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> Focus on flexo

Six converters win the Flexographic Technical Assn.'s 2007 Best of Show awards. Find them at www.packagingdigest.com/info/FTA07

Alternative packaging universe

Warehouse club products are sold in bulk, in large multipacks and in beefed-up package configurations. These packaging oddities are the result of a 1936 antitrust law aimed at leveling the playing field in American commerce. Critics say the law has lost its usefulness and costs consumers millions while forcing manufacturers to create unnecessary packaging schemes. Read more at www.packagingdigest/info/multipacks

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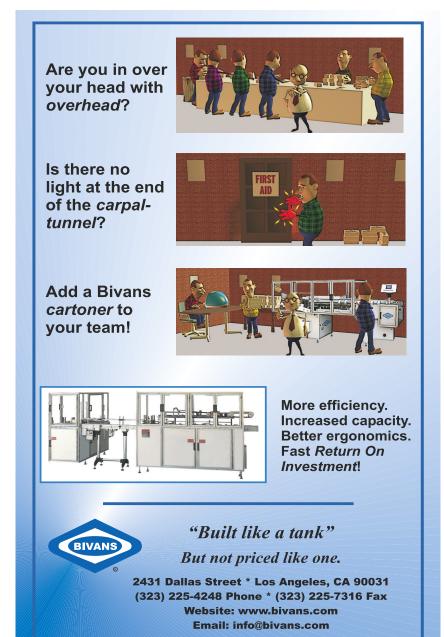




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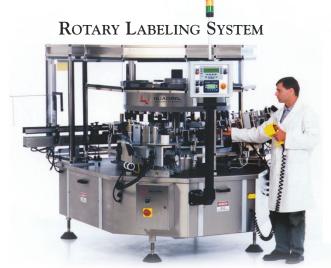


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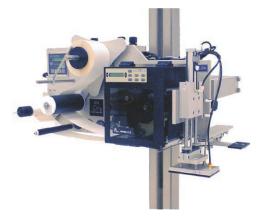
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design trends



Juice label lends a touch of the tropics

Direct from the South Pacific, Hilo Gold Noni Juice, manufactured and distributed by The Stratis Group, is a drink that for several generations has been a favorite of the native people of Hawaii. Hawaiians consider noni fruit sacred. Noni fruit has been used for thousands of years to promote the body's well-being. Hilo Gold 100-percent Pure Hawaiian Noni Juice is now available on the mainland. The 32-oz glass bottle of the new juice product is being launched with a vibrantly decorated and distinctive heat-shrinkable polyethylene terephthalate glycol (PETG) label from the Seal-It Div. of Printpack (www.printpack.com). Stratis asked Seal-It to gravure-print a full-body sleeve label that would reinforce the tropical image of the Hawaiian fruit in order to obtain maximum pointof-purchase impact. Inspired by the Hawaiian noni fruit, also called Morinda Citrifolia, the resulting graphics display a lively green, orange and yellow color scheme with noni fruit and palm-leaf elements printed in seven colors. A neckband made of clear polyvinyl chloride (PVC) was added to provide tamper-evidence. Stratis preferred a PETG label because its characteristics allow it to shrink easily to the contours of the bottle, while the high-gloss impact of the film enhances the graphics' intensity. The total package makes for exceptional shelf impact and sets the juice product apart from competing products, Stratis says. Echoes David Love, general manager of Seal-It, Inc., "The label has had such an impact on sales that we've been told that there are other projects planned for additional products."

Gum sphere provides a design to chew on

Cadbury is "having a ball" with its one-of-a-kind, new chewing gum package. Cadbury France's Hollywood gum, also marketed in Spain under the Trident brand and in Northern Europe as Stimorol, has been introduced in a clever, new spherical, hinged dispenser pack containing 70 pieces of chewing gum instead of the 10 or 20 usually offered in conventional stick-packs and blister-packs.

"The idea of the new package is to create a new pattern of gum consumption," reports Fabien Guyot, packaging development manager at Cadbury Schweppes' EMEA S&T Gum and Mints Div. "Rather than carry the pack with them, people can leave one at home, in the office, or in the car, creating points in their daily routine at which they can enjoy the pleasure of chewing gum."

The plastic sphere is designed to tap into the fast-moving growth in the gum market, he says. "We chose the spherical form at an early stage," he says. "It made a sleeve [label] the obvious choice. The sleeve provides visible evidence to the customer that the product has not been tampered with in any way, and it is the ideal medium for providing full on-pack information."

Cadbury chose film sleeve labels from **Sleever Intl. (www.sleever.com)**, which says it assisted with the project from the initial design to the choice of labeling film to the production and application of the sleeve. Guyot says he is particularly pleased



achieved between the companies during the package/product's development. "We could take full advantage of their expertise, with constant feedback to make us aware of the technical possibilities and how to take full advantage of the Sleever system," he says.

Though carried over from flat drawings, the sleeve labels hug the ball-shaped gum dispenser without distortion or loss of detail, Guyot says. The new sleeve labels are Sleever's advanced SI-OPS-TF/060 film, which it says has maximum tear-resistance to ensure product safety.

"SI-OPS-TF/060 can take the micro perforations that we used to make sure the product can be opened easily while ensuring that it remains clean," he adds. "The film can be shrunk onto the pack using an ultraviolet system, rather than steam, which ensures that there is no chance whatsoever of any damage to the product during the packaging process."



Kono Barú turns the wine world upside-down

In a bold move to promote its new line of wines from the Southern Hemisphere, Don Sebastiani & Sons has released Kono Barú—complete with an upside-down label. "It's well known that we like to market our wines with nonconforming labels," says marketing director Don Sebastiani, Jr. "I guess you could say we really went head over heels with this one."

The initial release of Kono Barú wines features six varietals (Riesling, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Malbec and Shiraz) grown in noteworthy appellations such as Mendoza (Argentina), Casablanca (Chilé) and the Barossa Valley (Australia). The line eventually will be expanded to feature additional varietals from other exotic Southern-Hemisphere locations. "Kono Barú was inspired by the Latin *corno baru*, which translates as "horned fool." It's pirate slang for someone who does something crazy, Sebastiani explains. "We thought it was rather fitting, considering our own reputation for offbeat, funky names and contemporary label designs," he says. Kono Barú is marketed nationally through the Don & Sons' Three Loose Screws portfolio.

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design trendshealthcare



A clean look for wipes

Be it at school, office, vacations or elsewhere, HBA Mfg.'s easy-to-use, portable wipes under the iCare brand get a package redesign as they move to compete with other top-tier brands. The products are about to roll out nationally in large drugstore chains. Consumers can carry the high-density polyethylene canisters and polyethylene pouches (a liquid hand sanitizer also comes in 2- and 8-oz polyethylene terephthalate bottles) along to handle numerous

health and beauty-care needs. This spring, HBA expanded the brand of antibacterial wipes to include several new versions for cosmetic/facecare, childcare, eyecare and healthcare. Using a design architecture from New York-based Moxie (www.moxietm. com), HBA redesigned the original package and created a look for the new products. A new brandmark in a bold font commands shelf attention and evokes the softness of the product. The lettering is printed in silver foil. The packs contain 15 to 16 wipes, depending on the variety. The antibacterial version retains an orange color scheme that communicates their citrus scent. A color gradation on the label, a stylized orange graphic and clean, crisp typography add to the premium image. Primary colors in the graphic design call attention to the kids' wipes product, while the makeup remover cleansing towlettes are distinguished with pale green and blue shades. A gender-neutral metallic silver and blue gradient label gives a premium look to the lenscare wipes.

Says Moxie's creative principal, Tammy Vaserstein, the redesign results in a premium, cohesive look.

Pump dispenses Stella McCartney's skin cleanser as a





The creators of Care by Stella McCartney, a luxurious new line of organic skincare products, have selected Rexam's (www.rexamairspray.com) F2 Finger Pump Foamer for its Purifying Foaming Cleanser, underscoring the growing popularity of foaming skincare products

in pump containers. The eight-item line is the brand's first entrance into the skincare market. According to Rexam, industry research shows that sales of natural and organic cosmetics are projected to surpass \$1 billion for the first time this year and that the category is growing at 20 percent annually. Creating foam without the use of gas propellants, the patented technology in the F2 mechanical pump allows for the precise mixing of liquid and air, resulting in a dose of foam with each stroke, notes Rexam. The instant, one-touch foamer actuator pump transforms the liquid cleaner quickly and easily into a creamy, rich, foam every time the pump is pressed.



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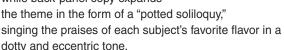
Ice cream labels with a twist



England's Hill Station revved up the branding and packaging appeal for the Loseley Ice Cream line with the help of British design agency Pemberton & Whitefoord (www.p-andw.com). The design firm helped to create a fresh look for the ice cream canisters that also covers point-of-sale,

van sides and a new website. In answer to Hill Station's call for updated visuals and brand values. the revision doesn't appear "too pompous or stuffy."

Stuffy indeed, as the tongue-incheek design is quite the opposite, with humorous but artful, specially commissioned portraits, each by a different artist, that wrap around the canister sidewalls. At first glance, the painterly portraits seem to be old masters, but on closer inspection, they reveal a subtle and humorous twist. The quirky reproductions create a unique humor around the brand while back-panel copy expands



The Jotipac 520-mL silk-finish containers are supplied by Superfos (www.superfos.com), with film labels offset-printed in five colors plus varnish by Verstraete (www.verstraete.be) in Belgium.



"The packaging design is based on portraits of dapper, dour and demure, gentrified folk, tucking into their favorite Loseley flavor in their own idiosyncratic style," explains Adrian Whitefoord, founding partner of Pemberton and Whitefoord. "Overall, the [labels] have a National Portrait Gallery feel to them, and one could imagine them hanging in any grand English country house." The

label graphics manage to look stately, but put a smile on your face, says Hill Station, while they still remain true to the brand's heritage.

PET oval provides a 'method' for floorcare

Method Products, San Francisco, a brand available at Target stores, relaunches a line of floor cleaners in a functional, ergonomic oval PET bottle from Amcor PET Packaging (www.amcor.com). The All Floor Cleaners come in a 25-oz bottle size that's a larger extension of the company's Omop system, which features a starter kit in an oval carrying pack (the kit contains a disassembled mop, a microfiber mop pad, compostable sweeping cloths and a 14-oz round bottle of cleaner). When it comes to Method, esthetics play a huge role in breaking away from the utilitarian look often associated with household products, in favor of whimsical, sleek

designs that can pluck the products out from under the sink and up onto the top of the counter. Method also has a strong environmental stance that includes the use of biodegradable ingredients in its formulations and recyclable packaging.

In keeping with its esthetic and function mantras, Method challenged Amcor to push the blow-molding envelope to support the relaunch of the new cleaner in an oval bottle shape. "The previous cleaner was in a non-Method-looking shape, and we wanted to change that to be more consistent with our design philosophy," explains Jason Crouch, a company product manager. "Initially, the Omop bottle we conceptualized for the relaunch was round, but we found that it didn't give us the shelf 'pop' we wanted." The company then designed the unique, raised-oval bottle and challenged Amcor to develop a unit tool for it. The bottle has a curved, oval perimeter and an oval label panel that could push the dimensional manufacturing envelope for any molder. "Our goal was to be able to blow a 'clean' bottle without unsightly 'touchmarks'—and allow for efficient labeling," says Crouch.

Amcor worked with Method on ideas to solve the capacity and dimensional issues and to help redefine the maximum parameters of the indentation so that the bottle could be consistently blown, yet provide the right esthetics and functionality. The resulting container for Lemon Ginger and Wood for Good Almond was launched early in 2007 and has met with a positive response, says Crouch.



Northeastern soft drink bottler Polar Beverage, Worcester, MA, offers private-label sodas and partnership brands throughout the country. To quench the thirst of today's consumer with a flourish of "retro flair," Polar Beverage launched a new product line in May called Polar Classics. Its bottle of choice? An 11.5-oz glass long-neck from Vitro Packaging, Inc. (www/vitro.com). After 10 years away from glass packaging, Polar Beverage understands that today's marketplace is craving packaging that's different and innovative. Polar wanted to create high shelf impact while presenting consumers with a vintage, retro image. VitroSolutions assisted with the creation of a new glass container presentation for

and Black Berry soda flavors. The tapered bottle has a distinctive, bulb neck and a twist-crown finish that harks back to the 1950s and 1960s. Rounding out the presentation are visuals for the Polar Classic brand incorporating Vitro's three-color Applied Ceramic Lithographic screen-printing process. The decoration features an oval, front-panel label design and the bottler's polar-bear graphic motif. VitroSolutions also provided a crown closure and paperboard six-pack carriers.





Chunk cheese opens with ease

Chunk cheeses from San Antonio-based H-E-B Grocery Co. now have an easy-open package with wraparound graphics, courtesy of Curwood's (www. curwood.com) Clear-Tite® Surround® shrinkable bags. With low haze and high gloss, the bags feature toughness and high barriers engineered to protect the cheeses through shipping and refrigeration, and they have an EZ Peel® opening. The EZ Peel system allows each bag to open at an engineered peel point

without the use of knives or scissors, yet the bag is said to exhibit uncompromised sheer, puncture and seal strength to guard freshness and flavor. The family of seven private-label, 2-lb cheeses stands out in the dairy case with color-coded, jewel-toned, flexo-printed graphics in four process plus four line colors around the entire perimeter of each bag. Curwood says the 360-deg Surround printing technology enhances branding by eliminating "no print zones."

design trends

Restaging Suave package proves profitable

You don't always get what you pay for. In Unilever's case, with the recent restaging of its Suave® Naturals line of botanically based shampoos and conditioners, it got much more. Working closely with structural packaging designer 4sight, Inc. (www.4sightinc.

com), Unilever embarked upon the project two years ago with what 4sight president Stuart Leslie says was a "crystal-clear" objective: to find incremental cost savings throughout the Suave packaging system. But what resulted was a bottle-and-cap design

that not only significantly reduces the company's manufacturing costs, but also provides a greatly enhanced brand image that has led to a growth in sales.

Central to the success of the restaging, relates Leslie, was

Unilever and 4sight's comprehensive evaluation of Unilever's existing packaging and filling processes. Through observation, they determined that maximum filling efficiency would be gained by replacing Suave's existing cylindrical bottle with one that was round in

those places where it made contact with the equipment. The bottle's sides are contoured, giving the container a subtle, feminine, hourglass shape and making it easier for consumers to grasp with wet hands in the shower.

Suave

To reduce material costs, 4sight designed the new bottle-in a 15oz size and a 24-oz family-size version—with a stronger top-load ability and a shorter finish height with a snap-on cap, eliminating much of the plastic typically used for the neck thread. A shorter, wider cap also reduces material use and it handles better during unscrambling. The shampoo bottles are made from a clear polyethylene terephthalate and are supplied by Matrix Packaging (www.matrixpackaging.com), while the conditioners come in opaquewhite high-density polyethylene bottles from Matrix and Alpla (www.alpla. com). The polypropylene caps, which 4sight convinced Unilever to change from a Suave-blue color to a more elegant, clear, pearlescent look, are supplied by Seaquist Closures (www. seaquistclosures.com).

Also key in the redesign, adds
Leslie, was an understanding
of Suave's consumers and their
expectations. "Suave products are
targeted at the smart consumer," he
says. "The challenge was to find a look
that conveys quality without making
consumers feel like they are overpaying
for the product." The design they
chose, he notes, integrates visual cues
of shape, color and texture, without
frivolous decoration, to communicate
Suave's positioning of quality and
performance at a great price.

Upon its launch, Suave Naturals' new packaging was met with enthusiasm, reflected by a 3-percent increase in dollar sales. Says Eric Yoch, senior brand development manager for Unilever, "Not only is the major redesign of our relatively generic bottle a major win with our consumers, but the added production efficiencies and cost savings for Unilever made it a true win-win situation."







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Comment Lauren B. Hartman, Senior Editor

RFID's packaging demands moderate, but steady growth is forecast

While the use of radio-frequency identification technology in packaging hasn't exactly beat the band yet, as was first anticipated back in 2001 when Wal-Mart announced its supplier mandate, tag vendors are still being tested by heavy investments in production capacity, and anticipated faster growth in demand than has actually materialized. Findings from a May report by Frost & Sullivan (F&S) indicate that the North American RFID reader market generated revenues of \$23.1 million last year. That market will grow to \$241.6 million in 2013, predicts F&S,

representing a compounded annual growth rate of nearly 40 percent. But the reader market is still primarily driven by Wal-Mart's mandate and the U.S. Department of Defense compliance mandate, F&S indicates. "Continuing mandates from Wal-Mart and other retail stores as well as the U.S Department of Defense to all their suppliers to tag their items is a major driver for the U.S. RFID reader market and the RFID industry in general," says Priyanka Gouthaman, an F&S analyst.

Yet May's RFID Journal Live! 2007 event in Orlando provided a barometer on the technology for users, vendors and analysts who gathered there. The exhibits and presentations were well-attended, and the end users are becoming more sophisticated about RFID technology.

While many companies remain at the pallet/case-tagging stage in the technology, others are moving ahead. The conferences exemplified some of the progress: Purdue Pharma's adoption of near-field, Gen 2 UHF, RFID tags into its pharmaceutical packaging lines to boost efficiency and security, and Cardinal Health's move to equip a pharmaceutical distribution center with RFID technology by the



requiring tracking and tracing of drugs distributed in that state. And Kimberly-Clark is using an RFID-powered inventory forecasting system to reduce out-of-stock merchandise on store shelves. Speakers emphasized that the more specific, focused and narrow the RFID objective, the better chance it has to succeed.

Editors note: New Editorial Director John Kalkowski launches "Packaging by Design," a blog examining the effects of evolving design trends. Visit www.packagingdigest.com/blogs.



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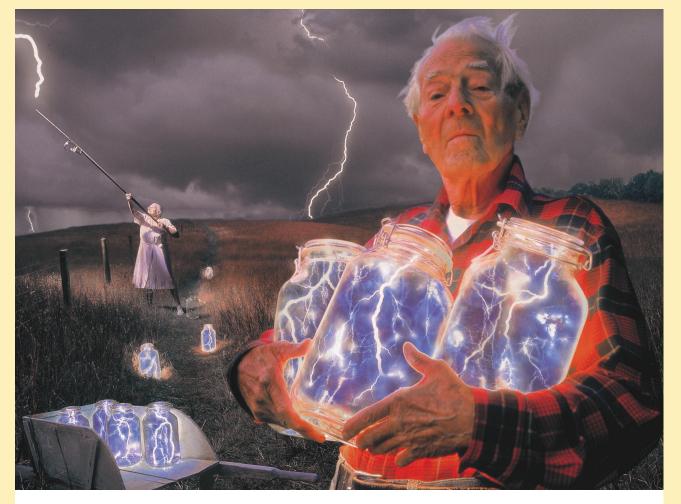
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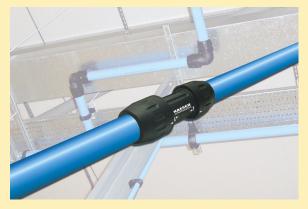
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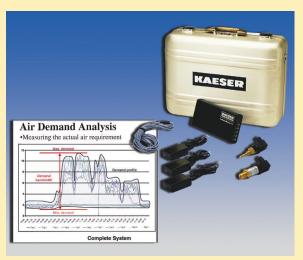
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new productsequipment

Servo amplifier

The Sigma II Series servo system is expanded by the co. with the introduction of the Sigma FSP (Flexible ServoPack) amplifier. Built on the co.'s Sigma II SGDH amplifier power platform, the FSP is said to provide built-in position control for simple indexing operations,



electronic gearing and cam-profile following, in addition to the standard analog and pulse input of the Sigma II series. FlexWorks, the FSP setup software, features single-button auto tuning, a digital oscilloscope, FFT mechanical analysis and wizard setup of amplifier mode, units and I/O.

Yaskawa Electric America, Inc., 800/927-5292. www.yaskawa.com

Braille inspection A recent mandate in Europe dictates that pharmaceutical cos. include Braille on all medical cartons, effective in 2010. To facilitate this process, the co. has integrated Braille inspection into all of its automated proofreading product suites. Its technology is designed to inspect artwork and documents in any format for errors to increase proofreading accuracy, speed and process efficiencies. The Braille detection—integrated into all of the co.'s content-verification solutions—has been designed to work in both hard copy and electronic environments and detects any type of difference, such as color, location and/or missing, added or misplaced text, the co. says.

Global Vision, 800/501-0511. www.globalvisioninc.com



Book palletizer The A+F Book Palletizer debuts, with the co. claiming it handles rows of stacked books for palletizing in columns or RSC cases, or in various pack-pattern combinations from one infeed conveyor managing two products of different sizes and heights. Individual layer patterns are reportedly created automatically.

PacSys Packaging Systems Solutions, 860/599-1658.

www.pacsys-usa.com

Disconnect enclosures The co. offers NEMA-rated disconnect enclosures from Hubbell/ Wiegmann that range in size from 20 21 8-in. wall-mountable, to 84 197 18-in. heavy-duty, free-standing units, available with a full line of adapter plates and accessories. The NEMA 12-rated SDN 12 Series single-door, wall-mountable, disconnect enclosures are constructed of 14-ga steel bodies and doors with plasma-welded seams. The NEMA 12-rated ABN12 Series single-door, wall-mountable, flanged disconnect enclosure is

designed to house Allen-Bradley 1494F flange-



mounted disconnect switches and Bulletin 1494D flange-mounted operators for circuit breakers. NEMA 4X single-door wall-mountable enclosures are also available. Other models include the SSN4X Series, the WAX and WACPX heavy-duty NEMA 12 floor-mount disconnect enclosures and the heavy-duty NEMA 12 freestanding WAXM Series.

AutomationDirect, 770/889-2858. www.automationdirect.com



Weighers New economy-priced DP Series weighers are said to deliver constantly accurate weigh-filling of powdered products, such as drink mixes, coffee, milk and detergent. The model CCW-DP-210 features steeply angled infeed and discharge chutes to maintain a constant flow of powders. Leak-proof hoppers assure consistent accuracy of ±1 g, at speeds to 60 weighments/min, while a double-opening discharge-timing hopper ensures fast transfer to bagmakers and other packaging machinery, the co. says. **Heat and Control, Inc.,** 800/227-5980. **www.heatandcontrol.com**

Hot-melt hoses A line of hot-melt hoses features high-quality thermal insulation and precision temperature sensors the co. says. The co. adds that the external covering consists of rugged, multilayer materials, braided and corrugated for maximum flexibility and protection, with an internal PTFE thick-wall liner with a stainless-steel-reinforced design providing superior chemical-resistance, strength and charfree operation. The hoses are CE-certified.

Shure-Glue/Melton Systems, Inc., 513/874-5581.

www.shure-glue.com

Conveyor transfer The Model

CTU is offered as a conveyor transfer that eliminates the dead zone at large-radius conveyor pulleys, as well as bump-and-run. The co. suggests that the transfer is designed for rigorous



punishment of round-the-clock production and is powered off the user's conveyor.

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

Labeler Including a conveyor, a labeling head and support, a wrap station and rails, a new labeler is reportedly built of 316 stainless steel and is designed for hazardous environments. The co. says the system applies wraparound labels to a wide variety of glass and plastic cylindrical containers ranging from 1 to 4 L, and can be modified to apply front/back labels.

Quadrel Labeling Systems, 800/321-8509. www.quadrel.com



new products spotlight

RFID

Scanner for high-density codes The AXIOM-XTM is now available in a version that can read challenging, high-density bar codes without the need for complex, time-consuming focusing steps, the co. says, while enhanced decode software reduces the number of no reads, even in the most demanding applications. These improvements enable the AXIOM-X to be used in a broader range of applications and provide the highest read rates for most bar-code densities, the co. says. They also make the AXIOM-X the

most advanced omnidirectional laser bar-code scanner available today while still providing the lowest total cost of ownership with a maintenance-free design, the co. says. The AXIOM-X has a scan rate of 1,120 scans/ sec to ensure the highest possible read rates on both good- and poor-quality codes. Most applications require only a single scan head.

Accu-Sort Systems, 877/274-7343.

www.accusort.com

RFID system BL ident is said to be the first modular, industrial RFID system with built-in I/O capability. With BL ident, users may add up to 8 I/O channels on one gateway. Built on the ISO 15693 13.56-MHz-HF (high-frequency) standard for an open system, BL ident can be integrated into existing platforms and supports Profibus-DP, DeviceNet, Modbus TCP, Profinet and EtherNet/IP. It's also the first in the industry to introduce high-temperature data carriers rated up to 410 deg F, the co. claims.

Turck, Inc., 800/544-7769.

www.turck.com



Printer/applicator A mid-range, automated RFID printer/applicator is introduced, capable of performing encoding rates of 32 products/min with reject capability. This system incorporates the patented TampTenna™, which allows RFID encoding to be performed outside of the printer on the tamp pad itself. The full system is delivered with the PA/4600 unit, the RFID TampTenna, a reject module, a warning tower and a stand for \$9,500. If higher application rates are required, a PA/6000 RFID system is available, which handles rates in excess of 100 printed, encoded, and verified tags/min. The PA4600 RFID is part of the co.'s Platinum Series.

Diagraph, an ITW co., 800/722-1125. www.diagraph.com

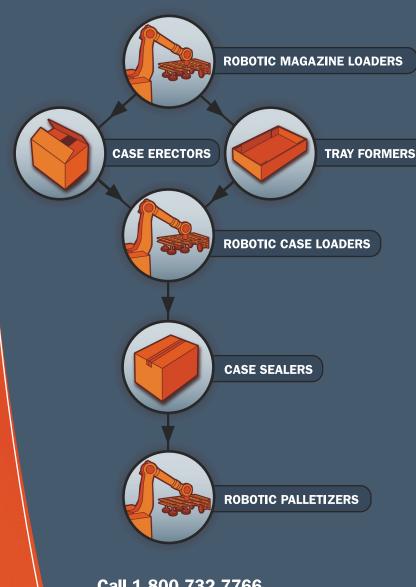
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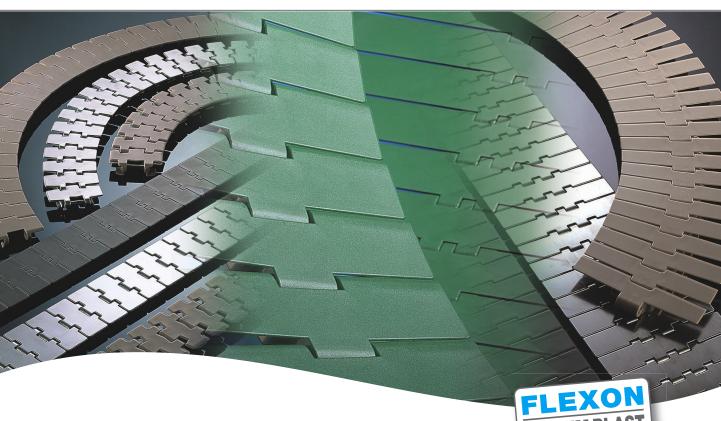
new products

Digital displays A new line of 5-digit programmable LDA digital displays for analog inputs is said to be made in 21/4- and 4-in.-H red LED digits with readability to 130-ft and 180-ft distances, respectively. Reportedly produced as volt, current or process meter with scaling, RS232/RS485 serial communications and dual C relay outputs, the LDA offers lightweight NEMA 4X case enclosures, the co. adds.

Red Lion Controls, Inc., 717/767-6511.

www.redlion-controls.com





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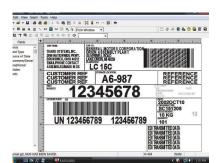




Vacuum pouch sealer

The B400 belted chamber system features a hygienic design with vacuum ports built into the lid and retractable side skirts for easy cleaning. The height-adjustable seal bars are water-cooled and biactive, making the system suitable for shrink-bag applications, the co. notes. Equipped with the co.'s advanced MC96 II controller, the B4000 also offers special vacuum programming to suit the packaging requirements of wet products or cheeses with holes.

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



Software EASYLABEL®

5.6.0.1140 software, running under VISTA, has been released by the co. The new version of product identification, bar-code and RFID software will now install and run correctly on all versions of Windows Vista and x64 Windows operating systems, the co. claims, offering an opportunity for a free upgrade or demo copy for evaluation.

Tharo Systems, Inc., 800/878-6833. www.tharo.com

Lubricant Cassida® Fluid GLE is marketed as a new, odorless, tasteless and nontoxic, full-synthetic lubricant designed for food and beverage-canning applications. Reportedly available in ISO 150 and 220, the lubricant is also said to be kosher and halal-certified, does not contain any natural products from animals, nuts or genetically modified organisms, does not promote growth of bacteria or fungal organisms and is certified H1 by NSF Intl.

Shell Lubricants, 713/241-6161. www.shell.com/us/lubricants/

Software application TrakSYS™ 5.0 software is released, in the co.'s words, with both new and enhanced functionality in modeling and configuration, multimode real-time data collection and post-production edits, advanced analytics, messaging and notifications and the foundation for enterprise (multi-site) intelligence reporting and benchmarking. This results in more intuitive tools that can significantly improve manufacturing operation performance.

Parsec Automation Corp., 714/996-5302. www.parsec-corp.com

Dryer The PowerDry™ system arrives, reportedly designed as a response to efforts to lower energy

costs through reduced compressed air use. Said to incorporate a high-performance centrifugal blower, a small 3-hp motor and an FDA-compliant hose carrying air flow to a unique 6-nozzle air tube delivering successive hits of high-impact air, plus a stainlesssteel mounting arm, the system offers a washdown-capable



design for a wide range of applications, the co. says. Paxton Products, 800/441-7475.

www.paxtonproducts.com



Controllers, drives The

co. says its new SEC-AC-SMLC multi-axis controllers are at the center of a complete solution designed to meet most motion control, logic and I/O needs. The SMLC is a fully integrated control solution that provides hardware and software building blocks engineered to plug together and work as a system. Four models

of the SEC-SDD drives are available with continuous output currents ranging from 2.4 to 14 A RMS/phase operating at 115 VAC or 230 VAC. The digital drives make automatic loop adjustments based on the ServoWire® Pro configuration tool.

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

Conveyor The ProSort SRT (smart roller transfer) conveyor is reportedly designed with multiple narrow belts to handle and transfer products as small as 4×4 in. or as large as 24-in. L and up to 20 lb at up to 100 sorts/min, depending on product size. The co. also says that the conveyor is equipped with right-angle pop-up rollers and is designed for two-sided transfer of items to other destinations. Hytrol Conveyor Co., Inc., 870/974-5642.

www.hytrol.com



Metal detectors

A major upgrade to its family of metal detectors, including Models DSP2, DSP3 and Metal Eliminator products, has been announced by the co., which says the upgrade extends the operational life of the products in the field while improving ease of use, reliability and performance. The co. adds that the new option brings innovation from its new APEX solutions to benefit both older and more recent customers.

Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc., 800/678-5599. www.thermo.com/apex

PLC platform The IndraLogic PLC platform is offered by the co. as a universal control system, now with DeviceNet and EtherNet connectivity, and is the latest in its automation family to serve the North American, European and Asian markets. The co. claims users can now choose their dominant Fieldbus with minimal engineering changes, adding that uniform DeviceNet is now available as a scanner in its motion and PLC controllers, its panel-mounted Inline I/O and IP67 Fieldline I/O systems and its IndraDrive servo and spindle drive platform.

Bosch Rexroth Corp., 800/739-7684. www.boschrexroth-us.com



Motors The new Allen-Bradley High-Power Kinetix (HPK-Series) motor is said to

combine the efficiency of simple induction motors

with the precision of servo-motor technology. It is suggested for material-handling or webconverting applications that require higher power capacities. The co. says the newest addition provides the user with servo-motor precision and performance at the power ranges and prices of induction-motor technology.

Rockwell Automation, 800/223-5354. www.ab.com/motion/servo/hpkseries.html

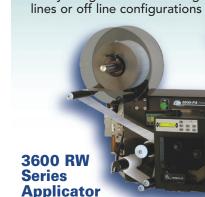


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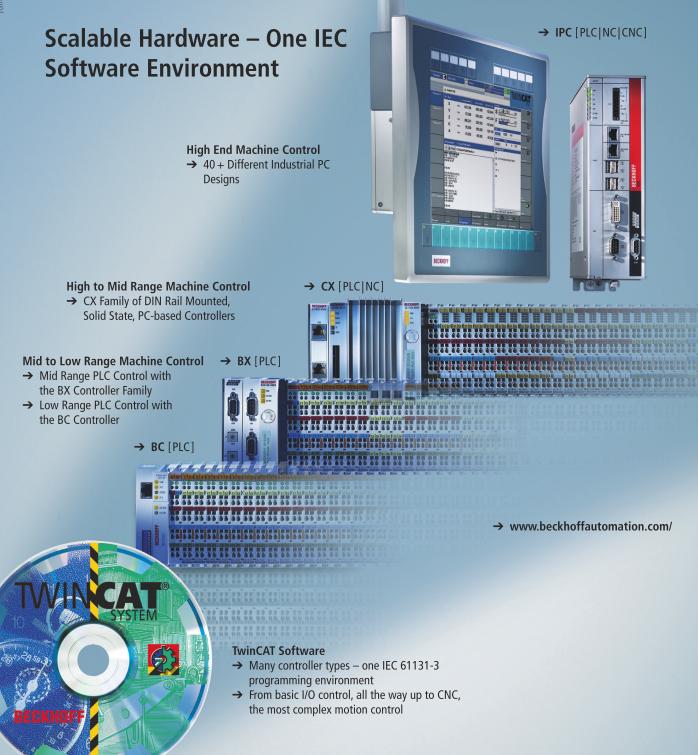
Flexible packaging

Cold foil in 15 shades The KOLDfoil line of cold foils comes in 15 different shades, including silver, gold, blue, red and green. Commercially introduced in the late 1990s, cold foil has become an integral part of flexo printing, the co. reports, and has gained worldwide acceptance in the

label industry. The KOLDfoil formulations are available for the Cure-Tru or conventional cold-foil printing processes and are available in stock for immediate delivery.

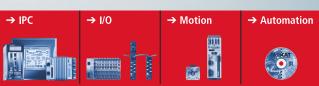
Amagic Foils, 215/872-3982.

www.gocold.com



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CR blister lidding

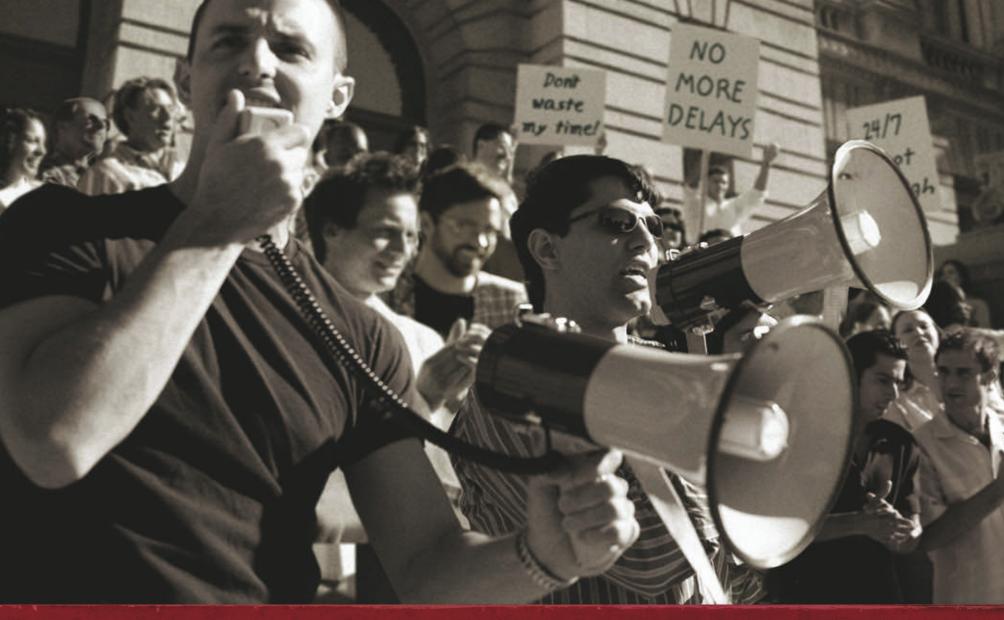
Three specifications within the co.'s Safety-Pak® Plus line of blister-pack lidding include: Safety-Pak Plus PP, a peel-push version that utilizes a conventional CR opening process but provides a full-panel peel without tearing; Safety-Pak Plus PL lidding offers a CR, peelable opening process for fragile pharmaceuticals or unique drug-delivery packages; and Safety-Pak Plus LT, a "locktight" lidding said to provide the ultimate in CR lidding because it requires a tool such as a scissors to access. All three Safety-Pak Plus specifications utilize the same outer 2-mil white polyester film for highquality printing. The film can be used with solvent-based, water-based and CSAT inks and in-line printing processes, according to the co, and it offers a broader sealing window that allows for secure seals at lower temperatures.

Alcoa Flexible Packaging, 804/281-2262.

www.alcoa.com/

Shrink-film sleeves Shrink-sleeve labels have been added to a line of flexible-film packaging services to allow customers to try new graphic concepts and shapes and to bring their products to market quickly. The co. reports that since its primary business is in short to medium production runs, customers can use its sleeves for new label and package development, including trials and test marketing as well as print runs for product launches. Eagle Flexible Packaging, Inc., 630/876-6763.

www.eagleflexible.com



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THERMAL-TRANSFER

OVERPRINTING saves a bundle for Pennsylvania snackmaker Utz Quality Foods, which is 'chipper' about its move to the new coding equipment for potato chip bags and canisters.

The results keep pace with line speeds, 'sack' downtime and save 33 percent in maintenance.



Crisp chip-bag coding at **140 bpm**

Lauren R. Hartman, Senior Editor

Times are changing again at Utz Quality Foods, one of the nation's leading regional snack food manufacturers. When Utz got its start in 1921, William and Salie Utz produced potato chips in their summer kitchen at a speed of 50 lb/hr. Today, it can pack about 1 million packages a day. In the mid-1970s, Utz began to expand its offerings, which today include pretzels, corn chips, popcorn, cheese curls and other tasty treats. At various times of the year, the company also offers snack and party mix product combinations.

Recently, the privately owned and familyoriented company based in Hanover, PA, made a move to thermal-transfer overprinting as the coding method for its primary packages of salty snacks. The reason was simple: It could realize a 33-percent savings on maintenance and reduce

An overprinter on one of Utz's many bagging lines, below, marks the bagstock with a price, a date and Utz-specific information such as a lot number or a manufacturer code, center. The printer controls, far right, are a time saver.

its downtime for code changes. For machine operators, the printing decision is a real time saver, as a code-block change used to take the company a minimum of five minutes, which could become costly downtime for a production line marking 100 to 140 potato chip and snack bags/min. Changing a code before thermal-transfer printers were added to the plant required the assistance of tweezers and



Read how **BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO**updated its packaging operation with new labeling and loading equipment at www.packagingdigest.com/info/blockbuster

wrenches, which only increased the tediousness of the task. If a code was printed incorrectly, the misprinted bags had to be destroyed, and the product had to be repackaged, racking up waste in both materials and time.

That's no longer a problem, thanks to the DataFlex® and DataFlex Plus thermal-transfer overprinters from Videojet Technologies, Inc. (www.videojet.com) that Utz uses at all four of its plants in Hanover. In addition to producing consistently

crisp codes at high line speeds, the overprinters are producing consistently crisp codes. Code changes simply require a few taps of a touchscreen to create the new price and expiration date. That means downtime for code changes and lost production have virtually disappeared. The four plants are located within a two-mile radius of Hanover: The High Street location manufactures potato chips and some corn and tortilla chips and is the site of the company headquarters; the Broadway facility houses a pretzel bakery; the Kindig Lane location produces most of the corn products, such as cheese curls, popcorn and corn and tortilla chips; and the Carlisle Street facility handles hand-kettle operations and batch frying. In all, the company has 50 form/fill/seal packaging systems [from Kliklok-Woodman (www.kliklok. com) and Heat and Control (www.heatandcontrol. com)], many of which utilize a DataFlex or DataFlex Plus thermal-transfer printer for primary product coding. Four DataFlex systems were added to its rigid container filling lines.

In a day's time, packaging maintenance manager Bob Epley can visit all of the plants, sometimes Continued on page 22







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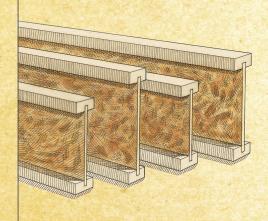
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more than once. Epley says the company uses plenty of flexible packaging. The snack bags are used for products targeted to delis, supermarkets and convenience stores range in size from 1- to 20 oz. Pretzels, cheese balls and snack/party mixes come in 22- to 48-oz clear polyethylene terephthalate canisters

Some snacks are available in canisters that are sleeve-labeled, left. The label stock is coded by the overprinters prior to application. (from various sources). Epley says that the company also produces pretzel, cheese curl and corn and rye chip mixes in tall plastic canisters for clubstores.

Epley says the chip-bag lines usually run five days a week, 24 hours a day, without stopping. The flexible film bagstock [from Bryce Packaging (www. brycecorp.com) and Printpack (www. printpack.com)] is typically marked with two lines of code including a price, an

expiration date, a lot number and a manufacturer code. Most of the canisters receive a pressure-sensitive label printed with three to four lines of coded information in either white or black ink. The label (from several suppliers) is then applied automatically on equipment from Quadrel (www.quadrel.com) to the canister. Depending on the product, some canisters are sleevelabeled on systems from **SleeveCo** (www.sleeveco.com), and the sleeve material is coded directly by the thermal-transfer printers.

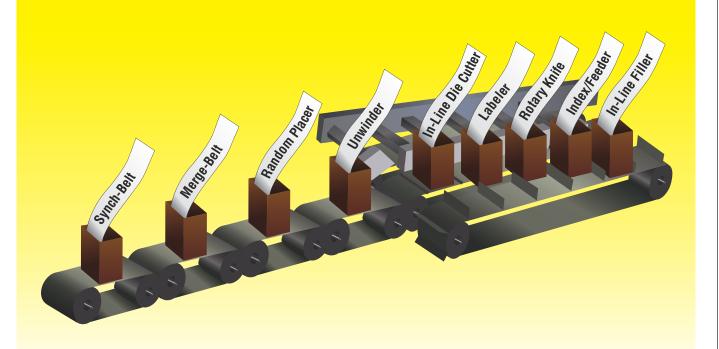
Moving from stamping machines to thermal-transfer overprinting a few years ago was an easy choice for Utz, which at that time, added six overprinters to its various plants. But for Epley and his crew, a key productcoding challenge was maintaining line speeds. "It doesn't take long to code a million packages a day," Epley says. "But we discovered missing or partial codes. That's a problem when running product at 140 bags a minute on four packaging machines. Sometimes, for a three-month project, we can run as many as 150 bags/min."

When Epley discovered the DataFlex line more recently, he began to investigate and really liked what he found. "The DataFlex caught my eye because it could print both in continuous and intermittent motion," he says.

The DataFlex's solid-state, clutchless ribbon-drive systems

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Did you know?

Coca-Cola Co., Atlanta, which relies on soda fountains for a reported 34 percent of its North American sales volume, has

created a new machine that can dispense as many as 50 drink combinations, according to a June article in the Arizona Republic. The "Bev-olution" dispenser is slated to hit restaurants in October, notes Chris Lowe, president of Coca-Cola's North American foodservice unit. The units will allow consumers to make their own drink combinations by mixing a shot of cherry flavoring, for example, with Sprite. Most restaurant soda fountain dispensers have about eight drink spigots. The machine is said to deposit both soft drinks and noncarbonated drinks such as Powerade, Lowe says.



use bi-directional stepper motors. The DataFlex Plus comes equipped with a 3,281-ft-long ribbon, which translates to more time between ribbon changes. Both models function in continuous or intermittent motion, which makes them suitable for the continuous and intermittent operational formats on Utz's packaging lines. Typically, Utz uses the intermittent format to code the large canisters.

The DataFlex overprinters also feature a printhead and a ribbon that make contact with the flexible film substrate, the sleeves and the labels via miniature print elements under a glass coating that heat small areas of the print ribbon and transfer ink to the substrate. The print elements are program-controlled to create images, high-resolution codes, text and graphics in real time.

The DataFlex printers are designed to continuously monitor ribbon tension to avoid faults and breaks that can interfere with production. This helps keep the printing ribbon in control, leaving 1 mm of space between prints for maximum ribbon use.

uring its evaluation of the DataFlex, Utz conducted a trial involving a bagmaker, and Epley decided to include the DataFlex printer in the trial. Once the printing system was installed, Epley realized he had found the answer to the coding question. "The DataFlex hit the ground running at 120 bags a minute," he says. "That sold us, along with the fact that we could use the system on our intermittent packaging lines."

Today, the company has 12 DataFlex printers and six of the DataFlex Plus printers.

Packaging machine operator Steve Sneeringer likes the printers' intuitive, graphical user interface, which he says boosts uptime. "We wanted operator screens that are easy to navigate," he says. "Today, we just tap the touchscreen, create a different price and input an expiration date. And the DataFlex marks 250,000 bags using a single roll of ribbon, versus 6,000 to 15,000 marked with stamping equipment," he

adds. Downtime has virtually been eliminated on lines where the DataFlex printers are stationed. "We just ran 22 million bags using the same printhead," says Epley. "We expect to see a return on the investment on the overprinters withinin a year." That's a tasty recipe for snack-packing success.

More information is available:

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

Bryce Corp., 901/369-4400. www.brycecorp.com.

Heat and Control, Inc., 415/871-9234. www.heatandcontrol.com.

Kliklok-Woodman, 770/981-5200. www.kliklok.com.

Printpack, Inc., 404/691-5830. www.printpack.com.

Quadrel Labeling Systems, 800/321-8509. www.quadrel.com.

SleeveCo, 706/216-3110. www.sleeveco.com.



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A high-speed WATER-BOTTLING LINE for 3- and 5-gal bottles at DrinkMore Water incorporates a monobloc filler/capper and a robotic racking system.

Bottling line is **awash**



Jack Mans, Plant Operations Editor

DrinkMore Water, Gaithersburg, MD, produces and sells 3- and 5-gal bottles of water for water coolers in homes and offices, while its sister company, DrinkMore Custom Water (DCW), produces and sells polyethylene terephthalate bottles of water ranging in size from 12 oz to 1.5 L. Last month, PD featured the PET line, which is brand new, and this month, it features the 3- and 5-gal bottle line, which is two years old.

DrinkMore Water opened its first water store in Rockville, MD, in 1993 to produce ultra-purified water for its customers to transport home for consumption, and in 1996, it began delivering the water to homes and offices in the greater Washington and Baltimore region, where it now has more than

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12,000 customers. DrinkMore installed a complete new 3- and 5-gal bottling line from Aquatyzer Eng., Inc. (www.aquatyzer.com) in 2005. In 2006, the company moved the line to a new 40,000-sq-ft facility in Gaithersburg and added the new PET bottling line owned by DCW, which was described last month (see PD, June 07, p. 30). It also installed a state-of-the-art water-purification facility in the plant.

DrinkMore Water reuses the 3- and 5-gal polycarbonate bottles, so in the first step of the operation, an operator takes returned bottles from a rack, visually inspects each bottle and, if a bottle is acceptable, places it on the infeed conveyor, which transports it to a decapper. A sensor checks each bottle on its way to the decapper to see if it has a cap in place, and if it does not, it passes through the capper untouched. If the bottle does have a cap,

clamps descend on the bottle and pull off the cap, which is discarded.

The next step is in-line vacuum leak testing. Groups of four bottles are lifted up against valves where silicon bladders seal the spouts, and a vacuum is pulled on each bottle. If the vacuum reading on a bottle drops by more than the programmed amount (signifying a crack or a pinhole leak), the bottle is rejected. The controller remembers which of the four bottles has the leak and discards that bottle after it leaves the detector. The system can detect leaks as small as 0.2 mm in size. All of the pneumatic components on all of the Aquatyzer equipment are supplied by Festo Corp. (www.festo.com/us).

The bottles are then conveyed to the washer, which consists of a tunnel through which the bottles Continued on page 26

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are conveyed in a three-wide orientation. During a stop, three bottles enter the tunnel perpendicular to conveyor travel, and the conveyor then moves them through the washer. The bottles are held securely in place with Aquatyzer's patented Get-A-Grip system, in which spring-loaded clamps grip the necks of the bottles. The bottles are inverted, and in the pre-rinse stage, a strong jet of water shoots upward, hits the bottom of the bottle and runs back down the sides. Next, a 135-deg-F detergent solution is sprayed into the bottles. This is followed by three rinse stations. The first is with plain water. The next is a sterilization step with water containing dissolved ozone. The final rinse is done with the ultra-pure drinking water. The bottles are then set right-sideup onto the conveyor and exit the washer. The complete operation takes about four minutes.

Next, the bottles are conveyed to the filler/ capper, which is installed in a cleanroom. This is a monobloc machine in which the filler and capper are mounted on a single base and are driven by a common motor and gear-drive system.

Three bottles are filled at a time using PLCcontrolled timers and pneumatic valves. The water is pumped from the storage tank and is injected into the bottles under pressure. When the bottles are filled, the valves close, and the bottles move to the capper. Caps are dumped into a floor hopper outside of the cleanroom, and are conveyed up to an overhead vibratory feeder that arranges them with the open side down and delivers them to a conveyor that carries them down to the capper. Bottles pick caps from the conveyor discharge, and then travel beneath a small belt that travels above them and presses the caps firmly onto the bottles. A sensor at the exit of the monobloc checks to make sure the caps are in place and pushes bottles without caps onto a separate collection conveyor. An ink-jet printer from Imaje (www.imaje.com) applies a time/date code to the tops of the caps as bottles leave the cleanroom.

The bottles are then conveyed to an Aquatyzer-designed robotic racking system using an 80-kg robot from **Motoman, Inc. (www.motoman.com)**. The robot picks up two bottles at time, orients

them correctly and then inserts the pair of bottles into the rack. According to Bob Perini, president of DrinkMore water, "The Aquatyzer robot has been one of the best investments I have ever made. Our worker's comp claims have dropped to zero, my employees have embraced the new technology and my only regret is not getting the robot sooner!"

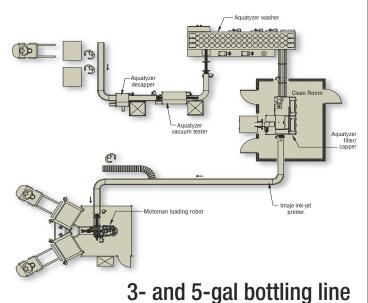
The entire line is controlled by a programmable-logic controller from **Rockwell Automation (www. rockwellautomation.com)**. Sensors along the line detect bottle movement and backups and start and stop the different pieces of equipment accordingly.

More information is available:

www.rockwellautomation.com.

Aquatyzer Eng., Inc., 562/595-5159. www.aquatyzer.com. Festo Corp., 631/435-0800. www.festo.com/us. Imaje, 770/421-7700. www.imaje.com. Motoman, Inc., 937/847-6200. www.motoman.com. Rockwell Automation, 414/382-2000.







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This year's Food Marketing Institute show featured lots of new and **CONVENIENT PACKAGES** to entice consumers to munch those five-a-day fruits and veggies.

Lauren Hartman, Senior Editor, Jack Mans, Plant Operations Manager, Anne Marie Mohan, Senior Editor

From individually wrapped prunes to snack-size pickle-packs, the supermarket show was packed with new food and beverage introductions in packaging that emphasized convenience and portability. The *Packaging Digest* editors sampled their way through the aisles of Chicago's McCormick Place in May, filling their bags with the best packaging innovations they could find. Here are their top picks:

Sunsweet individually wraps Ones

Who would have guessed that modern research and healthy eating trends would lead straight back to the humble prune? Sunsweet Growers, Inc., Yuba City, CA, that's who, with its launch of New OnesTM individually film-wrapped, pitted, dried plums (prunes) (1). Aiming to broaden the appeal and usage of juicy, sweet prunes, Sunsweet launched Ones nationally in January 2007. Twenty prunes come in a transparent, 10.7-oz vinyl canister that clearly shows off the film-wrapped product—intended as a healthy snack—while the tall canister offers portable, on-the-go convenience.

According to Sunsweet, which is celebrating its 90th anniversary, the product was test-marketed with great success and outperformed the rest of the U.S. market in terms of dollar growth. Meeting consumer needs for foods that are ready to eat but not messy, the film-wrapped, single prunes are the largest marketing investment in the company's history, says Arthur Driscoll II, president and CEO

of the grower-owned cooperative.

"Consumers' demand for healthy snacks is no longer just a trend, it's a reality," says Driscoll. "Whether it's antioxidants, vitamins or minerals, bite for bite, the nutritional profile of Sunsweet prunes stands up against any other 'pretty' fruit or snack out there. Prunes are truly a superfruit; we just need to get the message out."

A good deal of that task is being handled by Ones' packaging. The custom, six-color-printed canister, decorated in Sunsweet's yellow, royal blue and white color scheme, helps to position Ones as an indulgent yet totable treat. The printed film wraps inside look like they might contain candy, though they're actually there to keep the prunes juicy and moist. Measuring 7% in. tall and 2% in. dia, the canister has a polyvinyl chloride insert that seals the bottom and a bright-blue cap printed in three colors that friction-fits into the top. Over the cap is a clear, tamper-evident film band. Inside, the prunes are individually wrapped in 48-ga polyethylene terephthalate/80-ga oriented polypropylene film.

Wrapping of the prunes at speeds of 250 to 300/min is on a **Delta Systems (www.delta-systems-inc.com)** Eagle flowrapper line that was installed earlier this year at Sunsweet Growers' plant in Yuba City. The line includes a Delta servo-driven, low-pressure Smart Belt infeed that singulates the prunes prior to wrapping.

"Perishability can make fruit fairly impractical as a snack," says David Lance, vp of worldwide marketing and sales at Sunsweet. "That's where Sunsweet Ones comes in; you can keep Ones in your purse, desk, car or lunchbox, for whenever the snacking urge hits. We're truly excited that consumers are ready to look past the wrinkly disguise and discover Sunsweet prunes as a greattasting, truly nutritious snack."

The canister sells for about \$2.35 to \$2.50 per package. Says product manager Jeff McLemore, since the introduction of Ones, the response has been outstanding for the dried-plum category, driving growth more than 20 percent where Ones are in distribution.

Snack-pack is the pick of the peck

Pickle packages from Mt. Olive Pickle Co., Mt. Olive, NC, just got more convenient, as the company took its whole-petite kosher-dill and sweet-pickle varieties out of the glass jar and put them into a convenient, single-serve, 3.7-oz multilayer plastic cup (2) with a peelable, foil-based lid. Available as a line extension in four-pack paperboard sleeves, or what the company calls its picklePAKTM, the snack-sized cup package was launched this spring.

The easy-to-grip, clear cup closely resembles those for precut fruit snacks, pudding or apple sauce, which has been around for years, but Mt. Olive's cup is a first for pickles.

Each cup is embossed with the Mt. Olive logo and is date-coded with a best-by date that indicates the pickles are shelf-stable for more than one year. Consumers can enjoy the convenience of taking the pickles to work, school, picnics, tailgates or camping. The company says the picklePAK moves pickles from the refrigerator to anywhere you want

to go. Mt. Olive reports that the packages will be marketed in the pickle aisle at stores and in standalone grocery displays later this summer.

Vaccum-formed by **Printpack** (www. printpack.com) of a clear, proprietary material designed to achieve specific barrier and performance requirements, the cup technology was in development at least a year, according to Mt. Olive's community relations spokesperson, Lynn Williams. The cup material is sturdy and has the barriers to prevent migration of the pickle juice, a liquid salt/vinegar combination, while the foil seal locks out air and other harmful elements. The outer wraparound paperboard sleeve, printed in Mt. Olive's signature light and dark green colors, includes product-viewing windows on both side panels to clearly show off the cups inside.

Though the company declines to provide specifics, the cups are believed to be retorted. Launched nationally starting in April, the four-pack picklePAK retails for about \$2.99.

Green Giant's fresh packs get steamed

The steaming bag technology for vegetables is a trend heating up at several FMI booths this year. One example was in the Green Giant Fresh booth from Sholl Group II, an Eden Prairie, MN-based General Mills licensee. Sholl Group II unveiled Freshtables® (3), a garden of new microwavable vegetable/sauce combinations in microwavable steaming bags. Both fresh vegetables and fresh fruit are packed under the Freshtables brand. "Freshtables SteamPerfectTM is the first national brand to come to market with a proprietary steaming microwave bag," says Darci Eckermann, vp of marketing and business development for the Sholl Group II. The 12-oz SteamPerfect microwave steaming bags serve three to four.

Nine items in the line include various combinations of cut vegetables as well as single types and sauces that steam in about two minutes. The varieties include Red Apples and Raisins with Cinnamon Sauce, Broccoli and Baby Slim Carrots with Cheese Sauce, Cauliflower with Cheese Sauce, Green Beans with Garlic Butter and more.

Using SteamFast technology from Excelsior Technologies, Ltd. UK (www.exceltechuk.com), the bagstock consists of a reverse-gravure-printed PET\adhesive\PP laminate. Incorporating a windowed front panel, the custom bag becomes a steaming

vessel that expands under the pressure of the steam created inside the package when it's microwave-heated. Through the patented steaming technology, a vent situated between the layers of laminate contains a specially formulated heat seal that opens at a predetermined pressure. As the vent releases built-up steam within the puffed bag, the steam circulates evenly throughout the bag during the cooking process, distributing the pressure and heat. This reduces cooking time. Any excess steam pressure is released through the opened valve.

Sholl Group II says that SteamPerfect has been pioneered in Europe and in the U.S. by Excelsior and is based on an innovative, patented Japanese concept of microwave cooking. Sold in the produce section of grocery stores starting this summer in regional markets, the products will soon roll out nationally. The 12-oz packages carry a suggested retail price of \$3.99. They have a 14-day refrigerated shelf life.

In another application of the SteamFast technology, Ocean Mist Farms, in January 2007, introduced 10-oz pouches of asparagus and Brussels sprouts (3a) that can be microwave-steamed in just three minutes. The pouches sell for less than \$2.99.

Eating fresh snacks is easier

Meeting consumer demand for healthier snacking options and greater convenience, Apio, Inc., Guadalupe, CA, a wholly owned subsidiary of Landec Corp., introduced its new Classic Crunch line of fresh snacks at the United Fresh Expo in Chicago. Targeting shoppers-on-the-go, the line packages vegetables and complementary snack products—along with a dipping sauce in a plastic cup—in a plastic tray with a film seal across the top. There are four nutritious fresh-cut varieties: Trailside Crunch with carrots, celery, trail mix and ranch dip; Classic Crunch with carrots, celery, cherry tomatoes and ranch dip; Quick Crunch with carrots, celery and ranch dip; and Pacific Crunch with tuna salad, crackers and celery. "These new snacks are an excellent addition to the cut vegetable category and reinforce our commitment to offer healthy and innovative products for time-pressured consumers to enjoy," says Mike Casazza, executive vp of sales and marketing for Apio.

This introduction represents the most Continued on page 30



Kellogg changes nutrition standards, adds front-of-pack labeling



In mid-June, Kellogg Co. announced plans to reformulate its food products marketed to children by the end of next year, including brands such as Pop-Tarts, Froot Loops and Apple Jacks—about half of the products that it currently markets to children worldwide. The company is undertaking major initiatives to further strengthen its commitment to meeting consumers' health and nutrition needs by adjusting what and how it markets to children and through new, front-of-pack nutrition labeling.

If the company can't meet new nutrition standards without compromising taste, it said it will stop marketing the products to children under 12 by the end of 2008. "It means we have a lot of work to do," says Kellogg president and chief executive David Mackay. "If we can't make those products taste just as good as they do today and make them as appealing, then we won't reformulate them, and we won't advertise them."

Kellogg, which reports 2006 sales of almost \$11 billion, says it would introduce Nutrition-at-a-Glance labels on the top right corner of cereal boxes this year. Already introduced in Europe and Australia, the new labels will take information printed on the side panel of the boxes from the Nutrition Facts panel, which is mandated by the federal government, and include its key highlights on the box's front panel.

The new labels will show consumers the percentage of calories, total fat and sodium in a single serving, based on a 2,000-calorie daily diet, and will also display grams of sugar and nutrients like fiber and calcium.

Kellogg also stated that it would stop using its licensed characters or branded toys to promote foods unless the products meet the nutrition guidelines. The revised standards dictate that one serving of food must have no more than 200 calories, no trans fat, no more than 2 g of saturated fat, no more than 230 mg of sodium (except for Eggo frozen waffles) and no more than 12 g of sugar. Frosted Flakes, for example, and Rice Krispies with Real Strawberries, will still pass nutritional muster, though regular Rice Krispies will not (too much salt).

In the last several years, health officials have repeatedly warned that the steady stream of food ads aimed at children is contributing to a growing number of overweight or obese children. Under the new guidelines, Kellogg's food advertised on television, radio and websites and in print with an audience that is 50 percent or more of children under 12 will have to meet the new nutrition standards. Kellogg already has a policy of not aiming advertising at children younger than 6, so the new guidelines apply to children 6 through 11.

"Twenty-seven percent of our ad spending in the U.S. aims at children under twelve," says Mackay.





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recent addition to Apio's Eat Smart Fresh Cut Meal Solutions line, which includes fresh-cut vegetables and complementary ingredients for ready-to-make meals and meal components. The Classic Crunch trays measure 5.25 in. wide by 6.25 in. long by 1.5 in. deep, weigh approximately 5 to 7.5 oz and sell for \$2.50 to \$3.50, depending on the variety.

Dipping up flavor

There's nothing better than a good snack dip when you feel like relaxing. To meet this demand, in late 2006, America's Kitchen, Alpharetta, GA, introduced a line of five restaurant-style Queso cheese dips (4) with a unique blend of ingredients. Available in Medium, Hot, Shrimp, Beef and Salsa flavors, the dips were developed by certified master chef Michael J. Robins, who, at the age of 26, became the youngest Certified Master Chef in U. S. history. The dips, which weigh 12 oz, are packaged in PP cups with low-density polyethylene lids from Berry Plastics (www.berryplastics.com). The cups are then placed in glossy, vividly colored sleeves from Carton Service, Inc. (www.cartonservice. com) that are made from offset-printed, filmcoated SBS board with a UV freezer coating that resists moisture. "We introduced the Queso dips in Costco as a two-pack of sixteen-ounce cups, and we immediately started getting calls from consumers asking for a smaller package," says America's Kitchen marketing director Delores Johnson. "We worked with XO Create [www.xocreate] to design the new package."

Following up on the success of the dips, America's Kitchen introduced a line of four finishing sauces—Seafood Newburg sauce; Lemon Dill sauce; Portobello Demi-Glace sauce; and Scampi sauce in early 2007. "People were looking for premium-quality finishing sauces," says Johnson. "These not only taste wonderful, but they are also very easy to use—just heat and serve." The sauces, which weigh 10 oz, are packed in the same style of packaging as the dips. According to a Berry Plastics representative, the finishing sauce can be heated directly in the cup, which adds to their convenience. In addition, she says, the cups are frequently retained for reuse by consumers.

Both the dips and the sauces sell for \$3.99 to \$4.99, depending on the variety and sales location.

Thirst quenchers debut in a kid-friendly pouch

While fortified foods were *di rigeur* at FMI, many of the soft drinks still aimed at kids can be sweet and sugary. Not at Honest Tea, the Bethesda,

MD, organic, bottled teamaker, which introduced Honest Kids organic, fruit-flavored thirst quenchers for kids (5). Introduced at the All Things Organic Show in a 6.75-oz flexible, standup drink pouch, the new thirst quencher was developed for a school lunch, day camp, traveling and afternoon snacks. Three flavors in the low-sugar line include Berry Berry Good Lemonade, Goodness Grapeness and Tropical Tango Punch. Multipacked eight to a carton, the pouches come with straws attached. Certified organic by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Honest Tea reports, the drinks contain a mere 40 calories, are caffeine-free, incorporate 100 percent of the recommended daily amount of Vitamin C and have less than half the sugar of other drinks, the company says.

Fun and splashy, the fruit-filled graphics design for the pouches was created by Honest Tea in conjunction with **Flow Design (www.flow-design.com)**. They're made of a film with an outer layer of 48-ga PET, ink and adhesive, that's laminated to a high-barrier sealant blend of linear LDPE and low-density PE. The curvy, standup pouches are sized to fit comfortably in kids' hands and have a cinched-in waist that makes them easy to grip.

Honest Tea's Brigid Rauch says that the specific pouch suppliers and other packaging information are proprietary. The graphic elements present the Honest Kids logo on a bold, black band at the top of each pouch and are color-coded by flavor. The company has developed nine new, organic products this year, including the fruit-based thirst quenchers, and expects to expand its reach to new customers. So far, the market response to Honest Kids "has been phenomenal," Rauch says.

With a national launch in May, Honest Kids is sold at Whole Foods and Target stores and will make its way to other retailers soon. The product retails for \$4.99 to \$5.49.

Shelf-stable cookie dough is a go

Formed specifically to develop flexible and convenient new dough products for consumers, First Products, Inc., Rosemount, MN, launched its first offering last spring, with the introduction of four shelf-stable cookie dough varieties at Wal-Mart supercenters nationwide. Presented in a 28-oz PE container with a resealable, snap-on lid (6), both from Berry Plastics, the HomeBake® line of Scoop & Bake Cookie Dough in Classic Sugar, Chocolate Chip, Peanut Butter and Oatmeal Raisin varieties, is said to have a shelf life of 180 days, which First Products president Jeff Hulme says is three-times longer than similar, refrigerated doughs.

While Hulme relates to PD that the secret to HomeBake's shelf stability is a proprietary dough formulation, he does

reveal that a lack of raw egg in the mixture and the use of all-natural ingredients both factor heavily into eliminating the need for refrigeration, even after opening. "But we are not trying to say that we want people to spread the product out for a long time," he notes. "We're just saying that it's convenient. Because, from a true marketing and sales point of view, if our turns are not fast enough, no matter what we sell, we're not going to be in the stores too long."

Among the benefits cited by First Products of the shelf-stable cookie dough for retailers and consumers are a cost savings in logistics and distribution, as the product does not require refrigerated storage and offers an expanded shelf life; a dough that is more malleable upon opening than frozen product, allowing for immediate use; and the elimination of the food-borne illnesses associated with products containing raw egg. In addition, Hulme adds, shelf-stable cookie dough offers several unique marketing options. These include opportunities to distribute the product in parts of Europe, Asia and South America, where refrigerated storage space is sometimes limited, as well as its use in fund-raising programs. He also envisions co-marketing opportunities, where sugar cookies might be paired with decorating kits in the stores, for example.

HomeBake cookie doughs are currently sold only in Wal-Mart, in 1,180 stores nationwide, but First Products is in talks with other retailers to develop private-label, shelf-stable cookie dough products for their use. The HomeBake version uses a paperboard sleeve over the plastic tub that allows the product to stand upright, providing a broad billboard of tempting cookie graphics, designed by LiveLight! (www.livelightcreative.com), on-shelf. The sleeves are converted by Innovative Fiber, LLC (262/367-7551).

HomeBake Scoop & Bake Cookie Dough is priced at \$2.98 for a 28-oz size. At presstime, First Products was scheduled to launch a 24-oz shelf-stable brownie mix in Wal-Mart on Aug. 1.

Grown-up's macaroni and cheese

The cheesy flavor of Kraft Macaroni & Cheese has been a family favorite for years, but taste buds grow up. Now, adults can enjoy the mac and cheese Continued on page 32



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that they've always loved, but with premium taste and ingredients created for the sophisticated adult palate. Introducing Kraft Bistro Deluxe (7), a new premium line of mac and cheese featuring fine ingredients in an easyopen, 10-oz pouch, that helps adults bring the bistro experience home with the twist of unique flavors. And to help bring a real bistro feel to the kitchen table, Kraft is putting a new

spin on the classic combo of wine and cheese: Now it's mac and cheese and wine. By pairing wines with the more grown-up flavors found in Kraft Bistro Deluxe pastas, adults can create a memorable meal in minutes right in their own kitchens.

"Pairing the food you love with the perfect glass of wine makes any meal gratifying," says wine specialist and award-winning author Leslie Sbrocco. "Kraft Bistro Deluxe appeals to adults who've always loved to eat mac and cheese with their kids, but now want a more sophisticated meal they can savor with a glass of wine." According to Sbrocco, the richness of the creamy sauce in the new sun-dried tomato Parmesan variety is perfect with a similarly styled wine such as a buttery, oaky Chardonnay.

All four varieties of Kraft Bistro

Deluxe are made with premium Kraft cheeses and pastas made with a blend of durum wheat and whole grain. Each variety makes a one-of-a-kind side dish or main entrée. "Consumers are increasingly interested in experimenting with new foods at home, especially as they try new flavors at restaurants and during their travels," says Erica Hammack, senior brand manager, new product development, at Kraft. "Kraft Bistro Deluxe, featuring premium ingredients, is the perfect fit for consumers looking for a sophisticated twist on a family favorite—all from a brand they know and trust.'

Kraft Bistro Deluxe pastas are available in four varieties. Sun-dried Tomato Parmesan features Penne pasta with sun-dried tomatoes and basil in a cheese sauce. Creamy Portobello Mushroom includes Cavatappi pasta with Portobello mushrooms in a creamy, three-cheese sauce of Parmesan, Romano and Monterey Jack cheeses. Classic Cheddar contains elbow pasta in a premium Cheddar cheese sauce.

Three Cheese Italiano features elbow pasta in a Parmesan, Romano and Asiago cheese sauce. Kraft Bistro Deluxe is available now in grocery stores nationwide and has a suggested retail price of \$2.89. Each pouch serves two to three people and takes less than 10 minutes to prepare.

Reclosable tray brings home the bacon

Claiming to be the largest exhibit at FMI, Kraft Foods showcased more than 70 new foods and beverages in an Internetbased, "virtual world." Its food and beverage innovations focused on four key growth areas for the company: health and wellness; premium taste; quick meals; and snacking. Among the new products, the company featured cheeses with probiotics and prebiotics for digestive health, on-the-go snacks and convenient meal kit packs for brands including DiGiorno, Jell-O, Oscar Mayer, Philadelphia, Planters and South Beach Diet. But the most





high-tech, intriguing package at the booth was a one-of-a-kind, stay-fresh, reclosable PET tray for Oscar Mayer Center Cut Bacon (8). An addition to Oscar Mayer's Ready to Serve Bacon line, the Center Cut product package was developed after consumers asked for it, the company reports. The clear tray with a snapon, clear PET lid over a peelable film membrane offers less mess, while the reclosable benefits are what Kraft says consumers have been looking for. The container structure—the technology and specifics of which Kraft declines to reveal—won't take up additional space in the refrigerator, is sturdy and allows easy access to the bacon slices inside.

"We listened to people's concerns about traditional bacon packaging and designed the stay-fresh reclosable tray to help solve those issues," says Beth Goeddel, senior brand manager for Madison, WI-based Oscar Mayer. "We think our new packaging is the 'best thing since sliced bacon,' and we're thrilled to provide an innovative, practical solution that sets the standard for bacon packaging."

Available nationwide starting this month for an average price of \$3.99 a pack, the innovative, thermoformed tray-pack is merchandised in the grocery refrigerated meat case section. Kraft calls the new package "the bacon industry's first packaging innovation in more than eighty years."

Eggland's Best launches hard-cooked, peeled, eggs

Last November, Eggland's Best (EB) rolled out a new and deliciously convenient way to eat hard-boiled eggs. It introduced its resealable, standup pouch (9) that contains 10 hard-cooked, peeled eggs that weigh 0.96-lb. Currently

available in select retail markets in the U.S., the eggs feature the same taste, high quality and nutritional benefits as EB shelled eggs, the co. says.

"We at Eggland's

Best pride ourselves on providing great tasting and nutritionally superior eggs. Now, we're thrilled to offer those same great qualities with our convenient, ready-to-eat eggs," says EB president/ CEO Charlie Lanktree.

The product is contract-packed by Almark Foods, Gainesville, GA, and at another plant in Pennsylvania. The pouches are gas-flushed before the eggs are loaded into them.

J. Roy Parcels Assoc. (www. jroyparcels.com) designed the pouches, which sell for about \$2.99, depending on location.

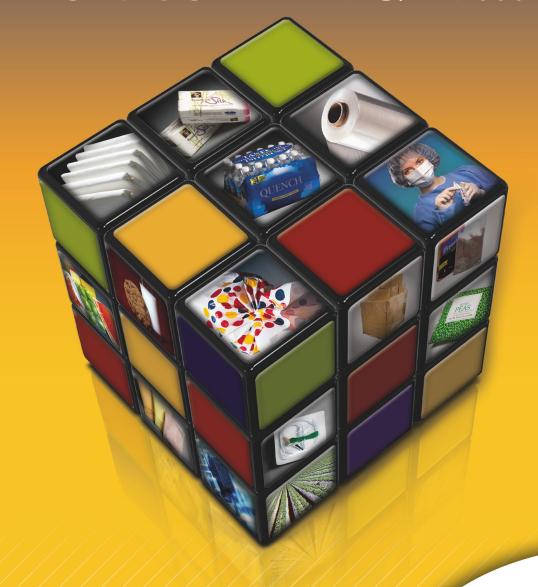
The pouches, which are supplied by **Exopack (www.exopack.com)**, are made from PET film that is flexoprinted in eight colors. A surface coating is laminated to the film to seal the printing. The film is then formed into pouches, and zippers are applied

For busy consumers, EB's hard-cooked, peeled eggs are great for making egg salad or as a simple, healthy snack on the run.

Hard-cooked to perfection and peeled for convenience, this new way to enjoy EB eggs is perfect for cooking.

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Gourmet pie gets carton

Packaging for soap-opera star Mary Beth Evans' generously sized, mail-order pie goes gourmet with a striking carton created by Display Pack. The converter designs the sturdy, six-sided container to securely hold the 4.5-lb frozen dessert from MARY BETH'S APPLE PIE CO., with graphics that highlight the pie's homemade origins.

Anne Marie Mohan, Senior Editor

Two years ago, soap-opera star Mary Beth Evans took a pie-in-the-sky idea from inspiration to, literally, pie in the sky. The actress, who appears in the daytime drama "As the World Turns," says that for years, she had prepared luscious, homemade apple pies based on a family recipe for use as gifts. In more recent years, Evans had begun presenting the pies uncooked. "The kids and I thought it would be much more fun for our friends and family to get the pies frozen and uncooked, so that they could enjoy the beautiful smells in their own homes when they baked them."

Catalyzed in 2005 by a newspaper article that compared the merits of various available mail-order apple-pie products, Evans decided to launch her own rendition—a 4.5-lb dessert made in her Pasadena, CA, kitchen. With some marketing help from friends and from soap-opera media, Evans' fledgling cottage industry, known as Mary Beth's Apple Pie Co., quickly caught the attention of specialty food consumers, and in 2006, she handmade, wrapped and shipped nearly 1,000 pies.

In April, Evans introduced packaging for her pies that replaced a simple cellophane and ribbon wrap. The unique, hexagon-shaped folding carton was designed by Grand Rapids, MI-based converter **Display Pack (www.displaypack.com)** to provide the support required for transporting the hefty pie,

com). It was here that she met with Display Pack sales representative Dan Peplinski, who exposed her to some unique sample cartons designed by the converter.

One sample in particular caught Evans' eye: a six-sided folding carton with an automatic top

In our Creative Services department, we have the luxury of working with 500 manufacturing experts.

while using six panels to tell Evan's "I'll make it, you bake it" story.

ntil January, Mary Beth's Apple Pie Co. had relied on direct-mail postcards, a company website (http://marybethsapplepie.com) and mentions in soap-opera magazines to promote its mail-order pies. Early this year, Evans brought her company to a broader audience when she exhibited at the Winter Fancy Foods Show in San Francisco, sponsored by the National Assn. for the Specialty Food Trade, Inc. (www.specialtyfood.

designed in a rosette pattern. "The box was so fun and different," she recalls. Furthermore, she adds, she was excited about the possibility of using a more sophisticated package for her product that was easier-to-assemble and provided more protection than her existing wrapping method.

Continued on page 36

A sturdy, six-sided folding carton with an automatic bottom and an automatic top in a rosette-style pattern, left and right, is used to convey 4.5-lb apple pies made by soap-opera star Mary Beth Evans, center.







TWO-DOOR TWO-DESIGNED TO DELIVER.

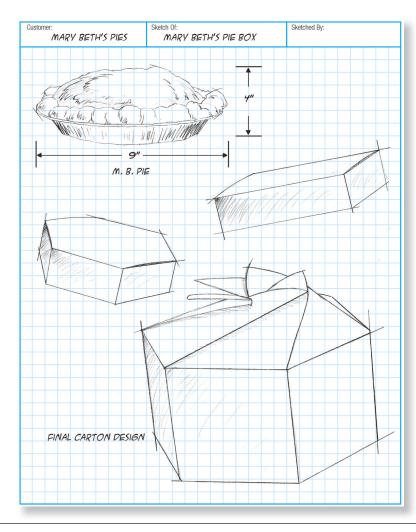


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"I was packaging my pie the same way I had when I made it for my kids' teachers, which was always a cellophane overwrap tied with shocking-pink raffia ribbons and chartreuse-green letterpress tags," she says. "Everybody loved that packaging; it looked very homemade, and you could see the pie inside. But it was really costly to have someone wrap each pie like that, and it didn't really provide enough protection for shipping.'

After the initial meeting, Peplinski returned to Grand Rapids with a Mary Beth's Apple Pie Co. brochure, which Display Pack's Creative Services department used as a springboard to merge the pie company's homespun brand identity with a creative folding carton design that could meet Evans' packaging requirements.

isplay Pack, a 500-employee, family-owned business established in 1967 by Roger Hansen as a skin-board packaging provider, today

Shown here is a sketch produced by a member of the Creative Services team during a brainstorming session for the pie carton.

offers thermoforming, printing and contract-packaging services and claims to be the world's top supplier of inmold thermoforming for automotive applications. With a full complement of services—including creative design, tooling, and warehousing and logistics—Display Pack says it differentiates itself from its competitors by being a single-source provider to customers in a diverse range of industries, including consumer goods, food, health and beauty, cosmetics, hardware, electronics and others.

"We are uniquely differentiated in the packaging industry," relates Marty Tidball, Display Pack's director of sales and marketing. "We are one of the few suppliers that can create a conceptual design and then take that design all the way through the tooling process and then print, thermoform and contractpackage, all in-house. We offer stocking and distribution programs as well, so in effect, our customers are only working with one supplier from design to distribution, which reduces their costs and eliminates some of the hassles that a traditional supply chain can create."

In 2005, under the direction of

Talk, talk.



Roger Hansen's son, Victor, who was named president in 2004, Display Pack formed its Creative Services department. Explains Kristie Vos, graphic arts manager at Display Pack, the department was developed not only to help customers create attractive graphic designs, but it was also established to provide them with innovative yet functional package designs that run quickly and efficiently both on converting and packaging equipment.

"In our department, we have the luxury of working with 500 manufacturing experts," Vos says. "We've seen our customers struggling because they don't have these huge staffs of packaging engineers. We have the expertise on staff to understand the manufacturing process of the package that we are going to be creating for a customer."

The Creative Services department comprises six dedicated staff members. When new projects are brought to Display Pack, the department custombuilds teams that include designers, CAD and tooling specialists, manufacturing experts and other individuals with specific knowledge of the process to be used. For example, for the Mary Beth's Apple Pie Co. carton, the Creative Services department selected a die-cutting expert, as well as representatives from Display Pack's paperboard division to work on the project.

he first step for the Creative Services team when working on a new project is to have a meeting or a conference call with the customer to determine the parameters

for the package. With the Mary Beth's Apple Pie Co. carton, Evans had settled on the structural design from the six-sided sample she had seen; the challenge for Display Pack was to make it sturdy enough to hold the 4.5-lb, 9-in.-dia frozen pie.

Says Elliott Eckert, Display Pack Creative Services structural designer, "The main challenge was the weight distribution on the bottom of this carton. With the pie being so heavy, the original panels needed some reinforcement, so that the pie wouldn't fall through."

The final structure, made from .024 SBS paperboard supplied by Smurfit-Stone (www.smurfit.com), uses four, interlocking reinforcement flaps on the bottom of the carton that distribute the weight throughout the structure's six side panels. Bottom flaps are clearly numbered to make manual assembly quick and easy. The six top panels combine to create a unique appearance that tightly secures the carton top when manual pressure is applied.

The carton, Eckert says, was tested to withstand 5 lb, while using the lightest-weight board possible to both save money and be environmentally conscious. The bright, clean board also results in high-quality offset printing, he adds.

When it came to the package graphics, the Creative Services team utilized all six side panels as well as the rosette-style top to communicate the Mary Beth's Apple Pie Co. story. Graphics include photos of the sumptuous pie after baking, a rustic woodcut of a young woman carting Continued on page 38

The carton is printed one-up in five colors using a sheetfed offset press. With its innovative technology, the press has replaced five of Display Pack's older models.



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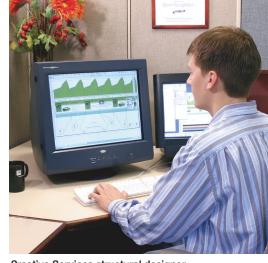
apples in a wheelbarrow and Evans in her kitchen wielding a rolling pin and pie dough. Complementary text includes Evans' story, baking instructions, nutrition information and a "philosophical" quote from Jane Austen that reads, "Good apple pies are a considerable part of our domestic happiness." The carton's background colors, two "green apple"

shades, are based on Evans' original chartreuse letterpress tags.

Says Evans, "The Creative Services team at Display Pack was incredible. Anything I wanted—a different photo here, a different saying there—they changed quickly and easily."

Adds Eckert, "There was a lot of fine-tuning of the graphics with Evans. We wanted to make sure they were exactly what she wanted and that they portrayed the right message."

During the converting process, the cartons are offset-printed oneup on a Lithrone 44 press from **Komori (www.komori-america.us)** in five colors. The 44-in.-wide press is one of two sheetfed presses at the facility; the other is a Planeta press from **KBA (www.kba-northamerica.**



Creative Services structural designer Elliott Eckert reviews the design for the apple pie carton on-screen.

com). Finishing is accomplished on **Bobst (www.bobst.com)** die-cutters and gluers, using custom tooling produced in-house at Display Pack.

s Evans' business has grown, she has moved out of her kitchen and into a commercial bakery, where she assists in the preparation of her apple-pie creations. Likewise, her pies are now packed in a more professional manner, with the generous desserts receiving a paperboard collar before being shrink-wrapped and placed in the new, gourmet carton. For shipping, pie packages are placed in a 1.5-in. thick polystyrene box with dry ice that is then packed in a corrugated case.

While Evans reflects sentimentally on her early hand-made packaging days, she says she is thrilled with the new carton from Display Pack. "I'm sentimental about my cellophane because that's how it started with my kids, but the new carton certainly makes me look more professional.

"I love the box," she concludes, "and everyone I show it to thinks that it's great."

More information is available:

Display Pack, 616/451-3061. www.displaypack.com. Bobst Group North America, 973/226-8000.

www.bobst.com.

KBA North America, Inc., 802/764-6100.

www.kba-northamerica.com.

Komori America Corp., 847/806-9000.

www.komori-america.us.

National Assn. for the Specialty Food Trade, Inc., 212/482-6440.

www.specialtyfood.com. Smurfit-Stone, 877/772-2999.

www.smurfit.com.

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brand securit

In the May issue of PD, this column revealed that enforcement is one of the most significant tools in the battle for brand security. In North Carolina, the Secretary of State's Office provides an excellent example of how one state government



is actively combating counterfeiting. Over the past several years, the office has taken a leading role in the fight against counterfeit trademarks in North Carolina, heading up and assisting in enforcement actions to seize counterfeit goods wherever they are sold from flea markets and roadside stands to boutiques, warehouses and the Internet—making the state unfriendly territory for product piracy.

In 2006, the North Carolina Secretary of State's Office helped take counterfeit goods with an estimated retail value of \$8.1 million off the state's streets. In the first five months of 2007, Secretary of State

So far in 2007, NC Secretary of State investigators have worked 111 counterfeit trademark cases.

investigators have worked 111 counterfeit trademark cases and have seized fake goods worth more than \$2.3 million. All of this with a staff of just two full-time trademark enforcement investigators to cover the entire state. However, those two officers do have considerable "backup" from local lawenforcement agencies across the state.

In 2004, the office established the North Carolina Anti-Counterfeit Trademark Task Force to train local law-enforcement officers to spot knockoff products and coordinate enforcement actions across their traditional jurisdictional boundaries. The taskforce has grown from 10 officers in 2004 to a current team of 31 local and state officers, with many more getting taskforce training in how to conduct their own anti-counterfeit enforcement actions.

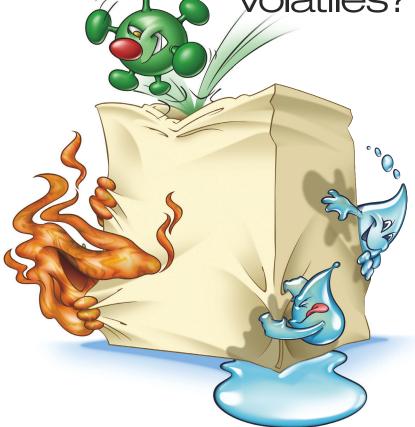
North Carolina Secretary of State Elaine F. Marshall notes that the focus on interagency coordination has been an overwhelming success. "We're seeing such an incredible response from local law enforcement, ranging from the willingness to work together with state and federal investigators, as well as other local agencies, to the increased awareness of trademark violations as a serious crime," she says. "We now routinely have local officers who may raid a location for some unrelated crime and immediately recognize when there are likely counterfeit trademarked goods on the premises as well."

Marshall says that working such cases also helps make the case in local jurisdictions for the active enforcement of trademark laws. "I think that seeing items like pirated DVDs and counterfeit designer jeans alongside a cache of illegal drugs or weapons has really driven home the point for a lot of officers," she says. "There is increasing awareness that the same criminal avenues that bring in those knockoff Prada handbags and designer clothes one day also can bring in physically dangerous knockoff electrical extension cords, fake pharmaceuticals or counterfeit baby food, not to mention illegal drugs or weapons. That's why a zero-tolerance policy for counterfeit goods is so vitally important. That point is truly hitting home now for more and more local law enforcement agencies and more district attorneys across North Carolina largely because of the work of the taskforce."

The North Carolina Secretary of State's leadership and the success of the North Carolina Anti-Counterfeit Task Force have also caught the attention of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which recently picked North Carolina to play host to the first of a national series of forums focusing on the danger and the cost of counterfeiting and product piracy to the U.S.

For more information, visit Secretary of State Elaine F. Marshall's website at www.sosnc.com.

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The PLC on the vf/f/s machine maintains the recipes for all of the products in memory, and the operator can recall them at a touch.

A vertical form/fill/seal machine, with a radial weighing system, runs more than 1,000 skus at International Foodsource, LLC, a supplier of bagged dry products to retail and foodservice companies.





Vertical form/fill/seal machine runs dry products

Jack Mans, Plant Operations Editor

International Foodsource, LLC supplies high quality, natural dried food products from all over the world to customers in the U.S. The major part of its business is retail accounts, such as the H-E-B grocery store chain headquartered in San Antonio, TX, but it also supplies larger-size packages of products to foodservice companies. IFS was started in 2004 and moved into its present 100,000-sq-ft facility in 2006, where it is currently running more than 1,000 stock-keeping units, some packaged in up to seven configurations ranging from small retail packs to large industrial sizes.

Since its founding, IFS has purchased 13 automatic scales and bagging machines from Weighpack Systems, Inc. (www.weighpack.com), ranging from their first in 1996, a two-lane Tigerscale and Zippy bagger that run preformed bags, to their current high-speed vertical form/fill/seal machines with overhead combination radial weighing systems. In fact, IFS president David Lipson bought the first bagging machine that Weighpack ever built. "I'm very happy with Weighpack," he says. "Their pricing is very reasonable, and their machines are extremely rugged and high quality. I run a lot of product, and if the machines weren't as tough as they are, I'd break them."

Most recently, IFS has installed two XPdius

800 vertical form/fill/seal machines equipped with 10-head radial scale systems from **CombiScale (www.combiscale.com)**. In this operation, a roll of film is mounted on the back of the XPdius machine and is pulled into the forming section by two servo-driven pull belts. The film passes over a series of rollers and dancer bars at the top of the f/f/s machine that maintain the proper back pressure on the film as it is pulled continuously through the machine. The film

The vf/f/s supplier has done everything I asked them to, and they are at the top of my list of suppliers.

passes around a forming tube on the front of the unit, and a vertical heating element produces the vertical overlap seal. During PD's visit, the line was running yogurt-covered pretzels, and these drop intermittently from the overhead weighing system through the forming tube into the intermittently moving, formed cylinder of film as it leaves the vertical forming section.

Next, the film passes through the servo-driven sealing jaws, which move in against the film and induction-heat a horizontal seal across the film.

At the end of each sealing cycle, before the jaws disengage, an air-actuated blade shoots out from the center of the jaws and cuts the bag loose, after which it drops onto the takeaway conveyor.

Although it is not needed for the clear film that IFS is running, the vf/f/s is equipped with a sensor mounted on the film carriage that detects the eye mark on the film. If the plant were running printed film with such an eye mark or registration spot, this sensor would initiate the start of each cycle. It compensates for any slight changes in the film length and ensures that the film for each bag would always be in perfect registration. This system basically tells the horizontal sealer and cutoff knife when to energize. The machine is controlled by an Allen-Bradley programmable-logic controller and incorporates an A-B PanelView operator panel and A-B Ultra 3000 servo drives that operate the vertical sealer, the left and right pulling belts and the seal jaws/knife assembly. The Allen-Bradley components are supplied by Rockwell Automation (www.rockwellautomation.com).

The PLC maintains the recipes for all of the products in memory, and the operator can recall them at a touch. The unit automatically sets the operating parameters, including the sealer temperatures and the servo drives that, among other things, set bag length. The screen can also be actuated to display the settings currently in use, causes of operating problems and



Product for the vf/f/s machine is weighed by the 10-head CombiScale radialweighing system that is located on a platform above the machine.

maintenance requirements.

roduct for the vf/f/s machine is weighed by the 10-head CombiScale radial-weighing system that is located on a platform above the machine. Bins of product are lifted onto the platform by a fork truck, and a worker loads it into an elevator that delivers it to a funnel that discharges onto the weigher's dispersion table.

The dispersion pans transfer the product to the 10 radial feeder hoppers, which, in turn, move the product by vibration to the weigh buckets. Each radial feeder adjusts the strength and duration of vibration to ensure an ample supply to the hopper. Once the product is in the hoppers, the weigher's computer selects a combination of buckets (generally three or four) that cumulatively equals the closest weight to the total bag weight without being under that weight. The selected hoppers then open and discharge their contents down the discharge chute to the bagger.

The scale features an easy-touse computer-controlled operator interface that provides a clear display of charge weight as well as various statistical data. The interface is located on the first floor next to the bagging machine, so the operator can interact without climbing up to the platform. The scale also is designed for easy sanitation by featuring simplified cleaning. Product contact parts are easily removed without tools.

Bags drop from the vf/f/s onto

I run a lot of product, and if the machines weren't as tough as they are, I'd probably break them.

an upward inclined conveyor that discharges onto a horizontal conveyor where a worker applies a label to each bag. The labels are dispensed from a roll by a DispensaMatic U-45 power-advance label dispenser from M-Pak Systems, Inc. (www.mpaksys.homestead.com). In this operation, each time the worker picks a label, the dispenser

automatically peels the next label from the roll and presents it for application.

ecause of the huge number of bulk products it receives and the number of skus in its inventory, IFS puts a major emphasis on tracking its products, beginning with incoming products Continued on page 42





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We may package 10 or 15 different products a day, but we try to minimize the number of size changes we make.

and continuing through every lot of finished products. "We receive dried products from all over the world, and for every container of incoming product, we print a label that contains a lot number that enables us to track who produced it, where it came from and when we received it," says Lipson. "This raw product lot number goes with the product through the packaging operations, and every finished package has its own label with its lot number or expiration date that connects to the incoming product lot number and also tells when that package was produced and on what packaging line."

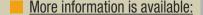
The labels are printed on Z4mPlus thermal-transfer printers from **Zebra Technologies**

For more information about form/fill/seal operations, visit Packaging Digest's FILL, F/F/S TECHNOLOGY CHANNEL at www.packagingdigest.com/info/formfill

International, LLC (www.zebra. com). The data is accumulated on the company's inhouse computer and is transmitted to the individual printers over the internet. "We track our incoming-product inventory and our packagedproduct inventory with their lot codes on our computer, along with orders and shipments, so we know the exact status of every product we make," says Lipson. "We use this data to schedule our daily production on our packaging lines. We may package 10 or 15 different products a day on a line, but we try to minimize the number of package-size changes we make. The computer keeps track of these requirements and optimizes the production schedule.

"Weighpack has done an excellent job for us," continues Lipson. "My work is a challenge. I run lot of different products, but Weighpack never took a negative attitude about any of it, and I've never had any problem that they couldn't handle. I bought one of the first XPdius machines, when Weighpack introduced that line, and they came down for a week to help me get it up and running. It turned out that we didn't need that much help, but it indicates their great service.

"Weighpack has done everything I asked them to, and they are at the top of my list of suppliers. In fact, I'm getting quotes from them right now for more machines." In fact, Lipson is so pleased with the Weighpack machines that he has ordered a new dual-servo driven stainless-steel-construction XPdius 1200 vf/f/s equipped with a 14-head CombiScale for even higher speeds.



Weighpack Systems, Inc., 514/422-080. www.weighpack.com. CombiScale, Inc., 847/806-0606. www.combiscale.com. M-Pak Systems, Inc., 336/378-6036. www.mpaksys.homestead.com. Rockwell Automation, 414/382-2000. www.rockwell.com. Zebra Technologies International, LLC, 847/634-6700. www.zebra.com.



system integration

The 2007/2008 edition of *Packaging Digest's* annual "System Integrator Guide" appears in the Suppliers Guide mailing with this issue. It includes 455 contract-engineering firms that provide some form of automation system integration services to manufacturers in the packaging industry.

Almost three quarters of those packaging system integrators have entered the industry since 1982, which amounts to more than one per month

responsibilities but fewer benefits. Eventually the contract work dries up too, and those engineers are forced to branch out, looking for other clients.

A common variation on this story features under-employed engineers from related industries who are willing or perhaps even eager to have a go at owning their own business. After all, the cost of entry into the system integration industry is very low, and the required technical expertise can

practices in 2001.

Some existing businesses have also switched to the system integration business, especially automation

vendors and distributors. They already have experienced automation engineers on staff to provide product selection and troubleshooting advice to their clients, so it's generally not much of a stretch to start hiring them out for entire projects.

Ironically, the career path that is rarest amongst system integrators is formal academic training. Although most system integrators are staffed with degreed engineers, they've usually majored in the traditional engineering disciplines, not in "automation system integration engineering" per se. The most notable exceptions are graduates of the Center for Automation and Systems Integration (CASI) at Indiana State University's College of Technology. CASI is focused on research and development in the areas of automation, control systems and system integration and brings together academic and industry professionals for system integration projects and seminars. See www.indstate.edu.

—Vance VanDoren, vance@control.com

System integration—often an accidental career

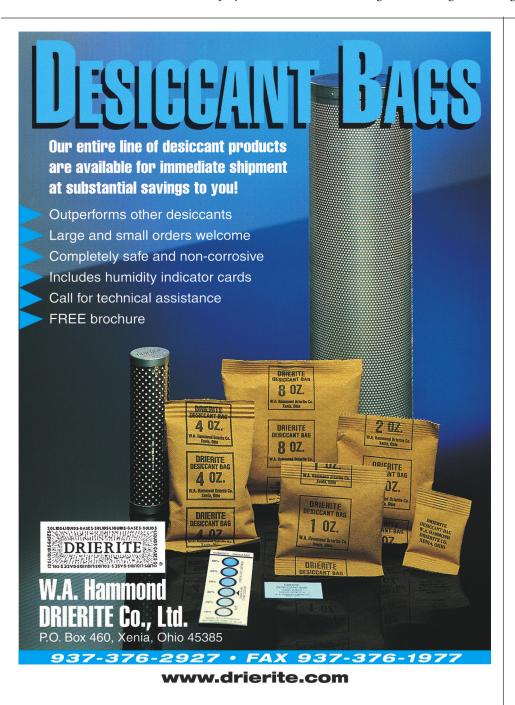
over the last 25 years. And twice as many system integrators have begun serving other automated industries over the same period.

So where did they all come from? Anecdotal evidence suggests that engineering companies rarely start out with the intention of becoming system integrators. Most stumble into the industry by accident.

Perhaps the most common origin story for system integrators starts with a major manufacturer trying to cut costs by laying off its entire automation department. Those downsized engineers then come back to work as contract employees with the same

often be accumulated on the job. As one recently certified member of the Control System Integrator Association (CSIA) has said, "It's not rocket science. Our clients pay us to read the manuals."

That's not to say that just anybody can succeed in the system integration business. According to *Packaging Digest's* sister publication, *Control Engineering*, automation system integrators also disappear at a rate of 7 percent per year, often for lack of the skills necessary to run a business. Incidentally, not a single CSIA-certified system integrator has ever gone out of business since the organization began auditing its members' business









Tubes drop into a 15-position turntable that transports them through filling, sealing and inspection sections.

Perrigo Co. has more than 20 tube filling/sealing machines running an

assortment of PHARMACEUTICAL AND NUTRITIONAL PRODUCTS. Tube machines run pharmaceutical products

Jack Mans, Plant Operations Editor

Perrigo Co. is a leading global healthcare supplier and the world's largest manufacturer of over-thecounter pharmaceutical and nutritional products for the store-brand market. The company also develops, manufactures and markets prescription generic drugs, active pharmaceutical ingredients and consumer products. It operates manufacturing facilities in the U.S., Israel, the U.K., Mexico, Germany and China.

PD recently visited the Perrigo plant in the Bronx, NY, which produces products in tubes. The plant began production in the '80s, running plastic and metal tubes on machines manufactured by CO.MA.DI.S. (www.comadis.com), and it now has more than 20 of these machines in operation. These machines are now supported in the U.S. by IMA Nova (www.imanova.com).

'We've had the CO.MA.DI.S. machines since 1982, and they've done an excellent job for us," says Perrigo's maintenance manager, Alixardo Reyes. "We've looked at other machines, but staying with the same manufacturer reduces our spare-part requirements, and our employees'

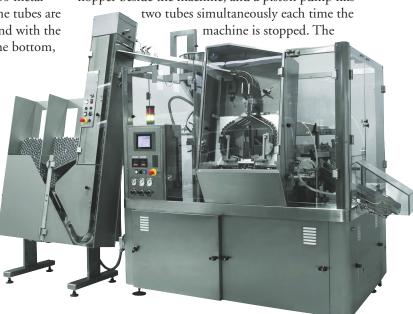
familiarity with their equipment is a huge benefit. We have people with twenty years of experience with this equipment, and they know as much as the manufacturer does about it."

The newest CO.MA.DI.S. machine at Perrigo is a fully automatic Model CD180 dual-head machine that fills and seals two tubes simultaneously and achieves speeds of 180 metal tubes/min and 170 plastic tubes/min. The tubes are supplied with the tops already in place and with the bottoms open. They are filled through the bottom, then sealed.

he tubes are placed in a loading machine mounted beside the filler/sealer, and are conveyed up an elevator that drops them onto a tray that is feeding the machine. The tubes then drop into a vertical chute that splits into two vertical sections in a waterfall configuration and drops them into cups in a 15-position turntable. The CD180 is an intermittent-motion machine, and the tubes discharge into the cups when the machine is stopped.

Two tubes are delivered simultaneously, one from each vertical feed zone. A stepper motor turns each cup as the turntable rotates, and an automatic print-registration system inspects the printing on the tube and stops the cup at the proper point, so that the tube is oriented properly for sealing.

Next, the tubes are filled. The product is in a hopper beside the machine, and a piston pump fills



tubes simultaneously each time the machine is stopped. The system has a fill accuracy of +/-0.5 percent. After each fill cycle, air is blown through the fill nozzles to make sure they are clear and to prepare the nozzles for the next tubes. The filled tubes are then delivered to the sealing unit, which seals two tubes at a time. This machine, which is running plastic tubes, is equipped with a hot-air sealing system. The machine can also be equipped with hot-jaw, high-frequency or ultrasonic sealing units for plastic tubes or with normal, double or saddle-fold sealing for aluminum tubes. In the hot air sealing operation, air at about 900 deg F is blown against the tubes to soften the plastic. The tubes then enter the sealing jaws through which chilled water is pumped to help set the plastic. The jaws are equipped with a type chase where up to 10 metal characters can be inserted to emboss a code on the tubes when the

Perrigo runs tubes ranging in size from 0.5 to 4.5 oz, so different size tube-handling parts and fill nozzles are required, but the changes on the filler/sealers can be made without tools. To further ease changeovers, the sealing heads are equipped with a patented system that automatically adjusts them in relation to tube size.

The sealing machines are controlled by a programmable logic controller and also have color touch-screen operator interfaces that display machine functions and faults. The operator can adjust the fill volume, operating speed and other operating parameters from the panel, which will remember the setting for different products. A sensor reads the bar codes on the tubes as they discharge from the machine and stops the machine if there is a discrepancy between the reading and the product that is supposed to be run. The tubes discharge onto a conveyor that transports them to a cartoner.

O.MA.DI.S. is headquartered in Senago, Italy, and offers tube filling equipment for various applications, running at speeds from 30 to 250 tubes/min. Sales and technical support is handled by IMA Nova, based in Leominster, MA, which also manufactures a wide array of tablet and liquid packaging equipment. Both companies are part of IMA S.p.A., which includes 15 Continued on page 46

Machine operations, including sealing, right, take place when the intermittent-motion machine is stopped. A reciprocating arm, far right, picks tubes from the cups and drops them down the discharge chute.







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Finished cartons are conveyed to a an intermittent-motion bundler that shrinks multipack cartons in six-pack (1×6) and 12-pack (2×6) configurations.

manufacturing facilities throughout the world, offering an extensive range of automatic processing and packaging equipment.



HI-TECH PHARMACAL CO. has installed seven Kalish Filltronic in-line fillers from IMA Nova to run liquid products. Read about it at www.packagingdigest.com/ info/hi-tech

inished cartons are conveyed to a PH-24L bundler from Polypack, Inc. (www.polypack. com) that shrinks multipack cartons in six-pack (1×6) and 12-pack (2×6) configurations. The PH-24L bundler is an intermittent-motion sleeve wrapper that creates bull'seyes packaging. It uses a motorized pusher assembly to transfer the products to the wrapping and sealing section. Stabilizing modules and guides facilitate the feeding of unstable products. This shrink wrapper includes gates, barriers and decompression plates to alleviate

We've looked at other machines, but staying with the same manufacturer reduces our spare-part requirements, and our employees' familiarity with their equipment is a huge benefit.

back-pressure-induced problems when running flexible products.

Perrigo's PH-24L system has a 24-in.-wide self-leveling, Teflon®-coated hot-knife seal bar and a long, double-insulated tunnel with two fans that reduce energy consumption.

The collation assemblies of the PH Series can divide, reorient, rotate, upend, multirow or stack product as required. Like all Polypack shrink wrappers and packaging equipment, the PH Series is designed with an in-line or side infeed and incorporates PLC controls and a self-monitoring, diagnostics-panel touch-screen interface.

More information is available:

IMA Nova, 978/870-0199. www.imanova.com. CO.MA.DI.S., 39 (02) 99010284. www.comadis.com. Polypack, Inc., 727/578-5000. www.polypack.com.



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sustainability

In cradle-to-cradle systems, sustainable material flows are divided into biological and technical metabolisms. A unique characteristic of many renewable materials is that they can be recycled (technically recovered) or composted (biologically recovered). This gives renewable materials a broad array of post-use options not shared by many technical materials, like plastics or metals.

There is increasing interest in the managed composting of organic and renewable materials.

the diversion of wet, organic materials will likely become an important area of focus as the U.S. considers how to reduce its GHGs. San Francisco already has an aggressive, managed composting program that is diverting organic waste from landfills. The resulting compost is used for local agriculture. Several European countries are also pursuing managed composting.

The introduction of bioplastics over the past several years has helped to catalyze the discussion

be very suitable for composting as long as it is designed with that end

in mind. Designing packaging for composting will be especially important to ensure that any coatings, inks or other components are suitable and safe for composting systems. Experience to date suggests that beyond certification of compostability (e.g., Biodegradable Products Institute [BPI] or DIN CERTCO), commercial composters will require validation that packaging is safe and won't compromise the quality of their compost before they accept it at any significant volume.

Managed composting strives to provide the optimal moisture, oxygen and temperature conditions to produce quality compost. Thus, most emissions occur in the form of CO₂. Like aerobic biodegradation in nature, managed composting allows organic, renewable materials to be recovered in a carbon-neutral manner and to produce a beneficial soil amendment. For more resources, go to www.packagingdigest.com/info/green8.

Anne Johnson is the director of the Sustainable Packaging Coalition, a project of GreenBlue (www.greenblue.org). For additional information, email info@sustainablepackaging.org.

There is increasing interest in the managed composting of organic and renewable materials.

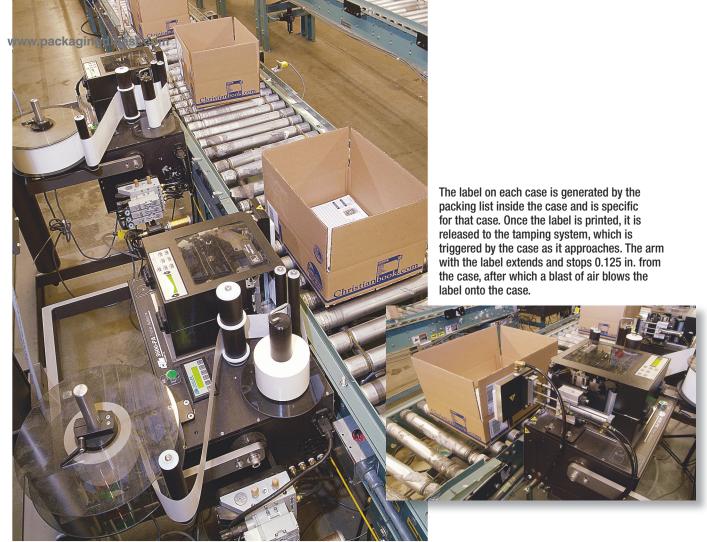
In the U.S., landfills are one the most significant man-made sources of greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) due to the anaerobic decomposition of wet, biodegradable materials (primarily vegetation and food). While studies of landfills have revealed that on the whole, they tend to be tombs rather then composting reactors, these studies have also found that wet, readily degradable materials tend to decompose rapidly, resulting in the evolution of methane—a greenhouse gas 21-times more potent than carbon dioxide. As a consequence,

of composting within the packaging community. Along with wet, organic waste, packaging made from renewable and compostable materials will be a likely candidate for landfill diversion. Clearly, recycling is a higher-value recovery option for many renewable materials, but foodservice packaging, which is often contaminated with food and grease and not a candidate for recycling, can



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Printer/applicator puts its label on Bible distributor

For Christian Book Distributors (CBD), Peabody, MA, the world's largest distributor of Christian Bibles, books, videos, music and artwork, speed and uptime are crucial to its distribution. When both UPS and the USPS informed CBD it needed to reposition the shipping labels on its cases, the company knew it needed to make a change.

In order for the company to receive a significant discount based on shipping volume, it had to switch its shipping labels from the case sides to the case tops. More than 100 of the company's scanners would have to be rearranged, because they were not oriented to read labels placed on the tops of the cases. In addition, CBD needed a printer/applicator that could print and apply shipping labels at a high speed. The cases were piling up because the labels were not printing fast enough, resulting in bottlenecks on the conveyor line.

CBD needed an effective solution to its shipping-label problem. **PEAK Technologies** (www.peaktech.com), a system integrator focused on supply-chain automation and inventory management solutions and services, had been a strategic partner to CBD's information-technology department for more than 13 years. So when it came time to find a provider for new printer/ applicators, PEAK offered its expertise in this area

as well. "We wanted to keep our solutions under one umbrella," says John Roden, distribution manager for CBD. "We chose PEAK because we have a lot of respect for them, and we have a strong relationship. They also provide excellent service and support for stationary applications."

The chosen solution was Peak's CTM 3600 printer/applicator, which incorporates a Model 110PAX4 thermal-transfer print engine from **Zebra Technologies Intl, LLC (www.zebra.com)**. CBD purchased four of these CTM printer/applicators from PEAK in the summer of 2004,

demand on the printer to run faster."

he CTM printer/applicator also solved an unexpected problem with CBD's existing print engines. Because the print engines were based on older technology, they didn't have the ability to print bullseye (2D) bar codes. The Zebra/CTM's updated technology allowed CBD to avoid rearranging the company's 100-plus factory scanners. "In general, label applicators are complicated pieces of equipment. They need air, electricity, ink, paper and glue, all in one

We chose this printer/applicator company because we have a lot of respect for them, and we have a strong relationship. They provide excellent service and support.

as its main motion applicator, and it has recently added two more printer/applicators, which will be used as a subsystem and located on another floor of the factory. "Because of the top-down labeling requirement, we were able to meet the post office requirements, while increasing efficiency," says Roden. "With our previous solution, the labels weren't being applied in a timely fashion, placing more demand on us, which in turn, placed heavy

small spot, while functioning to apply labels," explainsRoden. "But the CTM is one of the most stable applicators. It runs smoothly and efficiently."

The new applicators answered CBD's call for a faster solution, increasing speed by 15 to 20 percent, while reducing downtime and labor. "Rather than modifying what we had, we chose to invest in new applicators," says Roden. "Because



For more information about labeling, visit Packaging Digest's LABELING TECHNOLOGY CHANNEL at www.packagingdigest.com/info/labeling

of the amount of downtime we were experiencing using competitors' equipment, we saw a tremendous improvement in uptime alone with the new solution. PEAK's solution was more reliable."

PEAK's CTM applicators are designed for easy operation and simple maintenance. Before installation, a site survey was required to determine factors such as conveyor speed and the orientation of the cases to the applicator. In addition, training was offered during the installation process to ensure employees knew how to integrate and operate the system. A specialized PEAK technician came in and set up the printer/applicators and trained the staff on how to set parameters for delay and dwell time, adjust air pressure, clean print heads and troubleshoot potential problems. Maintenance employees were taught how to fine-tune the equipment. "PEAK has helped the technical expertise of our maintenance staff improve so much that we can do more of our own maintenance," Roden says. "PEAK offers life-cycle support for every unit as well, so we know we can always count on them for any issues that may arise."

hile CBD's service engineers in production rarely have a need to call in a technician, the IT department has taken advantage of that benefit. "Our IT department occasionally calls in PEAK technicians, because they use 30 to 40 printers in that department," says Roden "Our major problem is time; it's critical to production. If something is down, we're losing money. PEAK is excellent at service calls. They could be at our facility within minutes."

CBD's busiest time of year is during the holiday season, from November through Christmas. This past year was busier than normal for the company and all four applicators ran at top speed and volume for eight hours a day, without any significant downtime. "Even during slower times we run our machines full out. Because of the new applicators, our employees are freed up to do other jobs. They also proactively replenish catalogs and cases on the

lines. It helps on the operations end," says Roden.

Because of the success of the solution, construction is

underway at the facility to implement a new process in the conveyor system that requires two more applicators to apply shipping labels. Basically, it's an additional shipping subsystem. It will allow CBD to increase throughput by 20 percent through the conveyor, while increasing volume on the production line through a picking system.

"There is a real cost savings with the system because there are no extended hours or second-shift operations," says Roden. "We're running the machines we have now, and when the two

additional applicators are installed, we'll be adding an extra twenty percent onto production."

More information is available:

PEAK Technologies, Inc., 800/926-9212. www.peaktech.com. Zebra Technologies Intl., LLC,

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New Kent multipack cigarette carton from **BRITISH AMERICAN TOBACCO** is smokin', with integrated electronics that engage consumers at the point of sale.

Kent offers a new way to light up

Anne Marie Mohan, Senior Editor

Traditional tobacco-product branding went up in smoke last spring when the BAT Global Travel Services division of British American Tobacco (BAT) launched a light-up carton for its Kent brand of cigarettes. A setup box with a magnetic lid that incorporates electronics to illuminate a line of text when the consumer interacts with the 10-pack carton, the Kent cigarette package was used as an eight-week promotion, with an "overwhelmingly positive" response," in duty-free airport shops in the Asia-Pacific region.

Says Markus Poelzl, global account director for MeadWestvaco Corp. (www.meadwestvaco.com), which designed and converted the carton, "The purpose of this promotion was to generate brand awareness for the Kent cigarette brand by creating a package that, while on the retail shelf, attracted the attention of BAT's target customer: hip, affluent, early-adopting consumers."

In development for two years, the $11\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{3}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ -in. carton uses MeadWestvaco's

water and carbon dioxide in commercial composting.

coated natural kraft (CNK) to provide stiffness and incorporates an electronic module in its lid that uses a circuit board, a touchpad, light-emitting diodes (LEDs) and conductive inks from T-INKTM, Inc. (www.t-ink.com).

As Poelzl explains, the carton was designed to encourage the consumer to engage with the package. When the consumer presses a red switch in the upper-left corner of the carton's top panel, a circuit board is activated that lights up the words, "Inspired From Within" in a scrolling manner on the front of the carton. The lights stay active for approximately 10 sec before shutting off.

The greatest challenge of the project, Poelzl shares, was to incorporate electronics into a paperboard-based package while meeting cost-point requirements. When MeadWestvaco supplied the initial order of cartons to BAT, the lid's electronic module was manually applied. However, MeadWestvaco notes that automatic insertion is possible.

Recently, the Kent carton was awarded the Top

wear it...

Innovation Award of 2007 as well as a Gold Award by the Paperboard Packaging Council (www.

by the **Paperboard Packaging Council (www.ppcnet.org)** in its 2007 National Paperboard Packaging Competition.

More information is available:

MeadWestvaco Corp., 804/327-5200.

www.meadwestvaco.com.

Paperboard Packaging Council, 703/836-3300.

tag it...

www.ppcnet.org.

T-INK™, Inc., 212/757-0700.

wrap it...

www.t-ink.com.





new productsequipment

Adhesive loading data A flyer is available that reportedly explains the requirements of using the co.'s 3D Auto Fill System, described as an automatic hot-melt adhesive-loading system providing packaging operations with increased packaging reliability, production efficiencies and safety. The co. says the publication includes a checklist for its compact, vacuum-feed unit that continuously replenishes a hot-melt unit's adhesive supply, providing data such as air pressure supply and electrical and space requirements. A copy is free. National Adhesives, 866/266-5565.

www.nationaladh.com

E-stop pushbuttons Available in 22 and 30 mm, new emergency stop pushbuttons contain a

solid brass detent mechanism and enable reliable operation in emergency applications, the

co. says. Direct-drive contacts feature a mechanical linkage from the operator to ensure contact separation when actuated. A stainless-steel version is also offered for corrosive environments. The co.'s 2- and 3-position devices, available in both nonilluminated and illuminated versions, are UL-

listed and are rated Type 1, 2, 3, 3R, 4/4X, 12 and 13 and IP65, and are CE-marked for use in global applications.

c3controls, 724/775-7926.

www.c3controls.com



Neck banders Said to function at speeds to 1,000 containers/min are the co.'s patented R Series neck banders, reportedly engineered for 24/7 service, with continuous material web flow that doesn't pause for cutting. The machines apply with exceptional precision and repeatability, the co. adds, using 1- to 3-in.-dia bands at heights to 2.375 in., with the unique ability to apply thin-gauge 1½- to 2-mil bands made with PVC, PET, PETG, OPS and PLA film.

PDC Intl., 203/853-1516. www.pdc-corp.com

Printer/applicator The Shadow makes its bow as an all-electric print-and-apply system that can function as a tabletop machine or on a stand for in-line labeling. The co. says the machine's plug-and-go design uses an electric tamp applicator requiring no compressed air and is superior to pneumatic systems for top-apply labeling, with a price point starting in the \$8,000 range. RFID models are also available.

Panther Industries, Inc., 303/703-9876. www.print-n-apply.com



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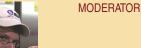
Tom Meutsch RSI, Senior Sales Manager



Jeff Norton HP, Sales Development Manager



Steve Whitman Mt. Olive Pickle, Production Manager



Rich Gerber Mt. Olive Pickle, Maintenance Manager



Mary Ann Falkman Packaging Digest, Editor-in-Chief

new productsequipment

Safety module Said to be compatible with all major industrial control networks is the new VAA-2E-G4-SE AS-Interface Safety at Work module, described as IP67-rated and featuring two inputs for connection of a noncontact Type 4 safety device according to EN 61496-1. The co. says the module powers safety light curtains via a flat, black AS-Interface cable, allowing the connection of standard PNP sensors for muting applications, and is NFPA79:2002- and IEC61508-approved, cUL-listed and carries the CE mark.

Pepperl+Fuchs, Inc., 330/425-3555. www.am.pepperl-fuchs.com

Liquid filler Suitable for pharmaceutical and diagnostic packaging, the new Mini-Monobloc liquid-filling system is designed for micro-tube applications and is said to perform an efficient sort, orient, feed, fill and cap operation. An operator loads the micro tubes into the vibratory sorting and feed bowl. After orientation, the containers are carried by the flange through the pockets of the turret-indexing assembly. Once in the turret, the micro-tubes are moved through the filling and capping functions. An advanced feature the co. describes is a servo-motor-operated chuck assembly that identifies rejected

Filamatic/National Instrument, 410/764-0900. www.filamatic.com



800/854-8702. www.whcorp.com

Bagger Designed specifically with a patent-pending, closed system for dust-free filling is the OPAL® bagge. The co. claims that the seal area around the bag mouth remains clean during controlled bagging, with minimal air introduction. The machine is said to have a fully automated f/f/s process. with an operator required only to change film rolls. Handles fill weights to 110 lb. Windmoeller & Hoelscher Corp.,



Lane guide Designed to reduce friction and container damage on the packing line is the co.'s new Beaded Lane Guide, which reportedly handles



nonround, locking and unstable-shaped containers . An exclusive, interleaved design provides a virtually continuous surface for significantly reduced side friction against bottles and containers to protect p-s labels and graphics from damage. The lane guide's stainless-steel assembly components are said to be

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



the co. asserts, that goes beyond flat-sheet material testing to quickly and easily determining whole-package oxygen transmission rates (OTR) for multiple packages. The system

is available in various configurations for a range of temperature/humidity conditions, with packages including pouches, blisters and rigid bottles.

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







Cameras Two 3D camera series, the Ranger and the Ruler, are introduced as suitable for inline inspection machines used in electronic, semiconductor, wood, robotic vision, plastic, rubber and food industries. The Ranger, reportedly rated at up to 35,000 profiles/sec, is said to offer interchangeable optics and can be combined with light sources in setups optimized per specific application. The Ruler E is said to have a built-in laser and optics for a predefined field of view, making it very easy to install, the co. notes. It acquires up to 10,000 profiles/sec. Both feature MultiScan technology. Sick, Inc., 800/325-7425. www.sickusa.com



Process automation

Version 7 of the co.'s field-proven SIMATIC® PCS 7 process automation system is released by the co. The goal, according to the co., is to give plant operators new ways to minimize total cost of ownership, protect automation assets, increase plant availability, minimize downtime, optimize process performance and modernize existing installed systems. The co. claims that the Version 7 offers the world's only platform that integrates new and existing automation systems and devices within a single platform while boasting common tools for engineering, visualization and plant-wide asset and maintenance management. Siemens Energy & Automation,

Inc., 800/964-4114. www.siemens.com **Conveyors** Unlimited lengths of its standard line of UV conveyors are now offered by the co. A modular design, the co. says, allows for custom length and width configurations tailored to the specific requirement. This reportedly enables maximal use of the UV lamp by fully populating the conveyor belt with printed parts.

Systematic Automation, Inc., 860/677-6400. www.systauto.com



ew productsequipment



Motor starters Telemecanique® brand Altistart™ 01 mini soft starts are introduced to provide sophisticated starting and stopping control for motors in a small package, the co. says. The soft starts are available in three different performance levels to meet the application needs of a range of fractional and low-horsepower singleand three-phase asynchronous motors from 1/4 to 75 hp at 110-575 V. Most 01 mini soft starts are 45 mm W. Schneider Electric, 800/392-8781. www.us.telemecanique.com

Guiding system The Speedi-Roll is offered as a linear guiding system with a high load-carrying capacity, rigidity and torque-resistance where long strokes and/or high speeds are required, according to the co., which explains that Type LLE integrates a machinable aluminum guiderail, fitted on both sides with hardened steel raceways and a carriage with either four or six V-shaped steel rollers housed on an aluminum base. Standard 15, 25 and 35

> sizes are available in various dimensions, the co. adds, and the system can reach speeds to 10 m/sec for shorter cycle times. SKF USA, Inc., 800/541-3624.

www.skfusa.com/ speediroll

Inspection system The Optyx®SG/P is described as a new optical inspection system designed specifically for makers of OTC and regulated solid-dose pharmaceuticals, with a special focus

on softgels. Reportedly FDA 21

CFR part 11-compliant, the system automatically inspects softgel capsules at speeds to 1 million/hr, identifying and removing defects and foreign capsules from the product stream, as well as the smallest color and shape defects, including air bubbles and misshapen capsules.

Symetix, 800/941-3701. www.symetix.com



Models C-50 & C-100 Stand-Up Pouch Capabilities LAMINATE OR POLYETHYLENE Compact in size, these high-speed form/fill/seal packaging machines feature exceptional precision and reliability, along with quick-change features for versatile operation. high speed C-50: \$\frac{1}{2}\$ 50/BPM; C-100: 100/BPM easy maintenance and

- fast, automatic sealing of bags
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Tel: 813-754-9960 • Fax: 813-754-9321 • E-mail: bodopak@worldnet.att.net www.bodolaypackaging.com

Labeler The co.'s rotary MASTER p-s labeling system is designed for glass or plastic containers and offers solutions for empty bottle handling. Features servo bottle-handling control, bottle orientation and nonstop, redundant operation for speeds from 60 to 1,000 bpm. P.E. USA, Inc., 513/771-7374 www.pe-us.com



Controller The EHG SL10 process controller and safety limit—an integrated/adjustable safety limit and temperature controller—is now reported to be available with several heater component choices for efficient, lower-amperage packaging systems. The co. asserts that the system's compact design, inherent reliability and integrated limit functions make it a tremendous value for numerous packaging applications, such as heat sealing and hot-glue dispensing.

Watlow, 800/928-5692.

www.watlow.com

Checkweigher The Model 4693 heavy-duty checkweigher is said to be designed for industrial and institutional packaging with 1- to 500-lb weight ranges. The co. says the weigh station conveyors range from 4 to 5 ft L and run at speeds to 220 ft/min, with the machine's up-to-50units/min production rate meeting the weight requirements of most industrial bag and box products.



The co. also cites the unit's ability to weigh accurately at angles to ± 12 deg, its simplicity and its ease of use.

Thompson Scale Co., 713/932-9071. www.thompsonscale.com

Conveyor The Easy Motion debuts as a horizontal motion conveyor using a slow-forward/fast-back motion, reportedly making the conveying of delicate products easy. The co. says the conveyor is ideal for fragile, easily separated and dusty applications like seasoned products, coated candies and product blends with a variety of shapes and sizes, with a stainlesssteel construction and a fully enclosed drive base enabling easy cleaning and quick product changeovers with little downtime.

WeighPack Systems, Inc., 514/422-0808, x336. www.weighpack.com

Sealer The HPFlex sealer, with a flexible, modular design, is capable of sealing fluted and corrugated board and handles warehouse-club multipacks. The machine comes standard with a tray conveyor indexing system and a pneumatic pick-and-place system. The maximum seal area is 24×36 in. Sencorp, 508/771-9400.

www.sencorp-inc.com

new productsmaterials

Recycled-content

C1S paperboard is said to provide all of the benefits of SBS, including printability, uniformity and runnability, with the added benefit of 30-percent post-consumer-recycled content. The co. says



only SBS-containing recycled fiber that meets FDA compliance for direct-food contact. The C1S board can be used for consumer packaging, cosmetics, food, media, pharmaceuticals, software, toys, book

covers, POP displays and more. It has outstanding ink holdout, side-to-side uniformity, sheet cleanliness and consistency, the co. reports, and is consistent with the rest of the Printkote family of virgin fiber SBS offerings. It comes in several calipers.

MeadWestvaco Corp., 804/327-5200.

www.meadwestvaco.com

Personal-care films Touch of SilkTM packaging films have a silky smooth feel designed for personal care packaging. The family of films and printed packaging provides a new way to emphasize



the softness and comfort of the product within and to help it to stand out on store shelves, the co. says. The soft feel also reduces noise, conveying key product qualities of discretion and gentleness. Extensive research has overcome inherent issues

of printing on embossed film, adds the co. No equipment modifications are needed to convert and print Touch of Silk, which combines conventional polymers and materials.

Pliant Corp., 847/969-3335. www.pliantcorp.com

Sealant Attempting to solve clean-peel lidding problems for pharmaceutical and medical-device applications, the co. introduces Allegro® M sealant, which reportedly can be extrusion-coated onto film, foil or even paper substrates as a cost-effective material. Said to seal at low temperatures and to offer a wide operating window, the sealant includes in its scope rigid cups or trays including HIPS, PVC, APET, PP and HDPE for such uses as unitof-use medications, diagnostic cartridges, pre-filled syringes and medical devices along with some more challenging products.

Rollprint Packaging Products, Inc., 630/628-1700.

www.rollprint.com

Four-pack and six-pack handles

for cans New QuadPak and 6Pak handles for soup cans and other food containers are now available. The handles were originally designed

to fit on bottles and containers with a standard cap and neck finish. In addition to other designs, the co. offers handles for beverage containers, from "slim" cans for energy drinks to conventional soda and



beer cans. The co. recently released prototypes of handles for larger, cylindrical containers of soup, canned fruit and vegetables and petfood in several sizes and styles. Suitable for production and highspeed, automated application, the handles make for an alternative to shrink wrap and paperboard multipacking options.

PakTech. 541/461-5000. www.paktech-opi.com



Barrier lidstock A clear, high-moisturebarrier lidstock suitable for sealing to most plastic trays and cups is made from a wide variety of plastic materials. Flexi-Free® 6985 is said to be the first high-moisture-barrier lidstock without a foil layer designed for universal application. Plastic trav/cup materials can include HIPS. HDPE. PP. APET, PETG, PS, PVC, PC and Barex®. The twoply, 2.5-mil lamination lidding is made from PVDCcoated polyester and a peelable sealant layer. Its high MVTR characteristics make it suitable for powders, where it is undesirable to absorb moisture, as well as gels and liquids, to minimize evaporation, according to the co. The transparent structure offers product visibility prior to opening. Applications include cosmetics, health and beauty aids, neutraceuticals and medical devices.

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

Natural plastics Natural plastics found in sugar cane are being developed through an agreement with Australia's Cooperative Research Centre for Sugar Industry Innovation through Biotechnology. Sugar cane can render an advanced biorefinery feedstock for producing natural plastics, fuels and chemicals, the co. says. Metabolix, Inc., 617/492-0505. www.metabolix.com

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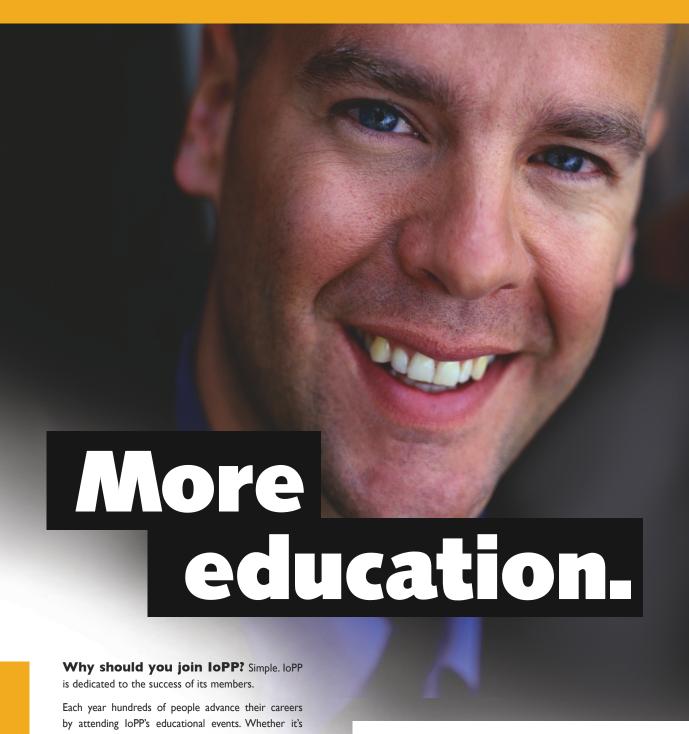
www.fumexinc.com

new productsmaterials

Self-wound overlaminate film 891 Easy Release self-wound overlaminate film is described as a clear polyester, treated with a platinum-based silicone release for a smooth, quiet unwind and features a high-grade emulsion acrylic adhesive. The film is also available without adhesive, designated 891U. Label manufacturers use the easy-release polyester overlaminate in their label printing processes when they require a smooth, quiet

release and an illustrious looking label, the co. says. The film is easily removable from a variety of surfaces and can be easily reapplied to the same surfaces without making noise. The co. offers 891 by the roll or by the master, slit to specifications in 5,000- or 10,000-ft lengths. Custom lengths are available.

Acpo Ltd., 877/412-8273. www.acpo.com.



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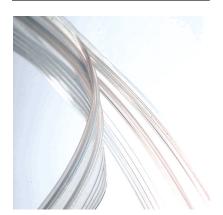
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Double zipper closure

The ZIP-PAK® Double Zipper, the newest member of the co.'s Pressto-Close™ family of resealable packaging technologies, is designed to offer great convenience and a complete bag closure with added seal security to lock out air and keep foods fresh, the co. says. The ergonomically designed zipper has two sets of interlocking profiles that are strategically spaced to guide fingers along a path when closing the package. The dual profiles also provide enhanced seal strength and help prevent liquids from leaking onto refrigerator shelves.

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

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

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



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A.B. Sealer, Inc.

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Ronchi America LLC, 201-802-1901, Fax: 201-802-1905 E: info@ronchiamerica.com, www.ronchiamerica.com





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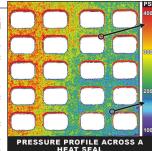
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"Soup's On" at PakTechPakTech has just developed QuadPak and 6Pak handles for soups and other canned food products. In addition to other design evolutions, about a year ago PakTech developed handles for canned beverages, from 'slim' cans (such as energy drinks) to standard soda and beer cans. In the past month, PakTech released prototypes of handles for larger, cylindrical containers such as soup, canned fruits and vegetables, and even pet food. Several sizes and styles are available for production, and high-speed automated application has been developed. **PakTech** 541-461-5000, Fax: 541-461-5005, www.paktech-opi.com



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newsmakers

MOVERS & SHAKERS

WeighPack Systems, Inc. appoints Melissa Davis as its new director of communications and promotions.



Melissa Davis WeighPack Systems

Marking
Systems
appoints Rhett
Campbell as
national sales
director.
Enercon
promotes Ryan
Schuelke to
regional sales
manger for
CA, WA and
OR and Larry
Sterna to

Frank Burkus

new business

Weber



Frank Burkus Nordson Corp

development manager for new materials in the Adhesive Systems

FleetwoodGoldcoWyard promotes
Pete Carlson to vp, global supply
and Michael Morton to vp, finance.
Sonoco makes following
appointments: Rob C. Tiede named
division vp and general manager of
Sonoco's Flexible Packaging division;
Brad D. Ross named division vp
and general manager of Sonoco's
Packaging Services segment,
replacing Tiede; Charles W. Coker
Jr. named staff vp of customer and
business development.

Combi Packaging Systems LLC expands sales into Latin America and hires Bill Long to oversee sales and service.

Material Handling Industry of



Bill Long Combi Packaging Systems LLC

America
appoints Gary
Forger as
senior vp of
professional
development.
FKI Logistex®
appoints
Manuel
Barragan
Ramirez
as general

director of FKI Logistex de Mexico S.A. de C.V., the company's operating unit in Mexico.

GROWING & GOING

NJM/CLI Packaging Systems, Intl. opens a liaison office in Mumbai,

India. It will be headed by V.
Krishnamoorthy (Krish). Krish is also the CEO of Krish Technologies.
Alcan Packaging Food Americas creates a customer service center at its technical center in Neenah, WI Barry-Wehmiller Design Group, Inc. plans to open a new engineering

Barry-Wehmiller Design Group, Inc.
plans to open a new engineering
consulting office in Raleigh-Durham,
NC, in early 2008 and hires Brian
Bullock as director—Design Group,
Raleigh Office.
Bemis Co., Inc. spends \$21 million
to upgrade its largest production

to upgrade its largest production facility, a flexible polyethylene packaging site in Terre Haute, IN. The additions include three extrusion lines and two 10-color presses.

kurz Transfer Products, L.P. expands its North American facilities. The expansions include doubling the size of its Elk Grove, IL, finishing and distribution facility, the installation of new finishing equipment in its Anaheim, CA facility and a substantial capital investment program in its Lexington, NC, manufacturing location.

Pro Mach relocates manufacturing operations for its Orion Div. from Laval, QC to Alexandria, MN.

T.H.E.M. expands its facility in Marlton, NJ, by 50 percent.

SIG Combibloc opens a branch office in Toronto.

BUYING AND ALLYING

Fort Dearborn Co. acquires substantially all of the assets of Renaissance Mark.

Multi-Color Corp. sells its Packaging Services Division - Quick Pak to NFI Industries, Inc. for \$19.2 million. Owens-Illinois, Inc. sells its plasticspackaging business to Rexam p.l.c. for \$1.83 billion.

Pactiv Corp. buys Prairie
Packaging, Inc. for \$1 billion.
Rexam divests its glass business to
Ardagh Glass Group.

CALL FOR ENTRIES

The IoPP announces the 2007 AmeriStar Package Competition Call for Entries. Any package or family of packages produced after January 1, 2006 and not previously entered into an AmeriStar competition are eligible for submission into the 2007 program. Deadline for entering packages is October 26, 2007.

CHEERS

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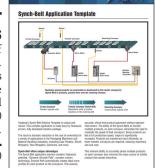


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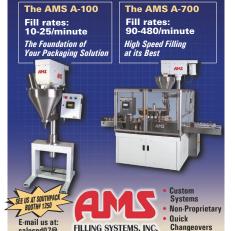
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'Packaging by Design' blog featuring John Kalkowski

As seen in this month's COMMENT column, John Kalkowski has joined the PD staff as Editorial Director and his first online assignment is the "Packaging by Design" blog. John will be documenting subtle and not-so-subtle design trends, and providing a forum for you, the reader, to comment. Visit www.packagingdigest. com/bydesign

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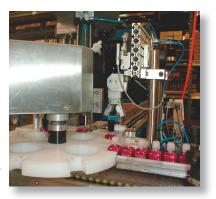
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Cereal packs are getting smaller, pricier

The high cost of grain and fuel has affected cereals. General Mills plans to reduce the size of its cereal boxes and slightly raise the price per volume to be more competitive.

Freedonia report: U.S. meat, poultry and seafood packaging demand to exceed \$8 billion by 2011

Demand for meat, poultry and seafood packaging is projected to increase 4.2 percent annually to more than \$8 billion in 2011. While increased meat, poultry and seafood production will drive gains, changes in packaging practices also will be a major factor.

Convenience still a 'top dog' in pet-food packaging

Cited by more than four-fifths of pet owners surveyed, convenience still trumps most other factors influencing petcare product purchases, according to "Pet Food Packaging and Convenience Trends," a new report from Packaged Facts.

Owens-Illinois sells plastics lines to Rexam

Owens-Illinois Inc., the Perrysburg, OH, producer of glass containers, health-care packaging and specialty closure systems, says it concluded a strategic review and definitively agreed to sell its plastics-packaging business to Rexam plc for \$1.83 billion.

Coke to reduce its water footprint

Coca-Cola will fund a \$20-million project to conserve seven major rivers in North America, Europe, Africa and Asia. It also plans to revamp its bottling practices to reduce water use and pollution, and to improve the water efficiency of its partners.

White Paper:

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