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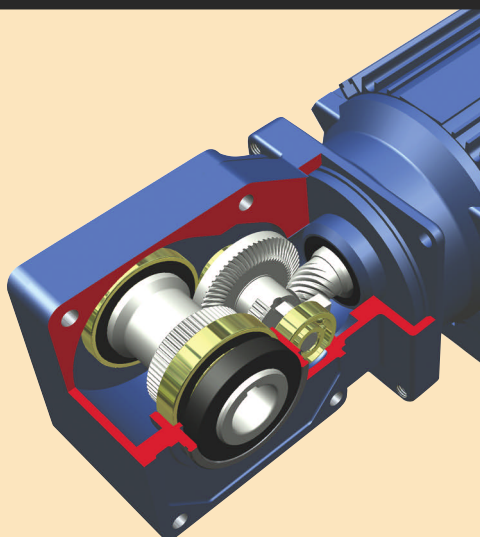
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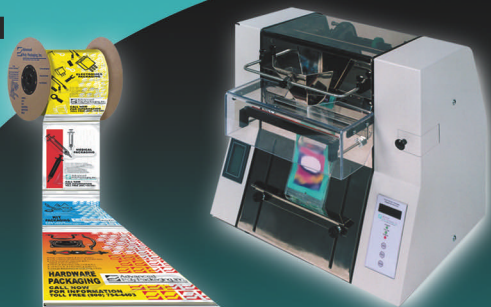
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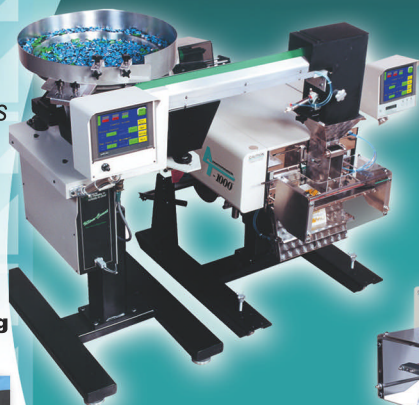
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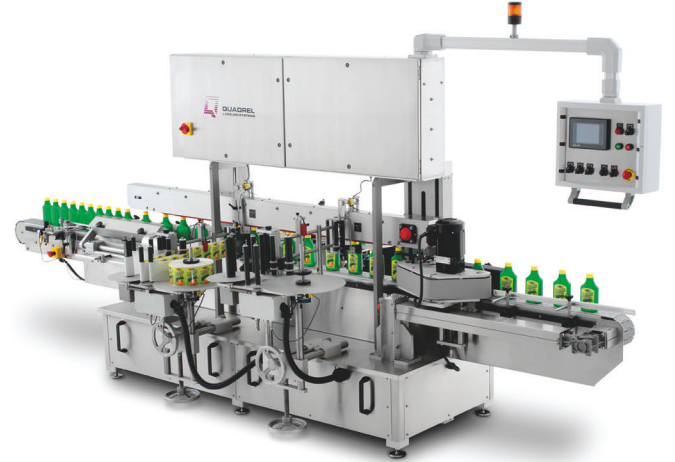
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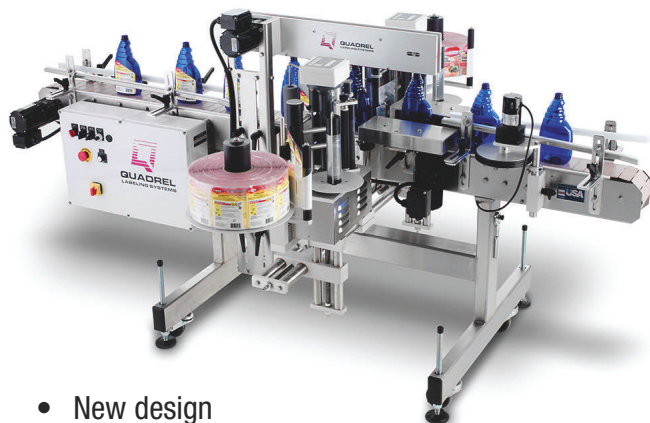
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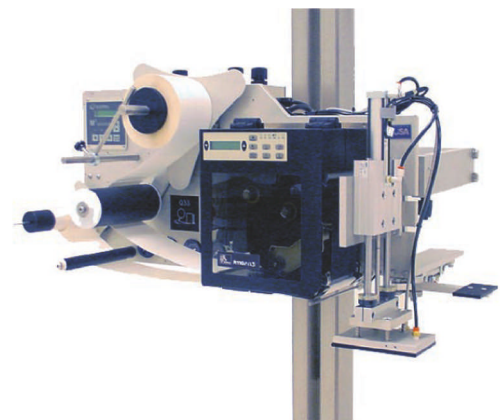
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design trends

Bon bons don keepsake boxes

With hinged, telescoping lids, NOKA Chocolate's new black and silver Encore Boxes™ serve as a reminder of the fine chocolates they contain, even after the chocolates have been eaten. Presentation is an important element for Dallas-based NOKA, which packages its chocolate gifts in unique, luxurious, paperboard three-piece setup gift boxes wrapped in a black paper. The gift boxes encourage appreciation of the products by all of the senses, including the look, aroma, flavor and texture of the chocolates and truffles within. Available for



12- and 24-piece product varieties, the Encore Box has a lid secured to an external base by a dual-paper hinge (externally and internally) to ensure proper attachment. An insert that sits inside the base rises above it for a three-dimensional effect.

Made and designed by **Paul T. Freund Corp. (www.ptfreund.com)**, the boxes present an elegant graphic design created by Katrina Merrem and NOKA president Noah Houghton. The design showcases silver foil stamping of company logo and black foil stamping of the word, "Encore." The logo is then debossed. NOKA hand crafts its dark chocolates and truffles, which are made to strict specifications. "Our focus for the packaging is to heighten the ceremony of the gifting experience," says Houghton.

"By redesigning our boxes as keepsakes, we ensure that magical moments and memories can be enjoyed into the future by both the person who gives the gift and by the person who receives it. The packaging must meet the highest standards of quality."



Nuts look tasty in a clear, thermoformed tub

A curvy, oval shape and a clear view of roasted nuts inside deliver a one-two punch for Hampton Farms' Gourmet Roast nuts. Consumers with a taste for premium snacks have a new, eye-catching option: Hampton Farms' nuts packed in **Sonoco's (www.sonoco.com)** eXtra Clear High Barrier (XCHB™) Series thermoformed tub. Considered a first for the nut segment, the clear plastic tub holds either roasted peanuts or cashews.

A premier roaster and marketer of in-shell peanuts in the U.S., Hampton Farms is the first company to launch nut products in the XCHB Series tub. The barrier, multilayer thermoformed container is a custom design with a deep draw that holds 16 oz of product.

The tub includes an easy-grip design, a wide mouth that facilitates snacking and a snap-on top that helps keep the nuts fresh after opening. The tub's barrier properties give the product a 12-month shelf life. The nuts are available in the produce section of grocery stores, online and at retail outlets across the country. To prepare for the national launch, Hampton enlisted Sonoco to assist the company with purchasing new production equipment that includes filling, nitrogen flushing, sealing and capping machinery.



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A whole pouch full of know-how: The new KHS Innopouch Bartelt K series has what it takes. Its flexible, modular design makes fast changeover possible. The open-type design underneath the pouch grippers ensures hygienic processing and efficient sanitizing. Moreover, KHS also offers the appropriate cartoning machines and integrated solutions for filling and packaging your branded products. For both the nonfood sector and the food and beverage industries.

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design trends

Pernod Ricard uncaps new bottle designs

Spirits maker Pernod Ricard, Paris, recently worked with O-I (www.o-i.com) on a new glass package requiring cross-functional coordination and a special design for its Wild Turkey American Honey bourbon/honey liqueur blend and Russell's Reserve small-batch bourbon. Both come in 375- and 750-mL flint glass bottles. Instead of obtaining the glass bottles through a distributor, the liquor company worked directly with an O-I new-product-development team from North America and Europe to provide the distinctive containers. Wild Turkey American Honey was launched in September 2006. Its sleek bottle has a tall, square shape with beveled

edges and contemporary labeling, which met Pernod Ricard's design and capabilities requirements. The bottle for Russell's Reserve addresses a manufacturing challenge to create a thick base. O-I manufactures the bottles at its plant in Holzminden, Germany, which is equipped to modify molds and can accommodate short runs. The applied ceramic labeling (ACL) decoration was coordinated through decorators **StanPac, Inc.** (www.stanpacnet.com) and Quebec's **Sérigraphie Richford** (www.serigraphierichford.com). The Wild Turkey bottle is labeled front and back so that a silhouette-style image of a turkey on the back panel shows through the front.



Bi-fold clamshell hits the winning mark for Bic



Bic's Mark-It™ reusable bi-fold clamshell, which

brings originality to Milford, CT-based Bic USA's permanent marker segment with its reusable storage case, netted Best in Show by judges in The Institute of Packaging Professionals' (IoPP) [www.iopp.org] 2006 AmeriStar Award packaging competition. Chosen from 46 winners across multiple categories, the transparent clamshell, thermoformed by **SCA Consumer Packaging** (www.scapackaging.alloyd.com), opens to reveal three panels of markers in a rainbow of colors. Made of 20-mil clear Pentaform® polyvinyl chloride from **Klöckner Pentaplast of America, Inc.** (www.kpfilms.com), the package is labeled with large pressure-sensitive spot labels front and back to draw visual attention to the 36 permanent markers inside. Die-cut with a hanger hole for rack merchandising, the functional package opens up like an art palette to display the markers for handy selection and use. The clamshell is reclosable, with mating snap seals, and is formed with friction-fit notches and wells that hold each marker in its place securely. Says SCA's Pat Conley, project engineer/team leader, "The pens are arranged so that the bi-fold opens like a book and the panels function like a stand." The middle panel also features a storage cavity for extra erasers, pencils or other items. PD hears that the pens are a winner with consumers as well as with the IoPP judges.



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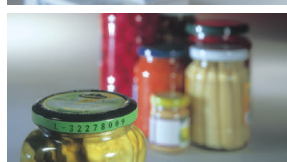
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design trends beverages

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machinery needed to pack the product. A 12-lane machine can reportedly produce about 480 Tstix/min. The microperforated packaging material is believed to be supplied by **Alcan Packaging Sarrebourg (www.alcan.com)** in France or by **Amcort Packaging (www.amcor.com)** in Mochheim, Germany.

Health drink now comes in recyclable cans



New Sun Nutrition introduces reformulated FRS®, or Free Radical Scavenging, updated from the company's product portfolio of FRS, an antioxidant, scientifically formulated supplement. The health drink is designed to boost energy, enhance performance and neutralize free radicals before they can cause cellular damage. FRS is improved with enhanced flavor in a new, eye-catching 11-oz recyclable can. The flavors, which include new Peach Mango, have been fine-tuned for a delicious, refreshing taste while the can protects flavors and offers a long shelf life. The product is available in low-calorie Wild Berry, Orange and Peach Mango and has 25 calories per can. Other flavors include all-natural Orange and Lemon Lime that are sweetened with organic, evaporated cane juices and contain no added preservatives, additives or coloring.

Described as the result of years of research and development by Dr. Lan Bo Chen, Ph.D., professor of pathology at Harvard Medical School's Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Dr. Mitsunori Ono, Ph.D., a phytochemical expert and senior scientist with the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Thomas Lines, a pioneer in flavonoid research, the beverage is currently available in select West Coast markets in locations such as Santa Barbara, San Diego and Seattle. The new metal can, printed in a rainbow of snazzy colors that correspond to the different flavors, is made by **Rexam (www.rexam.com)** and has been very well received by trade customers, according to New Sun Nutrition. The company says that the FRS product line also features a concentrate, a powder and a chewable form, all of which are sold online.

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comment

Mary Ann Falkman, Editor



Flexible packaging is a global market

For tracking the hottest spots for flexible packaging growth, location is everything. A major new study by U.K.-based market intelligence firm **PCI Films Consulting** (www.pcifilms.com) forecasts that world flexible packaging growth will increase in value terms by an average of 4.6 percent per annum to reach almost U.S. \$56 billion by 2010, when Asia Pacific will emerge ahead of North America and Europe as the world's largest regional flexible packaging market. The most dynamic major markets will continue to be China and India where flexible packaging sales are forecast to grow at more than three times the global average. The highly mature Western European market is forecast to grow by no more than 1 percent per year on average as packers increasingly target growth opportunities in Eastern Europe with local production.

Commenting on the report, study author Paul Gaster says, "Global demand will be underpinned by continuing rapid economic growth in many Asian markets, especially India and China. Other positive factors include the trend from rigid to flexible packaging in pursuit of lower costs, environmental demands for less packaging together with rapid population growth and expanding food processing industries in many emerging economies. Moreover, the huge volumes of food products in the developing world, that continue to be sold without any packaging, represent an incalculable opportunity for flexible packaging over the long term." The 480-page study notes that the world consumer flexible packaging market has grown by an average of 3.7 percent in value terms over the last five years to reach approaching U.S. \$45 billion in 2005, including both converted and unconverted materials. With the exception of Western Europe all world regions experienced solid growth ranging from around 4 percent per year in North America to 7 percent in Asia Pacific and Eastern Europe. By far the most dynamic of the major markets have been China and India, each growing in value terms by around 15 percent annually.

On the home front, rising resin costs along with changing consumer preferences are increasingly driving the growth of the U.S. markets for flexible food packaging. Flexible food packages offer high value for the money and better convenience than other types of packaging and their lower gauges also imply lesser cost in terms of both manufacturing as well as transport, according to a new study from **Frost & Sullivan** (www.frost.com). Given their ability to provide a high degree of product differentiation, stand-up pouches, in particular, are witnessing strong growth and are fast replacing conventional rigid packages.

"Changing consumer preference patterns coupled with the increasing number of single households and reduced time spent on cooking are driving the emergence of convenient flexible food packages in the United States," notes Frost & Sullivan research analyst Anupama Ramaswamy. "The rising cost of aluminum is further forcing several manufacturers to shift from metal containers to flexible plastic packages, which provide equally good barrier properties and tensile strength and are also of lesser weight." This aside, the general shift from rigid plastic containers to flexible plastic packages is also benefiting the uptake of flexible food packages.

To see outstanding flexible packs, see our FPA awards coverage on page 22.

Mary Ann Falkman



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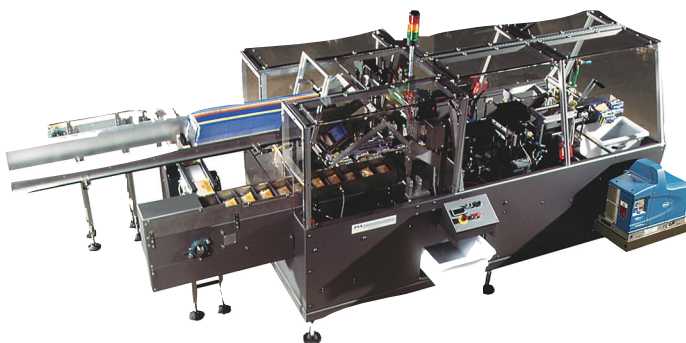


new products spotlight

Cartoning & Casing

Cartoner The co. offers its IM612 intermittent-motion, flexible cartoner with a 6- to 12-in. pitch. It utilizes a maintenance-free chainless carton transfer, a quick, rugged, smooth-operating mechanical drive, a servo-driven infeed and a loader. It also offers quick changeovers, overload protection and reaches speeds up to 45 cartons/min.

PSA, Inc., 763/473-1032.
www.psautomation.com



Packing system The I-Pack in-motion packaging system collapses the sides of a shipping case over the contents inside for a secure, sturdy package, ready for shipping, the co. says. The packer is said to use fewer packing materials, reducing material and shipping costs, and automatically adjusts the depth of cases to the height of their content at a speed of 13 cases/min. Picking is done directly into a shipping case, which then enters the I-Pack machine via a motorized conveyor belt. The co. says that the machine can be integrated into existing packaging lines or it can be supplied as a turnkey tracking/labeling/manifesting, automated order-fulfillment system.

B+ Equipment, +33 (0)4 42 36 15 00.
www.bplus-equip.fr



Cartoner The SI 10 intermittent-motion cartoner offers flexibility with CFR-21 compliance, according to the co.. The cartoner features a short, 3.8-m footprint with machine design and functions specifically geared to pharmaceutical applications. With a rated output of 165 cartons/min, the SI 10 is capable of cartoning a wide range of products. Multiple components of varying sizes and shapes can be efficiently loaded into the same carton.

IWKA PacSystems, 973/227-5575
www.iwkapacsystems.com

Checkweigher The new XC3 entry-level checkweigher replaces the A-Series. It is designed for basic process quality control. The machine has IP54 capability, a compact size, a three-belt design and a robust construction. The XC3 also has a 5.7-in. QVGA touchscreen, dashboard-style display that provides intuitive, menu-driven access to basic functions.

Mettler-Toledo Hi-Speed, Inc., 607/257-6000.
www.hispeedcheckweigher.com

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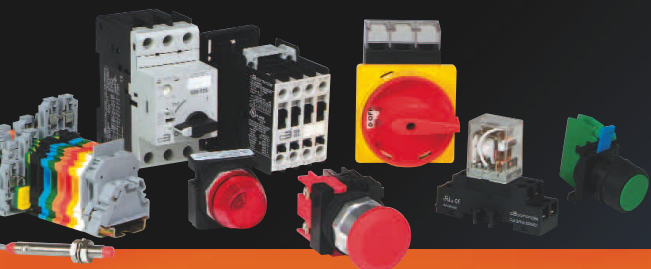
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new products equipment

Cartoner The Eclipse™ is a pharmaceutical cartoner that operates at speeds up to 90 cartons/min and handles a wide range of carton styles and sizes—all in a 7.5 4.5-ft footprint.

The Eclipse features the Guardian open-access guarding system, which offers unprecedented machine accessibility. Changeovers are performed without tools.

MGS Machine Corp., 763/425-8808.

www.mgsmachine.com



Tray/shrink packer The co. has introduced a new line of value-priced tray/shrink packers with speed capabilities of 45 trays/min. Standard equipment includes print registration, an Allen-Bradley PLC, Eurodrive servo motors and a Nordson hot melt unit. Size changeovers can be accomplished in 30 min.

Global Alliance Packaging, LLC, 860/232-8449

Code reader The co. introduces its new 2D code reader, the PD60/65, which can read 2D codes from 360 deg on metal even if it is stained, chipped or tilted.

The hand-held PD65 provides a twin lighting system, drop-and-side lighting for optimal reading on shiny surfaces and also has a sound/optical acknowledgment system.

Panasonic Electric Works Corp. of America, 877/624-7872.

www.pewa.panasonic.com/acsd



Laser-marking system The 3120 is a 10-w laser-marking system the co. says delivers best-in-class marking speed, complex marking capability and easy integration for a wide range of permanent coding applications. Reaches speeds up to 1,200 characters/sec and line speeds up to 10 m/sec. Code clarity on various products and materials is said not to degrade, even at high line speeds. The 3120 marks complex, multi-line, alphanumeric messages, foreign language fonts, graphics, symbols and machine-readable codes. It can also apply a variety of code types as well as expiration and manufacturing dates, tick numbers and line codes, ID matrix and bar codes, logos and symbols. Can be controlled by a hand-held device or online by an external PLC, a PC or a host computer with Ethernet or RS232 capabilities. The system also has a detachable head that allows it to be fit into tight spaces.

Videojet Technologies, Inc., 800/843-3610.

www.videojet.com

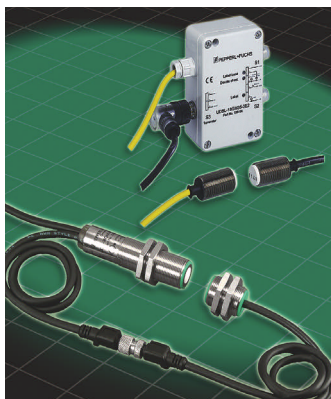
Sensors The co. introduces a new family of ultrasonic thru-beam proximity sensors for splice, label and double-sheet detection.

Each sensor measures 18 mm dia and features a teach-in input mode for easy setup and operation. A detection threshold can be adjusted

for specific applications. The sensors are IP67-protected and provide a sensing range from 20 to 60 mm, with an optimal sensing range of 45 mm, the co. states.

Pepperl+Fuchs, 330/425-3555.

www.am.pepperl-fuchs.com



Servo drives The Allen-Bradley Kinetix 2000 servo drives are suitable for small packaging applications and offer end users a selection of motion-control performance capabilities, the co. says, while enabling OEMs to expand their offerings with solutions that better suit end users with lower power requirements. With power ranges of 300 w to 3 kw, these servo drives have the ability to integrate with the rest of the control platform, which can simplify machine design, commissioning and operation, the co. adds.

Rockwell Automation, 800/233-5354.

www.rockwellautomation.com

Pallet bumper The Blue Guardian pallet-bumper forklift attachment is said to reduce damage to the packaging of palletized products, as the forklift impact is redirected and absorbed into the center block of the pallet. The 18.75X7X0.4-in. attachment has an impact-resistant, carbon steel frame and a rubber bumper for energy absorption. Is compatible with block or stringer pallets.

CHEP, 888/243-7111.

www.chep.com

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new products equipment

Ejector technology Patented COAX® technology is based on a multi-stage concept for creating vacuum with compressed air. Technology is suitable for material handling applications including electronics production, packaging or palletizing, pharmaceutical or food processing and automotive manufacturing. The vacuum cartridges are up to twice as fast as other cartridges, the co. says, and the pumps are able to provide high performance at low or fluctuation feed pressures of 25 to 90 psi. They produce vacuum when a pressure valve is activated. **PIAB Vacuum Products**, 800/321-7422. www.piab.com

Switching power supply

A 480-w model has been added to the co.'s SPD Series of switching power supplies. The new, higher-output model was developed, the co. says, to meet the increasing power demand of the automatic machinery market. The 480-w model offers 24-VDC (20-amp) and 48-VDC (10-amp) outputs; short-circuit, over-voltage and overload protection; a "Power OK" and a low-output voltage LED; and a relay for "power ready." Power Factor Correction and Parallel Connection functions are standard. **Carlo Gavazzi**, 847/465-6100. www.gavazzionline.com

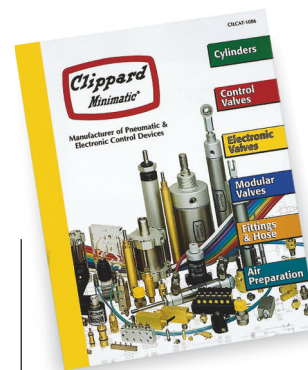


Coupling catalog

A comprehensive, 60-p. reference guide is available for the co.'s Huco couplings, which include precision, beam and general-purpose couplings and friction clutches for a range of commercial and industrial applications. The catalog features specifications and typical applications for each product, as well as a quick-selection reference and detailed installation and application design guides. **Boston Gear**, 800/825-6544. www.bostongear.com



Printer The co. announces the LX400 color label printer for short-run label printing. The machine generates high-resolution labels for specialty foods, office and industrial products, retail tags, coupons and tickets. The co. says it also prints at up to 4,800 dpi resolution. **Primera Technology**, 800/797-2772. www.primeralabel.com



Mini fluid power products A new, 388-p. catalog has been introduced by the co., which offers what it says is the most complete line of miniature fluid power products. The catalog

includes features, specifications, technical drawings, color photographs and application highlights. Products can be found in six categories: cylinders, electronic valves, control valves, modular valves, fittings and hose, and air preparation.

Clippard Instrument Laboratory, Inc., 513/521-4261. www.clippard.com/catalog

RFID authentication solution

Certicom Security for RFID Product Authentication is designed to ensure authenticity and prevent counterfeiting of high-value items as they move through the supply chain. In collaboration with Texas Instruments (TI), the co. is using its elliptic curve cryptography (ECC) technology to add item-level RFID tag security that protects product information and proves the legitimacy of products, such as pharmaceuticals and other high-value consumer goods. For products like these that require a high level of security, RFID solutions providers can use the co.'s security and TI's family of ISO 15693 RFID tags to deliver product protection with authentication and encryption. The cos. say that Certicom Security for RFID Product Authentication works as a distributed system where there may not be dedicated internet connectivity to a database, to provide real-time authentication of a tagged product.

Certicom Corp., 800/561-6100.

www.certicom.com/rfid

Texas Instruments, Inc., 800/962-7343.

www.ti.com/rfid

Wine-bottle labeler A wine-bottle over-labeling machine for rework effectively can pay for itself within one year, according to the co. Suitable for applying labels at different stages of manufacturing and distribution, the system is fully automatic, can be customized to meet specific requirements and has a footprint of 30×30 in. The turnkey system has digital sensors for front and back label placement, with a dispensing accuracy of $\pm 1/32$ in., according to the co. The labels can be applied in either spin direction, making it possible to apply multiple labels in a single pass.

WS Packaging Group, Automated Systems Div., 805/962-8632. www.wspackaging.com

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A-B-C Packaging Machine Corp., 811 Live Oak St. Tarpon Springs, FL 34689
Phone: 727-937-5144 - Fax: 727-938-1239



X-ray inspection system

The co. introduces the AdvanChek x-ray contaminant-inspection system for packaged products. The system features low energy x-ray technology to detect and reject contaminants including metal, stone, glass and bone.

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

www.mt.com/safelineus

In-feed bottle stop

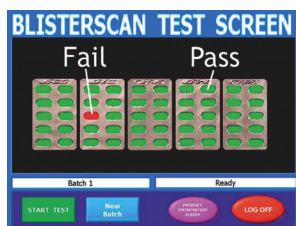
The in-feed bottle stop is an air-actuated gate that stops bottles from entering an inactive sealing area when the machine is in a stop mode, or the power is turned off, eliminating the risk of an unsealed product getting through production lines. The mechanism actuates a 5-in. stroke



cylinder that blocks the passage of bottles under the sealing head. The infeed gate works in conjunction with the induction sealer's built-in Loss of Seal alarm.

Pillar Technologies, 262/912-7200.

www.pillartech.com



Blister test

The co. releases the BlisterScan, a leak test for sealed pharmaceutical blister-packs that offers a fully validatable alternative to the methylene "Blue Dye" test. The operators of this blister test have no influence over the test results because the pass/fail status of each pocket is determined by pre-programmed criteria and is shown on a screen. The test detects leaks and weak seals as small as 10 microns across a cross-section of the web.

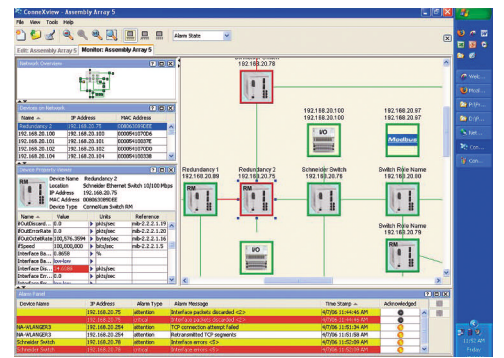
Sepha Ltd., +44 28 9182 4252.

www.sepha.com

Ethernet software Telemecanique® brand ConneXview™ industrial Ethernet diagnostic software offers industrial network management that's user-friendly, the co. says. The software system also provides automatic device discovery, as well as Ethernet device and control-network device mapping. Other benefits include increased overall productivity with easy-to-use diagnostics that speed the identification and resolution of problems. Instantly recognizes Ethernet segments and device issues via color codes and automatically prioritizes and notifies administrators using e-mail messaging.

Schneider Electric, 847/397-2600.

www.us.schneider-electric.com



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new products materials

Film & Foil

PCR PET films The co. announces its partnership with Packaging 2.0 LLC to introduce the SmartCycle™ 150 line of PET films. Made from recycled plastic bottles, the films can be used to produce general-purpose and food-contact thermoforming for trays, clamshells, surface-sealed blisters and other containers.

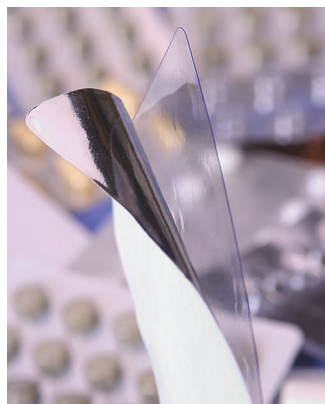
Processed with renewable energy, SmartCycle 150 films are guaranteed by the co. to contain a minimum of 50 percent post-consumer-recycled content (plastic bottles). The films also comply with FDA regulations for direct food contact and are certified to meet domestic packaging regulations, the co. says. An option for sustainability, the films are used to make containers featuring the SmartCycle logo, which gives consumers the ability to make educated choices on their purchases. The process of making packaging from recycled plastic bottles can save energy, natural resources and ultimately, aims to spur collection of bottles and potentially custom packaging. At the end of the use cycle, the goal of the SmartCycle mark is to help facilitate actual recycling—not “down-cycling,” according to the co. SmartCycle packages could potentially be reprocessed into new containers along with bottles made from like PET-based plastics.

Klöckner Pentaplast of America, Inc., 540/832-3600. www.kpfilms.com



Lidding foils Teknilid® lidding foils for pharmaceutical blister-packs include supported push-through and peelable lidding foils with a variety of heat-seal lacquers. The foils can be used for blister webs such as PVC, PVdC, Aclar® laminates, COC, CFF, PP and PE with peelable or weld-bond properties. In addition, the foils can be printed in up to 4 colors on both sides including UV inks for anticounterfeiting protection.

Tekni-Films, a Tekni-Plex co., 908/722-4800. www.tekni-films.com



PET color concentrates Eight new standard PET tint color concentrates are available, based on the proprietary Pennacle™ PET carrier resin technology. The co. says the colors have been formulated with FDA-approved ingredients and provide vibrant, bold, transparent colors with a recommended letdown ratio of 100:1. Color chips and sample material are immediately available. The concentrates technology was developed to address many common problems that blow molders and sheet extruders experience when coloring PET resin. Designed for optimum performance on both single-stage and two-stage blow-molding equipment, sheet extrusion and thermoforming equipment, the colorants are made with a solid, modified polyester carrier resin produced as uniform, free-flowing pellets that require no pre-drying before processing. The colorant chemistries have been carefully selected and tested for chemical compatibility. The small uniform pellets can be used with most conventional color feeding systems. A wide range of custom colors and effects can be achieved.

Penn Color, Inc., 800/523-6032. www.penncolor.com

Blister-pack film

New IntegraShield® film is designed to replace paperboard to modernize blister-packs. Offering weld-seal technology compatible with polyester trays and blisters, the film features improved graphic reproduction, pilfer-resistance, environmental impact, productivity and more. Its fusion-seal lidding technology is compatible with various grades of PET RPET, APET and PETG materials for high-end thermoformed blisters. With a premium appearance and heat sealability on existing equipment, it can replace paperboard in blister-packs for household, office and personal-care products like electronic accessories, ink cartridges and razors, the co. states. Suitable for use on in-line f/f/s and pre-made package operations, it offers product visibility. It can also be reverse-printed and includes options such as metallized or holographic materials.

Curwood, Inc., 800/544-4672. www.curwood.com



High-strength film/foam wrap A new line of protective packaging materials combines the padding protection of cohesive foam with the tear-resistance of Valéron® Strength film. When laminated to Valéron film, Valéron film/foam products increase puncture- and tear-resistance properties while lowering abrasion levels inside the packaging, lending themselves to high-performance applications, the co. says. Three types of wrap are available to meet different degrees of package protection: Urban Wrap; Rural Wrap; and Metro Wrap. Urban Wrap has an outer white surface that resists abrasion and rough handling. Rural Wrap looks and feels like kraft paper but has more abrasion-resistance and less slip in handling. Metro Wrap is backed by a layer of Valéron Strength Film and has a highly reflective silver surface that acts as a radiant barrier against temperature extremes.

Valéron Strength Films, an ITW co., 800/825-3766. www.valeron.com

IPACK-IMA.

An interview with the organizer

*Guido Corbella, Chief Executive Officer, Ipack-Ima Spa, Milan, Italy,
the organizer of IPACK-IMA and other events*

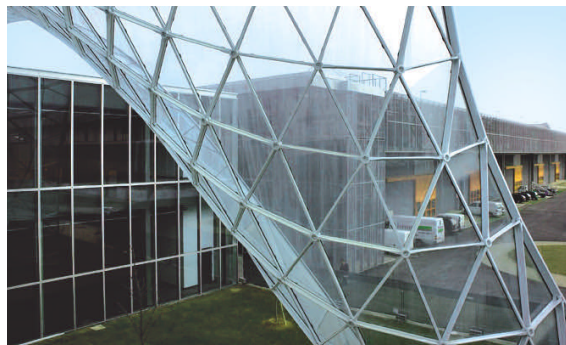


Question: What is IPACK- IMA?

Corbella: IPACK-IMA is one of Europe's leading packaging and processing exhibitions. It takes place every three years in Milan, Italy... last held in February 2006 and next held in March of 2009.

Q.: Why is IPACK-IMA held only every three years?

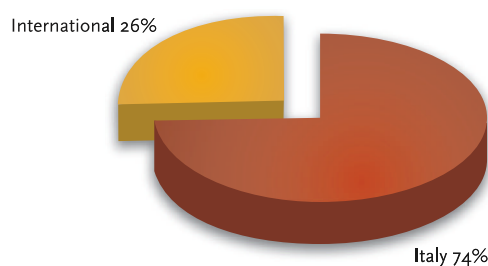
Corbella: Europe has several large, well attended packaging exhibitions. IPACK-IMA in Milan, Italy is one of them. The leading European packaging events are scheduled in two or three year intervals. In this way, the European shows do not conflict with one another, and exhibitors can budget accordingly. For example, the European packaging exhibition, Interpack, held in Düsseldorf, Germany, is next scheduled for April of 2008. IPACK-IMA in Milan, Italy will be in March of 2009... one year later.



Q.: Tell me about your last event... IPACK-IMA 2006?

Corbella: By any measurement, the 2006 event was extremely successful. For example, for the first time we had more than 50,000 visitors... an 11% increase over the previous event. And one out of four of our visitors came from outside of Italy, mostly from Central-Southern Europe and the Mediterranean Basin.

**BREAKDOWN OF 50,723 VISITORS
AT IPACK-IMA 2006**



Q.: To what do you attribute this increase in attendance?

Corbella: To be honest, much of the increase was due to the upsurge in the European and Italian economy. In 2004 and 2005 the European marketplace was basically flat. But at the beginning of 2006, at the time IPACK-IMA was held, most all of the European countries, including Italy, started to experience growth in their economy. Business executives in the food, beverage and pharmaceutical sectors had a more positive business outlook. These executives not only came to IPACK-IMA, but they purchased equipment. As a result, the exhibitors were very satisfied with IPACK-IMA 2006.

**84%
SATISFACTION OF
IPACK-IMA 2006
VISITORS**

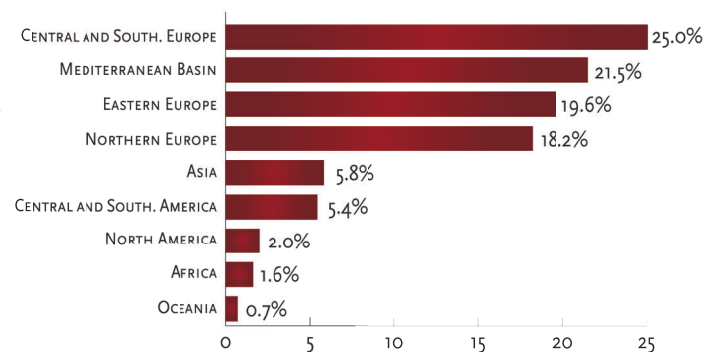
Q.: Does IPACK-IMA offer exhibitors anything that the other European exhibitions do not offer?

Corbella: Yes... IPACK-IMA offers greater access to buyers in Central-Southern Europe and the Mediterranean Basin. Surveys show that of the 50,723 visitors who attended IPACK-IMA in Milan, Italy, sixty two percent (31,448 visitors) do not attend any other of the major European packaging exhibitions. So if a packaging equipment manufacturer wants to reach the buyers in Central-Southern Europe and the Mediterranean Basin, they should be exhibiting at IPACK-IMA.

Q.: How did you like Milan's new exhibition complex that just opened?

Corbella: IPACK-IMA 2006 was the first large exhibition to use the new Fiera Milano exhibition facility in Rho, which is on the outskirts of Milan. This state-of-the-art exhibition facility is the most modern complex of its kind all of Europe. It not only is advanced in function, it features interesting, dramatic sculptured architecture, with cafes and shops interspersed among the exhibit halls. We are looking forward to returning to this outstanding exhibition complex for IPACK-IMA 2009.

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF THE 13,000 FOREIGN
VISITORS OF IPACK-IMA 2006**



For further information contact:

Ms. Maria Grazia Facchinetti

Ipack-Ima Spa - Milan, Italy

+39 02 3191091

ipackima@ipackima.it - www.ipack-ima.com

The pouch still counts

Flexible constructions remain a driving force in packaging, as evidenced by the 2007 Flexible Packaging Achievement Award winners, which keep ease of use and high performance at the forefront, along with good looks, advanced technology and top-notch printing.

Lauren R. Hartman, Senior Editor

With its multifunctional attributes in the retail, institutional and industrial markets, flexible packaging is packaging that simply cannot be ignored. In fact, according to a recent report cited on Asia-Pacific-foodtechnology.com, flexible structures will see dynamic growth in the food-processing area in the Asia-Pacific region by 2010 and doesn't seem to be faltering in the Americas, either. If the 2007 Flexible Packaging Achievement Awards competition, produced by the **Flexible Packaging Assn. (www.flexpack.org)** is any indication, the development of diverse and innovative flexible packaging is still strong in the U.S. Flexible packaging converters and suppliers keep combining improvements in manufacturing, technologies, materials, graphics and printing to produce outstanding packages that work with a growing number of new and updated products.

Announced on Feb. 28 at the FPA's annual meeting in Aventura, FL, the



Packaging Achievement winners were judged on outstanding converting and packaging in four categories: packaging excellence; technical innovation; environmental achievement; and printing achievement.

This year, the competition received 76 entries. Of those, 19 received a total of 21 Achievement Awards. Ten of the key winners, which include eight Gold awards and one Highest Achievement winner, as well as a winning entry in the Special Citation category for Social Responsibility, are described here. The entire article, which also details the Silver Award winners, can be found on our website at www.packagingdigest.com/info/silver07.

Highest Achievement award

FPA's Highest Achievement award went to the "Smack Pack" system from Wyeast Laboratories, Inc., Odell, OR, which offers products for the home brewer, home vintner, breweries and wineries. Claimed to be the first retorted "pouch-within-a-pouch" liquid yeast package marketed in the U.S. for the making of beer and wine



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(1), the standup pouches come in 50- and 125-mL sizes, one inside the other.

Converted by **Ampac Flexibles** (www.ampaonline.com), a unit of Ampac Packaging, which also won a Gold Award in Packaging Excellence and a Gold in Technical Innovation, the package calls for activating the yeast by pushing an inner packet containing a liquid malt nutrient base to the corner of the outer, sealed retort pouch.

This is done by feeling for the inner pouch from the outside of the outer pouch. The entire package is then placed in the palm of one hand and a firm "smack" where the inner packet is located breaks the inner packet. This allows the contents to interact with the pure yeast and begin metabolizing. "You can actually locate the inner pouch easily by feeling for it from the outside of the retort pouch," says Wyeast's Jenny Logsdon, general manager.

For home brewing or vintner enthusiasts, the process of selecting liquid yeast that meets performance expectations is critical. Such brewing yeast products have traditionally been merchandised in dry form. More recently, liquid versions have been introduced in rigid containers. But Wyeast says these didn't always include ultraviolet protection or oxygen barriers. Wyeast decided to take the category to a new level of quality and functionality with its innovative "pouch-within-a-pouch" construction. The company believes it's the first in the market with a flexible pouch format instead of the tube-like, rigid plastic containers competitors used in the past.

Wyeast follows a slightly different retort procedure. It retorts the new pouch earlier in the process (at about 250 deg F), just after the smaller malt nutrient pouch is inserted into the larger pouch. The pure liquid yeast is next filled into the pouch in a clean room environment to prevent any contamination. The filled pouch assembly is then heat-sealed

closed. "We retort the pouch before filling to keep our yeast in a sterile environment," Logsdon explains.

To handle the heavy demands of retorting and to produce a pouch that can tackle high pressure, Ampac engineered a bottom gusset on the pouch to accommodate any swelling of the package that might take place as the yeast metabolizes and carbon dioxide is emitted as internal pressure increases. Collapsed and flat during the inactive

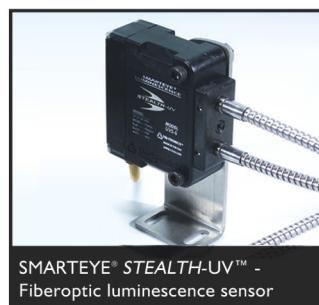
You can actually locate the inner pouch easily by feeling for it from the outside of the retort pouch.

phase, the gussets give the product room to grow with increasing volume.

In addition to improved functionality, Wyeast wanted a graphics billboard to create a uniform, family look across its products. So Ampac

supplies premade, three-side-sealed pouches made from a proprietary, high-barrier adhesive lamination containing foil that it reverse-prints by gravure in six colors on an eight-

Continued on page 24



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8. Tamper-evident infant-dose pouch **p. 28**



6.

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Sectional Drive press. Ampac says the press enables it to generate cost-effective, high-definition printing. The product line highlights color-coded graphics that correspond to the contents and usage, courtesy of a retort grade of Roto Lamiall solvent-based inks from INX Intl. Ink Co. (www.inxinternational.com). Tear notches on either side of the top of the package allow it to be easy to open.

Craig Rutman, director of sales at Ampac, admits that sophisticated, barrier structures can be prone to flex cracking, which can degrade barrier properties. But converting and printing this one wasn't a problem, he says. "It's important to use special inks that can withstand retort temperatures," he notes.



7.

"The integrity of Ampac's retort pouches has been great," says Logsdon. "The company has excellent quality control, which is critical to our product. The execution of the graphics was also important. We recently revised our packaging and wanted to make sure that we partnered with a retort pouch manufacturer that could provide the visual impact we were after."

The pouches are filled manually at Wyeast's facility in Hood River, OR, on a proprietary band sealer, PD is told.

According to Rutman, the pouch

structure had to be designed to deliver certain oxygen and UV barriers at a consistent level. And while meeting the barrier requirements, the heat seals had to remain uncompromised during the yeast-activation phase.

The back panel also instructs brewers to allow the pouch to incubate and swell for three hours or more at 70 to 75 deg F. So it's key that the seals withstand the internal pressure without rupturing. Die-cut notches allow for easy opening once the contents are ready for

the next step of the brewing/winemaking process.

Pasta and sauces flourish in retort pouches

So many products packed in glass jars and metal cans at one time are now thriving in flexible packaging. What could be a first for heat-and-serve pasta and sauces are shaped, single-serve pouches (2) in 150- and 220-g sizes that reduce handling costs and logistical challenges for Nestlé S.A. In June 2006, Nestlé introduced shelf-stable pasta and sauces under the Buitoni brand in the microwavable retort pouches, which act as a line extension, PD hears, and eliminate the need for a costly cold chain.

CLP Industries Ltd., the Israeli parent company of U.S.-based CLP Packaging Solutions (www.clppackagingsolutions.com), won a Gold Award in Packaging Excellence for its technology used to produce the shaped, premade Buitoni pouches that maintain a distinctive profile on supermarket shelves. They echo the products' traditional packaging profiles in stores, which helps to ease consumers' perceptions of the new, flexible container structures for the familiar brand. Shelf-stable for up to one year, the products in their break-resistant, standup pouches take just 80 sec to heat in the microwave.

CLP says the retorting process used in Buitoni's case is quick, which preserves delicate flavors. Converted in Israel, the pouches are made of a nonfoil adhesive lamination incorporating a high-barrier polyethylene terephthalate film from Toray of Japan (www.toray.co.jp), a PET print layer from Korea's Kolon (www.

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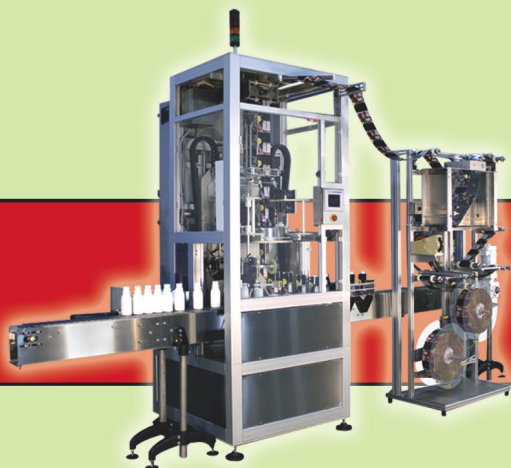
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ikolon.com), a biaxially oriented nylon layer from **Caffaro S.p.A.** (www.caffarochem.com) in Italy for puncture-resistance and flexibility, a polypropylene sealant layer supplied by **Polyon** (www.polyon.co.il/) in Israel and retortable adhesives from **Rohm and Haas** (www.rohmhaas.com) in Italy. The pouch film lends outstanding protection against oxygen and has stiffness, puncture-resistance and durability. The total thickness of each pouch is 122 microns (4.8 mils).

The shaped pouch construction for both products requires precise registration and the skillful use of a specialized **Totani** (www.totaniamerica.com) system for making shaped pouches. CLP reverse-prints the PET layer and laminates and converts the pouches on a line equipped with an eight-color **Cerutti** (www.cerutti.it) gravure press and a Rotomec laminator from **Bobst Group** (www.bobstgroup.com). The retortable printing inks are furnished by **Siegwerk Druckfaren AG** (www.siegwerk.de). CLP says that printing the reverse side of the PET layer delivers appetizing images and highly legible type, including the tiny typeface of the instructions.

The vibrant graphics were created to be as attractive as they would be if printed on conventional paper jar labels. Luscious photo vignettes of noodles or a bowlful of deep, red pasta sauce draw attention to the products on store shelves. A laser-scored tear notch—accomplished by only perforating one of the layers in the pouch laminate, leaving barrier properties intact—makes for fast, easy and neat opening from either side of the pouch top. The products are copacked by **Simpson Ready Foods, Ltd.** (www.simpsonfoods.co.uk), in Manchester, England.

Standup bag packs a punch for pita chips

To achieve a bold, new look for snackfoods that jumps off the shelf and produce a standup pouch that's cost-effective at the same time isn't an easy proposition—ask any converter. But **Genpak** (www.genpak.com) used its



Opaltone® digital separation software from **Opaltone, Inc.** (www.opaltone.com) to create luxurious and appetizing effects for the panels on a bag containing New York Style Lightly Salted Organic Pita Chips (3), from Nonni's Food Co., Tulsa. The pita chip segment is growing fast in the deli snack category and New York Style is a recognized leader. Replacing a glossy package, the

new, zippered, standup bag is a three-ply material featuring a matte-finish PP film that conveys a more natural, organic look, which was Nonni's intent. There are 10 New York Style varieties now merchandised in the matte-finish package construction.

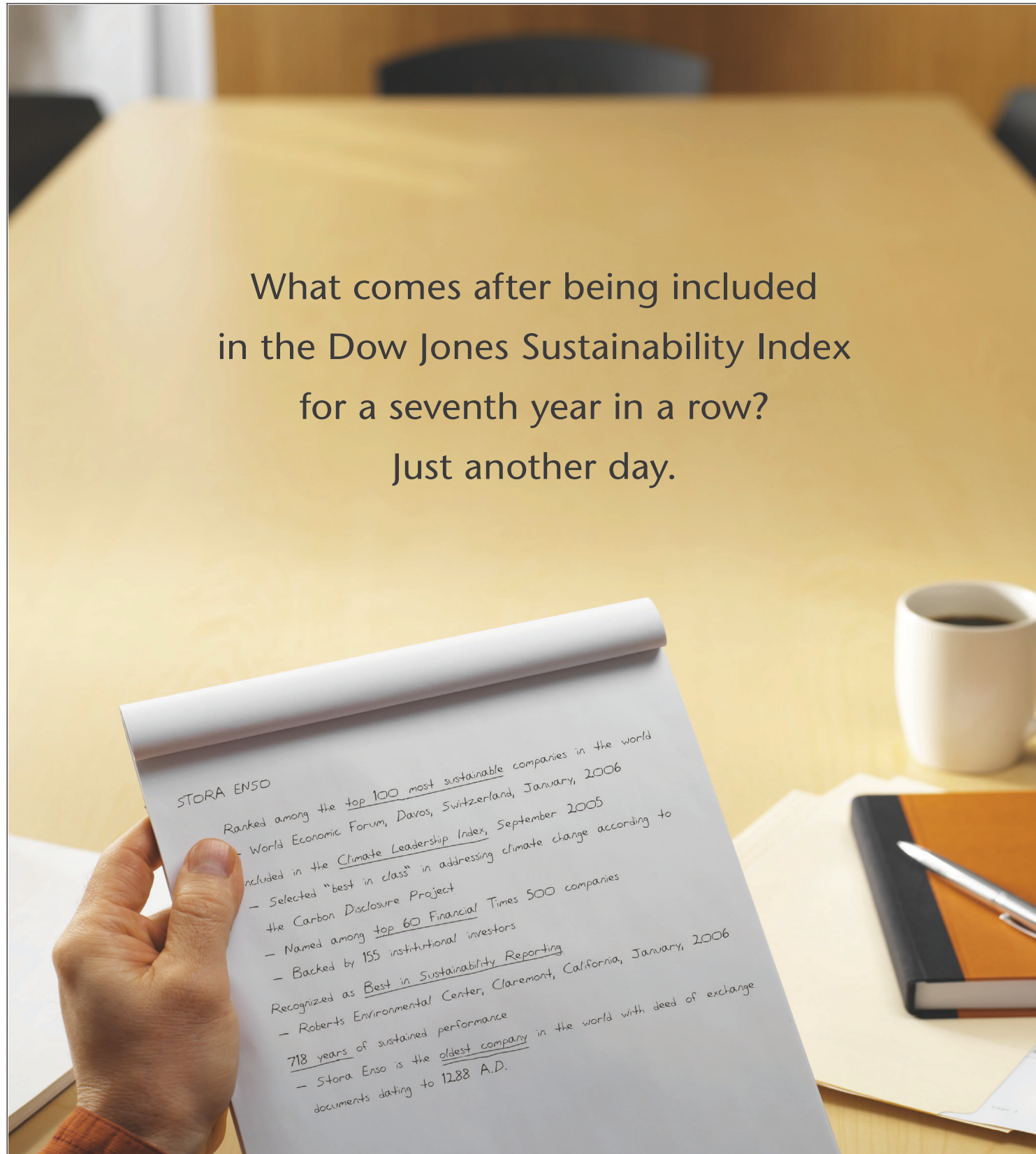
The bagstock is made with Supermet™ 48-ga high-metal-adhesion metallized PET film from **Celplast Metallized Products** (cmp.celplast.com) that Genpak says affords superior bonds and a stable structure. The other ply is

a sealant layer laminated to the middle Supermet polyester layer.

Genpak, which took a Gold for Printing Achievement, produces the bagstock at its plant in Aurora, ON, on a pouch machine from **GN Packaging Equipment** (www.gnpak.com) and reverse-prints the outer matte film flexographically in eight Opaltone colors on a **Fischer+Kreke** (www.fischer-kreke.de) press. Genpak uses the Opaltone software, CMYK as well as process red, process green and process

blue to create all of the graphic images and the spot colors. This creates deep and realistic images because red, green and blue increase the color densities, says Genpak's development manager, Bill Reilly. "The advantage to printing with Opaltone is that all images and colors can be made out of CMYK and red, blue and green plus white. It's also cost-effective and environmentally friendly because we eliminate time, solvents and ink waste that would occur from Continued on page 26

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washing up the colors.”

According to Reilly, with Opaltone images can be made up of magenta and yellow as well as red, which makes product imagery more vibrant. “We’re basically doing the same thing with an extra layer of ink that additional coats of paint can do to the color density of a wall,” he notes.



Mounds' minis make the most of visuals

Exceptional printing and graphic designs really make the glitzy 11.1-oz bag for Hershey's

Mounds Island Orange Dark

Chocolate candies (4) sparkle. A line extension of the famous Mounds candy bar line, the Mounds Island Orange Miniatures faces an extremely competitive confectionery market, so the eye-popping orange, brown and white color scheme and lively design had to boost shelf appeal and point-of purchase impact.

Converted by **American Packaging Corp.** (www.ampkorp.com), a Gold winner in Printing Achievement, the bagstock is made of an oriented PP that's adhesive-laminated in-line to a clear, linear low-density PE substrate that provides a glossy finish. More good looks come from digital flexographic printing plates that achieve a quality graphics design that Hershey desired. At its flexo-printing and laminating division in Story City, IA, American Packaging Corp. uses a **Windmoeller & Hoelscher** (www.whcorp.com) Stella Flex press and a combination of **DuPont** (www.dupont.com) FAST digital photopolymer plates and high-strength, solvent-based inks in seven colors to create the striking package and graphics design for the limited-edition product.

OEC Graphics (www.oecgraphics.com) supplied the prepress plates, which boost image sharpness, color brightness and high color density. A clear-film window left unprinted provides visibility to the wrapped candy pieces inside the bag.

American Packaging Corp. points out that the design incorporates a significant number of

combination process plates that can present challenges in achieving color density while consistently printing with clean screens. But the results for Mounds represent a process improvement and a new printing approach that American Packaging Corp. says reduces presstime and makeready costs.

“By using DuPont digital FAST plates, we were able to also offer smaller and more stable highlight dots,” says American Packaging Corp. “The plate technology successfully converted the product line from gravure-printed designs to less expensive flexographically printed packaging without compromising the brand image or the quality of graphic reproduction.”



Foodservice retort pouch is coextruded

Another new retort pouch “mushrooming” with packaging possibilities is the Cryovac® Flavour Mark™ pouch (5) from the **Cryovac Food Packaging Div. of Sealed Air Corp.** (www.sealedair.com). The shelf-stable Flavour Mark pouch earned a Gold Award in Technical Innovation. It represents the first commercial foodservice application of a totally coextruded retort package. Designed to replace the conventional #10 can, the pouch offers new options in delivering chef-quality, low-acid foods with great taste that can be prepared with little more than reheating and plating. There's no thawing, so prep time is quick, and there's no need for refrigeration, which means response time to customers can be equally quick.

An expansion of Cryovac's vertical-pouch packaging program, the nonfoil pouch technology is described as a 6-mil, coextruded, multilayer film structure that uses a blend of nylons designed to provide a shelf life of nine months or more, depending on the product. The structure's unique polymer combinations along with specialized processing capabilities allow foods to be processed at retort temperatures of 250 deg F for 120 min while

exhibiting excellent flexural post-retort properties (vibration stress associated with shipping). The pouch is designed the pouch to run on Cryovac's OnPack Model 2070 and 2075 vf/f/s systems.

One roll of Cryovac Flavour Mark film can form enough pouches to package the equivalent of 1,600 #10 cans, yet occupies only 3 cu ft of storage space.

Holding 16 to 128 oz, depending on the application, Flavour Mark pouches are suitable for foods such as chili with meat, stews, soups, cut or sliced vegetables, rice, beans and pasta dishes and sauces. Each pouch can be easily reheated and is transparent, clearly revealing the food product inside. The package can be opened via a tear notch.

Conservas La Costena, one customer in Mexico, is already using the retort foodservice pouch for a number of products, including two whole-bean and two refried bean products.

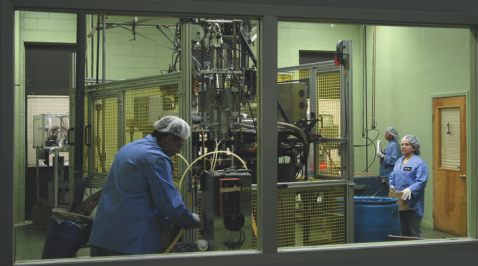
Enviro-friendly candy pack

The sophisticated, standup pouch adopted by Northern Flair Foods for its Malto Bella Gourmet Malt Balls (6) represents an environmentally friendly use of nonvolatile inks and adhesives and, at the same time, provides improved bond strength and functionality. But to the consumer eye, it's the graphics that really give the yummy confection its marketing panache. Replacing a package printed in three or four line colors, the new 5-oz pouch displays stunning graphics through the use of water-based inks and an adhesive said to eliminate odors and retained solvents while using renewable resources.



Converted by **C&H Packaging Co.** (www.chpack.com) using the prepress services of **Southern Graphic Systems** (www.sgsintl.com), the Gold Winner in Environmental Achievement features a highly opaque pouch substrate created with white inks from **Sun Chemical** (www.sunchemical.com) that provide a superior print surface for the brown, metallic gold, amber and chocolate-toned graphic color scheme that communicates the malt balls' rich chocolate and toffee

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flavors. The inks bond well to the three-ply laminated pouch film construction, which C&H says includes uncoated polyesters from **Toray Plastics (America)** (www.toraytpa.com) Cel-Met metallized PET from Celplast and a proprietary sealant.

C&H finds that the CelMet also provides superior adhesion properties that assist in improving bond strengths with the nonvolatile adhesives. The lamination for the gusseted, standup pouch is constructed using both water-based and solventless adhesives. "Historically, there have been issues getting water-based inks to bond to uncoated polyesters," relates Keith Smith at C&H. "But we use nonvolatile inks and adhesives to provide environmental and performance improvements at lower costs using uncoated polyesters." Smith adds that C&H's printing and laminating processes used to convert the pouch involve no emissions. The converter reverse-prints the uncoated PET web in seven colors on a Windmöeller & Hoelscher flexo press and laminates it to the metallized PET before mating that lamination to a sealant on a **Kroenert** (www.kroenert.com) laminator and slitting the material into rollstock. The rollstock is made into pouches on a Totani pouchmaking system.



Beer-can tote scores for Miller Lite

A bag construction from **Curwood** (www.curwood.com) (7), marketed by Miller Brewing Company as the Miller® Lite Chill Bag™, won for Packaging Excellence. The tote bag is said to be an entirely new, flexible style of promotional beer-can carrier that's able to hold and comfortably transport a whopping 18 12-oz cans of beer and up to 50 lb. The tote can double as a pail or tub replacement, is water-resistant and has room for adding ice, so it can be used as an on-the-go, portable cooler. It also features rugged, nylon coextruded handles, a wide-mouth opening for easy access to the cans and a slider-zipper closure for reclosability. Incorporating a glitzy metallized polyester film top layer and edgy graphics in Miller Lite's blue, gold, red and lime color scheme, the tote makes a striking impression on the store shelf.

Curwood will only describe the packaging material for its ExpressTote™, or the Miller Lite Chill Bag, as a sturdy construction featuring 48-ga metallized polyester layers. Curwood gravure-prints the bagstock in seven colors and supplies completed bags to Miller. Milwaukee-based Miller says the Miller Lite Chill Bag can be reused after the cans of beer are depleted. Thus, the bag provides ongoing brand exposure.

States Jeff Garwood, project manager for new product development at Miller, "We tested the package in February of 2006 and then launched it in May with a major retail partner, and we subsequently conducted another promotional program with the same retailer in August. We also tested a twelve-pack configuration that held bottles. Now, the package is available nationally with the major retail partner."

Tamper-evident infant-dose pouch

The Nevirapine Infant-Dose Pouch (8) is a



drug-delivery system from PATH (Program for Appropriate Technology in Health), a Seattle-based, international nonprofit organization committed to improving the health of people around the world. Working on the development of vaccines for diseases such as malaria, PATH creates sustainable, culturally relevant solutions to global health problems, enabling communities worldwide to break long-standing cycles of poor health. By partnering with those in the public and private sector, it helps to provide health technologies and strategies.

One of PATH's key programs recently was to identify and provide an effective packaging system for improving the delivery of a single dose of Nevirapine, a non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI) used to treat HIV-1 infection and AIDS and to reduce mother-to-child transmission of the HIV virus—a major problem in many countries in the world. The drug was being used in rural parts of Africa, where some health clinics weren't equipped with packaging or pouch-sealing equipment.

Finding the right package for such circumstances in developing countries is challenging, due to the high prevalence of births outside of the healthcare system. PATH's new single-dose pouch provides women with a dose of NVP syrup to take home in a simple-to-use, tamper-evident format.

Produced by **LPS Industries** (www.lpsind.com), the pouch won a Special Citation for Social Responsibility. It's a barrier, 4-mil, solventless polyester/foil/poly lamination that's sealed on three sides. After the syringe is inserted into the new pouch, a release liner can be stripped away, and the top flap can be folded over to seal the pouch opening to reduce the chance that the syringe will be squeezed, resulting in an accidental medication loss. Instructions are flexo-printed in black in two languages—English and Kiswahili. Healthcare workers may record the expiration date on a use-before line printed below the instructions to prevent any unused medication to be used after that date.

More information is available:

Flexible Packaging Assn., 410/694-0800.

www.flexpack.org.

Ampac Flexibles, a unit of Ampac Packaging, LLC, 513/671-1777. www.ampaconline.com.

American Packaging Corp., 800/551-8801.

www.ampkcorp.com.

C&H Packaging Co. Inc., 715/536-5400.

www.chpack.com.

CLP Packaging Solutions, Inc., 973/808-4441.

www.clppackagingsolutions.com.

Cryovac Food Packaging Div., Sealed Air Corp., 864/433-2000. www.sealedair.com.

Curwood, Inc., 800/544-4672. www.curwood.com.

Genpak LP, 905/727-0121. www.genpak.com.

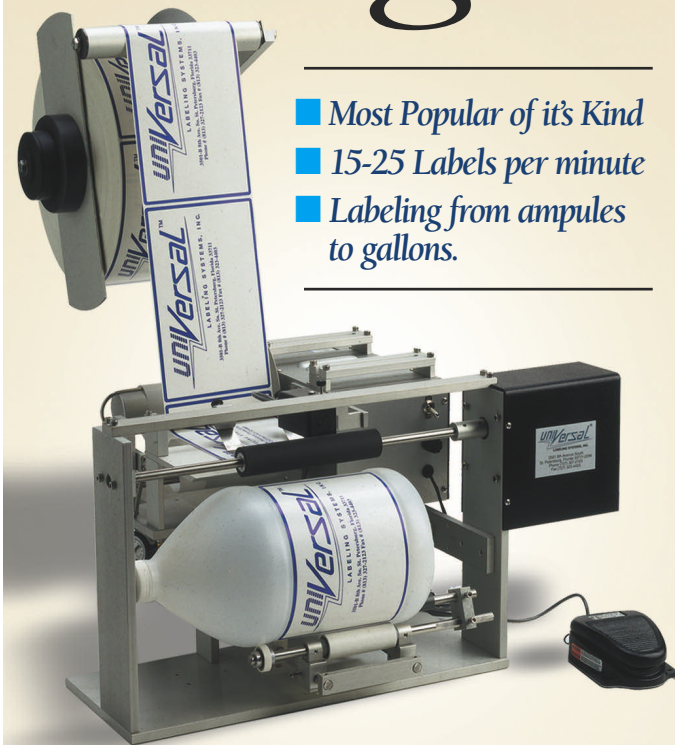
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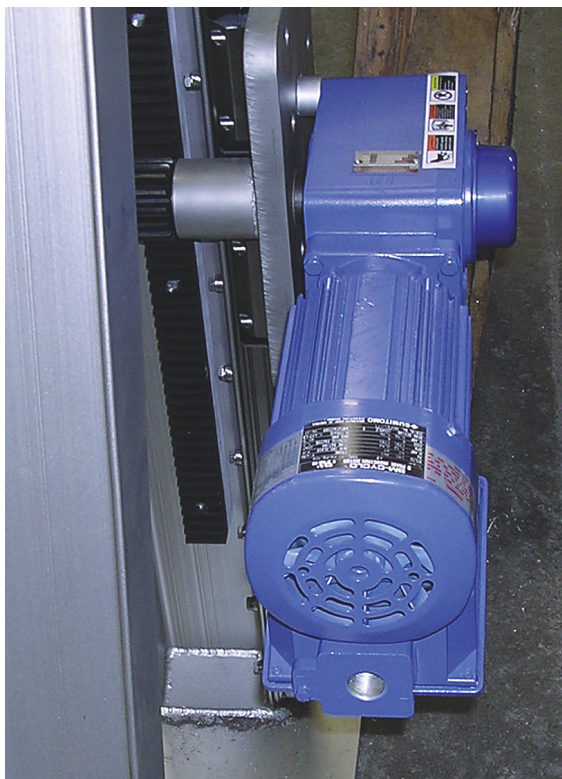
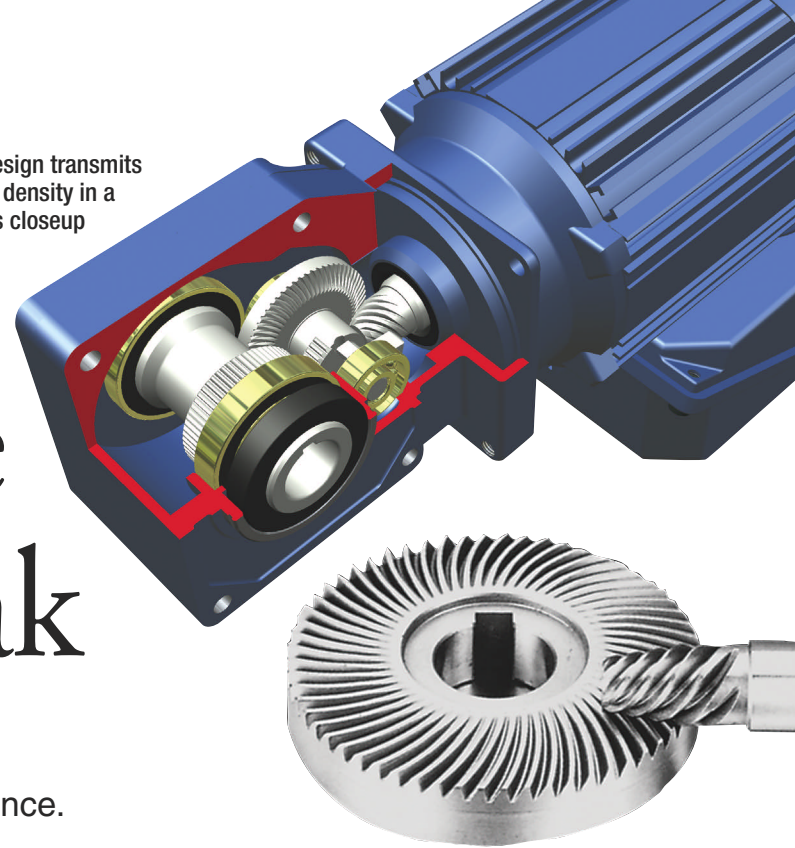
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Gear motors improve efficiency for AccelPak

AccelPak, Inc. switches to gear motors for its powder and granular-product bagging machines to improve efficiency and maintenance.

The all-steel hypoid right-angle gear design transmits torque more efficiently for more torque density in a compact unit. Photo, lower right, shows closeup view of the gears.



Gear motors help the bottom-up auger fill systems to achieve fast, clean filling and weighing for 25- to 100-pound open-mouthed bags.

Jack Mans, Plant Operations Editor

Hypoid right-angle gear motors and Cyclo concentric gear motors from Sumitomo (www.sumitomogear.com) are paying big dividends for AccelPak, Inc. (www.accelpak.com), Ottawa, KS. AccelPak designs and builds packaging equipment for powders and granular products in the flour and bakery industry. Manual, semi-automatic and fully automatic versions of its vertical auger bagging system are running products ranging from hard and soft wheat flour and whole, cracked and crushed wheat to a variety of bakery mixes. AccelPak also produces its Component Series machines for users who have unique application requirements, and its Net Weight Free-Flowing automatic packaging system that is designed to bag difficult granular products.

AccelPak's newest fillers are the AP2600 fully automatic system and the AP2200 semi-automatic system. Both machines are vertical auger fillers that use bottom-up filling technology that allows the bag to be filled from within a couple of inches from the bottom of the bag, thus limiting dusting and increasing product compaction in the bag. These



For more information about motors, visit Packaging Digest's **AUTOMATION TECHNOLOGY CHANNEL** at <http://www.packagingdigest.com/info/automation/>

new products use Sumitomo gear motors exclusively.

AccelPak switched to Sumitomo gear motors about eight months ago and continues to be happy with its decision. "We had been using Sumitomo motors on our conveyors, and they just go and go, with no problems," says AccelPak's director of marketing David White. "This is one of the most efficient motors on the market, and it's grease-packed, so it doesn't require much maintenance. It costs a little more than its competitors, but it pays for itself in the long run."

Hyponic right-angle gear motors are available from 1/8 to 7.5 hp and ratios from 5:1 to 1,440:1.

More information is available:

Sumitomo, 757/485-3355. www.sumitomogear.com.
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Blister-packer, cartoner beat diagnostics pack dilemma

British microbiological culture media specialist Oxoid overcomes the challenging packaging task of handling fragile antimicrobial discs with the installation of a new packaging line.



Lauren R. Hartman, Senior Editor

Oxoid, a member company of Fisher Scientific Intl., faced a rather complicated packaging project with its dispenser cartridges containing antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) discs. Oxoid's products are used in clinical and industrial

laboratories to isolate and identify the bacteria or other organisms causing disease or spoilage. One of the leading manufacturers and distributors of microbiological culture media and other diagnostic products, the company makes the discs for in-vitro use by laboratories to determine the most appropriate antibiotic and dosage level for infections. Since the firm exports its products all over the world, it

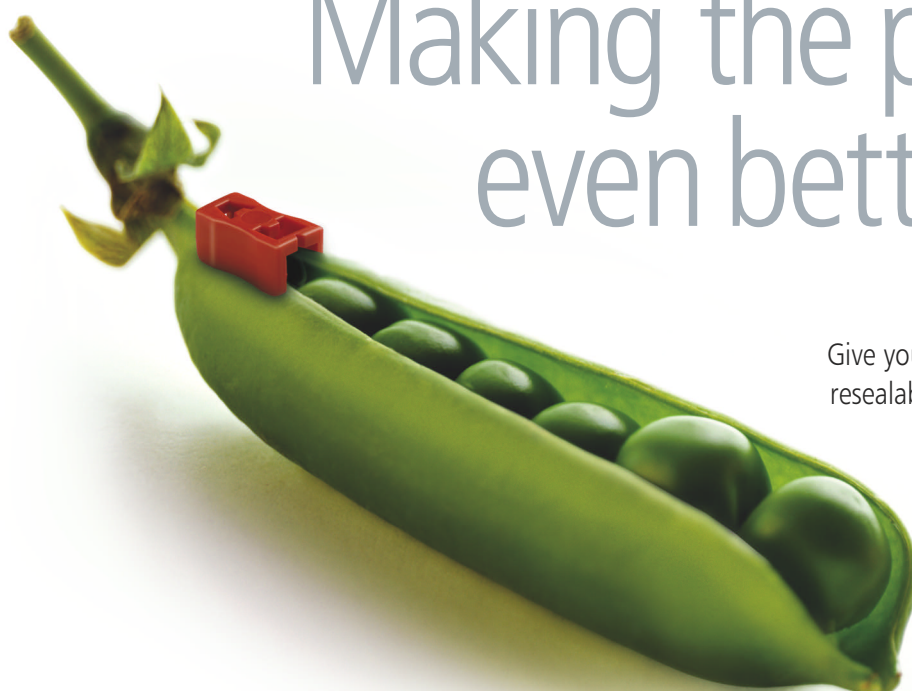
must comply with the different regulatory requirements in the many markets it serves, and so provides product information in 10 languages. To boost productivity and accomplish the task successfully, the company recently installed a packaging line incorporating a **Romaco** (www.romaco.com) Noack Model 623 blister-packing machine and a Promatic Model P100 cartoner.

Installed at Oxoid's headquarters and production site in Basingstoke, Hampshire, in the U.K., the line packs the dispenser cartridges containing multiple AST discs with the help of the two systems, which interface with ancillary equipment, including a specialized feeder from Britain's **Electro-Mec** (aspnet.electro-mec-reading.ltd.uk) and a Polyphem blister-inspection system from Germany's **Laetus** (www.laetus.com).

The Basingstoke plant is the company's main production and administrative site, supported by wholly owned sales and distribution companies in Europe, the Americas, Asia and beyond.



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Higher throughputs are a benefit of the new, speedier equipment and electronic controls.

laetus.com), both of which were furnished through Romaco in a turnkey capacity.

The Basingstoke location is the company's main production and administrative site, supported by a network of wholly owned sales and distribution companies located in Europe, North and South America, Asia and Australia.

Also made in the Basingstoke plant, each of the AST discs is impregnated with a specific amount of antibiotic and is contained in specially designed, spring-loaded cartridges that hold 50 discs. Measuring about 8 cm long, each cartridge is then delivered to the packaging area for final packoff.

According to Oxoid, the new line is helping to jumpstart output through higher levels of automation, as the blister machine and cartoner replace older equipment. The Noack system has an extended feeding channel to

The project has been running smoothly at every stage, from specification to installation and commissioning.

accommodate two cartridge depositors from Romaco that were designed especially to accommodate Oxoid's products. These feeding channels operate in tandem to ensure a high degree of autonomy. As one depositor empties, the feed switches to the other depositor for a continuous flow of product. Complete elimination of moisture is essential for correct operation of the cartridges, so each blister pocket also contains a dessicant tablet fed by means of the Electro-Mec feeding unit installed alongside the cartridge depositors.

Ninety-nine percent of Oxoid's AST disc production goes into packs containing five cartridges. These are loaded into a single blister with perforations between blisters. The cartridges have overall dimensions of 145 125 mm and a forming depth of 10 mm. Accuracy of sealing, perforation and punching is a must and is guaranteed by laser-detection devices and an integral waste foil shredder, which reduces operator intervention

Continued on page 32



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time. The blister-packer's outfeed conveyor also has reject stations that automatically segregate any empty blisters and those that might be partially filled.

Since all of the cartridges have the same dimensions, there's no need for size changeparts on the blister machine. The only variable is that Oxoid occasionally produces a package containing a single cartridge. This is handled by a special arrangement of punching tools that again minimize

changeover requirements.

In production at the Basingstoke plant, blisters that are verified as being correct are conveyed directly to the infeed of the Promatic P100 cartoning machine. Because of the company's multilingual packaging copy requirements, Oxoid added booklet and leaflet feeder systems to the cartoner to ensure insertion of this information into each of the cartons.

Project manager Carl Smith

says that the Romaco equipment is definitely living up to Oxoid's expectations. Romaco was the frontrunner throughout the project, he indicates.

"Our starting point was the blister-packer—we produce at least 35,000 packs per day," he notes.

"The Noack 623's reputation as a compact, user-friendly and reliable machine is beyond question," Smith says. "We are certainly seeing higher throughput, thanks to the electronic



Read about how **CADBURY ADAMS USA'S** Halls Max lozenges in a PVC carton are packed on a line equipped with a Romaco cartoner at www.packagingdigest.com/info/hallsmx

control devices on the line and to the reliability and ease of operation of the Noack and Promatic machines.

"We also managed to reduce operator intervention time to just ten minutes and minimized our staffing levels on the packaging line, which we believe is a significant improvement."

Moreover, Smith continues, "the blisters have a much higher quality appearance and less deformation, thanks to the Noack's 520-millimeter heating area, which allows for controlled heating of the web."

Smith goes on to say that an important factor in the choice of the cartoner was its ability to guarantee the opening of each and every carton. "Our cartons have some very small dimensions relative to the size of the blister, which we identified as potentially problematic

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We're seeing higher throughput, thanks to the electronic control devices and the operating ease of the machines.

when moving to the replacement machinery," he notes. "But this concern has been completely eliminated by the cartoner's double-positive opening system. The machine hasn't missed a beat since installation."

Although Oxoid has considered several other suppliers, Smith relates that Romaco's approach was the one that engendered real confidence. "The project has been running extremely smoothly at every stage, from specification right through to installation and commissioning," he sums up. And that's a happy ending for an unusual packaging application serving a vital healthcare product.

More information is available:

Romaco USA, 973/709-0691.

www.romaco.com.

Electro-Mec, 44 0 118 958 2035.

aspnet.electro-mec-reading.ltd.uk.

Laetus GmbH, 49 0 6257 5009 0.

www.laetus.com.

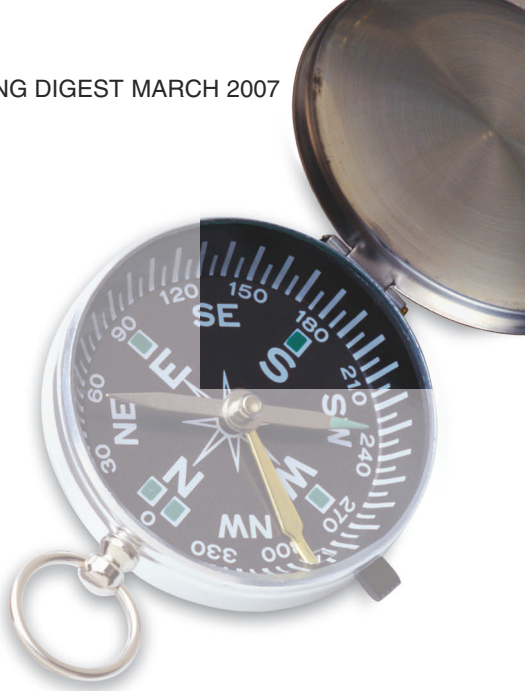
www.southpackshow.com

SouthPack action plan

The Southeast's largest packaging show co-locates with five other manufacturing and automation events on April 24 to 26 in Atlanta.

Multivac, Inc.—1231, p. 32
 PakTech—622, p. 42
 Pearson Packaging Systems—
 1139, p. 37
 Prism, Inc.—1017, p. 34

QuickLabel Systems—1243, p. 7
 SAS Automation—839, p. 56
 Stäubli—2227, p. 22
 Tharo Systems—535, p. 46
 Tri-Tronics Co.—2614, p. 23



show preview

The Georgia World Congress Center plays host to SouthPack 2007 and four other shows at the end of April. Among the exhibits will be machinery and machinery components, containers, custom automation equipment and components, materials, robotics, packaging services and software. In addition, two special-feature product pavilions will also be offered: Medical/Pharmaceutical and Nutraceutical Packaging and Material Handling and Logistics.

The other four shows co-locating with SouthPack are Powder & Bulk Solids Southeast; AMExpo (Advanced Manufacturing Exposition & Conference)/ATX South (Automation Technology Expo); Design & Manufacturing South; and Plastec South. Registration for any show includes the other five; registration online, including during show days, is free. Onsite is \$45.

SouthPack show hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 24 and 25 and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 26.

For more information, the show organizer, Canon Communications LLC, can be reached at 310/445-4200. Online registration is available at www.southpackshow.com.

As of presstime, the following exhibitors at SouthPack have a special marketing message in this issue:

AC Tech—2349, p. 43
 Advanced Poly-Packaging—1421, p. 4
 Auto Labe—1331, p. 44
 Cognex Corp.—2251, p. 47
 DE-STA-CO Industries—2156, p. 49
 Digital Design—1125, p. 41
 Eriez Magnetics—2011, p. 40
 Imaje Ink Jet Printing Corp.—923, p. 19
 JW Winco, Inc.—2124, p. 57
 Kaeser Compressors—1027, p. 13
 KGK Intl. Corp.—609, p.33

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Every year since 1993, *Packaging Digest's* sister publication, *Control Engineering*, has published the "Automation Integrator Guide" to let readers know who they can turn to for help with industrial automation and control projects. A special edition of the Integrator Guide dedicated to the packaging industry appeared in PD's "Suppliers Guide" last July and will be forthcoming again this summer.

In 2001, *Control Engineering* began a series of reports on the efforts of the Control System Integrators Association (CSIA) to define what makes a good system integrator better (see last month's column for more on the CSIA).

Now *Control Engineering* has identified three engineering firms that represent the best system integrators in the automation industry: Concept Systems; Advanced Automation; and the Benham Companies. These are the winners of *Control Engineering's* first-ever System Integrator of the Year competition.



All three winners cited the packaging industry as an area in which they specialize

All 1,650 system integration firms listed in the "Automation Integrator Guide" were invited to submit essays describing their achievements in the areas of technical expertise, business skills and customer satisfaction. A panel of nine industry experts chose three winners and 13 runners-up from 47 entries.

The winner among system integrators with annual revenues up to \$10 million was **Concept Systems, Inc.** (www.conceptsystemsinc.com), of Albany, OR. Concept Systems focuses on automation and information systems for business. Their services include project management, system design and development, UL 508 panel fabrication, Autodesk and AutoCAD drawings, installation supervision, system startup and training.

Advanced Automation, Inc. (www.advancedautomation.com) of Exton, PA, won in the category for system integrators with annual revenues between \$10 million to \$50 million. Advanced Automation is an independent system integrator that aims to develop cost-effective, integrated industrial control systems that improve productivity, competitiveness and profitability.

In the category for annual revenues above \$50 million, the winner was **The Benham Companies, LLC** (www.benham.com) of Walled Lake, MI. Benham provides hardware/software development and integration to the industrial, manufacturing, commercial and municipal sectors. Services include architecture and engineering design, infrastructure, environmental, systems engineering and integration, advanced communication systems, performance contracting, project consulting and development and design-and-build project delivery.

These three companies demonstrated their technical skills with number and type of degreed engineers, certifications held, memberships in associations and successful projects. Their business skills showed up strong in internal processes of training and project management. Not surprisingly, all three winners cited the packaging industry as an area in which they specialize. For more information, see their listings in the online "Automation Integrator Guide" at www.IntegratorGuide.com, or their detailed dossiers under Featured References at <http://resource.controleng.com>. For more on the System Integrator of the Year competition, including a list of judges and runners-up, see "System Integration at its Best" online at <http://www.controleng.com/article/CA6395747.html>.

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.

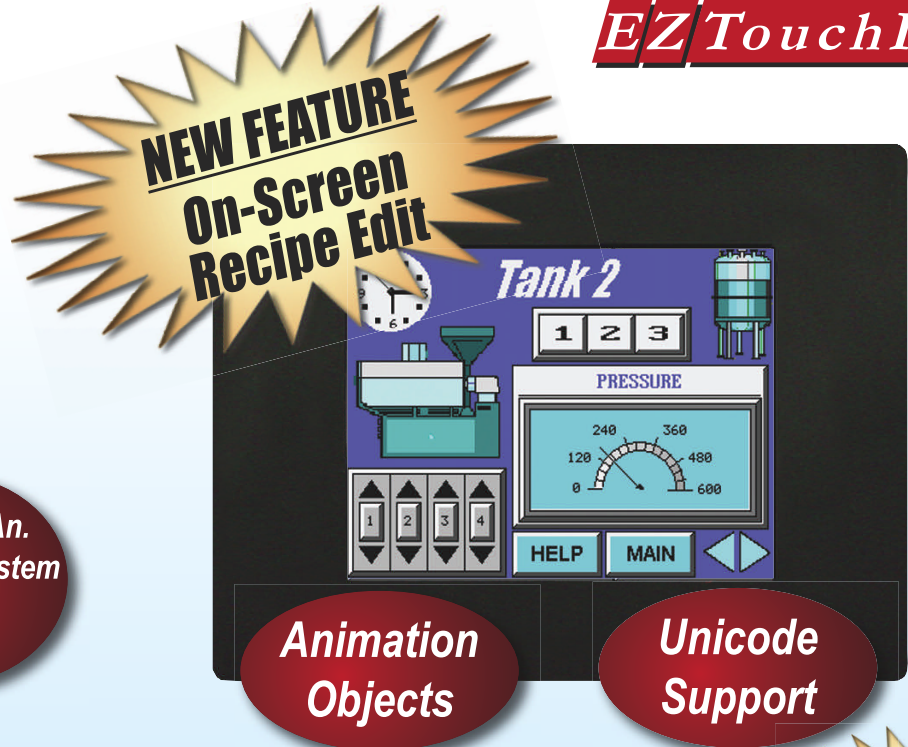
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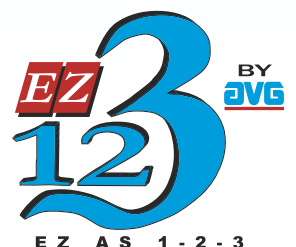
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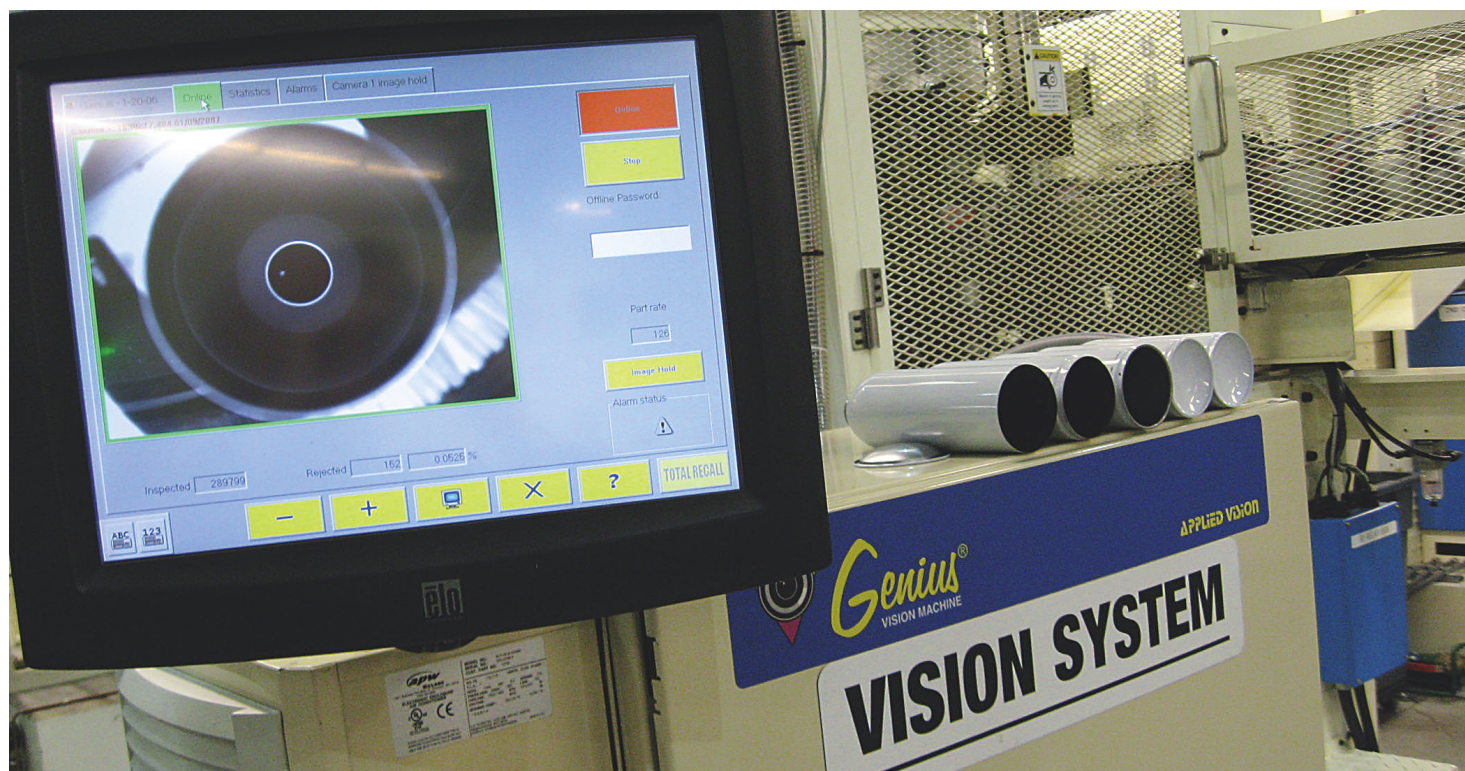
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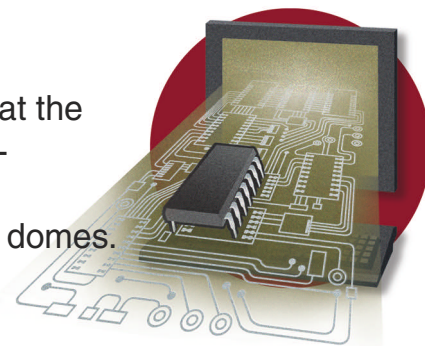


Each of DSC's two can-manufacturing lines has three-vision inspection systems. Two of these systems are used to inspect the cans after they are formed, below left, while the third system inspects the bottom domes, next page. The two cameras on the can line are installed side by side after the top-flange forming operation. The first camera checks the shoulder and sidewall, while the second inspects the flange. The image of each can and dome is shown on an operator screen, left, as they pass beneath the cameras.



A closer eye on can inspection

Vision-inspection systems at DS Containers, Batavia, IL, ensure that the plant's unique two-piece, polymer-coated steel cans are perfect. Six systems inspect cans and bottom domes.



Jack Mans, Plant Operations Editor

Sophisticated vision-inspection systems are helping **DS Containers** [www.dscontainers.com] (DSC) maintain the quality of its unique two-piece, polymer-coated steel can—the first consumer package of its kind in the U.S. DSC opened a 236,000-sq-ft plant in Batavia, IL in 2005 that uses proprietary technology developed by its partner, **Daiwa Can Company of Japan** (www.daiwa-can.co.jp/english), to produce a unique deep-draw steel can. The new container initially targets the aerosol sector, but is equally adaptable to nonaerosol applications.

DSC is a unique Japanese/American partnership. DS is derived from Daiwa-Seikan, which are the Japanese words for canmaking, and the Batavia plant has been outfitted with state-of-the-art production equipment using proprietary Daiwa technology. Modeled after Daiwa's successful "bottle can", an aluminum beverage can made in Japan, the DSC container applies Daiwa's polymer-coating technology to produce steel aerosol cans that address the limitations of steel and are suitable for personal care items. The polymer-coated steel, tradenamed Protact®, is produced at **Corus Packaging Plus** (www.corusgroup.com/en) in Europe. It combines the integrity of steel with the versatility and protective properties of plastic. The finished cans are

scratch-, corrosion- and rust-resistant, eliminating the need for interior and exterior coatings that are used in conventional can manufacturing.

DSC has two can-manufacturing lines in its new plant, each producing about 600 cans/min. Each line has three Genius® vision-inspection systems from **Applied Vision** (www.appliedvision.com). Two of these systems are used to inspect the cans after they are formed, while the third system on each line inspects the bottom domes (can ends)



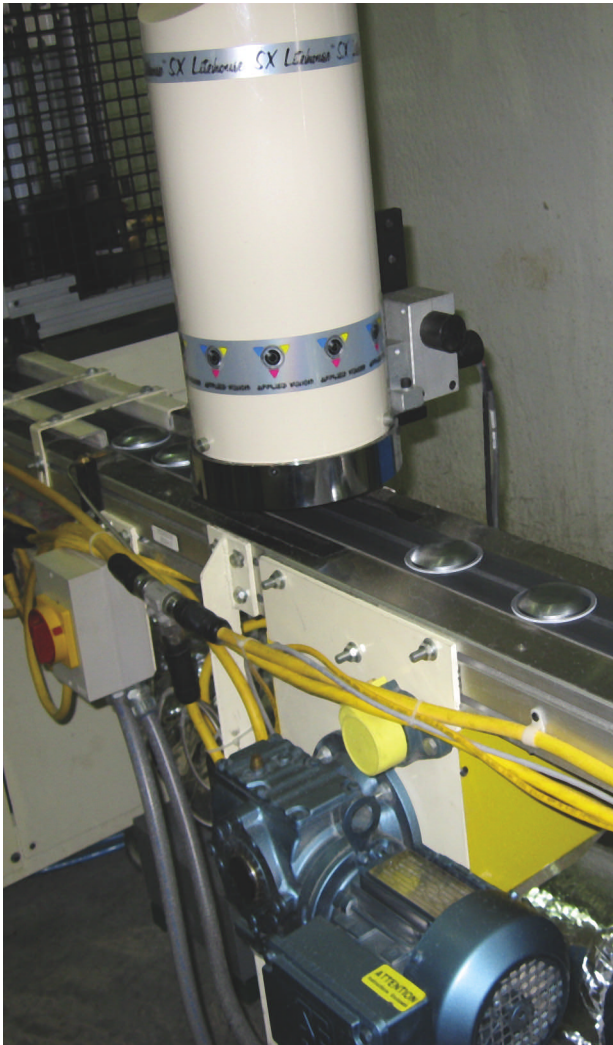
For more information about vision inspection, go to Packaging Digest's homepage and click on the **AUTOMATION TECHNOLOGY CHANNEL** at <http://www.packagingdigest.com/info/automation>

before they are attached to the cans. "Inspection of the cans and domes is essential to our operation," says vp-manufacturing Bill Smith. "In particular, the integrity of the laminated interior is critical. Our customers fill very aggressive products in these containers, and it is imperative that there be a complete barrier with no scratches, voids or dents. The containers that are delivered to our customers must be perfect, with absolutely no defects."

The two cameras on the can line are installed side by side after the top-flange forming operation. The first camera checks the shoulder and sidewall, while

the second inspects the flange. Both inspect the can interior for defects in the coating. The cameras also look for a myriad of possible defects including creases, puckers, wrinkles, neck pleats, die/draw marks, scratches, dents, coating voids, narrow flange, flange defects, flange measurement, grease and oil stains, foreign objects, metal whiskers and more. The camera on the dome line inspects the bottom domes as they pass beneath on a conveyor before they are attached to the can bodies. All of the systems use high-speed analog cameras with the optical configuration set up for the inspections taking place. The systems use light-emitting diodes to provide illumination, and the light intensity, color, lenses and other parameters are unique for each installation. The image of each can and dome is shown on an operator screen as the cans pass beneath the cameras.

The Genius systems incorporate Applied Vision's proprietary intuitive Touch-n-Go® user interface that makes programming simple and ensures image processing and analysis that detect the smallest defects. Operators essentially teach the system to identify different defects as they appear on the screen rather than draw from a library of possible preassigned defects. The system maintains a count of each type of defect detected and can be set up to alert the operator if the percentage of a specified type of defect reaches a



The integrity of the laminate interior of our cans is critical. Our customers run very aggressive products in these containers, and it is imperative that there be a **complete barrier** with no scratches, voids or dents.

preset level.

One key to DSC's successful inspection program is that the inspection systems were integrated into the canmaking equipment by the equipment manufacturer. "DS containers is a great example of how to be smart when investing in machine-vision technology," says Applied Vision's vp of sales (Europe) Joseph Bica. "Many companies still view this as an afterthought; something to implement once they've experience quality problems or once they have production set up. DS Container involved Applied Vision from the very beginning, so they were able to identify how machine vision best fit into the production flow, and how it could work most effectively to identify flaws as early in the process as possible. It paid off in every area—from

The camera on the dome line inspects the bottom domes as they pass beneath a conveyor before they are attached to the can bodies.

development of their system to installation to ongoing support."

DSC has been very satisfied with the results. "Our goal from the beginning was to have zero defects in the cans leaving our plant, and Applied Vision is assisting us in meeting that vision," says Smith. "They were with us when we started the plant and helped train all of our operators. Since then, they've given us great service, and have been very responsive when we needed anything. They've met all of our expectations with no disappointments."

More information is available:

Applied Vision, 330/926-2223. www.appliedvision.com.

Corus Packaging Plus, 31 (0) 251 49 3186.

www.corusgroup.com/en.

Daiwa Can Co., 011 81 3 3272 0561.

www.daiwa-can.co.jp/English.

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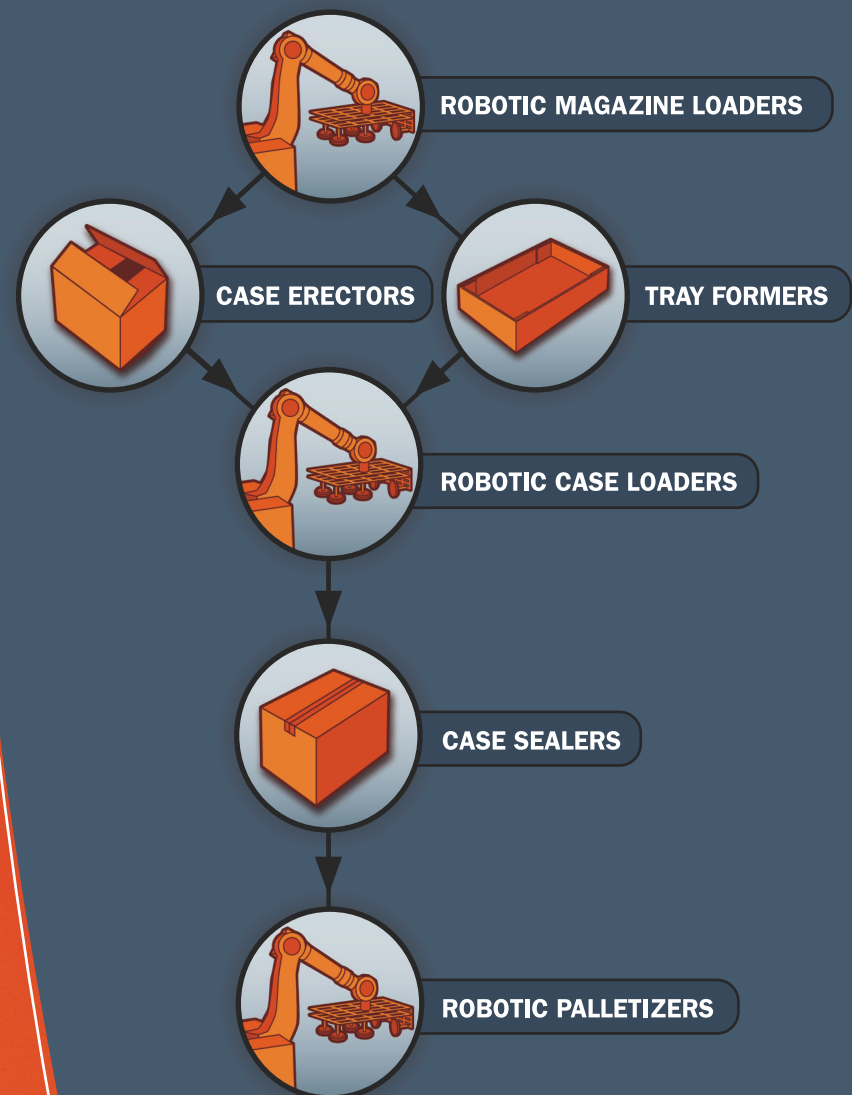
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Making a case for recycled materials

It would be nice if the benefits of environmental strategies were straightforward, but unfortunately, the interaction of our industrial systems with the environment is highly complex—just ask any practitioner of life-cycle analysis. Despite this complexity, it is possible to make generalizations about environmental best practices, and we often do.

There are significant environmental benefits associated with using recycled materials. This is a general best-practice statement that is widely accepted. However, on occasion, this general statement may be challenged by the specific details of a case example, like a product-level life-cycle analysis. As we know, there are often exceptions to the rule, and there are examples where the use of recycled materials may not result in the optimal environmental benefit for that particular product. But that doesn't mean that the general rule doesn't hold.



The use of recycled materials is an investment in a longer-term strategy to drive system and economic change

The environmental, social and economic benefits of using recycled materials include the conservation of virgin resources and energy to the diversion of materials from landfills. Depending on the material, the list of benefits may vary, as well as the point in the life cycle in which the benefit occurs. A commonly cited example is aluminum. Recycled aluminum requires 95-percent less energy per kilogram to produce than a kilogram of virgin aluminum. Beyond energy, the use of recycled aluminum conserves bauxite extraction, alumina production and aluminum smelting and all the cumulative environmental impacts, not to mention the various transportation miles that might also be involved. From this perspective, using recycled aluminum helps minimize our current impacts based on the existing system. However, what if the scale of that system is growing like that of an industrializing planet. Is minimizing enough?

The question brings us to another perspective on recycled materials. Using recycled materials sends a signal that materials are valuable, not just from an economic perspective, but also because of the investment in environmental impact made in their creation and their disposition, and the cumulative nature of those impacts, such as climate change. From this point of view, the use of recycled materials is an investment in a longer-term strategy to drive system and economic change.

There is no doubt that raw materials industries are very environmentally impactful. However, there is also no doubt that they are the backbone of our industrialized society. So, where is the sustainability balance? The balance has to do with a perspective on time and whether we are designing for the system we have today versus creating an impetus for the more sustainable systems of tomorrow.

We have a woefully inadequate infrastructure for recycling today in the U.S. This is one of the greatest barriers to realizing truly sustainable packaging for many materials. We do not even have a nationally recognized vision for what a sustainable-materials economy might look like. The Chinese adopted a framework for a circular economy in 2002. They purchase a lot of our post-consumer materials, use them as feedstocks in a new cycle of production and help grow their economy by selling them back to us.

I would contend that using recycled materials isn't only an essential part of a strategy to reduce our current footprint, but it's also a force to drive the change needed to engineer the systems that rationalize the economics of recycling, so that when we refer to sustainable packaging, it means an economic supply chain from cradle-to-cradle and a more sustainable materials future. To learn more about circular economy, go to www.chinacp.com/eng/cppolicystrategy/circular_economy.html.

Anne Johnson is the director of the Sustainable Packaging Coalition, a project of GreenBlue (www.greenblue.org).
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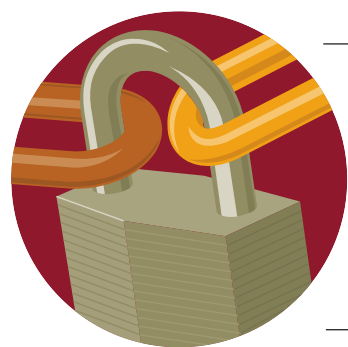
Selecting brand-security technology suppliers

The selection of brand-protection technologies and suppliers of those technologies can be a daunting task for a brand owner. The following are some ideas to accelerate your company's learning curve.

Early in the process, agree on a core research team and create a database of vendors and technologies. In the database, include technologies with descriptions and comments on their potential usefulness, key contacts and notes on all meetings with suppliers.

Before investigating specific brand-protection technologies, define and clarify the problem. Is it counterfeiting (product or packaging), diversion, tampering or some combination of all three? Ask some key questions: Where is the product being compromised? Where will the product be verified? Who will verify it? How will the results of an investigation be used?

When you understand the problem, begin to search for individual technologies. Where will technologies fit in your toolbox—are they overt, semi-covert, covert or



Before investigating specific brand-protection technologies, define and clarify the problem. Is it counterfeiting, diversion or tampering?

forensic? What combination of solutions will fit your problem? What technologies will layer well with other features on your products?

Trade publications, security publications and library journal searches are sources of information on technologies and suppliers. Read carefully; authors or interviewees may sometimes be promoting their own products. Detailed reports prepared by neutral parties are expensive because of the extensive research required, but they are objective.

Consider attending brand-protection conferences. Study brochures to see if the events meet your needs. Is the focus on strategy, technology or investigation? What types of technologies will be discussed? What suppliers will be present? Tradeshows may also be a good place for a first contact with suppliers.

Use the internet for key-word searches and to check the websites of suppliers of promising technologies. Good websites will tell you basic information about the technology and will give you a sense of the technical and security expertise of the supplier. Let your colleagues know you are seeking information on brand protection and ask them to refer all information and requests from suppliers to your core research team.

You must also decide if you want one supplier that can provide you with a complete solution, or if you want to design your own mix of technologies to fit your specific problem. For example, a packaging material supplier may have a portfolio of products available and may provide the interface to the technology suppliers, but the brand owner will then be heavily dependent on their expertise.

Find out approximately how many suppliers there are for each technology and try to determine which are the experts, using references if possible. Talk directly with the technology supplier to make an evaluation of the supplier's experience and expertise.

Expect the following from any supplier of brand-protection technology:

- Good security practices;
- Insistence on a confidentiality agreement before substantive discussions;
- Knowledgeable sales personnel and a technical staff included as needed;
- An understanding of brand protection for *your* industry;
- The ability to describe how their technology will work on your products;
- The willingness to educate your company on the technology and to provide useful information beyond their own solutions;
- Follow-up on performance of their product after it is in production; and
- Continuous improvement efforts.

Susan McNeely is engineering consultant for Eli Lilly and Co., Package Engineering Technical Center.

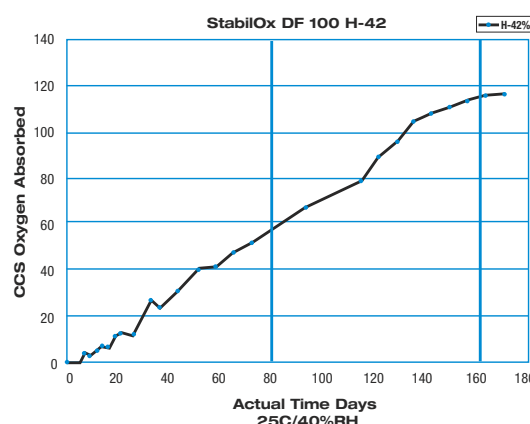
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Converter takes a pro-'active' interest in RFID

GSI Technologies couples conductive web-printing capabilities with a first-of-its-kind, custom-engineered, automated surface-mount technology assembly line to produce up to 26 million RFID inlays per year.



GSI prints RFID antennas on a 20-in., flatbed, single-pass, web conductive printing line equipped with 96 ft of drying capacity.

Anne Marie Mohan, Senior Editor

While passive radio-frequency identification (RFID) tag manufacturers race to discover what some in the industry refer to as “the Holy Grail of RFID”—item-level tracking via the five-cent-or-less tag—Suzanne Zaccone, cofounder of **GSI Technology, LLC** (www.gsitech.com), a Burr Ridge, IL-based label converter with functional printing and inlay-assembly capabilities reports: “The nickel tag is not in our language at all.”

GSI has found a sweet spot for smart (or RFID)-label and smart-card products, producing specialty antenna-only and battery-assisted inlays. Unique among its peers, GSI not only prints circuitry and antennas, but it also offers web-based, multicomponent assembly capabilities—a service made possible by the installation in 2005 of a custom-engineered, automated, surface-mount technology (SMT) assembly line.

GSI, formerly Graphic Solutions Intl., LLC, was established in 1985 by sister-and-brother team Suzanne and Bob Zaccone, now company vice chairman and vp respectively, as a nameplate brokerage firm. Within six months, GSI began manufacturing its own products and since then has flourished by pursuing innovative, complementary technologies and strategic partnerships.

For its first 12 years, GSI was primarily a provider of industrial graphics products. In 1997, the company began exploring the potential of functional printing. “Suzanne and Bob are the visionaries behind functional printing at GSI,”

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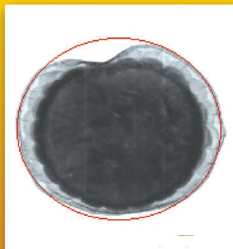
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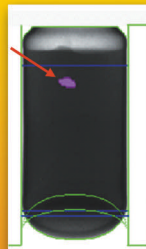
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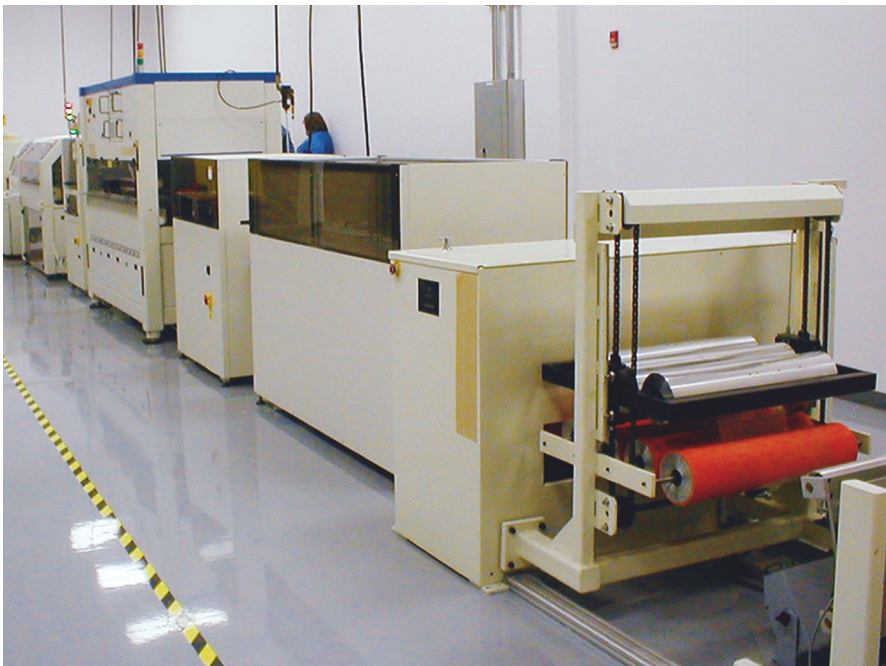
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A custom-built SMT line automatically attaches SMDs and printed batteries onto webs of printed antennas.

relates Adam Laubach, chief technology officer and general manager, Functional Printing, for GSI. "At the time, GSI was looking for ways to diversify and to take advantage of value-added markets and applications. At the same time, functional printing was beginning to emerge, so the company decided to make some serious investments in conductive web-printing equipment."

Its first foray into functional printing consisted of screen-printing conductive metal traces. Today, GSI offers large-scale production capabilities for smart-card and smart-label applications, as well as for medical products such as biomedical sensors for therapeutic and diagnostic applications.

Over the years, GSI has also become involved in electroluminescent (EL) lamp technology, which culminated in the purchase of EL lamp manufacturer BKL assets approximately three years ago. As GSI explains, EL lamps essentially comprise a flat capacitor structure with micro-encapsulated zinc-sulfide-phosphor

Each inlay assembled at GSI is developed and produced to specific customer requirements.

particles sandwiched between two electrodes. One of the electrodes is transparent to allow light to escape. Application of an AC voltage across the electrodes generates a changing electric field within the phosphor layer that causes the phosphor particles to emit visible light.

Today, GSI develops EL lamps for applications that include LCD backlights, keypad backlights, automotive instrument panels and nightlights, among others. While GSI has produced EL lamps for point-of-purchase displays, Laubach says that "EL lamps for in-store promotions are usually short-run, specialty jobs, which are less strategic to GSI than areas like automatic and medical-device backlighting applications."

In 2000, GSI began developing and producing RFID antennas printed in web form. Explains Jack Kraemer, GSI president and chief operating officer, "Our move to RFID antennas was a natural progression. It just happened to be one of the largest emerging applications in the market space for conductive printing."

Not quite as natural a next step for GSI, but certainly in line with its goal of providing value-added services, Kraemer notes, was its installation of a fully automated SMT assembly line capable of manufacturing complete smart-label and smart-card inlays, as well as mounting flip chips for almost any purpose. "That was a bit of a leap," he says. "But we felt that having assembly capabilities would allow us to add more value to partners."

GSI's current business is divided into two divisions: Industrial Graphics and Functional Printing. Located in two facilities in Burr Ridge that together cover 60,000 sq ft, the company has 100 employees, roughly split between the two divisions.

GSI's Functional Printing facility is equipped with a range of equipment that enables the company to prepare incoming rollstock, manufacture screens, screen-print product with conductive inks and finish printed product via punching,

Continued on page 42

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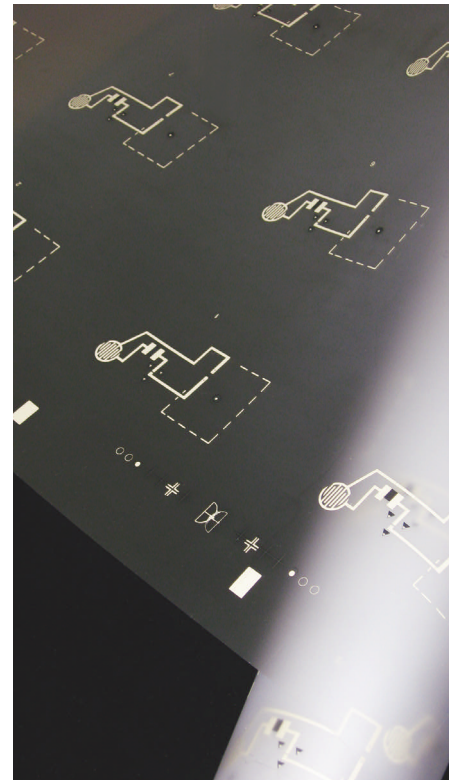
During functional printing production, GSI begins with roll-fed stock, typically constructed of "some type of polyethylene terephthalate [PET] substrate," explains Donald Alexander, business manager integrated solutions for GSI. With six printing/drying units available, the converter can accommodate web widths from 14 to 20 in. On the day of PD's visit, GSI was printing RFID antennas on a 20-in., flatbed, single-pass, screen-printing

press—referred to in the industry as a web conductive printing line—equipped with 96 ft of drying capacity, resulting in a production speed of 40 ft/min. As Alexander explains, "Speed is the advantage of this type of printing process over sheet-fed printing." Thus, the more drying capacity available, the faster the antennas can be produced, he notes.

Adds Laubach, "Web-conductive printing is one of our core competencies. There is a lot of art to

how you handle the web and make sure everything is dried properly before you do the next pass."

Utilizing conductive inks from a number of proprietary suppliers, GSI can print virtually any frequency, including 13.56 MHz and 900 MHz. "In 900-mHz products," the company relates, "the performance of a printed antenna is equal to traditional copper-etched antennas." The resulting thin, flexible antennas have a thickness of 20 to 40 ga.

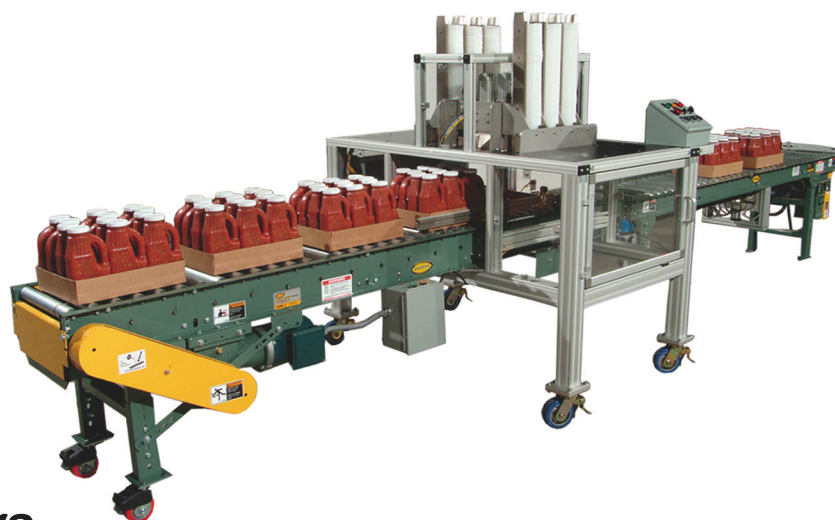


GSI has the capabilities to produce powered smart-card inlays.

GSI's latest Functional Printing equipment installation is the unique, custom-designed multicomponent assembly system. The in-line process assembles semiconductor chips, surface mounted devices (SMDs) and thin, flexible batteries onto a continuous web of printed antennas and conductive traces. The system is capable of mounting electronic components at up to 3,000 inlays/hr on web materials up to more than 6,000 ft long and 20 in. wide.

During inlay assembly, a web of printed antennas is carried from the unwind station through an epoxy-dispensing station. At the next station, RFID flip chips (sourced from a number of proprietary suppliers) are mounted onto the web and then advance to a station where thermal pinpoint heads descend to the web, curing the epoxy. Next, thin, flexible batteries are picked and placed onto the web via robotic arms. The batteries are held in place with epoxy and by their strips until the batteries are cured at another thermal station. A test station follows that can be used if required for the application. Upon assembly completion, the roll can be slit into individual streams and rolled or supplied in production web widths.

Positioned somewhere between 20-cent passive RFID tag inlays and \$15 active tags, GSI's battery-assisted, semi-active



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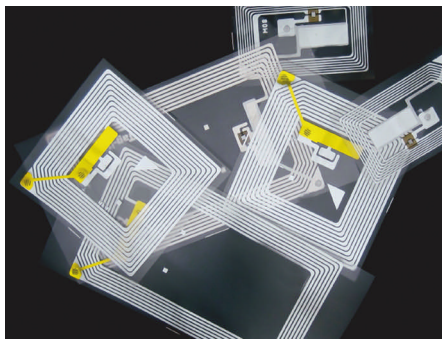
In the area of **ELECTRONICALLY POWERED PACKAGING**, printed components provide an alternative for RFID antennas, on-pack promotions and time/temperature indicators. Read more at www.packagingdigest.com/info/printedelec



GSI uses real time statistical process control in its Functional Printing facility.

UHF tags are designed to provide a read range of up to 30 ft for supply-chain management, transport and logistics applications. "GSI is looking at smaller battery technology and trying to take it to new applications," relates Alexander. "GSI has a very defined and developing niche market."

Elaborates Zaccone, "Most of the people who are providing RFID tags



Web conductive printing is one of our core competencies.

right now are not providing them with any power, and so the tags have a very limited read range. You have to be pretty close to the source of the reader in order for it to be activated. But once the battery is onboard, the reader can read the tag in harsh RF environments, like on or near metal containers or packages containing liquids. That's where our advantage is, and that's why we're not going after the single-item use."

Each inlay assembled at GSI is developed and produced to specific customer requirements. "What we are really well known for," says Zaccone, "is taking something from concept, getting it into the development phase and then moving it into production."

While antennas are printed at GSI, the conductive inks and substrates that are used are dependent upon the job specifications, often set by the end customer. GSI works with a wide variety of material and component suppliers. Notes Laubach, "While we are free to work with all suppliers, if

a supplier or partner brings us an opportunity, we do everything we can to make sure they participate in the eventual production supply, assuming they have a technical and economic fit for the application."

Adds Kraemer, "Different applications really drive you to different technologies. There are multiple thin batteries out there, and they each have unique strengths and weaknesses. As an integrator, we look to take the best component for the application, whether it's the chip or whether it's the battery."

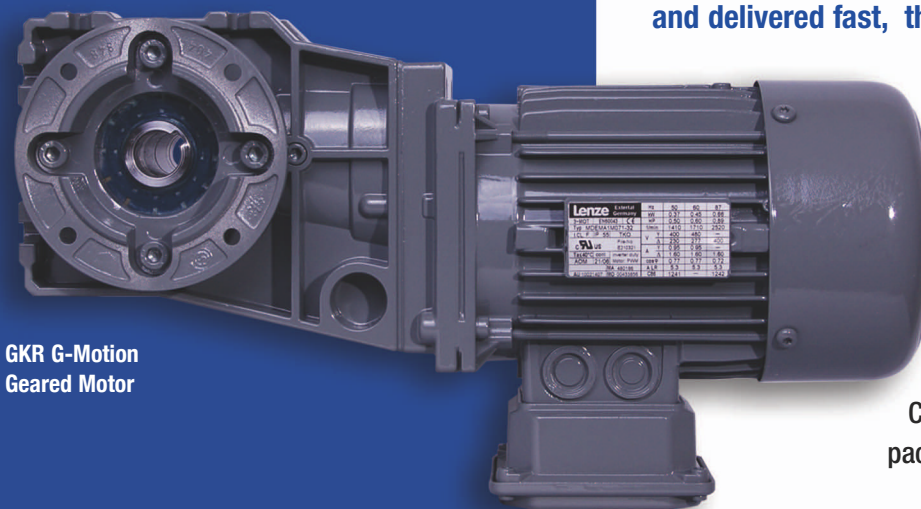
Bringing all the elements together and combining them in one, continuous assembly process is where GSI sees its major advantage. "When you have one company controlling the process," explains Zaccone, "quality issues and cost considerations can be maintained throughout."

More information is available:

GSI Technologies, 630/325-8181.
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Uninterruptible power systems keep fillers running



Power problems in third-world countries no longer cause scale failures for companies using Crandall Intl. Inc. fillers since the company has installed uninterruptible power systems on the machines.

Crandall Intl, Inc. (www.crandall.com) manufactures precision packaging machinery for use in the food, chemical and petroleum industries. Its customers' products include lube oil, paints, industrial chemicals, food flavorings, antifreeze and other liquids. The company's highly accurate, gravimetric filling machines can fill containers from as small as 500 mL up to a 55-gal (220-L) drum or keg. The filling machines' accuracy must be assured at all times to meet customer demands, so the machines incorporate advanced microprocessor-based digital electronics connected to a precision digital scale to ensure that the liquids are filled to the exact amount required.

Crandall Intl. Model DN filling machines feature one to four filling nozzles, use digital scales for weight sensing and are capable of filling up to 1,400 containers/hr. The gravimetric fillers can accurately fill a wide range of liquid and semi-liquid products, and sub-surface models can fill both foaming and nonfoaming products. Fast-fill/slow-fill commands are

included on the machine. The standard model uses a preset container weight or tare. This is maintained as the tare for the entire fill, or until the operator tares another empty container. Automatic tare for each container is available as an option. In either case, the containers are accurately filled to a net weight.



Fillers, above, shipped to third-world countries can experience problems caused by bad power supplies. Uninterruptible power systems, top photo, eliminate these problems by creating clean power on a continuous basis.

All DN models rely on an electronic load cell with a digital indicator that features a meter containing a microprocessor-based programmable-logic controller board. This PLC board, which is the brain of the system's weighing mechanism, is very sensitive and requires a steady voltage source.

Crandall machines are sold worldwide. Due to the machines' electronics, extreme utility power problems experienced in many third-world countries were rendering the machines unreliable. Several years ago, when Crandall began selling the new DN models to international customers in locations in Africa, South Asia and Latin America, it started to experience failures of the scale controller in about three out of every 10 systems shipped. Customers were experiencing malfunctions due to failure of the electronic scale controllers. Units that were operating in the U.S., Canada, Saudi Arabia and other more developed countries did not experience these failures.

These failures meant lost production for the customer that proved very costly. Replacing the system's controller board costs approximately \$2,000 to Crandall if the system is still under warranty, or to the

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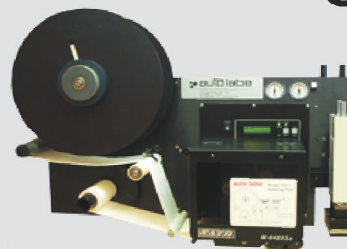
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customer if it is out of warranty. However, the real cost to customers was when they had to stop production while the machine was down, or resort to manually filling containers, which was much slower and less accurate than filling with the machines. From the time trouble began to the time that the diagnosis was made and the replacement part was shipped, cleared through local customs and properly reinserted, the customer could be without use of the filling machine for as long as one to two weeks.

Crandall Intl. sent the malfunctioning boards to **Rice Lake Weighing Systems** (www.ricelake.com), the manufacturer of the scale controllers, which determined that the failures were a result of voltage drops and spikes. Once it was clear that the problem was the power, Crandall went to its battery supplier and asked them if they could help, because they dealt with computer power protection. They directed the company to a line of rugged, online, uninterruptible power systems (UPS) from **Falcon Electric, Inc.** (www.falconups.com). They pointed out that Falcon Electric offers professional-grade, double-conversion, online UPS, and

it is converted to direct current and is heavily filtered by large capacitors. This tier removes line noise, high-voltage transients, harmonic distortion and all 50/60 hz frequency-related problems. The capacitors also act as an energy-storage reservoir giving the UPS the ability to ride through momentary power interruptions. The battery is also connected to this tier and takes over as the energy source in the event of a utility loss. This makes the transition

between utility and battery power seamless, without an interruption.

Since Crandall has been shipping Falcon Electric's SG Series online UPS with its systems, or recommending a true, online UPS, the power problems have vanished. Its more-sophisticated systems cost from \$30,000 to \$50,000, and customers rely on these systems to keep their production line moving; in essence, to keep them in business. The Falcon Electric UPS shipped with each

unit provides peace of mind that power problems will not bring the filling systems down.

More information is available:

Crandall Intl, Inc.,
716/876-0402. www.crandall.com.
Falcon Electric, Inc.,
800/842-6940. www.falconups.com.
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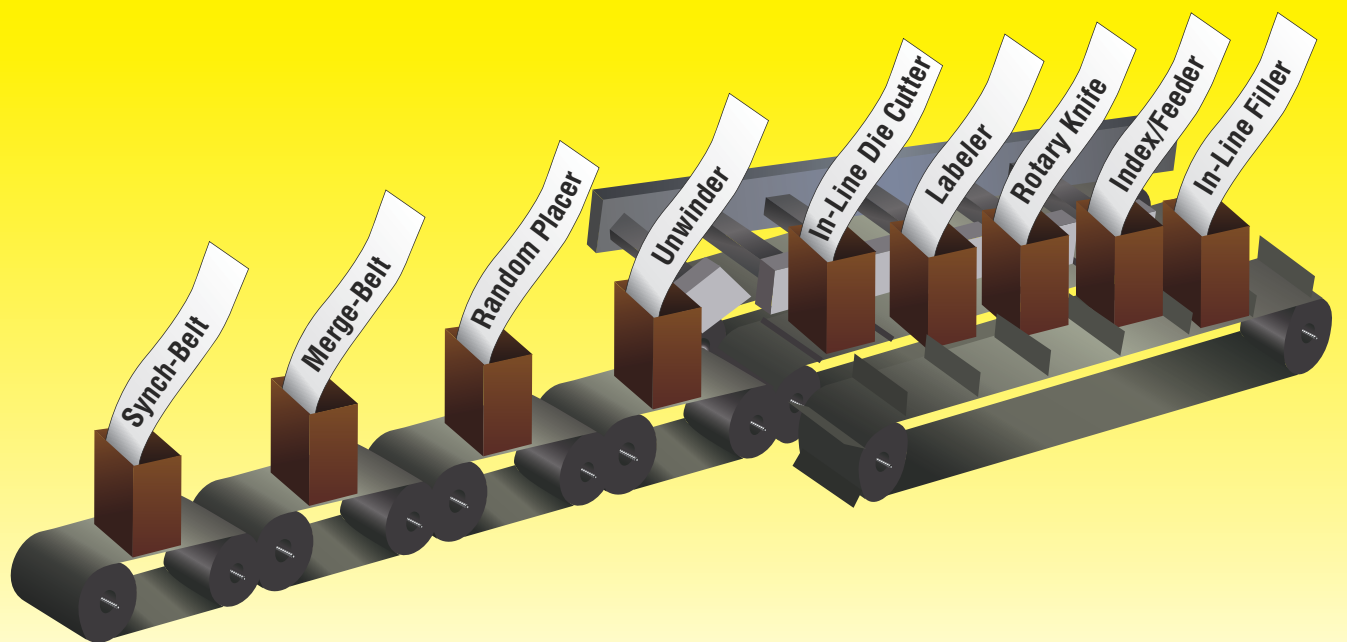
For more information about fillers, visit Packaging Digest's **FILL, F/F/S TECHNOLOGY CHANNEL** at www.packagingdigest.com/info/info/formfill/

that this type of UPS is the only type that will proactively correct an under- or over-voltage problem automatically. Falcon advised against using a cheaper, more rudimentary type of UPS with an off-line or line-interactive design. These types of systems could help, but only by reacting to the under- or over-voltage condition. After 4 to 30 msec, the off-line and line-interactive UPS changes winding taps on an internal transformer in an attempt to grossly regulate (± 8 to 12 percent) the polluted utility power. These designs pass many power-related problems, including high-voltage transients, frequency shifts and short-duration voltage dropouts, directly through to the meter's sensitive electronics.

An online UPS creates new, clean power on a continuous basis, offering a much higher level of voltage regulation (± 2 to 3 percent) and protection. In effect, the online UPS creates an "electronic firewall" between the incoming utility power and the sensitive equipment. This is accomplished inside the UPS in several tiers of circuits.

First, the incoming alternating-current utility voltage is passed through a surge-protected rectifier stage, where

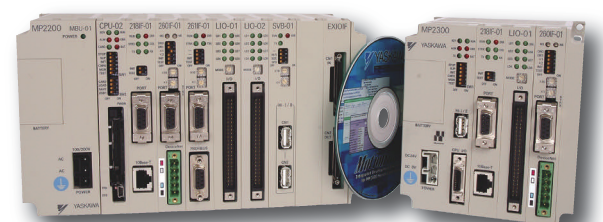
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Nine steps to greater profitability, sustainability

In preparing their products to align with Wal-Mart's new sustainability scorecard, consumer packaged goods companies should evaluate nine areas of the supply chain.

The announcement by Wal-Mart of its new sustainability scorecard has established sustainability as a source of differentiation and competitive advantage for consumer packaged goods (CPG) companies. It turns out that what's good for the environment can also be good for business. As companies strive to meet their sustainability goals, they can also improve their efficiency, their cost savings and their profitability. CPG companies can uncover sustainability and profitability benefits throughout the packaging supply chain by focusing on nine key areas: package design; material optimization; shelf impact; stockkeeping-unit consolidation; productivity improvements; alternative packaging; material handling;

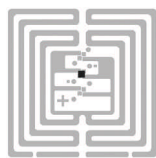
The road to improved sustainability, rather appropriately, is often connected to transportation itself.

warehousing; and transportation. This article provides information on how to optimize these nine areas and illustrates the clear sustainability and profitability benefits that can result from making these changes.

1. Package design

Package design plays a critical role in helping CPG companies achieve their sustainability and profitability goals. More efficient packaging can reduce warehouse, distribution and transportation costs and consequently can decrease energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). The amount of GHG and carbon-dioxide (CO₂) emissions per ton of production accounts for 15 percent of Wal-Mart's packaging scorecard. Efforts to reduce these emissions can also improve a CPG company's competitive position relative to other suppliers.

So while CPG companies need to



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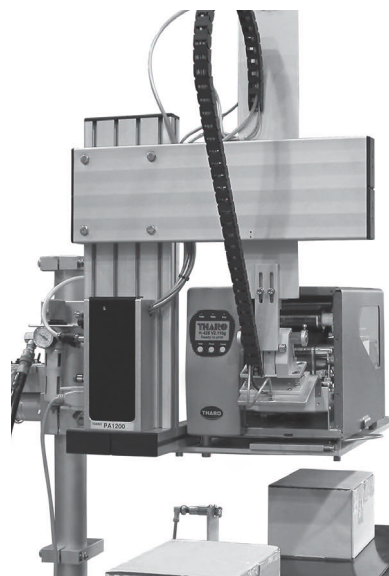
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Thermal transfer product identification and bar code label printers for large volume printing. These all metal printers are available in 203 or 300 dpi. The printers feature a backlit LCD, Real-Time Clock, and much more. The H-Series contain internal memory for storing downloaded label formats, graphics, and fonts. Using this memory, the printers can be operated **without** being connected to a computer.



PA1200t Tamp and PA1200t/b Tamp-Blow Printer/Applicator

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look at the big picture—the entire packaging supply chain—to uncover new sources of efficiency, waste reduction and cost savings, they also need to think “inside the box” when it comes to package design.

2. Material optimization

Material value represents 15 percent of the total sustainability metrics that will be measured by Wal-Mart's packaging scorecard. One way CPG companies can improve sustainability is by reducing the total fiber content of their corrugated cases.

Fiber reduction can be achieved in three ways. These include using an innovative package design that utilizes less corrugated board, using less fiber within the corrugated board and using a lower basis-weight material. Quite often, the best fiber-reduction solution is a combination of all three.

Using a low-fiber package is a great way to improve packaging sustainability. However, removing fiber from corrugated board without compromising the integrity of the package can be challenging. Microflute delivers the strength of corrugated board with the high-graphics impact of a conventional folding carton. The result is a low-fiber package with point-of-purchase (POP) appeal.

3. Shelf impact

In clubstores, secondary packaging often plays a primary role. In this dual role, secondary packaging functions both as a shipping container and a display package. Therefore, an optimized package can enhance function, increase shelf appeal and velocity, and in some cases, even reduce store waste.

One example would be the redesigned packaging for Dixie's® PerfecTouch Grab 'N Go™ 12-oz insulated paper cups. Paper cups are often packaged in large quantities in polyurethane bags. The new package design allows for better placement of the cups on store shelves. The carton itself acts as an excellent canvas for a variety of designs and communicates the product's benefits to the consumer. The package also fits neatly in kitchen cabinets or on pantry shelves, further enticing the consumer to buy.

4. SKU consolidation

CPG companies with 50 or 100 different SKUs pay more for packaging because suppliers are forced to perform shorter production runs of myriad package types. The number of SKUs can be dramatically reduced by developing package designs that meet universal needs.

5. Alternative packaging

Alternative packaging can provide significant sustainability benefits. For example, in the produce market, reusable plastic containers (RPCs) may be used as a more sustainable alternative to wax-coated boxes.

6. Productivity improvements

There are many opportunities in the packaging supply chain to improve productivity by focusing on

automating manual processes. For example, significant efficiency gains have been made by automating the case-forming and stretch-wrapping processes. This not only enables more effective use of labor, but it can also reduce material costs.

7. Material handling

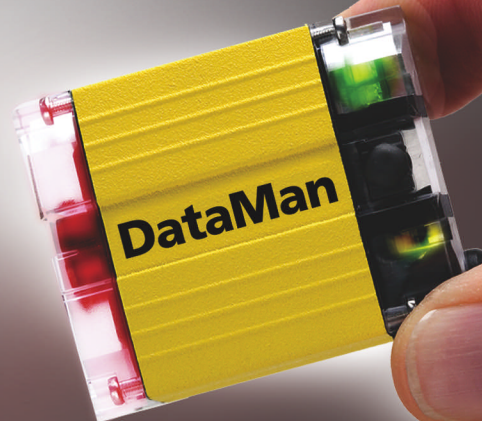
Safe, effective material handling is central to streamlined packaging

supply-chain operations. Like each of the nine key areas of the packaging supply chain, material-handling optimization depends on countless variables that are unique to each company and facility. For example, an innovative corrugated box design may give new strength to a package that was previously susceptible to damage by a clamp truck.

Continued on page 48

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The redesigned packaging for Dixie's PerfectTouch Grab 'N Go insulated paper cups allows for better placement of the cups on store shelves. The carton itself acts as an excellent canvas for a variety of designs and communicates the product's benefits to the consumer.

Other techniques to consider include the use of slipsheets in lieu of pallets or stretch-wrapping pallet loads. Pallets can be costly to manage and store, while stretch-wrapping pallet loads may avoid damage. Conversely, some companies may find stretch wrapping and slipsheets inappropriate and expensive, and instead may look for new ways to optimize existing strapping and palletizing processes. Only by closely examining the dozens of variables that affect material handling can the best solution be found.

8. Warehousing

Efforts to optimize the warehouse can include creating packages that can stand up to the demands of the warehouse environment and making efficient use of warehouse space.

High humidity, storage time and stacking height can all erode the integrity of a stored package over time. The degree to which these factors affect box performance depends on individual package characteristics. Whereas the solution to compression failure for one company may be to reduce stacking height, the answer for another may lie in the use of a Bliss box over a traditional RSC to provide the added strength that allows packages to be stacked even higher.

9. Transportation

The road to improved sustainability, rather appropriately, is often connected to transportation itself. This is because many of the sustainability improvements made further back in the supply chain are realized during transportation. More efficient, lighter-weight packages help reduce the number of truckloads, which results in reduced fuel usage and GHGs.

Equally critical to reducing shipments is cube utilization. In some cases, mixed products on pallets can contribute to poor use of space, while in others, unit-load height is not as high as it could be. Placing pallets in a "pinwheel" position can maximize cube utilization and prevent excessive load movement in the truck.

CPG companies can gain a significant sustainability advantage by optimizing their distribution operations. This is reinforced by the fact that cube utilization and general transportation factors together will account for 25 percent of a CPG company's total score using Wal-Mart's packaging scorecard.

Top of the scorecard

If CPG companies are to stay competitive in a world of shrinking margins, rising costs and pressure to outscore other suppliers on Wal-Mart's packaging scorecard, they will have to leverage sustainability efforts into a profitable advantage. Opportunities to improve efficiency exist across the packaging supply chain; CPG companies need only find them.

The author, Patrick Smorch, is manager of packaging technology at Georgia-Pacific's Innovation Institute.

For more information on this topic, visit our new sustainability microsite at www.packagingdigest.com/info/sustainability.



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new products equipment



Adhesive system The MCP-4P vertical-mount adhesive-system pattern control offers four-channel outputs, each capable of multiple glue patterns. The system features four product sensor inputs, a job storage memory and an easy-to-read LCD display with inch or metric calibration and "plug-and-run" connectors for fast, easy installation, the co. says. The product can be used with an extensive selection of cold-glue or hot-melt adhesive dispensing valves, including high-speed, noncontact, spot gluing, fine-line gluing and ribbon-pattern gluing choices.

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

Enhanced data-storage tags

Responding to a demand for RFID tags that can store detailed product information for specialized applications, the co. has introduced two enhanced-functionality RFID chips: Monza™/ID chips with secure, factory-programmed product identification numbers and Monaco™/64, the first in a line of chips with user-programmable memory. Designed for anti-counterfeiting applications, Monza/ID chips are preprogrammed with unique identification numbers and are protected against erasure and overwriting. Monaco/64 chips provide 64 bits of user-rewritable memory and extend Gen 2 RFID tag data-storage capabilities beyond the standard EPC to include additional user-defined information. Monaco/64 chip memory can be programmed and read repeatedly to keep data timely and accurate, or data can be locked to prevent subsequent alteration. The Monaco family of chips targets industries and applications with specific data-storage requirements such as the airline, pharmaceutical, retail supply chain and sensor industries. Part of the co.'s GrandPrix™ Gen 2 solution, Monza/ID and Monaco/64 chips are based on the co.'s semiconductor technology and have the same footprint and performance characteristics as its Monza™ Gen 2 RFID chips that support basic EPC tracking.

Impinj, Inc., 866/467-4650.
www.impinj.com

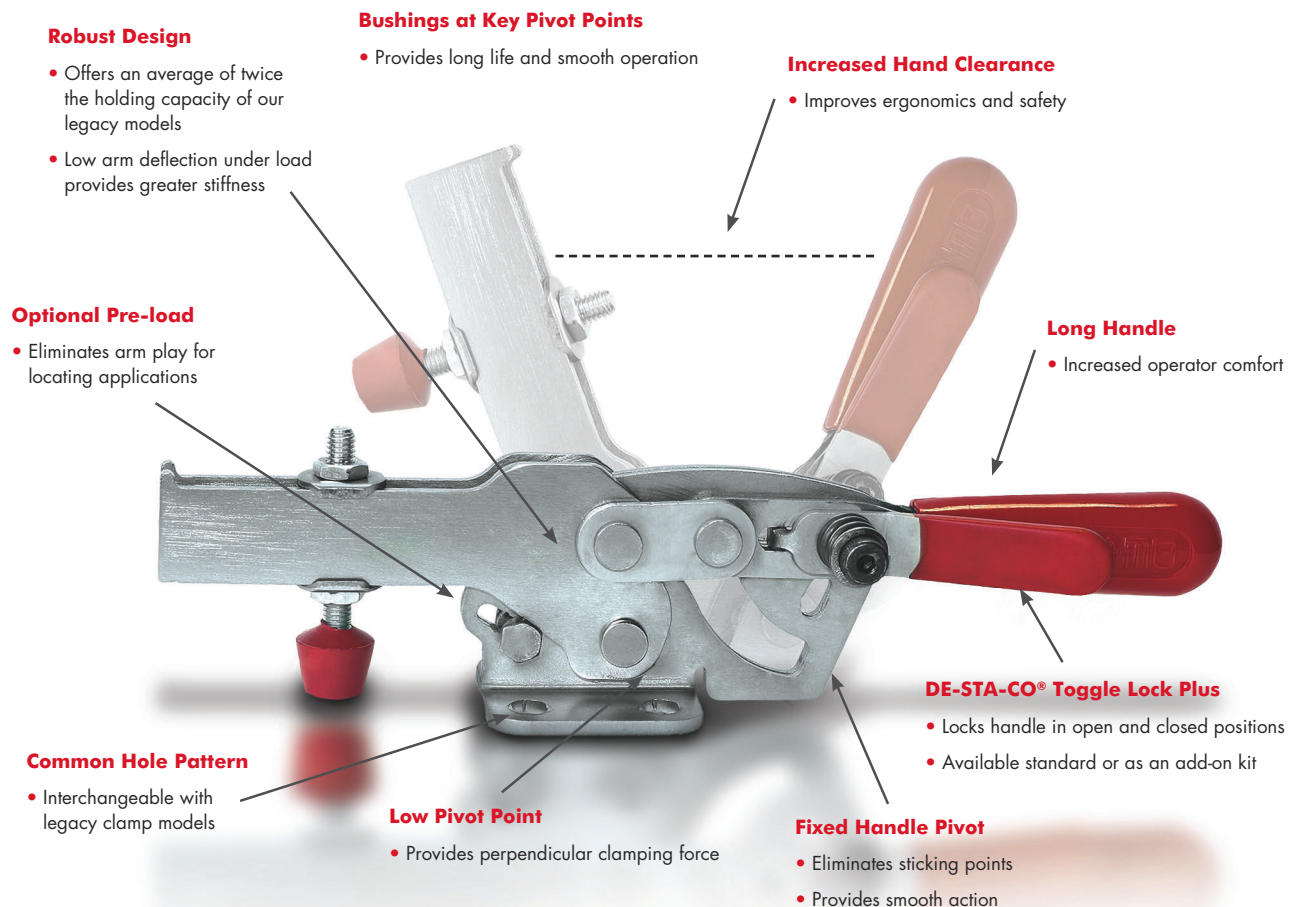


Cartoner The co. offers its CM750 continuous-motion cartoner that features a "no-backlash" rotary carton setup, maintenance-free, enclosed chainless drives, a self-cleaning droptrough design, quick changeovers, a 6-ft hopper, overload protection and speeds of up to 300 cartons/min. The cartoner is available in painted carbon steel or in a stainless-steel construction.

Packaging Systems Automation, Inc., 763/473-1032.
www.psautomation.com

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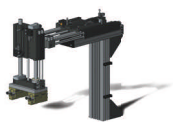
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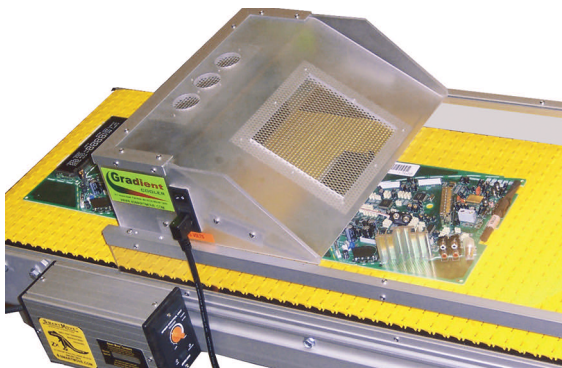
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Gradient cooler The co. releases a gradient cooler to provide cooling for hot items as they are transported along the line. The unit provides 130 cu ft/min of ambient air flow parallel to the belt travel for superior stress-relieved cooling. Hot items are moved toward the cooling unit where they are bathed in a stream of air that gradually cools them to room temperature. Benefits of the gradient system include consistent gradual cooling, simple setup, versatile mounting and low power consumption, and it is available with belt widths from 12 to 24 in. **SmartMove Conveyors**, 800/581-2876. www.4smartmove.com

Mounted bearings

Nolu-Clean® mounted bearings are made from a new, antimicrobial material for improved hygiene. Created through new technology, the bearings will help equipment builders meet the requirements of the USDA and other government agencies as they relate to the prevention of contamination of food products and to the growth of bacteria. The bearings feature a thermoplastic



cap material, a fiberglass-reinforced, thermoplastic housing and special long-life grease lubrication. The bearings also adjust to a misaligned straight shaft up to 2.5 deg.

Solus, 949/589-3900.
www.solusii.com

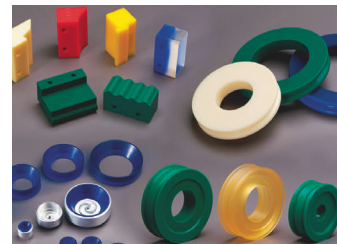
Servo drive The XtraDrive servo system features an integrated amplifier and a 5-kw, 1.5-axis controller, enhanced with ECAM capability to provide complex motion profiles based on master or virtual axis encoder position. The 400-VAC, 3-phase input drive system reaches speeds up to 6,000 and torque range to 629 in.-lb peak, the co. says. The drive functions as a standalone unit that can be integrated into new or existing motion systems or can be provided in an analog or step-and-direction mode. Applications include machines in assembly, packaging, metal working, display inspection and more.

YET US, Inc., 866/938-8080.
www.yet-motion.com



Capper parts Replacement parts such as tightening discs, gripper rubbers, quills, quill discs and other contact parts are available that fit many capping machines. The long-wearing PU applies consistent torque to eliminate scuffing or burning of caps. Other materials are available, the co. reports. The designs suit many types and sizes of equipment used to apply lug or screw caps, shaker tops, fitments, CR closures, overcaps, double snap-caps and trigger sprayers. Fit-in replacement parts are available for chuck or in-line capping equipment as well as those used to apply caps to plastic or glass bottles, jars and other containers. Vacuum cups are also available in assorted choices.

Vi-Cas Mfg., 513/791-8407.
www.vi-cas.com



Robot The co. introduces the ultra-compact RS20 SCARA robot for tabletop automation. The RS20 features speed, precision and a very small footprint for compact, tabletop, lean manufacturing. The co. notes that it also features a hardened AB plastic external housing, electric servo-driven motors for reliability and cables that all run internally in the arm, including the electrical/pneumatic user lines.

Staubli Robotics, 864/433-1980.
www.staublirobotics.com



Clutches and brakes The Precision Tork™ line of magnetic capping headsets directly interchange with many major capping OEM machines. The focus of a 24-p. catalog, the magnetic particle clutches and brakes join a new group of stainless-steel, magnetic clutches and brakes featuring the 400 Series of stainless-steel bearings.

Warner Electric, 815/389-3771.
www.warnerelectric.com



Solid-state relays

New RSC relays can dissipate heat away from main switching components. A built-in heat sink makes them easy to install and get running. The heat sink, along with an epoxy-free design, eliminates the need to derate the relays and also increases their life expectancy. They have an LED status indicator and a slim design.

IDEC Corp., 800/262-4332.
www.idec.com



X-ray systems The POWERx™ line of x-ray systems for food, beverage and pharmaceutical applications consists of 16 models capable of inspecting products ranging from small glass vials to large multipack cases. The line uses high-resolution detectors and image-analysis software to achieve high sensitivities and the lowest false reject rates, the co. says. Virtual Contaminant Testing software is available to simulate various types, sizes and positions of contaminants to determine how to achieve the best performance in each application. Select models in the POWERx family comply with the FDA's code of federal regulations 21 CFR 21 Part 11. The line also features models for upright and horizontal package orientations, x-ray design and image analysis, remote access hardware and software for support and service, extendable detection and inspection software, mass-measurement software and more. S and D models are designed for foreign body detection in containers such as cans, bottles and boxes, while the model C is for end-of-line case applications.

Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc., 800/227-8891.
www.thermo.com/food



Robot The co. unveils its new Cobra s800 Inverted robot for high-speed packaging applications. Designed exclusively for high-speed packaging with fully integrated vision and conveyor tracking, the robot features the co.'s servo controls and amplifiers embedded into its base. Features include an 800-mm reach, a 210-mm vertical axis and a maximum payload of 5.5 kg. The robot is controlled by the co.'s SmartController CX™, which can control up to 24 additional axes of motion and is recommended for over-the-belt, high-speed packaging for multiple industries, including food and beverage, medical, pharmaceutical, personal care products and electronics, the co. says.

Adept Technology, Inc., 800/292-3378.
www.adept.com



Switches New CU2008 and CU2016 Ethernet switches are available in 8- or 16-port versions to provide industrial Ethernet users with robust components, the co. says. The switches feature an optimized housing design and therefore cost 16-percent less than earlier models and offer user-friendly installation in a stainless-steel/aluminum housing via an integrated DIN rail adapter. The CU series of Ethernet switches replaces the previous ES series of switches, but still retains the same form factor with identically arranged RJ 45 sockets and power connections, the co. says.

Beckhoff Automation LLC, 952/890-0000.
www.beckhoffautomation.com



Static neutralizer The Virtual AC™ intelligent static neutralizer system neutralizes static charges on PET bottles for minimum downtime. Static bars, positioned as far away as 0.98 ft, neutralize static charges that routinely impede PET production lines. Neutralized bottles stay in place on moving conveyor lines without electrostatically pushing off surrounding PET bottles, while operators monitor real-time system performance

through lighted indicators on the control module. The system is able to neutralize static charges from preform collection bins and hoppers, and offers static control solutions for Zecchetti models 300 and Easy Pal palletizers.

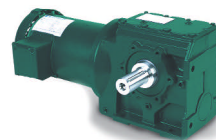
MKS, Ion Industrial, 888/310-3334.
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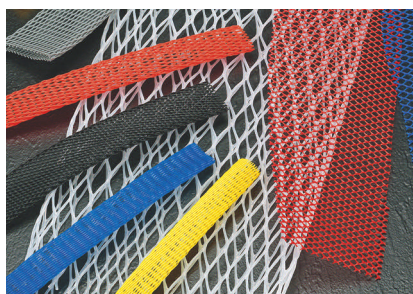


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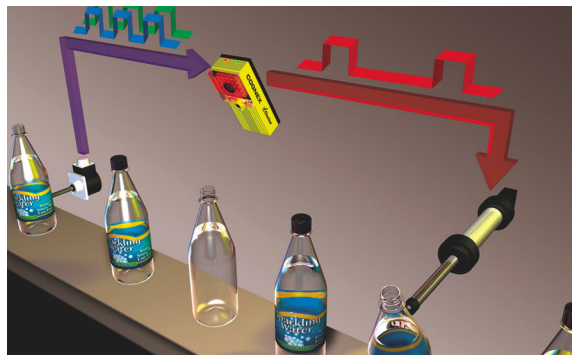
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Vision sensor The Checker™ 101 E vision sensor uses patterns to detect and inspect parts and directly accepts encoder signals, eliminating the need for a PLC when tracking and rejecting parts on variable-speed production lines. The sensor's shift register is automatic, enabling it to accurately track 4,000 parts between the inspection and rejection point. The Checker 101 E can acquire and process more than 500 images/sec.

Cognex Corp., 877/264-6391.

www.cognex.com/checker

Reciprocating conveyors The co. says its line of vertical reciprocating conveyors (VRCs) reduce horsepower requirements and power consumption. All have counterweighted lift mechanisms. A shaft-mounted drive reduces maintenance without a loss of power. Counterweights cut the live load in half and are incorporated into all of the VRCs. A four-post design is standard, as is top-to-bottom guarding regardless of load capacity. Unit-load capacities are available up to 6,000 lb, with a vertical travel of up to 100 ft. Load and unload points can be incorporated at any height and any side of the unit to permit "Z", "C" or right-angle flow. Lift speeds range from 10 to 200 fpm.

TKF, Inc., 513/241-5910.

www.tkf.com

Narrow plastic belt The Model NPB narrow plastic belt was developed for the pharmaceutical market, but can be used to convey a variety of small products. The sturdy unit has a compact design and various configurations are available. The belt is 5½ in. wide with a 5½-in.-deep steel frame and is positive-driven with a 4½-in.-wide, impact-resistant plastic belt. The open-frame top accommodates internally mounted RFID readers. It has a standard speed of 65 ft/min and offers lanes as an option.

Hytrol Conveyor Co., Inc., 870/974-5642.

www.hytrol.com



Hydraulic bulk-bag conditioner

A new hydraulic bulk-bag conditioner features two hydraulic rams with specially contoured endplates to press opposing sides of bulk bags. An optional hydraulically actuated, variable-height turntable allows in-frame bag rotation and conditioning of bulk bags at varying heights. It is available as a standalone unit or as an integral component of a bulk-bag discharger.

Flexicon Corp., 888/353-9426.

www.flexicon.com

Workstation

The co. introduces the Arlink® 8000 modular workstation system with conveyor solutions, recommended for assembly, inspection, testing, rework, packaging and material transfer. The workstation is fully adjustable and its

design allows conveyors of all types, including edge rail conveyors, belt conveyors, roller conveyors and more, the ability to be integrated within the workstation. The workstations are available in five standard industry widths and in three different heights up to 84 in.

Lista Intl. Corp., 800/722-3020.

www.listaintl.com



Cartridge filler

The co. suggests its cartridge filler for void-free, consistent filling of many single- and dual-component cartridges or syringes used for epoxies, dental materials, silicones and pastes. The dispenser's design combines bottom-up filling with a low-clearance nozzle and an adjustable cartridge/material counterbalance system for which there are patents pending. The filler utilizes a 5- or 10-gal PP reservoir insert that can be treated as a permanent container or can be removed to store the materials. The unit can be fed from external tanks or drums using optional pumps. The all-pneumatic system is also footswitch-controlled.

Tridak, 203/798-7471.

www.tridak.com



Labeling system A new carousel wraparound labeling system featuring PatternJet™ gun technology boasts two PatternJet guns, one at the pickup and one at the lap seam, and is a direct replacement for wheel-pot systems.

The closed system eliminates adhesive circulation and contamination from air, moisture and dust, which can cause adhesive charring and degradation.

Misalignment of bottles or cans typically caused by contact with adhesive wheels is eliminated, resulting in more consistent label application, the co. says. In addition, deformed, irregular or odd-shaped cans or bottles do not negatively impact label application.

Nordson Corp., 800/683-2314.

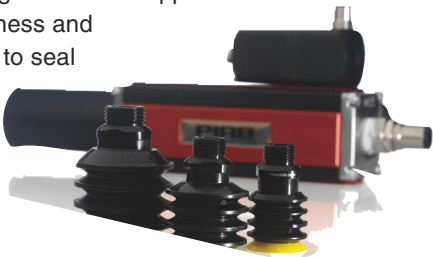
www.nordson.com



Bag-handling solution By combining its P6010 COAX® vacuum pump with an air-saving cruise control (PCC) feature and a durable BL-3P suction cup, the co. offers a complete solution for a variety of plastic-bag handling applications. At the heart of the plastic-bag solution is the P6010 vacuum pump, which is said to provide up to 40-percent more flow than a conventional vacuum pump, while still reducing overall energy consumption. The BL-3P suction cup, made of DURAFLEX® elastic material, provides strength and stability for high initial flow applications while still providing the softness and flexibility required to seal uneven surfaces, the co. says.

PIAB USA, Inc., 800/321-7422.

www.piab.com



F/f/s machine The Adjustable Pouch King® continuous-motion hf/f/s machine uses high-speed forming and filling techniques but adds the easy adjustments necessary for quick and repeatable pouch-size changes, at speeds to 500 pouches/min, the co. states. The machine features a remote filling module, which provides flexibility and sanitation benefits, and an all-new machine configuration that offers ergonomic benefits and easier machine threading, the co. says.

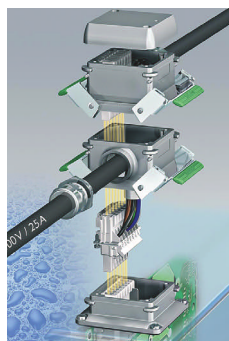
R.A. Jones & Co., Inc., 877/725-6637.

www.rajones.com

Plug connector system The DUPLICON power distribution system is a stackable plug connector system that meets protection category IP67 standards. The connector has six positions plus ground in 24 to 12 AWG for 600V/25A for power, 24V and ASi bus. Inserts use universal screw-connection technology and are compatible with the co.'s ST-COMBI plug connectors. A direct PCB connection on the device is available in 90- and 180-deg models, which eliminates the need for one switching level.

Phoenix Contact, Inc., 800/322-3225.

www.phoenixcon.com



Interlock switches The MA-S series of magnetically-actuated safety interlock switches and actuators feature stainless-steel housings for robust, corrosion-resistant operation in harsh environments. The noncontact series is designed to operate with guard-door misalignment of up to 10 mm and provide a minimum of 1 million actuations in temperatures up to 257 deg F.

Omron Scientific Technologies, Inc., 800/479-3658.

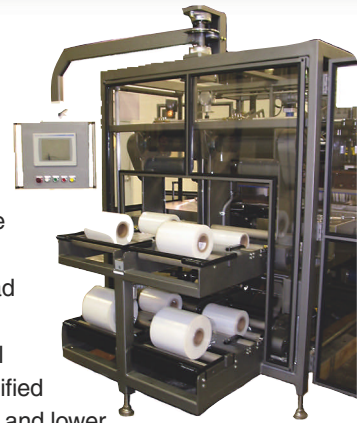
www.sti.omron.com



Film cradles The co. releases externally accessible, easy-to-load upper and lower film-roll cradles for easy roll replacement and simplified film-roll splicing. Upper and lower film-roll cradles reduce the downtime required to reload and splice film rolls, minimizing the risk of operator injury and enhancing productivity to cut the cost of film-roll material-handling units.

PMI, 800/871-4764.

www.pmi-intl.com



Authentication system The co. has developed a software solution that enables mobile camera phones to verify a product's unique, serialized bar codes to ensure authenticity or alert the end user to a possible fraud. The solution, the co. says, effectively transforms a mobile phone into a hand-held scanner that can operate in real-time virtually anywhere in the world using high-speed data-transfer technology. A range of camera phones programmed with specially adapted decoding software can scan serialized bar codes, ranging from linear to 2D DataMatrix.

Domino Amjet, Inc., 847/244-2501.

www.dominoamjet.com



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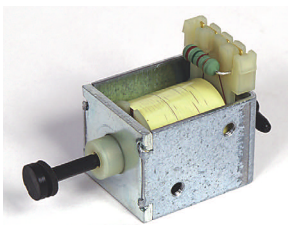
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Solenoids The co. introduces its MagShift® solenoid family to eliminate impact among its moving parts and to provide quiet operation. In a power-ON mode, the solenoids will measure below 40 dBA, including end-of-travel stop. When the unit reaches its end-of-travel position, there is no impact force, which eliminates vibration and minimizes noise. The construction of the solenoids eliminates residual magnetism that can impede performance and allows the same assembly to be configured as a push or a pull solenoid for maximum system design flexibility, the co. says.

Saia-Burgess, Inc., 937/898-3621.
www.saia-burgess-usa.com



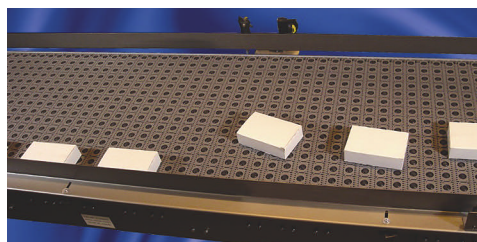
Drop system The new Simple Drop system delivers inflated cushions from any standard Fill-Air® inflatable package system to overhead bins where they can be accessed by multiple operators. Suitable for mid-volume users, this system offers a small footprint while keeping the inflation equipment on the ground. The system can be customized to accommodate multiple packaging stations or online operations in order to supply one or more operators with inflated cushions. Operators take the cushions from the bin and place them into cartons as void fill.

Sealed Air Corp., 800/648-9093.
www.sealedair.com



Wire-draw encoders The new BKS wire-draw encoder system is a compact wire-draw measurement system that includes an integrated absolute encoder to minimize its size. The system is designed to provide high-resolution (up to 0.05 mm) position or distance information for linear measurement paths up to 5 m at speeds up to 3.5 m/sec, even under difficult mounting positions. The BKS wire-draw encoders are available with SSI or HIPERFACE interfaces and a Profibus interface via an optional HIPERFACE Profibus adapter.

Sick Stegmann, Inc., 800/811-9110.
www.stegmann.com



Conveyors The Intralox® patented Series 400 Angled Roller Belt (ARB) aligns cases uniformly without the use of rails, which not only reduces equipment costs, but also minimizes labor costs in clearing jams or correcting

stoppages, the co. says. A significant benefit is the cost effectiveness of the solution as compared to traditional equipment solutions. The co. has been granted a license from Intralox to be an official OEM for the new ARB technology.

Nercon Eng. & Mfg., Inc., 920/233-3268.
www.nercon.com



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North America; Klockner Pentaplast; Marchesini Packaging Machinery, Inc.; MG America, Inc.; Optel Vision; Qualicaps, Inc.; Vijuk Equipment, Inc.; W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc. and many more.

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Printer/coder

The co. introduces the new EasyPrint Duo thermal-transfer printer/coder to offer intermittent and continuous operation in a single machine. This new printer provides flexibility on the packaging line by offering dual-motion capability and an easy-to-change, clutchless ribbon cassette for improved reliability, the co. says. The product provides variable-data printing and coding directly onto substrates such as film, foil and Tyvek. Typical uses include the printing of product/company identification, scannable bar codes, real-time variable data, lot/expiration date coding and nutritional facts.

Bell-Mark Corp., 973/882-0202.
www.bell-mark.com



Beverage filler The co. introduces the Combi Eurotronica FM-C for carbonated drinks, which combines blowing technology and volumetric flow meter filling technology with output rates up to 61,200 bottles/hr. Each flow meter that measures the volume fed has its own printed circuit board that controls filling-valve opening and closing and remains in constant dialogue, through infrared technology, with the machine's central controller. The filler also features reduced pressure during the preform blowing process in the hold for a reduction in energy consumption.

Sidel, 678/221-3000.
www.sidel.com

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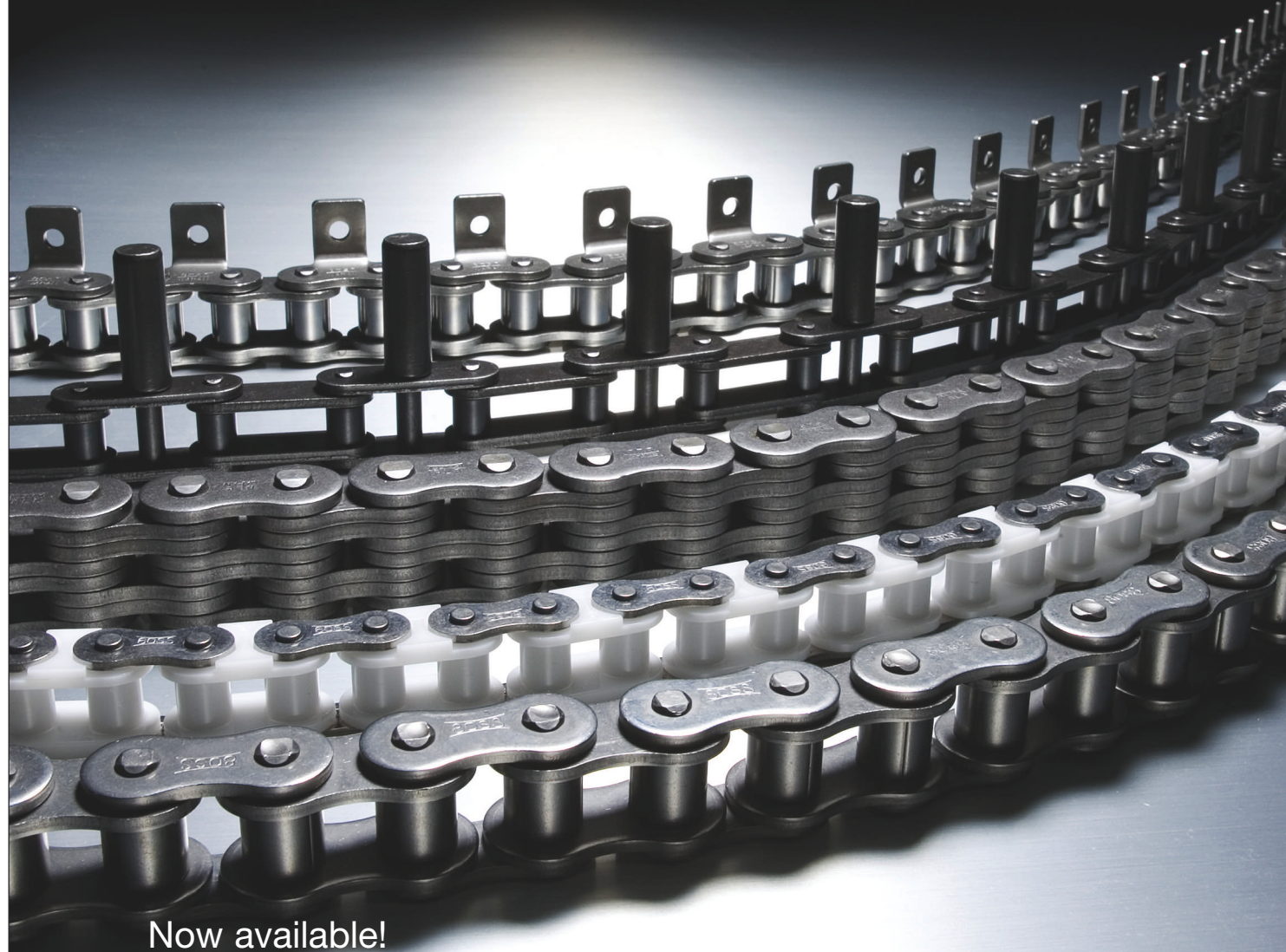
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Servo-driven vff/s The co. upgrades its high-speed XPDIUS vff/s bagger series, now available in stainless-steel Models XP800 and XP1200. Suitable for applications such as candy, nuts, grains, cheese, pasta, pharmaceuticals and more, the systems are equipped with additional servo-motor controls for the pneumatic sealing jaws, allowing an operator to electronically adjust the jaw openings to increase production speeds by as much as 30 percent over previous models, the co. says. The series runs most bags ranging in size from 3 in. W and L to 16 in. L. The intermittent-motion vff/s bagger positions the film on the bag former to ensure exact cutoff lengths. A user-friendly touchscreen control can be interfaced with most scales and multihead weighers, says the co.

WeighPack Systems, Inc.,
514/422-0808.
www.weighpack.com



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new products materials



RFID in metal packaging The co. and QinetiQ have launched a joint program to adapt QinetiQ's Omni-ID Pak™ integrated RFID technology for use in metal packaging. This will allow brand owners to integrate ultra-high frequency (UHF) RFID tags into metal packaging for a wide variety of applications at the unit level. Designed to mitigate issues such as signal reflection, detuning and grounding that can reduce or negate RFID's effectiveness on metal packaging or with aqueous-based products, the standalone Omni-ID Tag™ and integrated Omni-ID Pak™ technologies are said to leverage several of metal's inherent properties and shifts the format into an advantageous position. UHF tags may be mounted directly onto a metal substrate. The unique tag structure measures less than 1 mm thick and collects and focuses RF energy for efficient coupling to a chip. Using a beverage or food can as an example, the can itself would serve as the antenna, simplifying production of the RFID tag and further reducing costs. Existing Gen 1 and Gen 2 RFID tags complete the equation. The RFID chips need a short coupling antenna, and the co. says space is freed up on-pack for graphics and key messaging due to the small tag footprint.

Crown/QinetiQ Technology, 215/698-5051.
www.crowncork.com

Frosted glass look Creating a frosted look in molded plastic bottles and extruded sheet is a new Masterbatch molded-in frosted color that the co. says eliminates the need for painting to lower costs by as much as 90 percent. Giving stretch/blow-molded PET bottles and thermoformed containers made from extruded sheet a frosted-glass look for use with cosmetics, alcohol and other high-end products has, until now, been a spray-painting process. The new process can allow processors to use a masterbatch to add frosting and gain a more durable package. The co. says the color occurs throughout the wall, so it cannot be scraped off, and the package won't shatter if dropped. The color can be formulated for use with acrylic and polycarbonate and can also be formulated with the co.'s new Formula X™ PET binder system, which eliminates predrying. The flexible product can be tinted to create other effects such as the soft blue or green tones of vintage glass.

Ampacet Corp., 914/631-6600.
www.ampacet.com



Sorbent packs The co. expands its sorbent technology into the organics market with FreshPax®, FreshMax® and FreshCard® oxygen absorbers. Designed to keep foods fresh longer, improve brand integrity and enable greater product distribution flexibility, the products are suitable for natural and organic foods because they remove the need for food additives and preservatives, the co. states. Oxidation within packaging can result in mold growth, unpleasant odors and food spoilage visible to consumers at point of purchase or after opening the package. The sorbents prevent growth of aerobic pathogens, including molds, and eliminate the need for additives such as GHA, BHT, sulfur dioxide, sorbates, benzoates and others and prolong the shelf life of a variety of foods.

Multisorb, 888/767-2368.
www.multisorb.com



Cello replacement

The co. says its latest twist-wrap development, WrapStar®, is a newly developed material designed to compete directly with cellophane in terms of price and performance. The 5-layer cast-modified, high-crystalline PE-based film was developed in conjunction with German sister co., Ebert Folien. WrapStar is said to exhibit excellent twist and deadfold properties and features high clarity and gloss. The film is heat-sealable and works well on cut-and-wrap machines and folding applications for confections such as caramels and salt-water taffy. Three years in the making, the film resists becoming brittle after a few months, and leadtimes can be counted in weeks or even days from the just-in-time supplier. Comes in clear, printed, metallized and stripe-metallized versions in three grades: TWN250 with a yield of 25,000 sq in./lb or 28 gr/m²; TWN225 with a yield of 22,500 sq in./lb or 31 gr/m² and TWN195, yielding 19,500 sq in./lb or 36 gr/m². A white film will be added soon.

Multifilm Packaging Corp., 800/837-9727.
www.constantia-multifilm.com



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newsmakers

MOVERS & SHAKERS

Beckhoff Automation promotes Mark Lewis to support manager. He will be responsible for managing Beckhoff's



Mark Lewis
Beckhoff Automation

technical support, field service and repairs departments. Beckhoff also hires Mark Whitaker as regional sales manager for states in the U.S. Mountain Time Zone.

Adhesives Research, Inc. promotes Geoff Bennett to president. He previously held positions of president of Adhesives Research Europe and vp and general manager of the ARcare® Div.

B&H Labeling Systems hires James Reilly as northeastern regional sales manager and Lee R. Smith as western regional sales manager. B&H also announces the retirement of Enrique Rojas-Dourthe, who has served as director of sales for South America at B&H for the last 10 years.

Chromaticity, Inc. adds Ian Mackenzie to its executive team.



David J. Mammolenti
Belvac Production Machinery

Belvac Production Machinery appoints David J. Mammolenti to the newly created position of senior vp of operations. He will oversee product engineering as well as manufacturing and supply-chain functions.

Esko appoints Guy Van Puyvelde to the new position of senior vp of sales and marketing. This position covers global sales, service and marketing activities.

Thermo Fisher Scientific appoints Gerry Broski as marketing manager for the Weighing & Inspection business unit. His

most recent position was vertical market manager—Food & Beverage.



Ben Rock
Domino Printing Sciences plc

Domino Printing Sciences, plc appoints Ben Rock to the newly created position of director—global accounts.

Thiele Technologies, Inc. promotes Tim Voit to vp, sales and marketing, for the

Feeder Product business unit. Voit will be responsible for directing worldwide sales efforts and marketing initiatives for Thiele's Streamfeeder business unit and Thiele's core feeder lines.

Vector Packaging Intl. hires Gonzalez Diaz as executive vp of its Latin American Div.



David Willing
World Wide Packaging

World Wide Packaging hires David Willing as account executive to head up its MI office.

Constar Intl., Inc. appoints Michael D. McDaniel to its board of directors.

Continental

Packaging Solutions names Hank Townsend as a packaging consultant and manager of its Houston office.

Elsner Engineering Works, Inc. hires Uwe Gerigk as its new international sales manager and also announces the opening of its new sales office in Bremen, Germany, where he will be located.

Pro Mach, Inc. announces that Charles M. (Mack) Greene, president of its End-of-Line business unit, retired January 31 of this year. Greene cofounded Orion Packaging Systems in 1988 and joined Pro Mach more than seven years ago with its acquisition of Orion. In 2005, he was named president of the company's

newly formed End-of-Line Business Unit, which includes Orion, Brenton Engineering, Rennco and Wexxar Packaging. He will continue to serve as an advisor to Pro Mach.

FleetwoodGoldcoWyard announces changes to its regional sales team. Stoeppler retires after nearly 40 years in the packaging industry. Karin Aronson takes over as the midwest regional sales executive following the retirement of Jim Stoeppler and will be based in St. Louis at the Barry-Wehmiller corporate office. Duane Cappel joins FleetwoodGoldcoWyard as the southwest regional sales executive. Tom Shedosky assumes the regional territory responsibilities for Chicago and Northern IL from sales manager Andy Moyden, who will now concentrate his efforts within the container manufacturing sector.

HayssenSandiacre creates a separate Product Business Unit for Rose Forgrove led by Mike LaPare as director—Rose Forgrove, and it promotes Dave Clark to the position of aftermarket director—HayssenSandiacre Europe.

HEIDENHAIN Corp. appoints three new national sales and product managers: Kevin Kaufenberg, Electronics,



Kevin Kaufenberg
HEIDENHAIN Corp.

Semiconductor & Metrology Div. (includes medical markets); Chris Weber, Machine Tool Div. (includes metalworking); and Tom Wyatt, Automation Div. (includes drive technology).

Dorner Manufacturing Corp. appoints Glen Schulz as new general manager of Dorner Autologik.

Menasha Corp. hires Victor L. Dixon as president of its pharmaceutical packaging business.

Crown Holdings, Inc. promotes Raymond L. McGowan, Jr. to president of its North

American Food Packaging business. He previously served as president—Crown Food Packaging USA. His responsibilities now also include all of the company's Canadian food-can businesses.

Ideal Manufacturing & Sales Corp. hires Daniel C. Kahl as technical sales engineer.

Sumitomo Drive Technologies announces the promotion of Ronald J. Smith to the position of CEO/president for Sumitomo Machinery Corp. of America. His 25 years of power transmission industry experience include 16 years at SMA. Sumitomo also promotes Donald J. Brownrigg to the position of CEO/President for SM-Cyclo of Canada, Ltd., Steve Leins to vp of sales for the Western Div. and Randy Satterfield to vp of sales for the Eastern Div.

LDS Assembly Systems hires Marty Mosbrucker as change parts manager and Linda LaFleur as executive account manager for change parts.

Oden Corp. appoints D.J. Reynolds and Greg Nickols as U.S. regional sales managers for the East Coast and West Coast territories, respectively.

Stora Enso Speciality Papers appoints David Diekelman to the position of vp, business and product development. Prior to this appointment, he held the position of product development director for Speciality Papers.

Watlow names Greg Wagner general manager of its heater and sensor lines.

GROWING & GOING

Laminations®, part of Great Northern Corp.'s Specialty Group, moves its Northwest operations in Wilsonville, OR, into a larger, nearby facility.

Caraustar Industries closes its mill in Lafayette, IN and four tube- and core-converting facilities.

Multivac opens a subsidiary company, Multivac Canada, headquartered just north of Toronto

Xycom Automation adopts Pro-Face Automation as its new corporate name.

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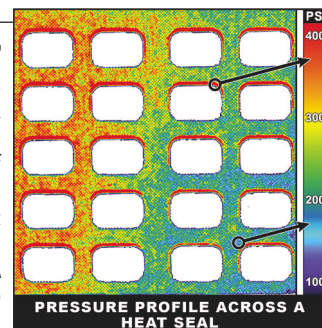
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INDUSTRYhappenings

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

Mar. 16-18 10th International Molded Fibre Product Seminar. Town & Country Resort, San Diego, CA. 414/527-4829.

Mar. 24-27 Snaxpo. Westin Diplomat Resort & Spa, Hollywood, FL. 800/628-1334. www.snaxpo.com.

Mar. 26-27 PETnology Europe 2007. Munich, Germany. 49 941 870 2374. www.petnology.com.

Apr. 2-5 GulfPack. Dubai Airport Expo, Dubai, UAE. Email bilal.merhi@fairs-exhibs.com.

Apr. 15-18 Adhesive and Sealant Council Spring Convention. Hyatt Regency, Savannah, GA. 301/986-9700, x104. www.ascouncil.org.

Apr. 16-17 FUSE: Brand Identity & Package Design. Pier 60, Chelsea Piers, New York City. 212/661-3500, x3151. www.iirusa.com/bipd.

Apr. 24-26 SouthPack 2007. Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta. 310/445-4200.

www.southpackshow.com.

Apr. 24-26 Interphex 2007. Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, New York City. 888/334-8704. www.interphex.com.

Apr. 26-29 Pack Print International. Bangkok International Trade & Exhibition Centre. www.pack-print.de.

May 1-3 World Batch Forum Conference. Tremont Suites Hotel, Baltimore. 919/314-3970. www.wbf.org.

May 2-4 International Assn. of Diecutting and Diemaking and Foil Stamping and Embossing Assn. Odyssey. Midwest Airlines Center, Milwaukee. 800/828-IADD. www.iadd.org.

May 15-17 Packaging Summit & Conference. Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, Rosemont, IL. 262/782-1900. www.pkgsummit.com.

May 15-18 TOTAL Processing & Packaging. National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, U.K. 203/840-4800. www.totalexhibition.com

May 21-24 Chinaplas 2007. International Exhibition on Plastics and Rubber Industries. Guangzhou International Convention & Exhibition

Centre, Pazhou, Guangzhou, China. 852/2516-3320. www.2456.com/chinaplas.

June 4-7 CMM Intl. Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, Rosemont, IL. 603/891-9469. www.cmmshow.com.

June 12-14 EastPack 2007. Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, New York City. 310/445-4200. www.eastpackshow.com.

June 12-14 International Robots & Vision Show. Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, Rosemont, IL. 734/994-6088. www.robots-vision-show.info or www.roboticonline.com.

June 12-14 Pharmintech. Bologna, Italy. www.pharmintech.it.

June 12-16 Plásticos '07. Center of Exhibition of the Government of Buenos Aires, Argentina, Brazil. 54-11 4374-1848. www.plasticos07.com.ar.

June 26-29 ExpoPack Mexico. Centro Banamex, Mexico City. 703/243-8555. www.expopack.com.mx.

July 15-17 Cosmoprof North America. Mandalay Bay Convention Center, Las Vegas. 646/932-1955. www.cosmoprofnorthamerica.com.

Sept. 18-20 HBA Health & Beauty America. Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, New York City. 212/600-3351. www.hbaexpo.com.

Sept. 26-29 Labelexpo Europe. Brussels Expo, Brussels, Belgium. 44 20 8846 2700. www.labelexpo-europe.com.

Oct. 7-10 International Baking Industry Exhibition. Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, FL. 619/298-1445, x108. www.IBIE2007.com.

Oct. 15-17 PACK EXPO Las Vegas. Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas. 703/243-8555. www.packexpo.com.

Oct. 24-27 Worldwide Food Expo. McCormick Place, Chicago. 202/220-3549. www.worldwidefood.com.

Nov. 19-21 Luxe Pack Shanghai. Shanghai International Convention Center, Shanghai. 33 1 42 30 80 00. www.luxepack.com.

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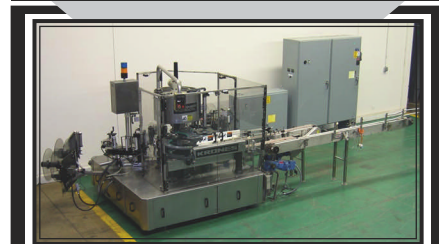
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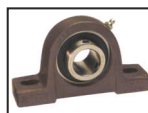
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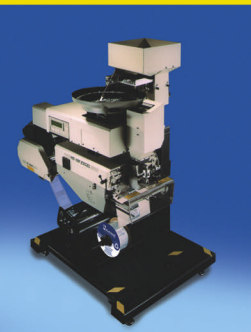
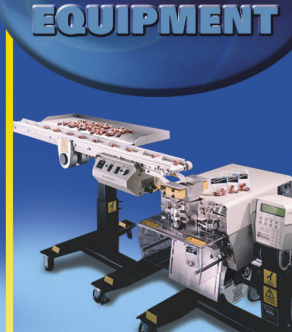
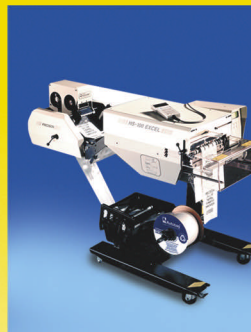
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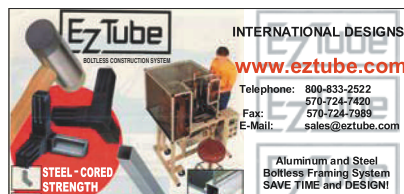
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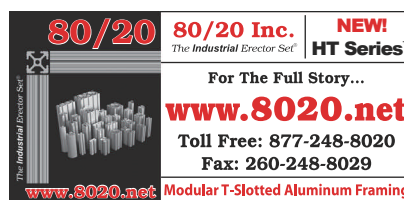
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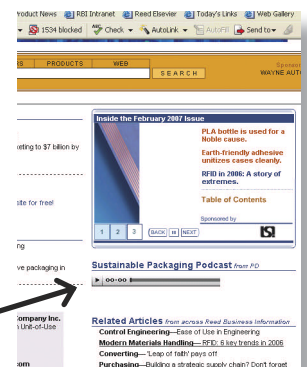
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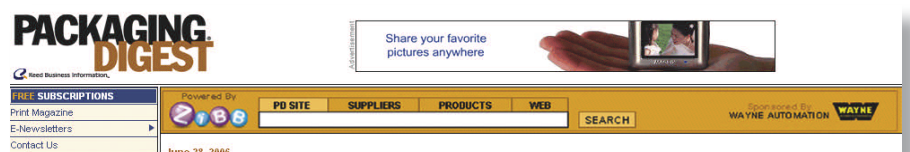
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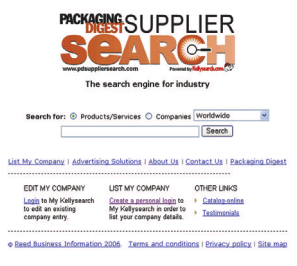


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Traditional French begin switch to bag-in-box wine

The bag-in-box is finally making inroads into France's traditionally conservative wine market, according to experts who gathered there in Montpellier for a seminar in February.

Private-label food and beverage sales set to soar past \$56 billion by 2011

Leaving behind the nondescript packaging and the "generic" identity of a decade ago, private-label or store-brand food and beverage sales are soaring, according to a new report. The report estimates 2006 sales at more than \$48 billion, and projects that sales will top \$56 billion by 2011.

Classic lager returns to iconic teardrop bottle

Anheuser-Busch is introducing Michelob Lager and Michelob Light in elegantly redesigned embossed teardrop bottles based on the original package launched in 1961.

Dole to put healthy vending machines in U.S. schools

Dole Food Co. is launching a pilot program with U.S. organizations that will put vending machines selling healthy food products into schools.



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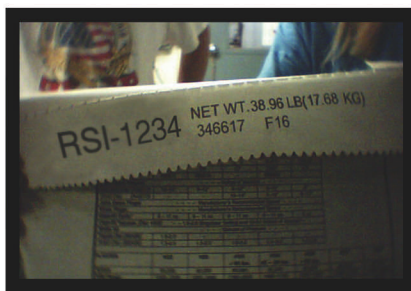
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