September 2019

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Simplified **recycling labels**

FOR the past eight years, the packaging value chain has been wrestling with the best ways of standardising on-pack recycling labels (OPRLs), so they're easy for consumers to understand and make responsible choices for managing their packaging waste, while simultaneously assisting collectors and sorting operations with accurate codes for material stream separation.

I still recall Kiril Dimitrov passionately championing this cause and calling for all retailers to collaborate when he was revamping Woolworths' packaging, and I was a journalist covering the food processing industry.

The good news and the perfect way to celebrate National Recycling Week (September 16-21) is that this vision is finally becoming a reality. The consultation process with the country's leading retailers – facilitated by the World Wide Fund for Nature – has been concluded and a collective agreement reached on the technical recycling specifications for the OPRLs.

As pointed out by Lorren de Kock of the World Wide Fund for Nature's Circular Plastics Economy: Policy & Futures Unit, very simple, unambiguous messaging has been adopted that reads 'recycled' or 'not recycled'. The message will appear on the label whenever possible or, in the case of flexible packaging, within the pack design. Current resin codes will be retained to assist waste pickers, recyclers and sorters with material identification.

To qualify as 'recycled', packaging must be recycled in practice and at scale in at least one major centre. This information will be reviewed regularly.

Retailers currently participating in this initiative are Clicks, Food Lovers Market, Pick n Pay, Spar, Shoprite and Woolworths. As it's rolled out, other companies are expected to come on board.

I'm very excited about the introduction of these very clear messages that will help eliminate the problem of aspirational recycling – when consumers are unsure whether or not an item can be recycled and include it with recyclables sent to materials recovery facilities (MRF) with the misconception that those sorting through the recycling will simply remove it. MRF personnel are, in fact, usually looking for large contaminants, such as food and used diapers, and anything else that could clog up their systems.

The sad reality is that margins for selling recyclable materials are low, and the more contaminated a load of recycling becomes, the lower these margins fall until it becomes more economically viable to send the entire load to landfill.

We also need to acknowledge that improving consumers' understanding of the recyclability of a particular type of packaging is only one step in the behavioural change needed to stop the flow of plastics into the environment or landfill sites. Different tiers of government need to invest in waste management infrastructure to help increase the percentage of households in South Africa that can actively participate in separation-at-source and the recycling economy.

Furthermore, while it's technically possible to recycle all polymer types, in reality a raft of limiting factors such as lack of infrastructure, market conditions, equipment or budgetary limitations and over-engineered materials mean that much is lost to landfill or into the environment.

The industry's endeavours to improve the situation through value chain collaborations, novel materials and technologies are under the spotlight at this month's Labelexpo Europe and will feature in my review in PPM's October issue. Sustainability and the circular economy are also major themes at the plastics industry's biggest show, K2019, taking place next month in Germany. For a comprehensive preview of what to expect from machinery, raw material and technology suppliers at the show, turn to page 32.

Nici Solomon

Sartorial excellence was shown by PPM's Gauteng-based team at IPSA Northern Region's recent Women in Packaging event! They are Malissa Smit, Sam Moore, Nici Solomon, Susi Moore and Kgaogelo Khumalo. For the full story, turn to page 69.




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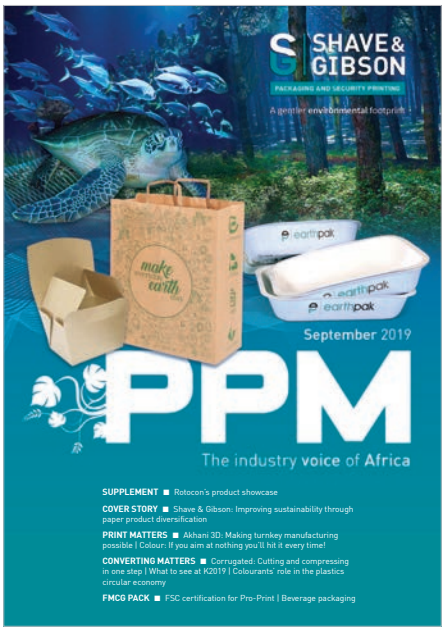
PACKAGiNG &Print Media
The industry **voice** of **Africa**



This month's **cover story**

For almost four decades, the cornerstones of Shave & Gibson's success have been innovation, service and quality. And this ethos continues with the latest round of investments and product launches.

This time we report three stand-out headlines … a comprehensive revamping of production layout and workflow at S&G's packaging production plant; the addition to the product portfolio of a range of sustainable packs, trade-named earthpak; and the acquisition of a majority interest in CounterPoint Trading, bringing an impressive line of paper-based bags into the equation.

S&G's strategy has always been to promote its image as an entrepreneurial and technologically-modern manufacturer. But most important, stresses CEO Simon Downes, is the need to innovate to remain relevant . . .

For the full story, turn to page 24.

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Don't blame the judges if your entry isn't a finalist. Members of the panel are well qualified to undertake the task! They are Bill Marshall (judging chairman) along with (standing) Andy Rice, Gunnar Sigge and Ralph von Veh, and (seated) Gill Loubser, Wendy Knowler, Vanessa von Holdt, Annabé Pretorius and Shabeer Jhetam.

The good, the bad, and the ugly ...

Gill Loubser provides some reasons why the Gold Pack judges are sometimes captivated and sometimes not!

IN the last edition of PPM, the 48 finalists in this year's Gold Pack Awards were unveiled. Sincere congratulations go to all these finalists – they are indeed worthy winners and can be proud flag-bearers for the South African packaging industry. These winning entries included stunning sample packs and well-written, compelling motivations that put them firmly in the running; and the awards evening on October 30 is going to be spectacular as they learn whether they were among the ranks of gold, silver or bronze winners.

While these winning entries met every criterion in terms of well-presented, well-thought-out motivations that answered all the judges' anticipated questions and ticked all the boxes in terms of completeness, there were, unfortunately, a number of entries that had to be discarded.

This will result in an equal number of disappointed entrants, whose projects weren't included among the list of finalists. And, no doubt, they're asking themselves why . . .

Why indeed? Given my own close association with Gold Pack stretching back to 1979 (when the infant programme was still called the Bob Wooler Award), and given the undoubted erudition of fellow judges, it's clear that we are well qualified to comment on the good, the bad and the ugly when it comes to the way entries are presented. Clearly, too, our position on the judging panel precludes specifics but it's to be hoped that these general remarks might go some way towards answering the inevitable post-awards question: 'Why didn't my pet project win gold?'

We're all packaging professionals. We all know that prize-winning packaging is fit for purpose, represents supply chain efficiency, demonstrates measurable benefits, embodies sustainability policies, and looks likely to stand the test of time (it's no good bestowing an award on a pack that bombs out in the market!).

A vital part of any Gold Pack entry is the motivation – this is the only means of feeding the judges the information they need to make informed assessments. We need technically-correct, properly-documented motivations, providing quantifiable data and a minimum of hyperbole and green-washing!

The judges tend to become irritated when presented with false technical information or unsubstantiated claims.

'Some motivations did a poor job of "selling" the entries,' commented one judge. 'Claims of increased sales were vague with no attempt to quantify; there were almost no photos or examples of previous packs to illustrate improvements.'

According to another judge, entrants should really consider getting their technical and marketing teams to collaborate on motivations.

But probably the most irritating of all, and a matter echoed by every member of the judging panel, are false 'green' claims. Entrants wax lyrical about 'recyclability' or 'compostability' without any effort to provide examples of where and/or how this is currently being done successfully in South Africa. And quite often it isn't!

Such spurious 'recyclable' claims mislead consumers into thinking they're doing something right when, in fact, the packaging is only technically recyclable. For example, there are no commercially-viable composting facilities in this country and packaging that claims to be compostable may not be suitable for home composting.

Often missing, too, is meaningful information regarding sales figures, production cost savings, distribution advantages and environmental benefits. Although entrants make statements about such criteria they don't substantiate these claims; hence their entries are mistrusted. A number of entrants also missed the boat by not relating a pack's achievements to the current state of packaging in a particular market.

Just as vital as an effective motivation, however, are pristine samples. It sometimes seems that entrants are intent on sabotaging their own submissions by supplying samples that are bound to be rejected – for example leaking bottles and poorly executed packs (poor seals, printing out of register, labels applied skew, careless shrink sleeve application, and so forth).

It's difficult to comprehend a company's spending money on the entry fee and then presenting a motivation that's lacking relevant information or submitting samples in a flawed condition. Beats me!

So the message to those entrants who believe they should have done better is to review the quality of their motivations and samples in the light of the judges' comments, to gain a better understanding of what's required.

Let's hope they'll then appear among next year's success stories!

DIC acquires BASF pigments business

US: DIC Corporation, Sun Chemical's parent company, is to acquire BASF's global pigments business, known as BASF Colors & Effects.

The acquisition will broaden DIC's portfolio as a global manufacturer of pigments, including those for electronic displays, cosmetics, coatings, plastics, inks and specialty applications, by creating a world-class pigments supplier that offers a wide array of versatile products.

The pigment portfolio will now be able to offer broader product categories related to effect pigments, inorganic pigments, organic pigments, specialty dyes and pigment preparations.

Sun, Epple collaborate on food-safe inks

UK: Sun Chemical has signed an agreement with German printing inks manufacturer Epple to combine their resources to make Epple's class-leading sheetfed offset inks for direct food contact, called BoFood Organic, available to a global audience.

BST eltromat targets global market under two leaders

GERMANY: BST eltromat (represented locally by Sareltech) has subdivided its global sales into western and eastern regions. Under dual leadership, the company is giving international sales a boost and placing greater focus on customers and subsidiaries around the world.

Siegfried Steggemann assumes leadership of the western region, which, in addition to Western Europe, includes the Americas and North Africa. Sajid Malik is in charge of the eastern region, which encompasses Eastern Europe, Middle East, Central and South Africa, Africa and Asia.

Sajid Malik and Siegfried Steggemann are the two new sales directors at BST eltromat. Sajid's territory includes South Africa.

Wink acquires steel rule die maker

GERMANY: WINK, locally represented by Rotocon, has acquired steel rule die maker Bandstahlschnitte Jeurink and its subsidiary ImaPack Stanzformen as it seeks to expand in the packaging market.

This takeover closes a circle: it was Bandstahlschnitte Jeurink from which Wink emerged in 1989.

The acquisition offers strategic opportunities for Wink. Already represented in the packaging industry with rotary tools, the company's activities are now broadened with the addition of flat dies

Amcor expands Legacy of Packaging Innovation

US: Household and personal care brands will have increased access to world-leading packaging innovation at a new centre opened by global packaging company, Amcor, in New Albany, Ohio. Amcor will deliver award-winning design expertise, rapid prototyping, product sampling, and testing capabilities to help consumer goods companies stay ahead of the competition.

The innovation centre is supported by a cross-functional team of engineers, designers, and technical specialists who work with customers on product concepts. Customers can also access Amcor's latest innovations such as barrier technology, e-commerce, the use of PCR, and more sustainable solutions.

Constantia Flexibles takes a second stake in Russia

AUSTRIA: Constantia Flexibles has taken a majority stake in the Russian group. Now known as Constantia TT, the plant mainly produces packaging for the pharmaceutical industry in Russia and neighbouring countries.

This is the second Constantia Flexibles plant in Russia, the first being Constantia Kuban, which supplies packaging material for customers in the food and dairy industry.

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Participants included (behind) Anthony Peyton (Australia), Dr Ernst Krottendorfer (Austria), Barbara Zottl (WPO), Nina Zetche (UNIDO), Meryam Sghir (UNIDO), Dr Johannes Bergmair (WPO), Rana Fakhoury (UNIDO), Dejene Tezera (UNIDO) and Gabor Molnar (UNIDO); and (in front) Antro Saila (WPO), Luciana Pellegrino (WPO), Ali Badarneh (UNIDO), Kishan Singh (WPO) and Bruno Periera (USA).

UNIDO and WPO cooperate on sustainable packaging

AT an Expert Group Meeting of international packaging professionals, held recently in Vienna, delegates from UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organisation) and WPO (World Packaging Organisation), along with other specialists, came together to design a global diagnostic tool. Among WPO participants was South Africa's Kishan Singh.

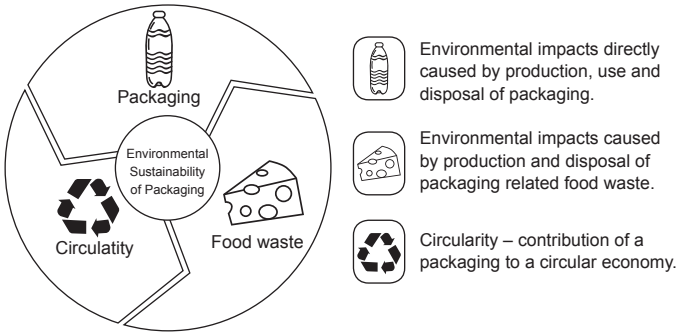
The idea behind the proposed tool is to understand packaging processes, allowing comparisons across value chains, countries and regions, in order to identify best practices. The eventual aim is to allow informed decision-making and steer packaging interventions towards more sustainable options. Most importantly, the tool is expected to provide reliable data on which current packaging practices can be replaced by more sustainable ones without compromising packaging's primary role of protecting and preserving products.

In short, the proposed tool had to support three criteria: allowing informed decision-making; benchmarking value chains based on established criteria for sustainable packaging; and mainstreaming sustainable packaging interventions by showcasing best practices in agri-value chains on a global level.

Research shows there are many existing assessment tools but none covers these three dimensions in a comprehensive and reproducible way – highlighting the need for an integrated global diagnostic tool.

The meeting's purpose was to analyse missing aspects of existing tools and define the scope, objectives and main elements of a proposed global diagnostic tool.

Questioned about the project's way forward, Kishan Singh emphasises that many emerging economies lose as much as 45% of their agricultural production, usually immediately post-harvest, simply through a lack of understanding of the best packaging and handling practices.



This figure shows the concept of the three dimensions of packaging sustainability.

'The meeting in Vienna explored the development of a practical tool able to address specific supply chains in specific countries, with the intention of reducing losses in a measurable way and enabling more food to reach starving populations. Already-proven global best practices can then be shared,' Kishan explains.

'However, the project is in its infancy and the next step is to identify a country with a specific food loss problem, then engage technical resources from WPO, UNIDO and the country itself, in order to roll out a practical project to assess the design elements required,' he continues.

A project like this, he adds, could take 12 to 24 months depending on the nature and source of food losses.

'Certainly this is not the end, but rather the beginning of what will eventually be a model that will help alleviate food wastage and feed more people,' Kishan sums up. 'WPO and UNIDO are living up to their joint agreement to combine resources to help developing countries.'

Food packaging saves food

FOOD packaging fulfils a multitude of essential functions. It protects food from detrimental physical, chemical and biological influences, and its containment function enables distribution and prevents product loss.

Packaging also integrates convenience, facilitating accessibility and easy preparation. As a communications medium, it informs consumers about contents, shelf-life and storage conditions. Food packaging also contributes to sustainability, as it prevents food waste and allows for efficient distribution.

Notwithstanding these benefits, food packaging is increasingly required to be sustainable, as production, use and disposal of packaging are associated with a multitude of direct environmental impacts. Apart from these direct effects, however, are adverse environmental effects caused by inadequate packaging, such as food loss during production and processing or food wastage at the retail and consumption end of the supply chain.

In addition, recyclability is an important property of the circular economy. In contrast to a linear product, a circular product contains renewable or recycled content and is either compostable or recyclable or reusable.

Technology, creativity and imagination drive Esmé Bense and Annemarie Burger, who make running Remata look easy. But they work harder than most and have mastered the art of staying hopeful – perhaps the hardest work of all.

Integrity the imprint on every Remata job

The first action taken by Esmé Bense and Annemarie Burger when taking over Remata Communications & Printers was to pull the plug on deadwood customers. Twenty-eight years later, **Susan Unsworth** reminisces with these partners in print about how they took the business from compromised to optimised and kept it there.

WHEN Esmé and Annemarie took the bold decision to step up to the plate following their manager's untimely death in 1991, they had no time to dwell on the immensity of the task. Remata was already dwindling, with only five people, and there was talk of closing shop. As employees, they had no option, says Esmé, but to 'take over this baby and make it work through common sense'.

'We had new Apple Macs for the typesetting department and had ordered the first postscript RIP to produce fully laid-out pages. We couldn't let those go to waste,' she adds.

Remata started life in 1970 as Hercules Printers, churning out American Christian literature. A move to Midrand in 1977 was accompanied by the name change. At the time, Annemarie was the company's photo-lithographer and Esmé managed a restaurant. The two lived close to each other and became firm friends in the 1980s. Just one visit to Remata to suss things out was enough to persuade Esmé to ditch burgers and join Annemarie.

The pair started acquiring shares and, by 1991, owned the business.

Their second step after dispensing with the riffraff was a commitment to pay all suppliers. 'We did it, even though it took five years,' says Annemarie. 'Integrity in business is everything to us.'

Staying ahead of the technology curve

As print technology moves faster than a circular on a Speedmaster, no expense was spared in moving with the times or, to be more accurate, beating the trend. Remata's was the first desktop publishing bureau in South Africa. The partners introduced high-quality digital scanning, ' The first truly digital press, the Agfa Chromapress, was next, printing directly from file to paper. It was a hit and marked a return to litho but with Heidelberg DI technology. A B2 litho press followed with high-end finishing equipment, bringing full control of jobs inhouse.

'By then, we had fallen in love with digital, adding a Nexpress, and our vision of personalisation soon became a reality,' says Esmé. 'We gathered a dedicated team of creatives and data specialists and produced amazing high-end, one-to-one documents.'

Nexpress became an ex and in came HP Indigo, offering litho quality on digital runs.

Two years ago, a point-of-sale division was born, which closed the circle in Remata's bid to be an all-rounder.

Litho was not neglected and, earlier this year, the country's first A1 Komori H-UV press was delivered to IBG Park on New Road (PPM March 2019).

Value and service driven

Technology is one thing, but it means little without service and attitude. Through it all, Esmé and Annemarie have never compromised their vision or values. Their determination to run the best print house means they never skimp on quality of paper and consumables, do everything to satisfy last-minute requests from panicking customers, and keep a shop so pristine that it knows few equals.

'It's surreal to wander around, as we sometimes do, and see the work being produced,' says Annemarie. 'We wonder how on earth we got here.'

It probably had much to do with their philosophy of agreement before investment. 'A house divided cannot stand,' Esmé stresses. 'When we disagreed, we went away to consider each other's views, then returned to the table to reach consensus.'

It is perhaps no coincidence that Remata, named after Rhema ('the spoken word'), was also associated with a nomad group that ultimately found a place to settle; a home. Remata has certainly been home and haven to Esmé and Annemarie.

'We have both grown, so now we simply and perfectly complement each other. We are and will always be best friends,' Esmé concludes.

ROTOCON

Crackingnews

VR Print invests **double in digital**

VR Print's MD, Hilton van Rensburg, is excited about the possibilities and opportunities provided by the Screen Truepress Jet L350UV+ purchased through Rotocon. Pictured with him is Rotocon's Pascal Aengenvoort.

ESTABLISHED in 1997, Durban-based VR Print has now ventured into the digital printing market having invested in a Screen Truepress Jet L350UV+ and an Ecoline RDF 330 digital printed label converting and finishing system, both purchased through Rotocon.

'From the beginning of our business relationship with Rotocon some five years ago, everything has been amazing,' says MD Hilton van Rensburg. 'From after-sales service to the number of technicians available, we've received everything we've needed from Rotocon, and not one die has failed us yet,' he adds.

According to Hilton, VR Print wanted to add value to labels without compromising on quality. 'Putting our customers' needs first, we noticed growing demand for digitally printed labels, especially in the FMCG and personal care markets,' he continues.

'In addition, however, our new digital press now enables us to provide the pharmaceutical market with variable data printing, which opens up opportunities to print individual lot numbers, to print QR codes, or to incorporate anti-counterfeiting measures,' he claims.

In Hilton's view, standout features of the press include

Hilton van Rensburg (VR Print) and Michael Aengenvoort (Rotocon) with the servo-driven Rotocon Ecoline RDF 330 finishing machine.

colour consistency, quality, and productivity. 'Also impressive is the excellent white and colours that can be achieved because of the high-definition CMYK, white and orange UV inks that provide an expanded colour gamut,' he comments.

According to Rotocon's Pascal Aengenvoort, a production speed of 60m/min makes it ideal for short and medium runs and faster turnaround times. 'The press also offers colour reproduction, substrate compatibility, and other advanced features,' he adds.

The Rotocon RDF 330 complements the press by maintaining quality and productivity. The finishing system features an unwind/rewind unit, full-rotary flexo printing unit, cold foil/lamination unit, die-cutting station, slitting unit and extras such as a corona treater and chill roller for the printing and converting of unsupported film.

The digital press and finishing system have been up and running since June with both Rotocon and Screen assisting

with operator training. The user-friendly interface on the Screen Truepress Jet L350UV+ played a major role in easing the operators into its use.

'We were doubly lucky that training on the press was conducted by a Screen expert who happened to be in the country at that time,' says Hilton.

Enhancing capacity **with Rotocon**

IMPRESSED by the Rotocon RSD 330 die-cutting/inspection machine demonstrated on Rotocon's stand at Propak Africa, Blue Print Labelling's owners, Devlin and Wade Brodowicz, made their latest investment decision.

'When we saw the RSD 330 on show at Propak we were convinced that it was ideally suited to enhancing our production capacity and ensuring we keep pace with demand,' says Devlin.

This statement is echoed by Wade, who also notes that every purchase of a press should be accompanied by investment in complementary equipment to enhance productivity and quality. 'Although this machine will be used primarily as a slitter, it gives us peace of mind to know it's able to perform both functions,' he adds.

The RSD 330 is a modular, servo-driven machine with a rotary die-cutting station to finish pre-printed material or produce blank labels.

'Our core business is blank labels,' Wade explains. 'This business is split into direct thermal, thermal transfer and laser sheets.'

According to Devlin, the RSD 330 interface is similar to the company's existing RSI 330. 'This made the training process easier as operators are already used to Rotocon's machinery and interface,' he remarks.

Rotocon technician, Niel van der Westhuizen, was on hand to install and commission the RSD 330 and assisted with training.

Speaking of Rotocon's service and products, Devlin declares they haven't looked back since their first meeting. 'We started by purchasing consumables from Rotocon and since then we've invested in a second-hand Mark Andy press, the RSI 330 and now the latest RSD 330. Rotocon goes over and above what's required to assist us,' he concludes.

Ed's note: In PPM's previous report on Blue Print Labelling (July 2019) it was noted that the business would soon be moving to larger premises. It has now relocated to a 700m^2 site in Alexander Park, Pinetown. Watch this space for a further report in due course.

Rotocon's Pascal Aengenvoort and Akhmuth Sayed, with Blue Print Labelling's Devlin and Wade Brodowicz, are pleased to show off the recently-commissioned Rotocon RSD 330.

BEYOND PACKAGING

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Nestlé unveils packaging research institute

NESTLÉ has officially inaugurated the Institute of Packaging Sciences – located at its research facilities in Lausanne, Switzerland – to accelerate the company's efforts in bringing functional, safe and environmentally-friendly packaging solutions to the market.

Speaking at the inauguration, CEO, Mark Schneider, said: 'Our vision is a world in which none of our packaging ends up in landfill or as litter. To achieve this, we're introducing reusable packaging and pioneering environmentally-friendly packaging materials. Furthermore, we're supporting the development of local recycling infrastructure and deposit schemes to help shape a waste-free world.'

The Institute is focusing on several science and technology areas, such as refillable or reusable packaging, simplified packaging materials, recycled packaging materials, high-performance barrier papers as well as bio-based, compostable and biodegradable materials.

CTO, Stefan Palzer, added: 'Nestlé experts are co-developing and testing new environmentally-friendly packaging materials and systems together with our development centres, suppliers, research institutions and start-ups. In under 12 months, in collaboration with suppliers, we've developed products in recyclable paper packaging for Nesquik All Natural cocoa powder and YES! snack bar products.'

Recycling boost in Soweto

SOWETO entrepreneur and Pendowave Recycling owner, Gordon Nkuta (centre) was all smiles as he admired his new baling machine worth R150 000, sponsored by plastics converter, ALPLA.

He is pictured here at the handover ceremony with ALPLA's head of transformation, Wilma Mahomed (right), and PETCO collections and training project manager, Belinda Booker, who also sponsored a branded trailer, signage and bulk bags to the value of R50 000.

The Pendowave buy-back centre collects 20 tons of PET bottles per month for selling on for recycling and provides a regular income for 26 people – six contract employees and 20 waste collectors.

Plastics recycling on the up

ACCORDING to Plastics|SA, the umbrella body representing the entire South African plastics value chain, the industry has made important recycling strides, despite facing major challenges.

South Africa recycled 352 000 tons of plastics into raw material in 2018 – putting the local input recycling rate at 46.3% for all plastics compared to Europe's 31.1% .

More than 519 370 tons of plastics waste was collected for recycling, a 6.7% increase on the previous year. The largest quantity of recyclables (70%) was obtained from landfill and other post-consumer sources.

The most widely recycled material is PE-LD and PE-LLD packaging films and substantial growth was seen in the recycling of PE-LD/LLD.

'Plastic bag manufacturers removed fillers to produce fully recyclable bags. In addition, 100% certified recycled plastic material is now used to produce some carrier bags. This creates an end-market for recycled plastic products and helps to reduce waste to landfill,' says Plastics|SA's executive director, Anton Hanekom.

Collaboration is urgently required to reduce the increasing incidence of contaminants – biodegradables, compostables and some forms of oxo-biodegradables – finding their way into the incoming recyclable waste stream.

'Brand owners, retailers and product designers need to be aware of unrecyclable substrates in packaging designs such as multilayer material, or incompatible packaging components,' Anton warns.

'By ensuring that the packaging we create becomes part of a circular economy, we create a win-win situation for the environment and for an industry that employs 60 000 people,' he adds.

The procurement of recyclables – material bought from waste-pickers, collectors and waste management companies – injected an estimated R2.3-billion into the economy at primary sourcing level.

'Plastics need to be collected and removed from the environment. Infrastructure and waste management processes need to be in place, which can handle recyclable and non-recyclable waste so that 34% of concerned citizens who currently have no access to waste management services, can also participate,' explains Anton.

The South African Initiative to End Plastic Waste in the Environment has identified four areas that need to be addressed. It recommends infrastructure development to collect and manage waste and increase recycling; innovation to advance and scale new technologies that make recycling and recovering plastics easier and create value from all post-use plastics; education and engagement at government, business, and community levels to mobilise action; and clean-ups of concentrated areas of plastic waste already in the environment, particularly the major conduits such as rivers, which carry land-based plastics waste to the sea.

Bio-based dairy carton

TETRA PAK, in partnership with Woodlands Dairy, has launched the first one-litre Tetra Brik Aseptic Slim HeliCap23 carton, made from bio-based plastic and FSC-certified paperboard.

'Sustainability has always been at the core of our promise to protect food, people and futures,' comments Stefan Fageräng, MD of Tetra Pak Southern Africa.

The carton's cap and top (pictured right) is made from high-density polyethylene (HDPE) derived from sugarcane. Combined with the FSC-certified paperboard used in the main sleeve of the carton, its renewable raw material content is pushed up from 53% to 82%.

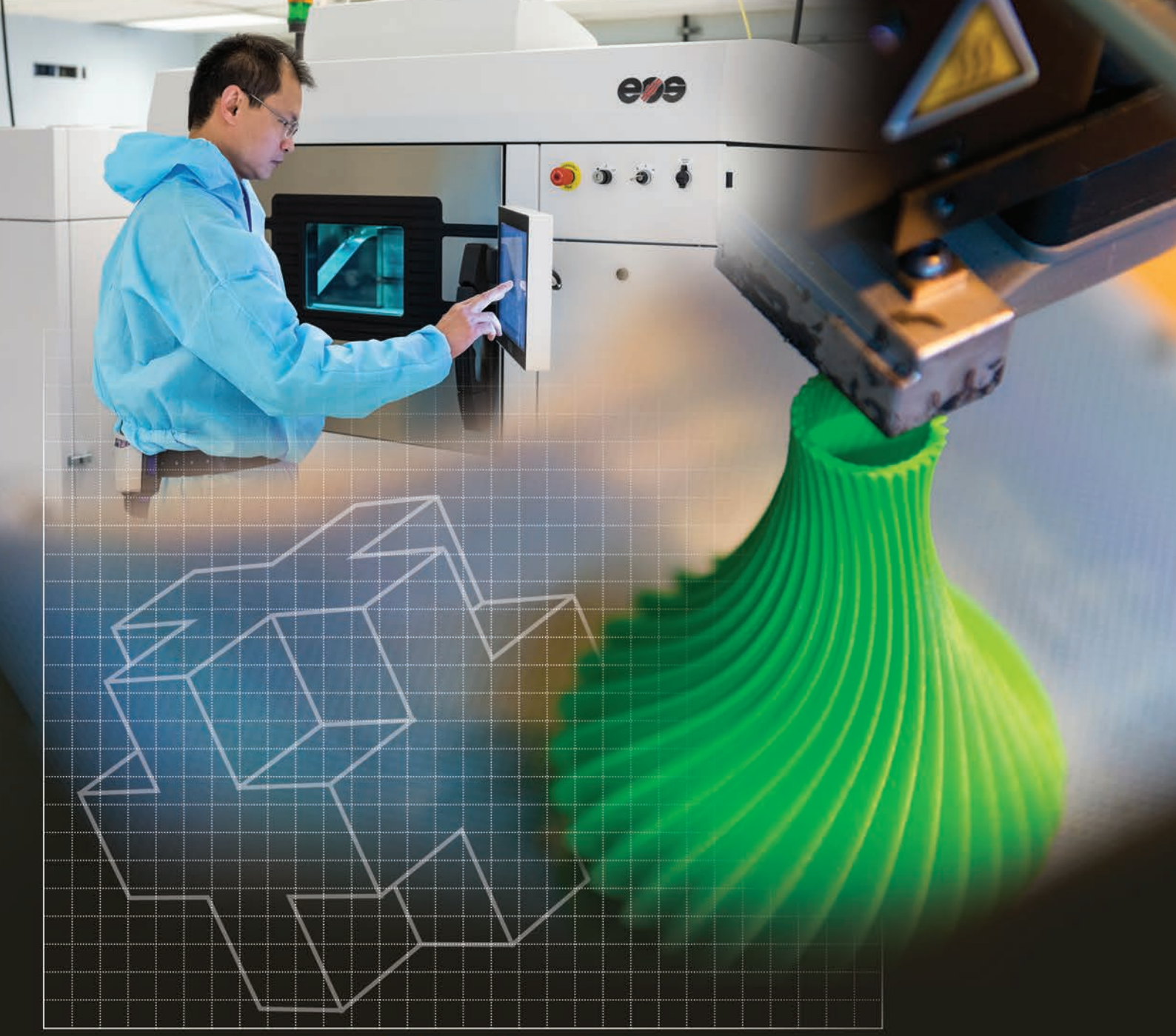
On the inside of the carton, a thin layer of aluminium provides vital protection from oxygen and light, keeping perishable food safe without refrigeration and preservatives for months. However, Stefan reports, Tetra Pak is investigating alternative barrier materials and aims to deliver a 100% recyclable package made entirely from renewable and/or recycled materials without compromising on food safety requirements.

Tetra Pak has partnered with two paper mills, Gayatri and Mpact, for recycling these packs and is working on executing a deal with recycling companies to encourage their return for recycling.

The Tetra Brik aseptic carton features bio-based plastic and FSC-certified paperboard, adding up to more than 80% renewable raw materials.

'It's our vision that all cartons are collected for recycling so they don't end up as litter or in a landfill. We have an open approach to partnerships, collaborating with our customers, the industry at large and all players in the recycling value chain,' he maintains.

The carton includes a QR code that provides the consumer with more information of the pack's life cycle.



PRiNT Matters

SHEETFED OFFSET: Heidelberg enhances Speedmaster ergonomics
COLOUR MANAGEMENT: If you aim at nothing, you'll hit it every time – the case for a flexo industry standard
FLEXO FORUM: Kevin Naidu boosts DuPont Cyrel team | CAE ramps up exports
3D PRINTING: Akhani 3D takes turnkey additive manufacturing to the next level

New on the Speedmaster CX 75 are silver gantries at the feeder and delivery – design features transferred from the Speedmaster XL 106.

Heidelberg upgrades

Heidelberg has enhanced the user-friendliness of the Speedmaster XL 75 and CX 75 with modern, ergonomic designs.

FOR many small- to medium-sized printing companies, the 500 x 700mm format is the perfect fit for either commercial or packaging products. Many packaging printers in the pharmaceutical and cosmetics segment, for instance, use this format, as it offers benefits for small folding carton sizes and a high level of embellishment, as well as short runs.

Providing evidence of demand for this format, Heidelberg reports over 19 000 Speedmaster CD 74, XL 75 and CX 75 printing units have been delivered, and declares this to be reason enough for an upgrade to the platform with a modern, ergonomic design to enhance user-friendliness. Delivery of the redesigned presses is to commence during September.

Enhancement of this successful format has been ongoing. For example, the foundation for the Push-to-Stop philosophy was laid at drupa 2016 with the IntelliStart 2 user software. A year later, the Speedmaster CX 75 was presented, optimally tailored to the needs of smaller printing companies in one- and two-shift operation thanks its smaller footprint and improved substrate flexibility.

'We've seen how the topic of user ergonomics has gained importance,' explains Frank Süsser, product manager. 'Even though automation looks after many routine tasks today, the operator always has something to do, such as staging printing plates, adding ink, changing wash-up cloths and rubber blankets, or handling maintenance. Although the generous space between the printing units in the Speedmaster XL 75 and CX 75 is useful, we went a step further and modernised the entire gallery concept,' he remarks.

The design of the Speedmaster XL 106 was the inspiration for this, and was transferred to both machines. This includes both the gallery concept, as well as the feeder and delivery gantries that visually enhance the machines.

The machines will be displayed for the first time at Pack Print in Thailand in September, followed by a customer event in October at Heidelberg's Print Media Center in Germany.

'This is a foretaste of drupa 2020,' Frank adds. 'Other innovations will follow to make our customers in the 500 x 700mm format even more successful.'

Design well received by customers

The world's first Speedmaster XL 75 five-colour press with coating unit and featuring the new design was recently installed at Theiler Druck in Switzerland. 'Our Speedmaster CD 74 was a great machine but this new XL 75 is on another level,' reports Michel Schwander, head of commercial printing. 'After just a few days, our operators can't imagine life without this ergonomic design. Working on the machine is fun and it's more comfortable and less tiring to operate,' he happily declares.

With AutoPlate Pro, Prinect Inpress Control, and the entire Preset control system, individual work steps are now carried out fully automatically, are highly automated, and also clearly visualised on the Wallscreen. 'This means we can produce one job after the other much more quickly and efficiently,' concludes Michel. The machine is used to produce brochures, advertising material and packaging.

What printers really appreciate about the Speedmaster XL 75 is its application flexibility, productivity and print quality – whether it's the base model or equipped with maximum automation for autonomous printing.

If you aim at nothing you'll hit it every time

Hauke Liefferink spells out Acme Graphics' view of the colour management conundrum for flexographic printers.

PACKAGING printers have a difficult job. They're expected to match proofs, brand colours and previously-printed samples on a variety of substrates with many different varnish, lamination and finishing options, seemingly making it impossible to settle on a particular colour standard or colour policy.

To complicate matters further, some printers then start aiming at multiple standards, when they've never previously implemented and printed to a single standard.

As Zig Ziglar once said 'If you aim at nothing you'll hit it every time'. The starting point is simply setting up a target. This target can be really large (imagine a dartboard with a bullseye half the size of the board), but, when setting out, aiming at something is the starting point.

It's true that flexo printers/packaging converters are faced with dozens, if not hundreds, of substrates on which to print. Add finishing effects and they're looking at thousands, if not tens of thousands of potential combinations, all producing different results. Adding multiple flexo presses, anilox volumes, ink types, conventional and digital printing and it becomes impossible to motivate a colour management system that proposes multiple standards.

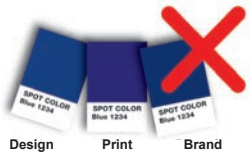
Printer A Printer B Printer C Printer D

Each printer has achieved his standards (targets) yet packs differ dramatically: not good for brand owners or consumers.

By having no industry standards, flexo printers are their own worst enemies, effectively wasting everyone's press set-up time. Brand owners are forced to supply printers with previously-printed samples that match no standard and it's a time-consuming process to 'reverse engineer' a matching print. Thus press time and material are wasted and the brand owner has to spend hours doing on-press approvals.

Aiming to hit (a very large) bullseye

Aiming for ISO 12647 colour and tone values when printing process CMYK, in fact, allows for a considerable amount of latitude. We recently 'synthetically' manipulated a standard ISO 12647 dataset into its ' lightest' and 'darkest' acceptable tolerances for visual comparison, and the different was quite dramatic. This means printers aiming for this standard are given substantial latitude.



Design Agency Spot Guide | Print Company Spot Guide | Brand Owner Spot Guide

Refer to Master Colour Standard on instrument

Again, when it comes to spot colours, a clear colour policy and aiming for a single target (neither your spot colour guide nor mine) clears up a lot of variations and confusion.

At Acme Graphics, we've spent years developing the simplest-to-use field-tested colour management system and colour policy. We call it ColoRecipe. Without a recipe, you'll never bake the same cake twice. Likewise, to print consistently and get on to colour fast, a print 'recipe' is key.

Together we can aim at something. Let's start . . .

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DuPont Cyrel gets sales boost

Flexographic guru, Kevin Naidu, has joined the DuPont Advanced Printing team to manage Cyrel business in the region through close engagement with distributors and customers.

GARY WEYMAN, DuPont Advanced Printing's sales manager for sub-Saharan Africa, expects strong sales growth for Cyrel flexographic plates over the next five years. Cause for this optimism is the sector's forecasted 2.6% global growth rate and Kevin Naidu's addition to the DuPont Cyrel team – coupled with excellent distributor partnerships with Kalideck Antalis and Marshall Hinds.

'Although Cyrel has been available in South Africa since its birth 45 years ago, we're delighted to add direct representation through Kevin's appointment,' Gary says. 'The local market is dynamic and technically advanced, with many printers serving the needs of global brands. Kevin's role is to manage the Cyrel business in the region through close engagement with distributors and customers.'

Flexographic printing has been Kevin's passion throughout his 29-year career with repro houses and suppliers. 'I've joined the DuPont team to support Cyrel customers throughout Southern Africa, East Africa and the Indian Ocean islands, and to provide back up for our twin distributors, Kalideck Antalis and Marshall Hinds, to supplement their already outstanding technical expertise.'

In addition, DuPont Advanced Printing and its distributor partners are dedicated to helping printers meet their sustainability challenges.

'To help printers to achieve their sustainability goals, we continually develop innovative products, processes and services – for example the Cyrel FAST solvent-free process – and offer Life Cycle Assessments,' Kevin concludes.

CAE ramps up exports

WITH the recent appointment of UMS as its official distributor for Australia and New Zealand, CAE (Ceramic Anilox Engravers) is further developing exports of its ceramic anilox transfer technology.

Says CAEs technical director, Paul Rich: 'We've been exporting our products, services and technical support to this region for the past two years but we have been actively looking for an official agent/distributor to provide local support. UMS has a long-standing interest in flexo printing of flexible and corrugated packaging and fits well with our culture. We're on the expansion trail and our products are gaining well-deserved recognition – both locally and internationally.'

Shaking hands on the deal are Tony Rich (CAE) and Peter Keogh (UMS). Looking on are Sean Keogh (UMS), Paul Rich and Neil Rich (CAE).

Akhani 3D, southern Africa's largest commercial additive manufacturing service bureau, has invested in an EOS M290 to produce complex direct metal laser sintering components from aluminium and steel in a range of quality grades.

Akhani 3D: making turnkey manufacturing possible

3D printing or additive manufacturing machines are getting faster, design tools smarter, and the portfolios of materials/finishes ever more suited to industrial applications. This is no longer a trend on its way to mainstream, it's serious global business.

ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING (AM) has side-stepped age-old design, tooling and production problems more effortlessly than anyone a decade ago thought possible. The ability to consider a component holistically and design specifically to purpose is changing the nature of the $12-trillion manufacturing sector, shortening supply chains, spearheading innovation and significantly reducing time to market.

The promise of full serial production is drawing ever closer, with the industry driven towards the holy grail of delivering high volumes of reliable product at lower costs than traditional processes.

To meet rising demand from the manufacturing sector for a turnkey AM production service that translates ideas and R&D workflows into objects as efficiently as possible, Rapid 3D and Kemtek's joint venture, Akhani 3D (from the Zulu word meaning 'to make'), has expanded into southern Africa's largest commercial AM service bureau.

Akhani 3D's experts provide traditional manufacturers with access to seven industry-leading additive manufacturing production processes that unlock value and deliver a clear competitive advantage.

Leveraging 15 years' experience in the industry, alongside strong engineering and technical backgrounds, they consider different industrial/manufacturing processes and focus on effective problem-solving by selecting the right tool for the job.

'Rapid 3D launched when 3D printing was in its infancy, not just in South Africa, but globally,' reports MD, David Bullock. 'It's an industry that has progressed at a staggering rate, and through the years we've filtered out the noise to pinpoint the processes that deliver real value.'

The AM industry has reached a level of maturity where costs, quality and time factors have converged to make scaling production feasible.

As Pauline Bullock, director of operations, explains, this prompted Akhani 3D (previously known as Rapid 3D Parts) to invest in an EOS M290, the industry benchmark in industrial 3D printing of metal parts. This is unlocking new possibilities for customers as it's ideal for manufacturing complex direct metal laser sintering components from aluminium and steel in a range of quality grades.

Akhani 3D, she adds, also offers several finishing options for 3D printed parts, including support removal, polishing and dyeing facilities.

Demand-based future

David Bullock confirms that the market is evolving and Akhani 3D is seeing a definite trend towards manufacturing companies embracing 3D printing for parts replacement and offering customers a digital inventory of components, which can be printed on demand when failures occur.

For instance, he notes that an estimated 60% of the spares inventory in the automotive industry never gets used. 'When you consider the environmental implications of this obsolete inventory, as well as the material inputs, handling, energy consumption and storage cost reductions on offer, it makes a lot of sense to transition to a digital inventory system,' David emphasises.

The ability to produce on-demand from a digital library reduces stockholding and potentially addresses several logistics challenges.

Another major advantage of AM is that assemblies can be made with one component rather than several, which means less inventory is needed for production. This simplified assembly also leads to flatter supply chains and less onerous quality assurance processes.

CONVERTiNG Matters

PAPER & BOARD: Shave & Gibson innovates to remain relevant | Cutting, compressing in one step with Zünd's latest tool

LABELLING & NARROW WEB: Haptic labels thanks to Panther power | TDC Printers invests in CoolUV LED curing | It's not business as usual in the European label industry

PLASTICS IN PACKAGING: Don't miss PPM's preview of what's to be seen at K2019

MASTERBATCH UPDATE: Colourants' role in the plastics circular economy | Clariant helps polymer sorting systems to 'see' carbon black

Innovating to remain relevant

For almost four decades, the cornerstones of Shave & Gibson's success have been innovation, service and quality. And this ethos continues with the latest round of investments and product launches. **Gill Loubser** tells the tale.

THERE'S always something exciting to report following a meeting with Shave & Gibson executives, where nothing ever stands still. It's possible that similar observations have previously been noted in these pages, but their veracity isn't diminished by repetition!

This time we have three stand-out headlines … a comprehensive revamping of production layout and workflow at S&G's packaging production plant; the addition to the product portfolio of a range of sustainable packs, trade-named earthpak; and the acquisition of a majority interest in CounterPoint Trading, bringing an impressive line of paper-based bags into the equation.

But first a brief background. It was back in 1981 that a small enterprise called Group Printing & Packaging was acquired by Alan St Clair Gibson and Neville Shave and renamed Shave & Gibson (S&G). Today this business – still located in Mobeni (KZN), albeit on the opposite side of South Coast Road – is acknowledged as one of South Africa's 'big three' when it comes to the production of folding cartons and litho-laminated boxes. But that's only part of the story. Along the way, S&G also acquired a cheque-printing venture that has since been transformed into Africa's largest security printing facility.

Since 2005, this ever-burgeoning business has been headed by group chairman, Simon Downes, with Dave King and Jim Short as managing directors respectively of its packaging and security printing operations. And over the past few years, as several articles in PPM have recounted, ongoing and hefty investments have been made in the latest printing and converting technology.

As a result, S&G has successfully maintained a leading edge in a fiercely-contested sector by improving efficiencies, reducing material costs, minimising overheads and ensuring top-quality production. However, as Simon Downes points out, these outcomes aren't merely a way of tackling competition in an existing market. 'We're being innovative, devising totally fresh ideas, in order to enlarge the entire folding carton and related market

sectors,' he insists. 'This is our strategy for expanding our business horizons – not merely taking a bigger slice of the existing cake but actively looking for new markets into which we can grow.'

All things bright and beautiful

One part of this continual investment strategy is the latest factory revamp at group headquarters. On this topic MD of the packaging operation, Dave King, takes up the story.

'Recent economic turmoil, particularly in the manufacturing sector, has hardly been conducive to thoughts of capital investment, let alone concrete action,' he comments. 'But in true S&G style, it's not in our nature to stand still for long!'

As Dave goes on to relate, one of the board sheeters was getting long-in-the-tooth and short on capacity, yet it was felt that spending money on repairs would yield minimal payback.

'This situation, coupled to our constant drive to maximise efficiency, led to the decision to purchase a higher-output US-made sheeter, complete with slitting and trimming capabilities,' he explains.

'At the same time, ongoing business growth resulted in our material flows being less than optimal. So taking advantage of this latest installation, we decided to rearrange parts of the plant to improve these flows.'

As a result the sheeting department is now to be located adjacent to the printing department, cutting out the need for double handling and pile turning.

To facilitate this move, the entire die-cutting department was relocated to a position that better fits the process path, cuts down on handling, and simplifies supervision. And yet another move to further reduce handling and storage, and to ramp up efficiency, is the relocation of the laminators to a position close to the die-cutters.

'Anyone familiar with what's involved in moving such enormous machines will understand the amount of civil work required – foundation preparation, electrical work, and other related services,' Dave continues. 'Luckily we've enjoyed the expert services of Beswick Machinery to help us with this intricate move, in conjunction with our long-standing in-house project engineer, John Powell.'

(As an aside, this dedicated and skilled project engineer is soon to retire and will be sorely missed by the management team at S&G.)

As before, the revamped production facility makes use of an automated waste extraction system involving below-surface conveyers. 'Being able to plan this in from the start resulted in an even more effective solution,' Dave remarks.

'So far, we're about a third of the way through this complex project but we've been able to continue with no disruption to our customer service. Obviously, we've had some internal stresses, but these will long be forgotten once we start benefiting from the greatly-improved layout.'

Warehousing, too, is part of the saga.

Back in 2012, having completely run out of warehousing space, S&G acquired a 10 000m^2 site in Leicester Road (a few minutes' drive from headquarters). This move not only provided extra warehouse space but also accommodated S&G's corrugating and sheeting plant. And in 2017, the exercise was repeated with the purchase of a five-storey 24 000m^2 building in the same vicinity, originally built in the 1950s as home to one of Durban's major textile groups.

The building, reminiscent of the functional Bauhaus architectural style of the 1920s, is referred to as 'Blokhaus', and features low ceilings that provide an enormous amount of floor space. 'For our type of stock, this is often more effective than high racking in a single storey,' Dave maintains. 'This investment allowed us a great number of options for decongesting the factory,' he adds.

Incidentally, the 'Blokhaus' reference also has a history worth recounting. Simon Downes' late brother was a trail-blazing architect and developer in San Diego, and revitalised large areas of the Barrio into functional work and living spaces. 'His avant-garde offices were named Blokhaus, so this is also a tribute to him,' Simon explains.

Enter earthpak

And now the company is excited to have launched its latest brand of packaging, called earthpak (a South African registered trademark) that's set to replace

earthpak containers take food products from freezer (-40°C) to oven (220°C) and are suitable for microwave cooking. They're also available with custom-branding.

polystyrene food trays. Manufactured from sustainably-produced paper, these products provide retailers with a workable method of eliminating non-recyclable products.

According to Richard Downes, commercial manager, earthpak provides consumers and suppliers with an alternative to plastics in general and polystyrene in particular, with a less detrimental effect on the environment.

Does this imply an anti-plastics stance from S&G? 'Not at all,' is Richard's quick response. 'We have great sympathy for the plastics industry, which has done so much to improve recyclability. But without changing consumer behaviour regarding waste disposal, plastics appear to be on a runaway train. In many ways, plastics are unfairly placed in the same category as tobacco products.'

S&G's earthpak trays and containers, constructed from Forest Stewardship Council-certified virgin paper, are available with a range of coatings to provide grease and moisture resistance, allowing direct, safe food contact. They take food products from freezer (-40°C) to oven (220°C) and are suitable for microwave cooking. They're also available with custom-branding.

'We believe earthpak products will help in the war on waste, by providing a recyclable solution. Together, suppliers, retailers and consumers can aim for a more sustainable future,' Richard notes.

'We chose the name earthpak as we wanted a brand that would resonate with retailers and consumers, a name that's self-explanatory about what we're offering – in short, packaging that leaves a gentler footprint on our earth.'

Another arrow in the S&G quiver

This story's third prong, the CounterPoint Trading acquisition, builds further on S&G's move into the realm of complementary eco-friendly packaging.

'Some time ago, anticipating ongoing moves from single-use plastics to paper bags, we considered establishing a grassroots paper bag-making business,' relates Simon Downes. 'Taking a controlling interest in CounterPoint Trading, an existing manufacturer of paper bags that complement our existing products, means we've been able to enter this sector without paying school fees, while adding another arrow to our quiver when it comes to servicing the paper-based packaging requirements of South Africa's major FMCG manufacturers and retailers,' he explains.

Based in Hammarsdale, and co-owned by Wim van Herzeele and Ruben van Wambeke (respectively operations and financial directors), CounterPoint was launched in 2005 to supply paper bags to the food industry. The business was soon established as an innovative paper packaging manufacturer with reliable production equipment and agile business processes, and has since evolved into an industry-leading disposable packaging producer, running 15 different processes in a three-shift operation, six days a week, from its 4 500m^2 manufacturing plant.

'This is an entrepreneurial company with a "can-do" culture that clearly matches ours,' notes Jason Staats, group financial director. 'This investment plays into the swing we're seeing from plastics to paper packaging.'

Margins are under pressure in the packaging sector as elsewhere, and the folding carton market is nothing if not mature. But against this backdrop, Simon Downes and his lieutenants (who, incidentally, now include his two sons, Richard and Michael) continue to take S&G forward. 'Our strategy is to have a solid presence, and to promote our image as an entrepreneurial and technologically-modern manufacturer,' Simon remarks.

But most important, he argues, is the need to innovate to remain relevant. 'The cornerstones of our success are innovation, service and quality. We will never become a generic manufacturer selling commodities based only on price,' Simon stresses.

And, as a final word, he provides an apt quote from Amelia Earhart, the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic: 'The most difficult thing is the decision to act,' she said. 'The rest is merely tenacity.'

That surely sums up the ethos we've come to expect from S&G.

Ed's note: As revealed in the last edition of PPM, S&G has clocked up three finalists in this year's Gold Pack Awards. Although the actual nature of the awards will not be unveiled until October 30, S&G's national sales manager, Bill Furniss, is proud of these pending tributes. 'They're proof positive of our strong stance on innovation and sustainability – encapsulated by our efforts to move away from run-of-the-mill designs and branding,' he notes.

Cutting and compressing in one step

MARKETED locally by Midcomp, the new Zünd Press Cutting Tool (PCT), designed for processing corrugated board, is taking cut quality and throughput to the next level.

With this latest addition, Zünd is further expanding its already extensive palette of available tools for processing corrugated board. What sets this new cutting tool apart is both performance and cut quality. In contrast to the oscillating tool and the vertical forces exerted on the material, the PCT offers much greater stability, enabling both faster processing speeds and clean, precise cut edges.

To perform in this manner, the PCT is equipped with a convex glide shoe that compresses the material during the cutting process, which produces a pillowing effect along the cut lines. The resulting edge quality equals that of conventional die-cutting.

A stepless adjustment ring controls the processing depth of the glide shoe and the amount of compression. The tool is suitable for corrugated board up to a thickness of 7mm without running the risk of tearing or puncturing the linerboard. The PCT is also capable of flawlessly cutting very fine detail, including radii as small as 3mm, with the new Z104 drag knife recommended for this purpose. Applications include any corrugated board product where flawless, pillowed edges are desirable, eg high-quality packaging for consumer goods and POP displays.

Proud of their latest investment in CoolUV LED curing technology are the TDC Printers & Distributors team of Neran Govender (press operator), Lucky Gabuza (rewinder), Ntuthuko Shangase (press operator), Houstan Govender (press operator), Jackson Chetty (assistant), Thulani Cornet (production planner), Roland Pillay (factory manager) and Trevor Nadar (sales & marketing director). Standing behind are Wayne van Zyl and Ian Howroyd of Litho Sales & Label, local partners for CoolUV Technology.

CoolUV LED curing: for quality products

A second Durban-based label printing operation – TDC Printers & Distributors – has invested in a CoolUV Technology LED curing system, writes **Gill Loubser**.

PARTNERS in Litho Sales & Labels, Wayne van Zyl and Ian Howroyd, are basking in their continuing success. They've now sold and commissioned a second CoolUV Technology LED curing system. As previously reported (PPM, June 2019), having acquired the agency for this Chinese-built equipment, they took advantage of Propak Africa to promote it to local label printers

This time, the system has been retrofitted to an eight-colour Mark Andy Scout flexographic press at TDC Printers & Distributors in New Germany (Durban, KZN). The company, headed by Trevor Nadar (sales & marketing director), manufactures and distributes a comprehensive range of self-adhesive labels and barcode labels for many different industries.

Rent to own through Retail Capital

LITHO Sales & Labels is now approved as a supplier by Retail Capital Asset Finance. This means the company's customers can apply for funding when purchasing printing or ancillary equipment such as CoolUV LED curing systems.

Retail Capital recommends fixed term rent-to-own financing of equipment for a number of reasons. Compared to a traditional instalment sale, for instance, a rental agreement is seen as an expense and is fully deductible from taxable income; and as rentals are off balance sheet they don't increase loan exposure when looking for additional finance. In addition, if a business is VAT registered, the VAT portion of the monthly rental can be claimed.

Ownership of equipment is transferred at the end of the rental term.

For further information contact Danny Berry (danny@retailcapital.co.za).

In an operation where management and staff are committed to providing the highest quality products and service, they have welcomed the improvements that are flowing from their investment in the CoolUV LED curing system.

Apart from improved quality and faster delivery times, they're also delighted with other aspects of the system, such as the exceptionally long life of the LED lamps, significant energy savings, and environmental benefits, particularly low VOC levels and quiet operation.

Another plus is the lack of warming up time, as the system features an instantaneous 'on' switch – particularly critical in the face of South Africa's frequent power outages.

CoolUV also offers exceptional temperature control – with only one degree variance from start to finish – and its efficient heat dissipation greatly enhances efficiency and reliability. Above all, this investment is allowing TDC to keep up with the latest printing technology.

'We strive to excel by keep up with the latest products and technology, and to offer our customers the latest printing innovations as well as consistent quality,' explains Trevor Nadar.

'Our team of highly experienced and dedicated industry professionals are label printing experts; we all understand our customers' requirements for the supply of top-quality labels and fast turnaround times, all of which is facilitated by our new LED curing system,' he adds.

Tactile labels thanks to Panther power

PRINTERS can easily create designer labels with enhanced tactility, textures and a luxury feel thanks to Xeikon's latest technology – a combination of Xeikon's X-800 workflow and PantherCure UV ink that together generate a tactile layer, producing a haptic effect.

This haptic printing process not only boosts the range of possible applications for high-end labels, it provides significant time savings by avoiding modifications to the prepress files. Tactile effects on labels are in great demand by the beverage, food, health and beauty markets.

Says Xeikon's Jeroen van Bauwel, director product management: 'The technology generating the tactile and textured layer is embedded in the Panther's X-800 workflow. Brand owners and designers define the structure, shape and form of the design. When their files are received by the printer, the workflow automatically recognises the design elements and generates the information required to drive the printhead – that's what creates the haptic effect on the end product.'

In order to further optimise the Panther's workflow, a specific solution is embedded in the X-800 workflow: automated optimisation of the white ink layer.

The production of labels on clear facestock (for example or premium beer or beauty products) comes with specific challenges. An opaque white is required to make the design stand out but may result in varying ink layer thicknesses across the web. The uneven thickness of the ink layer generates a telescoping effect on the printed rolls. In the past, press operators overcame this by printing smaller rolls, resulting in more frequent roll changes and extra wastage of material and time. Some printers found an answer in spending extra time in prepress to reduce the amount of white. This time-consuming prepress work can now be handled in a fully-automated way by the X-800 digital front-end without intervention at any stage in the production process. The X-800 automatically reduces the white layer. The extent of reduction depends on the colours printed over the white layer. The result is an increase in uptime during the manufacturing process – both in printing and converting – as printers can run larger rolls. In addition, they save costs, not only because of the reduced amount of white ink, but also because of reduced waste.

Using Xeikon's latest haptic printing technology, converters can increase the application range of labels with creative and enhanced designs.

'We continue to work towards excellence to enhance every facet of our portfolio. We continue to look for opportunities to make savings on costs and time. By improving each small step of the process, we can make a big difference to the overall production process and reduce manufacturing costs. Achieving haptic effects in print through the capabilities of our X-800 workflow and ink optimisation not only boosts and increases the range of possible applications but allows printers to streamline their operations,' concludes Jeroen van Bauwel.

Business as usual? Not in the European label industry!

HELD in Copenhagen in June, this year's European Label Forum brought together a large proportion of the extended label industry value chain. Organised by FINAT, the international association linking the label community, the agenda focused on business strategies for a successful future.

The forum was opened by association president Chris Ellison of OPM Labels & Packaging (UK), who highlighted today's key challenges: economic uncertainty in Europe, and, in the face of an ageing population and changing skillsets, the need for initiatives to reach out to and engage the next generation of talented business leaders, engineers and designers. He outlined the pathways FINAT is working on to help members on a positive journey to solving these issues.

'If you want a breakthrough . . .'

'If you want a breakthrough, look outside your current environment,' challenged Hamish Taylor (UK) in his keynote address. A speaker and broadcaster of international repute, his career path has spanned leading brands such as Procter & Gamble, Price Waterhouse, British Airways, Eurostar and Sainsbury's Bank. He stood back from this varied experience base to create a masterly and thought-provoking presentation on how to change the way we think and learn about customers' needs and wants.

It's his belief that nothing could be more appropriate for today's label and packaging industry; and that everyone in this complex supply chain is a customer – including colleagues in your own company.

The key to success, he underlined, is to act like a master thief – to 'steal ideas' from one situation and apply them to a totally different one. It's a proven winning strategy for brand success, as he has himself has proved. Hamish's wake-up call was that you need to show you really care about your customers' businesses, and get closer to them than anyone else. After all, he said, in the world of labels and packaging, you 'spend your time painting the face of the world's leading brands!'

FINAT market update

It was then the turn of FINAT MD Jules Lejeune to report on European market statistics, trends and developments. In terms of label substrates, he showed that non-paper rolls had increased their market share to 27% of total demand in 2018, while sheet label consumption had declined by over 2%. Europe's top five label markets – Germany, UK, France, Italy and Spain – account for almost 60% of the total, with Russia and Poland 'knocking on the door'. Only two countries in the broader European market – UK and Turkey – evidenced any market decline in 2018.

He also pointed out that the industry profile is undergoing a remarkable shift in end-use markets, with only pharmaceuticals, personal care and household chemicals enjoying growth.

Interestingly, converters surveyed by FINAT projected their purchases of conventional analogue presses would outnumber those of digital presses in 2019 and 2020. In the sustainability arena, the survey revealed that recycling ALL spent release liner is now actioned by around 20% of converters, with a further 11% recycling some, and a further 33% planning to set up a system in the coming year.

With short-run digital print and the current focus on innovative decorative aspects, the label market's prospects are, according to Jules, still promising.

A look at the global market

Corey Reardon, president/CEO of Alexander Watson Associates, went on to look at the broader global labelling and product decoration market. He showed that self-adhesive labels still enjoy the majority share (40%), with glue-applied labels in second place (35%) and sleeve labelling now in third place (19%). While self-adhesive labels continued to grow by over 5% in 2018, thanks to their flexibility and efficiency, sleeve labelling grew faster; and in-mould labelling also grew at above 4%. Industrial/variable information label applications still represent the majority end-use shareholding (45%) but primary product labels are now just 1% behind them in terms of global volumes.

Asia is the largest regional market and the fastest-growing for all labelling formats, but the label market enjoyed global growth above 4% in 2018.

Corey's analysis spanned digital packaging and label print, direct-to-container print, merger and acquisition activity and industry consolidation, and of course the industry's recyclability issues – which, he said, are 'not just a problem for pressure-sensitive technology' in terms of release liner and matrix waste, but also for shrink films in sleeving applications.

'Unpack your future!'

Next, it was time for session moderato, Andy Thomas-Emans, strategic director for Tarsus (Labelexpo organiser), to interview Guido Schmitz, currently adjunct professor (Packaging Engineering) at Rutgers University (US) and a board member of AIPIA, the Active & Intelligent Packaging Association. He also heads up Bayer HealthCare's packaging and technology innovation activities. It was an interview that created lively debate throughout the conference room.

Guido Schmitz quoted Einstein: 'We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them' – and went on to demonstrate how this philosophy is helping graduate students in his relatively-new, cutting-edge course at Rutgers to bring innovative thinking to major product manufacturing companies around the world.

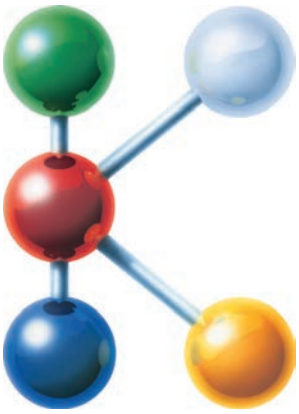
About developing a new product, he remarked: 'You have to address all the questions/issues before people ask them!'

He identified ten types of innovation and showed that – while product performance is of course central – customer engagement, the product system and branding are also key considerations. In his view, the impact of design thinking is aptly exemplified by the Apple brand, with not only its variety of market-leading products, but also retail stores and the online Apple and iTunes stores.

He went on to examine the face of product advertising today, where only around 20% of classic retail products are promoted through classic 'advertisements', and where consumers' buying impulses are strongly focused on packaging. Indeed, research shows that 42% of consumers have used a product more frequently because of its packaging; 35% have changed brands because of new packaging; and 65% have tried something new for the same reason.

With plenty of food for thought on the forum's first morning, delegates went on to select from and attend a series of expert-led parallel business learning sessions.

> "The impact of design thinking is aptly exemplified by the Apple brand, with its variety of market-leading products, retail stores and online Apple and iTunes stores."



Shaping the future with plastics

The Düsseldorf showgrounds are fully booked for K2019, the flagship fair for the international plastics and rubber industry taking place from October 16 to 23. Here's PPM's review of what to expect at the show.

FOLLOWING a long-standing tradition, K2019 is set to be the performance barometer and global innovations marketplace for the entire plastics and rubber industry presented by some 3 300 exhibitors from 60-plus countries in approximately 178 000m² of exhibition space. Around 200 000 trade visitors from every corner of the globe are expected in Düsseldorf for this exciting event.

An important part of K2019's programme are debates on current and explosive topics of relevance to plastics, in particular at the Special Show organised by Plastics Europe in Hall 6/C40. Making its tenth appearance, under the heading of 'Plastics shape the future' this show complements the extensive exhibits.

The programme for this forum brings together high-level representatives from political, science, business circles and society. It's a central forum for the exchange of information, ideas and opinions.

Centre stage this year is the innovative power of materials and the industry in terms of resource-saving processes, digitalisation, functionality, renewable energies, the circular economy and sustainability. Also featuring on the agenda are such critical issues as marine plastic waste, the throw-away mentality associated with plastics packaging and the use of finite resources for their production.

Forming the backbone of the Special Show are themed days with lectures, keynotes and panel discussions, at which experts from science, industry, politics, local authorities and non-governmental organisations provide information and discuss economic, social and ecological challenges and solutions.

The line-up of participants is as international as the trade fair audience itself. With a focus on marine litter, they range from a CEO fighting for a global initiative to avoid plastic waste in the environment (Alliance to end Plastic Waste) to a national NGO shedding light on awareness-raising measures by means of clean-up events and other local initiatives. In this way the Special Show delivers global, European, regional and local answers to those mega trends currently engaging society.

A preview of the future of robotics and Artificial Intelligence is provided by young researchers at the FabLab Lübeck, who, on their own stand are demonstrating where we're headed when additive manufacturing and robotics are connected with modern materials such as plastics by showcasing their work with a human robot.

The organisers are also bringing back the popular chemist and entertainer, Dr Gerhard Heywang, with his exciting plastics experiments. He's expected once more to leave trade visitors thrilled and amazed.

The following pages, however, provide more serious information on exhibitors, particularly those with local representation.

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Beswick principals set course for the future

Four of Beswick Machinery's key principals – Atlas Converting, Bobst, Donau Carbon and GA.VO – are on show at K2019, between them offering extensive equipment portfolios. Here's what visitors can expect on the four stands.

Atlas Converting is a world-leading supplier and provider of slitting-rewinding technology and finished roll handling systems. Its two product brands, Atlas and Titan, are recognised as global market leaders in the production of primary and secondary slitter-rewinders.

In Hall 3 (Stand B91), Atlas Converting is revealing the next-generation compact turret slitter-rewinder, the ER610-DT, a compact machine that maximises productivity, processing web widths up to 1 650mm at up to 600m/min.

Three years' R&D and a multi-million-pound investment in new parts, design and processes, have resulted in unparalleled build standards with solid and dependable engineering. The project has ensured unequalled combinations of operator safety, productivity improvements and reduced downtime.

Sustainability at the forefront

Bobst (Hall 4, Stand A36) is joining forces with pioneering companies – Dow, Brückner Maschinenbau, Hosokawa Alpine and Elba – to present state-of-the-art solutions utilising the latest-generation polymers to achieve mono-material packaging designed for recyclability.

'To address key issues of a circular economy, resource conservation and digitalisation, we've worked on an effective industry collaboration as it's only through an holistic approach that we can effectively reduce carbon footprint and advance long-term industry sustainability,' says Stephan März, head of Bobst's web-fed BU.

On this stand, visitors can discover new solutions for packaging production across different printing and converting technologies.

Packs presented are to be produced at three open houses held before and during the show. The first at Bobst Manchester (UK) on October 15 includes demonstrations of barrier performance optimisation through vacuum metallisation; and the second at

Bobst Italia on October 17 demonstrates a coating pilot line used for production process testing, R&D trials, new product development and promo batches. Bobst Italia's newly built Competence Centre complex, along with a fully equipped laboratory providing real-time data control and certified results, has the most advanced pilot coating facility in the industry.

The third open house, held concurrently with the show (October 16 to 23), focuses on Bobst's latest CI flexo presses for flexible packaging.

High-quality, tailored activated carbons

Donau Carbon supplies high-quality, tailored activated carbon products plus related services.

Activated carbon is the focus of attention in a variety of applications ranging from exhaust air and (waste) gas clean-up via water and liquid treatment through to solvent recovery.

It's an environmental-friendly and recyclable product, which Donau Carbon reactivates at thermal reactivation sites in Germany and Austria, offering customers an attractive reuse option and hence an environment-friendly and cost-saving alternative to disposal and/or fresh carbon.

Donau's activated carbon portfolio comprises a wide spectrum of powdered, granular and extruded activated carbon grades manufactured from raw materials enabling the company to serve customers' diverse needs.

In Hall 4 (Stand C26), visitors can learn more about Donau Carbon's air purification and solvent recovery systems.

Improving the core cutting department

Also in Hall 4 (Stand A45), GA.VO Meccanica is demonstrating how the company is fast becoming a world-leading supplier of semi- and fully-automated core cutting solutions. New applications, such as remote control and augmented reality are being showcased as a new step to the future is taken.

GA.VO's concept is to build technically excellent machines and enhance the tube department. One of the machines on show is its TCRG. This automatic core cutter is the first level of GA.VO core cutters and a single-body machine to which various accessories can be added. It's defined as a hybrid model as it's born from a mix of technologies developed on both automatic and semi-automatic machines.

◄ Featuring energy efficiency, precision, compact design and comparatively low investment costs, Engel's all-electric e-mac injection moulding machines suit applications from technical moulding to packaging.

▼ iQ melt control is kind to the material being processed and to the mechanical components of the plasticising unit.

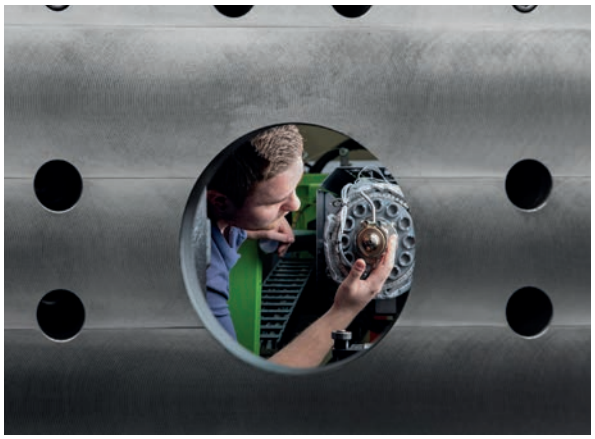
Engel shows intelligent plasticising and high-precision moulding

Engel – represented locally by Greentech Machinery – is showing its intelligent assistance system iQ melt control and its e-mac 280 (Hall 15, Stand C58).

'In real-world situations, plasticising is often faster than the cycle requires,' says Günther Klammer, Engel's head of plasticising systems. 'This can effect the screw's service life and product quality.'

iQ melt control determines the optimum plasticising time for any application. Instead of plasticising at the maximum possible speed, the system makes full use of the part's in-mould cooling time for plasticising.

For this to happen, the operator only needs to enter the screw type and the material to be processed. Along with optimum plasticising time, he also receives recommendations for optimising temperature and back pressure.



As Engel is asserting at K2019, the better the process parameters are set, the quieter the screw is in operation. Benefits for the processor are longer service life for the screw and a consistently high melt quality, resulting in parts of improved quality.

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PASSION FOR INNOVATION

This HDPE tube collar with a total shot weight of 81.6g is produced on an all-electric e-mac 740/280 injection moulding machine, using a 48-cavity mould.

Another attraction on the stand is the production of HDPE tube collars with a total shot weight of 81.6g on an all-electric e-mac 740/280 injection moulding machine, using a 48-cavity mould by Sibo. The cycle time is eight seconds, precisely the range in which the e-mac plays out its efficiency benefits to the maximum.

'The e-mac combines very high energy efficiency and precision with a particularly compact design and comparatively low investment costs,' says Friedrich Mairhofer, product manager.

'Using a special toggle-lever design, the e-mac 280's clamping unit is shortened without reducing the opening stroke, making it possible to optimise shop floor space to improve productivity,' he explains.

Engel e-mac machines are equipped with powerful servo-motors, including the ejector and nozzle movement. This not only ensures maximum precision and process stability, but also optimum overall efficiency levels.

Moving beyond Industry 4.0

Among Ipex Machinery's principals at K2019 is surface treatment pioneer, Vetaphone. On this stand (Hall 10, Stand A59), visitors can see four standard corona units from Vetaphone's extensive portfolio.

The four units are the VE2-B model, for extrusion and converting applications, capable of double-sided treatment; the VE1-D and VE1-E models, also for extrusion and converting applications, but capable of distributing a higher power charge or running at higher speeds than the B model; and the VE1-L, a compact model designed for lamination environments where space is at a premium.

Like all Vetaphone units, these models are developed for non-stop production and easy maintenance.

All four units are equipped with Vetaphone's state-of-the-art iCC7 control panel that logs function and maintenance information, and incorporates remote access for performance and fault analysis. By using a proprietary hardware interface, Vetaphone's corona systems can be controlled centrally from the main machine's human-machine interface, allowing one operator to manage several lines at the same time.

'Continuous development of surface treatment technology and intelligent control are part of our strategic plan to allow customers to move beyond Industry 4.0,' says Vetaphone's CEO, Frank Eisby.

'Many see the integrated display as the end-game – we see it as the beginning and have made it available on our iCC7 unit since 2017.'

The overall aim of Vetaphone's designers is to facilitate technology operation, making it as easy and effective as possible. 'By making control of the surface treatment system an intuitive task, and collating and utilising feedback from operators who use the technology in a commercial environment on a daily basis, we have refined the function to its maximum point in current working conditions,' Frank explains.

▲ The user-friendly iCC7 touch control panel provides a graphic overview of the entire corona system.

◄ On static display is Vetaphone's VE2-B corona system, a double-sided treater for extrusion and converting applications.

Wittmann Battenfeld presents VPower Combimould

Enjoy innovation – this is the banner under which Wittmann Battenfeld is presenting the Combimould version of its VPower vertical machine series for the first time (Hall 15, Stand C06).

Launched in early 2019, the new machine in 120 and 160 ton versions, it's designed according to the PowerSeries concept, and is now also available in 220 and 300 ton versions, with rotary table diameters of 1 300, 1 600 and 2 000mm.

In addition to extending the machine series, the company has worked on the development of a multi-component version, being presented for the first time at K2019.

The VPower is distinguished from previous models by its innovative two-tie-bar rotary table concept that provides optimal accessibility thanks to dispensing with the middle tie-bar.

The tie-barless rotation centre leaves ample space under the rotary table for cooling water, hydraulic oil, compressed air, and power supply connections.

The drive unit of the VPower provides the basic prerequisites for operation with two aggregates. In the standard configuration, the second hydraulic system is used for ejection during the injection moulding cycle, but in multi-component applications, it powers the second injection unit, so that both injection units can carry out injection and metering simultaneously.

Wittmann Battenfeld is demonstrating the functionality of the VPower Combimould.

The rotary tables are available with servo-electric drives for short rotation times and highly accurate position, for both oscillating two-station operation and rotary two-, three- or four-station operation.

The injection unit can also be converted at a later date from vertical to horizontal or vice versa.

The machine's open design makes it particularly well suited for the integration of automation systems with insert feeding and finished parts removal.

Wittman Battenfeld is among Ipex Machinery's principals taking part in K2019.

Ashe shows three types of slitter-rewinders

Ashe Converting Equipment is promoting three types of machines at K2019 – the Sapphire S2T duplex turret slitter-rewinder, the Diamond duplex slitter-rewinder, and the Jade series of primary and secondary slitter-rewinders.

The Sapphire S2T boasts a shaft support system (for large rewind diameters) to ensure rewind shafts remain fully supported throughout the turret cycle. The machine has one of the industry's shortest cycle times, said to be as short as 15 seconds, and is packed with standard features, such as a vacuum roller for tension isolation, all-electric unwinds, and independent motors and drives for each rewind shaft.

Optional extras include laser core alignment, digital knife positioning, automatic knife positioning, driven unwind, splice table, static eliminators and various options for offloading and moving finished reels.

The second machine, the Diamond duplex slitter-rewinder, has proved popular, owing to its small footprint and its associated price tag. Based on the Sapphire range, it has the flexibility to slit and rewind most products at high speed.

The latest design in Ashe's Jade series of primary and secondary slitter-rewinders still utilises a linear movement but allows for smaller slit widths and increased control. It features all-electric operation, without hydraulics, resulting in a totally clean process.

Don't miss these exhibits in Hall 3, Stand B52.

Meech displays static control and web cleaning technology

Meech International (among Ipex Machinery's several principals on show) is displaying technological developments including the latest CyClean web cleaner, Hyperion IonCharge static generators and Hyperion 960IPS static control bar. They can be seen in Hall 11 (Stand B60).

Ideal for wider webs, where lower tensions are common, CyClean is a single or double-sided non-contact web cleaner that uses positive and negative airflows to clean low-tension webs. It's capable of handling high-speed webs up to 800m/min.

Meech's static generators – Hyperion IonCharge30 (15W) and IonCharge50 (75W) – are versatile, compact and simple to install.

The new mid-range, pulsed DC ionising bar, Hyperion 960IPS, features adjustable voltage, frequency and balance. It offers powerful ionisation up to 15kV and provides 50% greater working distance than the popular 929IPS ionising bar, though retaining other key features of its predecessor.

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Uteco presents eco-friendly solventless technology

Twice-daily live demonstrations of Uteco's Rainbow 4.0 laminator provide an opportunity for visitors to see the machine in production at coating speeds up to 500m/min.

Uteco, in collaboration with Sapici and Sun Chemical, is presenting the Rainbow 4.0 laminator and its solventless technology in Hall 4 (Stand B30).

'This is an important showcase for us. We're presenting our entire range and promoting one of our latest creations – the solventless Rainbow 4.0 laminator,' says Luigi Bertagna, head of Uteco's BU dedicated to coating & laminating.

'The laminator's innovative and cutting-edge technology includes automatic sleeve removal from the transfer cylinder, the latest technology for uniform application of minimum quantities of adhesive over the entire surface of the material, and a zero-waste feature of adhesive-free material during reel changes,' he explains.

Thanks to a partnership between Sapici and Sun Chemical, the Rainbow 4.0's low environmental impact coating process results from the use of a monomer-free adhesive. This makes it possible to meet some of the most stringent requirements of a market increasingly attentive to sustainability, and food and operator safety.

The machine's configuration features two compact columns, allowing easy and safe access to all key process points. It's also equipped with an automatic washing system that uses integrated spray nozzles for cleaning rollers. This washing system uses a non-flammable and non-toxic detergent, able to remove any trace of adhesive after the lamination process.

Another important plus point is the possibility of continuous monitoring of adhesive transfer on coated material, in addition to monitoring consumption of solventless components.

Uteco – and local representatives from Sareltech – look forward to welcoming visitors to the stand and providing them with insights into ways to improve performances with customised solutions focused on the environment, recycling and safety.

Integrated slitter rewinder and laser perforation

Aware of changes taking place in the converting world, Italian company, Bimec, locally represented by Conequipt, is transforming the design of its machinery to meet market requirements.

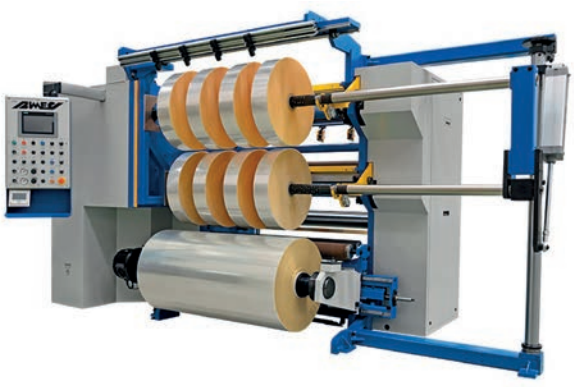
The first functions to be integrated with other technologies and devices are the unwinding, slitting and rewinding of plastic films, paper and laminates.

On show at K2019 is the integration between a slitter-rewinder and a laser perforation system, facilitated by the single-face structure of a Bimec STM50 slitter-rewinder, one of Bimec's best-selling lines.

Bimec manufactures both compact machines and larger duplex turret slitter-rewinders. They're highly automated to improve productivity and available in several configurations.

The company also offers slitter-rewinders tailored to customers' needs and suitable for integration with systems such as roll handling, perforating and embossing.

A major advantage is ease of use – they're designed to simplify the operator's life and to eliminate downtime while attaining high quality results.



At K2019, Bimec is showing a duplex turret slitter-rewinder, a TCA64C+ equipped with a short web-path, isolated from the ground to prevent contamination and guarantee hygiene. Also exhibited is a TF model that melds the best of two series: the compactness, ease of use and ergonomics of a single-face STM50 model combined with the high speed of the TCA series.

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Celebrating 20 years of innovation

Continuing its policy of constant research and innovation in the field of slitting-rewinding, Temac is using K2019 to present PCvision, its latest human-machine interface installed on a powerful quad core industrial PC equipped with Windows 10 IoT Enterprise operating system.

Founded in 1999, Temac has followed an unswerving strategy of innovation and environmental responsibility, and over the last two decades has launched increasingly sophisticated and user-friendly equipment to meet challenges faced by converters worldwide. In South Africa, Temac products are marketed by Sareltech.

Thanks to the latest generation of inverters with energy-saving functions, specific software and low-friction components, Temac claims operating savings of 10% to 18%, compared to competitive slitter-rewinders.

To provide enhanced support for machine operators, all system variables and controls are conveniently to hand, showing total management of the machine cycle, recipes, production logs, trend charts, alarms with text help, graphical help and time history. All machine data and events are tracked to allow reconstruction of all actions performed.

A complete suite of diagnostics and programming devices, pre-installed by Temac, together with a remote connection program, allow simplified free assistance via the internet.

An important investment is planned for the end of this year, with the opening of Temac's new production plant in order to meet growing demand for its products.

To find out more, call at the Temac stand (Hall 3, Stand G12) where South African visitors will also find members of the Sareltech team ready to answer their questions.

The Temac Ecosystemac line with PCvision offers a high return on investment and significant energy savings.

Automatic ink quality control

Gama International (another one of Sareltech's principals at K2019) is launching its G1000 automatic ink quality control system (Hall 10, Stand H26). This fully-customisable, top-of-the-line system for gravure printing stabilises ink quality and reduces solvent and ink consumption. This is no simple viscometer – it's a completely automatic system, equipped with viscosity and temperature control, magnetic filter and sophisticated production controls.

Contributing to improved productivity and efficiency are reductions in the use of solvent and ink, thanks to viscosity and temperature control; faster start-ups and less waste; and longer life of ink blade lines, thanks to a magnetic filter that attracts steel filings.

'With the adoption of a new heat exchanger, we've achieved remarkably higher performance in stabilisation of ink temperature compared to earlier systems,' comments Sante Conselvan, Gama's sales director.

'Tests carried out during production at different temperatures show a minimum saving of 10% on ink and 25% on solvent, representing a return on investment of only 12 months,' he adds.

With continuous R&D activity and in cooperation with press manufacturers, Gama has developed a more compact electronic structure for the G1000, which can be better integrated into the control panels of the press.

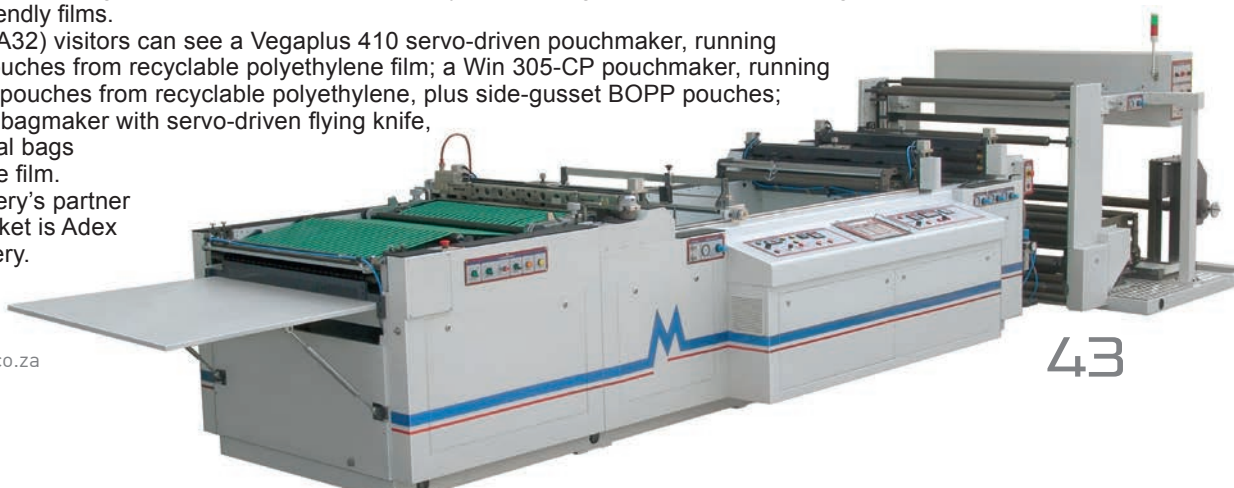
Gama has already installed four G1000 systems on gravure presses and customers are reported to be excited about performance. 'Now we look forward to introducing it to the entire printing and converting market,' says Sante Conselvan.

Go green with Mamata

Underlining its theme of 'Go green with Mamata', the company is exhibiting three machines running environmentally-friendly films.

In Hall 3 (Stand A32) visitors can see a Vegaplus 410 servo-driven pouchmaker, running stand-up zipper pouches from recyclable polyethylene film; a Win 305-CP pouchmaker, running centre-fin/lap-seal pouches from recyclable polyethylene, plus side-gusset BOPP pouches; and a Win 1400-B bagmaker with servo-driven flying knife, running bottom-seal bags from biodegradable film.

Mamata Machinery's partner for the African market is Adex Plastics & Machinery.



CMD's drawtape system combined with its overlap bag winder produces high-value embossed bags that are easy for consumers to dispense one-at-a-time from overlapped rolls.

CMD's world-class bagmaking technology

Visitors to CMD's stand at K2019 (Hall 3, Stand G05) can see world-class converting technology and inspect samples of drawtape-style garbage bags.

'This year's exhibit offers fresh opportunities for converters to expand their product portfolio and market share, while enhancing their sustainability value, by offering consumer-friendly, easy-close-and-carry drawtape-style garbage bags,' comments Tim Lewis, CMD's VP Global Sales & Service.

In addition, CMD's drawtape bagmaking system for embossed bags offers proven technology for efficient conversion of embossed bags. These high-performance bags offer stretchability to handle tough challenges while allowing the use of thinner films to provide material savings and sustainability advantages. In addition, the product has great shelf presence. Converters can choose from standard embossing patterns or customise their own.

In addition, this drawtape bagmaking system can be configured with an overlap bag winder, an enhanced winding system that produces drawtape-style bags on 'overlapped' rolls with popular, one-at-a-time dispensing, banded for retail merchandising.

Wound bags can be connected to one another other by perforations, or each bag can be separated and overlapped with the previous bag to provide easy-to-dispense interleaved bags on rolls – a greatly sought-after consumer convenience.

Enhanced processing capabilities on this machine include high-speed production up to 183m/min or up to 20 unbanded rolls/min.

Optional roll banding/labelling allows converters to eliminate outer packaging for a more sustainable product.

CMD's extensive experience and technologies for sealing and web handling are a great advantage for converters facing tough challenges with recycled-content and biodegradable film blends and composites. 'While new sustainable films can be a challenge to produce and convert, they also offer a new frontier of opportunity for our customers,' comments Tim Lewis. 'Our equipment is designed with the powerful capabilities that provide a wide process window to effectively seal a variety of blends and materials, including recycled-content and recyclable flexible film, thus supporting sustainability and a circular economy.

CMD's agent for Africa is Gauteng-based Adex Plastics & Machinery.

Zero Cooling moulding demonstrations

Five machines on the Nissei ASB stand are showcasing the latest PET stretch-blow moulding technology known as Zero Cooling.

Expected to make a strong impact on PET converters are live demonstrations of five machines that showcase Nissei ASB's recently-introduced Zero Cooling moulding process.

Zero Cooling perfectly suits the needs of the PET container market as it enables increased product quality at significantly shorter moulding cycles than previously achieved.

Taking full advantage of Nissei ASB's proprietary four-station, one-step moulding method, virtually all the required preform cooling is now shifted away from the injection station and into the second, conditioning station, dramatically reducing cycle times.

Results from typical Zero Cooling moulds have shown 15% or greater increase in stiffness and topload strength, improved control of material distribution and an average of 1.5 times higher productivity plus enhanced aesthetics.

This advanced cooling method also allows the moulding of heavyweight, premium cosmetic containers (using standard PET grades) in very short cycle times without any visible haziness.

In Hall 14, on stand B38, Nissei ASB is demonstrating five machines featuring Zero Cooling technology.

The smallest among these, producing a premium, glass-like cosmetic container using standard PET, is the ASB-12M. It's being shown with an optional long-stroke injection unit that provides a 50% increase in shot capacity for large containers or heavyweight cosmetic bottles.

Also on show is the mid-range ASB-70DPH model that remains at the forefront of one-step moulding technology with class-leading efficiency and can process up to 20 resin types, in addition to PET. Alongside this machine is the re-engineered ASB-70DPH advanced version, demonstrating a variety of techniques to achieve reduced indexing time to complement the Zero Cooling process and enhanced output, especially for smaller containers. ▸▸

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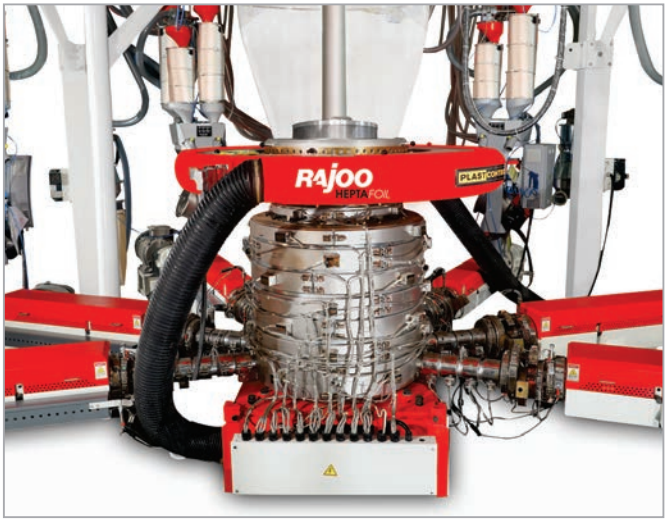

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Zero Cooling technology allows for improved PET container strength and visual appearance.

Confirming the versatility of Zero Cooling, the ASB-70DPW on show is demonstrating the moulding of 100% rPET.

The largest model on display is an ASB-150DPW double-row machine for high outputs of small- to medium-sized jars and bottles. Its output is typically around 2.5 times that of the smaller ASB-70DPW.

Each machine will be displayed with a full line of matched ancillary equipment, such as resin dryer, chiller, mould dehumidifier, temperature controllers, and take-out units.

Also being exhibited are exciting developments such as two-layer bottles, canted/tilted neck bottles, double-wall cups, HDPE bottles by ISBM, and thick wall/base cosmetic bottles.

And after a busy day tramping around the Düsseldorf showgrounds, it's good to head for the Altstadt on the banks of the Rhine and enjoy a beer (or two!).

Rajoo shows world-class automation

At K2019, Rajoo (Hall 16, stand D22) offers live demonstrations of two lines – a seven-layer blown film line and a twin screw sheet extrusion line for PET.

The blown film line showcased on Rajoo's 425m^2 stand is the versatile Heptafoil that produces coextruded barrier films and also works as a POD line for both symmetrical and asymmetrical structures. With this, Rajoo becomes the first Asian company to showcase a seven-layer blown film line at K.

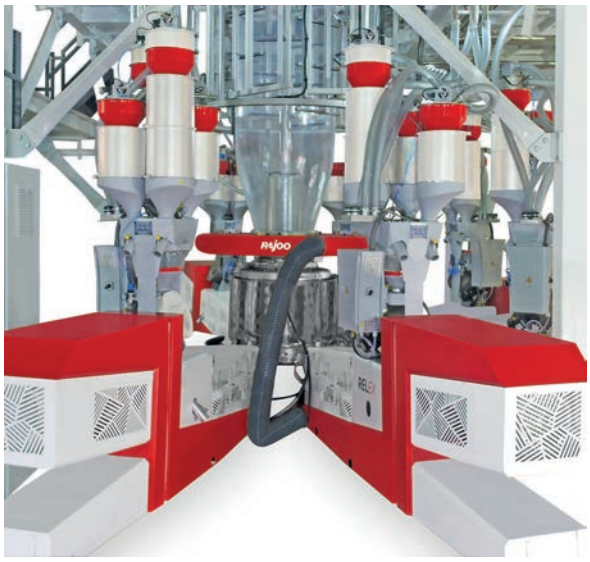
According to executive director, Khushboo Chandrakant Doshi, the line is loaded with world-class automation features such as multi-component batch blending, GSM control, non-contact capacitive sensor for barrier and POD films, automatic profile control and integrated touchscreen-based supervisory control.

To address industry concern about curling, film produced on the Heptafoil passes through a hot water bath to minimise curling. A flatness enhancer adds to converting convenience.

Rajoo is further expanding its portfolio with Lamina rPET: A-B-A three-layer twin screw sheet line. The Lamina sheet lines are designed for absolute ease of operation and available in a host of configurations to suit individual customer's requirements.

'During the Lamina rPET demonstrations, visitors can see bottle flakes being efficiently converted into transparent sheets at an output of 450kg/hour, with energy consumption of only 0.25kWh/kg,' explains Khushboo.

The twin screw sheet extrusion line is already meeting requirements in a myriad packaging applications, including beverage containers, garment boxes, blister packs, punnets, biscuit and egg trays, and fruit/vegetable containers.



The Heptafoil runs at a maximum output rate of 450kg/h.

Rajoo is also unveiling several software programs aimed at enhancing ease-of-use for operators.

'Our products are world-class quality and meet global requirements,' Khushboo claims. 'We're proud to offer, perhaps, the best return on investment. Power consumption, another big concern, is well optimised; the TUV certification is one step towards this end,' he sums up.

The India-based company is represented locally by Technimac.

Comexi's Smart Glasses give the Comexi help desk a real-time view of the customer's field of vision.

Comexi presents digital innovations

At K2019, Comexi has a chance to explain latest digitalisation trends, as well as learning first-hand the needs of its existing and potential customers. In Hall 4 (Stand B33), the company is presenting its latest digital innovations: Comexi Cloud, Smart Glasses and COOL, an e-commerce platform.

Comexi is immersed in digital services to provide additional value and offer the best digital solutions to converters with its flexo and offset presses, laminating and slitting equipment. As a result, Comexi is introducing the perfect tool to allow converters to make the most of the opportunities that the new digital era brings to the flexible packaging sector.

Comexi Cloud is a holistic approach for complete processes that heralds a new era throughout the entire value chain. It's composed of different digital services linked to machines and the data generated. It offers private, secure and real-time information allowing quick and easy integration and data exchange with existing management tools. This data provides relevant production information enabling converters to make appropriate decisions.

In addition, the platform offers Comexi Ordering Online, permitting 3D visualisation of a customer's machine, as well as accurately and quickly identifying required spare parts.

Maintenance Assistant – allowing preventive maintenance – is another key service. The result is a comprehensive virtual platform, accessible from anywhere, delivering information needed to asses and improve any particular job.

Available 24/7, Comexi's Remote Support Service with smart glasses is a communications system that

allows real-time information sharing between field technicians and the support department. Its use reduces machine downtime, improves efficiency during on-site maintenance, decreases travel time and increases post-sales service satisfaction. With Comexi smart glasses, customer can easily connect to Comexi Cloud.

K2019 also provides visitors with an opportunity to learn more about Comexi flexographic printing technologies, with special attention on everything that affects sustainability such as water-based printing and EB curing.

In addition, visitors can learn about Comexi's high-performance laminators. The company is presenting the newly-upgraded Comexi SL2 with 380mm panoramic screens and the integration of Comexi Cloud.

Additionally, Comexi is launching a closed chamber rotogravure trolley for its multipurpose laminators and coaters, especially designed for water-based coatings. The Comexi ML1 MC is the perfect match for water-based coatings, as it requires high drying can also learn about Comexi's environmentally-responsibly slitting technology proposed by Comexi, such as micro perforation, which prolongs the shelf life of packaged foods.

During the fair, visitors will also have the opportunity to view holographic and slitting applications, as well as observe real samples of packaging being printed with Comexi offset or flexo technology performed by Catalan-based brand owners.

Advanced Packaging Technology is Comexi's local connection.

Exciting discussions about the circular economy

Plastics are valuable – also as waste! In the plastics industry the concept of the circular economy is discussed as a promising path into the future. But what does circularity for plastics actually mean? Which steps are decisive? Who are the partners involved?

At the VDMA Circular Economy Forum during K 2019, discussions centre on 'Design for Recycling'. At the VDMA pavilion specifically set up for the Circular Economy Forum (directly outside the front of Hall 16), a closer look is being taken at the processing of recyclates and correlations between markets, quantities and legal frameworks.

Using packaging as an example the benefits of plastic products during their lifecycle will be made clear, but the arguments in favour of the 'not pre-packed' model will also be heard.

Encompassing talks, presentations and workshops on the circular economy, the programme gets to the heart of the matter.

A gallery with 20 exhibitors, such as Arburg, Engel, Erema, KraussMaffei and Reifenhäuser and household names such as Procter & Gamble round off the VDMA presence.

In addition, representatives from Nestlé, Krones and Ineos are available for questions and interviews.

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ARBURG

Spotlight on digitalisation and circular economy

Arburg's presence at K2019 centres on the themes of digitalisation and the circular economy – under the respective banners of 'arburgXworld' and 'arburgGREENworld'.

Visitors to this stand (Hall 13, Stand A13) can discover how the company has traditionally pioneered engagement with key topics for the future, hear answers to current questions and see specific practical solutions.

The primary goal is to conserve resources and so make a significant contribution to production efficiency. Numerous new machines, processes and digital products and services are helping achieve this.

'As the industry's leading trade fair internationally, K is the most important forum for presenting important visions and innovations,' says Michael Hehl, managing partner and spokesman for the Arburg management board. 'Every three years, the plastics world looks to Düsseldorf to see where the future will take us. We'll be showing various options for making better use of recyclable plastics, manufacturing plastic items efficiently, and conserving resources using cutting-edge technology.'

Adds Juliane Hehl, managing partner responsible for marketing & technology: 'We're addressing two really crucial issues of our age: digitalisation and the sensible use and recycling of plastics.'

On the digitalisation side, Arburg is exhibiting innovations such as the Filling Assistant and the Plasticising Assistant, as well as the enhanced connectivity of the Allrounder.

Arburg's assistance packages are easily integrated. They actively support the operator, monitor processes and control them adaptively. All features are designed for fast, secure and comfortable set-up and operation.

At ten interactive stations along the Road to Digitalisation, visitors can learn more about smart machines, smart production and smart services. This includes the new Plasticising Assistant for material processing and predictive maintenance at the screw, and the control system simulator. Arburg's six proven assistance packages, the Arburg host computer system, the Arburg Turnkey Control Module and Arburg Remote Service are also being presented at K2019.

Design for recyclability packaging portfolio

Dow is showcasing a comprehensive suite of products to help brand owners and converters address recyclability targets with flexible polyethylene packaging.

Jointly developed with global companies, 30 packaging prototypes are on display. Representing the food, home and personal care markets, these prototypes use Dow's resins, coatings and adhesives and are produced on commonly-used extrusion, printing and converting, and packaging machinery.

They include concepts properties from simple multilayer structures without barrier to complex packaging with customised barriers for food protection.

In addition, brand owners and converters can accelerate their innovation cycles by accessing the capabilities and services of Dow's Pack Studios, which provide comprehensive support in designing, testing and validating fully functioning PE-based packaging for recyclability.

Among the 20 companies working with Dow to embrace the challenge of design for recyclability are familiar names such as Bobst, HP Indigo, Kellogg's, Reifenhäuser, Totani and Windmöller & Hölscher.

See this design for recyclability portfolio and a broad range of products enabling the transition to a circular economy in Hall 8a (Stand K48).

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Stellar growth predicted for masterbatch market

Largely on the back of increasing use of plastics as a substitute for metal in a number of industries, including packaging, demand in the masterbatch market is set to rise significantly.

BETWEEN now and 2025, the global value of the masterbatch market is expected to reach US$15.81 billion. The market is set to witness substantial growth owing to rising demand for plastics to substitute metal in a number of end-user industries, including consumer goods and packaging.

According to research from Million Insights, colour masterbatch is one of the fastest growing segments and has shown substantial revenue generation in recent years. Globally, this market is predicted to grow at a CAGR of 6.6%, providing opportunities for market players to invest in research and development.

The other fast-growing segment is additive masterbatch which offers vital functions such as antistatic, anti-foaming, anti-oxidant, antimicrobial, thermal stabilisation and barrier properties. Also contributing to rising demand for additive masterbatch are requirements for metal deactivation, anti-blocking agents, flame deterrents, UV stabilisers, oxygen scavengers and erosion resistance. Developments in the plastic packaging sector are expected to propel growth of masterbatch market even more.

Rising adoption of masterbatch is directly related to its functional properties such as a smoother surface finish and improved hardness. Rising demand for packaged goods is predicted to impact the need for different plastic products. In such cases, adoption of masterbatches to enhance overall surface appearance of the plastic component has become vital. Such factors are greatly contributing to the growth of masterbatch industry.

What's in a **masterbatch?**

MASTERBATCH is an additive used either for colouring plastics or imparting other properties. It's a concentrated mixture of pigments or additives encapsulated during the heating process into a carrier resin that's then cooled and cut into granular shaped beads.

Various types of carrier polymers, including PA (polyamide), PE (polyethylene), PET (polyethylene terephthalate), PP (polypropylene) and PVC (polyvinyl chloride), help to improve acceptance and dispersion of wide range of additives and functional fillers. Importantly, they allow the processor to add colour or other additives economically during the manufacturing process.

As a masterbatch is already a premixed composition, its use alleviates issues such as additives or colourants 'clumping' or insufficient dispersion.

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Is colour compatible with the circular economy?

Philippe Lazerme, head of marketing for Clariant Pigments, discusses the circular economy and the role played by colourants . . .

THE primary aim of the plastics circular economy is that plastics should never be found as waste in the environment. There are different ways to achieve this, starting from proper design of plastics packaging through to efficient collection and sorting of polymers for recycling. The use of biodegradable polymers offers further possibilities.

Leading consumer goods companies and plastics packaging producers representing over 20% of the global packaging market have committed to making 100% of their packaging reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025.

There's no doubt that colour will continue to play a key role in the packaging world but the selection of the right colourants will be crucial.

Let's go through the cycle and show how a pigment and polymer soluble dye producer can help stakeholders combine the need for colour and the equally important need for sustainability.

Design for recycling

Everything starts with the designer. The task is to create packaging that's appealing, enhances brand image, provides differentiation and can be properly recycled and reused as resin for new products.

Depending on the recycling technology (mechanical, chemical), the choice of colourant is different. The designer needs to know which processing steps the article will face, not only for its production but also for its time after use. This influences pigment selection. There will also be switches of polymers and changes in packaging composition.

> "Since brand owners are committed to incorporating significant amounts of recyclates in new packaging, a further challenge is to achieve brilliant and appealing colours."

Since brand owners are committed to incorporating significant amounts of recyclates in new packaging, there's a further challenge to achieve brilliant and appealing colours.

Clariant Pigments is working on solutions to these challenges, such as faster and easier colour matching with recycled resins or setting up a pigment range that can withstand various recycling loops without decomposing, while remaining safe for future applications and for the working environment.

Reuse is another important aspect of sustainability. In this case colourant selection requires particular attention since it has to remain appealing and safe. Colour should not fade, allowing the product to maintain its appearance even after continued reuse; and light- and weather-resistance are key criteria.

The safety aspect is even more important, especially for beverage bottles (for instance, pigments should not migrate into the drink after the bottle has been repeatedly washed in hot water containing strong detergents).

Clariant's pigment portfolio offers a wide range of solutions to such challenges.

Recycling technologies

There are three main recycling technologies: mechanical recycling; solvent-based recycling; and chemical recycling (depolymerisation, pyrolysis, gasification).

But whatever the process, proper recycling starts with proper collection and sorting of plastic waste.

In an optimal sorting centre, plastic is automatically sorted according to polymer type and colour, using NIR (near-infrared) technology. This separates plastics according to type, eg LDPE, HDPE, PP, PET, PS.

To work properly this technology requires a minimum amount of energy to be reflected to the sensor. It becomes a problem if plastics absorb NIR energy instead of reflecting it. The issue arises with plastics coloured with a carbon black pigment, that absorbs NIR light, which means these articles cannot be identified during the sorting process, and either cause trouble in downstream recycling stages or end up in landfill.

Clariant has developed three colourants that reflect in the NIR spectrum and allow the plastics industry to produce black articles that can be properly sorted. (See article on page 58.)

Mechanical recycling is currently by far the most common process (80% of plastics collected for recycling are mechanically recycled).

Currently, mechanical recycling works relatively well for PET bottles, but for other polymers or mixed plastics it faces limitations, at least for premium quality recyclates. After a few recycling loops, polymer properties have declined so much that recyclates are difficult to reuse.

There's also a need for better understanding of colourant behaviour after multiple recycling loops.

It's extremely important to ensure that pigments and polymer soluble dyes used for the colouration of collected resins don't decompose or generate toxic substances during compounding.

Some pigment chemistries are more stable than others in terms of heat stability or migration behaviour. However, it will require intensive work to select a safer range of pigments to be used to colour plastic articles intended to be recycled. Because an organic pigment

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is often not a single molecule, other substances might have a negative influence on the toxicological profile.

This is where a pigment producer with expertise in product safety and records can support brand owners, packaging converters and masterbatch producers. Clariant is already focusing attention in this direction.

A further challenge is the base colour of recyclate. It can be any kind of grey from a light to a dark or brownish shade. The recolouration of these recycled polymers becomes an issue for masterbatch producers. There are strong quality variations between different recyclers. To ensure faster and constant colour matching Clariant Pigments, together with a software provider, is developing a calibration set to allow easy corrections for the base tone of the resin. This will be a major improvement to enhance the use of post-consumer recyclates (PCRs).

Chemical recycling can be seen as a complementary technology, which extends the offer of recycled resins in a quality that meets the packaging industry's requirements.

There are different types of chemical recycling, but all are currently at an emerging stage.

A solvent-based process is a mix between chemical and physical recycling. It involves a solvent that specifically dissolves a certain type of polymer. Practice shows that some residues remain in the polymer, and even the colours aren't fully extracted. The recyclate looks greyish. Further research work is needed.

One particular aspect for investigation is to discover which type of pigment chemistry is better removed from the polymer. This is a long-term project.

Another type of chemical recycling is 'depolymerisation' that breaks the molecular bonds into initial monomers. Different technologies achieve this, using enzymes or catalysts.

Pyrolysis or gasification are other methods to decompose polymer and generate fuel that can be used to produce new plastics.

For the colourant and masterbatch industry, chemical recycling is ideal since the recycled resin looks very much like virgin polymer and can be coloured in the same way.

Biodegradability

Although still a small market, biodegradable polymers enjoy increasing attention from brand owners and packaging converters.

Not every pigment can be used to colour biodegradable polymers, because they must comply with strict standards in terms of impurities.

Clariant Pigments has established a range of 26 organic pigments from its Graphtol and PV Fast product line fulfilling the requirements of the European Norm EN 13432. They cover the whole colour spectrum and, therefore, provide valuable support to masterbatch producers and designers in extending colour horizons for biodegradable plastics.

Developments such as these in the field of colourants contribute to advancing a closed loop for plastics packaging. As the focus on reuse and recycling gains momentum, colour will not pose a challenge to the efficient, viable recovery of plastic waste, and creation of high-quality PCR, but instead work in harmony towards the goal of achieving a circular economy for plastics.

MASTERBATCH UPDATE

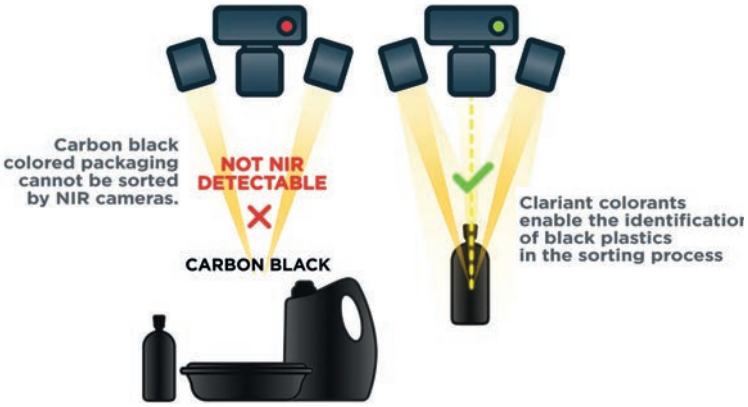
Helping sorting systems to 'see' black

CLARIANT's new CESA-IR additive masterbatches are now available to make dark-coloured plastics visible to the near-infrared (NIR) sensors used in automated polymer sorting systems.

While many companies use black packaging to brand their prestige products, the problems it poses in recycling systems has led to calls for black to be phased out of the palette.

In most automatic sorting systems, infrared light is beamed on to packaging materials and, because different polymers reflect light differently, NIR sensors can discriminate between various commonly-used polymers in today's packaging. Unfortunately, the carbon black pigments typically used to make black plastics absorb all or most of the NIR light. As a result, the sorting sensors cannot even 'see' the black packaging, much less sort one polymer from another.

Specific CESA-IR formulations have been developed to enable IR-detectability of black HDPE and LDPE in injection and extrusion blow-moulded products; black polypropylene (PP) in films and injection-moulded products; and black PET and C-PET in sheets and film.



Tests conducted by Tomra Sorting Recycling, a Norwegian company that leads the field of instrumentation for recycling systems, PP containing carbon black was essentially indistinguishable under NIR radiation from background surfaces such as a conveyor belt. However, material produced using CESA-IR additive masterbatch was readily detectable, with reflectivity levels approaching those of uncoloured PP.

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HOUSEHOLD PRODUCT PACKAGING: Shrink sleeves help boost product appeal to sustainability-savvy millennials

Clive's Column

Photography by Clive Glover

▲ DRIED BEEF SNACKS GET THE HAPTIC EFFECT

The word 'haptic' comes from a Greek word 'haptikos' (pertaining to the sense of touch). Aristotle is credited with discovering the original five senses – touch, sight, hearing, taste and smell – although science suggests there are many more. Touch is one of our most important senses, giving us a feeling for the truth.

Physical advertising is a well-known marketing effect amplifier; the recipient's sense of touch produces various psychological effects through the feel of an object. We call this the 'haptic effect' – it's all about the science of touch and how it affects us, wherever we are, whatever we're doing. Adding haptics to a print design on a substrate is a great way to make a real connection with the consumer by increasing sensory engagement.

Woolworths' latest haptic packs for biltong and droëwors products are reverse printed, laminated then surface printed with soft-touch inks to give the desired look and good feel. Using design work by Woolies' internal creative team, Packaging World printed the substrate on a W&H eight-colour CI flexo press. Durban's ReproFlex supplied the plates. It's all local and packaging magic. The future is not just bright, but textured.

▼ MARMITE'S UPSIDE DOWN SQUEEZE BOTTLE

I came across this at Waitrose, my new favourite supermarket chain, when visiting relatives in Hampshire.

In the late 19th century, German scientist Justus Liebig, discovered that brewer's yeast could be concentrated, bottled and eaten.

In 1902 the Marmite Food Company was founded in Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire, where the raw material was readily available from the town's brewers. The name probably hails from the French soup 'une petite marmite'. In French 'marmite' describes a sort of stockpot not dissimilar to that depicted on the Marmite label or indeed the shape of the Marmite jar itself.

By 1907, the product had become successful enough to warrant construction of a second factory at Camberwell Green, London. The product's popularity prompted the Sanitarium Health Food Company to obtain sole rights to distribute the product in New Zealand and Australia. The discovery of vitamins in 1912 provided an added boost for Marmite as it's a rich source of the vitamin B complex. With the vitamin B1 deficiency and beriberi running rife during WWI, Marmite became even more popular and was even added to the rations of British soldiers.

Over the years, the jar has become an institution in itself. The more functional PET squeezable bottle with its sturdy PP cap and tamper-evident strip is a rare concession to the 21st century and apes the classic jar shape to continue the brand's legacy in a more accessible format.

▲ GRABBING BREAKFAST ON THE GO

Far from being a born-entrepreneur, Will Kellogg grew up in the shadow of his world-famous brother, Dr John Harvey Kellogg, who ran the Battle Creek Sanitarium in Michigan – a place where unusual methods were used to treat physical and mental illnesses. Will was placed in charge of the kitchen, overseeing the patients' daily diet.

Dr John believed that medical issues – nervous disorders, tooth decay, even cancer – could be cured by prescribing the right kind of diet.

Made of flour, oatmeal and cornmeal baked into brittle cakes and smashed into pieces, granola, initially served as a medicinal food, was quickly recognised as the perfect breakfast substitute. Although Will could see potential in marketing granola beyond the sanitarium, enabling common men to have easy access to a nutritious and wholesome first meal of the day, John was dead against letting his invention out into the open market.

However, Will spotted a broader commercial opportunity. At the time, there were no 'breakfast foods' so the meal took time (and money) to prepare. Packaged cereal could solve a genuine need for millions of people. So Will borrowed money, convinced John to sell him the rights to the cereal business, and Kellogg's was born.

These simple but clever combinations of melamine breakfast bowls and slip-over printed sleeves with locking flaps, and a choice of three of the most popular variants (Frosties, Rice Krispies and Coco Pops), will grab the attention of any time-deprived mother. I found them at the Iceland supermarket in Jersey, the largest of the UK's Channel Islands.

▼ SCRATCH & SNIFF STICKERS – A NOD TO MOOD ENHANCEMENT

Formerly owned by Sara Lee, and now by Unilever, Radox first appeared in the UK market in 1908 as a salts foot bath that 'RADiated OXygen'. As early as the 1950s, Radox became famous for the pay-off line 'Relax in a Radox Bath'. After a hard day of physical activity, there was only one thing for it: a long soak in a tub. During the 1960s, Radox Bath Liquid hit the shelves with its legendary secret blend of 13 soothing herbs and minerals.

The 1970s saw the launch of Radox's first shower range. Consumers experienced a new burst of freshness and an innovative hook designed to hang the pack in the shower. It was – and still is – a hit.

The 1990s saw Radox continuing its mission to relax the world by encouraging people to take some 'Me Time' with the introduction of essential oils and aromatherapy.

During the last decade, Radox has boldly promoted the fact that our sense of smell plays a huge role in our changing moods. Fragrances have the power to lift you when you're down; to freshen you when you rise; to help induce sleep; and genuinely to transform how you feel.

The 200ml Radox Shower & Shave Mousse range – Feel Vibrant Blood Orange & Ginger, Feel Vivacious Apple Blossom & Cranberry, and Feel Bright Mandarin & Orange – goes so far as to feature a 'scratch & sniff' sticker on the dust cover to encourage shoppers to test the combination of fragrances before purchase! I found them at Dischem, Victory Park.

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FSC for Pro-Print

Gill Loubser reports that Pro-Print has obtained FSC certification, providing reassurance to brand owners – and ultimately to consumers – that products are sold in responsibly-sourced packaging material.

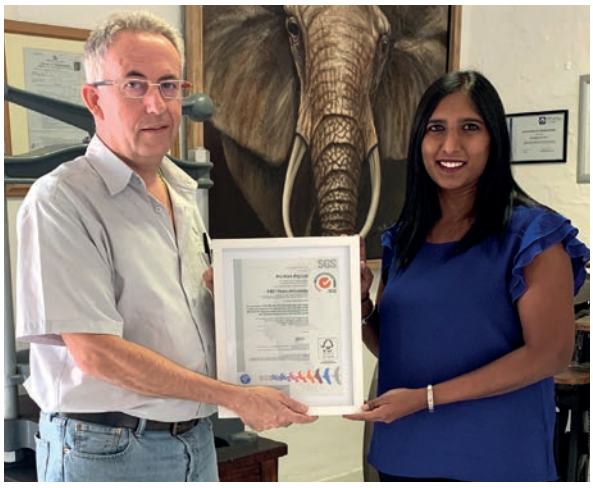
FIFTY-FIVE years since inception and Pro-Print's founding principles have remained constant – ensuring service excellence and world-class print quality. And, by combining the talents of a 200-strong workforce with the most advanced printing and finishing technologies available, Pro-Print, led by MD, Yvette Roberts, continues to lead the pack, particularly in supplying packaging to the specialised and hotly-contested pharmaceutical, nutraceutical and beauty care sector.

Today, however, service excellence and print quality are only two parts of the equation, brand owners also need reassurance on environmental matters – just one example being the responsible sourcing of the materials used in their packaging.

For this reason and recognising a critical need to invest in an environmentally-sustainable future, Yvette has been keen for Pro-Print to join the FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) initiative, and has now obtained Chain of Custody certification.

'We incorporate environmentally-responsible practices at all levels of our business,' comments Yvette. 'For instance, we reduce the use of precious resources through efficient practices and we ensure the best eco-friendly products and machinery are used in our factory. All our litho presses are alcohol-free, and we use vegetable-based inks; our paper waste is recycled by Mpact; and our chemicals are disposed of by approved operations.'

As part of this philosophy, she adds, raw material is purchased only from reputable mills using responsible forestry practices. 'We have always sourced cartonboard from FSC- and PEFC-certified mills, but we want to ensure that our customers are fully aware of this and have the option of adding the relevant information to their packaging. Our FSC Chain of Custody certification provides that reassurance, not only to our customers in the pharmaceutical, cosmetic, nutraceutical and beauty products manufacturing sector, but also to end consumers.'



Mark O'Brien (operations executive) and Alicia Tunnicliff (QA manager) are proud to add FSC Chain of Custody certification to the array of credentials on Pro-Print's reception area walls.

As Yvette points out, the registered FSC trademark logo on product packaging has become a globally-trusted mark for businesses and consumers looking for forest products that benefit people and the environment.

'It offers a credible link between responsible production and consumption, enabling consumers to make socially and environmentally responsible purchasing decisions,' she remarks.

FSC: promoting responsible forest management

THE Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation that promotes the responsible management of the world's forests.

Established in 1993 in response to concerns over global deforestation, FSC has defined 10 principles and associated criteria that describe how forests should be responsibly managed to protect the world's forests. FSC standards promote environmentally-sound, socially-beneficial and economically-viable management of the world's forests in order to meet current needs for forest products without compromising the health of the world's forests for future generations.

FSC certification provides a system via standards to the forest supply chain, ensuring that all timber/paper products originate from responsible sources. This is verified by an accredited certification body.

To earn FSC certification and the right to use the FSC label, an organisation must conform to all applicable FSC requirements, often requiring adaptation of management and operations.

According to Manushka Moodley, FSC's sub-regional coordinator, Southern Africa, almost 200-million hectares of forest are FSC certified in more than 80 countries. This unprecedented growth rate is a response to pressing market demand for FSC-certified products. This, in turn, affects forests in a positive way by driving demand for improved forestry practices and recognition for independent review.

Winning the bubble battle

A processing aid that controls excessive foaming during beverage filling has been introduced to brand owners and bottlers in numerous African countries including South Africa, Nigeria, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Kenya, and Ghana. **Nici Solomon** reports.

AT a conference in Johannesburg, UK food technology company, CO_2Sustain is introduced a patented preservative-free processing aid, CO_2Sustain 2501.

According to MD and technical director, John Story, the product, which took ten years to develop, is added to syrup tanks at low concentrations to address the negative consequences of foaming and CO_2 loss that remain unresolved by silicone and surface-active defoamers.

Problems solved include variable fill volumes, high wastage, high energy usage, low line productivity, higher cost per unit, loss of carbonation, and consumer complaints.

Delegates learned that as CO_2Sustain 2501 operates in the body of the beverage, surface tension is unaffected and the risk of 'ringing' and sedimentation in PET bottles and cans is minimised. It's designed to coat CO_2 bubbles and prevent them from merging and forming bigger bubbles that rise to create foam. Instead, the bubbles bounce off one another and remain smaller, reducing the amount of foam formed during filling, opening and pouring. The beverage also retains fizziness for longer, improving consumer perception of carbonation in the final product and reducing complaints.

Operational benefits are cited as faster start-up and line speed, higher temperature filling (up to 18°C), less liquid loss from foaming, more accurate fill volumes, fewer underfilled rejects, fewer overfilled packs, and a smaller quantity of wasted packaging such as bottles, labels and caps.

For beverages filled in PET, CO_2Sustain 2501 creates an opportunity to lightweight bottles because it helps reduce foam during filling, minimises rejects, enhances carbonation shelf life across all bottle sizes, and ensures the beverage remains fizzier after opening and consuming, even though it doesn't stop CO_2 migration loss through the plastic.

In the case of beverages filled in cans, the defoamer enables high-temperature filling with high line efficiency, and lower electrical consumption as there's no need for cooling and rewarming cans as it prevents condensation which can lead to corrosion issues.

Delegates were then given an opportunity to conduct their own 'bubble' experiments – pouring two cans of sugar-free cola into glasses, one with CO_2Sustain 2501 and the other without. The glass with this anti-foaming agent produced significantly less foam during pouring, retained more bubbles and tasted fizzier for the next 30 minutes than the one without.

Business manager, Jonathan Stott, then shared several case studies.

One example described the experience of an Indian producer of cola, facing production and climatic challenges similar to African counterparts.

The cola is filled into two-litre bottles (with a preform weight of 42g) at 16°C and with a carbonation level of 8g/litre. However, the producer experienced inadequate carbonation shelf life in India's warm climate, compounded by limited storage opportunities and increased pressure on the supply chain, resulting in unnecessary wastage.

By adding CO_2Sustain's processing aid directly to the syrup tank (at 0.075g/litre), the producer increased carbonation shelf life from 14 to 18 weeks (measured via taste tests) – a 28% efficiency improvement. Additionally, this extension enabled the company to exploit opportunities to sell to a wider geographical area, increase its margins, and reduce consumer carbonation complaints.

◄ CO_2Sustain, distributed in South Africa by Pandopro's Daunie and Vanessa Krügel, and is marketed in the rest of the continent by Laura and Shawn Henning of End in Mind Consultative Solutions Africa.

► Levent Alcin (general manager) and Seleem Adegunwa (MD) of Nigeria's Rite Group, producer of Bigi carbonated soft drinks.

Robotic technologies are beneficial on lines requiring significant flexibility to handle high packing speeds and any number of SKUs in a variety of flexible packaging formats to be packed vertically or horizontally into shelf-ready packaging or regular slotted cartons.

Automating the packing of flexible packs

Etienne Henry, Sidel Packaging's business development director, answers questions about the challenges inherent in automating the flexible packaging process for food applications.

ACCORDING to the latest Smithers Pira report, the total global volume consumption of flexible packaging will increase from 29.9 to 36.4-million tons over the next five years because it's fully adapted to modern use and answers consumers' mobility and convenience needs in the form of ready-to-use products.

A key activity for Sidel is solving issues linked to the packing of flexible packs in corrugated cases, palletising and line integration. Through understanding customers' challenges, Sidel works to deliver advanced systems and packaging line solutions to boost food industry customers' agility in managing their lines, products and businesses

Why is secondary packaging an important factor in mastering flexible packaging automation projects?

Choosing the right secondary packaging is essential as it provides protection and stability to compensate for the unstable geometry and obvious lack of rigidity of flexible packaging.

There is no one-size-fits-all solution as there are many differences in producers' wishes, factory configurations and logistical constraints, such as easy opening boxes, products standing up or lying flat, the level of protection needed, or the optimisation of the case filling in terms of surface area and cost.

Finding the best match between primary and secondary packaging systems and the most suitable mechanisation technology helps improve product integrity, packaging quality and line performance.

What value are you bringing to this market as an equipment supplier?

Mechanising the process can present product handling issues owing to the low mass and deformability of flexible packaging. Its unstable geometry has five major consequences: accumulation is not possible; no counter-pressure to seal secondary packaging; little resistance to vertical compression of secondary packaging on the pallet; limited protection of product inside; and the risk of case crashes and resultant pallet instability.

Sidel provides several appropriate solutions for primary packaging, ranging from traditional side-loading packers to more sophisticated systems, enabled by long-term expertise in robotics. Robotic packing represents the perfect alternative when the process requires significant flexibility to handle high packing speeds and many SKUs. Factory lines with lower speeds and more standard packing configurations, on the other hand, require a simpler type of manipulator.

Sidel meets three key areas of expertise required to maximise efficiencies and return on investment when setting up an automatic packing solution for flexible packaging.

Firstly, the company is familiar with the constraints inherent to primary packaging, particularly during conveying and handling. Secondly, it has more than 50 years' experience in secondary packaging. Lastly, it offers an important legacy in mechanisation and automation, allowing the design of systems tailored to customers' specific needs.

How can manufacturers benefit from Sidel's white paper on flexible packaging automation projects?

Many real-life customer automation project experiences are highlighted in a recently-compiled white paper on automatic case packing of flexible packaging, which addresses current state-of-the-art options, and the questions manufacturers need to ask or challenges they need to face to achieve success.

The white paper can help them construct a specification document when they start the bidding process as it includes 12 factors manufacturers should consider when designing an automatic packing line.

The paper can be downloaded from ***sidel.com/en/flexible-packaging-2-eng/landing-page-lan-123***.

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Millennials care about **sustainability**

A NUMBER of diverse factors combine to determine consumers' in-store purchasing decisions. Shoppers carefully weigh up variables – such as price and value for money – but other factors affecting the decision to place the pack in the supermarket trolley include the pack's visual appeal and brand loyalty.

Increasingly, too, particularly among millennials, is a growing focus on sustainability factors and consumers increasingly consider factors such as reuse and recyclability.

A recent study conducted by Nielsen found that millennials are the generation most willing to pay extra for sustainable offerings – close to 75% of respondents (compared to 66% of all consumers).

Sustainable packaging was shown to be one of the most influential purchasing drivers. Among those willing to pay more, the statement 'the product's packaging is environmentally friendly' was 12 percentage points higher than the global average.

There's no doubt that sustainability matters to millennial customers. They want to spend their money responsibly, and they want to buy products from manufacturers who share their values.

This factor is also cited by Siyakha Imperial Print Co as a determinant in consumers' decision-making; and this holds true for household products as much as it does for any other category.

According to Siyakha Imperial, a recent trend in household packaging to improve sustainability and ensure regulatory compliance has been shrink sleeving. As it's non-adhesive, the sleeve is easily removed from the container for recycling; it also helps to protect the product, allowing for a lighter-weight bottle or container to be used.

In addition, thanks to reverse-printing of the substrate, ink does not come into contact with external agents such as the chemicals from the product; it also prevents scuffing during transportation. As the contents of household products are often highly aggressive, extensive tests have to be conducted on film and inks to ensure these packs retain their high-quality aesthetics throughout the product's lifetime.

Siyakha Imperial produces shrink sleeves for a number of its multinational customers. It's interesting to see a category that has traditionally used very basic labelling now embracing the benefits of 360° full-colour labelling.

Market feedback reveals that competitive brands are carefully watching consumer response and considering similar moves into shrink sleeves. As brands have a very small window in which to make a positive impression on prospective buyers, it's essential that products are packaged to stand out from competitive products on the retail shelf.

As reported last year (PPM Sept 2018) shrink sleeves are now making aggressive inroads into the household product sector, with market-leading brands such as Harpic, Dettol and Windolene now available with full body shrink sleeves. The colourful graphics provide excellent on-shelf visibility.

Elevate your PACKAGING CREDENTIALS

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The designation of **CERTIFIED PACKAGING PROFESSIONAL (CPP)®** is now offered by the Institute of Packaging SA (IPSA) in collaboration with the World Packaging Organisation (WPO) and the Institute of Packaging Professionals (IoPP) in the USA. The CPP is the highest designation for a packaging professional offered by IPSA, and is an excellent investment in your professional development. This credential defines the packaging professional and enables organisations to seek out and hire the right professional based on verified knowledge, skills and industry contributions. Using the CPP programme to assess and evaluate one's professional competency validates you as a truly qualified packaging professional at an international standard.

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Candidate eligibility for the CPP programme shall be based on the following prerequisites:

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- Professional contributions

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE CPP DESIGNATION?

- International and public recognition
- Demonstrates that a packaging practitioner possesses packaging knowledge, experience and skills to the degree that they deserve recognition as a true packaging professional
- The designation confirms a commitment to excellence in the packaging profession
- Having attained the CPP status, the candidate will need to maintain professional knowledge by subscribing to the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programme through IPSA.

For more information visit **www.ipsa.org.za** or contact Lara on **031 785 1019** or at **education@ipsa.org.za**.

THE CPP DESIGNATION IS OFFERED AND ENDORSED BY:

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◄ Key speakers were Dikeledi Mosemi (Tin-Pac), Corinne Horn (Glass Decorations), and Gail Macleod (Stratcom Branding).

▼ IPSA Northern Region committee members at the Women in Packaging celebration included Sven Smit (chairman), Samantha Moore, Nici Solomon, Susi Moore and Amith Sukhnundan.

Celebrating women in packaging

TO MARK Women's Month, IPSA's Northern Region honoured the role women play in the packaging industry by hosting its second annual Women in Packaging event, this time at Buitengeluk Restaurant in Fourways, Gauteng.

Corrine Horn, MD and founder of Glass Decorations, opened proceedings by sharing her memories of how the company started and emphasising how important it is to grab opportunities.

'I've always been surrounded by entrepreneurs; all my siblings have their own businesses so I've grown up in that environment,' she noted.

Corinne decided to venture into glass after noticing a gap in the market. 'As most speciality glass packaging was imported, I thought it was a great opportunity to provide a local product,' she explained.

'It's important to keep your original dream or goal in mind and to remain on track. Take every opportunity that life gives you. Make that phone call, send that email, make that meeting,' she added.

'My message to women is if you have a passion in life, find a balance. It's important to be focused 100%, either at work or with your family.'

Dikeledi Mosemi's story is similar, as she also grabbed an opportunity when it was presented.

When she was retrenched after rationalisation at Pioneer Foods, she told herself: this isn't the end, it's just the foundation.

The seed for Tin-Pac was planted when she went for an interview at Nampak and was told that the company was closing its promotional tinware operation; and that as part of its enterprise development initiative was looking to support an entrepreneur to take over the business.

Dikeledi was astonished to find that she had arrived hoping to find a job but left with her own company.

'I then reemployed the retrenched staff,' she explained. 'I wanted to build a legacy, inspire people, and help contribute to our country's growth.

'As women,' she continued, 'we're very hard on ourselves and can we're our own biggest critics but it's important to believe in a dream and have faith. It's important to remember the world isn't going to change for you – you must grab your chance and claim your place.'

Gail Macleod, CEO at Stratcom Branding, also grew up in an entrepreneurial family and grew her business project by project.

'I started the business when I was in my 20s and wanted to work with listed companies,' Gail commented.

'Initially, I sent out 300 partially handwritten letters every week. In those early days, I had more ambition than common sense,' she remarked.

Today, Stratcom Branding is a founding member of the Global Local Branding Alliance (GLBA), a global network of seven branding and package design agencies.

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‘The alliance enables us to learn more about regional packaging and to assist if regional expertise is needed to create relevant packaging solutions,’ she explained.

According to Gail, the packaging industry can be a challenge but it’s important to disrupt conventional ways of doing business.

‘Fear of failure can hold you back; what’s more important is how you pick yourself up after you fall,’ she asserted.

At the end of the day, the women attending the event were left inspired, and had greatly enjoyed networking and sharing experiences.

Thanks go to the following companies for sponsoring the event and donating goodie bag items and lucky draw prizes: Propak Cape, Glass Decorations, Kemtek Imaging Systems, Reckitt Benckiser, AMKA, Nampak Paper and Rest of Africa, and National Brands.

Trends under the spotlight in PE

IPSA’s Eastern Cape region recently hosted World Packaging Organisation (WPO) president, Pierre Pienaar, for a discussion around current global trends.

The event attracted 30 people, from a wide variety of packaging companies, even though it was a cold and wet Port Elizabeth evening.

Pierre, who started his career at Lennon in Port Elizabeth, has a fondness for the region and always makes himself available for IPSA events when he travels back to South Africa from his current home base in Australia.

WPO president, Pierre Pienaar, with IPSA Eastern Cape regional chairman, Crystal Edwards (right). Her daughter, Lourdes, shares her interest in packaging and is considering a future in the industry.

Yours irreverently . . .

Funniest jokes from the Edinburgh Fringe Festival

Every year, this column likes to include the top gags from this famous comedy festival that draws dozens of international performers. A panel of critics submits six favourite jokes from all the acts, and the shortlist is voted on by 2 000 people.

Swedish comedian, **Olaf Falafel**, was the winner with this one: 'I keep randomly shouting out "broccoli" and "cauliflower". I think I might have florets.'

On his win, he commented: 'This is a fantastic honour but it's like I've always said: jokes about white sugar are rare, jokes about brown sugar… Demerara.'

Other winners:

2. 'Someone stole my antidepressants. Whoever they are, I hope they're happy.' – **Richard Stott**
3. 'What's driving Brexit? From here it looks like it's probably the Duke of Edinburgh.' – **Milton Jones**
4. 'A cowboy asked me if I could help him round up 18 cows. I said, "Yes, of course. That's 20 cows."' – **Jake Lambert**
5. 'A thesaurus is great. There's no other word for it.' – **Ross Smith**
6. 'Sleep is my favourite thing in the world. It's the reason I get up in the morning.' – **Ross Smith**
7. 'I accidentally booked myself on to an escapology course; I'm really struggling to get out of it.' – **Adele Cliff**
8. 'After learning six hours of basic semaphore, I was flagging.' – **Richard Pulsford**
9. 'To be or not to be a horse rider, that is Equestrian.' – **Mark Simmons**
10. 'I've got an Eton-themed advent calendar, where all the doors are opened for me by my dad's contacts.' – **Ivo Graham**

Tweets of the month

The Wizrd.@doubletexts: During my interview today I poured some water into a cup and it overflowed a little bit. 'Nervous?' asked the interviewer. I simply replied: 'No, I just always give 110%.'

dre@gothshakira: Every day men leave their homes with no bag, no water bottle, no lip balm, no hand sanitizer, no extra layer in case they get cold, just keys and a wallet shoved into their pocket. Chaotic and reckless.

At the end of the day…

According to Statista, a leading online statistics portal, these are the most disliked items of office jargon from a survey of 2 000 UK employees in 2018 – sound familiar?

• Touch base • No brainer • Punch a puppy • Game changer • Pick it up and run with it • We're on a journey • Lipstick on a pig • Run it up the flagpole • If you don't like it, get off the bus • Mission statement • Leverage our synergies • Let's get our ducks in a row

Diary 2019/2020

Here is a brief selection of important printing and packaging events. For a more comprehensive listing, visit www.packagingmag.co.za

October 1-3
PPMA TOTAL SHOW 2019
The show's 350 exhibitors represent every aspect of the production line from labelling, filling and packaging machinery, to processing equipment, robotics, automation and industrial vision systems. Additionally, the seminar programme will address key industry issues
Birmingham, UK ▸ **www.ppmatotalshow.co.uk**

October 3-5
PLASTICS PRINTING PACKAGING AFRICA
The 22nd expo for the East African plastics, packaging and printing industry value chain
Nairobi, Kenya ▸ **www.expogr.com/kenyappp**

October 3-4 and October 11-12
GHS ADVANCED TRAINING COURSE
An advanced two-day course for technical, SHEQ and risk management professionals responsible for classifying products, creating safety data sheets and Globally Harmonised System-compliant labels for chemical products, or conducting workplace risk assessments. The first round of training is in Durban, and the second in Johannesburg
Durban & Johannesburg, South Africa ▸ **www.rpmasa.org.za**

October 8
IMDG REFRESHER TRAINING
General awareness and job specific training for personnel responsible for dangerous goods packaging, container packing, loading, transport, stowage and documentation to ensure familiarisation with dangerous goods transport regulations, contents of the IMDG (International Maritime Dangerous Goods) Code, awareness of the duties and responsibilities that arise from them, and the consequences of non-compliance
Johannesburg, South Africa ▸ **www.rpmasa.org.za**

October 16-23
K2019
The number one international trade fair for plastics and rubber. The broad spectrum of main product categories include machinery and equipment; raw materials and auxiliaries; semi-finished products, technical parts, reinforced plastics; and services
Düsseldorf, Germany ▸ **www.k-online.com**

October 30
GOLD PACK AWARDS FUNCTION
Celebrating the best in South African packaging design across six categories: beverages; food; health, beauty & household; transit; sustainability; as well as packaging-related components, materials and point-of-sale displays
Johannesburg, South Africa ▸ **secretary@ipsa.org.za**

October 30
FLEXOFIT ALGERIA SEMINAR
Connecting Algerian trade shops and printers to European suppliers
Algiers, Algeria ▸ **www.flexofit-print.com**

November 6
BEST RECYCLED PLASTIC PRODUCT AWARDS
The South African Plastics Recycling Organisation has partnered with Business Day and Cold Press Media to increase the reach of the awards, and create greater visibility for the work of industry
Johannesburg, South Africa ▸ **lisa@plasticrecyclingsa.co.za**

November 25-28
SWOP 2019
The theme for this edition of Shanghai World of Packaging (swop) is 'Enter the Era of Smart & Innovative Packaging', with the focus primarily on artificial intelligence, printing and labelling, e-commerce and logistics packaging, plus packaging design and personalisation
Shanghai, China ▸ **www.swop-online.com/en**

December 9-11
PACPROCESS MIDDLE EAST AFRICA 2019
The debut version of Messe Düsseldorf's interpack alliance in the Middle East Africa will run concurrently with FoodAfrica, the leading food trade fair in the region. These packaging and processing value chain events address the requirements of the food, beverages, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, confectionery and bakery, the non-food and industrial goods sectors
Cairo, Egypt ▸ **www.pacprocess-mea.com**

March 9-11, 2020
PRINTPACK ALGER
The seventh international printing and packaging trade fair for Algeria and the Maghreb – one of the three largest importers of printing & paper technology on the continent
Algiers, Algeria ▸ **www.printpackalger.com**

March 17-19, 2020
PROPAK EAST AFRICA 2020
The largest packaging, printing and plastics exhibition and conference in East Africa
Nairobi, Kenya ▸ **www.propakeastafrica.com**

May 7-13, 2020
INTERPACK
Tailored packaging solutions for the food, beverage, confectionery, bakery, pharmaceutical, cosmetics, non-food and industrial goods sectors
Düsseldorf, Germany ▸ **www.interpack.com**

June 16-26, 2020
DRUPA
A showcase of key trends and outstanding innovations, functional printing processes and 3D printing presentations. Major themes such as automation and robotics, new workflows in the production process, and the next generation of Industry 4.0 will also be at the centre of many discussions
Düsseldorf, Germany ▸ **www.drupa.com**

Advertisers' Index | SEPTEMBER 2019

"Advertising is the ability to sense, interpret ... to put the very heart throbs of a business into type, paper, and ink." - Leo Burnett

Use again and again and aga

Reduce, recycle, remake, reuse

Our
PLASTIC
MAKES
PERFECT
sense

15558/BA

Our continuous investment in solutions to reduce our environmental footprint is demonstrated through our lightweight 330ml and 500ml water bottles and minimum 50% rPET content for juice and carbonated soft drink bottle formats. Nampak Rigids encourages responsible use of our packaging and supports the circular economy of plastics.

Nampak
Rigids
packaging excellence

ROTOCON

The Perfect **Digital Partnership**

Screen's Truepress Jet L350UV+ series is the most flexible and automated digital inkjet label production system in its class.

Rotocon's **Ecoline RDF 340/440 Digital** Printed Label Converting and Finishing System perfectly complements the press by maintaining quality and productivity, even when converting unsupported films.

Both systems support a wide range of media and multiformat, short-run applications, as well as improve on industry-recognised productivity levels.

The low-migration ink **Truepress Jet L350UV+LM** system is the perfect choice for converters to quickly and cost-effectively produce premium quality labels compliant with stringent food-grade packaging criteria.

The **Ecoline RDF 340/440**'s compact footprint, easy-to-use control panel and open machine design maximises operator friendliness.

Please see our *Cracking***news** on **Pages 12 & 13**

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