine Mills then ran sample bags online to test structure performance. By deadline, Alcan Packaging fabricated and delivered 100,000 units per SKU—or 1.2 million bags—in 90 days.

Mike Schmitt, president of Alcan Packaging Food Americas, admits that turnaround on the project was extraordinary, but claims that's part of doing business in a competitive marketplace. "Manufacturers are looking for supply chain solutions," he says. "They need partners that are flexible, dynamic and resourceful enough to make time itself part of the value proposition."

aking it to retailers' shelves on time wasn't the only benefit Lassie Natural Way packaging yielded.

Operational performance was also a critical factor in developing the pouch

structure. At the outset of the project, Sunshine Mills presented Alcan Packaging with a competitive bag as a benchmark. After analysis, the company recommended an alternative designed to improve appearance and performance.

"On the original, competitive bag, the coefficient of friction (COF) was applied as a coating. This gave the bag a 'dirty' feel and poor graphic quality from streaking," explains Schmitt. "Our solution was to use a film with optimal COF properties, to deliver the desired tackiness that improves productivity and

graphic impact that makes for appealing consumer packaging."

The final 3-ply, quad-seal structure incorporates a controlled, high-COF PET outer layer, a metallized PET inner layer for barrier properties and a proprietary sealant film.

"Alcan took our bag requirements and improved on them," states Young. "The Lassie bags give us outstanding graphics, they palletize fantastically and they run better on our equipment."

"Great packaging came together with great product and a great brand,"

confirms Pecoraro. "The initial success of Lassie Natural Way has been good. We've gotten a lot of good feedback that retailers are happy with the line."

### More information is available:

Alcan Packaging Food Americas 773-399-3648.

www.alcanpackaging.com TechniPac Incorporated 507-665-6658.

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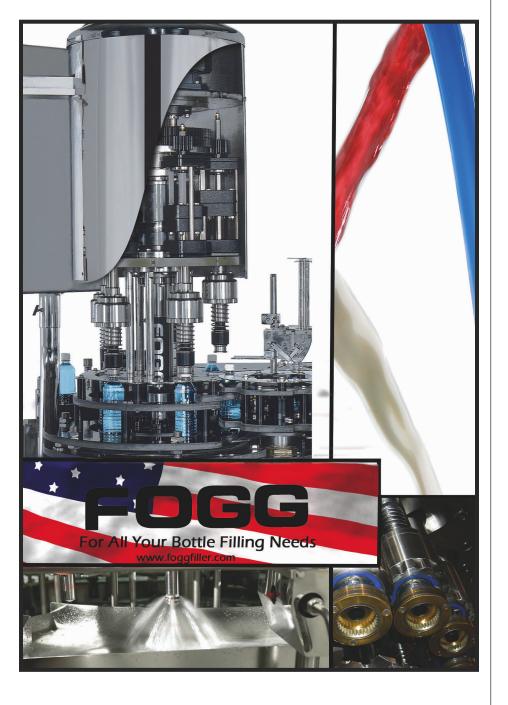




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# sustainability

# Design guidelines for a sustainable packaging launch

Thought-provoking and comprehensive, the new "Design Guidelines for Sustainable Packaging" offers the first packaging-targeted tool created to stimulate innovation and provide direction to packaging designers and developers who are "interested in moving toward a fully sustainable future." The result of a collaboration between the staff of GreenBlue and members of the Sustainable Packaging Coalition (SPC)—with special acknowledgement given in the introduction to individuals from Target, Starbucks, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Kraft Foods and others—the guidelines introduce four new quality criteria for package design to aid designers in creating packages that address sustainable objectives in every stage of the supply chain.

Laying the foundation in Part I, the guidelines provide definitions for "sustainable development" and "cradle-to-cradle design," and include SPC's vision for sustainable



If we are to improve what we make, reduce our impacts and create a better world, we will need to rethink the way we design at every scale.

packaging design as articulated in its eight-part definition. These concepts, the guidelines relate, are system-wide models that, in packaging, encompass everything from the sourcing and converting of materials to their transport, use and disposal. Therefore, a tremendous opportunity exists for designers to "design-out" the potential negative environmental and societal impacts of packaging. "If we are to improve what we make, reduce our impacts and create a better world, we will need to rethink the way we design at every scale," the guidelines advise.

Hence, to the conventional design criteria of Technical Performance, Cost, Appearance and in some cases, Regulatory Compliance, the guidelines add four new quality considerations: Optimizing Resources, Responsible Sourcing, Material Health and Resource Recovery. Now, in addition to evaluating whether a package meets cost considerations, protects a product properly, communicates effectively and meets or exceeds local regulations, the guidelines challenge designers to assess a package with these sustainable objectives in mind.

Part IV, the heart of the guidelines, presents each of the four design criteria, along with strategies for achieving each of these objectives. For example, in order to Optimize Resources, the guidelines suggest that designers practice source reduction, use recycled content and design for transport. An explanation of each of these strategies, in turn, provides the designer with practical steps, poses questions, lists related regulations and standards and points to additional resources.

For instance, where source reduction is a strategy for Optimizing Resources, the guidelines advise asking the following questions: "Could minor changes be made to the product that would eliminate the need for packaging?" "Have all the unnecessary packaging components been eliminated?" "What level of protection does the product require?" The guidelines' steps to source reduction include specifying materials with lower-impact production processes; considering the minimal number of materials; and sourcing materials from suppliers who implement environmental best practices.

### TO ORDER:

The "Design Guidelines for Sustainable Packaging" document was conceived as an online resource that can be readily updated and allows easy access to those portions that are of interest to an individual designer or developer. The document is available online through PD at a discounted price of \$35. To purchase, go to www.packagingdigest.com/info/greendesign

Anne Johnson, this column's author, is the director of the

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- Project Engineer Package Development, Playtex



Easy-release adhesive is sprayed from nozzles onto the cases of juice, above, at Daily's Verona, PA, facility. An air-driven pump connected to a drum of adhesive, right, supplies the nozzles with the adhesive, which is used to unitize pallet loads before stretch wrapping.

# Earth-friendly adhesive unitizes cases cleanly

Daily's Juice employs air-powered spraying systems applying environmentally friendly cold-seal adhesives to unitize pallet loads of products before stretch wrapping. The systems improve case appearance, worker safety and cost efficiency, with less impact on the environment.



or Daily's Juice, a division of American Beverage Corp. located in Verona, PA, improved case appearance and safety were the primary motivators behind the company's switch from nine hot-melt case-sealing systems to new air-powered adhesive-spraying systems from Key Tech Corp./Lock n' Pop (www.locknpop.com), but the change netted some unexpected environmental benefits and cost savings as well.

> Established in 1960 as Daily Juice Products, Daily's began as a small, door-to-door juice company that delivered fresh juice to local patrons on a daily basis—hence the name Daily's. Today, the company is a multimillion-dollar division of ABC, the third-largest manufacturer of noncarbonated fruit drinks in the U.S. Among Daily's flagship products are its Little HUG®, Teeni, Sundew and Big Burst lines of fruit drinks and Daily's Fruit Mixers, distributed nationally to grocery and liquor stores. Since 1985, the company has sold more than 8 billion HUGS, which Daily's says

represents more bottles of kids' drinks than have been sold by

any other company.

Daily's ships 2.5 million bottles of juice drinks and cocktail mixers a day from its 155,000-sq-ft facility in Verona. Nine of the company's 15 packaging lines run 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Three lines run cocktail mixers and juice concentrates in 12-oz, 1- and 1.75-L and 0.5and 1-gal bottles. Single-serve juice drinks are packaged in 8- and 16-oz high-density polyethylene bottles.

Because products are shipped coast-to-coast, with multiple handlings through grocery and liquor distribution, Daily's must unitize loads to minimize damage, but found that stretch wrap alone could not handle the abuse. Thus, hot-melt-sealing systems were used to secure cases together before palletizing. However, this resulted in cases becoming hot-melt-scarred, as well as in frequent burn injuries to plant personnel due to the hot-melt equipments' melting systems.

ittle HUG and other juice drinks are packaged in graphicsintense, multicolor cases that hold 24 to 48 8-oz bottles. With a target audience of moms, kids and teenagers, case graphics in grocery distribution are an important component of point-ofpurchase presentation. In the case of Daily's cocktail mixers, valued at \$25 to \$30 per case, the products are often displayed in liquor stores, so they also require attractive case graphics to drive sales. With Daily's hot-melt-sealing systems, the case graphics often became scarred when the cases were pulled apart upon depalletizing, which did not encourage purchase.

In an effort to minimize the damage to case graphics and to prevent in-plant injuries, Daily replaced its hot-melt systems with air-powered spraying systems supplied by Key Tech Corp./Lock n' Pop. These systems apply Lock n' Pop® adhesive, a low-tack, high-shear adhesive that keeps surfaces from abrading yet separates easily with essentially no visible residue.

Lock n' Pop is an environmentally conscious choice as well. Derived

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another every two to four weeks,

Source: Lock n' Pop



from renewable plant resources, Lock n' Pop products are water-based, biodegradable, nonflammable, nontoxic, repulpable and recyclable. According to Lock n' Pop, the amount of solid material required to stabilize a pallet load with the adhesive is "substantially less" than with conventional unitizing methods, and there is no waste to dispose of, as the material itself is recycled in the package recycling/repulping process.

At Daily's, Lock n' Pop is now applied to the cases before they enter one of nine palletizers, fed by 13 bottling lines. The first three layers of cases, weighing from 15 to 30 lb, are

By switching from cases stabilized with cornerboards to Lock n' Pop's unitizing agent, **COSTCO** saves on material costs and labor, while also reducing solid waste. Read about it at:

ach column stacked and the top six

www.packagingdigest.com/info/costco0407

each column-stacked, and the top six layers are interlocked. Lock n' Pop's initial tack is sufficient to hold pallet integrity as the loads move to the stretch wrapper and onto trucks that then move them to a warehouse nine miles away.

While Daily's still must use stretch wrap to stabilize pallet loads, some applications using Lock n' Pop do not require additional packaging. The chart at the top of this page shows the environmental benefits that Lock n' Pop says can be realized with its

adhesive system.

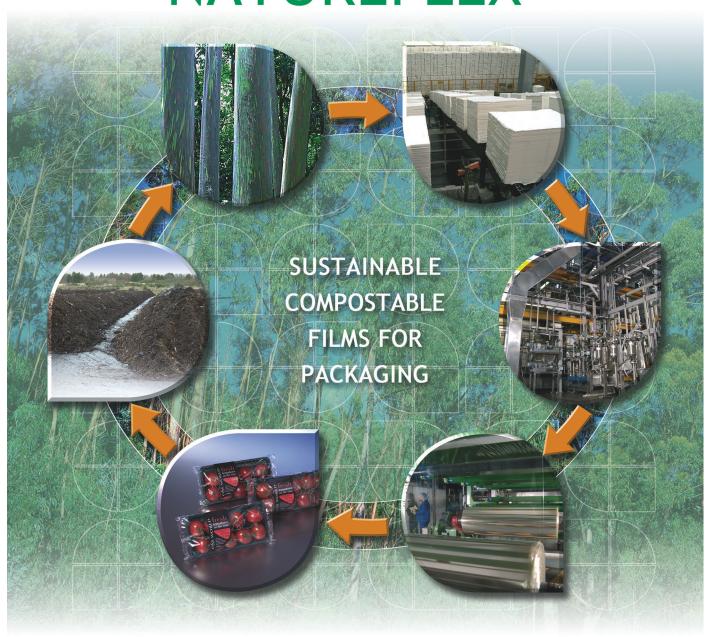
According to Ken Janowitz, Daily's director of operations, there has been no apparent change in load integrity since the hot-melt systems were replaced. And, he says, unlike the maintenance required for hot melt, the only maintenance necessary for the cold-glue adhesive systems are a weekly cleaning of the nozzles with water and a wiping of the photoeyes. "Refilling the adhesive merely involves moving a small, air-powered pump from one drum to another every two to four weeks, and nobody gets burned," he adds.

"The replacement of hot melt has been a win-win-win situation," Janowitz continues. "The \$60,000 investment in equipment [for all nine lines] paid for itself in eight months, with reduced adhesive cost and improved operations. Safety has been improved, and our graphics have never looked better."

More information is available:

Key Tech Corp./Lock n' Pop, 800/225-3009. www.locknpop.com.

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# IoPP 'sustains' interest

Task Group forms to explore the ramifications of packaging sustainability and offer validation and credibility to this broad and diverse commitment by packagers and suppliers.

Mary Ann Falkman, Editor-in-chief

ecognizing the intense interest in sustainable packaging by both the packaging community and the Institute of Packaging Professionals (www.iopp.org) membership of over 5,000, IoPP's Technical Council recently approved the formation of a Sustainable Packaging Task Group. This newly



formed group held its first meeting January 24 to 25 in Holland, MI.

IoPP's task group vice chairs, Ted Holloran and Bob Forsyth, agreed that the task group's first meeting would take place at office furniture manufacturer Herman Miller Inc. (www.hermanmiller.com) because of the company's experience and commitment to sustainability. Meeting attendees heard from industry experts from Herman Miller, who discussed the challenges and opportunities that sustainable packaging presents. Speakers included Suzanne Fisher, packaging engineering manager; Scott Charon, new product development-sustainable product design; and Paul Murray, director of environmental health and

The meeting broke out into three working sessions, which included:

Definition of sustainable packaging and other related terms. Moderators included Randy Boeller, HP; Laura Donnelly, CPP, Plymouth Foam; and Chris Wolpert, Henkel/Dial Corp.

Metrics: how sustainable packaging is measured. Moderators were Marsha Arvedson, ExxonMobil; Jane Chase, CPP, US Foodservice; and Robert Spreeman Jr., Sturm Foods.

Education: how to educate the packaging community about sustainable packaging. Leading this session were Rosanna Cavanaugh, Key Tech; Judy Fischer, CPP, Sargento Foods; and Jim Peters, CPP, IoPP's director of education.

According to Peters, IoPP's purpose for establishing this task group fits into the assocation's mission statement and vision of being a central unifying force in the packaging market. "IoPP's role is as a facilitator. We do not have a policy on sustainability right now," he says.

One of the association's most important missions, he continues, is to raise the professional levels within packaging through education. "We hope to identify what educational vehicles IoPP can provide to get the message of sustainability out there," Peters says.

One possibility could be a series of professional reports (white papers) to add validation and credibility to the information being disseminated on the topic of sustainability.

The task group will likely meeting again later this spring to continue its work, Peters says.

More information is available:

**Institute of Packaging Professionals,** 630/696-4000. **www.iopp.org** 



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# How green are we?

In our groundbreaking survey of nearly 2,000 packaging suppliers and brand owners, *Packaging Digest* reveals just how knowledgeable the market is about sustainability in packaging and what companies are doing to achieve this goal.

Mary Ann Falkman, Editor

ighty percent of the respondents to our recent sustainability survey say they are at least somewhat familiar with what sustainability is, and more than half are already achieving sustainability goals through a variety of measures, most often in the use of recyclable materials and lightweighted packaging, as well as reduced energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

Responses from materials suppliers/converters and equipment companies were virtually identical to those from brand owners and contract packagers, showing a very similar level of awareness and involvement. The only variances occurred between respondents who described themselves as "very" or "extremely" familiar with sustainability, as compared with those who claim to be "somewhat" or "not at all" familiar.

Packaging Digest's survey was sent electronically

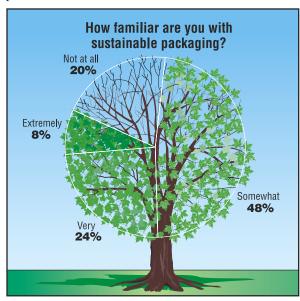
# Fifty-seven percent of the survey respondents are suppliers of equipment or materials. They are more likely to have customers who require sustainability.

in early December, just a month after Wal-Mart announced its sustainability scorecard initiative. Corporate/general management and engineering/production each accounted for one-fifth of the respondents, while marketing, packaging design, purchasing and research and development each represented 10 to 13 percent. The remainder did not identify their job function.

o how green are we? Thirty-two percent of survey respondents say they are either "very" or "extremely" familiar with the idea of sustainability (see the "tree chart" at right). Sixty-one percent believe that the emphasis on sustainable packaging has increased during the past year, while the remainder say it has stayed the same. However, that number changes for the "familiar" group previously identified—among them, 77 percent claim that the emphasis has increased.

Although Wal-Mart has made it abundantly

clear that it considers sustainability to be a business economic issue, only 19 percent of our survey participants agree with that philosophy. Just a tad more than one-third of the respondents say they view sustainability as an environmental initiative; 46 percent claim that the economic and environmental



Differences in responses, everyone vs 'very familiar' with sustainability			
	All	Very or extremely familiar	
Has the emphasis on sustainable packaging increased during the past year?	61%	77%	
Has the emphasis on sustainable packaging stayed the same during the past year?	38%	22%	
Do you view sustainable packaging as an environmental issue?	35%	39%	
Do you view sustainable packaging as an economic issue?	19%	14%	
Sustainable packaging is a very important issue in packaging decisions.	21%	30%	
Sustainable packaging is a somewhat important issue in packaging decisions.	36%	41%	
Sustainable packaging is sometimes a factor in packaging decisions.	35%	25%	

importance weigh equally.

When making decisions about packaging, 21 percent of the participants say that sustainable design is a "very important factor," as compared to 8 percent who claim it is "not important." About one-third each voted for "somewhat important" and "only sometimes Continued on page 40

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a factor (see the second "tree chart" on page 41)." Again, however, the importance factor is weighted more heavily among the "familiar" group, with 30 percent of those people voting for "very important" factor in making packaging decisions.

ot very many customers are asking for or requiring sustainable packaging. Only 9 percent of the survey participants say that more than 50 percent of their customers require sustainability; 37 percent say fewer than 10 percent of their customers ask for it. However, suppliers of equipment and materials are more likely to have customers who ask for sustainable packaging than do the end users.

# We created a team that dedicates time to creating a sustainable packaging plan.

The differences between suppliers and brand owners showed up also in the question about the importance of sustainability in designing, specifying or purchasing packaging equipment (see table at right, which shows responses of all survey participants, both suppliers and end users). Brand owners, for example, are more likely to want the equipment to meet market criteria for performance and cost (56 percent) than are suppliers (44 percent). Brand owners also say they want the equipment manufactured using clean production technologies and best practices (28 percent), compared to suppliers (21 percent).

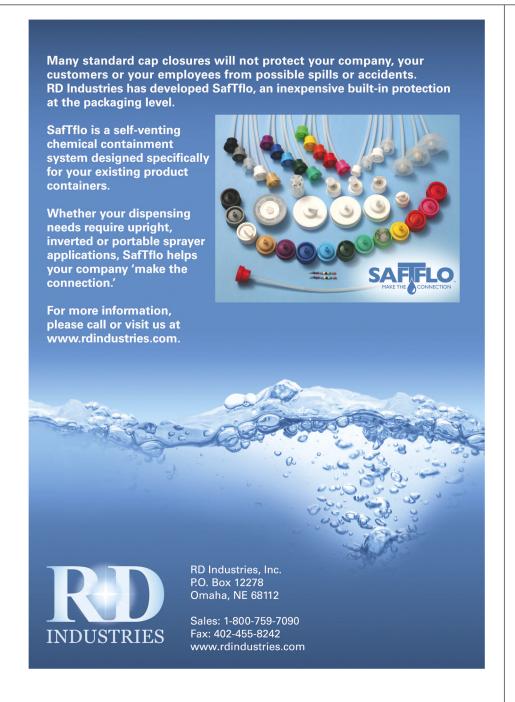
Packaging Digest's survey asked four open-ended questions, a tactic often avoided in most surveys because they tend to be ignored. Not here, however—each question netted at least 600 write-in responses, pointing out the importance of the topic to the survey's participants.

One question asked: "In your opinion, what is the greatest impediment to adapting sustainability on the packaging processes you currently work on?" The most common answer was cost, "that is, convincing suppliers to make the necessary changes to satisfy our requirements," explains one respondent. "If the consumers

show that they care enough to select products for sustainability, or the government requires it, it will happen. Otherwise, this will not happen until sustainability is economically driven," writes another. And yet a third responds: "Lack of knowledge from the consumer is a problem. There is no push to go sustainable unless it's a plus for the consumer. For that reason, cheapest/fastest/prettiest to market is a priority."

ome respondents mention the lack of readily available materials, or long leadtimes on those materials. "There are leadtime delays due to the extra effort and extra costs involved. It does not seem like 'sustainability' is mainstream or readily accessible yet," says one person. Points out another:

How important are the following factors when designing, specifying or purchasing packaging machinery?					
	Extremely important	2	3	4	Not at all important
Is beneficial, safe and healthy for individuals and communities throughout its life cycle.	30%	37%	22%	8%	3%
ls sourced, manufactured, transported and recycled using renewable energy.	11%	34%	33%	17%	5%
Meets market criteria for performance and cost	. 49%	31%	12%	5%	2%
Maximizes the use of renewable or recycled source materials.	16%	38%	30%	13%	3%
Is manufactured using clean production technologies and best practices.	24%	38%	24%	11%	4%
Is made from materials healthy in all probable end-of-life scenarios.	25%	35%	25%	12%	3%
Is physically designed to optimize materials and energy.	24%	42%	24%	8%	2%
Is effectively recovered and utilized in biological and/or industrial cradle-to-cradle cycles.	13%	34%	34%	15%	4%





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#### What actions have you taken to implement sustainable packaging?

"We have changed our packaging materials to items that are more earth-friendly. We stopped using peanuts and switched to air pads. One of our wrapping materials was bleached white, and we are testing a kraft version."

"Our company is very big on having a high amount of recycled content in our packaging materials. We have taken steps to ensure that our suppliers will continue to push for sustainable packaging for incoming components as well as packing materials.'

"We have created a team that dedicates time to creating a sustainable packaging plan, in line with both the industry's and Wal-Mart's trends.

"When we are able to use sustainable packaging, it is used. Our biggest hurdle is that all of our packaging is done by contract packagers. Our headquarters building uses 100-percent-compostable and biodegradable products.'

"We are always planning and working on solutions to better engineer our processes and procedures in sustainable packaging in order to support customer satisfaction and insure that we meet standards based on customer requirements."

'When it comes to funding sustainability efforts, the bottom line still rules. Sustainability costs more up front. We increased our recycling efforts and implemented 5S to reduce waste.

"Many: We review all packaging design, increase recycled content, eliminate [excess] packaging, increase recycling programs and evaluate renewable energy.'

"Paper, cellulose acetate and other like materials have long supported sustainable packaging. We have worked on improving the printability of packaging materials to allow for more information content to support reduced packaging efforts, a subset of sustainable packaging."

"The resin simply doesn't work in many applications, and until more sustainable resins are availableespecially high-barrier resins—we cannot create a functional package." Many people complained that they have difficulty sourcing the materials, especially in the quantities they require, because production in many cases is not keeping up with demand. Others

worry that the materials may not provide the level of protection their products require: "Making sure package performance isn't compromised, leading to higher damage levels," says one respondent.

"By nature, our packaging is at a minimum to begin with, so therefore there is not a lot to work with. That being said, we are limited to our shrink films, and all investigating we have performed has yet to result in a usable alternative," explains an obviously frustrated participant.

Yet another impediment mentioned repeatedly in the open-ended question is a lack of knowledge on the part of the consumer. "The problem is end customer perception and big box store requirements and demands. I work for a big wine company where marketing feels that the glitz and glamour is what sells, and this is endorsed and even compounded by the big box and chain store world," says one person. Echoes another: "The customer does not perceive that

But not just the consumer is being maligned. Says another, "Ignorance of corporate and upper management to the importance of packaging in general, and sustainability in particular," complains one respondent. "Management isn't interested in sustainable packaging, thinking it could be harmful to customers and not be worth the time to develop."

Another open-ended question asks survey participants what metrics, if any, are currently being used by their companies. Nearly half reported none at this time. Other responses, however, listed

> a variety of measures: source reduction; reduced emissions (greenhouse gases); water use; percentage of renewable materials; recycled content; the Wal-Mart scorecard. One person wrote: "We recently revamped the entire plant engineering and maintenance organization to implement a new culture of process engineering, although it's currently in the infant stage." Another person writes: "We are running

life-cycle analysis; and near zero waste at our headquarters building, and

we have several different ways of tracking it, which is done by our Sustainability Committee.'

The survey also asked what tools or resources the respondents need to help reach their sustainability goals. "Credible definitions and expertise," writes one person, reflecting the sentiments of many. "What is now out there, I am highly skeptical of. There are lots of consultants out there, and extremely generic articles are being written and published which I wouldn't use for a Packaging 101 course."

In addition, many of the people surveyed cited trade magazines as a good future means of disseminating credible information. At Packaging Digest, we're listening.

# How important is sustainability in packaging decisions? Somewhat

#### New microsite added to www.packagingdigest.com!

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## PLA bottle is used for a Noble cause

Demonstrating its fresh thinking, Blue Lake Citrus Products, LLC, Winter Haven, FL, has become the first company to offer all-natural and organic juice beverages in bottles made from NatureWorks® PLA polylactide resin, a biodegradable, compostable polymer derived from renewable resources. Explains Blue Lake president Wade J. Groetsch, the company selected the bio-based resin from NatureWorks LLC (www. natureworksllc.com) for the material's eco-friendly advantages. "We are always researching new ways to reduce packaging waste and energy in the production of packaging products such as our new bottle," he says.

Since last September, Blue Lake has offered its lines of Noble All Natural and Noble Organics premium juices in a clear, 32-oz PLA bottle molded by Consolidated Container Corp. (www.cccllc.com) using an existing, custom mold. Dubbed the "E bottle" by Blue Lake, the package provides a clarity comparable to the company's previous polyethylene terephthalate bottle, as well as a sufficient oxygen barrier for the products' 60-day shelf life. Noble juices are cold-packed, so PLA's lower melt index is not an issue during filling. "However, we do have to control the temperature of the transportation and warehousing of bottles," Groetsch relates.

Based on its 2006 sales, Blue Lake estimates that the switch to PLA will save the fossil-fuel equivalent of burning 114,000 gal of gasoline and will save greenhouse-gas emissions equivalent to driving a car more than 2.7 million miles in the U.S.

Read more at www.packagingdigest.com/info/green1.

# Recycled-content tooth brushes draw a smile

Recycline is giving environmentally conscious consumers something to smile about. Since 1997, the company has offered the Preserve™ line of tooth brushes made from recycled-content plastic, with packaging that uses a wood-based plastic, recycledcontent paper and soy inks. When ready for disposal, customers can return the tooth brush and case to Recycline, which grinds the items down to make material for recycled-plastic lumber products. Read more at www.packagingdigest.com/info/green3.

#### Candle package lights the way to clean water

Aveda, maker of natural haircare, skincare and cosmetic products, will unveil a limited-edition candle packaged with the environment in mind to raise funds and awareness for its Earth Month 2007 campaign. The Light the Way™ candle will arrive in Aveda salons, spas, stores and online at aveda.com this April. The environmentally responsible packaging, produced by Johnson Printing and Packaging (www.jppcorp.com), which operates a production facility on wind power, includes a 95-percent postconsumer-recycled (PCR) glass jar from La Mediterranea (www. la-mediterranea.com) and an outer paperboard carton of 55percent PCR carton board, printed with soy-based inks. Read more at www.packagingdigest.com/info/green4.



### Lipstick pack plants a seed

Cosmetics Corp., Toronto, promotes a true passion for the environment, utilizing a 100-percentbiodegradable lipstick tube and a carton made from biodegradable paper infused with real flower seeds. Says Cargo, the collection of 12 new lipsticks combines the company's vision of designing

shades designed by celebrities such as Courteney Cox, Mariska Hargitay and Lindsay Lohan. Read more at www.packagingdigest.com/info/green5.



#### Glass sustains beer brand

Inspired by a bike trip across Europe by brewery co-founder Jeff Lebesch, Fat Tire Amber Ale joins a selection of craft-brewed beers from New Belgium Brewing Co., Fort Collins, CO, that thrive on the company's commitment to energy efficiency and social responsibility. From its production to its packaging, Fat Tire, along with Sunshine Wheat, Blue Paddle Pilsener, Abbey Belgian Style Ale and other brews, is a product of wind power, water conservation and, notes New Belgium, "the three 'R's of being an environmental steward: reduce, reuse and recycle."

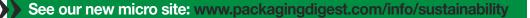
For its packaging, New Belgium uses amber glass bottles supplied by O-I (www.o-i.com) from its new plant in Windsor, CO. "New Belgium has always used amber glass as it protects the beer from harmful elements like sun and heat, and it's readily recyclable," says Bryan Simpson, media relations director for New Belgium. Read more at www.packagingdigest.com/info/green2.

#### MoMA exhibits its eco-awareness

Since last year, the Museum of Modern Art in New York City has employed a unique, tree-free paper—TerraSkin™—sourced from Chameleon Packaging (www.chameleonpackaging.com), a division of Design and Source Productions, Inc., for its retail-store gift-box-and-bag packaging needs. Relates Julie Parker, part of Design & Source's creative services, the museum's interest in finding sustainable options for its retail packaging program fits well with TerraSkin's properties and design capabilities. "The transition from the museum's conventional

paper boxes was seamless from a design sense." she says. Read more at www. packagingdigest. com/info/green6.





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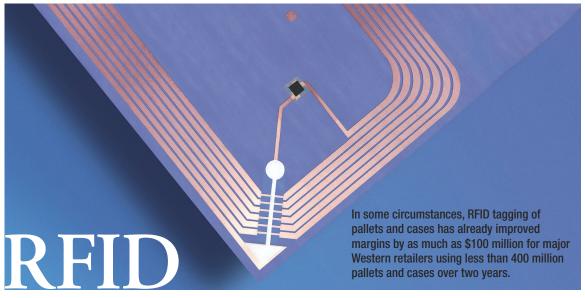


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The pallet/case market for RFID tags saw some reluctant mandated customers, technical problems and pricing that never came, despite retailer reports of excellent paybacks.

# in 2006: A story of extremes

As we move into 2007, many radio frequency identification suppliers are licking their wounds, while others are enjoying booming business. A soon-to-be-released industry report forecasts the RFID players and opportunities from 2007 to 2017. Here's a summary of the findings.

t the beginning of 2006, there was much optimism in the retail mandate sector. Radio frequency identification tag production capacities had been put into place and Gen 2 was delivering superior performance to previous versions. However, arguably the pallet/case market for RFID tags became the nearest thing to a black hole in the RFID universe in 2006, thanks to reluctant mandated customers, technical problems and pricing for volumes that never came, despite retailer reports of excellent paybacks.

Based on findings from many consumer goods manufacturers, IDTechEx, provider of the industry report, has found considerable foot dragging, resulting in pallet/case tag purchases as low as 250- to 300 million tags in 2006 at the heavily loss-making price of 10 to 15 cents each. RFID tag readers are also being sold at a heavy loss. But some participants have seen

benefits. Procter & Gamble found that tagging display cases for Wal-Mart with shared information led to a 19-percent sales increase of [Gillette] Fusion [razor] blades, which was caused by more timely arrival at-shelf. Hanna Candle Co. found that 90 pallets worth \$12.6 million went missing but were found through their RFID tags, reducing a "knock-on effect" for ordering. However, these benefits aren't necessarily paybacks, and companies are not saying they are sustainable.

hese sums of money are among the smallest of any RFID sector, even less than esoteric niches like one company tagging random samples of mail to assess performance or another company earning from tagging cows. The point is that the mail tags cost \$10 or more and the cow tags cost \$2. Both of these companies have around \$50 million of probably profitable sales. One could go on and on with examples like this.

RFID hardware suppliers that had prioritized the retail sector started to look elsewhere, though none left the sector altogether because they know there will be a winner one day, and most have strong backing. They seem to be playing "Last One Standing." There is an oversupply, although some system integrators are making money.

Basically, the RFID tagging of pallets and cases has already improved margins by as much as \$100 million for major Western retailers using less than 400 million pallets and cases over two years. This was provided at a loss of about \$100 million by the consumer product goods (CPG) companies that supply them. In addition, the RFID suppliers to the CPG companies also lost about \$100 million in the exercise. In the case of the RFID suppliers, that money came from investors and parent companies. It was certainly not predicted that those investments in RFID companies would, in effect, flow rapidly to the large





retailers. System integrators are faring better, with some even claiming to make money installing a pallet/case RFID infrastructure at CPG companies and at retailers. At least with the anti-theft tags earlier mandated by retailers, the tag and system suppliers to the mandated CPG companies stayed profitable because they didn't price for volumes that never came. However, anti-theft tags did and still do cost the CPG companies heavily, for no return. So the pallet/case RFID is history repeating itself.

Ithough we forecast that eventually, the retail sector will be the biggest market by far for RFID, CPG companies have yet to see sustainable paybacks. The real opportunity for them is with item-level tagging. Retail mandates asked for the companies' top suppliers to tag the pallets and cases of the highest-volume products they sell. The highest-volume products tend to be those that are of lower value and of lower margin, and therefore it comes as no surprise that most consumer goods suppliers don't get a payback. For RFID suppliers, item-level tagging for

# Anti-theft tags did and still do cost consumer product goods companies heavily, for no return.

retailers is a better business in which highvalue products, such as Marks & Spencer apparel and Best Buy video games, are tagged first. However, this is vulnerable to rapid design change. Like anti-theft tags, there are three incompatible options here—Near Field UHF, Far Field UHF and HF.

#### Hot countries for RFID

IDTechEx keeps a close eye on which countries are eagerly adopting RFID and which are not. Its sources include intensive travel, conferences, literature searches and its RFID Knowledgebase (www.rfidbase.com) of more than 2,400 case studies covering more than 2,600 organizations and 91 countries. The results are rather surprising.

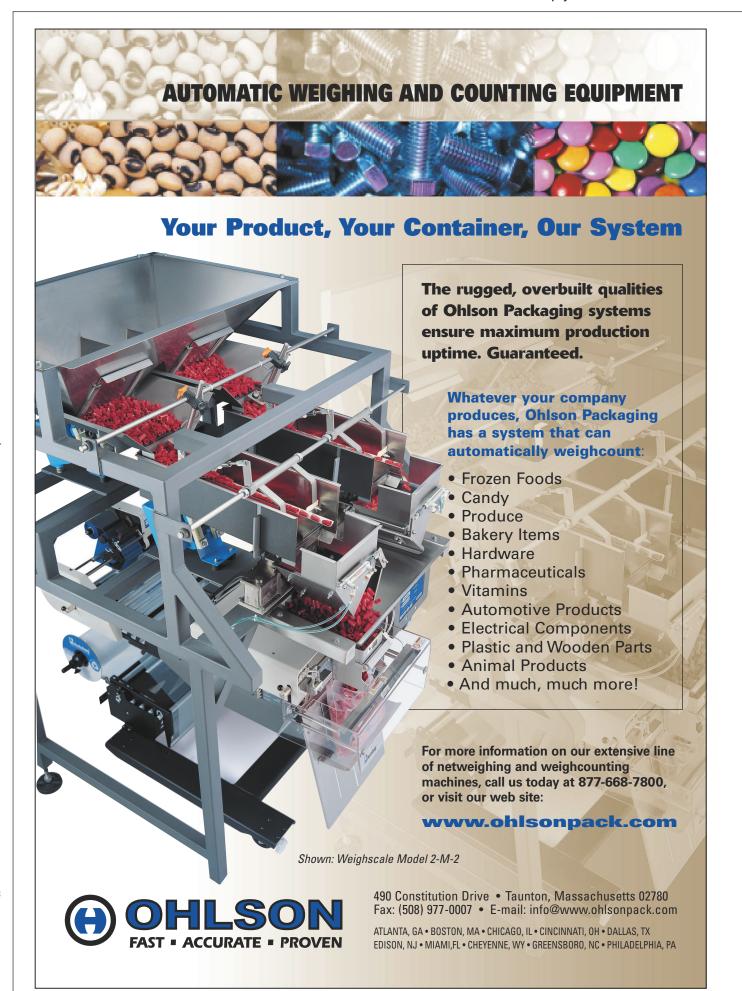
First, the U.S. is the greatest adopter, with by far the largest number of cases of RFID in action and orders that are often the world's largest by value. It has even pulled ahead in the last year, with more than 840 recorded projects. More surprising is that the U.K. holds second place by number of cases, though not the money spent, an area in which China has more claim to fame and in which Korea and Japan are strong rivals.

China and Korea have jumped up a notch and, remarkably, Australia has jumped from number 10 to number seven. When IDTechEx saw the unusual activity in Australia, it focused research onto the region for a new report entitled "RFID in Australasia 2007-2017," and reveals some of the results here. New Zealand is a follower, with the exception of the work of Fonterra, the world's largest milk cooperative.

hat's going on in Australia? The rapid advance of Australia in RFID is on a broad front, from books in libraries to tagging of humans in hospitals, but one could say that about many countries. What sets Australia apart from most of its peers are aspects such as the legal requirement to tag cattle and racehorses, and the trials and rollouts of tagging fish, tomatoes and other foods by its vibrant food industry. Australia will not stop there. It's likely to introduce legislation to tag all four-legged livestock ahead of most other countries. With the major trading Continued on page 46



Eventually, retail will be the biggest RFID market, though consumer companies have yet to see sustainable paybacks.



blocks finding reasons to protect their food industries, external suppliers such as Australia, with the world's largest population of sheep, must be beyond suspicion. RFID is a part of that.

#### RFID sectors taking off

Beyond packaging-related applications, other sectors of the RFID business are booming. Andrew Price, RFID manager at the International Air Transport Association (IATA) enthuses, "In the next few years, the [airline] industry will be tagging an ever higher

proportion of its two billion bags yearly and it will use RFID in other new applications as well." This is a global phenomenon, not to mention government applications. Dr Jimmy Li, deputy director of the Initiative Office for Government RFID Applications at the Ministry of Economic Affairs Taiwan and senior advisor of the Institute for Information Industry in Taiwan says, "Government applications of RFID are now growing rapidly. We started five RFID projects in the government area this year and there are

more to come next year."

In addition to considerable growth in the transportation area, the aerospace and defense industries are on a rapid RFID adoption path, according to Steve Georgevitch, total asset visibility program manager of Boeing Integrated Defense Systems. Dr Chang-Hun Lee of the National Information Society Agency, Korea, says, "Ubiquitous Sensor Networks will be a huge RFID market in a few years."

RFID tagging of livestock is driven by ever-wider legislation. For example,



Sectors such as transportation, aerospace, livestock, bookselling, bank cards, mobile phones and more are booming with RFID.

the European Community and New Zealand join the party in 2008 to 2010, creating a market for tagging sheep, goats, pigs and cows, the total demand for these two regions being over 150 million tags yearly at about \$2 each in 2010 from almost none today. Add a big demand for systems to that figure. The largest book seller in the Netherlands, BGN, is ordering several million tags yearly for its new scheme and its payback is so compelling that others will rapidly follow.

### RFID cards top the market by value

When it comes to the biggest RFID market—contactless smart cards—Don Davis, editor of *Card Technology*, says, "Big players are making major bets on contactless and are forcing competitors to catch up. They are issuing large numbers of contactless cards and fobs and, in Japan, adding contactless functionality to millions of mobile phones, giving many consumers the chance to pay with a wave."

Contactless cards are a huge success

Read about how CINGULAR WIRELESS' RFID smart labels and auto print/apply system improve warehouse and material-handling operations at <a href="https://www.packagingdigest.com/info/Cingular">www.packagingdigest.com/info/Cingular</a>

and contactless ticket sales are also taking off exponentially. The China National ID card system is the biggest RFID rollout, but an even larger budget of at least \$15 billion is being planned for the U.K. National ID card. Then, there is continued growth in secure-access applications and the start of the process of converting more than 3 billion financial cards from Visa, MasterCard, American Express and more to RFID. In the U.S. alone, 150,000 readers have been installed for these cards. That's only the beginning.

Author Raghu Das is the CEO of IDTechEx. Experts he quotes in this summary article will be presenters at the sixth annual RFID Smart Labels USA and Active RFID & RTLS conference in Boston, Feb. 21 to 22, an event that will analyze and detail the status of EPC and other RFID markets with critical business strategy information To obtain the full study summarized here on RFID Forecasts, Players & Opportunities 2007-2017, visit www.idtechex.com/usa.



# brand security

# The true cost of counterfeiting and piracy

Counterfeiting and piracy cost the U.S. economy from \$200 billion to \$250 billion per year and a total of 750,000 American jobs, and pose a threat to health and safety. From DVDs, CDs, shampoo and batteries, to car parts, prescription drugs and electrical equipment—every product in every industry is vulnerable.

Once viewed as "victimless crimes," counterfeiting and piracy have mushroomed in recent years. Since the early 1990s, trade in counterfeits has grown eight times the rate of legitimate trade. Counterfeit-related seizures by the U.S. Customs Service rose 125 percent during the past five years and are up 80 percent from 2005 to 2006 alone. The sale of these dangerous and



Since the early 1990s, trade in counterfeits has grown eight times the rate of legitimate trade.

defective goods has far-reaching consequences for our lives and our economy. Small businesses are especially at risk because they often lack the ability and resources to protect their trademark or copyright. For example, Eastman Machine Co.—a fourth-generation, family-owned, small business in Buffalo, NY, that manufactures manual and automatic cutting machines—had its product line counterfeited by a Chinese manufacturer. As a result, Eastman's legitimate product was almost completely pushed out of the world's largest market for cutting machines. While the counterfeit product thrived, Eastman itself had to layoff nearly two-thirds of its workforce.

Because of the importance of small businesses like Eastman, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business organization, is fighting back to protect industry and consumers and to make intellectual property protection a national priority. With more than 20 people on staff dedicated to the issue and a broad-based Coalition Against Counterfeiting and Piracy comprising more than 235 associations and businesses representing a wide range of industry sectors, the chamber is leading an aggressive global effort to thwart this growing threat.

For example, this month, the chamber will release the "No Trade in Fakes Supply Chain Tool Kit: Protecting Businesses, Consumers, and Brand Integrity." This important document showcases proven strategies that companies, both small and large, can use to protect their supply chains from counterfeiters and modern-day pirates. The only document of its kind, the tool kit includes a best practices guide and seven case studies of companies—including Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems, New Balance and Purdue Pharma—that offer techniques to fight back against counterfeiting and piracy. In addition to the tool kit, the chamber will host a series of webinars to further educate small and medium-size enterprises about supply-chain security.

Real people are being affected. The time to act is now. Industry and government have to attack this problem on multiple fronts through education and enforcement. Only then can we make real progress and make the world a miserable place for counterfeiters and modern-day pirates.

Caroline Joiner is the executive director of the Global Anti-Counterfeiting and Piracy Initiative, U.S. Chamber of Commerce. To learn more about the chamber's efforts or to join the fight against counterfeiting, visit www.thetruecosts.org.

www.thetruecosts.org



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Like this pepper shaker, conventional canisters permit dusting which can lead to product contamination.





# 

A new flowrapper at Sonora Foods achieves a six-month shelf life for tortillas as well as reduced production costs and quick changeovers.

onora Foods, manufacturer of the U.K.'s leading tortilla brand, Discovery, recently installed a new flowrapper from Ilapak, Inc. (www. ilapak.com) that, for the first time, enables the company to produce high-quality flowrapped packs with a six-month shelf life. Using Ilapak's VacMap TM flowrapper, Sonora can now produce these attractive, new, long-life packs at high speeds, efficiently and at a significantly lower cost than using a thermoforming machine.

Sales of Sonora's Discovery tortilla products have grown by 10 to 12 percent over the last seven years, driving a £7-million investment program at the company's factory in Daventry, England (and the construction of another factory that was recently opened in Milton Keynes, England), where Ilapak's modified-atmosphere Delta packaging machines have been used successfully for several years. Consumers' demand for better pack presentation prompted the move to develop a completely new type of packaging machine, capable of producing a pack with the appearance of a traditional flowrap and the shelf life

of a thermoformed pack.

Sonora produces around six million tortillas a week at the Daventry and Milton Keynes factories, and VacMap's unique three-in-one packaging

Looking to reduce product giveaway and increase its cut-to-order produce volume, **DEL MONTE** FRESH PRODUCE'S Kankakee, IL, facility installs an llapak vf/f/s machine and weighing system. Read about it at www.packagingdigest.com/info/delmonte

capability has given the company the flexibility to produce conventional flowrapped packs, modifiedatmosphere packaging (MAP) packs and VacMap packs with a six-month shelf life, all on the same

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# The packs look excellent and, because they are print-registered, we can achieve a higher-quality presentation for maximum shelf impact.

machine. Changeovers are quick to carry out, so Sonora can react quickly to changes in production requirements, while maintaining full capacity.

he high-performance, horizontal form/fill/seal machine combines vacuum and MAP packaging in a single machine. Its unique in-line vacuum system allows the Delta VacMap to extract trapped pockets of oxygen found inside and between the products themselves, to keep the contents fresh longer. The result of a joint-development program between Ilapak and Sonora Foods, the new VacMap offers all of the cost and efficiency benefits of flowrapping: high throughputs (Sonora's packaging line is currently running 48 packs/min), ease of use and dramatically reduced production costs due to reduced material and labor costs.

VacMap's fully automated feeding system is a major contributor to the reduced labor costs. Previously, the tortillas had to be fed into the thermoformer by hand, requiring two or three operators per line. Film costs have also been reduced significantly, as the VacMap uses about half the material of a thermoformer. Product and size changeovers are also exceptionally fast, requiring about half an hour, compared to four hours on a thermoforming machine.

rian Ridgway, managing director of Sonora Foods, explains, "We worked closely with Ilapak to develop this

Did you know?

According to Mayan legend, tortillas were invented by a peasant for his hungry king in ancient times. The first tortillas, which date approximately 10,000 years before Christ,

were made of native corn with dried kernel. Today, corn tortillas are made from either corn cooked in a lime-based solution or by using corn flour to produce a dough, forming it like a pancake and finally baking it in an oven. Source: Tortillas Industry Assn.

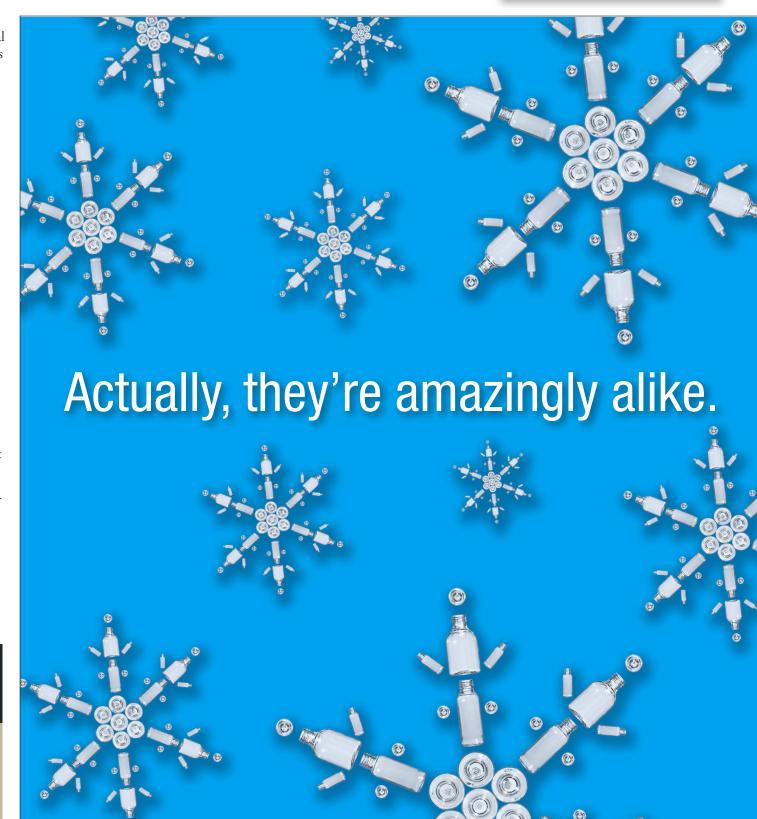
packaging solution to meet customer demand for better pack presentation and a fresher appearance, combined with a long shelf life. There was no packaging machine on the market capable of achieving this, so we approached Ilapak, and they agreed to work with us to develop a technical solution."

Ridgway is very happy with the way the package turned out. "We're delighted with the result. The packs look excellent and because they are print-registered, we can achieve a much higher-quality presentation for

maximum shelf impact. Customers perceive the contents of a flowrapped pack to be fresher than a thermoformed pack, giving greater customer appeal and an important marketing advantage."

#### More information is available:

**Ilapak, Inc.,** 215/579-2900. **www.ilapak.com.** 



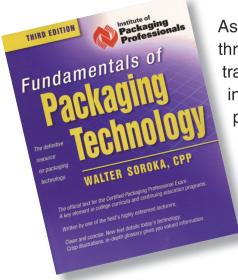


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# Globalized packaging industry drives global IoPP certification



As packaging operations spread throughout the world, standardized training helps distant units and individuals speak the same professional language.



any companies today run packaging operations in multiple countries, often on different continents. In many cases, an identical package is produced and filled in these countries. Brand graphics, product names, etc., may vary slightly, influenced by local cultural norms, but maintaining a strong global brand image relies on ensuring that corporate standards of package quality and decoration are met across all these production lines, wherever they may be located.

That result relies in turn on clear communication among design and production staffs in widely separated facilities where different languages are spoken. And that communication is most strongly facilitated by standardized training, because it is more important that all parties understand the professional language that is being used than that they be fluent in each other's national languages.

#### For instance . . .

Patrice LeMaitre, CPP (Certified Packaging Professional) of Dow AgroSciences SAS in Drusenheim, France, points out that

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most global companies establish a common language to facilitate everyday communication (at Dow, that language is English). Those exchanges can adapt to inexact language and usage that varies between countries, though more time than usual may be involved.

However, it is "essential" that packaging personnel in a global organization such as Dow use a precise common technical language that enables exact communication of design and production specifics. For instance, LeMaitre and his colleagues recently developed an inspection manual that uses common packaging language to facilitate communication among the company's commercial unit in Tokyo, its production facility in France and its package supplier in Switzerland.

"The Institute of Packaging Professionals [IoPP] Fundamentals of Packaging Technology course I took was the starting point for this project," he states. "I still use the course material as a reference book every week, and I wanted to put similar reference materials in the hands of those I interact with."

ndres Soto, CPP, who currently works with GlaxoSmithKline [GSK] in Puerto Rico, cites a parallel experience in communication. A meeting he attended brought technical specialists

# Certification courses head West this spring

Packaging professionals in the Western U.S. will have the opportunity to attend IoPP's Fundamentals of Packaging Technology seminar on the West Coast in March and April 2007. Fundamentals will be held in Newport Beach, CA. The seminar gives packaging professionals a unique chance to increase their packaging skills. This is the first time since 2003 the seminar has been presented in the West.

The event will be held at the Radisson Hotel Newport Beach. Semester 1 runs from March 12 to 14; semester 2 from March 14 to 16. Semester 3 is April 16 to 18, and semester 4 is April 18 to 20.

Classes are also held in Orlando in the winter, Minneapolis in the summer and Chicago in the fall.

Registration fees include lecture notes, samples, course materials, lunches and beverages. The textbook and hotel charges are extra.

For information on the certification program, including fees and dates for all locations, visit www.iopp.org or email to education@iopp.org.

together with corporate managers to discuss implementing what's known as Hospital Unit Dose [HUD] blisterpacks for a GSK product.

"Both groups were IoPP-certified, so the corporate managers understood the basic concepts and the HUD requirement the packaging specialists presented without the need for further technical explanation that would have slowed the process."

C.R.S. Ravishankar CPP, packaging development manager with BP-

Castrol India Ltd. in Mumbai, India, on the other hand, does not work with counterparts within BP across country lines, but he does interact with suppliers, both within India—where a rapidly-growing and complex packaging industry is developing—and elsewhere overseas.

The Indian packaging industry does not yet have many IoPPcertified packaging professionals. BP-Castrol pioneered the practice of hiring professionals who qualified at the Indian Institute of Packaging in design and package development, recognizing the value of specific training in packaging. Ravishankar (who describes himself as a "passionate packaging professional") learned about IoPP certification in 2000 and applied to take the Institute's certification training. He received his certification in 2002.

"This was extremely valuable to me in my dealings with global suppliers." Continued on page 52

Ketchup
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# The key results are improved communication and closer working relationships.

n 2005, when BP could not find budget funds to enable him to attend the annual IoPP conference in the U.S., Ravishankar paid the travel costs himself. IoPP, recognizing his commitment to enhancing his own knowledge and spreading it in his home country, waived the conference fees and discounted the lodging costs.

India currently follows established Indian Standards in packaging, but is in the process of evolving toward meeting global standards as global business grows. In his dealings with colleagues and suppliers within India and across the Middle East, Ravishankar tries to introduce IoPP and CPP certification as a way to speed that evolution. Several of those contacts have become members of IoPP and certified as CPPs.

"Many Indian and Middle Eastern companies are not aware of IoPP's training," he says. "Our growing network is beginning to extend itself into those companies."

In the U.S., the ability to hold

IoPP's Fundamentals of Packaging Technology courses at company facilities has created a unique opportunity for overseas colleagues to learn alongside American packaging specialists. The onsite setting where all participants are members of one company allows the course to go into detail about proprietary issues that enhance both the overall technical training and the chance for attendees from global locations to learn together.

ttendees at IoPP seminars conducted at General Mills Inc., for instance, come from both the company's domestic and international businesses, and include personnel from manufacturing plants, technical centers and corporate offices. More than 150 people from 15 different sites have participated in the IoPP seminars.

Abbott Diagnostics facilitates employees' CERTIFICATION STUDY GROUPS in-house. To learn how, see www.packagingdigest.com/info/abbott03

"In many cases," points out Stuart N. Bernard, senior R&D manager of packaging innovation/technology for General Mills, "these are people who work in widely separated geographic locations in several countries."

The key results, Bernard points out, are improved communication and closer working relationships that would not have developed otherwise.

The common thread in these disparate stories is the practical value of clear communication. When packaging professionals around the globe use a common technical language, companies save time and money (often a function of time) and can enhance their bottom lines. From France to Puerto Rico to India, professionals such as LeMaitre, Soto and Ravishankar are helping to spread that message.

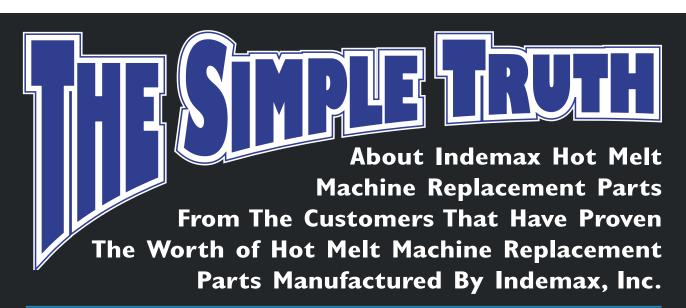
A second benefit of the IoPP training and certification that leads to improved communication is recognition of the importance of packaging as a discipline. That, in turn, can impact the attitudes of packaging professionals and the people with which they interact.

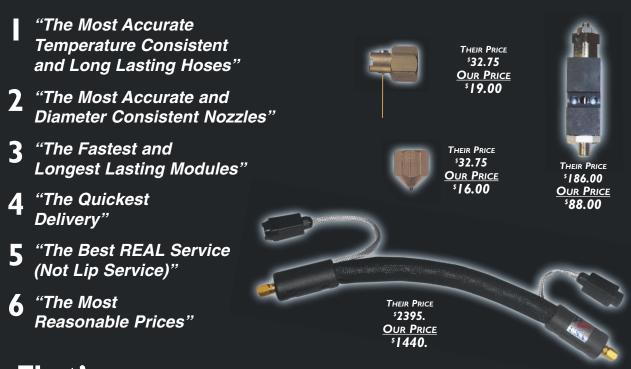
Says Bernard, "We find that IoPP certification gives our employees added confidence and increased credibility when they deal with outside vendors."

Now, that is a welcome benefit that translates into every language.

#### More information is available:

Institute of Packaging Professionals, 630/696-4000. www.iopp.org





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Bagging systems The co. introduces the Magnum-MD automatic in-line bagmaking and sealing system designed exclusively for packaging medical supplies. Able to form and seal Tyvek, polyester, PE and metallized and other barrier films, including HDPE, LDPE, LLDPE, PP and nylon with a chevron seal, the system maximizes savings in material cost by utilizing tubestock, the co. says. The system uses continuous rollstock and creates the bag perforation and chevron seal in-line to lock out particles during the f/f/s process. The system is also equipped with a 1micron filter to protect bag interiors and contents from airborne particulate. Clamco Corp., 800/299-1655.



www.clamcocorp.com

**Print/apply systems** The co. announces the Platinum Series of label printers/applicators. The series PA/6000 features up to a 110-ppm labeling rate and a 14-in. high-strength ABS unwind roll; the PA/4600 version features up to a 50-ppm labeling rate and has a 13-in., high-strength ABS unwind roll. Both have 128X64 graphic touchscreen user interfaces, print on-demand with a standard product sensor or an optional second sensor and are tested and approved according to UL/CSA 60950, FCC and CE requirements.

Diagraph, 800/722-1125. www.diagraph.com

**Scribing lasers** The co. improves its S-Series range of high-performance scribing lasers by releasing the new S-Series plus range. The plus range builds upon the S-Series range by providing greater functionality with improved Windows-based software, quick message selection and startup, and allowing high-speed printing of simple, one-line codes in a range of fonts, to more complex applications involving real time data, serial numbers and 2D codes.

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co. has been awarded SAP® interface certification for the CoLOSTM ExchangeTM interface, which is said to provide dependable connections between SAP and the plant floor. The interface connects the SAP® Auto-ID Infrastructure to the CoLOS software and its 800 Series highspeed RFID applicator.

MARKEM Corp., 866/263-4644. www.markem.com

Pouch machine With its new medical chevron pouch machine, the co. incorporates a modular design to allow 360-deg access to all mechanical components. The machine features a multi-zone heated platen, or ISO bar platen system, and a structure that is mounted to linear rails at floor level. The platen activation is servo motor-driven to ensure accurate, fast and repeatable performance, the co says. The machine is available with a custom -designed SCADA system and is available in 36and 26-in. widths.

GN Packaging Equipment, 905/670-0383. www.gnpak.com





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E-Z Tec XR inspection systems utilize advanced linear-array technology to identify contaminants, scan for missing or broken products, detect packaging voids, confirm fill levels and control product and packaging mass and fat analysis. The systems feature a 15-in. touchscreen, full-color display that accesses Windows XP and shows real-time images and diagnostic data and has connectors located on the side of the cabinet for easy access, enabling interconnection of memory devices, external instruments and other equipment.

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#### Linear encoders New LS XX7

Series sealed linear encoders are available up to 3 m in length, come in two different mechanical profiles and resist contamination and vibration, making them useful in dynamic machine tool applications. The new single-field scanning technology provides encoder advantages regarding the tolerance to contamination and to electromagnetic noise sources, the co. says. Along with signal stability, single-field scanning can also improve signal quality, providing a typical output signal error of ±1 percent within one signal period, the co. states. Heidenhain Corp., 847/490-1191. www.heidenhain.us



**Fillers** The co. releases its Extreme Clean fillers, featuring Class 100 HEPA units for filtering the filling environment and machine guarding to fight against any unwanted elements. The fillers are said to be less expensive than some aseptic machinery, the co. says, and meet pharmaceutical industry demands and requirements.

Fogg Co., 616/786-3644. www.foggfiller.com



Shrink tunnels The co. introduces ConvectAir™ shrink tunnels for use with heavy LDPE films often found in shrink bundling. The ST-800, ST-830 and ST-830XL use a combination of convection heating, radiant heating and a minimal flow of recirculated air for faster shrinking of LDPE films at a lower overall peak temperature, the co says. The new tunnels can produce 60 to 70 packs/min, utilizing a chamber that is 5 ft long. The ST-800 offers an 18-in. conveyor width, and the ST-830 offers a 30-in. width, with both able to reach production speeds of up to 100 fpm. The three models are available with optional casters, flow direction and an exit-cooling fan unit and the co. says they're covered by a oneyear, unlimited-cycle warranty. Lantech.com, 800/866-0322. www.lantech.com

**Valve** The new Dual 4-Way Valve has been added to the co.'s Moduflex Valves System Series. The valve combines two four-way valves in one body. The valves can be combined with other dual three-way or single four-way valves of either valve-body size without transition kits, and are designed to fit most applications, the co. reports.

Parker Hannifin Corp., 269/629-5000. www.parker.com

Cartoners The co. offers its line of S Series cartoners, available in a variety of speed options that range from 70 cartons/min up to 500 cartons/ min. The CFR 21-compliant S Series incorporates a carton-opening system that opens cartons before they reach the transport lug, eliminating the possibility of unopened cartons entering



the machine. The series features a custom-engineered infeed system that enables multiple components of varying sizes and shapes to be loaded into the same carton and servo-driven technology.

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# new productsmaterials

Prestretched banding film The XP EZ Bander is a new prestretched banding film that joins a line of narrow-width bundling films. Targeting the narrow-width stretch-wrap market, XP EZ Bander is designed to combat volatile prices and low distributor margins, the co. states. The prestretched film promises to give a good look to wrapped products. Stiffer and stronger than conventional films that are oriented and prestretched, the film is said to give greater holding force and eliminate the need to stretch the film during application, the co. reports. The film affords stiffness and is available on rolls with extended-core disposable handles.

Western Plastics, 800/442-9727.

www.wplastics.com

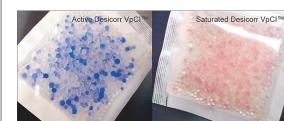


PET bottle Said to be suitable for a wide range of personal care products is the new 250-mLPET Triangle bottle. The co. says the bottle is available with a 24/410 or a 24/415 neck finish to suit popular flip-top, disc-top, pump sprayer and lotion-dispensing closures with purchase quantities down to one case. Silgan Plastics Corp., 314/523-4308. www.silganplastics.com

Wine-bottle carrier Using the co.'s AFS/6B product-grouping, caseforming and closing machine, an unusual six-bottle corrugated-microflute carrier can be manufactured. The wraparound carrier uses no partitions, holding the bottles so tightly, there is no product movement during shipping and handling. A side seam ensures that the bottles stay secure compared to competitive designs, the co. reports. The package design, patented in Spain, is freely available for use in the U.S.

Maquinaria Boix e Hijos SL, 34/965-489022.

www.grupoboix.com



**Desiccant** Desicorr VpCl™ is the latest addition to the co.'s highperformance corrosion-protection packaging. It is a unique combination of desiccant and Vapor phase Corrosion Inhibitor (VpCI™) specifically designed to absorb moisture. It features excellent moisture and corrosion protection for multi-metals like electronic components, machine parts, military instruments, optical devices, museum storage, communication devices, circuit boards, semiconductors and more, and is designed to provide longterm protection for up to 24 months when used in an enclosed space.

Cortec Corp., 800/426-7832. www.CortecVCI.com

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Alcoa Packaging, 800/327-7768. www.alcoa.com



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# newsmakers

#### **MOVERS & SHAKERS**

Robbins & Myers, Inc. appoints Thomas Luken president of its Romaco



**Business Unit.** He is responsible for Romaco's worldwide operations. Beckhoff **Automation** Canada hires Calvin Wallace as sales manager for southwestern

Ontario. He was vp sales and marketing at Axiom Technolaies.

Bison Gear & Engineering Corp. appoints Martin Swarbrick president and COO. Most recently, Swarbrick was named vp and Director of Business Excellence for Motorola.

TURCK, Inc.'s Robb Black is appointed as the newest member of the PTO



(PROFIBUS and **PROFINET North** America) Board of Directors. Black is the director of the Network & Interface Div. at TURCK. **Domino Printing** Sciences, plc appoints Kirsten Telfer group

software director and Chris Beesley is now the program director of its Group Development Team.

Dematic Corp. names John K. Baysore president and CEO. He was previously president and CEO of ThyssenKrupp



Fabco. **Siemens Energy** & Automation, Inc. names Tom Kopanski, currently vp of the Automation and Motion Div., vp of the Power Distribution and Controls Div. and Raj Batra, currently

vp of the Automotive and Aerospace Center of Competence, vp of the Automation and Motion Div. Multivac, Inc. hires Ed Wood as director of sales for its Medical, Consumer and Industrial division. Wood will report directly to Jan



Erik Kuhlmann, president/CEO of Multivac, USA. Multivac also appoints five additional regional sales managers to its U.S. food division: Bryan Barner (AR, LA and southeastern TX), Gregg Poffenbarger (OK, AZ, NM and northern TX), Tom Ribken (KY, TN, NC and SC), Don Heuck (IL and IN) and Randy Rhude (ND, SD, NE, WY and CO).

Rexam PLC appoints Leslie Van de Walle chief executive of its board. He will succeed Lars Emilson, who is retiring. Alcan, Inc.'s senior vp, Christel Bories,

is elected chairman of the European Aluminum Assn.'s executive committee. Crown Holdings, Inc. promotes Raymond L. McGowan Jr. to president of its North American Food Packaging business. Previously he served as president of Crown Food Can Packaging USA. 3 Sigma Corp. promotes Larry Slaven to president and COO. He most recently was

the company's vp and general manager. Shuttleworth, Inc. appoints James D. Bonahoom vp of finance and James R. Bush regional sales manager, responsible for AL, FL, GA, SC and TN. Shorewood Packaging, a business unit of International Paper, names Bruce Betancourt vp of sales for its Cosmetic Packaging group.



# info showcase

Literature and other multimedia, product announcements and websites for packaging machinery, materials, containers, supplies, and services. Contact supplier directly or respond online for information.

For more information, contact Barbara Levin at (630) 288-8474, blevin@reedbusiness.com



#### **Introducing a New Line of CASE SEALERS**

A.B. Sealer, Inc. introduces a new line of CASE SEALERS starting at \$2,900. From Semi-Automatic to Fully Automatic Random there will be a sealer to fit any budget. Sealers are available in stainless steel. A.B. Sealer also offers for the first time a Stainless Steel Tape Head. A.B. Sealer Maximum Series Case Erectors are RUGGED, COMPACT and have no tools required changeover. The Maximum Series will give you the widest case range in the industry. View demonstrations of the MAXIMUM SERIES CASE ERECTORS on our website at www.absealer.com. A.B. Sealer, Inc.

sales@absealer.com, 877-885-9299

#### Flowmeter Filler Model EXACTA-R

Ronchi offers a compact 8 head advanced technology flowmeter filler Model EXACTA-R for users with moderate outputs for speeds up to 80 BPM. Developed from the unique and mature pedigree of 400 machines installed world wide, it has all the outstanding advantages of its larger family of flowmeter machines. Current blue chip users benefit from features including recipe management, quick C.I.P/S.I.P, 10 minute changeover, and "on-the-fly" fill adjustment for individual or all filling heads. Ronchi America LLC, 201-802-1901, Fax: 201-802-1905 E: info@ronchiamerica.com, www.ronchiamerica.com





#### PakTech Introduces Cans Handles with 'Dust Covers'

Consumer safety has been a major issue in packaging for the past five years. PakTech addressed this issue by designing new handles with a completely covered top specifically for cans. The unique injection molded design is functional in both unitizing the cans as well as covering the tops with a thin layer of HDPE plastic. The package holds together safely upon distribution, and many handle styles and automated application available.

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### PA1200cw Corner Wrap Label Printer/Applicator

The Tharo PA1200cw Corner Wrap Label Printer/Applicator can print and apply a bar code label to 2 adjacent product surfaces - front and side or front and top. The cost effective PA1200cw is currently available using the Tharo H-Series printers with print resolutions of 203 or 300 dpi. To see the PA1200cw Printer/Applicator in action, please visit: http://www.tharo.com/products/pa1200/pa1200.htm.

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#### **CTM-Introducing New Labeling Applicator**

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#### **New Generation of X-Ray Inspection Systems**

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#### **Model 400 Print and Apply Labeler**

The versatile Model 400 Print and Apply Labeler achieves vertical and horizontal labeling of cases, cartons and bags at speeds up to 50 per minute. With optional application tools, it can apply side labels, corner wrap labels and two-panel labels, as well as support the next generation RFID tagging technology.

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### High-Throughput Print Engine Around the Clock

Building on its global leadership position in automated print and apply print engines, SATO recently introduced the S84 series, high-throughput print engines. The S84 series engines are available in 203, 305 or 609 dpi versions with print speed capability up to 16ips. These new print engines are available with a factory installed ribbon saver feature and a first of its kind, quick-change ribbon cassette option allowing users to minimize downtime due to ribbon changes.

**SATO America, Inc.,** Phone: 888-871-8741 satosales@satoamerica.com, www.satoamerica.com



### newsmakers

Eric Klein Lenze/AC Technolgy

Lenze/AC
Technology hires
Eric Klein to the
new position of
North American
distribution sales
manager.
Rockwell
Automation,
Inc. names
Christopher Zei
vp of its OEM

initiative. In addition, Matt Bauer, who is market development director for Information Software at Rockwell Automation, has been named chairman of the board of directors for the Manufacturing Enterprise Solutions Assn. (MESA) Int..

#### **GROWING & GOING**

manufacturing facilities.

ROVEMA Packaging Machines reports that it is now responsible for all of the Americas, with the recent addition of South America as its territory, within the Rovema group of companies.

Surefil LLC, a contract manufacturer for the personal care and medical industries, builds a 50,000-sq-ft extension to its

Kaufman Container relocates its corporate headquarters in the greater Cleveland area. The new 180,000-sq-ft facility allows Kaufman Container to consolidate its three Cleveland operations into one building.

**International Paper** sells its kraft papers business to **Stone Arcade Acquisition Corp.** for approximately \$155 million.

#### **BUYING & ALLYING**

SCA is selling its North American packaging operations to Metalmark Capital for \$400 million.

**Dover Corp.** completes the acquisition of **Markem Corp.** 

Silgan Holdings, Inc. acquires Cousins-Currie Ltd. for CAD \$48.3 million. Sonoco acquires Clear Pack Co. CCL Industries, Inc. acquires the sleeve-label business of Illinois Tool Works, Inc. for approximately CAD \$105 million.

#### **CHEERS**

Rockwell Automation, Inc.'s chairman and CEO, Keith D. Nosbusch, receives the Frost & Sullivan CEO Lifetime Achievement Award in the Industrial Automation and Process Control space.

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#### **3-A Sanitary Feeder-Conveyor**

New combination feeder-conveyor for free-flowing and non-free-flowing bulk dairy products, pharmaceutical products and other contamination-sensitive materials meets 3-A sanitary standards. Innovative coupling positioned beyond the point at which material exits the discharge spout eliminates the potential of contamination while allowing quick disconnection of the screw from the motor drive for wash down. The screw is the only moving part contacting material.

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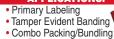


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Visit www.packagingdigest.com/info/events for more event information.

Feb. 12-15 WestPack 2007. Anaheim

Feb. 21-22 RFID Smart Labels USA.

Feb. 22-23 The Future of Nanoplastics 2007. Hilton Palacio

Feb. 27-Mar. 1 Packaging Strategies 2007. Renaissance Vinoy Resort

Feb. 28-Mar. 2 Flexible Packaging Assn. Annual Meeting. Fairmonn

Mar. 6-8 2007 Sustainability in Packaging. The Doubletree Casti Hotel, Orlando, FL. 207/781-9610.

Apr. 24-26 SouthPack 2007. Apr. 24-26 Interphex 2007.

Apr. 24-25 HBA Mid-Year Marketing Conference. Metrop. Pavilion, New York. 609/759-47

May 15-17 Packaging Summit & Conference. Donald E. Stephen

May 15-18 TOTAL Processing & Packaging. National Exhibition

June 4-7 CMM Intl. Donald E.

June 12-14 EastPack 2007.

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#### U.S. demand for dairy packaging to reach \$4.3 billion in 2010

Demand for dairy packaging is projected to expand by 4.1 percent annually to \$4.3 billion in 2010. Growth will be fueled by favorable trends in the consumption of a number of dairy products, resulting from increased nutritional awareness among consumers and heightened demand for fresh foods as part of a healthier diet.

#### PepsiCo's new cans

Soda and snack-maker PepsiCo Inc. says it will soon unleash a flurry of new designs for its Pepsi-Cola cans, the latest effort to sweeten soft drink sales, which have lagged in recent years as demand grows for healthier beverage options.

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