



RFID: Secondary seals safeguard against medication errors. **p. 46**



CODING: Coffee packs' thermal-transfer perks up operations. **p. 32**



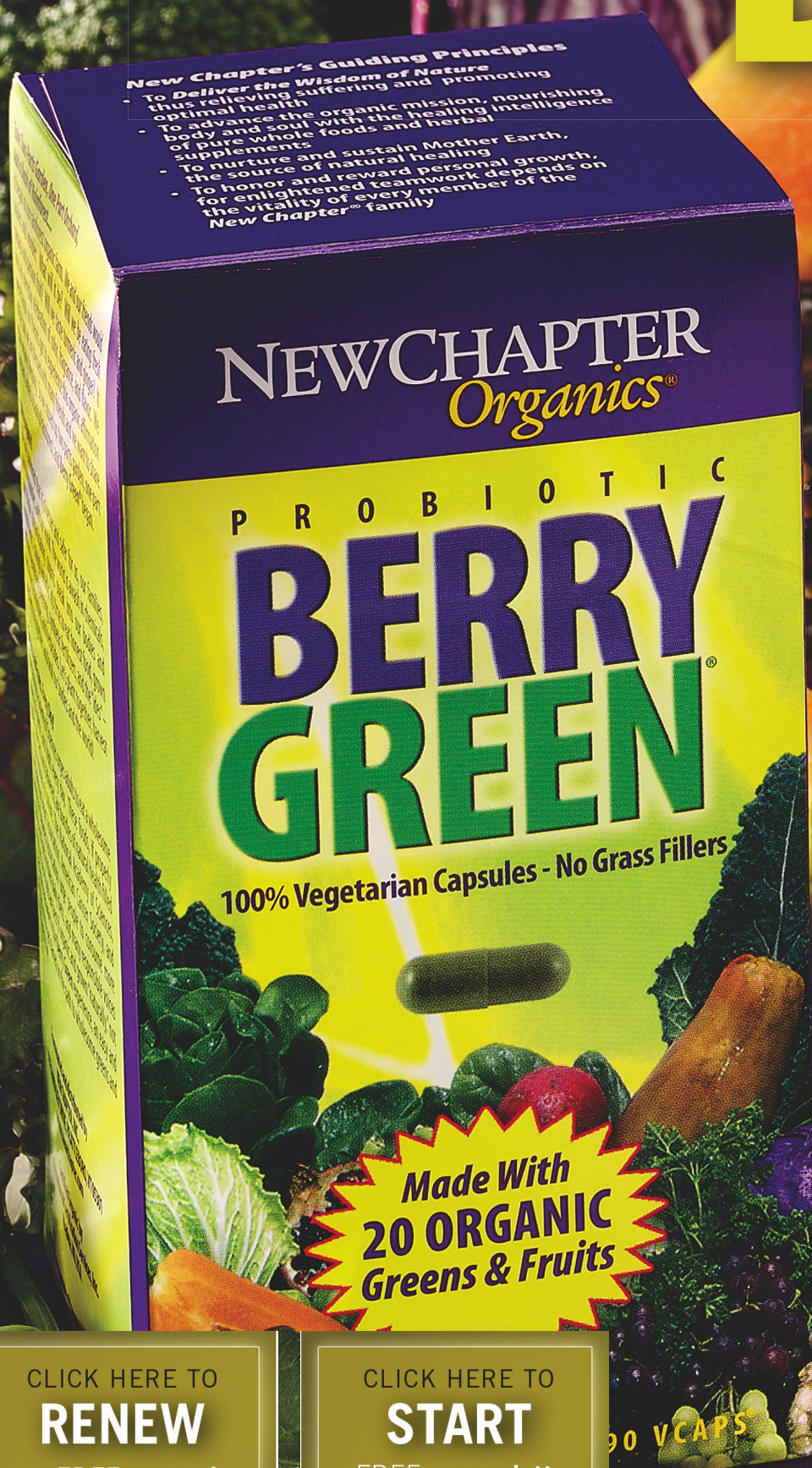
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August 2007

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► State of food retailing in 2007

It's clear that many retailers are struggling to solve the puzzle of cutting costs as much as they can while continually improving customer service, according to The Food Marketing Institute's recently released Annual State of the Industry Review. Read more at www.packagingdigest/info/fmi07

► More health claims lift sales, study finds

Products offering more than one health claim are more attractive to consumers and this could translate into a 20-percent sales boost, an online survey in Germany has found. Find out more at www.packagingdigest/info/health

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Soft drink bottle gets a tart, tangy lift

The packaging for new Lime PLJ, a brand extension to Healthy Food Brands Ltd.'s Lemon PLJ juice drink, has a tangy, new look created by branding consultancy **Pemberton and Whitefoord (P&W [www. www.p-and-w.com])**. For

decades, PLJ has been renowned as a refreshing drink and an invigorating support to calorie-controlled diets. P&W has also redesigned the packaging for the original PLJ lemon flavor. P&W developed new label graphics that present a crisp, contemporary feel with lushly colored vignettes of lemons and limes clustered at the top of the label panel on a clean, white background, accented with deep green type. In each case, the fruit in the drink is the hero of the

design, which also followed through to the package copy. Nutritional information such as "no added sugar" and "8 calories per serving" is displayed boldly within lime- and lemon-shaped icons. Says Michael Beard, a spokesman for Healthy Food Brands Ltd., "Research told us that consumers would like to be able to drink a low-calorie lime juice cordial that has the same high fruit content as the existing Lemon PLJ. Clearly, with the increasing awareness of health and diet matters, a drink such as PLJ with its naturally low-calorie content will appeal to those watching their weight, just as it does to anyone who wants a refreshing start to the day. P&W's designs bring PLJ right up to date and will make the brand stand out more on shelf."

Available in the U.K. and Holland, both new Lime and Lemon PLJ come in a long-neck glass bottle from **Allied Glass (www.allied-glass.com)**, adorned with a crisp label printed by **Multilabels Ltd. (www.multilabels.com)** in five colors including silver plus a matte-gloss varnish. Green and yellow long-skirt twist-caps are supplied from France by **Bericap (www.bericap.com)**.

Luxe Evian bottle suits the fine dining segment

Danone Group's Evian Natural Spring Water, considered a world brand leader, released its luxury Palace Bottle in June. Designed specifically for fine dining experiences, the 750-mL Palace Bottle embodies the premium water's unparalleled ability to provide consumers with an elite hydration experience. With its etched "mountain-top" relief design, slanted polyethylene cap and fine fragrance styling, the new polyethylene terephthalate bottle design will be featured in select hotels, restaurants and clubs throughout the U.S.

"We designed the Palace Bottle to be an iconic and modern representation of Evian, with strong visual cues to our unique origin in the French Alps," says Caroline Kibler, brand manager of Evian North America. "We also designed a unique pouring instrument: The Palace pourer. It's the first of its kind for bottled water, and it provides [consumers with] a luxury water experience."

Sleek and contemporary, the bottle has a tall, slim silhouette and is blown and filled onsite at Evian's plant in Evian, France. The clean lines and crisp logotype help to emphasize the purity of the water, while the proprietary, spouted pourer and stainless-steel coaster on the bottom help to create a poised, graceful look. "We're proud to offer consumers an even more premium way to enjoy Evian," Kibler sums up.



Citrus drink is labeled with soul

Femsa Cerveza has launched Soul Citric, a flavored malt beverage with citrusy extracts, in clear flint, nonreturnable glass bottles supplied by Femsa's vertically integrated glass plant, **Sílices de Veracruz, S.A. de C.V. (Sivesa [www.sivesa.com.mx])**, in Orizaba, Mexico. The new beverage brand provides Femsa with an entry into another product sector of alcoholic beverages besides beer.

With a low alcohol and sugar content, Soul Citric is targeted at men and women looking for a new beverage option. The 335-mL bottles are labeled by Sivesa in-line with pressure-sensitive labels from **Spear (www.spearlabel.com)**. The three 2-mil biaxially oriented polypropylene labels give the bottle a no-label look, and a retro/contemporary flair is achieved courtesy of a large, sans serif typeface for the brand logo and an edgy, scribble graphic design. Spear prints the labels by flat-screen in three colors plus a flexo varnish on the front and in six colors by rotary screen/UV flexo combination plus varnish on the back. The first two colors are reverse-printed so that they can be viewed through the clear glass bottle. The neck label is thin but bold with its rotary screen/UV flexo combination print in five colors plus a flexo varnish. The twist-off crowns are supplied by **Famosa (www.famosa.com.mx)**.



Nesting bottles hold the spirits of Jekyll & Hyde

Playing off the duality of Robert Louis Stevenson's famous fictional characters Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Anheuser-Busch's spirits' subsidiary, Long Tail Libations, St. Louis, is serving up what it calls a "beautifully wicked, layered libation," packaged in two separate, interlocking glass bottles developed by **O-I (www.o-i.com)**. Jekyll & Hyde, introduced in limited test markets in 2005 and now offered in 14 U.S. states, comprises two spirits. Jekyll is a 60-proof, scarlet-red liqueur with a wild berry flavor, while contrary Hyde is an 80-proof, midnight-black liquid with a spicy, licorice flavor. The drinks are meant to be served together, with the Hyde Herbal Liqueur floating on top of the Berry spirit when the two are combined as a shot.

According to Mike Lonsway, O-I manager of new product development, North America Glass, when Long Tail Libations approached O-I two years ago to develop the packaging, it was looking for "two creative product concepts and to optimize the design for shelf impact and function while maintaining supply-chain efficiencies."

Within three weeks, O-I had developed a package concept in North America and produced the two bottles at its plant in Holzmdinden, Germany. The package design selected by Long Tail Libations uses two curvy, nesting, 750-mL bottles that place Jekyll on the left-hand side and Hyde on the right and form a rectangular body when joined.

Richly colored bottle label graphics (designer unnamed) support the brand's "split personality," joining together to form a portrait of the famed Dr. Jekyll, with the Jekyll bottle depicting his calmer, more refined persona and the left-hand label displaying an unkempt, wild-eyed and

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design trends

RPET clamshells deliver eco-friendly laundry detergent

Taking what it claims is another step toward ensuring that its product packaging fully supports its commitment to the environment, Cot'n Wash, Inc., Ardmore, PA, has adopted new, recycled polyethylene terephthalate (RPET) clamshells from **Placon** (www.placon.com) for its dropsTM super-concentrated, eco-friendly liquid laundry-detergent pouches. When first introduced (see PD, June '06, p. 8), drops enzyme- and phosphate-free detergent in Dissolvable, Ready-to-use, Organic, Premeasured Packets, used secondary packaging made from polyvinyl chloride. Last January, Cot'n Wash switched to clear, RPET clamshells, "because they are made from 100-percent recyclable packaging," says Jonathan Propper, Cot'n Wash president.

"Protecting our environment and conserving resources is a top priority for Cot'n Wash, and everything we do as a company is representative of

this," he says. "drops conserve our planet's precious natural resources and help sustain the environment. drops is phosphate-free, and its organic surfactants are biodegradable. It is super-concentrated, so we don't waste water that you don't need in manufacturing and transport, and we don't waste energy in transporting mostly water-filled laundry-detergent jugs, either.

"We use as little packaging as possible, and drops is the only liquid laundry detergent that is packaged in recyclable RPET packaging."

Cot'n Wash selected the packaging for its 15- and 20-load and 1-oz trial-size packages from Placon's variety of 125 stock clamshells, relates Placon's director of marketing and product development, Laura Stewart. "We feel RPET is the best option available today, because we are using recycled [material] to start," she adds. "Placon incorporates both post-consumer recycled PET, as well as post-industrial PET in its

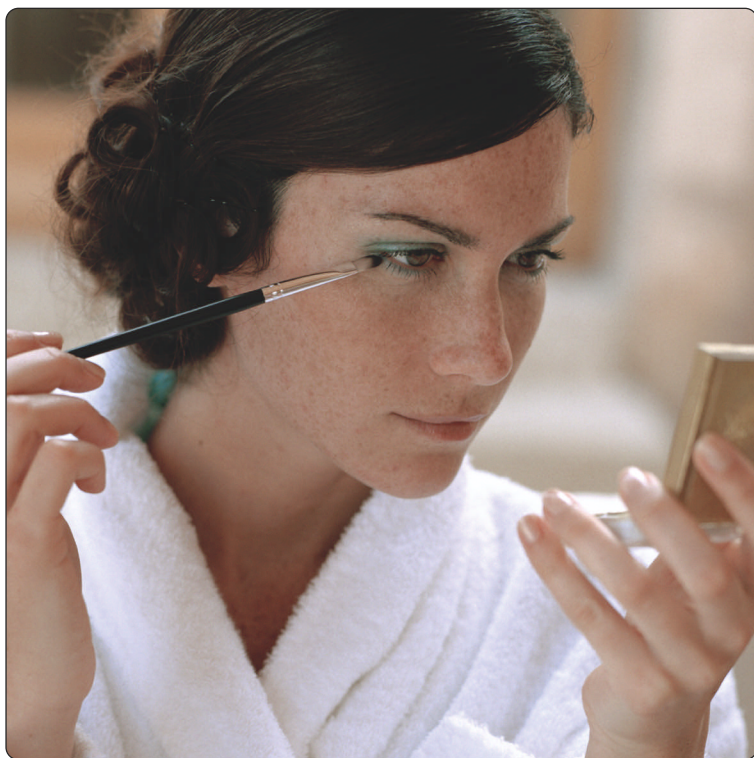
blend, resulting in at least seventy-percent recycled PET in our material."

Propper relates that drops, available at retailers such as Wal-Mart, Target and select Whole Foods stores, and at Amazon.com and drops.com, meets Wal-Mart's Sustainability 360 efforts, representing the store's first eco-friendly laundry detergent offering. "Wal-Mart aims to work with suppliers to take nonrenewable energy off of its shelves, reduce the size of packages, increase the use of recycled materials and the efficiency of trucks, and reduce overall energy consumption," he explains. "While we have not yet filled out a Wal-Mart scorecard for this product, we should score pretty high based on drops' ability to protect and conserve resources."

The average retail cost for drops is \$6.94 for a 20-load clamshell.



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design trends

Abbott's expanded Glucerna line for diabetics sports new packaging

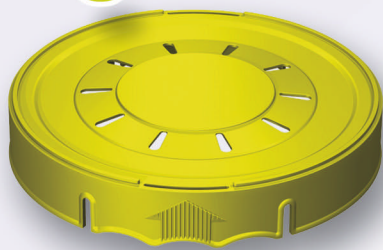
Abbott Nutrition has launched an expanded, improved line of Glucerna nutrition products for people with diabetes. Offering better taste, expanded meal and snack options and new packaging, the

improved line of products includes a unique cereal, along with an updated version of the popular Glucerna shake in a convenient, reclosable plastic bottle. Other new Glucerna product

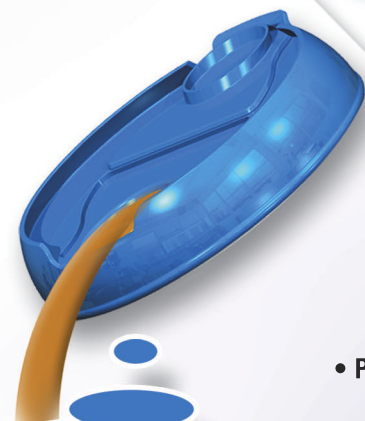


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developments include snack shakes and mini-snack bars. The new cereal and reformulated shakes include two key ingredients: unique carbohydrate blends that have been clinically shown to help manage blood sugar spikes and a trace mineral, called chromium picolinate, that helps the body's own insulin work more efficiently. "People with diabetes need food that is both convenient and nutritionally sound to make nutritious choices easier and more enjoyable," says Michael J. Ferry, general manager of Abbott Nutrition's Healthy Living business.

The new Glucerna cereal provides an excellent source of fiber: 5 g of whole grains and 3 g of protein per serving. Glucerna cereal is available in three flavors—Crunchy Flakes 'n Strawberries, Crunchy Flakes 'n Raisins, and Crunchy Flakes 'n Almonds—and is sold in a 9.5-oz box with a suggested retail price of \$4.49.

The improved Glucerna shakes were awarded the American Culinary Institute's Chef's Best Taste Award for diabetes products. The 200-calorie shakes are now available in a plastic bottle in four flavors: Creamy Chocolate Delight, Homemade Vanilla, Strawberries 'n Cream and Butter Pecan. Glucerna shakes are sold in six-bottle packs that carry a suggested retail price of about \$9.99.

Glucerna snack shakes in cans and Glucerna mini-snack bars are designed as a mid-morning, afternoon or evening snack to fill the gap between meals. The 140-calorie, 8-oz snack shakes are available in Creamy Chocolate Delight and Homemade Vanilla flavors. The snack shakes are sold in four-can packs with a suggested retail price of \$5.99.

Glucerna mini-snack bars offer 70 to 80 calories in a convenient, on-the-go snack option. The mini-snack bars are available in Chocolate Peanut and Oatmeal Raisin varieties, with a suggested retail price of \$5.49 for an eight-bar box.

The line of Glucerna products is widely available in the pharmacy section of retail stores throughout the country.

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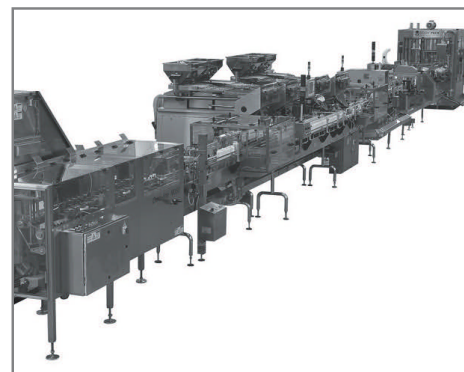
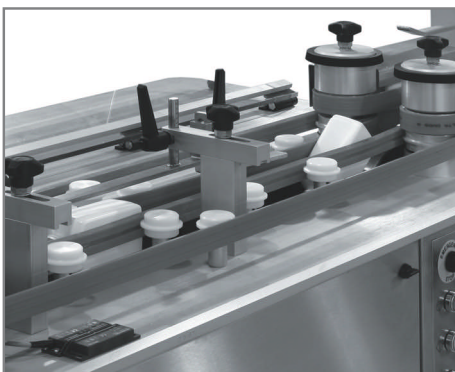
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comment

Mary Ann Falkman, Editor-in-chief

Pharmaceutical packaging sees healthy growth

The pharmaceutical, nutraceutical and functional foods markets stand out from the pack right now because they are exhibiting above-average growth, compared to other markets.

World pharmaceutical packaging demand is projected to increase 5.9 percent annually, according to a new study from **The Freedonia Group** (www.freedoniagroup.com). World demand for primary pharmaceutical containers will increase 6.5 percent annually through 2011. Prefillable inhalers and

prefillable syringes will generate the fastest growth opportunities among all pharmaceutical packaging products based on performance advantages in drug delivery and the introduction of new bioengineered medicines. Plastic bottles will sustain the largest share of global demand based on low cost, versatility, availability and ongoing quality and design improvements. Expanding applications in both solid and liquid oral medications will create above-average growth opportunities for these containers.

The world market for pharmaceutical closures and accessories will grow 4.5 percent annually. The fastest gains will be seen by child-resistant, senior-friendly and dispensing closures; compliance-enhanced prescription containers; high-visibility labels; and tamper-evident and anti-counterfeit accessories and components.

This issue includes articles related to the pharmaceutical/nutraceutical markets, including New Chapter's line upgrades for its herbal supplements and probiotic

nutrients (p. 20). Also of topical interest, secondary seals—the outside closure on a vial that does not contact the packaged drug—are a means for ensuring patient safety, as our new technology feature in this issue (p. 46) explains. RFID and other technologies can be applied to the seals to reduce medication errors, which are estimated to injure up to 1.5 million Americans each year.

Mary Ann Falkman



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through an automatic bag-sealing operation and then dispenses them to outfeed conveyors or bulk packaging. The stainless-steel construction, a one-touch, clean-out switch and 90-deg tilt action make the bagging system easy to clean, the co. notes.

Automated Packaging Systems, 800/527-0733.
www.autobag.com



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Bagmaker

The co. introduces the Atlas 122 v/f/s bagmaker, which makes bag sizes from 4 to 13 in. wide and up to 28 in. long. Its patented film-loading system requires no manual centering and includes a vacuum splice plate for quick, simple film changes, the co. says. Automatic film-tracking, registration and unwind controls, along with the co.'s patented servo-controlled pulldown belt and rotary back seal systems are said to reduce downtime and waste.

Heat and Control, Inc., 800/227-5980.

www.heatandcontrol.com



Filling machine The co.'s new continuous-motion MG2 Cosmo horizontal pouch filler is capable of filling up to 240 single pouches/min with tablets, capsules, granulated powders, creams and more. This machine is fully adjustable and does not require a change of parts when a pouch size change occurs. It can accommodate pouches with a width of 40 to 90 mm and a length of 40 to 160 mm.

MG America, 973/808-8185.
www.mgamerica.com

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www.packagingdigest.com

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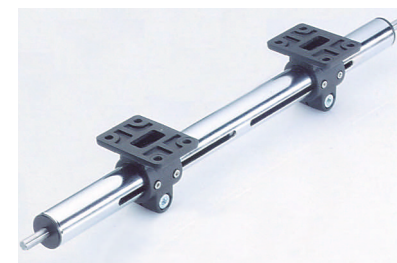


Label printer The new Zeo! ink-jet label printer is a low-priced, low-volume printer for small and medium-sized businesses that want to print their own custom and personalized labels in-house, in quantities from 1 to 1,000 labels a day. The system prints photo-quality labels on-demand and is compact, quick to deploy and user-friendly, the co. says. The printer fits on a desk, a countertop and other work surfaces.

QuickLabel Systems, 877/757-7978.
www.QuickLabel.com

Case packer The co. has released the 8255 ServoPro low-profile case packer, which uses servo-drive technology to eliminate all drive chains and belts and to reduce the number of moving parts in order to cut machine maintenance and downtime. Case packers also feature integrated Allen-Bradley control architecture with a color touchscreen user interface that electronically stores machine changeover settings for each control axis. The packer is available with stainless-steel frames and a washdown construction.

Thiele Technologies, Inc.,
612/782-1200.
www.thieletech.com



Threaded shafts The co. offers metric linear actuators with two separate threaded shafts. The actuators feature guide tubes of chrome-plated precision steel, with metal follower nuts and plastic end caps. The tubes are also available in stainless steel and come in a variety of dias and travel lengths up to 1,150 mm. The actuators may be ordered with one shaft right-hand thread and one shaft left-hand thread, both shafts right-hand thread or both left-hand thread.

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

Cartoner The co. introduces new stick-pack cartoning systems that it says provide users with a unique beverage-packaging solution. The asynchronous infeed system allows for a continuous-motion infeed of product into the vertical collator, while the transfer of the sticks for loading is accomplished through intermittent motion. Equipped with the PackDrive iSH Series intelligent servo modules from ELAU, the automation is unlike conventional servo-motor and drive systems, the co. says.

Z Automation Co., Inc.,
847/483-0120.
www.zautomation.com

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Inspection system The CaseChek is an x-ray inspection system that detects multiple contaminants in large, conveyorized cartons, cases and loose products. The system uses a low-energy technology that provides optimal sensitivity, detecting and automatically rejecting a variety of contaminants, the co. says. Utilizing a dual vertical x-ray beam, the inspection system checks products for metal, stone, glass, bone and dense plastics at a rate of up to 100 ft/min. The system also features a 15-in. full-color touchscreen display, on-board diagnostics and a modular design for easy repair, supported by a complete spare parts inventory.

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

www.mt.com/safelineus



Printers The co. has released four new printers in its H-Class series. The H-Class family of 4-in.-wide label printers now includes models capable of 203-, 300-, 400- and 600-dpi print resolution to meet the specific requirements of enterprise bar-code and RFID label- and tag-printing applications. The printers are field-upgradable for RFID applications and provide both EPCglobal-certified UHF and HF RFID smart-label capabilities. They also feature a graphical LCD display, Ethernet, USB, parallel and serial interfaces and optional wi-fi wireless LAN host connectivity across multiple platforms.

Datamax Corp., 407/578-8007.

www.datamaxcorp.com



Case erector To meet the demand for higher case output due to smaller case collation, the co. has introduced the F-388 case erector, which features servo motors, case pressing, case transfer and case-extractor framing. The height of the case erector and magazine can be reduced by 20 percent to increase machine access and to ease case loading to the magazine at 3.5 ft. Advantages of the system, according to the co., include a single case erector to meet speeds of 50 cases/min, two-time case forming, rather than forming during extraction, a nearly unlimited number of case formats and direct access to servo-drive parameters in the HMI.

Cermex, Inc., 678/221-3570.

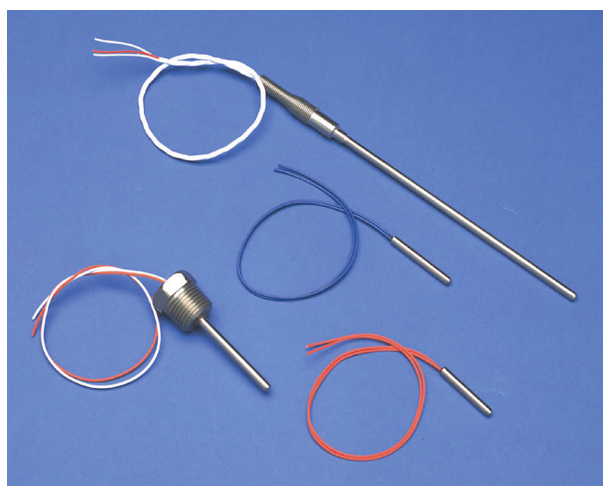
www.cermexinc.com

Resistance temperature detectors

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Durex Industries, 800/762-3468.

www.durexindustries.com



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TCP Reliable, Inc., 732/346-9200. www.tcpreliable.com.



Metal tins Springtime decorative metal tins feature a fun-loving, vibrant design by artist Lisa Poole. The lids feature colorful Easter eggs and tiny daisies scattered on a grass-green, polka-dot background. A coordinating white body finishes the design. The tins are round and have a smooth surface finish.

Ball Corp.-Steeltin, 410/682-7105.
www.ball-steeltin.com/ballcorp.com

APET deli containers The Alur line of round, APET deli containers comes in five sizes, ranging from 8 to 32 oz with one common plug-fitting lid. The lip of the containers is rolled to ensure leak-resistance and security, and the containers accept a tamper-evident shrinkband. The clear container sidewalls can be printed in up to five colors for branding opportunities and six on the lid. Resistant to fatty, oily and acidic foods, the containers do not transfer or scalp their contents' flavors, the co. says.

Fabri-Kal Corp., 800/888-5054. www.f-k.com



Shrink bag The improved Cryovac® B2000 Series vacuum barrier shrink bag for smoked and processed meats, fresh meats, poultry and dairy applications combines shrink and toughness without compromising oxygen-barrier properties, according to the co. The bag is designed for use in a variety of nonabrasive applications and offers a possible source reduction for processors currently using a heavier-gauge bag for slightly more abrasive products. The product is available in a range of sizes and formats from 3½ to 24 in. in width and from 6 to 24 in. in length.

Cryovac, 800/845-3456.
www.cryovac.com

Shipper The co. introduces the AcuTemp® AX2100LG temperature-management cargo unit for ground transportation. The product is precision-engineered to ensure the temperature of critical payloads and allows users to ship pallet-size loads of pharmaceuticals, biomedical products, medical equipment, electronics and other temperature-sensitive cargo over the road. The shipper features active temperature-management technology utilizing high-efficiency refrigeration and heating systems enhanced by ThermoCor® high-performance insulation, and is engineered to provide precise temperature control between 39.2 and 77 deg F using either AC or battery power.

AcuTemp Thermal Systems, 937/312-0114.
www.acutemp.com



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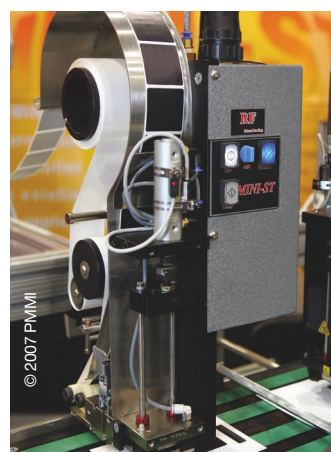
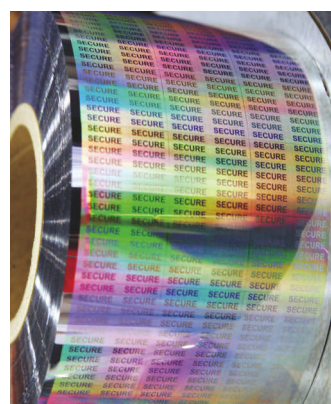


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Cartoners, case packers open a New Chapter

Lauren Hartman, Senior Editor

With a mission to “deliver the wisdom of nature” through the finest herbal supplements and probiotic nutrients it can make, New Chapter, Inc., a Brattleboro, VT, certified organic manufacturer of whole-food vitamins, minerals and supplements, didn’t use secondary packaging for some time, but recently chose to pack its bottles of product in folding cartons to strengthen its brand presence in the market and on the store shelf.

Founded in 1982 by Paul and Barbi Schulick, New Chapter could be considered the natural foods industry’s answer to Ben & Jerry’s. Its supplements include those for treating stress, headaches, blood pressure, mood, the sinuses and more. Its whole-food probiotic nutrients are cultured in organic soy, and it offers a large line of herbal therapeutics, a line of vegetarian “super food” probiotic capsules

Organic supplement manufacturer New Chapter automates its cartoning process to improve **PACKAGING LINE EFFICIENCIES** and cope with growing product demand in half the time.

called Berry Green® and a line of tonics and topicals and it operates a biodynamic (organic and spiritual) farm near the Children’s Rain Forest in Costa Rica.

According to its website, the company’s products are truly natural, made of 100-percent real food and herbs. Its extensive recycling, energy-conservation measures and environmentally preferable purchasing practices have earned state recognition.

In fact, cofounder Barbi Schulick is the

company’s director of sustainability, helping to assure that the founding values of the company continue to thrive. New Chapter recycles much of its solid waste, including paperboard and paper, glass containers and pallets and also “closes the loop,” by purchasing recycled paper products and printing catalogs on 100-percent post-consumer-recycled (PCR) paper.

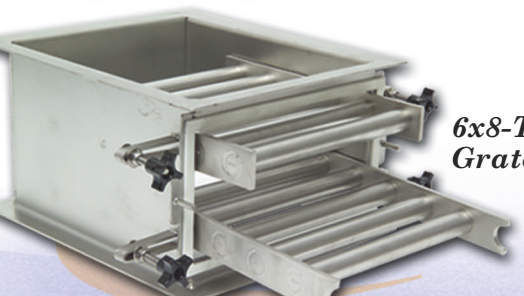
Available in the “natural channel” of fine natural food retailers such as Whole Foods, Wild Oats, the Vitamin Shoppe and many others, the products come in glass bottles in five sizes, from 74 cc to 450 cc. The company has seen noticeable improvements in shelf presence since adding the cartons. The cartons create a strong brand block when merchandised together, which the company says communicates the breadth of the product lines to consumers. In fact, the cartons have



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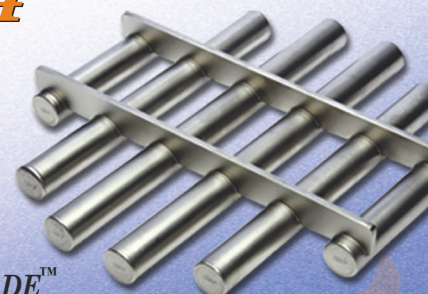


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At New Chapter's Brattleboro, VT, plant, loaded cartons exit from the cartoner and are collated automatically before being case-packed.

business demand, but it also allows us to gain further efficiencies. For example, we can now perform the same packaging function—and more—in half the time," she says.

The packaging team learned about Econocorp while researching cartoning equipment on the Internet. The team knew Econocorp was established as a cartoning equipment supplier, but was pleasantly surprised to discover that it's a local New England business. Upon initial project discussions, New Chapter Continued on page 22

helped to increase product sales, notes Graham Rigby, director of marketing. "It's difficult to isolate the impact of the cartoning on growth, but it's worth saying that the presence afforded to New Chapter from our packaging has helped drive our double-digit, compound annual growth over the past several years."

New Chapter started out erecting the cartons by hand until it opened a "new chapter" in the book of its packaging operation by adopting the Spartan automatic cartoner from Econocorp (www.econocorp.com) and later Econocorp's Econopacker case packers and Twinseal sealers. The decision to automate the cartoning process came from the dramatic growth New Chapter has

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Automation
not only
allows us to
keep up with
increasing business
demand, but it
allows us to gain
efficiencies.

experienced in recent years. The production team attempted to respond to this growth by adding more manual labor at the cartoning station, but the team says it was unable to consistently keep up with product demand, despite the increase in resources.

The return on the investment for automatic cartoning has been very convincing. New Chapter estimated that it would pay for the equipment through a labor reduction and increased efficiency within six months of purchase.

"We chose to automate the packaging line in efforts to increase productivity and to gain efficiency," says Meg Kilroy, assistant director of operations. "Automation not only allows us to keep up with increasing

decided that Econocorp had what it needed for the automation project.

"Econocorp offered equipment that was basic, affordable and durable," Kilroy points out. "And its geographical location was easily accessible for our first automated equipment implementation."

The New Chapter team says it finds the horizontal Spartan machine

to be user friendly. The intermittent-motion system is equipped with PLC controls and a remote-control panel. It's rated to have a top speed of up to 2,400 cartons/hr.

In New Chapter's case, it's not unusual to run three or four different container sizes in a given shift at a typical production rate of approximately 2,000 cartons/hr or 32

to 34 bottles/min, Rigby says.

Changeovers from one size carton to another take about 30 min. The carton magazine is specifically designed for New Chapter's individual carton sizes. Once it is removed, another magazine configuration is installed. The remaining steps involve making adjustments for a specific carton size to be run.

Kilroy says the production team has experienced little downtime due to repairs or maintenance.

"Econocorp has been quick to respond to our questions and concerns, and it has been a pleasure working with them," she says. "We received a lot of personal attention."

The company has since purchased an additional Spartan cartoner, as well as two Econopacker case packers and one semi-automatic Twinseal carton sealer. "We have a diverse operation that includes both automated and semi-automatic equipment," adds Rigby. "Before

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cartoning equipment
handles the output from
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ORIGINAL RANGOON CO. at
www.packagingdigest.com/info/rangoon

May 2006, our only automatic piece of equipment was the Spartan. The rest of our packaging was done using manually operated labeling and filling equipment. Cottoning, capping and sealing were all done entirely by hand."

Today, there are three separate packaging lines, Rigby says, all of which are in keeping with the company's sustainability efforts.

"We continually strive to make both our packaging concepts and our packaging operation more sustainable," he tells PD. "Minimizing energy consumption, we strictly observe facility SOP of turning all equipment off while it's not in use. We installed timers on the equipment that require a warmup to guarantee that the operation can be up and running at the beginning of each shift without our having to leave the equipment on during off-hours," he says.

"We are also working with our packaging suppliers to consider ways in which we can receive packaging components with minimal secondary packaging," he continues. "Our goal is to decrease the solid waste that our operation generates. We're also in the process of adopting all shipping supplies made of one-hundred-percent post-consumer-recycled corrugated containers over the next few months."

Attractively process-printed in four vibrant colors using vegetable oil-based inks, the 100-percent-recyclable glued-end folding cartons are made by **Boutwell Owens** (www.boutwellowens.com) and **Disc Graphics** (www.discgraphics.com)

of .014 and .016 SBS, respectively.

One fully automated packaging line fills, inserts cotton, caps, seals and labels bottles before sending them to one of the Spartan machines. The second line is semi-automatic, used prior to the company's automation projects that automatically capped and sealed the bottles before being sending them to the second Spartan cartoning machine. The third line is mostly manual and is suitable for low-volume products and special projects, and is outfitted with the semi-automatic Twinseal machine.

The two Spartan systems are arranged to accept an incoming flow of bottles. They proceed to knock each bottle down on its side as it is loaded horizontally into an automatically erected and positioned carton at the loading station. With some products, an informational leaflet is also automatically "bull-nosed" around the cap of the bottle during the loading sequence. The loaded cartons are then coded with an expiration date and lot code on one end flap using thermal-transfer printers supplied by **Markem** (www.markem.com) and are sealed using hot-melt adhesive purchased through **R.P. Morrison Co.** (www.rpmorrison.com).



Supplement bottles convey to one of the new cartoners on the packaging line and are automatically placed in paperboard folding cartons.

com). The sealed cartons running on these two lines are then automatically case-packed in counts of 12 into a corrugated master shipping case by the semi-automatic, horizontal Econopackers. The shippers are tape-sealed on Little David equipment from **Loveshaw** (www.loveshaw.com).

According to Kilroy, New Chapter continues to turn the pages of its environmental efforts and packaging automation story. "We decided to stay with Econocorp throughout our packaging equipment automation process because of the quality of their equipment and the continuous support we receive," she says. "Our team is still new to much of the automatic equipment, but Econocorp's expertise and support have helped

bring our operation from one level to another level."

Adds Rigby. "New Chapter's distinct product formulations are nutrition harnessed from cultured, whole food, not chemical isolates, and require significant education for consumers to understand why they're different. In an intensely competitive industry, we must balance sustainability efforts along with a need to educate consumers and communicate

key product attributes. The decision to add a secondary carton helped immensely. We're committed to sustainable practices in every aspect of business."

More information is available:

Econocorp, Inc., 781/986-7500. www.econocorp.com.
Boutwell Owens, 978/343-3067. www.boutwellowens.com.
Disc Graphics, 631/234-1400. www.discgraphics.com.
Loveshaw Corp., an ITW co., 800/572-3434. www.loveshaw.com.
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In a patented system, nitrogen is injected into the bottles through the valves and nozzles that dispense the wine. The wine is only filled into the bottle after the injected nitrogen has displaced the air.



Speedy wine line applies screw caps

A new high-speed bottling line at **STONE HILL WINERY** includes a monobloc rinser/filler/capper/corker and is one of the few lines in the U.S. that applies screw caps to high-quality wines.

Jack Mans, Plant Operations Editor

Nestled among the rolling hillsides near the Missouri River is the little town of Hermann, MO. Perched prominently on one of these hills, with a commanding view of the village, is Stone Hill Winery. Established in 1847, Stone Hill grew to be the second largest winery in the U.S. The wines were world renowned, winning gold medals in eight world fairs. By the turn of the century, the winery was shipping 1.25 million gal of wine/year.

Unfortunately, the advent of Prohibition in 1920 killed the wine industry in Missouri, and the winery's spectacular arched, underground cellars (the largest series of vaulted cellars in America) were used to grow mushrooms. In 1965, Jim and Betty Held bought the winery and began the long process of restoring its picturesque buildings and vaulted, underground cellars, which had fallen into disrepair after Prohibition. Today, Stone Hill is Missouri's oldest and most awarded winery. In 2006, Stone Hill produced 215,000 gal of wine.

Last year, Stone Hill made a momentous decision. It decided to apply screw caps to some of its wines instead of corks, and in July 2006, it installed a new \$1-million-plus bottling line to accomplish this. It is currently applying screw caps to its sweet and semi-sweet wines, including Steinberg Red, which was running on the line

when PD visited the plant. "Our move to screw-top closures was a way to retain the high quality of our wines," says senior winemaker David Johnson. "Screw caps are a better closure, but they have never gained popularity in the U.S. for quality wines, because the quality wines have all used cork closures, while screw caps were limited to cheap wines. The big impetus for screw caps comes

The bottling line has lived up to all of our expectations.

from their use by New Zealand wineries on their high-quality Sauvignon Blancs. We feel we have made the right decision based on the fact that four to seven percent of all corked wines are tainted by trichloroanisole, a rather offensive-smelling compound commonly known as TCA," Johnson explains. "TCA is a complex chemical that comes from reactions within cork involving natural mold and chlorine that is used in cork manufacture or is naturally occurring. Screw caps are not a cheaper way of bottling wines, but a way to ensure that every bottle will be free of cork taint.

"When it came time to upgrade to a faster bottling line, we knew that we wanted the capability to screw-cap our wines, especially our

fruit-driven whites and rosés," says Johnson. "We also bought new equipment to apply corks to the wines that are likely to be laid down and cellared for several years, such as the Norton and Port varieties. For these wines, we will continue to only buy corks from suppliers that follow very stringent cork-screening tests to minimize the problem with cork taint."

The integrator for the new bottling line was **Scott Laboratories (www.scottlab.com)**, which also supplied the conveyors, the rinser/filler/capper/corker, which is manufactured by **MBF S.p.A. (www.mbf.it)**, and the caps, which are manufactured by **Alplast S.p.A. (www.alplast.it)**. "We looked at bottling lines in a number of other plants and decided that this system from Scott would be best for our operation," says Johnson. "It has lived up to all of our expectations, and the service from Scott has been excellent. We couldn't have made a better choice."

During PD's visit, the line was running Steinberg Red wine in 750-mL glass bottles. To start the operation, workers place 12-pack cases of bottles, which are supplied by **Vitro Packaging (www.vitro.com)**, on a declining roller track that delivers them to an automatic case unloader. This is the only old piece of equipment on the line. Everything else is new. The cases travel up an inclined conveyor and

are transported overhead to the automatic case packer, while bottles are conveyed to the monobloc rinser/filler/corker/capper, which is housed in a Class 100 enclosure. This continuous conveyor runs through the enclosure, and bottles are diverted from it at each machine and back onto it at the exit of each machine.

The system includes a 30-head rinser, a 35-head filler, a 6-head corker and a 6-head capper. Each has a starwheel infeed and an exit starwheel. A feedscrew delivers the bottles to the starwheel, which feeds them into the rotary rinser, where grippers pick them up and invert them over nozzles that spray water into the bottles. Spraying is initiated upon receipt of a signal indicating the presence of a bottle. The water drains from the bottles as they travel around the machine, and they are rotated back into an upright position as they approach the discharge. The bottles exit the machine onto the conveyor through a starwheel that is fitted with a safety device that stops the rinser in case a jam occurs. Next, they enter a screw that directs them to the starwheel feeding the 35-valve low-vacuum filler.

Because it is essential that the filled bottles retain as little oxygen as possible, the filler at Stone Hill incorporates new technology developed by MBF that removes oxygen from the bottles before they are filled with wine. In this patented system, nitrogen is injected into the bottles through the valves and nozzles that dispense the wine. The wine is only filled into the bottle after the injected nitrogen has removed the air from the bottle.

In this process, the starwheel places the entering bottles onto individual bottle pedestals that rise as the machine rotates and push the bottles up against the fill valves. The fill spout enters the bottle, and nitrogen is injected. It flows down the center of the bottle and pushes the air up along the walls and out of the bottle. This requires only 1.5 to 2 sec, and as the machine rotates, the nitrogen valve closes, and the fill valve opens and admits the wine. According to Scott Laboratories, this system results in residual levels consistently near 0.1 parts per million or even less. As the bottle nears the machine discharge

starwheel, the bottle pedestal descends, allowing the fill valve to close, and the bottles discharge through the starwheel, onto the conveyor. The fill level is consistently within 1 mm due to another patented design of the MBF filling valve. Instead of an O-ring on the filling-tube tip, MBF utilizes a large gasket internally to close the valve. The filler incorporates an automatic clean-in-place (CIP) system that can be programmed to start at any time, even without the presence of an operator.

The next piece of equipment in the monobloc is the corker. Stone Hill was not running corked bottles during PD's visit, so the bottles bypassed this machine and were conveyed to the capper. If the plant were running corked bottles, the bottles would go through the corker and bypass the capper.

A starwheel delivers the filled bottles to the

Our move to screw-top closures was to retain the high quality of our wines.

capper. Roll-on, tamper-evident (ROTE) caps are loaded into a floor hopper and are air-blown over to the overhead cap hopper. The hopper rotates to orient the long-skirted caps so that they arrive at the cap-pickup point with the open end down, and they are fed into a chute that carries them down to the capper. The capper injects nitrogen into the cap chute to remove air from the caps, and another injection system located where they enter the capper displaces air that has collected in the tops of the bottles after filling. At the pickup point at the bottom of the chute, the caps protrude slightly from the chute, and the bottles in the infeed starwheel pick them up as they pass beneath. The bottles then pass beneath a stationary plate that pushes the cap down onto their tops, after which the bottles are transferred into the capper. At this point, capping chucks descend onto the bottles and rotate to screw the caps onto the bottles until the capping heads reach the preset torque. The capping heads push down with about 275 lb of force, and the threading rollers mold the caps to the bottle finish and threads.

This is a three-step process. First, the liner is compressed onto the top of the bottle, forming the seal. Next, the threader roller spins along the side of the bottle to mold the cap onto the screw thread. This holds the seal in place. Finally, the beading roller spins a small tuck just below the threads to secure the sleeve to the bottle, when the cap is removed. At this point, the chucks open and rise off of the bottles, after which the bottles travel through the discharge starwheel onto the conveyor.

One of the advantages of a monobloc system is that all of the equipment is controlled by a common programmable logic controller and an operator panel. The MBF equipment at Stone Hill is controlled by systems from **Siemens Energy & Automation, Inc. (www2.sea.siemens.com)**. While running different bottles may require changing some bottle-handling parts, the control system remembers operating parameters for each bottle so that the system can be set up properly at the touch of a button. It also records operating data and tracks the causes of shutdowns.

Stone Hill has a capsule spinner manufactured by **Nortan S.r.l. (www.nortan.it)** and supplied by Scott Laboratories in the U.S. that applies and pleats aluminum and tin capsules to cork-sealed bottles. This was not running during PD's visit.

The bottles then travel around a curve and enter a Master automatic, rotary pressure-sensitive labeler from **P.E. USA, Inc. (www.pe-us.com)** through a feedscrew that controls the bottles as they are presented to the self-centering bottle plates via the infeed starwheel. Bottles enter the rotary carousel and are placed on individual bottle plates that are rotated by a mechanical cam. The labeler has 10 individual bottle plates. As the bottles enter the bottle plates, the centering bells of the upper, rotary carousel descend onto the tops of the bottles and provide control and stability during the labeling process. Each bottle plate is

Continued on page 26

The 6-head capper, below left, applies roll-on, tamper-evident caps to the bottles. The pick-and-place case packer, below right, utilizes pneumatic gripper heads to lift the bottles and servos to move them into the cases.



driven by a dedicated cam, which turns the plate with the utmost precision to enable the labels to be applied wrinkle-free. The driving motor is synchronized to the labeler speed by a high-resolution encoder and has been designed to keep the carousel and the p-s station in perfect synchronization for labeling accuracy, even during changes in carousel speed.

The unit at Stone Hill has two labeling stations that apply front and back

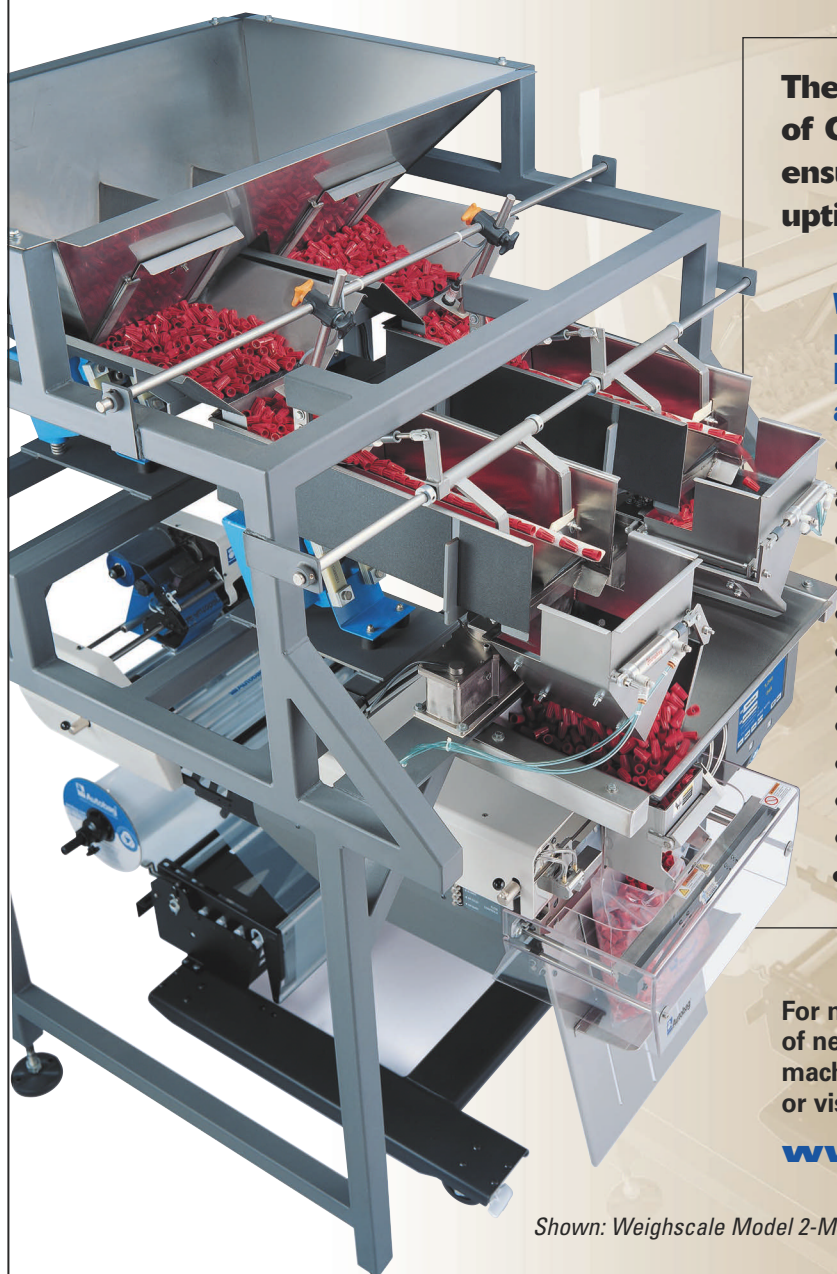
labels. The rolls of labels are mounted horizontally, and the label web is pulled around a series of vertical rollers to maintain web tension. At the point of application, the web is pulled back around a metal plate, and the label is stripped from the web and applied to the bottle. A sensor at the inlet of the labeler detects the presence of a bottle and triggers the label feed. The speed of the label roll is matched to the precisely timed rotation of the bottle



A sensor at the inlet of the labeler detects the presence of labels and triggers the label feed.

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on the cam-driven bottle plate, so the label is neither stretched nor compressed during the application. "This labeler is a dream," says Johnson. "You walk in, turn it on, and it works."

Bottles leave the labeler, travel around another curve, pass an accumulation table and enter a Model 101 pick-and-place case packer from A-B-C Packaging Machine Corp. (www.abcpackaging.com). This machine utilizes pneumatic gripper heads to gently lift the bottles and servo operation to precisely transport bottle loads from the conveyor to the case.

The bottles are divided into three lanes as they enter the packer and are conveyed to the pickup area. The flow of bottles is controlled by a flag-signal mechanism that turns the conveyor on and off. When all three lanes are filled with bottles inside the case packer on the product side, the flags are tripped, and the conveyors shut off, stopping the movement of bottles from the accumulation table.

Empty, glued-bottomed shipping cases from the unloading operation enter the packer on a parallel conveyor in front of the bottle conveyor. At the beginning of each cycle, two empty cases are admitted to the loading area, and plastic grids lower down over the top of the cases to guide the bottles. Grid guide fingers ensure that the partitions are located and positioned correctly. In addition, the outward-sloping tops of the grids hold the case flaps out of the way when the bottles are loaded.

Two cases of 12 bottles each are packed simultaneously, so the machine removes 24 bottles from the pickup zone per cycle. This starts the product conveyor, releases the flags and starts the conveyor of the accumulation table. The robotic pickup assembly cycles over

the bottles, descends and places pneumatic gripper heads with internal bladders onto the bottles. When the heads are in place, the bladders are inflated with air. The pickup assembly then rises and cycles over the two shipping cases.

The pickup assembly separates the bottles, so they fit exactly into the partitions. It then gently lowers the bottles into the cases with essentially no contact between the bottles and partitions and no label scuffing. The bladders then deflate, leaving the bottles in the boxes. The assembly cycles back for the next loading cycle, and the cases exit.

The filled cases then travel to an A-B-C Model 436 case top-sealer, which incorporates a ProBlue 7 hot-melt unit from **Nordson Corp.** (www.nordson.com) that uses hot-melt adhesive from **H.B. Fuller Co.** (www.hbfuller.com). When a case enters the sealer, sensors signal a pneumatically controlled tuck arm to close the minor flaps on the shipping cases and trigger the glue jets to apply glue to the minor flaps. The major flaps are then folded down by channeled plates, which square the cases before they are sealed. Cases leaving the sealer travel past a Model 5200 ink-jet case printer from **Markem Corp.** (www.markem.com) and are then conveyed to an A-B-C Model 72A floor-level palletizer.

When the cases reach the palletizer, an automatic infeed timing belt controls spacing and orients the cases according to preprogrammed sequences for proper row and gap configurations. Once a row of cases is present, a mechanical pusher bar transfers the cases onto a layer table. When a full layer is assembled, the layer table rises to the level of the next layer on the pallet. It then moves

over the empty pallet or the existing layer, and a sweep bar holds the layer of boxes static, while the layer table retracts, leaving the layer of cases on the pallet. It automatically centers each layer on the pallet. The palletizer has a loading area for empty pallets, and when a finished pallet exits the unit, an empty pallet is automatically moved into its place. Both the case packer and sealer incorporate PLCs

and touchscreen operator panels from **Rockwell Automation** (www.rockwellautomation.com).

"The case-packing and handling equipment has been quite a change for Stone Hill," says enologist Tavis Harris. "Prior to this, those activities were performed by hand. This level of automation has required training and practice, but it has benefited both productivity and worker safety,"



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Labeling operation gets a manicure

Nailcare manufacturer Calico Laboratories moves to shrink-sleeve labels for containers of nail polish remover and adds new **HEAT-SHRINKABLE LABEL APPLICATORS**. The results improve product appearance and boost sales.

Calico Laboratories, Inc., a Festus, MO-based manufacturer of brand-name and private-label nailcare products, has been brushing up the look of its nail polish remover packaging with a move to full-body shrink-sleeve labels. Available in various mass-merchandise, grocery and drugstores around the country, such as Wal-Mart, Eckerd Drugs, Fred Meyer, RiteAid and Meijer, the polish removers include Calico's Polish Off Anti-Bacterial brand, a product notable for its antibacterial properties and choice of formulation strengths. The nail polish remover category is virtually flooded with products, including many private-label brands, and offers various formulations, benefits and packaging with assorted dispensing choices, container shapes and labeling—all paramount to sales success. Calico says it needed a unique look to set the Polish Off line apart from the competition.

Says Calico's vp Traci Palmero, "Retailers are extremely happy with the new packaging because it's like nothing else in the category. The improved

appearance of our bottles and jars has helped retailers increase sales."

Prior to installing the EZ-Seal 200HS sleeve-label applicator from **Axon Corp.** (www.axoncorp.com), Calico was applying front-and-back labels to its high-density polyethylene bottles and jars. The full-body shrink-wrapped sleeves not only improve the product's appearance, it reports, but allow it to



Both **JEL SERT** and **NOGA DAIRY** opted for shrink labels for their new, cool drink bottles. Read more at www.packagingdigest.com/info/jelnoga

promote the products effectively on four container sides instead of just two.

In March 2006, Calico installed the EZ-Seal 200HS system to work with nail polish remover in 4-, 8- and 16-oz bottles and 6-oz jars and uses it to label 25 to 30 percent of the Polish Off Anti-Bacterial line. The company says it will also soon

begin using the system in its contract-packaging activities. The oriented polystyrene shrink film, from **New Century Packaging Systems** (www.newcenturypkg.net), is impervious to acetone—the primary ingredient in most polish removers and one that Calico uses to produce a polish-removal formulation in a 100-percent strength.

The natural-tone bottles and jars, which Calico injection- and extrusion/blow-molds in-house at a second facility, now wear full-body shrink sleeves decorated with inviting graphics. Designed to appeal to women, the color schemes in soft pastels graduate from dark to light and are color-coded according to product variety.

Featuring tool-less changeovers, the 200HS sleeve labeler has an advanced film-delivery system designed to accommodate various container shapes. "Our labels have a high level of graphic content, such as illustrations of hands and flowers that

Continued on page 30

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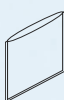


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need to be color-correct," explains Palmero. "We chose the gravure-printing process for all of our labels. The sleeve-applicating machine has a photoeye that reads and cuts off the

label to the correct length."

Axon designed the EZ-Seal 200HS to handle both full-body shrink sleeves and tamper-evident bands in widths from 1¼ to 4¾ in. at speeds in the

120-packages/min range—well within Calico's line-speed range of 32 to 44 bottles/min, depending on container size. The 6-oz jars run at about 40/min.

The dual-head sleeve applicator and a Model EZ-72-SS steam tunnel, also provided by Axon, were flexible enough to fit within the line, which also runs assorted products that require front-and-back labels. Calico redesigned the flow of the line so that the front/

back labeler can be bypassed when containers need to be sleeve-labeled and vice-versa.

Label/sleeve application is the final step in the production process on the filling line, Palmero says. After the containers are filled and capped, they progress to the labeling/sleeving station where the EZ-Seal applying machine has two delivery heads that cut and apply two labels at a time. First, as the film unwinds and travels through the machine, which is powered by a stepper drive system, it's fed through a fiberoptic print-registration system that triggers the stepper drive to stop the film feed at the correct time. The film passes over a film-bullet forming device and feeds through a knife block as opposing film grippers come together and vacuum is applied to secure the label onto the container. The film is then cut via a guillotine knife and the grippers open the label. The label is then pushed by a plunger onto the container entering the label-application zone and the whole process is repeated. The container then moves to the steam tunnel, which heats the sleeve to snugly conform it to the container.

The sleeve labels have not only increased sales, but provided very accurate shrink application, Palmero points out. "That means our [increased] output stems from correct sleeve placement every time," she notes. The plant likes the machine's speedy changeovers in container size and label graphic formaty," she adds. "We can run artwork for three different [stockkeeping units] on an eight-ounce container and artwork for two sixteen-ounce bottles immediately afterward, in the same eight-hour shift. Any further line extensions would be considered for the shrink-label application," Palmero explains.

Calico's successful project proves that it's usually a wise decision to polish up the look of your packaging. "We're very pleased," Palmero sums up, adding, "We welcome any filling business that requires a shrink-label. We wanted to provide this decorating option to our customers."



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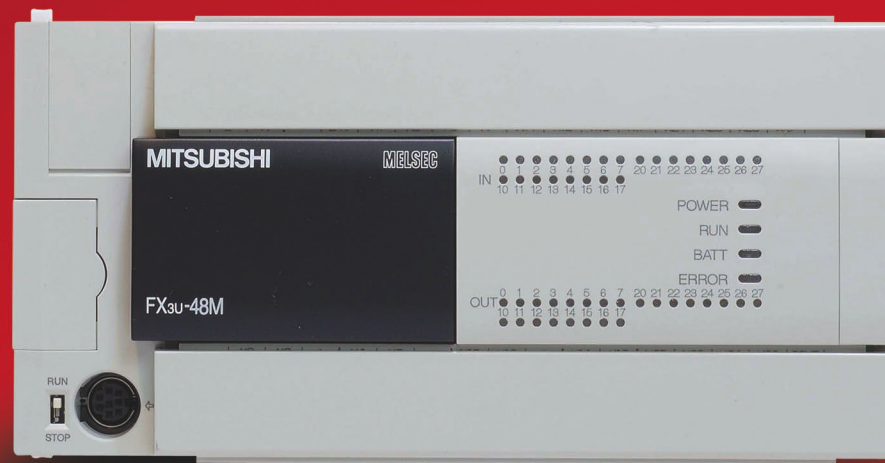
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Mother Parkers Tea & Coffee adds thermal-transfer coders to its **COFFEE-POUCHING OPERATIONS** to clearly print data that stays up-to-date. The coffee lines get maximum uptime in real time and provide product traceability.



Coding coffee efficiently

Lauren R. Hartman, Senior Editor

Steeped in tradition, Mother Parkers Tea & Coffee, Inc.'s formula for success has been based on combining consistent quality and value with an innovative and responsive approach to meeting market demands. With a roasting plant and distribution center located in Fort Worth, TX, the Mississauga, ON-based company has been in business since 1912, producing a wide variety of private-label and branded coffee and tea products for retail and foodservice distribution to food stores, hotels and institutions throughout North America. Its product line includes roasted coffee, instant coffee, assorted teas and coffee creamers in several package configurations and sizes.

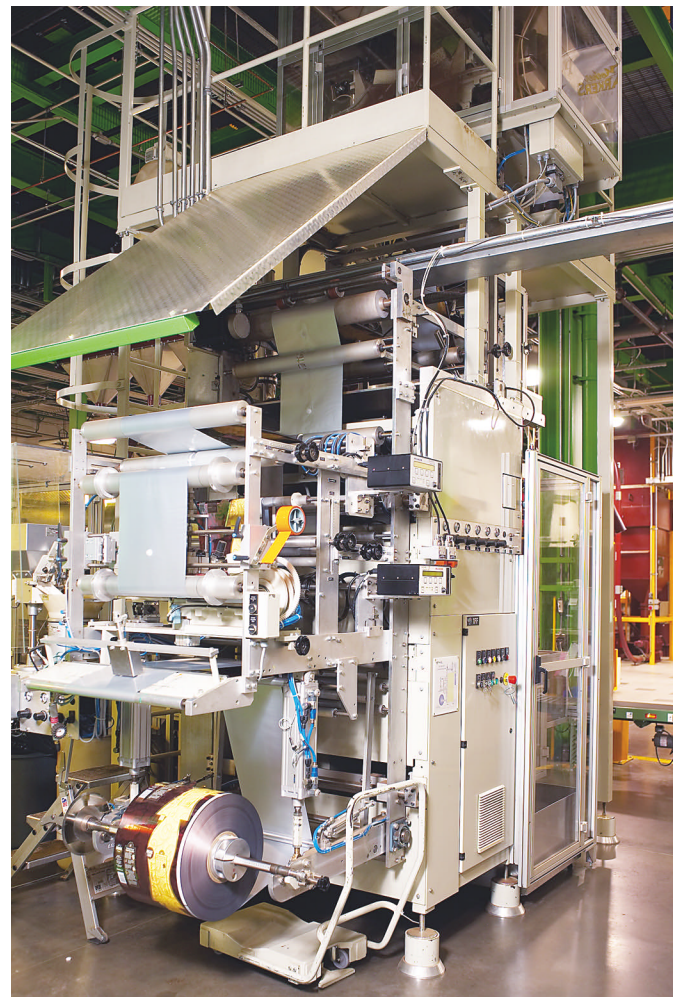
As a further testament to its thriving business, Mother Parkers brought its coffee package-coding process up to speed and enhanced the appearance of its use-by dates, production times, lot codes, flavor descriptions, content weights and bar codes with a set of thermal-transfer coding systems from **Markem Corp.** (www.markem.com) that could improve code clarity, equipment

reliability and production-line efficiencies. The equipment upgrade went so well that the company has progressively added a total of 13 of Markem's SmartDate® 2i 100 and 3i 100 intermittent-motion, thermal-transfer coders to both new and existing coffee-packaging lines.

Buying coffee beans from all over the world, the company processes and packages coffee in pouch sizes from 5 oz to 5 lb across its product lines and is also a private-label roaster for various clients with specific needs. This means that the company must keep ahead of what is going on in the industry and must take stock of all things "java." To keep its packaging operation buzzing, Mother Parkers decided to adopt the SmartDate systems to apply clear, crisp multiline date codes and bar codes to what it calls its "fractional" pouches of coffee.

The company was looking to replace a set of older hot-stamping printers, some of which were installed on a few of its newer production lines. It wanted the manufacturing codes and pouches to portray a better first impression of its coffee and tea brands and wanted to install printers it could use for wide print areas (up to 4.2×2.8 in.).

"We needed intermittent coders for



The thermal-transfer coding systems, below, are installed on a variety of vertical bagging machines like the one above. So far, Mother Parkers has 13 of the new coders at its plant in Fort Worth, used for coffee-pouch packaging.





Read how **UNILEVER** automated pallet labeling, coding and shipping operations at sites including the Knorr plant in The Netherlands, as part of a global initiative to improve logistics and compliance and to cut costs at www.packagingdigest.com/info/unilever

consistent placement of the package codes,” explains John Hawkins, manager of manufacturing systems at Mother Parkers. The SmartDate intermittent-motion 2i 100 was a logical choice, he says. Later, the company added the more recently introduced 3i 100 thermal-transfer system for its ease of use and for its ability to print high-resolution images at 300 dpi. The company currently has 13 SmartDate systems. It says they help keep running costs to a minimum, make no mess and have improved code quality. And, the thermal-transfer technology works well on flexible packaging without using toxic inks or consumables, Hawkins says.

“This was the right type of machinery for the job, and it can keep up with our line speeds,” he adds. “It has had the reliability, support and performance we needed and not having to worry about solvents or inks is certainly advantageous.”

Installed on assorted vertical baggers from suppliers, including but not limited to **Ilapak** (www.ilapak.com) and **Triangle** (www.trianglepackage.com), the coders provide maximum uptime on the packaging lines as well as reliability, increased efficiencies and improved product traceability, the co. reports. Equipped with a four-line graphic user interface that features a simplified menu layout, the coders incorporate Markem’s CimControl® software, which helps

This was the **right type of machinery** for the job and it can keep up with our line speeds.

make image design and connectivity quick and simple and updates product data. In addition, Mother Parkers is able to track products effectively. “We have always utilized product traceability,” Hawkins says. “The coding is used to indicate which production run a package is from. We use the CimControl software to perform job selection and image development.”

Generally, Mother Parker’s coffee operation on the bagging machines begins as a roll of pouch film mounted on a spindle unwinds through the machine and moves through a series of stations before it leaves the roll as it passes through the film carriage. It’s here that the company had most of the SmartDate coders set up to apply specific codes (usually a multiline code, including alphanumeric product information, production or use-by dates and other details, depending on the



Closeup shows the coffee pouchstock unwinding through one of several vf/f/s systems Mother Parkers uses in its coffee-package production.

product stockkeeping unit and the package) to the coffee pouch film.

Coder printing speed can be adjusted according to film speed via the SmartDate control-box system settings. The coded film is then formed into a pouch or bag, seals are produced, and the coffee emerges from a weighing system and drops through the forming tube, into the just-made bag. The film then heads through more sealing stations to create horizontal seals, after which the bags are cut and separated from the film webs and the start of the next bagging cycle begins. The coffee pouches discharge from the machines and land on takeaway conveyors.

For Mother Parkers, the move to the thermal-transfer coding process was a success. Its 13 new SmartDate systems have brought it luck. “We can apply graphics, date codes, bar codes and text to the packages or whatever a customer requires,” notes Hawkins. Sums up Hawkins: “I believe that any additional [coffee-bagging] lines we buy will usually include a Smart Date coder.”

More information is available:

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

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

Triangle Package Machinery Co., Inc., 800/621-4170. www.trianglepackage.com.

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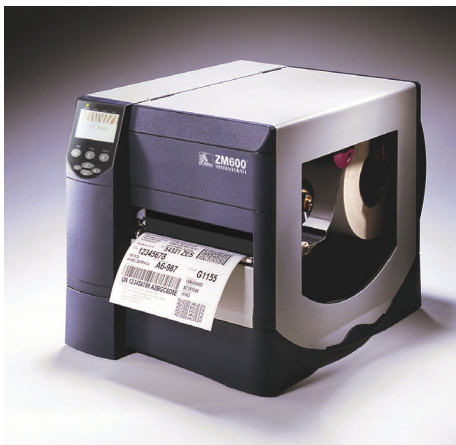
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bioplastics



NatureFlex™ cellulose-based films from Innovia (www.innoviafilms.com) can be used in flowrapping applications.

Bioplastics: A moving target

Steven Mojo of the Biodegradable Products Institute helps *Packaging Digest* put the **EVOLVING TECHNOLOGY OF BIOPLASTICS** into perspective in an exclusive interview.

Anne Marie Mohan, Senior Editor

As an increasing number of brand owners begin to evaluate their product packaging for sustainability—whether to meet mandatory retail initiatives or to reap some of the rewards associated with greater environmental stewardship—one area of great interest is the use of bioplastics as a replacement for traditional, petroleum-based polymer packaging. But what exactly constitutes a bioplastic? And, how do bioplastics compare with synthetic polymers in real-world packaging applications? This month, *Packaging Digest* talks to Steven Mojo, executive director of **The Biodegradable Products Institute** (www.bpiworld.org), to learn more about this rapidly growing category and some of the issues surrounding the use of these materials.

PD: When we use the terms “biopolymer” or “bioplastic,” are we talking about a plastic material

that is biobased, i.e. based on renewable materials?

Mojo: Some people will say that a biopolymer is a plastic that has a renewable content, and others will say that it is a material that is biodegradable, while others will say it's a little of each. Many products that are on the market today are combinations of petroleum-based and renewably based materials. “Biopolymer” is one of those terms that comes into the lexicon without being defined very well.

I believe the Japanese have announced that they are going to require a twenty-five-percent renewable content based on weight for many of these materials to be called biopolymers. But in the U.S., I don't know that we have defined the term biopolymer in any great detail.

The recent announcements by **The Dow Chemical Co.** [www.plastics.dow.com] and its Brazilian partner, **Crystalsev** [www.crystalsev.com.br], and by **Braskem**

Continued on
page 36



The new Mirel™ corn-sugar-based bioplastic from Metabolix and ADM is a PHA resin, used here for applesauce cups.

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There's nothing that says that **biopolymer materials** need to be biodegradable, nor do they need to be 100-percent renewably based.

[www.braskem.com.br] in Brazil, that they can now make traditional

polyethylene from the renewable resources of sugarcane and ethanol are

exciting new developments in the area of biopolymers. Now you can have a traditional plastic film that's based solely on renewable resources.

To me, there's nothing that says that biopolymer materials need to be biodegradable, nor do they need to be 100-percent renewably based. So you could have a blend Continued on page 38

Biodegradable packaging to grow at CAGR of 22 percent

Key findings of a new study from **Pira Intl. Ltd.** (www.pira.co.uk) include the estimate that biodegradable packaging—quantified at more than 42,000 metric tons in 2006—will grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 22 percent, to reach nearly 116,000 metric tons in 2011. Other insights include the following:

- Cutting-edge technologies include the introduction of lower-cost polyhydroxyalkanoate (PHA) biodegradable polymers that could compete with standard thermoplastics and other biodegradable polymers by 2011. These would fit more demanding rigid and flexible packaging applications that require high barrier protection.

- The majority of biodegradable packaging consumption in 2006 was in the fresh-food sector at 41 percent, followed by foodservice and other food.

- Foodservice is expected to be the highest growth sector for biodegradable packaging at 24 percent CAGR, followed by nonfood and fresh food.

- Fresh food is the biggest end-use sector for biodegradable packaging, accounting for nearly 18,000 metric tons in 2006. Polylactic acid (PLA) is the most widely used biodegradable polymer for fresh-food applications, with 39 percent of total consumption in 2006. Starch-based polymers account for 36 percent of market volumes.

- PLA currently holds approximately 43 percent of the market. This share is expected to grow, with consumption forecast at more than 50,000 metric tons in 2011.

- Western Europe is the leading consumer of biodegradable packaging. The markets in Asia Pacific and eastern Europe have been growing but are relatively underdeveloped at present.

- The U.S. is the largest single market for biodegradable packaging, and this is expected to continue to 2011, where the market is estimated at more than 44,000 metric tons.

To purchase "The Future Global Markets for Biodegradable Packaging," contact Neil Johnston at 44 (0) 1372 802262 or at neil.johnston@pira-international.com.

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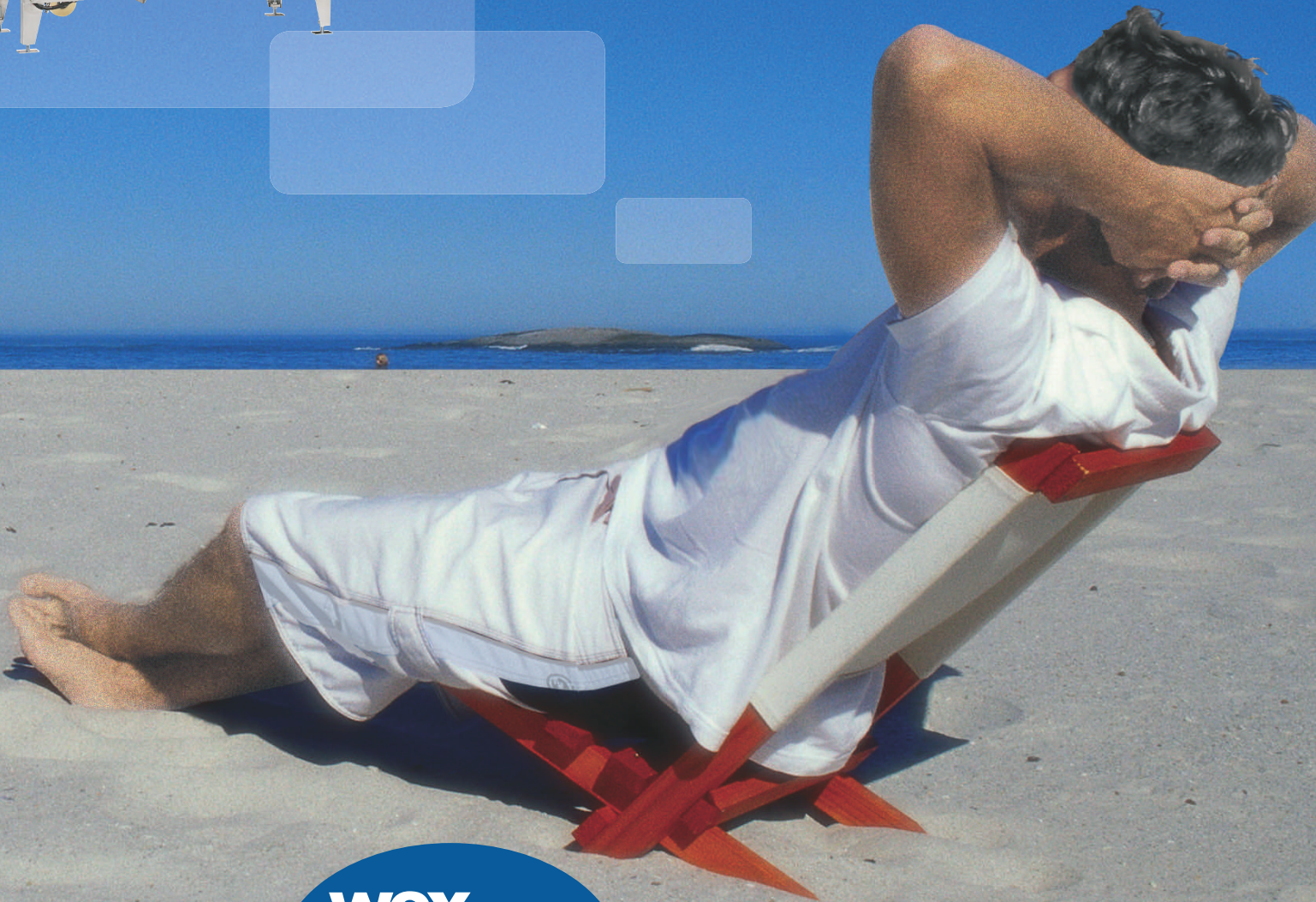
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of synthetic and renewable materials that don't biodegrade, or in the case of the Dow and Braskem materials, polyethylene that's fully renewable, yet will not biodegrade.

That's what makes this technology exciting, because you can look at combinations of fiber and renewable materials like PLA [polylactic acid] coatings on paper cups, and you

get a fully compostable cup where biopolymers provide added value.

The realm of biopolymers is still coming into fruition, and the term is evolving as technology moves forward. Frankly, I would urge manufacturers to be as specific as possible about claims such as renewable content and biodegradability or compostability.

PD: Can the various types of biopolymer resins on the market today be categorized?

Mojo: I think what you have to look at is the performance of these materials relative to the applications for which they are being used. For example, PLA resin, such as NatureWorks® polymers from Natureworks LLC [www.natureworksllc.com], tends to



One application for Cereplast's (www.cereplast.com) starch-based resins is foodservice packaging.

produce a very stiff, clear material. PLA has a lot of the characteristics of polystyrene and polyethylene terephthalate. On the other hand, Ecoflex®, a biodegradable material from BASF [www.basf.de/ecoflex] that is made from petroleum, can also be very clear, but it's a very soft material, and it's suitable for making films and bags.

Another type of resin is PHA [polyhydroxyalkanoate]. [PHA resins are known as aliphatic polyesters, or a family of polymers that are made biologically by converting sunlight and carbon dioxide from the atmosphere using microbial or plant biofactories.] One example of a PHA is the new Mirel™ corn-sugar-based resin from Telles™, a joint venture of Metabolix [www.metabolix.com] and Archer Daniels Midland [ADM (www.admworld.com)]. PHA is said to be a lot like polypropylene as far as its properties and its potential applications are concerned.



To learn more about **SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING**, visit PD's micro-site on the topic at www.packagingdigest.com/info/sustainability

are cloudy and translucent, not transparent. But I've also heard people talk about PLA as being starch-based. So, I don't try to categorize the feedstocks, other than renewable versus petroleum-based.

What is most important when discussing the differences between various biopolymers is to understand their properties and their applications. It's like the differences between PE, PET, PP and PVC. There are many, many different types

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Ecoflex®, a biodegradable material from BASF that is made from petroleum, is suitable for making grocery bags.

of resins, and each has benefits in certain types of applications. That's really the challenge in the market for converters: to understand which of these new resins will perform the way they want them to so they can create value for their customers.

PD: Is it true that using bioplastics in packaging may not always be a more sustainable solution than using traditional, petroleum-based resins?

Mojo: You need to look at the life cycles of these bioplastic materials. You need to look at their manufacture, as well as their use, and then at their disposal. And then you need to compare that to the incumbent materials. The most complete life cycles I've seen are the ones done by BASF, Natureworks and Novamont. As these companies have demonstrated, as the process for making these biobased materials is better understood and better defined, the life-cycle benefits begin to improve.

The original complaints that it takes too much energy to make these biobased materials compared with the incumbents may have been true. But you are looking at different levels of manufacturing in terms of the expertise and the knowledge and the quantity. So you're comparing a startup business to one that has been around for decades, and you're saying that this new material isn't as efficient as the older one. And yes, you're right, it is not as efficient, but that's not to say that it won't be someday.

PD: Can the terms "biodegradable" and "compostable" be used interchangeably?

Mojo: No, because one describes

a process, while the other describes where and when the process will take place. When you say something is "biodegradable," it means that under the right conditions, microbes in the environment can completely break down the material and use it as a food source. Biodegradation is a process that can take place in many environments, including

soils, compost sites, water treatment facilities, marine environments and even in the human body. This is the process that converts organic carbon into energy and maintains life. Not all materials are biodegradable under all conditions. Some are susceptible to the microbes found in a wastewater treatment plant, while others need the conditions and microbes found in a

compost pile or in the soil.

When we say materials are "compostable," we are talking about where the process will occur and in what time frames. When products are designed to be composted, they should meet **ASTM Intl.** [www.astm.org] specifications D6400 (for Compostable Plastics) or D6868 (for Compostable Continued on page 57

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sustainability

Clean production is defined by the United Nations as the continuous application of “an integrated, preventive environmental strategy to increase overall efficiency and reduce risks to humans and the environment.” This includes conserving raw materials, water and energy, eliminating toxic and dangerous raw materials and reducing the quantity and toxicity of all emissions and waste at source during production processes.

Clean production is crucial to the world

Clean production is most commonly addressed through the implementation of Environmental Management Systems (EMS) and is focused on the environmental impacts associated with how we make things. It represents environmentally responsible manufacturing practices. Rigorous environmental management systems seek to reduce and ultimately eliminate the environmental impact of any emissions and toxins associated with production processes. For packaging, this means that sustainability is defined not only by the package, but also how that package or product is made.

Countries with well-developed environmental

policies use regulatory programs to require companies to comply with emission limits and to control the release of hazardous wastes. More recently, market-based cap and trade systems have been implemented as a regulatory strategy. In the U.S., the results since the passage of environmental laws in the 1970s have been remarkable. The Cuyahoga River in Ohio doesn't catch on fire anymore, species like the Bald Eagle have come back from the brink of extinction and we

typically enjoy decent air quality despite a significant increase in population and productivity. Compliance has become a normal operational mode and part of expected corporate citizenship. Despite our best efforts, the urgency of mounting environmental evidence suggests that these strategies are not enough, nor is limiting the focus to our own shores.

The rapid industrialization of China and India is resulting in a frightening déjà vu of our own industrial revolution and its unintended consequences. These

impacts know no boundaries in a global marketplace, as contaminated goods travel to markets across oceans along with the pollution and greenhouse gases from their manufacture.

Environmental performance is the level playing field when it comes to evaluating the true cost of packaging or products. Regulatory compliance represents the most basic level of environmental responsibility. A basic level of environmental performance should be expected even in countries with few or no environmental standards. Consumers and companies are beginning to learn that any company can make a lower-cost widget, but if that widget results in more harmful environmental or human impact, then the cost is not really lower.

We need to move beyond compliance if we are to achieve equilibrium with our planet and provide a sustainable future for business and humanity. Demanding a basic level of environmental performance from those with whom we do business should be an essential requirement and part of responsible practice.

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



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Tips for green paper-package converting

Today, being environmentally conscious and creating compelling packaging can be done simultaneously—and cost-effectively—by carefully considering a **RANGE OF OPTIONS** for the converting of paper packaging.

Open virtually any newspaper or business magazine today, and you're bound to see a report or an advertisement about sustainability. Innovative companies are increasingly using manufacturing processes that are less harmful to the environment and are making products that are far more eco-friendly than ever before.

In the highly competitive consumer packaged goods marketplace, environmentally sustainable products are especially important. As consumers become ever more savvy, they are looking for products with all-natural ingredients and are paying more attention to various brands' environmental stances. Therefore, CPG brand managers must turn the same attention to their packaging and manufacturing as they do to their product ingredients.

But being environmentally responsible also presents a new set of challenges. For brand managers, graphic designers, packagers and converters, the rising cost of operations and consumables means that all parties in the supply chain must be mindful to ensure that their printed packaging is created in the most cost-effective ways possible, yet is still appealing to customers. Add environmental friendliness to the mix, and you may get an earful

The strongest and most pure paper fiber that comes directly from trees is called virgin fiber. Because it has not undergone prior printing or converting, papers made with virgin fiber can be the cleanest papers available, depending on the bleaching process used. However, virgin paper has the most direct effect on the consumption of natural resources. Fortunately, virgin fiber can be traced to its origins via third-party certification programs, such as the **Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC)** (www.fscus.org), the **Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Inc.® (SFI)** (www.sfiprogram.org) or the **Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification™ (PEFC)** (www.pefc.org). This "chain of custody" certification assures users that that no old-growth forests are being used as sources of fiber.

Recycling has become an increasingly important factor in paper manufacturing. It is estimated that recovered fiber now accounts for approximately 37 percent of the domestic raw materials used to make paper products. Recycling paper, in fact, takes quite a bit of pressure off landfills and forests alike. According to the **Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)** (www.environmentaldefense.org) and its Alliance for Environmental Innovation, compared to



Embossing and die-cutting are two environmentally friendly ways to add depth and dimension to a package.

about cost-to-benefit ratios, print quality issues and so on.

But the truth of the matter is that eco-friendly design, printing and packaging can, in fact, be cost-effective, good for Mother Nature and compelling to shoppers. All that is required is attention to some key elements during the project-planning phase.

Among the options to consider when selecting eco-friendly paper-based packaging are virgin-fiber, recycled and tree-free materials.

the manufacture of coated virgin fiber paper, recycled paper reduces total energy consumption by 38 percent; net greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent; particulate emissions by 36 percent; wastewater by 32 percent; and solid waste by 46 percent.

Over the last decade, recycled paper—which can include post-industrial waste, post-consumer waste (PCW), totally recycled fiber or blends of each—has greatly improved in quality. In many cases, recycled paper performs as well as virgin stock and at

Continued on page 44

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In addition to being eco-friendly, fiber from other plants—such as kenaf, hemp, flax, cotton or combinations thereof—can be used as an alternative to virgin wood pulp. Plant-fiber papers, especially kenaf and hemp, tend to be more durable than virgin wood fiber papers. Kenaf, in particular,

contains less lignin (an amorphous polymer that provides rigidity) than trees, requires fewer chemicals and less energy to process, and is naturally acid-free and recyclable.

It is important to remember that coated stock is more difficult to recycle than uncoated. This is due to the clay coating that gives the paper its smooth, shiny surface

characteristics. In fact, during the recycling process, up to 40-percent less fiber can be extracted from coated paper versus uncoated.

Brand managers and package designers should consider using more uncoated paper. Premium uncoated PCW papers can provide great results in multicolor offset printing. Uncoated paperboard

Eco-friendly design, printing and packaging can be cost-effective, good for **Mother Nature and compelling to shoppers.**

feels natural to the touch, and its tactile appeal is especially suitable for fragrances and high-end personal-care products where consumers tend to keep the secondary packaging.

If a package design must have a smooth surface like that of coated stock, one alternative to consider is supercalendered paper. Supercalendering is a process in which uncoated paper is run through a series of chrome and fiber rollers under heat and high pressure to produce a smooth, glossy surface appearance closer to that of coated paper.

Some tips for cost-effective, sustainable print production include the following:

- Size paper to minimize waste.

For print runs of 5,000 or more, consider ordering a custom-size sheet of paper that meets exact design specifications, versus a standard-size sheet that would require significant trimming. Doing so minimizes paper, chemical and energy waste, which can translate into dollar savings.

- Use fewer folds for less waste.

Complex folding specifications for a printed piece or package design may be appealing, but they require the use of more paper or paperboard, which can quickly increase costs. For example, adjusting the size of a pocket or a folded section might reduce complexity.

- Gang multiple print jobs that use the same paper stock and ink to reduce paper usage and lower the number of make-readies and plates.

- Use digital photography where appropriate to reduce or eliminate paper usage.

- Use digital proofing and electronic file delivery to minimize paper waste and to speed the production process.

When it comes to selecting ink, two eco-centric factors are involved: the effect on the printing process and the recyclability of the finished, printed

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piece. Areas of concern here include volatile organic compounds (VOCs), nonrenewable resources and the heavy metals used in pigments.

More and more printers are reducing their use of VOCs and are offering their customers inks made with vegetable oils as environmentally preferred alternatives to petroleum-based inks, which contain ozone-depleting distillates and VOCs (heat-set web offset and gravure inks emit the most). VOCs are released into the atmosphere during the print-drying process. But, while many of these pollutants can be eliminated using catalytic converters, petroleum is not a renewable material.

Vegetable oil-based inks, or "agri-based" inks, offer an attractive alternative to petroleum-based products. These biodegradable, low-VOC inks are well suited for use on uncoated paper and are made with renewable resources such as soy, linseed, cottonseed, tung or china wood oil. The percentage of soy or vegetable oil may vary from 20 percent to 100 percent of the ink's vehicle, which is the part of the ink that carries the pigment. Remember that although agri-based inks may contain petroleum, they do not have the VOC levels of solvent-based ink formulations, which can be as high as 40 percent.

To save money and environmental resources, designers may consider using fewer inks or



Paper, paperboard and molded pulp play a key role in the quest for **SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING** materials. To learn more, visit www.packagingdigest.com/paper07

using spot colors for innovative designs with punch. Note though that the use of metallic and fluorescent inks should be carefully considered, as they may have some toxicity. In addition, the use of fewer full-page ink floods also reduces the amount of processing that is required when recycling recovered paper. Finally, downsizing paper-sheet size when using ink bleeds can significantly reduce trim waste while lowering the expense of upgrading to the oversized sheet sizes typically used for bleeds.

Many finishing techniques exist that can add unique and dramatic elements to a printed package. Embossing and die-cutting are two environmentally friendly processes that can add depth and dimension to a package without the use of chemicals or inks. Embossing can be one-level, multi-level, registered with inks or sculpted, which is especially beautiful on secondary packaging, adding texture and shelf appeal.

Die-cut windows in secondary packaging can

add a level of interactivity and can maximize the impact of primary packaging. Also, both embossing and die-cutting dies can be reused, thereby maximizing investments. Engraving is another elegant, classic printing technique that has minimal impact on the environment, as most engraving inks are either water- or vegetable-based.

Putting even a few of these paper-package printing tips into practice not only will help your business protect the environment, but will also keep your employees thinking innovatively when designing packaging.

*David Lunati, director of marketing,
Mondanock Paper Mills, Inc.*

More information is available:

Environmental Defense Fund, 800/684-3322.

www.environmentaldefense.org.

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), 202/342-0413.

www.fscus.org.

Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), 352 26 25 90 59.

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Secondary seals safeguard against medication errors

An estimated **1.5 MILLION INJURIES** occur each year in the U.S. as a result of medication errors that could have been prevented. Though no single solution can eliminate all injectible drug-administration errors, radio frequency identification and other technologies can be applied to the seals to reduce errors.

Edited by **Lauren Hartman**, Senior Editor

Medication errors are an unfortunate occurrence in the healthcare-delivery system. In a study released in 2006, the Institute of Medicine estimated that 1.5 million injuries occur each year in the U.S. because of medication errors that could have been prevented. An undetermined number occurred during the administration of injectible drugs. While there is no single solution that can eliminate all injectible drug-administration errors, there are technologies that can be applied to secondary seals to help reduce their incidence.

Secondary seals—the outside closure on a vial that does not contact the packaged drug—serve an important function to ensure patient safety and efficacious delivery.

By incorporating overt, covert and track-and-trace technologies into their seals, pharmaceutical manufacturers can provide vital information throughout the supply chain that can help protect the patient against dosing errors. Safeguarding manufacturers, most secondary seals that are applied to injectible drug vials consist of an aluminum shell with a plastic button attached, assembled to the shell. Removing the button reveals the injection site of the stopper.

The plastic button can be imprinted and molded with conspicuous cautions, warnings and instructions that are useful during manufacturing, storage and at the point of use. The importance of this feature during manufacturing cannot be understated. Drug vials are frequently labeled after being filled, and the filling and labeling operations may be in different facilities and even in different countries. Information printed on the plastic button or seal, such as a bar code, can help identify products during manufacturing and labeling, so the medications are processed and labeled correctly.

In June 2006, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration recommended that the pharmaceutical industry adopt a reliable electronic pedigree system for drugs. To address the agency's recommendation, some pharmaceutical companies are investigating packaging their drugs with radio frequency identification (RFID) tags molded into the plastic buttons. RFID technology enables the manufacturer to encode each vial with information critical to the drug's manufacture and distribution. RFID provides track-and-trace capabilities throughout the supply chain, lessening the chance of errors during distribution, repackaging and at the point-of-use. In addition, item-level RFID

tags can help determine a product's authenticity from the point of its manufacture to the point of its administration.

In addition to printed, molded and electronic information, drug manufacturers frequently select unique color combinations for the button and shell to help distinguish between different products. The use of unique color schemes can help differentiate drugs during the manufacturing process, which can help prevent improper labeling. Pharmacists and healthcare providers can also verify the packages' contents by checking the color schemes against the manufacturer's published educational materials related to packaging.



Enhanced patient safety with point-of-use instructions and identification can help prevent in-process errors. Printed seals help authenticate products to inhibit improper labeling and enhance patient safety.

Much like in manufacturing, safeguarding patients by applying information on unique characteristics such as the vial's contents and cautionary and warning statements to the plastic button and aluminum shell can help reduce medication errors and prevent drug mixups in the clinical setting. Information can be printed on the button and shell, or can be molded into the button and embossed on the shell.

For some drug products, cautionary statements printed on the button and the seal are required by U.S. Pharmacopoeia. For example, the warning statement, "Must Be Diluted," is required on secondary closures used to secure vials of potassium chloride concentrate for injection. Cautionary statements such as "Paralyzing Agent," are frequently used on packaging for neuromuscular blocking agents, a class of drugs used during surgical procedures. These statements may be imprinted on both the plastic button and the aluminum shell or, if a clear plastic button is used, on the shell only.

The button and shell provide two layers of identification. The overt messages on the plastic



Multiple layers of protection can increase patient safety, combat drug counterfeiting and help to keep supply chains secure.

the button and shell include:

- Strength of the packaged drug
- Storage instructions
- Dosing instructions
- Manufacturer's name
- Product's brand name
- Manufacturing lot and date

In conclusion, secondary seals are a necessary vial-packaging component

and offer practical safeguards that can be implemented, from manufacturing through the point-of-use, to help minimize medication errors for injectible drugs.

With overt and covert technologies, security seals can provide protection by aiding manufacturers in product

authentication and providing instructions for storage and usage. Implementing prevention strategies help mitigate risks associated with medication errors.

This article was authored by Carol Mooney, West Pharmaceutical Services, and by Douglas Stockdale, of packaging consulting service Stockdale Associates.

Packaging demand for RFID

The June edition of Piper Jaffray's enewsletter, "The Wrap," examined demand for radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology in the packaging industry. It notes that packaging applications in RFID currently represent more than 20 percent of the total RFID market and allow for effective tracking of fixed corporate assets and/or inventory at various points in the manufacturing process and throughout the supply chain. The global RFID market (including nonpackaging applications), it states, is anticipated to increase from \$4.96 billion in 2007 to \$11.4 billion in 2010, before reaching \$27.9 billion in 2017 (this is based on figures from IDTechEx [www.IDTechEx.com]). RFID labels are expected to represent \$1.1 billion and \$6.2 billion of these totals in 2007 and 2010, respectively. Firms interested in adopting RFID may first want to go with a hybrid solution pairing RFID with another compatible, real-time tracking alternative. While RFID has tremendous promise, the report notes, it's important to remember the 1970s transition to the Universal Product Code, which experienced similar market hesitation following its debut.

The report adds that while RFID's popularity has suffered from pricing setbacks and technology hurdles, the procured benefits are manifold. "Piper Jaffray expects that RFID will play a major role in improving inventory management, logistics and supply-chain management on a global scale in the coming years," the enewsletter report concludes.

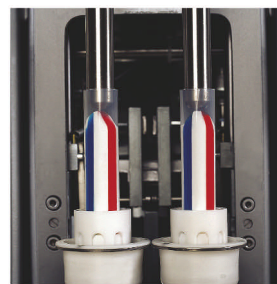
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Metal detectors help keep food containers safe

The Dannon Co., Inc. asks its container molder to install **METAL DETECTORS** to check all of the containers it produces for them.

Working in the food industry means stringent regulations must be followed. As the manufacturer of containers specifically for the food industry, **Huhtamaki Packaging** (www.huhtamaki.com), which is a plastic injection-molding and thermoforming manufacturer, sometimes has to take an extra step in its manufacturing process to ensure that its products are safe. Based out of Finland, Huhtamaki is a worldwide company with operations in North and South America, making containers and lids for the retail and fast-food industries. With a number of major national accounts, Huhtamaki produces a variety of products and their corresponding lids; its customers produce the food product and fill the containers.

When Huhtamaki entered a contract with The Dannon

Co., Inc., more than a year ago, the yogurt company requested that every container be run through a metal detector before being shipped. Dane Benning, senior industrial engineer for Huhtamaki, chose E-Z Tec® metal detectors from **Eriez** (www.eriez.com), and he hasn't regretted that decision since. "Eriez had a good reputation and a good price," he says.

Benning actually went to the Eriez facility, where he was given a tour and introduced to Eriez personnel. Huhtamaki purchased six E-Z Tec® metal detectors for the yogurt contract in May 2004, and a facility acceptance test was done on the first three detectors. A seventh metal detector has since been purchased for a separate contract for making lids for ice-cream containers. Today, five of those seven metal detectors are still in use and will continue to be used as long as Huhtamaki has these particular contracts.

Running the finished product through the metal detector assures Dannon that there are no metal contaminants in the food container. In today's world, things change rapidly, and customers are

more aware of liabilities, according to Benning. For the most part, Huhtamaki's operations run smoothly, but the metal detector occasionally picks up traces of metal in the recycled corrugated cases that the containers are shipped in. There have also been a few minor incidents where metal was actually in the container. The metal traces in the cases do not cause any problems, but operations have to be checked if the metal is found in the actual container.

As long as the cases and containers don't contain any ferrous oxide, the metal detector should be able to detect down to 2 mm of iron, 2.5 mm of nonferrous aluminum, brass and copper and 3 mm of stainless steel, according to information

from Eriez. The metal detector is manufactured from Type 304 stainless steel to meet National Electrical Manufacturers Assn.-4X requirements

and to comply with U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration and dairy standards. The metal detectors are actually designed into the manufacturing process and for the layout for the particular operation. Knowing ahead of time which contracts at Huhtamaki call for metal detectors is helpful for that reason.

For those specific contracts requiring a metal detector, Huhtamaki will continue to choose Eriez. Benning points out that, in manufacturing, once you find a good product and your employees are comfortable, you stick with it to ensure that operations continue to run smoothly. "We've had good performance and success with the Eriez units. I would see no reason to deviate from that," Benning says.

More information is available:

Eriez, 814/835-6000. www.eriez.com.

Huhtamaki Packaging, 913/583-3025.

www.huhtamaki.com.



For more information on package handling, visit Packaging Digest's **PACKAGE HANDLING TECHNOLOGY CHANNEL** at www.packagingdigest.com/info/package

The beauty of packaging

New York City will roll out the red carpet for **HBA GLOBAL EXPO** when the show opens Sept. 18 to 20 at Jacob K. Javits Convention Center.



HBA Global Expo addresses the marketing, technical and natural needs of the cosmetic, fragrance and personal care industry. About 500 exhibitors will attract about 18,000 attendees in the beauty industry's premier marketplace: New York City. A full slate of conferences complements the expo activity. The year's best packaging designs will be honored through the HBA International Packaging Awards, which, in 2007, attracted hundreds of packaging entrants. The 6th Annual Industry Awards Dinner is set to take place Sept. 18 at the Marriott Marquis in New York. For information, contact Barbara Wheat at 609/759-4732 or bwheat@hbaexpo.com.

The HBA Safety and Regulatory Summit is a full-day session of 17 international cosmetic experts, including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the Cosmetic Toiletry and Fragrance Assn. and top safety and regulatory consultants. The summit runs from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 19. Registration is required.

Several sessions of the Marketing track will address packaging issues: Sustainable Packaging, Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. to noon; Dressing Your Brand for Success, Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. to noon; Meet the Package Designers, Wednesday, 9 to 10:30 a.m.; Maximizing the Performance of Your Packaging Lines, presented by the Packaging Machinery Manufacturers Institute's board of directors, Wednesday, 9 to 10:30 a.m.; Labeling and Decorating, Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; and Contract Packaging, Wednesday, 3 to 4:30 p.m. Register for the show online at www.hbaexpo.com. Separate registration is required for the conferences.

These exhibitors have a marketing message in this issue:
Alpha Packaging—Booth 2027, p. 36

CDF Corp.—2222, p. 8
HLP Clear Pkg.—1948, p.49 and insert

IMA Nova Pkg Sys.—263, p. 28

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Salt producer watches its weight

Pharmaceutical- and food-grade salt producer Klinge Chemicals saves 70 pallet loads of product per year after the installation of an **AUTOMATIC CHECKWEIGHER** and average-weight monitoring software.

Klinge Chemicals, Glasgow, Scotland, manufactures pharmaceutical- and food-grade potassium chloride products. The company's edible product line is manufactured using a ratio of two-thirds potassium chloride and one-third sodium chloride to create LoSalt, a low-sodium alternative to table salt that is available to the retail, catering and industrial food-manufacturing markets in 40 countries.

Almost all of the packaging of LoSalt occurs in-house at Klinge's Glasgow manufacturing facility. Product is offered in a variety of package sizes for each of the markets served, including 75-, 90-, 250-, 350- and 700-g tubs for retail sale, 1- and 3-kg sachets for catering, and 25- and 50-kg packages for industrial food manufacturing.

The instant data capture in the monitoring system provides accurate statistics for production and quality control.

Weighing product is essential to keep up with strict European regulations for weight compliance. In the past, during the production of LoSalt tubs, operators would sample just 0.4 percent of production output. Every 15 minutes, line operators would take five tubs off of the line and weigh them for accuracy. Based on the results, they would then make the necessary adjustments to the filling heads.

When operators found an underfilled tub, they had to go back and check the entire batch since the last checked sample. This could be as many as 1,250 tubs, so it was easier and less time consuming to overfill the tubs.

Another problem with this system was that results were handwritten on record sheets and then filed with a separate printout for



The checkweighing equipment is installed after the filling heads on the packaging line.



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traceability purposes. This was a slow process and one that made it difficult to identify net-weight trends.

After two years, when Klinge analyzed its reports on fill levels for this time frame, it concluded that product giveaway averaged about 56 tons per year. The cost of this alone justified the purchase of a new checkweighing system.

To improve filling accuracy, Klinge purchased a Checkpoint S-MB checkweigher along with average-weight monitoring software from **Avery Weigh-Tronix** (www.wtxweb.com). The equipment was installed after the filling heads in the production line. During the packaging process, after the tubs are filled, they are conveyed to the checkweigher where each one is weighed automatically with an Electromagnetic Force Restoration (EMFR) weighcell and then the weight is recorded. This allows Klinge to optimize fill levels with a 100-percent product sample of LoSalt tubs produced.

EMFR weighcells are an electronic version of a simple beam scale. A coil is attached to one end of the beam, and a load is applied to the other. The amount of electrical current required to hold the coil at a neutral position within a magnetic field is proportional to the applied load. Since the weighcell calculates weight based on changing



To learn more about filling and weighing technology, visit Packaging Digest's **FILL, FORM/FILL/SEAL** technology channel at www.packagingdigest.com/info/formfill/

current rather than on physical motion, it provides an extremely fast response time, explains Avery Weigh-Tronix. This method also compensates for temperature and vibration.

With the new checkweigher and weight-monitoring system in place, Klinge says it is now saving an estimated 70 pallets of LoSalt each year. The instant data capture in the monitoring system also provides accurate statistics for production and quality control, ensuring that LoSalt tubs are filled with the appropriate amount of product.

"We are completely satisfied with the equipment and the amount of time and money it saves," says Klinge plant manager Steve Lockie. "The checkweigher has more than paid for itself."

The checkweigher allows up to five weight classes to be set for out-of-tolerance products. If the average weight of the product is too high, the supervisor can adjust the filling head to reduce the amount deposited into each tub. If weights are too low, a RAM pusher mechanism rejects the tubs into a receiving bin for proper disposal. According to

Lockie, total rejected tubs due to poor filling are now less than 0.5 percent.

The new system also makes it possible for Klinge to weigh product of a variety of weights and sizes, with metric capabilities, from 0 to 1,500 g. This satisfies all five sizes of LoSalt tubs produced.

"The checkweigher can accommodate up to 130 tubs per minute, but we're consistently running product in the eighty- to ninety-tub-per-minute output range, sometimes reaching full capacity," Lockie says.

The average-weight monitoring system records data and stores it on a portable Smartcard or on a PC, eliminating the need for operators to keep handwritten records, which reduces reporting errors.

An LCD touchscreen is built into the front panel of the checkweigher. Current statistical information, a status bar and nominal weights are displayed directly on-screen. Users can easily change settings and can make production adjustments by way of menu-guided operation and navigation icons.

More information is available:

Avery Weigh-Tronix, 877/888-1646. www.wtxweb.com.

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Two platemakers lift a digitally imaged flexo plate from one of flexible-packaging printer Pliant's new thermal developers.

Flex-pack plates go 'green'...fast

Edited by **Mark Spaulding**,
Editor-in-chief, Converting

Conventional wisdom says there are few "win-win" situations when implementing new technology—especially one offering significant environmental benefits. There always seems to be a tradeoff. But the **DuPont™ Cyrel®** (www.cyrel.com) FAST thermal flexographic-platemaking system, used in a digital-prepress workflow, confounds this thinking. Its environmental, quality and productivity performance can surpass the best traditional methods. Just ask printing managers and staff at flexible-

Pliant Corp. achieves time/cost savings, environmental benefits via
DRY PLATEMAKING

packaging printer **Pliant Corp.'s** (www.pliant.com) Kent, WA, converting plant. The Cyrel FAST system cut total plate-production time by 75 percent, improved plate-shop productivity by 30 percent without additional staff, eliminated the cost of spot-buying finished plates from outside sources and enhanced final print quality. Along the way, it

also removed environmental drawbacks from Pliant's previous solvent-washout platemaking system.

Located between Seattle and Tacoma near the picturesque Puget Sound, the Kent facility produces printed bags and rollstock from extruded polyolefin films. The plant covers 135,000 sq ft and operates 24/7. It is one of 23 Pliant Corp. plants and R&D facilities.

End-use markets include personal care, frozen foods, bakery and poultry. Handled bags and rollstock using INNO-LOK® zippers are among Kent's specialty capabilities. Flexo is the sole printing

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Any viable system that **removes all chemical solvents** from flexo platemaking piqued our interest immediately.

method at the plant, employing five wide- and medium-width, 6- and 8-color cylinder and sleeve continuous-impression (CI) presses from **Windmoeller & Hoelscher** (www.whcorp.com) and **Paper Converting Machine** (www.pcmc.com/pcmc/flexo).

Until recently, Pliant had produced plates in an internal plateroom using a traditional solvent-based washout system. The Kent facility serves its own internal plate requirements as well as Pliant's converting site in McAlester, OK. But in 2005, when DuPont introduced the Cyrel FAST 4260 unit, a wide-web platemaking system that uses thermal technology to eliminate the solvent washout and drying steps, Kent operations manager Brad Ehlers wanted to learn more about them.

While chemically washing out exposed plates had been the standard for years, Ehlers says, the process has numerous drawbacks,

including safe solvent storage, lengthy record keeping, strict regulatory oversight, stringent cleaning of accidental spills and unpleasant chemical odors throughout the plateroom. He adds that this goes against the flow of the Puget Sound region, where many embrace environmental proactiveness, including the state's diligent Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

"So any viable system that removes all chemical solvents from flexo platemaking piqued our interest immediately," Ehlers says. And while environmentalism was a major consideration, Ehlers and other plant specialists quickly discovered additional advantages of dry platemaking—higher print quality and improved productivity, as well as



The press operator monitors the slitting of film on one of Pliant's CI-flexo presses.

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cost and time savings.

After initial research and meetings with DuPont Cyrel Packaging Graphics representative Jim Lacy, Pliant made the decision: remove the original solvent system in just five days, including one weekend, and re-equip the plateroom with two Cyrel FAST TD4260 thermal-developing

units. The new system develops flexo plates up to 42×60 in., making it ideal for medium- and wide-web presses (see the expanded online version of this article for more on "How Thermal Developing Works").

"We took a giant leap of faith doing this," recalls Ehlers. "It was a one-hundred-percent changeover—

solvent out and dry in."

And as the saying goes, "failure was not an option." Falling behind in the platemaking transition would mean that Pliant's presses would be idled at the Kent plant, forcing other Pliant sites to take up the slack. And if Ehlers and his team weren't satisfied with the print quality and



A finished plate emerges from Pliant's new platemaking system.

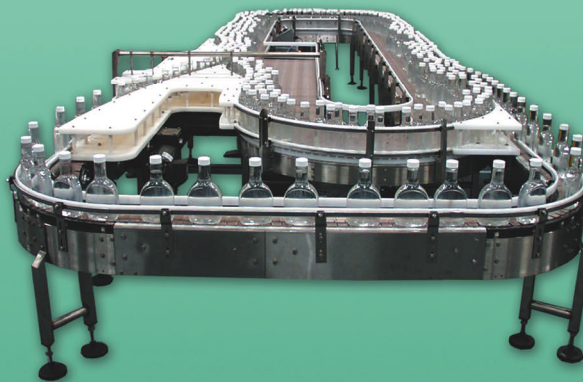
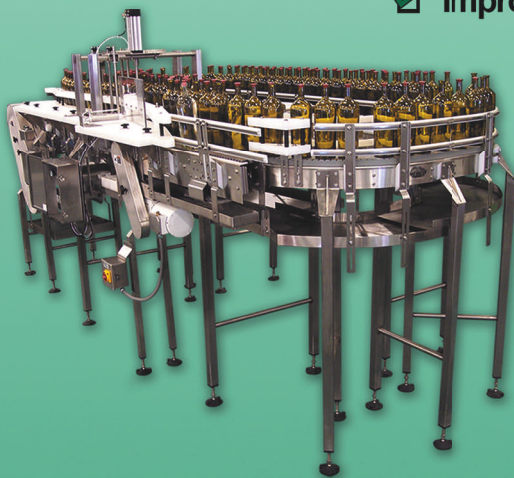
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performance of Cyrel FAST, DuPont would incur the time and expense of reinstalling the old solvent system.

"We were confident of our trustworthy partnership with DuPont," Ehlers says. "Cooperation was in everyone's interest, and the teamwork between DuPont and Pliant was outstanding, perhaps best exemplified by how quickly the FAST system was up."

Both units were successfully installed and fully functional in only three days—two days ahead of schedule. Press-ready plates were produced by the fourth day, and they performed remarkably, adds Ehlers. "Our expectations couldn't have been better met. Typically, you don't achieve this level of success when 'dropping-in' a major process change."

Recognizing the winning outcome, the Kent plant soon sold its original solvent equipment. There is no going back.

Initial benefits involve platemaking speed and staff productivity. "With the FAST system, we now have a fully produced dry plate in less than two hours versus five or more with solvent washout," explains Paul Schneider, a platemaker at the plant. "This includes back, image-wise and post exposures, trimming and finishing to make the plate press-ready. Actual thermal developer time is roughly twenty minutes.

"With the old solvent washout and plate-drying steps taking nearly three hours, we simply couldn't put enough plates through to meet demand. We continually had to go outside to have plates made, and this added both time and cost."

Pointing out workflow improvements, platemaker Ed Nelson says, "FAST streamlines the entire process. There are no long stretches of dead time while a plate processes. We work faster and smarter."

This is the major reason behind



A finished flexo plate is closely inspected prior to mounting on the press.

the shop's 30-percent increase in plate production without additional staff. "Before switching to FAST, we could process only ten to twelve sheets per shift," Nelson adds. "We've now doubled that output, making up to twenty-four sheets every shift."

Major cost savings also result when an occasional plate gets damaged on-press. Replacements can be produced in an hour instead of four or five with the old solvent process. "That's a tremendous savings because now it has become a more realistic option to idle a press for one hour for a new plate instead of shutting down a whole line for four or five," says Schneider.

Pressroom response is equally enthusiastic. "The special Cyrel FAST plates perform on-press like solvent-based ones, yet mount quicker, provide more vibrant color, come up to color faster and last longer," explains plant engineer Barry Anderson. "We previously had to change solvent-made plates at one-million impressions. With FAST, we're regularly achieving one-and-a-half million, with pristine dots and higher definition in the mid-tones. And we consistently hit 120-line screens with ease."

"We wouldn't even think about returning to solvent washout," Anderson says, reflecting on the new system's environmental benefits. "The chemical odors are gone, employees are happier and since liquids are now eliminated from platemaking, all the bookkeeping and storage hassles we used to experience have disappeared."

The plateroom used to consume 20 55-gal drums of solvent a month. In contrast, Cyrel FAST runs very clean and practically odor-free, says Ehlers. "Everyone at the Kent plant

We wouldn't even think about returning to solvent washout.

is happy with the change. When we performed regular maintenance on the old solvent-washout system, it literally stunk up the whole building," he recalls. "People complained all day about the odor. They don't anymore."

That's why Pliant plant management and its staff feel that dry, thermal platemaking offers a true "win-win" solution. "There are no significant drawbacks," Ehlers concludes. "You'd be foolish not to use it."

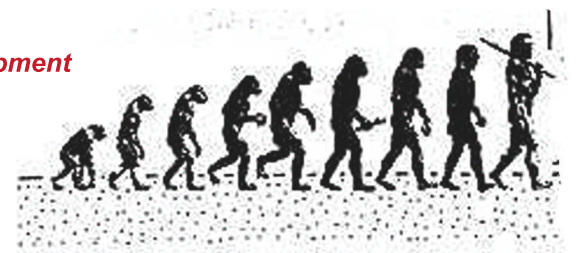
More information is available:

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system integration

Back in June, this column addressed the design, implementation and follow-up services that automation system integrators offer in general. System integrators that focus on the packaging industry in particular have their own specific preferences and characteristics.

Not surprisingly, packaging system integrators tend to focus on the food and beverage market.

System integrators are a diverse lot

Of the 461 integrators surveyed for last month's Packaging Integrator Guide, 83 percent cited food and beverage as a market they serve most. General material handling was second at 75 percent, followed by other processing industries (69 percent), automotive (68 percent) and general manufacturing (66 percent). Automotive? Apparently, packaging system integrators are a diverse lot with a wide range of interests.

The most common services these integrators offer is the installation and configuration of programmable controllers (84 percent) and human-machine interfaces (80 percent). Ironically,

packaging was cited by only 53 percent of those listing engineering specialties, placing it 25th behind such non-industry-specific skills as general automation (77 percent), motors and drives (75 percent) and process control (74 percent).

Consistent with those results are the brands of automation-specific products with which the survey's respondents said they have the

most experience. A whopping 92 percent cited Rockwell Automation or a division thereof as one of the vendors they use most. Siemens Energy & Automation was second at 74 percent, followed by Schneider Electric (70 percent), Wonderware (69 percent) and GE Fanuc Automation (67 percent). All of these vendors offer programmable controllers and/or human-machine interface software.

These same vendors took top spots in the category of corporate affiliations and partnerships. Of those respondents listing any vendor affiliations at all, 58 percent claimed to be a Rockwell Automation partner of some sort. In this category,

however, GE Fanuc Automation was second at 42 percent, followed by Wonderware (41 percent), Siemens Energy & Automation (31 percent) and Schneider Electric (30 percent). (See next month's column for more on system integrator partnership programs.)

There was much less unanimity among the respondents regarding professional affiliations. Only the Instrumentation, Systems and Automation Society and the Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers were cited by more than one-third of those surveyed (39 percent and 35 percent, respectively).

Ironically, the Institute of Packaging Professionals placed 52nd, having been cited by just 2 percent of the respondents. Packaging system integrators are even less particular about the geographic areas they serve. Every region of the U.S. was cited by at least two-thirds of the respondents. Theoretically then, there is no packaging facility anywhere in the country that is not within the service area of at least a few integrators.

—Vance VanDoren, vance@control.com



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PLA from Natureworks has been used for a number of beverage-packaging applications in the past several years.

Continued from page 39

Packaging). Products that meet the requirements in these two specifications will disintegrate rapidly in a professionally managed compost facility, will biodegrade quickly under the composting conditions, will not reduce the value or utility of the finished compost by leaving plastic fragments and will result in humus that supports plant life.

PD: While many biopolymers are marketed as being compostable, do we have the necessary infrastructure in place in the U.S. to process this type of waste?

Mojo: You are seeing a growing number of places that are doing food-waste diversion. Understand that the plastic products that are designed to be collected for composting are engineered to compost in conjunction with either food scraps or yard trimmings.

We have 3,800 yard-trimming collection sites around the country, and we collect approximately sixty percent of our yard trimmings already. In the case of food-waste programs, there are not as many as we would like. According to the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** [www.epa.gov], we still send twenty-seven million tons of food scraps annually to landfills, where they contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and global warming.

But what you are beginning to see, not only in the U.S., but also in Canada, is a growing number of residential and commercial collection programs. For example, Seattle just announced the other day that it is going to begin residential collection of food scraps. You also see it in commercial situations such as grocery stores, where sixty percent or seventy percent of what they throw away is basically pre-consumer food waste. Not as much is happening on the East Coast, but that's not to say that people won't move to this process once they realize that they can save

money by composting as opposed to landfilling.

If you have a reason to look for a compost facility in your area, you can generally find one. *BioCycle* magazine now has a website (www.findacomposter.com) that provides a growing list of commercial composters, most of which will take food scraps. Natureworks'

website also provides a list of food-composting facilities in the U.S.

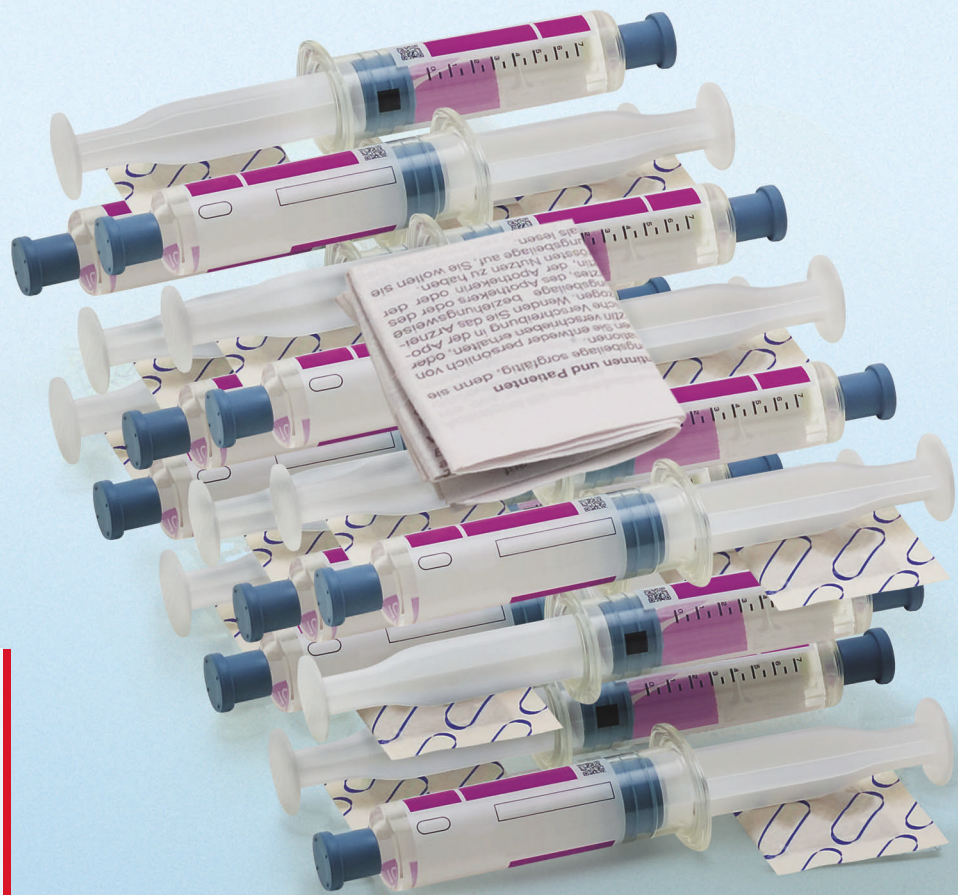
Composting is one of those industries that's up and coming; you may not know about it, but it's happening a lot more.

PD: What future trends do you see for biopolymers?

Mojo: I believe that you will

see the properties continue to get better. I think that converters will learn how to process them better, and as a result, the price for the end-application differential will continue to come down. I also think you will see a better understanding of what the life-cycle benefits are of these Continued on page 58

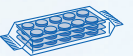
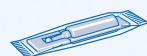
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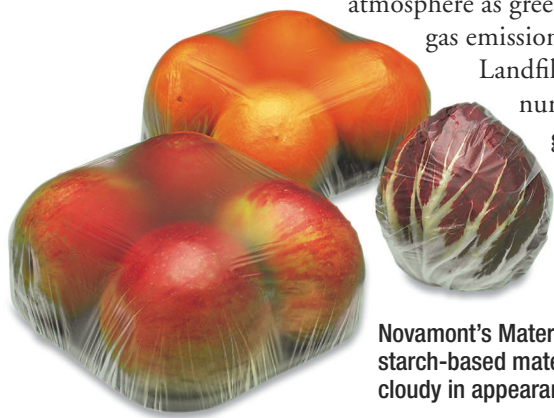
materials. And I believe that you'll continue to see the growth in food-waste diversion efforts—if people understand that food scraps, both pre- and post-consumer, are a resource that can be recovered and used as a feedstock for a process that's going to give them a useful product. Right now, we're just wasting those resources, and food scraps are one of the largest unrecovered waste streams that we have. When we send those to the landfills, they contribute to the production of methane, which is released into the atmosphere as greenhouse gas emissions.

Landfills are the number-one generator

of man-made methane into the atmosphere, according to the EPA.

Certainly in the past two to two-and-a-half years, sustainability in a variety of formats has grown in interest, from light bulbs to greenhouse gas to using less gasoline because the prices are higher. It is coming more to the forefront; it will be a question of how it plays out in the marketplace and how it translates into consumers' willingness to spend more for environmentally preferable choices. Some consumers are willing to spend a significant premium now, and others aren't. I think over time the premium will become more acceptable or will become smaller, and market penetration will increase.

Steven Mojo is the executive director of The Biodegradable Products Institute, New York City, a multi-stakeholder association that promotes the use and recovery of biodegradable materials via composting. Through third-party testing in an approved laboratory, BPI certifies that products meet the requirements in ASTM D6400 or D6868, and identify them with the BPI "Compostable" logo.



Novamont's Mater-Bi™ starch-based material is cloudy in appearance.

More information is available:

The Biodegradable Products Institute, 888/274-5646. www.bpiworld.org.
 Archer Daniels Midland Co., 800/637-5843. www.admworld.com.
 ASTM Intl., 610/832-9500. www.astm.org.
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 The Dow Chemical Co., 800/441-4369. www.plastics.dow.com.
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 Metabolix, Inc., 617/583-1700. www.metabolix.com.
 Natureworks LLC, 877/423-7659. www.natureworkslc.com.
 Novamont SPA, 39.0321.6996.11. www.materbi.com.
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, www.epa.gov.



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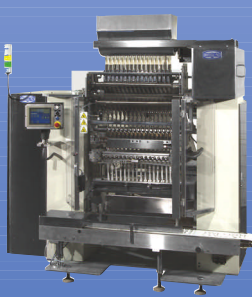
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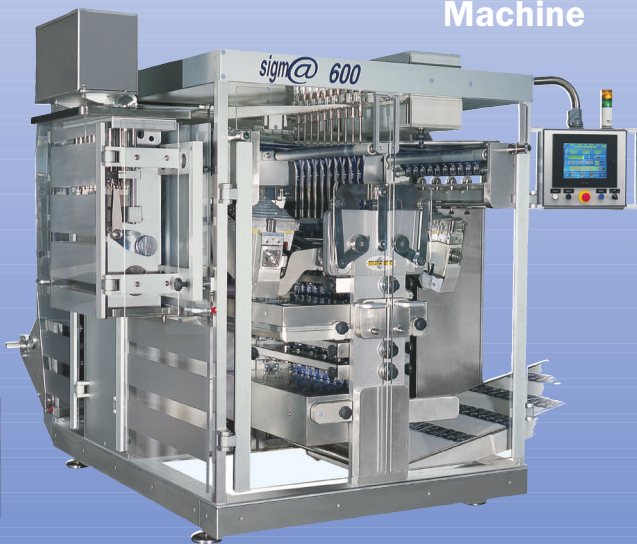
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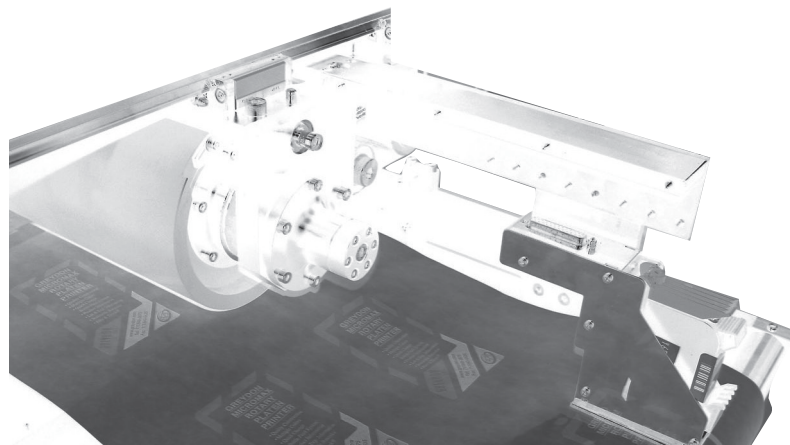
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PP hanger plugs A line of inner-fit PP hanger plugs that, when used with thin-wall or bottom-sealed tubes, is designed to provide an attractive, low-cost retail package. The plugs are easy to insert and are secure once attached; they're available for 13 tube sizes and come in various colors.

Cleartec Packaging, 800/817-8967.
www.cleartecpackaging.com



Colored jars New 3-mL pastel colored jars are suitable for trial-size gels, creams and eye, lip and nail products, the co. says. The PP screw caps and jar bottoms are flat for easy label application and filling. The colored jars are available in natural, teal, salmon and violet, and are recommended for use with samples.

Qosmedix, 631/242-3270.
www.qosmedix.com

Blister-card The SuSTANDable™ package, a trapped blister-card, converts to a standing, clamshell-like package. The package reduces pilferage with specially designed perforations that make it difficult to tear open. Replacing clamshells, the package ships flat to take up less space and can be used in bulk club-packs or as a hanging blister-card configuration and they can be manufactured from fully recyclable materials, the co. says.

J&J Packaging, 800/446-4844.
www.jjpackaging.com



Plastic containers A line of stock bottles and canisters is available that ranges in size from 2 to 32 oz with neck finishes from 20/410 to 38/400. The containers come in shapes including modern rounds, ovals, cylinders, decanters and carafes, spice containers and alcohol containers. The co. has 35 years of experience in extrusion/blow-molding for the food, beverage, personal care, auto, chemical and household products industries.

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new products materials

Cook-chill A new Cook-Chill page has been added to the co.'s revamped website to highlight its flagship Flavorseal® brand of cook-chill bags and supplies. Cook-chill technology is an efficient preservation method in which foods are prepared in bulk in specialized cook-chill soup bags and are then quickly chilled and preserved in safe, controlled, low-temperature conditions above the freezing point. Cook-chill systems can reduce costs by more than 40 percent through greater yields and reduced waste and labor the co. says, and the new webpage offers itself as a critical resource for cook-chill information. **Carroll Mfg. and Sales**, 866/769-1500. www.cmsflavorseal.com

Bulk container The P-291 Ship Shape™ bulk container features a new design that's said to increase payload capacity by 29 percent to 850 lb in the same volume and on the same footprint as the co.'s original container design. Developed with advanced 3D modeling, the rugged, reusable bulk container includes powder-coated steel reinforcements around the perimeter at the upper rim to add strength and support at the point where extra-heavy loads might otherwise cause bulging of container walls. The container is suitable for over-the-road transport and storage of plastic resin, dry chemicals, scrap and recyclable materials, pickable small parts and other granular and pourable solid, nonregulated products. **Meese Orbitron Dunne Co.**, 800/829-4535. www.shipshapecontainers.com



Lip balm stick design A new lip balm stick design utilizes high-quality, custom injection-molded technology, says the co. The molded cap has a smooth, flat top and a small-radius edge, along with a "snap-retention" design that assures a secure fit and allows cap removal and replacement in a quick, easy-off/easy-on motion. The new thread design on both the screw and elevator provide a positive propel/repel function that prevents slippage, spinning and cross threading. The lip balm stick design is available in custom sizes, colors and heights. **Yorker Packaging**, 864/848-3340. www.yorkerpackaging.com



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PET bottle barrier

With the recyclable PLASMAX barrier, PET bottles can protect fine wines and are completely recyclable, the co. reports. Some wine growers in Australia

and New Zealand have switched to PET bottles because the bottles are unbreakable, lightweight and reusable, the co. states. The bottle barrier is crystal clear and ensures product protection, is resistant to shock and is a flexible coating, the co. says.

SIG Plasmex GmbH, 49 40 67907 349.
www.sig.biz



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Self-venting pouch

The BioSteam PLA self-venting steam pack for cooking in the microwave is compostable, sustainable, heat-sealable and peelable against itself after microwaving, the co. reports. The proprietary, patent-pending technology self-vents in approximately 40 sec without the need for a pre-inserted valve or venting. The results afford great taste and even cooking throughout the pouch without over-cooking, the co. says. The film can be used in chilled or frozen conditions and for steaming frozen vegetables, proteins and carbohydrates. The film is available as rollstock or as premade pouches, the co. adds.

Rockwell Solutions Ltd.,
44 0 1382 622122.
www.rockwellsolutions.com

Lenticular printing Lenstar® polyester is designed for lenticular printing, where the image changes and appears to show motion or three dimensions, depending on the angle from which it's viewed. Around since the turn of the century, lenticular printing has recently been improved with the introduction of Lenstar, the co. says, which adds that it has recently partnered

with a leading, custom plastic-sheet extruder to produce packaging using the lenticular plastic. The polyester-based sheet is said to exhibit improved printing and to offer clarity, brightness and strength.

Shorewood Packaging, an International Paper co.,
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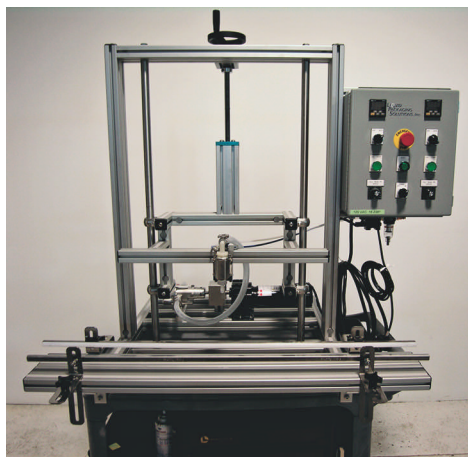


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Overflow filler The co. has introduced what it says is a cost-effective, tabletop, pneumatically-driven overflow filler for flammable products that is recommended for short runs and lower-volume production requirements. The machine features single control for fast setup and overflow filling for fill-level accuracy. Products can be pumped directly from a bulk supply, or an optional product tank can be added. The machine's robust construction is said to allow for years of reliable service. As with all of the co.'s equipment, a variety of contact parts is available to meet various applications.

Liquid Packaging Solutions, Inc., 888/393-3693.
www.liquidpackagingsolution.com

Condensate management system The co.'s new Aquamat condensate management system uses a unique, four-stage separation process to automatically and reliably separate oil from environmentally hazardous condensate. The system virtually eliminates the need for expensive disposal from outside contractors, the co. adds. The system does not require electricity and is extremely low-maintenance; it is available in six sizes and features an integrated manifold system that allows several condensate lines to be attached to one condensate management system for streamlined system operation.

Kaeser Compressors, 800/777-7873.
www.kaeser.com/cleanair



Stick-pack machine The ALFA Series servo stick-pack machine delivers output at speeds up to 40 to 100 cycles/min, with up to 20 lanes per cycle. The machine is designed for wet and dry products, such as condiments, sweeteners, drink mixes and pharmaceutical products, and its features include easy-opening sticks, ink-jet coding, gas flush, automatic stick-pack collation, PLC controllers and servo motors.

Fres-co System USA, Inc., 215/721-4600.
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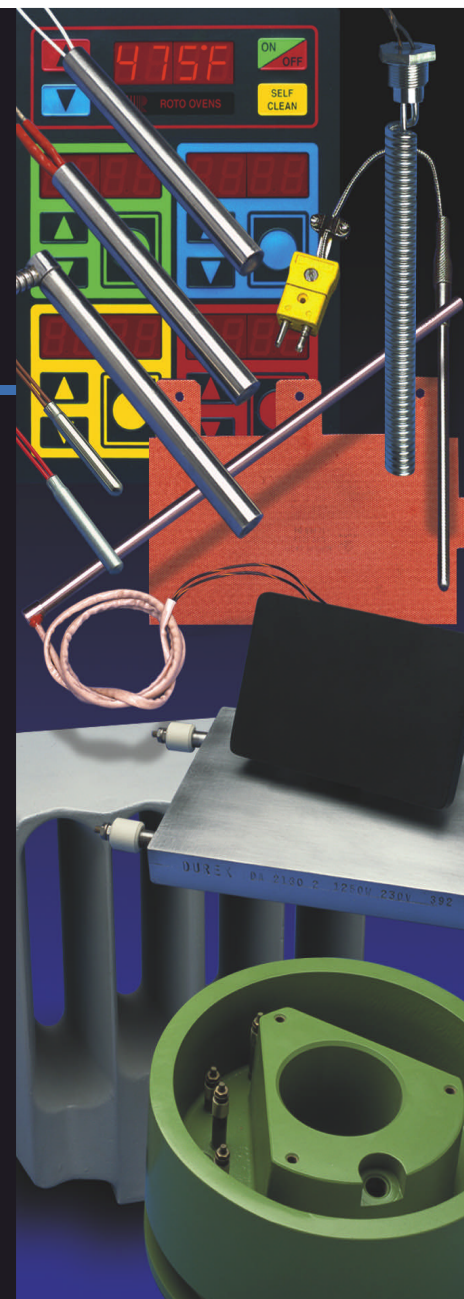
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Controller

The co.'s new Marksman Duo Vx ink-jet controller is described as a full-featured, economically priced printer that utilizes valve, drop-on-demand printing

technology. The controller's features include a graphical user interface with a color touchscreen display, around-the-clock diagnostics and system status, print speeds of more than 200 ft/min and Ethernet, USB and serial communications.

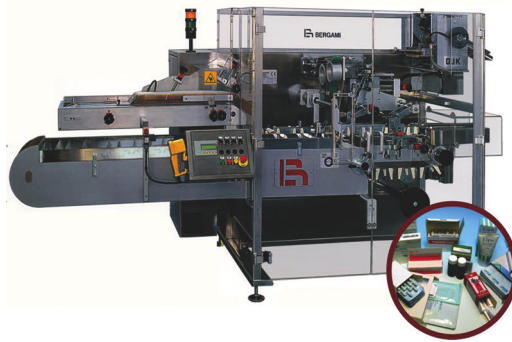
FoxJet, 800/488-2804.

www.foxjet.com



Adhesive feeding The new FillEasy II adhesive-feed system is recommended for production environments requiring a simple, dependable and economical filling system, the co. says. The updated feeder utilizes a cone with an integrated capacitance sensor mounted to the adhesive melter tank lid for highly accurate tank readings. The sensor detects low adhesive levels and transmits a signal to a suction lance. Using vacuum, the system then conveys adhesive in the shape of pellets, pastilles or mini-slats from the supplied adhesive storage container to the melter tank. Adding small quantities of adhesive at regular intervals prevents the sealed tank from running dry and reduces adhesive char, contaminants and incorrect adhesive temperatures that result in poor bonding, the co. says. The feed system's design minimizes installation and maintenance requirements, while automatic sensor calibration allows operators to complete setup quickly and easily.

Nordson Corp., 800/683-2314.
www.nordson.com



Horizontal cartoners The co. offers the AS Series of automatic horizontal cartoners from Bergami, which includes six models, intermittent and continuous, that produce small to medium-size cartons for pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and consumer products. Machine speeds range from 80 to 250/min, and carton closure options are hot-melt glue or fold-and-tuck. Meeting cGMP requirements, the series provides quick changeover and a variety of infeed options.

ESS Technologies, Inc., 540/961-5716.

www.esstechnologies.com



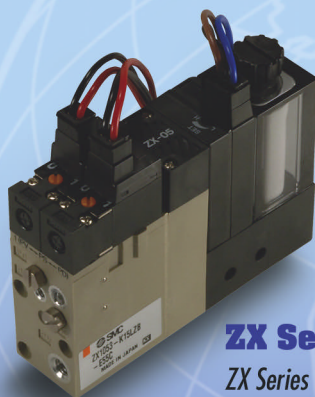
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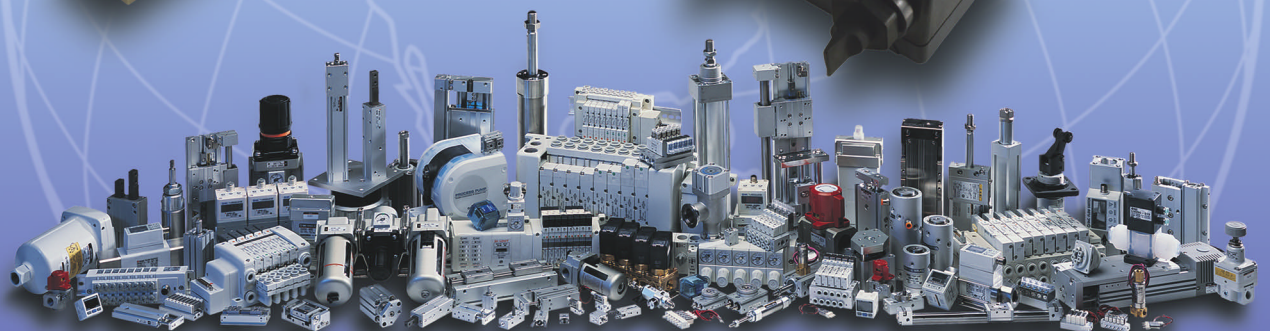


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Pouch-handling system The new, redesigned PouchPack, manufactured in stainless steel, is an automatic pouch-handling system that takes anywhere from one to four pouches from a magazine, opens them with a robotic arm, fills them and then seals them. The machine can be made into many configurations. It can run layflat and/or standup zipper pouches. The pouches can also receive either a label or an ink-jet code. Filling can be done by a person, a robot or a scale, and the pouch-sealing process can be basic or provide air evacuation or gas flush.

OK Intl. Group, 877/654-2677.
www.okcorp.com



Label rewinder The co. releases its Model TAL-600R heavy-duty table/benchtop label rewinder. This unit will work with almost any label printer, automatically winding up label stock as it is provided. The unit starts and stops automatically using either a dancer arm to detect the presence of labels or an adjustable torque switch. The machine features a label roll dia up to 12 in., inside and outside roll guides, an adjustable torque switch and a web speed of 25 ips.

Take-A-Label, Inc., 616/837-9300.
www.take-a-label.com

Print controllers The co. introduces the IJ3000 XLS controller for its IJ3000™ line of large-character ink-jet printers. This web-server HMI features a large, 10.4-in. color touchscreen display, a 200- and 300-dpi print resolution and an enhanced message editor with drag-and-drop field placement. It also features a 100-base T Ethernet network port for web browsers, has serial ports for scanner lookup, a PLC interface and variable data and supports 150-, 200- and 300-dpi printing options.

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



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Safety curtain The co. has released an improved version of its LC-10 light safety curtain for baggers. The curtain is OSHA-approved and restricts the cycle operation of a bagger when the optical detection field is obstructed. The new component shuts off the air supply that's used to power the seal bar. The original version of the device would choke the air supply only when something such as a hand or a product being bagged prevented the seal bar from making contact with the bag. Now, the supply is cut off every time something moves across the optical-detection field. The co. states that the elimination of 60 psi any time an operator's hand is in the way will improve the overall safety of the operator.

Advanced Poly-Packaging, Inc.,
800/754-4403.
www.advancedpoly.com



Conveyor line The co. has expanded its sanitary conveyor line with three models of stainless "C" type elevators designed specifically for the cosmetic, pharmaceutical and personal products industries. "C" type elevators are used where infeed and discharge conveyors operate at different levels and product orientation is not required. Optional drive packages allow integrated or standalone operation, and their small footprint makes them suitable wherever space is limited, the co. adds.

American Conveyor, 508/278-0033.
www.americanconveyor.net

Software component The Esko Visualizer is a new component of the co.'s Software Suite 7. The product combines graphic information in a PDF format and a variety of other formats with structural information, such as die-cut shape and folding lines, angles and sequence, interprets or adds information about substrates, special inks and finishes and delivers a variety of realistic, moving,

interactive 2D and 3D representations of the final product. The component helps to avoid misunderstandings and errors, reduces costs and delays linked to physical proofing and sample making while accelerating the introduction of packaging into production, the co. says.

Esko, 800/743-7131.

www.esko.com

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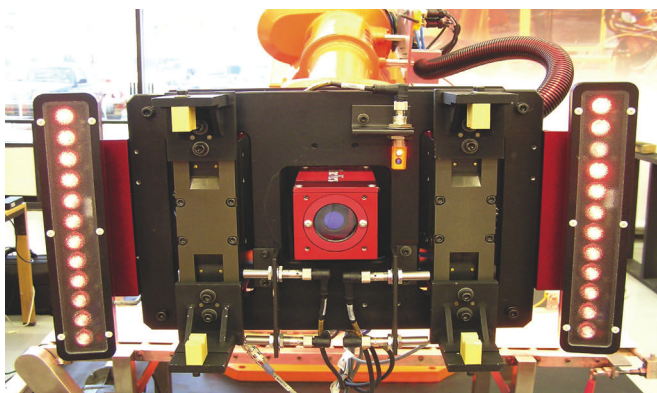
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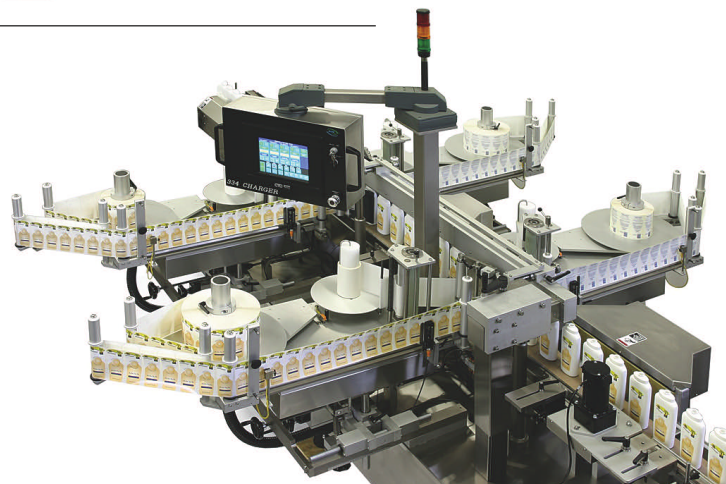
Robots New Vision Guided Robotics (VGR) with TrueView™ are said to be able to “see” and “comprehend” information about their environment, such as variations in part position, type, style and quality, in real time, giving the robot true cognitive capabilities and helping customers achieve new levels of manufacturing efficiency and profitability, the co. says. TrueView is a complete VGR system that provides customers with a truly integrated and certified VGR solution,

including high-speed robotic communications and plug-and-play operation. A constantly advancing system, TrueView is said to be the only VGR system that features SC3D™, a patented, single-camera, 3D vision guidance technology; and eVisionFactory™, a software platform that allows for the standardization of deployment, training and support throughout the manufacturing enterprise.

ABB, Inc., 46 0 21 344012.
www.abb.com

Charger The Model 334 charger with redundant label dispensers features two front and two back label dispensers integrated on one p-s labeler. The system's redundant labeling-head configuration is said to maximize productivity by eliminating the downtime associated with label-roll changes, the co. says. The charger can be equipped to label two different products mixed together on a production line with each product's unique set of labels. Labeling up to 300 containers/min, the servo-driven charger handles round, oval, square and rectangular containers from 1 to 14 in. in height and from 5/8 to 6 7/8 in. in dia. It can apply front, back and wraparound labels, as well as single and multipanel labels, and the labeler features a sanitary-style raised-bed conveyor and a stainless-steel construction.

NJM/CLI, 603/448-0300.
www.njmcli.com



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X-ray inspection systems

The XR-11 (pictured) and XR-21 E-Z Tec® X-ray inspection systems employ advanced linear array technology for sensitivity, speed and sophistication, the co. says. The systems provide real-time analysis of process and packaged foods, pharmaceuticals and other goods, and they monitor product and package attributes such as count, fill level, mass and broken or damaged product while detecting unwanted metals, stone, glass, bone and some plastics. Product inspection is achieved through a computer-controlled family of low-energy generators and a high-performance computer image-analysis system.

Eriez, 888/300-3743.
www.eriez.com

Stretch wrapper

The Evolution stretch wrapper is introduced as a value-priced semi-automatic machine that solves problems associated with poorly hand-wrapped pallets. Features include the "Quick Thread" simplified stretch-film carriage, 16 extra-wide rollers and a heavy-duty chain drive for what the co. says is a workhorse for years of trouble-free operation.

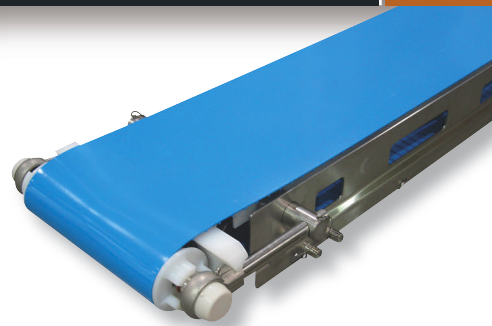
Western Plastics,
951/695-1983.
www.wplastics.com



Conveyor series The new AquaPruf 7600 Ultimate Series conveyor, which has earned the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture certification of accepted equipment, is engineered for fast and effective sanitation in demanding environments, including ready-to-eat foods, raw protein, dairy and other environments, the co. says. The conveyor series comes with a positive-driven, Mol Industries® USDA-approved solid urethane belt for smooth, consistent

operation in wet, humid environments. It is designed with solid stainless-steel rounded cross members to eliminate horizontal surfaces where bacteria can form.

Dorner Mfg., 800/397-8664.
www.dorner.com



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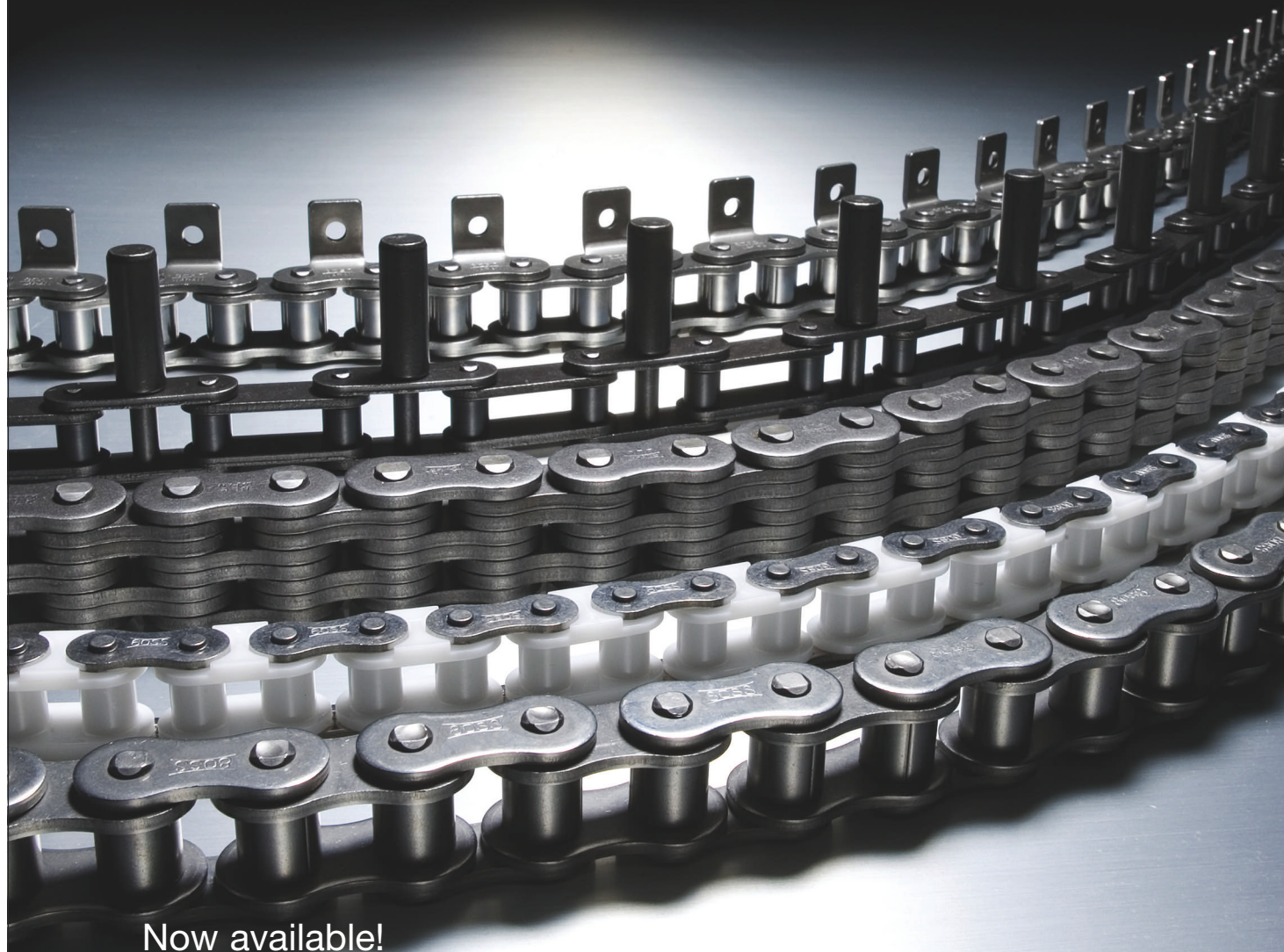
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new products equipment

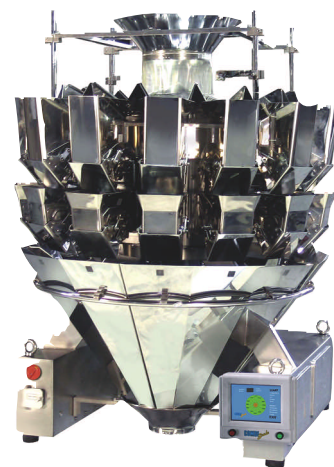
Robot The KR 1000 titan 6-axis robot has a payload capacity of 1,000 kg and a reach of 3,200 mm, and is designed to handle extremely heavy lifting and manipulation applications. The robot is suited for industries requiring a heavyweight robot, including large-capacity packaging applications. The robot has a total of nine motors, and it features a robust steel base and frame and a new drive concept. It also can withstand a static torque of 60,000 Newton meters (Nm).

KUKA Robotics Corp., 866/873-5852.
www.kukarobotics.com



Multihead weighers The co.'s HD³ model multihead weigher is available in 12- and 14-head 2.5-L bucket configurations and is recommended for a variety of applications, such as candy, frozen and fresh seafood, poultry and produce, the co. says. Featuring individual microprocessors that increase speed up to 150 cycles/min, the weigher uses a staggered dump delay, which prevents large pieces of product from getting stuck in the v/f/s forming tube and increases the product pass rate to 99.5 percent, the co. says. The product features a new, easy-to-operate, 10.4-in. touchscreen and operating software and the ability to run two products to be weighed at the same time.

CombiScale, Inc., 847/806-0606.
www.combyscale.com



Case erectors New Model 330 case erectors include several models of intelligent machines designed and built to simplify case erecting and a new 40-carton/min adhesive-sealing model. Each machine has features to ensure reliable operation on real-world packaging lines: floating case-feed grippers that run independently to ensure reliable feeding from uneven stacks, over-opening of major flaps to compensate for incorrectly slotted cases, squaring lugs to square the cases during adhesive sealing, walking-beam case drives to square the cases during transfer and the co.'s unique vacuum case-opening technology to smoothly open even warped and bent cases.

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



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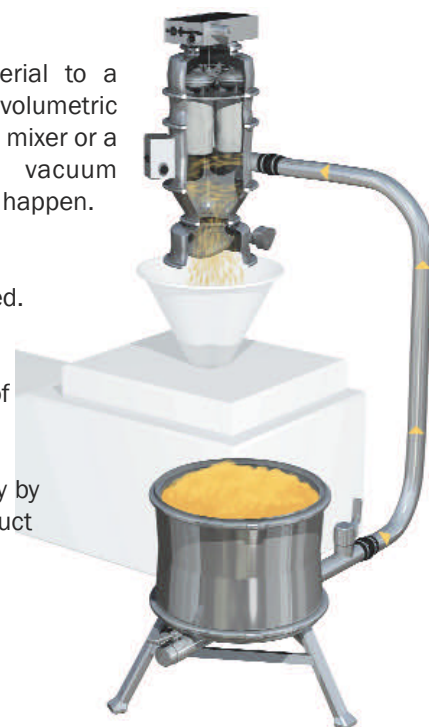
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www.piab.com

Bench scales The co. has added the new Defender™ 3000 Series bench scales to its line of weight-measurement equipment products. The scales have been designed for use in production, packaging and shipping and receiving areas. The scales feature minimum all parts weighing (APW) equal to the readability of the scale, selectable sample sizes of 5-10-20-50-100 and memory retaining the last sample size and APW. They also feature a backlit LCD screen with four tactile mechanical keys and nonslip rubber leveling feet with locking nuts and down-stops for overload protection work to make the scales both highly functional and accurate, the co. notes.

OHAUS Corp., 973/377-9000.

www.ohaus.com



Welding press The new X-Press 20-kHz integrated welder—an all-in-one, super-rigid ultrasonic welding press with a built-in microprocessor—eliminates the need for a separate power supply. The press features a single-piece, rigid, cast-aluminum base and column hub, along with easy-access front-panel pneumatic and microprocessor controls. The X-Press is available in 1,200 (Model XP-1200) and 2,200 w (Model XP-2200) and welds in digital time and/or in constant energy modes. Features include digital amplitude control, ultrasonic horn/stack frequency display and timers for weld, hold, delay and afterburst, combined with a 3.75-in. steel column dia, a direct in-line air cylinder and a single rail linear slide.

Sonics & Materials, Inc., 800/745-1105.

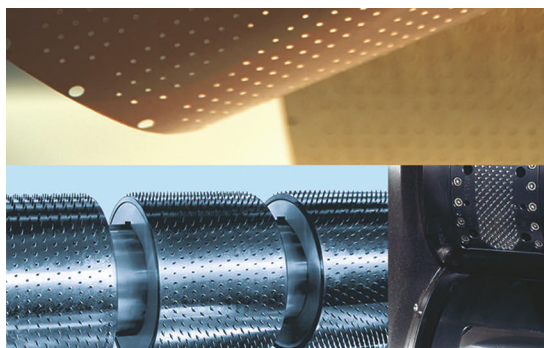
www.sonics.biz



Rotary punching tools Said to be specifically geared to cut the thinner fibers used in today's nonwoven products are the co.'s rotary die technologies. The rotary punching tools reportedly provide high precision, long service intervals and production speeds to 2,300 ft/min, with available die/anvil materials ranging from D2 to tungsten carbide, with reduced or eliminated dust. Systems are reportedly either web or servo-driven.

Schober USA, 513/489-7393.

www.schoberusa.com



Linear bearing A C-shaped, inexpensive, formed stainless-steel linear bearing is introduced under the X-Rail name, the co. says. Designed to exclude contaminants and work well in dirty environments, the bearing ranges in size from 20 to 45 mm and in load capacities of each slider up to 400 lb, the co says, noting that the food-grade lubrication inside the bearing allows for long life in pharmaceutical, medical, food processing, packaging and other sectors.

Rollon Corp., 877/976-5566.

www.rolloncorp.com



Clamp An improved version of its WSL TR long-angle clamp is now part of the co.'s *get a grip!* line of modular, end-of-arm tooling components. The new clamp is available in 0-, 14-, 20- and 30-mm sizes. The screw head points out from the profile so clamps can be mounted close together and are adjustable both parallel and perpendicular to the frame.

SAS Automation, LLC, 937/372-5255.

www.sasgripper.com



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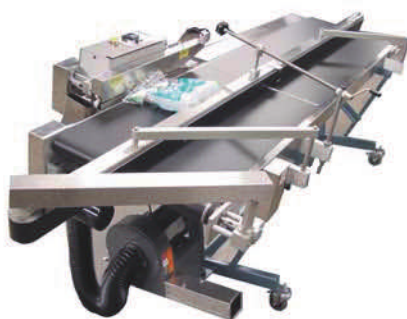
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Coding system The co. introduces its high-speed IDT K-1060 SHS CO₂ laser-coding system. The 60-watt, high-speed laser system prints two lines of text at production rates up to 16,000 units/min. The system employs a digital circuitry to control the mirrors, freeing the laser to mark it at high speeds, and it features the co.'s compact design, as well as the ability to mark in dot matrix or vector character format for added flexibility. The system is also available in a 30-watt model.

ID Technology, 888/438-3242.
www.idtechnology.com



Ink-jet printer The I-Mark™ C84 continuous ink-jet (CIJ) printer makes its debut reportedly featuring a self-cleaning printhead and a 10.4-in., icon-based touchscreen for fast, reliable, small-character coding of up to four lines of text on a range of products of nearly any shape or surface. The co. cites the printer's easiest operator interface of any CIJ on the market, also saying the stainless-steel IP55-rated enclosure and compact controller fit easily into any production environment. The printer requires maintenance only after 2,500 hr of operation, the co. adds, versus 1,500 hr for competing CIJs.

Matthews Marking Products, 412/665-2488.
www.matthewsmarking.com

Thermal printer The co. introduces the microFlash 4te wireless portable thermal printer, which provides increased processing speeds, expanded wireless communications and enhanced security options, the co. says. The printer gives the mobile worker their choice of 802.11b/g or Bluetooth wireless connectivity. It also incorporates a new 32-bit RISC ARM 9 processor, which allows the printer to process complex applications up to 10 times faster and enables the user to enjoy high printer throughput, the co. says. The printer also produces top-quality, direct-thermal receipts, proofs of delivery, labels and invoices for route accounting, direct-store delivery, field service, logistics, home delivery and pre-sale systems. It can print up to 2,240 6-in. receipts on a single battery charge with automated power-saving sleep and wakeup modes and can also print 80-column condensed font receipts, logos, graphics and international character sets on lined or linerless media.

O'Neil Product Development, Inc., 949/458-0500.
www.oneilprinters.com



Heat sealers The new C400 TC/C500 TC (temperature control) vacuum chamber systems are said to be engineered to meet or exceed the validation requirements of medical product manufacturers, with low residual oxygen inside the package and solid seal bars enabling constant, verifiable temperature throughout the full seal cycle. With a validation package compliant with ISO 11607, features include precision parameter control and alarming capabilities, production data acquisition, visual/acoustic alarming and external calibration and validation ports, the co. says.

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



Carton coders The BDSV family of carton coders is available with either thermal-transfer or hot-foil printing technology and features a vacuum-transport system to maximize equipment flexibility by handling a range of cartons, sleeves, blisters, blister-packs and leaflets at high production speeds. The BDSV coders transport product from the hopper through the printhead with a vacuum drive.



This transport system is said to enable the coders to handle complex shapes, odd sizes and thinner material while achieving excellent registration, the co. says. The high-speed BDSV operates at speeds up to 295 ft/min, handling up to 160 cartons/min and can print batch and production codes, expiration and sell-by dates, logos, bar codes and other graphics, depending on the capabilities of the printhead that is integrated.

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www.itw-norwood.com

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Filler/capper

The co.'s Model FF30 tabletop filling and capping machine is designed to replace manual filling for batch sizes between 100 to 2,000 units or more per day, the co. says. The automatic filling process is claimed to eliminate fill inaccuracies, as well as operator strain injuries resulting from repetitive torquing of the closures. The easy-to-clean, peristaltic filler features precision accuracy, consistent torque, fast format changeover and quick and efficient certification since product comes in direct contact only with disposable, sterile tubing and the filling needle. Adjustments to accommodate variations in product viscosity are made through the selection of the appropriate tubing dimension. All format parts are mounted using easy-access finger screws. Vials and bottles between 12 and 50 mm are filled, are fitted with a closure and are fully torqued to a pre-determined setting in an automatically controlled progression. Provides fill volumes from 0.1 to 100 mL with an accuracy of ± 0.5 percent.

Flexicon America, Inc., 802/657-3232.

www.flexiconamerica.com

**Bacon-packaging machine**

With reported comprehensive mechanical and electronic upgrades, the FlexVac® 6-18 bacon-packaging machine has been reintroduced. Now with six tooling sizes for bacon drafts weighing up to 2 lb, the machine is said to be capable of speeds to 45 packages/min, featuring, among other things, PLC-based machine controls, monitoring and alarms, production data and package coding sensors, improved access and maintenance and an operator-friendly touchscreen interface.

Curwood, Inc., 800/566-9565.

www.curwood.com

**Valves**

The co. introduces Isys HA and HB ISO 15407-1 valves. The new valves are equipped with a central 4-pin M12 connector that provides a single electrical connection for single and double solenoids via a cord set linked to an M12 Fieldbus output module or I/O distribution block. The cord set reduces wiring time because it eliminates conduit runs and wire pulling while improving line management. Isys M12 valves were developed in direct response to industrial requirements for a rugged, stainless-steel connector with an IP65 rating. The M12 connector is available with both Isys 18-mm (HB) and 26-mm (HA) valve sizes for use with industry-standard cables. Designed to fill a specific market niche, Isys valves are recommended for industrial markets with an automotive focus and OEMs standardized on M12 connectors.

Parker Hannifin Corp., 269/629-5000.

www.parker.com/pneu/isys

Printer

A standalone printer, specifically designed for use in the package-coding industry, is introduced by a co. applying HP TIJ 2.5 thermal ink-jet technology to its digital-imaging products. The new space-efficient, turnkey print unit, the IPS (Industrial Print System), is said to promise uncomplicated integration on-the-fly to previously difficult package-coding applications, and has an operator-friendly design, according to the co.

inc.jet, Inc., 860/885-3319.

www.incjet.com

**Linear scales**

To meet what it sees as a need for constant miniaturization and reduction of mass, the co. introduces the LIDA 500 Series linear scales. The new, 20- μ m incremental linear scales are reportedly useful where installation space is limited and offer measuring steps of 1 to 0.1 μ m., their reduced mass giving them higher dynamic capability. Two models, the LIDA 583 and the 573, each have two smaller scanning fields with double-field scanning. The signal is corrected online electronically, the co. notes.

Heidenhain Corp., 847/490-1191.

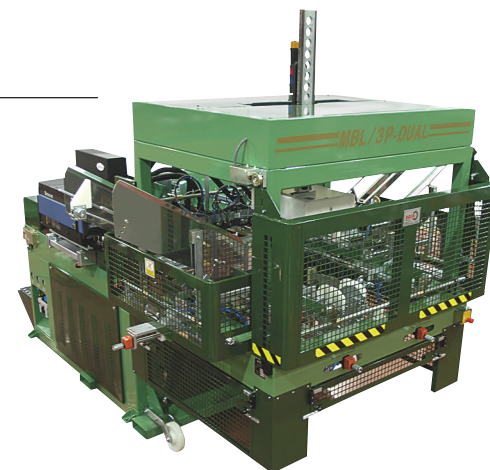
www.heidenhain.com

Tray erector

The new Maquinaria Boix Dual tray erector is capable of making three-piece bliss-style boxes and P-84 and platform-style boxes on the same machine, with only a simple, inexpensive tooling change, the co. says. The Dual features six speeds and can produce up to 2,000 boxes/hr.

Matik North America, 860/232-2323.

www.matik.com



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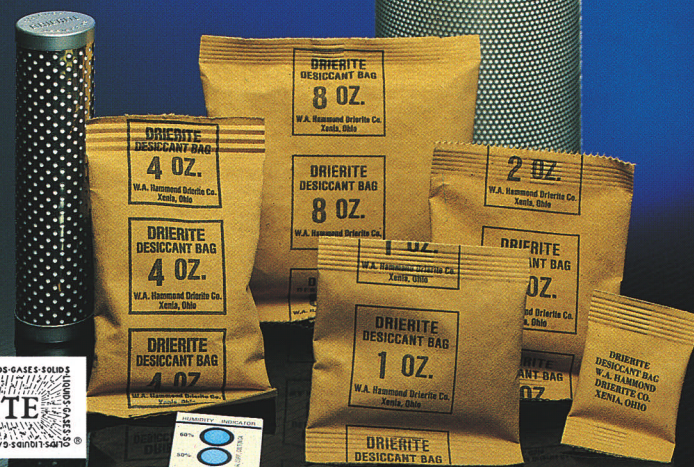


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MOVERS & SHAKERS

ABB appoints Enrique Santacana as regional manager, ABB North



Enrique Santacana
ABB

America, and president and CEO of ABB, Inc., USA. **Independent Can Co.** promotes Frank G. Currens to vp of manufacturing, Robert D.

McClelland to vp of engineering and Neil S. DeFrancisco to vp of sales.

Lenze-AC Technology names Chris Ball to the newly created position of



Chris Ball
Lenze-AC Technology

mechanical product manager. **Bobst Group North America** announces that Matt Lopes has joined the Flexible Materials Business Area

in the newly created role of national sales manager.

DE-STA-CO promotes Aaron Henry to director of product management for electric and conveyor products.

KURZ Transfer Products, L.P. appoints Jacqueline (Jacquie) Wells to the newly created position of marketing and communications

coordinator and Scott Tacosik to sales representative for graphics, Colorit and Light Line products

KHS names Michael Brancato as president of KHS USA, Inc.,



Michael Brancato
KHS

overseeing the operations in the U.S. and Canada. **Sonoco** announces that M. Jack Sanders, senior vp—Global Industrial Products, has

been given additional responsibility for all of Sonoco's global industrial converting businesses.

WeighPack Systems, Inc. hires Allan Safran as vp and general manager, overseeing all major operational functions.

Mettler-Toledo Safeline, Inc. appoints Robert Scott as product manager of X-ray inspection.



Robert Scott
Mettler-Toledo Safeline, Inc.

xpedx names Tom Weisenbach executive vp for sales and marketing and Guy Belew vp for strategy and planning.

PBI-Dansensor America, Inc. hires Anthony DiGiovanni as a technical sales

specialist.

Curtis Packaging promotes Donald R. Droppo Jr. to senior vp of marketing.

International Paper promotes Timothy S. Nicholls to senior vp and chief financial officer, effective Dec. 1, 2007.

Metabolix, Inc. hires George Kipouras and Kristin Taylor as business development managers and Debra Darby as brand director.

Plastic Technologies, Inc. hires Ron Puvak as director of marketing and sales for the New Business Development group.

MAN Roland appoints John Graff as director of sales, packaging and



John Graff
MAN Roland

corporate accounts. **Unisource Worldwide, Inc.** names Ken Winterhalter as president of its paper business segment, promotes Glenn Barton to

senior vp, sales—paper, reporting to Winterhalter and promotes Jay Bean to business manager of its NC and VA paper business.

R.A. Jones & Co., Inc. appoints Randy Molen as national account manager for Consumer & Personal Products Industries for the West and Midwest states.

Flxtime Shrink Films Div. of AEP Industries, Inc. appoints Mark

McCormick as Eastern Regional sales manager.

Display Pack, Inc. appoints Ronald



Ronald Lubbers
Display Pack, Inc.

Lubbers as director of finance. **AEP Industries, Inc.** appoints Janey Carlson as Midwestern Regional sales manager for its Flxtime Shrink Films Div.

GROWING & GOING

CurTec USA, Inc. opens a new U.S. office in Bridgewater, NJ.

FKI Logistex® opens a new, multimillion-dollar technology and education center in Cincinnati.

SCA (Svenska Cellulosa Aktiebolaget) invests €46 million in a new corrugated board plant outside Nantes, France. It will go into operation in 2009.

Bosch Rexroth consolidates multiple technology groups and the recently acquired Intelligent Hydraulic Drives™ unit at a new location in Rochester Hills, MI.

Cameron Family Glass Packaging builds a \$109 million glass plant in Kalama, WA. It is the first new glass plant built in the U.S. in 30 years to manufacture glass exclusively for the wine industry.

OIH renames itself **possitivity**.

Print Apply Labeling Tamp or Blow Starting at \$6495



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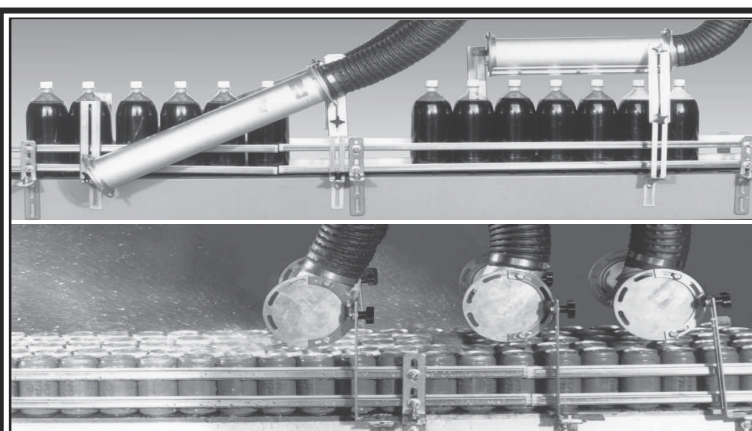
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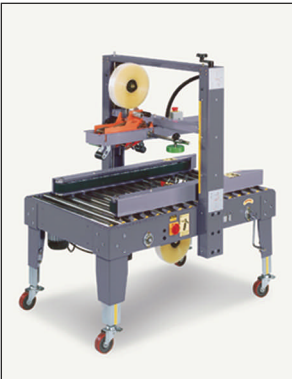
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A.B. Sealer, Inc.

sales@absealer.com, 877-885-9299

Flowmeter Filler Model EXACTA-R

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

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CTM-Introducing New Labeling Applicator

Coming Soon - CTM will be introducing a new labeling applicator evolved from the industry standard **360 Series Label Applicator**. Advanced features include cutting edge stepper drive technology providing more power, tighter label placement accuracies, more responsive encoding features, optional RFID production capabilities and Ethernet communications. Advanced touch screen interface provides many, self-diagnostic platforms with multi-level intuitive set-up features for ease of operator use.

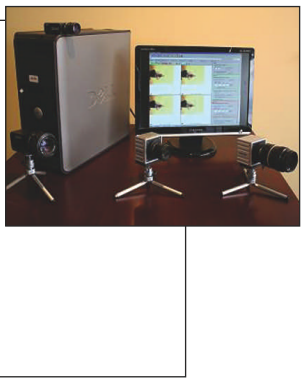
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www.ctmlabelingsystems.com, ctmsales@ctmint.com

Multi Camera Recording System

StreamPix 4 is a multi camera digital video recording software package. Easy to use GUI. Acquire direct to disk in uncompressed format from 4 cameras at 200 fps x 640 x 480. Capacity varies between 80 to over 500 minutes per camera. Compatible with various trigger modes and prepost module for saving disk space. Solutions available with portable or desktop computers. Camera frame rate can vary from 100 to 1000 frames per second, check with NorPix for available options.

Norpix

Tel: 514 907-1588, Sales: Sales@norpix.com



PPI Technologies Global introduces the CYCLERO® Pouch

PPI Technologies Global and their joint venture partner Laudenberg introduce the Huhtamaki developed CYCLERO®flexible container. The cost effective CYCLERO®flexible containers are used for both liquids and dry products and are made using form-fill-seal technology on the Laudenberg rotary machinery. Various shapes and opening features coupled with gravure printing leads to new marketing opportunities.

PPI Technologies Global

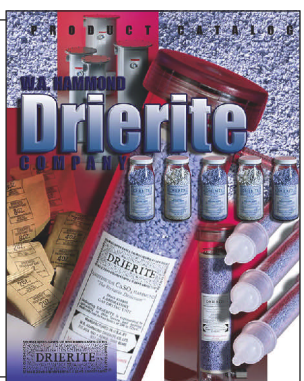
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Drierite Desiccant Bags

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PA1200fa Front Apply Label Printer/Applicator

The new Tharo PA1200fa Front Apply Label Printer/Applicator can print and apply labels to the leading side of a product moving down a conveyor. The cost effective PA1200fa is currently available using the Tharo H-Series printers with print resolutions of 203 or 300 dpi. To see the PA1200fa Front Apply Printer/Applicator in action, please visit: http://www.tharo.com/printer_applicators.php

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Bulk-Bag-To-Bin Weigh Batching System

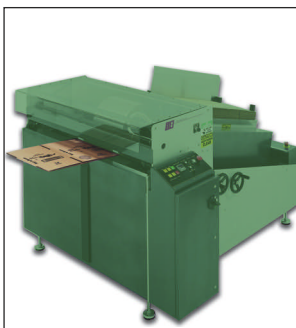
New dust-free bulk bag weigh batching system creates a sealed connection between the clean side of the bag spout and of the hopper, and automatically elongates the bag as it empties to promote evacuation. Partially empty bags can be retied dust-free. A low-profile de-lumping device breaks-up agglomerates and a gravimetric feeder allows loading of accurate batch weights into rigid totes.

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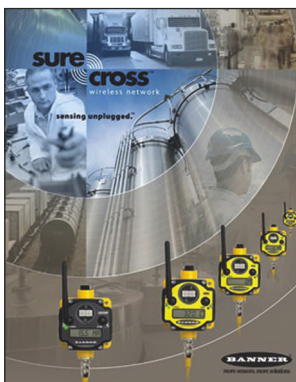
Replacing pre-print with a generic case printing program puts the power of choice into the hands of the buyer through optimized purchasing and competitive bidding. It can save companies hundreds of thousands of dollars and boost sustainability scores by substantially reducing scrap, obsolescence, recycling and by eliminating printing plates.

Iconotech

800-521-0194, sales@iconotech.com, www.iconotech.com

"Soup's On" at PakTech

PakTech 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



Banner SureCross™ Wireless Brochure

The new SureCross™ Wireless Network solutions brochure from Banner Engineering features 28 full-color pages describing SureCross's innovative features, wide variety of models and options, and expansive selection of application examples. The SureCross Wireless Network includes a Gateway system controller and up to 15 Nodes that monitor and/or control I/O in remote locations. Download the brochure today!

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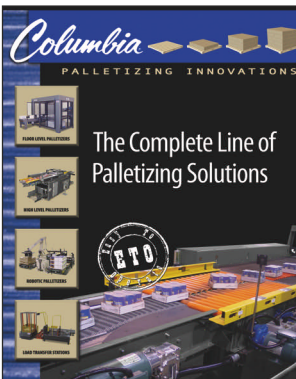
Sleeve Labeling System

KGK International introduces the Brand-Master 450L sleeve labeling system. Whatever your sleeve labeling challenges, the new Brand-Master 450L can provide the quality, speed and efficiency you need-at a price you can afford. One minute accumulating time allows for production speeds of 450 bottles per minute.

KGK International

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Complete Palletizing Solutions

Got a palletizing challenge you think is too tough to meet? This new brochure describes the complete line of palletizing solutions from Columbia, and will help you determine which model fits your specific needs - whether it's a floor-level (low speed) or high-level (high speed mechanical model,) or the flexibility of a robotic palletizer. In addition, Columbia now manufactures a complete line of load transfer systems that efficiently interchange pallet types and offer complete systems integration!

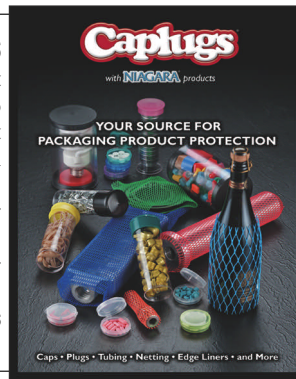
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Pro-face Releases the PS3710A 15" IPC

The PS3710A 15" Light-Duty Industrial Computer system offers the Intel® Pentium® M 1.6GHz processor, significantly lowering heat generation. Lower heat means longer life for sensitive components, and increased reliability. The PS3710A cut-out dimensions are the same as the Xycom 4115T. Pro-face is the world leader in HMI solutions and industrial computer products. For more information about Pro-face HMI products visit our website.

Pro-face America

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Shure-Glue/Melton Introduces Low-Cost Reliable D4-E Series Gear Pump Hot-Melt Units

From light-duty, low-volume applications to medium-speed, high-volume case sealing and product assembly, Shure-Glue/Melton's D4-E gear pump hot-melt units deliver flexibility, performance and durability. Available for 120VAC or 240VAC operation the new D4-E-melt units feature an easy-to-use LCD control panel and offer capabilities and features normally only available on more expensive hot-met systems.

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

email: sales@shure-glue.com, www.shure-glue.com



Shure-Glue/Melton Introduces Full-Featured C Series Piston Pump Hot-Melt Units

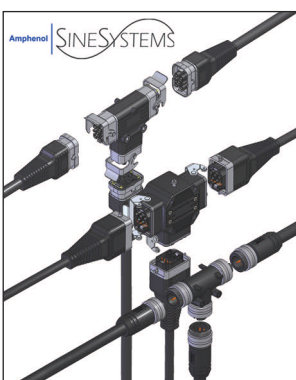
Shure-Glue/Melton's C-series hot-melt units deliver flexibility, performance and durability. The C-series melt units are market-standard compatible and are available with 4, 8, 16, 30 or 50 liter capacity tank sizes suited for a wide range of application needs. Standard features include PTFE-coated tank, full-featured microprocessor control, and accurate PID temperature control system. Options include RS485 communication interface, integral adhesive pattern control and auto-feed tank system. **Shure-Glue/Melton Systems Inc.** (513) 874-5581, sales@shure-glue.com, www.shure-glue.com

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5E3620 Renneco Semi Auto Hori L Bar Below Sealer 30 bpm
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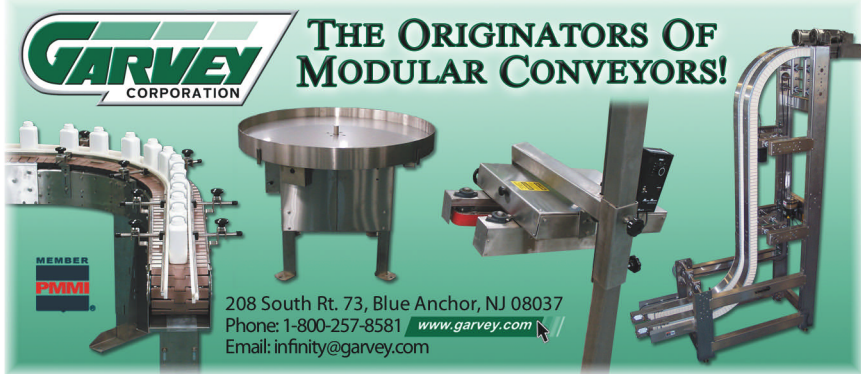
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newsmakers

Continued from p. 72

BUYING AND ALLYING

Rio Tinto purchases Alcan for \$38.1 billion.

Amcor Ltd. sells its European PET business to Spanish company La Seda de Barcelona S.A for almost 425 million euros (U.S.\$575.95 million).

The Bosch Group acquires Pharmatec GmbH based in Dresden, Germany, from Fresenius ProServe GmbH.

Pro-Pac Packaging, Ltd. buys Plastic Bottles Pty, Ltd. for \$21.2 million.

W. R. Grace & Co. acquires certain assets of Grupo Sistiaga S.L., Hernani, Spain.

Graphic Packaging Corp. and Altiivity Packaging, LLC merge.

Oden Corp. acquires Crandall International.

CALL FOR ENTRIES

IoPP announces a call for entries for the 2007 AmeriStar Package Competition. Any package or family of packages produced after Jan. 1, 2006, and not previously entered into an AmeriStar competition, is eligible for submission into the 2007 program. Deadline for entering packages is Oct. 26, 2007. Judging is scheduled for Dec. 7, 2007.



Hytrol Conveyor Co., Inc. is presented with the Presidential "E" Award for excellence in exporting. Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez joined President Bush at the White House to present the award.

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Packaging company Amcor Ltd. is selling its European PET business to Spanish company, La Seda de Barcelona S.A., for almost \$576 million. The deal is expected to be finalized in the third quarter of 2007.

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