

**Beswick
Machinery**

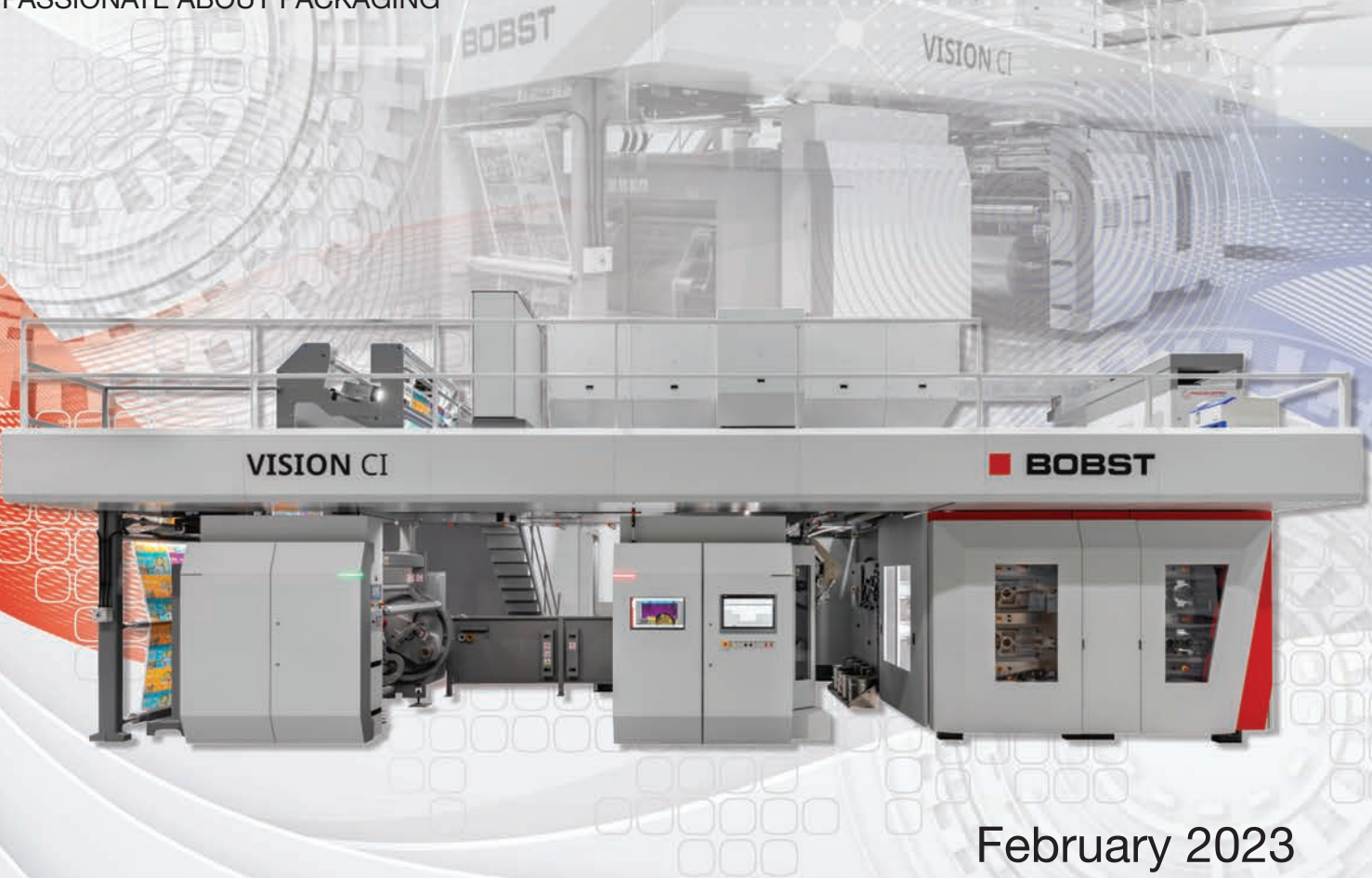
AUTHORIZED
AGENT

BOBST



FLEXOTHENE
flexible packaging

PASSIONATE ABOUT PACKAGING



February 2023

PPM

The industry voice of Africa

COVER STORY ■ Beswick Machinery supports Flexothene's investment in a Bobst VISION CI flexo press

SUPPLEMENT ■ PPM's *Label Printing Directory*

SPECIAL REPORTS ■ Sustainability initiatives | Celebrating three industry stalwarts' achievements

PRINT MATTERS ■ Premium finishing in the spotlight | Diaphragm pump benefits explained | Enhancements at Midcomp's Innovation Hub

CONVERTING MATTERS ■ Flexible packaging trends unpacked | Folding cartons: market observations | Plastics sector lobbies for load shedding relief measures

FMCG PACK ■ Smart labelling showcased | Tracking the pouch market's progress and Foster International Packaging's 25-year journey

Golden Tree



www.tgt-group.com
sales@tgt-group.com

Tel: +27 51 436 6009
Fax: +27 51 436 6050

13 Tielman Roos Road .
Noordhoek . Bloemfontein .
South Africa

FFS, 4 side seal, box pouches, stand-up pouches.

Golden Tree Manufactures high quality woven Polypropylene Bags, BOPP Laminated Polypropylene Bags and a variety of flexible packaging materials including FFS, 4 side seal & box pouches and other stand-up pouches. Woven Polypropylene material and bags are produced at the following facilities:

• New Tech Packaging (PTY) LTD which was established 29 August 1994 – Location Bloemfontein, South Africa.

• Swaziland Polypack (PTY) LTD which was established in 2005 in Ngwenya, Kingdom of Eswatini.

Flexible Packaging is produced at Concord Packaging (PTY) LTD which was established 21 December 1994 and has its manufacturing base in Bloemfontein, South Africa. Golden Tree origins can be traced back more than 50 years when it was one of the first woven Polypropylene plants established in Taiwan. The South African operations commenced production in 1987 and after humble beginning have now grown in the past 35 years to the leading manufacturer of Polypropylene packaging materials in the Southern African Region. Golden Tree operates the largest woven Polypropylene manufac-

turing facilities in the Sub-Saharan Africa. The Group started its manufacturing operations as a manufacturer of woven Polypropylene materials which was supplied to bag converters in the region. The average age of equipment in the various plants is 2.5 – 3 years and modern equipment sourced from leading manufacturers in Europe & Asia ensures that Golden Tree is always using state of the art modern technology.

This commitment to upgrading equipment benefits our loyal customer base, it ensures that we produce in a very efficient manner and contributes to the growth of the company. Golden Tree has in the last 10 years intensified its focus on using material and equipment which produces products more environmentally friendly and energy efficient. We work with a global supply chain of materials supplier and endeavor to produce products which are more recyclable and environmentally friendly. Current capacity of the group: Traditional woven Polypropylene and BOPP laminated bags +/- 200 million per annum. Golden Tree Holding (PTY) LTD is committed to employee training as well as skills development and believes that training is fundamental to the successful implementation of Good Hygiene Practices and

Food Safety principles (ISO 22000:2018). The main challenges during the past 2 years for flexible, woven and BOPP laminated bag manufacturers has been the sourcing of various grades of raw material used in the manufacturing process, both from local and international suppliers. To date Golden Tree has managed to navigate these challenges successfully and have continued supplying our loyal customer base with

the top-quality products they are accustomed to. This has come at great cost financially to Golden Tree as higher prices were paid for materials components and equipment by the group in order to maintain our position as a leading manufacturer in the packaging industry. The upside of these challenges was that we were forced to invest in better equipment and to develop and implement strategies for reducing our reliance on traditional energy supply. The demand for quick adjustments in the design of packaging material both from a printing and construction point of view is growing and Golden Tree's ability to work with both suppliers and clients to make this happen will ensure that we will continue to grow our presence in the market.



Golden Tree's products are produced in facilities which are HACCP and ISO 22000 (2018) accredited. Golden Tree supplies products which are classed as top of the scale in the Manufacturing Industry, both in term of quality and service.



Redefining sustainable production

THIS issue features a special report (pages 12-19) on progress to make packaging production and converting more sustainable from a substrate point of view as well as the machinery and production environment used to produce them more resource efficient. Of course, the complexity of the issue has been compounded by stage six load shedding and converters having to make investments in alternative energy sources.

Plastics SA is lobbying the government to extend its diesel refund to all manufacturing sectors using generators to bring much-needed relief from the general fuel levy and Road Accident Fund levy (see page 46 for details). Similarly, the Consumer Goods Council of SA is petitioning for this refund to be extended to retailers.

During his budget speech, the minister of Finance, Enoch Godongwana, announced an expansion of the tax incentive for businesses to a 125% deduction over two years for all renewable energy projects with no thresholds on generation capacity. Additionally, the National Treasury has introduced amendments to the Bounce-Back Loan Scheme to include energy-related applications.

There is also a lot of behind the scenes work happening at producer responsibility organisation level with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment currently conducting first-year audits based on the reporting requirements of the Extended Producer Responsibility Regulations. PPM looks forward to unpacking each organisation's performance, challenges and projects as well as priority areas for the second year in the next few months.

Although there are still grey areas that need to be ironed out and clearly defined along the entire value chain, the important points to bear in mind are that teething pains were inevitable and that an industry-managed process – rather than a government-based tax – is enabling this sector to manage its own destiny in taking responsibility for packaging's end of life. It's a way more attractive option against an alternative like the plastic bag levy, which was not ringfenced and went back into the fiscus and has thus yielded no positive results within the sector.

Guidelines for degradable plastics claims

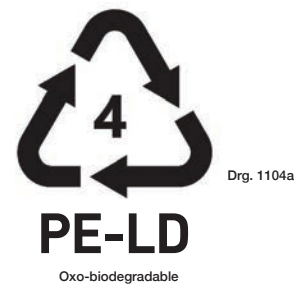
To help guide consumers and the plastics processing industry and collection value chain in terms of degradable plastics claims and symbols to mark and identify biodegradable, compostable, oxo-biodegradable and water-soluble plastics, the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) recently published South African National Standard (SANS) 1728.

SANS 1728 cautions against vague environmental claims such as 'environmentally safe', 'environmentally friendly', 'earth friendly', 'non-polluting', 'green', 'ozone friendly' and plastic 'free'. It specifies that manufacturers wanting to make degradability claims about their plastic packaging first need to subject it to the relevant testing and certification requirements.

Beyond using the appropriate material identification code from one to seven in a triangle, as has been the industry norm for quite some time, SANS 1728 recommends including the type of degradable plastics wording underneath the symbol as shown in the examples below:



Wording on a compostable product.



Wording on an oxo-biodegradable product.

Nici Solomon

Adding value to the local flexographic printing industry

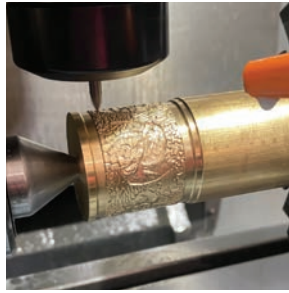
PPM has strengthened its existing relationship with the Flexographic Technical Association of SA (FTASA) and has been invited to attend committee meetings and promote events and training sessions. As the official journal of the association, PPM has been producing the annual FTASA Print Excellence Awards brochure for the past 15 years.

Bruce Allen, MD of Ipex Machinery, officially took over as the association's chairman from Derek Murison at the recent AGM. The committee – which currently consists of Eric Kühl as national secretary, Kevin Naidu of DuPont, Ricky Maconi of KB Labels, Bill Marshall of Syndicate Graphics, Randhir Panday of SA Labels, Gordon Smith of XSYS and Kevin Tucker of Beswick Machinery – is working on various strategy plans to add more value for members.

Two additional committee members will be appointed, following several nominations put forward at the AGM.



Changing of the guard: outgoing chairman, Derek Murison with newly elected chairman, Bruce Allen.



CONTENTS

FEBRUARY 2023

UPFRONT

- 3 **Editor's Letter:** Biodegradable definition directive
- 8 **News & Events:** Roy Mahabier reflects on 50 years in the flexible packaging industry; Bill Furniss and Geoff Cuttler retire from Shave & Gibson and Flint Group Packaging respectively; Mpack invests R1.2-billion in Mpumalanga paper mill upgrades; Propak Ghana
- 12 **Special Report:** Next step to boost Drakenstein Municipality's Wastepreneurs project; Fibre Circle unpacks paper recycling in SA; SRF Flexipack SA discusses sustainable supply of products; Bobst highlights recycle-ready flexible packaging progress; Cibapac Packaging, Mpack Versapak and MainWrap pass second round audits to confirm compliance with SAVA's Vinyl Clingfilm Compliance Framework; New appointments at Plastics SA
- 22 **Into Africa:** Polyflex opens an operating facility near Kampala, Uganda

PRINT MATTERS

- 25 **Digital Printing:** Changes at Midcomp's Innovation Hub
- 26 **Printing Industry News:** Printing SA's Central Chamber golf day; Leadership changes at the European Rotogravure Association
- 27 **Finishing Matters:** Premium finishing capabilities from Foilworx, Leonhard Kurz and Scodix
- 30 **Flexo Forum:** Yamada Lubrication explains the benefits of air-operated double diaphragm pumps
- 32 **Automation Update:** How to enable all-shore processes with the right software

CONVERTING MATTERS

- 36 **Flexible Packaging:** Bordic's Polymer Division; Industry trends and digital innovations according to Bobst and HP Indigo; Berry Global balances three factors
- 45 **Plastics in Packaging:** How Plastics SA is lobbying for sectoral load shedding relief measures; Sustainability at the heart of Innovia's communications campaign
- 48 **Folding Cartons:** Market observations and collaborative projects from Beswick Machinery, BusinessPrint, Magnum Packaging, Masterpack and Shave & Gibson

FMCG PACK

- 53 **Anniversary Feature:** Documenting Foster International Packaging's 25-year journey from South Africa to Ireland and Australia
- 57 **Pouch Pageant:** News and views from CTP Flexibles, HP Indigo, Industex and SRF Flexipak SA
- 63 **Labelling, Coding & Marking:** The latest radio frequency identification, near field communication and augmented reality smart labelling technology developments
- 68 **Enter-Preneurial Packaging:** The Graphic Ballroom helps redesign cookie packaging to include a digitally printed header card and customisable gift tag
- 71 **End-of-Line Machinery:** KHS installs a high-capacity returnable glass line and two modular labellers at Cervejas de Moçambique brewery

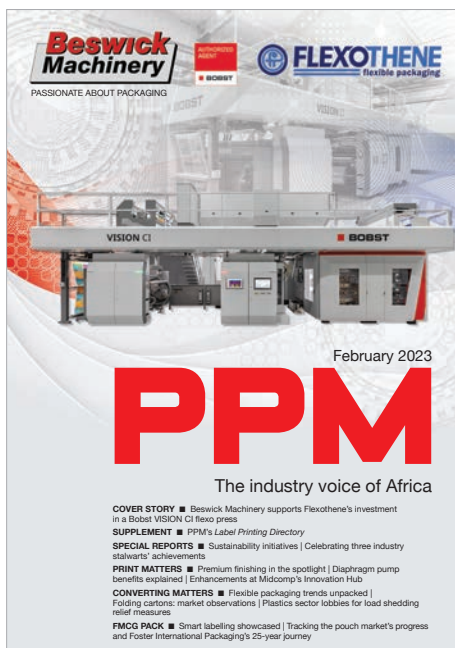
FINISHING TOUCHES

- 74 Yours Irreverently
- 74 Index of advertisers and their web addresses

PACKAGING & Print Media

The industry voice of Africa

EL
Erhardt+Leimer



This month's cover story

FOR over half a century, Durban-based Flexothene Plastics has been a trusted manufacturing company in the extrusion, printing, laminating and conversion of flexible plastic packaging material.

The acquisition of a Bobst VISION CI flexo press, which was installed by Beswick Machinery's technicians and engineers, has put Flexothene at the forefront of innovative printing technology for shorter run lengths. Its Smart automatic features ensure repeatable processes consistently, minimal waste and ease of operation with maximum production speeds of 400m/min.

This investment is representative of the converter's consistent goal and drive to keep abreast with the latest industry innovations so that it can develop sophisticated materials for automatic packaging lines and achieve high-quality printing results.

For details, turn to page 34.

SMARTSCAN
is the first
200% inspection
system for the
label industry.



Publisher: **Susi Moore** susi@packagingmag.co.za
T +27 (0)10 594 0342 C +27 (0)82 568 6729
PO Box 652358, Benmore 2010

Junior Publisher: **Samantha Moore** samantha@packagingmag.co.za
T +27 (0)10 594 0342 C +27 (0)73 195 1313

Managing Editor: **Nici Solomon** nici@packagingmag.co.za
T +27 (0)10 594 0342 C +27 (0)71 530 0775

Business Manager **Glywnnis Wells** glywnnis@packagingmag.co.za
Western Cape/KwaZulu-Natal: T + 27 (0)21 762 8825 C +27 (0)83 465 5874

Designers: **Banie Stafford** banie@bcreative.marketing
C +27 (0)74 192 7827
Carla-Lee Lawrence carla@packagingmag.co.za

Advertising Admin/Circulation: **Kgaogelo Khumalo** kgaogelo@packagingmag.co.za
T +27 (0)10 594 0342

Contributing Editors: **Gill Loubser, Brenda Neall, Anton Pretorius,
Susan Unsworth**

European Correspondent: **Nick Coombes**

PACKAGING & Print Media is published by Packaging Chain cc and printed and bound by Tandym Print, Cnr Mail & Park Road, Western Province Business Park, Epping, PO Box 775, Eppindust, 7475



OFFICIAL JOURNAL: Flexographic Technical Association of SA
Institute of Packaging South Africa
Official Media Partner: Gold Pack Awards
Media partner: Printing SA



ROTUCON



Student wine label design competition

ROTOCON has launched a wine label design competition in partnership with the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT). The competition is open to undergraduate students at TUT's Department of Visual Communication, Faculty of Arts and Design and the winner will be announced at WineLand Media's 30 Under 30 Awards on June 15.

The TUT Integrated Communication Design students will develop a cutting-edge wine label design that factors in the design process and strong ideation that must also speak to contemporary printing processes as well as finishing, including foils, varnishes, die-cuts, and embossing. One winner from the competition will be awarded the R30 000 prize money and flown to Cape Town to be recognised at the WineLand Media/ROTOCON prestigious 30 Under 30 Awards luncheon where they will also receive a certificate from ROTOCON about their label printing and finishing knowledge.



'As a sponsor of WineLand Media's 30 Under 30 Awards for the fourth consecutive year, ROTOCON is adding to the spirit of the event with this competition to also recognise the creativity and technical intricacies behind a wine label's design and inspire young students with brand-driven innovation in this industry,' says Banie Stafford of B Creative, ROTOCON's marketing and branding agency.

The winning label design will be printed on a press with auxiliary technologies, all represented by ROTOCON, and applied to wine bottles for presentation at WineLand Media's 30 Under 30 Awards.

'The partnerships between industry and the university are of critical importance for our success,' says Herman Botes, head of the Department of Visual Communication. 'We are excited to add this vibrant partnership to this mix that will enable our students to be industry ready in the niche area of wine label design and production.'

The 30 young individuals to be recognised by WineLand Media are from a variety of fields in the wine value chain, from soil scientists, harvest assistants, winemakers and academics to sommeliers, wine marketers, PR and marketing experts, and brand ambassadors.

'These young voices will become the leaders of tomorrow and we want to tell their stories, share their visions for our industry and help shape their future,' concludes Wanda Augustyn, editor of *WineLand*.

Celebrating the launch of a wine label design competition for undergraduate students at the Tshwane University of Technology are Herman Botes, head of the Department of Visual Communication and Banie Stafford of B Creative, ROTOCON's marketing and branding agency.

Labelling technologies showcased in Southeast Asia

EARLIER this month, ROTOCON director Patrick Aengenvoort attended Labelexpo Southeast Asia in Bangkok, Thailand. 'Although the show was smaller than its European counterpart that takes place in Brussels, Belgium – which is traditionally attended by South African industry role players – the same cutting-edge technologies were on display by our ECOLINE AND CHROME machinery partners and principals, Erhardt + Leimer (E+L) and Domino Printing Sciences in Bangkok,' he remarks.

Patrick explains that E+L's SMARTSCAN system represents the perfect complementary quality control system for ROTOCON'S range of ECOLINE RSI slitter rewinders to satisfy label printers/converters' ever-greater demand for cost-effective efficiency, quality, and accuracy.



E+L's SMARTSCAN system combines web monitoring, 200% inspection and label counting with ease of use via a one-touch button set-up. SMARTSCAN permanently checks the entire web width and length to detect and intelligently classify defects as printing errors, missing labels, unremoved matrix, splice points, and flags.

According to Patrick, SMARTSCAN achieves this with double image capture – via two LED illumination methods rather than two cameras – to generate images of the web and evaluate them. This 200% inspection system makes it possible to detect defects in paper, transparent or clear-on-clear labels, and glossy film material printing that aren't visible with classical incident illumination (100% inspection).

Progressive variable data printing

Domino was showcasing its modular **K600i** digital inkjet printer – based on sixth generation technology and a global install base of 1 000 – as the perfect cost-effective and 600dpi print quality solution to fulfil the growing demand for variable data printing (VDP) across a wide range of substrates.

Patrick explains that the **K600i** is capable of printing simple alpha-numeric text and sequential numbering to a wide range of industry-standard machine-readable barcodes and 2D codes, including QR and Data Matrix codes at speeds of up to 200m/min. These are used for logistics and reverse logistics in e-commerce and online retail, for 'track and trace' applications in the food and beverage sectors, and for security applications, including brand protection, in the pharmaceutical and tobacco sectors.

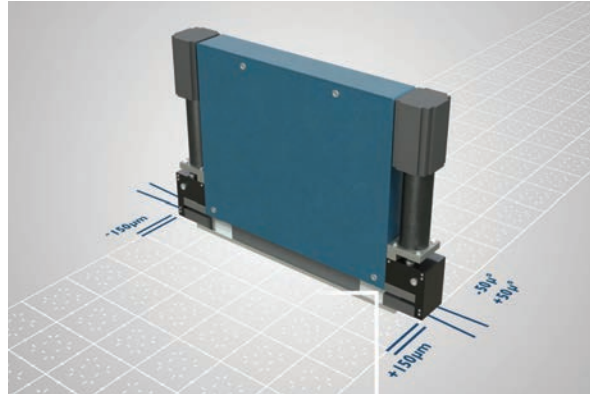
He also emphasises that this monochrome UV inkjet printer offers choice and flexibility and is available in seven different print width formats, ranging from 108mm to 782mm, in either a standard single print bar or the high-speed dual bar configuration. It can be retrofitted onto most conventional printing presses and finishing lines. The **K600i** can be used with Domino's UV-curable, LED-curable and aqueous pigmented ink sets, with a high opacity white ink, a fluorescent ink and a clear varnish.

The **K600i** incorporates Domino's intelligent Technology (**i-Tech**) features **ActiFlow**, **CleanCap** and **StitchLink**, which combine to create a flexible and highly reliable digital printing system with superior performance that requires minimal maintenance.

i-Tech ActiFlow is a continuous ink circulation system that degasses the ink, preventing air bubbles and blocked nozzles for superior jetting performance and resulting in fewer rejects, less maintenance and reduced downtime.

The i-Tech CleanCap automated print head cleaning and capping station maintains optimum reliable print nozzle performance with reduced start-up time and minimal operator intervention.

i-Tech StitchLink offers automated print head alignment for accurate registration and seamless print across the full web print width.



ROTOCON returns to Propak East Africa

ROTOCON is exhibiting for the second consecutive time at Propak East Africa – which takes place from March 14 to 16 in Nairobi, Kenya – because it is the largest dedicated packaging, plastics, printing and processing industry exhibition in the region.

The organisers, Montgomery Group East Africa, expect more than 5 500 visitors to engage with professionals from more than 35 countries. Visitors to ROTOCON's stand (D21) can learn more about the company's ECOLINE series of equipment for label printing, inspection and finishing in addition to auxiliary solutions for print production such as a plate moulder and anilox roller cleaner.

Michael Aengenvoort, ROTOCON Group CEO, is a presenter at the complementary conference programme on March 15, where he will discuss 'Brand building for long-term customer partnerships'.

'We are pleased to exhibit once again at Propak East Africa,' says Michael. 'There is tremendous growth potential in Kenya and its neighbouring countries. Our ECOLINE label finishing machines combined with solutions from our principals and our commitment to in-depth customer consultation and reliable after-sales service and technical support can help these printers compete more effectively.'

Roy reflects on reams of memories

Some people are in a room for 50 seconds and the only impression they leave is one of their inflated sense of self-importance. **Roy Mahabier** is not one of those people. **Susan Unsworth** caught up with the man of the moment as he celebrated a career well-lived, much-loved and, he insists, far from over.

ROY MAHABIER has spent 50 years below the printing parapet, just getting on with what he loves most. This legend of litho and fundi of flexo celebrated his half century at the end of January and says that now is his time to shine. While others are looking forward to retirement, he declares that, at 68, he is still far too young to consider such things. 'I'm only starting to enjoy life and this awesome industry,' he quips with childlike glee. 'Even if I were to retire soon, I would remain in the industry as a consultant or trainer.'

What made Roy choose printing after he matriculated in 1972? Simple, he says, he had no choice. 'My family couldn't afford college and I also had to help put my five younger siblings through school at a time when my dad was unwell,' he explains.

After leaving home at 06:30 each morning to scan the day's vacancies, Natal Witness finally provided a lifeline in an advertisement placed by Multitape, which was recruiting printing assistants. After a successful interview, Roy stepped into his first job in January 1973, earning the princely weekly wage of R13.76 in return for diligently cleaning printing ink pans and washing machines. But there was one aspect of his job that brought an immediate and lasting glint to his eye – while others his age set their sights on fast cars, Roy had eyes only for the Heidelberg Platen. Spotting his interest, management soon had him setting up and operating the grand dame of the printshop.

Production manager Derrick Bell later rewarded the young Mahabier's talent and potential with a move into the flexo department to assist journeyman Lionel Pieterse. Soon Roy was operating the Kopack label printers under the mentoring gaze of both these role models.

Brand new experiences

After gaining a grounding in brand work for household names such as Rama, Dairymaid and Tropika, Roy was promoted to factory supervisor. It was then that he met Polyflex's Norrie Hall, a printing plate supplier to Multitape. Norrie introduced him to Packaging Consultants and he took his next step to print mastery.

'I joined as a senior flexographic print operator working on the Uteco Gold six-colour stack press,' he recalls. 'In 1989, the company – by then known as Pacon – bought a Uteco Coral 675 CI press, which



I had the privilege of commissioning and on which I trained the operators.'

By this stage, print was well and truly part of his psyche. His illustrious, but still very low-profile career took him next to Nampak Flexpak and design and development for leading brands such as McCain, Blue Ribbon, Carling Black Label, Castle Lager, Heineken and Windhoek.

Most recently, in 2021, he was snapped by Dhiren Patel of Nurscon, who was well aware of his printing and packaging pedigree, unrivalled skills and dedication to his craft. Roy's role as chief operations officer brings him much fulfilment, he enthuses, and allows him to apply the experience he has built up across the entire production process, from extrusion, flexo and gravure to lamination, pouch and bagmaking and slitting. At Nurscon, Roy strives always to lead by example and with quiet authority, while also training and mentoring those younger than he to work with passion, dignity and respect. 'My most important lesson to the youngsters is that teamwork makes the dream work,' he maintains. 'Acknowledging skills in others and using the word "we" are essential in an industry such as ours.'

The years have been generous to Roy, he states, providing him with many moments imprinted into his brain's memory card.

Stellar status

A particularly stellar moment came in 2003, when the Media, Advertising, Publishing, Printing and Packaging Sector Education and Training Authority accredited him as an outcomes-based assessor, a status he still holds.

'I have also been involved in installing, commissioning and training on many international manufacturing machines. The most memorable was the Flexotechnica XD8 Evolution for Dynamic Plastic Packaging. The executives put their trust in me, even though it was the first time I would take full responsibility for rigging, installing, programming and commissioning. Over the years, I've worked on more than 20 major projects on equipment from Italy, Germany, the UK and Asia.'

Fifty years after he first glimpsed the magic of print, Roy still enjoys the thrill of the 'fast and furious' pace of the industry, with its rapid evolution,

continuous improvement and technological advances. 'Today's quick setups, gearless printing, registration automation, viscosity control, washing up efficiencies and high speeds all add to the excitement,' he enthuses.

When (if) he retires, Roy savours the prospect of spending more time with his wife of 40 years, Rita, whom he calls his 'pillar of strength and support', perhaps persuading her to join him on the couch to share his love of watching soccer and cricket, and his passion for Bollywood productions. And he will certainly continue to keep an eagle, nurturing eye on his sons Nishal and Reeshal, who are making their own mark on the flexo printing world through their business, Tzartech.

He may also find a few hours here and there to revisit a story by his favourite author, Louis L'Amour, who once said: 'A great book begins with an idea; a great life, with a determination.' He could well have been talking about Roy!

Mpact invests R1.2-billion in paper mill upgrades

MPACT'S board has approved a R1.2-billion improvement project at its Mkhondo paper mill in Mpumalanga, which includes increasing its paper machine capacity by 10 000 tons/annum to 142 000t and its wood pulping capacity by 55 000 tons/annum to 110 000t.

According to Mpact, these upgrades will enable the migration to a higher proportion of virgin containerboard and enhance its ability to meet growing customer demand for quality fresh produce packaging driven by robust growth in the South African export fruit sector.

Chairperson Tony Phillips explains that Mkhondo is being repositioned as a predominantly virgin fibre mill, with an enhanced and flexible product range that can respond to demand for high-quality semi-chemical (SC) fluting and offer improved cost competitiveness as well as a reduced environmental footprint.

Mpact describes its Bayplex SC fluting as a high-performance virgin containerboard grade with high strength, moisture resistance and durability properties for producing corrugated cartons for demanding cold-chain applications in the fresh fruit and agricultural export markets.

As part of the project, Mpact will install a new spray drying facility to beneficiate the additional by-product generated from the wood pulping process. This facility will enable the mill to produce up to 35 000 tons/year of sodium lignosulfonate (SLS) powder, used as an additive in the construction, chemical, textile and petroleum industries.

'These improvements, to be concluded during the first half of 2025, will give us the technical flexibility to expand into new markets by producing pulp by-products for the industrial market. The SLS powder will be predominantly sold into the export market,' comments Tony.

New packaging value chain trade show for Ghana

IN four months, Propak Ghana will be making its mark in Accra as the primary exhibition for the packaging, plastics and printing industries to display their newest innovations and connect with their industry peers.

Afroset Montgomery, organiser of the largest manufacturing exhibition in West Africa, is bringing the Propak brand to Ghana from June 6 to 8 at the Grand Arena and expects to welcome over 2 500 visitors and more than 120 brands to the exhibition venue.

For the inaugural edition, George Pearson, regional director of Afroset Montgomery, notes the importance of working closely with local stakeholders. 'From our experience in Nigeria, we know how vital it is to work

with local market leaders, associations and trade bodies to ensure they believe that the exhibition can bring real benefit to the industry, and, as such, will act as brand ambassadors by sharing information and news to their networks.'

The organisers, therefore, expect leading suppliers from the local region as well as international companies to be in attendance to showcase the newest industry advances and collectively support the local manufacturing industry.

PPM's publishers, Susi and Samantha Moore, will be attending the show and our publication will feature a preview in the April edition.

For more information, visit: www.propakghana.com

Go well Bill . . .

Yet another realignment in the ever-mutating packaging industry kaleidoscope is the retirement of **Bill Furniss** from Shave & Gibson, writes **Gill Loubser**.

IT was a red-letter day at the Durban HQ of Shave & Gibson (S&G) when Bill Furniss eventually succumbed to the persuasive powers of group chairman, Simon Downes, and key executives, to join them as national sales manager of the Packaging Division. Over the years, Bill had been offered this position no fewer than four times before he accepted!

Described by Simon as 'one of a kind – an old world gentleman with modern thinking', this doyen of the South African packaging industry has now served the sector for almost half a century, absorbing an encyclopaedic knowledge of its history, products and technology, and the many people involved.

In 2009, when Bill was inducted into the S&G line-up, Dave King (now also retired) was juggling double responsibilities – in addition to his demanding job as Packaging Division general manager, he filled big boots as national sales manager. For this and multiple other reasons, Bill's appointment was viewed as an enormous coup for S&G: he had already clocked up 35 years' sales and sales management experience in the folding carton industry.

Where did it all start?

His career had its genesis in 1974 when he joined Hayne & Gibson in Durban (then known as 'the Press at Kingsmead') as a management trainee. Starting as a print estimator, Bill was later appointed to the sales team. He then went through Kohler's take-over of Hayne & Gibson (rebranded Kohler Carton & Print), where he progressed to field sales manager in 1990 and sales director in 1991.

In 2001, on the retirement of his mentor, Frank Gibson, he was promoted to MD, a position he held until the Kohler-Nampak merger, when he was appointed Nampak Carton & Labels' national key accounts manager.

'Then 13 years ago I moved away from the corporate world to join the team at Shave & Gibson, where I've spent some of the most rewarding and happiest years of my career helping to grow the carton business,' Bill declares.

Developing technology and facing challenges

On the technology front, Bill has witnessed many exciting changes. As just one example, he highlights the digitisation of manufacturing processes, enabling faster and more efficient throughput. Conversely, he



Having clocked up almost 50 years in the industry, Bill Furniss has truly earned his retirement. He's proud of his election and tenure as regional secretary for the Institute of Packaging SA in KZN and honoured to have been nominated for Packaging SA's 2022 Packaging Achiever Award.

has witnessed the closure of many manufacturing facilities resulting from mergers and cost pressures, leading to a loss of critical industry skills.

'I've personally experienced four mergers,' he continues, 'some positive and others not. But in my view the saddest change has been the virtual commoditisation of the products that we converters work tirelessly to innovate, develop and deliver at a sustainable price. Some of this is our industry's own fault, through unwise predatory pricing, but much of it stems from the constant downward pressure exerted on selling prices,' he adds. 'But, then again, we're a resilient band of industry brothers and persevere through the continual challenges. For example, the industry currently faces unprecedented difficulties in the supply of core raw materials such as cartonboard and paper, placing huge pressure on working capital.'

Mixed emotions

Although retirement has been Bill's decision, he leaves with mixed emotions, mostly because he has enjoyed an exciting and fulfilling journey in a great industry ... meeting, working with and learning from many industry players, particularly the many customers who became and remain friends to this day and the S&G family. 'Simon, Richard and the entire executive team have been immensely supportive. I could not have wished for better colleagues. I have also had the privilege of leading a team of dedicated sales professionals.'

Bill and his wife Anneke now intend travelling the world, starting with a visit to Botswana in March. We wish them a long, happy and healthy retirement.



. . . and hello Paul

S&G welcomes Paul Reynolds to the Packaging Division, succeeding Bill Furniss as national sales manager.

In 1993, having studied Business Management at tertiary level, Paul started his career in the pharmaceutical industry – first in sales and then in various management positions. Massmart was his last home, before joining the S&G team.

A lasting legacy

At the end of last year, national sales manager of Flint Group Packaging, **Geoff Cuttler**, officially decided to hang up his hat after 36 years of loyal service to the South African print and packaging sector.

GEOFF CUTTLER'S journey into the printing and packaging industry began in 1986 when he started a small bind cell business. During this time, he picked up valuable contacts by working with various packaging consultants. When Astrapak Packaging Consultants formed in 1996, Geoff was offered the position as the company's managing director, which he eagerly accepted.

In 2009, he was promoted to head of customer operations at Astrapak. 'The workload was demanding,' he says. 'I was on a plane three to four times a week. Even my dogs hardly recognised me anymore,' Geoff quips. With the objective of spending more time at home, he took up the position of regional sales manager (KwaZulu-Natal) at Eagle & Continental Ink Systems, and was later appointed as national sales manager.

Geoff continued to build and augment relationships with customers and suppliers over the years, establishing his reputation as a loyal and hard-working individual. 'I think that was a big help for me. Yes, I had a strong background in the print industry, but working alongside such fantastic people in this incredible industry of ours was what I really enjoyed doing. I consider many of our customers as personal friends.'



Geoff Cuttler.

He also experienced his fair share of challenges over the years. When global company Flint Group acquired Continental Printing Inks and Eagle Ink Systems in 2015, inevitably, the business experienced a few growing pains. 'The transition was tough, but for many of us it was a case of adapt or die, and those who adapted, managed to learn valuable lessons during that time.' Today, despite undergoing a sea of change, Geoff reports that the company has emerged as an authoritative business with exciting prospects in an industry poised for growth.

Looking ahead, he feels there's a gap in the market for knowledge sharing, and to provide customers with frequent training and education opportunities on all aspects of print technology. 'There's a need for proper troubleshooting training among machine operators in our industry. As a leading business, we have a role to play in sector education, which will ultimately result in improved product quality.'

Rather than pointing to any specific achievement,

Geoff says it's the instances and opportunities learning about the ins and outs of this business that he will cherish forever. 'It might sound cliché, but being able to witness changes in our industry, whether they were big or small, or watching individuals or businesses growing and prospering, those were the real highlights of my career.'

Succession strategy

Although officially retired, Geoff continues working three days a week on a short-term basis to manage some of the company's bigger accounts and pass the baton over to his successor, Joandi Naidoo, who joined Flint in August last year.

Coming from a chemicals and waste management background, Joandi admits it's chalk and cheese



Joandi Naidoo.

compared to the printing and packaging industry. But with extensive experience in business development, as well as managing and implementing corporate structures, she is eager to get stuck in and bring about change. 'One of my core responsibilities will be to identify

new market opportunities, and continue supporting business growth within the company.'

Joandi not only admires Geoff's wealth of experience, as well as his legacy in the industry, but is grateful for his decision to stay on and oversee her transition. 'There's so much I can learn from Geoff,' she says. 'While I tend to take a more structure-orientated approach to business, Geoff's people skills and ability to build and maintain long-standing relationships with customers is an immense asset to the company. He will leave us with big shoes to fill.'

She says Geoff is one of those larger-than-life personalities, someone who gets along with everyone. 'He's a loveable character who enjoys shaking hands and kissing babies,' she jests. Geoff smiles in agreement. 'Joandi brings something new to the table, especially in the digitalisation space where Flint plans to stretch its wings in SA, offering exceptional service delivery to customers. I'm confident that she will make a significant impact and contribution to the customers and our company, hopefully for many years to come.' Geoff responds.



Through the Wastepreneurs project, Drakenstein Municipality has given a group of former illegal waste pickers at the Wellington landfill site the opportunity to earn a steady income under better working conditions, while improving the region's recycling efforts.

Waste not, want not

Our country's waste management leaves much to be desired. However, one municipality's effort with recycling is not only empowering informal waste collectors but also bringing about real change, writes **Anton Pretorius**.

YOU'D be surprised to learn that South Africa is doing better than one might think when it comes to effective waste management and recycling. According to Plastics SA's latest report (published in 2021), South Africa's input recycling rate currently sits at 46%, which is higher than most countries, including Europe, where only 32% of plastic waste is recycled.

But before we break arms patting ourselves on the back, it must be said that the stats are not necessarily reflective of a conscientious citizenry out to do their bit for the environment. While the messaging in Europe is that of individual responsibility to do the right thing, recycling in South Africa is largely driven by economics. And while most municipalities are plagued with their own issues, waste management and recycling have never been high on the priority list.

In 2019, the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEADP) decided to institute a 50% reduction of organic waste with the aim of implementing a full ban by 2027 to encourage more recycling measures.

In the Western Cape alone, only half of the province's municipalities have submitted plans to reduce mountains of organic waste in landfills by the end of the year. According to Saliem Haider, DEADP's director for waste management, only 32% of the waste is recycled, 'which means there is still opportunity to divert 68% of the organic waste.'

Melanie Ludwig, chairperson for the Organics Recycling Association of South Africa says not enough has been done to fund waste management at municipalities across the province. 'They lack the funding, knowledge and capacity to change from a dumping system using landfills to a resource recovery system (recycling) through source separation and material processing.'



Thys Serfontein, senior manager of solid waste and landfill management for Drakenstein Municipality.

However, one Western Cape municipality that is serious about recycling is Drakenstein, which is reaping the rewards of a recycling programme it launched four years ago at the Wellington landfill site with several success stories emanating from it.

Establishing 'wastepreneurs'

Before the recycling programme was launched in 2018, the Wellington landfill site was home to many illegal waste pickers, who made a living from reclaiming recyclable material on the working surface. They entered the site unauthorised, threatened visitors, and vandalised the peripheral fence and equipment. They would also light fires on the premises, which led to the contravention of the landfill site's conditions. The situation spiralled out of control when the waste pickers became violent and aggressive, affecting service delivery.

But according to Thys Serfontein, senior manager of solid waste and landfill management, all this turned around in July 2018 when 70 'former illegal recyclers' were successfully accommodated at a designated area at the drop-off facility, adjacent to the landfill. They effectively became known as 'wastepreneurs'.

'These wastepreneurs process and sell recyclable material that the municipality collects from participating households and businesses in Drakenstein,' explains Thys. 'They were provided with reflector jackets, PPE and name tags, and have even established a committee that regularly consults with the municipality.' The wastepreneurs also benefit from recycling training provided by the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, gaining skills and knowledge that adds value to their existing operations.

According to Thys, the wastepreneurs are accommodated within Drakenstein's newly launched Material Recovery Facility (MRF). 'Here, they will be able to, with the assistance of a conveyor belt, increase their production. This will also mean that approximately 50 tons less material, which is the average recycling weight per month in Drakenstein, will reach the landfill site.'

Empowering people

This success story has led to Drakenstein Municipality being invited to share its knowledge and assist other municipalities facing the same challenges. It also earned it the PETCO Award for Municipality Innovations in June 2019. In the same year,

Drakenstein Municipality walked away with the Most Improved: Waste Management Award at the Western Cape Government's Greenest Municipality Awards, as well as the Innovation Award for this project.

Since then, Drakenstein Municipality's recycling-at-source programme has been extended to all formal households in Wellington and a section of Mbekweni. Waste collected from these areas is dropped off at the MRF, where it's sorted and baled before being sold to recycling companies. Thys says some products are sold on like glass for crushing and cardboard and newsprint for pulping, while plastic is pelletised to be used for packaging materials, construction joint fillers, pipe insulation and in time, for road resurfacing and pothole filling.

'The income generated goes directly to the wastepreneurs as they all work for themselves,' he points out. 'Not only are former illegal recyclers assisted in building a dignified life and earning a decent income, but the municipality's dedication, hard work and determination to turn around what once was a major headache into a positive environment and story, is recognised.'

It's also not the first successful recycling and waste management initiative from Drakenstein Municipality. In 2021, executive mayor Alderman Conrad Poole launched 'Operation Clean-up', a four-month trial run offering residents free disposal of household waste, including domestic, recyclable or green waste, at the Wellington landfill site. 'It's important to conserve the environment, not only for us, but for generations to come,' the executive mayor commented.



24-26 October 2023
The Cape Town International Convention Centre
Cape Town, South Africa

Innovative Packaging Solutions
Trade Expo
for the Western Cape



Top five reasons to exhibit:



SELL

directly to purchasing decision-makers in a buying frame of mind



RAISE

your brand visibility and showcase products



WIN

new customers and collect quality sales leads



CREATE

and build customer relationships



PLACE

your products into the hands of more decision makers

[f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [ig](#) #propakcape2023

www.propakcape.co.za

Co-located events:



TO BOOK YOUR STAND, CONTACT:

MARK ANDERSON, Portfolio Director | +27 (0) 82 891 4271 | mark.anderson@montgomerygroup.com
SONJA VAN ROOYEN, Exhibition Manager | +27 (0) 82 560 6277 | sonja.vanrooyen@montgomerygroup.com
ANDRE PIETERSE, Sales Executive | +27 (0) 83 265 2786 | andre.pieterse@montgomerygroup.com

Organised by:

1895 **MONTGOMERY GROUP**
SPECIALISED EXHIBITIONS

Unpacking paper recycling in South Africa

PAPER RECYCLING is the process of collecting waste paper and processing it mechanically and chemically for use in new products such as packaging and tissue. It is a complex activity involving citizens, informal waste collectors, small businesses, buy-back centres and paper recycling mills.

It's important to know the difference between recyclable vs locally recycled products. A recyclable product can be recycled into new or similar product using standard recycling processes.

But while something might be recyclable, it does not mean that it can be collected efficiently or recycled locally. Things like tiny sugar sachets, straws and straw paper coverings are fully recyclable but are difficult to collect and bale due to their size.

Some products – such as used beverage cartons or paper cups – are recyclable but require special technology to extract the paper fibre for re-use.

Locally recycled means that a product is being recycled locally using available technology and capacity. Recycling – whether paper, plastic, glass or tin – is a volumes-driven exercise. For a product to be recycled, it needs to be commercially viable to do so using standard recycling processes.

Separation-at-source

The separation of general waste from recyclables at the 'source' of consumption – homes, offices, schools, retailers and factories – is one of the most important steps in recycling as it ensures that paper and paper packaging is kept dry and uncontaminated by wet waste.

Waste paper is a raw material and thus has value. Unfortunately, a lot of useful paper gets contaminated by food, liquids and other waste in refuse bins, reducing its suitability for recycling and thus its value.



A repulper contains the waste paper, water, de-inking agents and chemicals and softens paper fibres into a slurry.

Collection

The collection of recyclables entails several avenues before it reaches a mill. It is often facilitated by waste pickers, small- to medium-sized enterprises or waste merchants whose objective is to reclaim as much quality, saleable material that they can carry in one load. For this reason, they may not take certain items as they are deemed low value.

Waste management companies also have agreements with large businesses to collect their recyclables.

At a buy-back centre, collectors and traders sell the recyclables per kilogram. The price is variable, depending on market conditions such as supply and demand.

Sorting and baling

Here different paper types are sorted and baled into their categories. Different types of recycled paper call for specific ingredients depending on the required function of new material such as paper packaging.

Once sorted, a particular paper grade is fed onto a conveyor and into a baling machine. These bales will be loaded onto a truck or conveyor, destined for a recycling mill.

Repulping

Bales are fed into a repulper into which water, de-inking agents and chemicals are added to soften paper fibres into a slurry.

The pulp is put through a series of screens to extract contaminants such as staples, sand, glues and tape. Once clean, the pulp is sent to the paper machine for forming and drying.

The end products of this process are jumbo reels of paper. These reels will be used to convert into various products: linerboard, fluting, paper bags and cardboard boxes of various kinds.

Conversion

Some mills may sell the reels to converters, others are integrated and will do the converting on-site.

Brown kraft paper can be made into paper bags or made into linerboard and fluting used in cardboard boxes. Jumbo reels of tissue paper are cut and wound into smaller rolls, the type we purchase at the supermarket.

These paper products eventually make their way to factories to be filled and shipped to supermarkets, for use in homes, at the office or school. And the process starts all over again.

Except for toilet paper of course. Toilet paper and other tissue products cannot be collected due to their form of disposal (ie. down the toilet).

WE RECYCLE AT OUR OFFICE

Keep paper recycling clean, dry and separate from other recyclables and landfill waste

Fibre Circle

PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ORGANISATION



Yes! These paper products are recyclable.



- ✓ Cardboard boxes of any kind - dry food, cosmetic and medicine boxes; roll cores, packing cartons (flattened)



- ✓ Paper grocery and take-away food bags of various sizes
- ✓ Food and beverage cartons & paper cups



- ✓ Newspapers, magazines and brochures, including glossy varieties



- ✓ Office and shredded paper, envelopes
- ✓ Old telephone directories
- ✓ Paper giftwrap (sticky tape removed)
- ✓ Hardcover and paperback books

No! Keep these out of your paper recycling!



- ✗ Food waste
- ✗ Wet/dirty paper and cardboard
- ✗ Sticky notes
- ✗ Used paper plates, disposable nappies, tissues and toilet paper
- ✗ Wax-coated, foil-lined or laminated boxes
- ✗ Foil gift wrapping, carbon and laminated paper



Keep these in a separate recycling bin:

- ✓ Tins and cans
- ✓ Glass
- ✓ Plastics



Sustainable supply of products

Sustainability in the South African sense is broader than the ability to continue producing or operating in a responsible and ecologically friendly manner given the current electricity/load shedding crisis. It also encompasses the ability to keep your factory running to fulfil customer orders, says **Tom van Herzele**, SRF Flexipak SA's chief manager of sales and marketing.

MANY local businesses seem to have been shifting focus, in terms of resources and staff after dealing with the challenges of Covid-19, back to sustainability initiatives – until the power crisis worsened. Now they are having to invest in extra or larger generators to decrease the number of unproductive hours due to load shedding reaching up to stage six levels.

As with most packaging companies, SRF Flexipak SA, is also working on packaging sustainability improvements in terms of new films and the reduction of multilayer packaging constructions as well as running trials in conjunction with brand owners and their converting customers. Its focus is on helping the industry move towards the targets set out by Extended Producer Responsibility regulations in terms of reduction, reuse and design for recycling principles.

'For SRF Flexipak SA, it's also vital that sustainable solutions are relevant and valid for the South African market so that we can remain a reliable supplier to our converting customers and their brand owner customers

as the primary manufacturer of BOPP films,' Tom remarks. 'Thanks to the backing and support of the industry and a loyal customer base, we supply around 70% of the market with our various grades of BOPP films. We therefore need to ensure minimal disruption by any of the current or future power or water challenges by continually investing in projects that keep the plant running as efficiently as possible.'

SRF Flexipak SA is soon to again upgrade its facility's ability to generate power. Last year, the team implemented a one-megawatt solar power solution. At the end of February during its line upgrade shutdown, in addition to increasing production capacity by 10%, SRF will be installing two additional generators able to produce around three-megawatts of power and a rotary UPS (that routinely regulates the power) to avoid dips, which are very disruptive during the extrusion and BOPP manufacturing processes.

'SRF Flexipak SA is firmly rooted in South Africa, and we stand by our commitment to partner with the local market,' Tom concludes.

New appointments at Plastics SA

The organisation's KZN regional office welcomed Warrick Keyser as technical trainer and Nokwanda Nondzanga as assistant administrator.

Warrick is a trained electrician who spent the last 22 years working for Polyoak Packaging. He is therefore no stranger to the plastics industry.

'I'm ecstatic to be able to work for Plastics SA. Since plastics have always been a part of my life, I'm thrilled to be in a position to start contributing to the sector,' Warrick declares. 'I look forward to being a part of the process that will allow the next generation to achieve greater success.'

Nokwanda holds an NQF4 Certificate in Office Administration and Financial Management. Prior to joining the Plastics SA team, she worked at CRDC training. She will be assisting the KZN team with general office support duties.

She says she is eager to learn more about the plastics industry and hopes to grow with the business.



Firmly rooted in South Africa

With the shifting of global challenges, our world class facility is here to stay.
SRF FLEXIPAK is here to service and support customers for the long run.

Local cling film manufacturers meet international standards

THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN VINYL ASSOCIATION (SAVA) recently announced that its members who are manufacturers of PVC (or vinyl) cling film – Cibapac Packaging, Mpack Versapak and MainWrap – have passed the second round of its independent audits to confirm compliance with its Vinyl Clingfilm Compliance Framework (VCCF).

‘Cling film is one of the vinyl products that has frequently been criticised in the past over health concerns regarding migration levels and use of harmful substances,’ explains Monique Holtzhausen, SAVA’s CEO. ‘In an effort to address these issues and restore trust in the quality of cling film produced by our members, SAVA launched the Vinyl Clingfilm Compliance Framework just over two years ago. This initiative is based on the European Commission Regulation 10/2011 for plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food and applies to raw material suppliers, intermediate compounders, converters or film manufacturers and distributors and importers to the wholesale and retail market.’

According to SAVA’s VCCF, cling film manufacturers or importers (who are members of SAVA) voluntarily sign a Declaration of Compliance that all raw materials, intermediates and substances used in the manufacture of their products have been food approved. Moreover, the manufacturers agree to comply with good manufacturing practices, to the use of correct and approved labelling codes together with ‘intended use’ information and to have their products and documents at every level in the supply chain audited by an independent SAVA representative.

Because of the complexity and size of the market, SAVA decided to follow a phased approach. The

first round of audits took place in 2021 and focused on ensuring that the necessary quality management systems are in place. The second round was to ensure that all ingredients are food compliant and that the necessary paperwork was in place. The third round will take place during 2023 and will involve blind sampling of products that will be sent away to an independent laboratory for testing to ensure compliance.

‘SAVA’s VCCF is an important extension of its Product Stewardship Commitment as it sets standards for migration testing, migration modelling and information in the supply chain that needs to be disclosed,’ she continues. ‘Members who pass these audits and meet the criteria are allowed to display SAVA’s “Green Tick” on their products as proof that no harmful ingredients were used in the cling film, that their manufacturing processes are compliant and documentation controlled and that the necessary food approvals are in place.’

In addition to the SAVA audits, Cibapac and Mpack Versapak were awarded BRC certification for meeting global standards for packaging materials – specifically for the extrusion and slitting of their PVC cling films – after passing the international audits by NSF Certification (LLC #1181).

‘We are proud that our members were awarded an A and AA classifications as proof of their dedication to safe and responsible production processes, as well as for passing our auditing processes with flying colours. We believe this clearly sets SAVA members apart from non-members and cheap imports that could be guilty of questionable practices and ingredients because they are not being checked and audited,’ Monique concludes.





Bobst reveals what's next

FOR Bobst's activities addressing the flexible packaging industry, 2022 was the year that saw the culmination of several R&D projects and activities that have been years in the making and are giving further strength and substance to the OEM's vision on the industry's future.

These projects and activities are identified by two umbrella terms – oneBARRIER and One complete solution – and address two focal points or challenges of the flexible packaging industry: circularity of packaging and transformation of the production workflow. 'Although mentioned separately, they are not two separate strands of development as Bobst, being an end-to-end packaging solution provider, needs to consider the overall production process,' says Sara Alexander, marketing and communication manager.

Recycle-ready flexible packaging

'The validity and viability of the oneBARRIER family of recycle-ready high-barrier substrates was firmly established in 2022 with solutions that are commercially available today,' states Sara. oneBARRIER is the project developed and tested by Bobst with different ecosystems of leading industry partners to create recycle-ready mono-material high and ultra-high barrier duplex and triplex substrates as an alternative for packaging designers to non-recyclable metallised packaging.

OneBARRIER includes PrimeCycle solutions – polymer-based mono-material substrates that are EVO and topcoat free – and FibreCycle solutions – full fibre/paper-based mono-material structures coated with functional layers that can be recycled in the existing paper stream. Both are viable replacements for metallised polyester non-recyclable substrates.

'The oneBARRIER PrimeCycle PE AIOx mono-material is certified by German institute Cyclo-HTTP with a recyclability level of 98% which exceeds industry guidelines and is an extraordinary achievement for high barrier films,' explains Sara. 'The oneBARRIER FibreCycle solution has been externally assessed using the PTS-RH 021 test method and has proven to be recyclable.'

'Making recycle-ready flexible packaging a reality for our converting customers has been a priority objective for Bobst. It is a journey that has reached a milestone achievement with the oneBARRIER solutions available so far. In 2023, we will continue to work on other developments and structures in polymer- and fibre-based applications and will also intensify our collaborative R&D on the third type of sustainable packaging, namely compostable/bio-degradable solutions. We will also continue to submit

the oneBARRIER different structures for assessment and add certifications by independent certification institutes,' she adds.

Dedicated workflows for seamless production

Beyond the progress made in sustainable flexible packaging in 2022, Bobst also announced the launch of One complete solution, portfolio of end-to-end workflows for seamless quality production, from application management guidance and production of functional substrates to pre-press set-up, printing, converting, quality control and services. 'As the needs of converters become more unique due to diverse market factors, One complete solution provides everything converters need, tailored to their specific needs,' Sara maintains.

'If we look, for instance, to the production of functional substrates or to a topical example now that the demand for high barrier paper packaging is on the rise, the One complete solution for production of oneBARRIER FibreCycle recycle-ready substrate is a clear example: the solution comprises the EXPERT K5 vacuum metalliser for deposition of AlOx or AluBond and the oneBARRIER MASTER Coater for the primer and top coating processes,' she explains.

'One complete solution includes other dedicated workflows that connect all steps, from production file and pre-press through to the reels of printed or laminated substrates. Bobst is the only OEM that can supply such a full range of printing and converting technologies for production of flexible packaging,' Sara states.

She adds that the advantages for converters of having validated flawless processes and perfectly integrated equipment for production of oneBARRIER recycle-ready packaging and/or One complete solution dedicated workflows are manifold. 'These include integrated package solutions delivering process-machine-output in one flow; guaranteed barrier properties of the full structures (pre-coat + metallisation + post coat + eventually lamination, printing); knowledge of all technologies – coating, vacuum metallising, CI or inline flexo printing, gravure printing from narrow- to ultra-wide web, lamination equipment and processes from a single supplier; and different kinds of raw material specifications, coatings, adhesive chemicals and inks.'

According to Sara, 2023 will be a year of consolidation of the main projects recently presented, along with their localisation, to ensure the best fit to specific regional market requirements, if any, towards the next big industry trade shows of 2024.





LAMINA è

Proven sheet extrusion technology
for solar modules



Energy
Efficient



Industry 4.0
Compliant



Customized for
your specific
needs



Standards that
add value

Upcoming Events



4-7 AUGUST 2023
HYDERABAD (INDIA)



1-5 FEB. 2024
NEW DELHI (INDIA)

Authorised Agent



Visit : www.technimac.co.za
E-mail : info@technimac.co.za
Phone : +27 (0) 11 882 6630

Rajoo's sustainability initiatives reduce production costs for converters

REDUCING production costs for converters through energy efficiency has always been a hallmark of machines and technology offered by Rajoo and has become more relevant due to the volatility in the price of polymers and rising energy costs.

'Rajoo's technology is well established for energy efficiency compared to other machinery manufacturers and we continue to invest resources for further improvement in order to help our converting customers improve production efficiencies plus reduce material and electricity usage post-Covid,' remarks Jinesh Shah, vice president of International Sales. 'Supporting our customers remotely during the pandemic was indeed a challenge in the initial days, but innovative techniques were deployed and this continues to help our customers subsequent to the pandemic,' he continues.

Some of the initiatives Rajoo put in place to address these challenges and bring solutions to market include ongoing endeavours to reduce the energy cost per kilogram of film/sheet produced in addition to promoting higher output extrusion systems to increase productivity. 'Projects where we replaced the hot parts in the extrusion system on the machines of machinery manufacturers to increase output levels have been very successful,' Jinesh adds. 'These endeavours have resulted in an energy cost reduction in the range of 8% to 10% as well as automation systems for improving product quality and consistency with minimal manual intervention.'

When asked what the market can expect to see from Rajoo in 2023, he says that the next level of technology has been evolved and implemented, competing with the best in class of the world at value-for-money investment levels. 'A couple of projects have been implemented for both film extrusion and sheet extrusion systems and more are in the pipeline. Success stories in yet another

product – extrusion coating and lamination – have further enhanced our portfolio primarily for the flexible packaging and raffia industry,' maintains Jinesh.

Rajoo is also developing blown film lines to process post-consumer recycled (PCR) materials without compromising on the performance properties for various applications.

'New polymers are being continuously introduced by the polymer manufacturers and Rajoo co-operates closely with them to develop machines compatible with these polymers. Films and sheets with a single family of polymers or less than 5% of barrier materials in a composite structure are steps towards sustainability and recyclability,' emphasises Jinesh. 'These polymers also contribute to thickness reduction without compromising on performance, and technology from Rajoo enables such solutions through appropriate screw and die design and web handling solutions.'

He adds that the Rajoo Innovation Centre (Rajoo's R&D wing) conducts various trials with raw material suppliers to validate their grades in commercial set-up considering cost optimisation for applications like oil packaging with EVOH, mulch film for better yield, cross-lamination film for enhanced properties, etc.

'Furthermore, Rajoo has put in R&D efforts in designing a sheet extrusion system to produce EVA encapsulant sheet for solar panels to meet the global demand from the renewable energy sector and is the first-ever Indian machinery supplier to install the line,' Jinesh explains.

Rajoo uses recycled materials for trials wherever feasible to reduce the deployment of virgin polymers thus helping to reduce its carbon footprint. Additionally, Rajoo has invested in a 1MW solar power set-up to run the complete operation through renewable energy. 'As mentioned earlier, energy efficiency in the machines is a continuous process at Rajoo. Higher output levels and automation contribute to a reduction in wastage at manufacturing levels and also in subsequent converting operations,' he states.

Comparing the southern African and Indian converting markets

When it comes to comparing the challenges in the South African and southern African converting markets versus those in India from a practical (load shedding, raw material supply, etc.) and legislative (extended producer responsibility regulations and packaging product bans) point of view, Jinesh says that the markets are similar, but volumes in India are much larger.

'The South African market is more used to technology and equipment coming from the developed world, but return on investment has become a challenge due to rising costs in the country in addition to the forex rate fluctuation,' he comments. 'And this is where there is an opportunity for Rajoo Engineers, which offers value-for-money solutions. Rajoo has successful installations in various parts of the world and satisfied customers in South Africa with multiple machines, which is evidence of their trust and confidence in Rajoo technology.'



The Pentafoil five-layer polyolefin dedicated co-extruded blown film line.

Polyflex supports the Ugandan corrugated market

POLYFLEX AFRICA now has an operating facility near Kampala in Uganda, which complements the group's facilities in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Kenya and Mauritius.

'This new plate processing plant has an integrated workflow, from the exposure unit through to finishing. Coupled with the powerful Polyflex premedia backbone, the finished results are upgrading standards in the local packaging market,' maintains group CEO Brett Pollock.

Brett adds that the initial objective is to support Redcorr's newly established corrugated boardmaking and printing plant outside Kampala. 'The two printing presses are taking full advantage of the high-quality printing plates received and customers are impressed with the vibrant line and tone work of the finished cartons,' he reports.

The Polyflex team explains that its current commitment is ensuring that the start-up is robustly bedded down. Thereafter, it will be offering services to the wider Ugandan packaging market.



West Africa's largest packaging, plastics, food processing and print exhibition now comes to Ghana


120+
EXHIBITORS


2,500+
VISITORS


20+
COUNTRIES REPRESENTED


DISCOVER THE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR YOUR BUSINESS






PROPAK
GHANA 2023

PACKAGING • PROCESSING • PRINTING • PLASTICS

6-8 JUNE 2023

GRAND ARENA | AICC • ACCRA • GHANA



 propakwa  propakwa  propakwa

www.propakghana.com

BE PART OF THE TRANSFORMATION

The largest exhibition for the packaging, plastics, printing and processing sectors in West Africa is coming to Accra to better serve the market in Ghana and surrounding countries. Elevate your business with access and connections to a verified audience of buyers, business owners and potential customers looking to build and innovate their supply chains and factory floors.

BOOK YOUR STAND TODAY

Thomas Salussolia

+44 (0) 207 886 3028 | +44 (0) 7530 823059

Thomas.salussolia@montgomerygroup.com



Print Matters

DIGITAL PRINTING

The latest evolution at Midcomp's Innovation Hub

FINISHING MATTERS

Premium finishing capabilities from Foilworx, Leonhard Kurz and Scodix

FLEXO FORUM

Yamada Lubrication explains the benefits of air-operated double diaphragm pumps

AUTOMATION UPDATE

How to enable all-shore processes with the right software

PRINTING INDUSTRY NEWS

Printing SA's Central Chamber Golf Day; Management changes at the European Rotogravure Association





FAST. PRECISE. EFFICIENT.

Create **bespoke short-run packaging** fast, with a **Digital Print + Cut Solution** that gives you the edge.



HP Latex R2000 Flatbed Printer

HP PageWide XL Pro 10000

Zünd G3 Digital Cutter



Digitally Print



Digitally Cut



Perfect Packaging

PERSONALIZED PACKAGING MADE EASY

BOOK AN ONLINE OR ON-SITE DEMO TODAY!

Hub of added value

MIDCOMP has always set itself apart by creating a world-class Innovation Hub that houses leading large format digital printing and finishing equipment such as the latest HP Latex technology printers in 1.6m and 3.2m formats, a Latex 2.5m Hybrid flatbed printer, various dye sublimation options and a top of the range Zünd G3 Digital Cutter, says CEO Rob Makinson.

The latest arrival to be commissioned in the Randburg-based customer supporting facility is the Latex 2700W 3.2m printer that uses fourth-generation Latex inks. 'This printer has created waves in the industry because of its unequalled colour vibrancy and gamut, rock solid adhesion and scratch resistance and its class-leading environmental credentials,' Rob maintains.

According to Rob, Midcomp was privileged to demonstrate the printer's capabilities at the Sign Africa and Africa Print exhibitions at Gallagher Estate in September 2022, ahead of the official European launch in October. 'The Latex 2700W has now proven itself in traditional dye sublimation applications for outdoor gazebo, parasol and umbrella production, creating durable (two to three years) outdoor prints with colour depth very close to dye sublimation,' he states. 'When compared to UV printers in this segment, it is far ahead in terms of image "pop and quality". Additionally, the inks are completely non-toxic with the cardboard ink containers bearing absolutely no safety warnings, unlike traditional UV printers with their black bottles and warning indicators.'

Rob also reveals that Midcomp is busy creating a customer loyalty programme, giving complete access to all the equipment in the Innovation Hub to its PPU and PPUGRO customers. 'We have always claimed to be a "Catalyst for Growth" and now we are putting our money where our mouth is. Our loyal Pay Per Use (PPU) and PPUGRO customers – who pay a customised fixed rate per square metre and receive all consumables, service maintenance kits, labour and spare parts – will enjoy exponential growth in their businesses by having access to equipment that they would normally only dream of for product testing, setting up of colour profiles, rapid prototyping, short-term capacity issues or overcoming production downtime,' he enthuses.

The other major news at the Innovation Hub is a change in management, with Sean Davis emigrating to join his family in the UK and Gavin Norton taking over the reins.

Sean Davis joined Midcomp in February 2017 to head up HP PageWide XL printer sales and took over as the iHub manager from Sean Greer in September 2021, when the latter became HP Indigo and Industrial PageWide's printing country manager.

'Joining Midcomp was the easiest job transition I have ever made because I already knew two-thirds of the staff from talking to them at trade shows or



Gavin Norton (left) has taken over as manager of Midcomp's Innovation Hub from Sean Davis, who is emigrating to the UK.

industry conferences and because everyone treats each other like family.'

Sean lists his highlights with the company as being part of the team that Rob put together to manage the company's move and consolidation of three premises under one roof in Ferndale, seeing new technologies come to the marketplace and being able to demonstrate these for customers (in-person or via online platforms) as well as watching team members grow. 'Fils Ndombe and Zacharia Kaka are prime examples of Midcomp's six-week training programme to provide skills and job placements for 18 previously unemployed candidates within the printing industry, who would struggle to find apprenticeship opportunities elsewhere. Fils studied electrical engineering, became a machine operator in the iHub and has now moved into our engineering department. Zach used to work as a packer in our warehouse and is now able to produce the most amazing results on any of the machines in the iHub. I really hope Midcomp can reinstate this training programme soon – it had to be put on hold due to the impacts of the pandemic.'

Sean agrees that Rob was 100% right when he said he would have fun and enjoy what he was doing at Midcomp. 'It has been incredible to be part of the business model, from the launch of the PageWide XL range and PPU plus PPUGRO programmes, including identifying and resolving the challenges and errors, to their current evolutions as value-added propositions for so many print shops.'

Sean's successor, Gavin Norton, has worked across consumables and HP large-format printer sales (1.3 to 1.6m wide) for the past 15 years. Although his one-month handover has been a steep learning curve in terms of getting to grips with the finer points of the 3.2m wide Latex printers and the Zünd G3 Digital Cutter, Gavin credits the skills of operators Noel Ncube and Zacharia Kaka in terms of bringing him up to speed quickly. 'Additionally, Sean has gotten me off the ground running on all other aspects and has been an amazing mentor. I look forward to growing the iHub even further and revealing our future plans to customers later in the year,' Gavin concludes.



Invest small
Print **BIG**



ENFOCUS

Wide Format Solution

- Connect input software
- Job onboarding
- Quality control
- Customer's approval
- Prepare for production
- Connect output device

For any wide-format print technology and for many types of products such as signs, POS display, interior design, textile, billboards, vehicle wrapping, among others.

Explore Enfocus
Wide Format
Solution



✉ nicky@colorflowsolutions.co.za
🌐 colorflowsolutions.co.za

Printing SA's Central Chamber Golf Day

THE annual Printing SA Central Chamber Golf Day is taking place on March 10 at the Glendower Golf Club in Edenvale and members, non-members, stakeholders and customers are invited to join.

The aim of the golf day is to create an environment where everyone can wind down, network and interact with other industry players.

Green fees include a complimentary golf shirt, halfway house, on-course refreshments, dinner and drinks and a goodie bag for each player. Prizes will be awarded for the top 10 pairings, the four nearest the pin and the four longest drives.

The cost per fourball is R2 600 (ex VAT), per member is R650 (ex VAT) and per non-members is R750 (ex VAT). Non-players are welcome to attend at a fee of R200/person (ex VAT).

Tee-off is at 11am. Players are requested to arrive 30 minutes before tee-off for registration.

For bookings, contact Rorisang Ramoshebi on 011 287 1160 or email: rramoshebi@printingsa.org.

Management changes at ERA

JAMES SIEVER has retired as secretary general from the European Rotogravure Association (ERA). His successor, Stefani Dhami, has worked in various marketing communication and event organisation positions in the entertainment, IT and automotive industries.

ERA president and GM of Bobst Italia, Davide Garavaglia, says: 'I'd like to thank James for his more than 22 years of service to the association and contribution to the industry. Our goals are to improve the documentation, training, and communication level for our members, as well as to reach out to new markets and collaborate with other printing institutions. I am confident Stefani will bring a great motivation and support to this transformation process and that she will be a very valuable partner for our members.'



WE'RE SOCIAL!

With over 18 000 followers and likes on LinkedIn and Facebook, why not follow us to have all the industry news at your fingertips!



@Packaging & Print Media



@packagingmag

www.packagingmag.co.za



Finishing first

Brand owners are seeking to add value to their labels through decorative tooling, special effects and exquisite finishing, a trend that's driving the converting and finishing equipment market. Embossing and foiling are top choices for catching consumers' attention, providing premium finishing for luxury goods, reports **Anton Pretorius**.

WITH only seconds to persuade potential consumers, the labels and packaging on products are just as important as the product inside. In fact, real value in label production is what's required in today's highly-competitive retail market, including the right converting and finishing equipment necessary to integrate efficiencies.

Johannesburg-based Kemtek's pursuit of the highest quality and most innovative technologies for customers have resulted in the South African introduction of the Scodix Ultra 6000, a UV inkjet digital finishing unit for enhancement and tactile effects. Kemtek's head of digital print solutions Carl Zerle says the Scodix Ultra 6000 is perfect for CMYK printers working on B1 size sheets looking for a standard size press that fits into any print shop.' Carl believes brand owners' demand for 'adding value to the label or packaging' has become more apparent in recent times. 'Embellishments or foiling is effectively an expensive pass when you're adding special effects through traditional finishing methods. But the Scodix Ultra 6000 offers a digital solution that incorporates multiple effects like spot varnish, embossing or variable foiling, all on one press.'

According to Carl, the finishing possibilities on the Scodix Ultra 6000 are limitless. 'Depending on how complicated print service providers (PSPs) want to make it, the press is capable of placing foils on top of foils, using different colour foils on foil, or even

creating embossing techniques using polymer on top of foil. In the past, PSPs needed a tool to create the embossing look and feel. But with this machine, it can be done digitally, and they are able to add whatever they want.' The Scodix Ultra 6000 offers over 100 qualified substrates including offset, digital, laminated/non-laminated, coated and uncoated with no need for additional set-up. The press supports the Scodix application, with foil, metallic, glitter, spot, cast and cure, VDE, braille and crystal as options.

Carl is of the opinion that the packaging industry is currently in a transition phase. 'We're at a point where brands are focused on creating personalised labels that differentiate them from the rest. As the digital market develops, so does its enhancement technologies.'

He emphasises that brand security and anticounterfeit are other notable trends, as the demand for multiple SKUs increases. 'As more businesses are trading online, it opens the market for other printing and finishing features that can be done digitally, but not necessarily in the conventional sense. This is where printers with progressive technology can add value to products.'

In sync with sustainability and efficiency

Striving to benchmark standards in brand enhancement, Cape Town-based Synchron Markings



is determined to source and supply best-of-breed products for customers. Enter, the KPS SX+ from Leonhard Kurz, which introduces cold transfer formulation that meets these requirements for an attractive and sustainable type of product finishing.

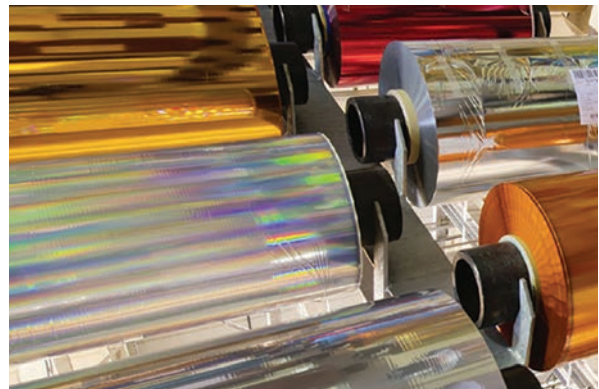
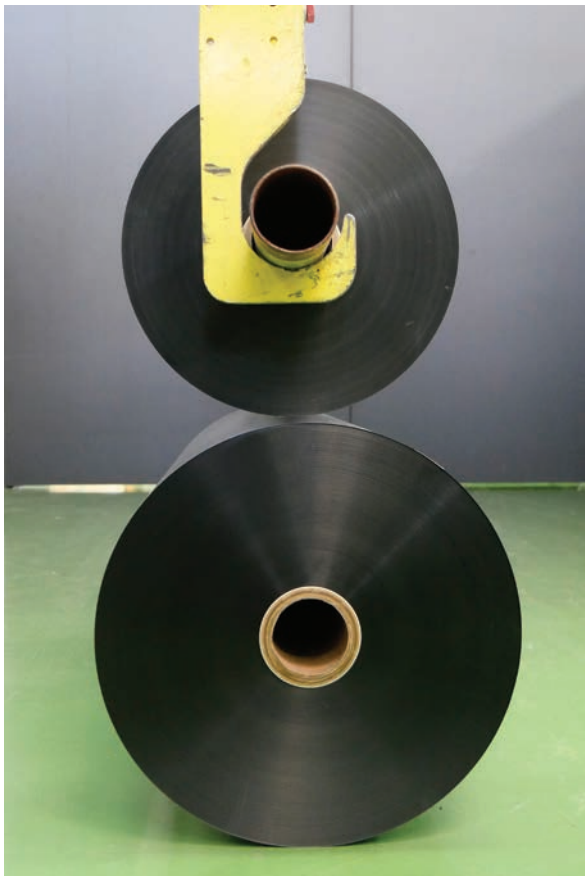
This cold transfer solution is suitable for decorating a wide variety of substrates, including recycled, thin or more difficult to work with materials. Sales and marketing manager Phumzile Dlamini says excellent packaging is characterised by being ‘embellished efficiently and sustainably.’ She notes that the quality of the machine enables high gloss, excellent coverage, edge definition as well as a myriad of design options. With sustainability in mind, Kurz has introduced a thinner PET carrier (6µm instead of 12µm) so that each roll can hold more running metres of usable decoration. This means more time for applying finishing touches and less time spent replacing rolls. ‘Customers will not only reduce the total amount of

applications suffice for a premium look that’s glossy and edge-defined with an unrivalled range of designs.’

Furthermore, Kurz has managed to significantly reduce the thickness of the PET carrier in several transfer products, achieving remarkable material savings. ‘Paper and cardboard decorated with Kurz transfer finishing can be recycled without restrictions by existing collection, sorting and recycling material streams and operations.’

According to Phumzile, the print and packaging industry is ever evolving with new technologies, business models and products being introduced. However, Synchron has managed to keep its fingers firmly on the pulse. ‘Embellishment continues to have a high importance and is expected to grow further still.’

She feels Synchron’s ability to create innovations that promote environmentally friendly production gives the company a decisive competitive edge. ‘This includes reducing the materials we use, applying



KPS SX+ cold transfer technology from Leonhard Kurz enables high gloss, excellent coverage, edge definition as well as a myriad of decorating options for recycled, thin or more difficult to work with substrates. The thinner PET carrier (6µm instead of 12µm) allows each roll to hold more running metres of usable decoration.

plastic waste in production but also achieve improved production times,’ Phumzile comments.

Synchron has other powerful products in its arsenal, including the Kurz MSU and MHC – machines capable of reducing the complexity of multiple grades. ‘Digital Metal® applications continue to grow in sheet fed and narrow web, in combination with spot varnish, and can widen embellishment possibilities,’ she adds. Keeping with international trends, sustainability remains top of mind for Synchron. ‘Kurz’s transfer technology makes the decoration of packaging extremely efficient and resource conserving. A minimum amount of material and

multi-use technologies to our finishes and actively driving Kurz’s RECOSSYS® recycling programme.

Pushing foiling boundaries

Established in 2019, Cape Town-based Foilworx has remained true to its mantra of ‘forging faithfully into the future’. The company prides itself on creative alternatives to the norm, always on the hunt for inventive, constructible and robust solutions to meet all customer requirements.

Foilworx’s technology services span the spectrum



of embossing, debossing, foiling blocks, inline hot foil cylinders as well as combination blocks, unifractor and 3D embossing.

According to company director André du Plooy, the company is delighted to showcase unifractor foiling and 3D embossing techniques to the market (as featured on PPM's September 2022 cover). 'Foilworx produces such a high calibre of work on a daily basis and the team is always looking for ways to push the boundaries of micro texture dies that can be used in a variety of application fields.'

Technical manager Marlene Celliers says the team has seen an increase in demand for 3D embossing, combined with multitextured dies. 'Our customers are seeing the value in getting the most from designs that incorporate unifractor foiling and 3D embossing to make their products more visible, appealing and exclusive.'

On the subject of brand owners' demands, human capital manager Desray du Plooy explains that the biggest challenge in the industry is customers' insistence on sourcing blocks from overseas at exorbitant costs. 'There are excellent and highly-specialised local manufacturers of foiling and embossing dies. It's a constant struggle to assure customers that Foilworx can manufacturer high-quality, extremely detailed and complex products with a faster turnaround time at competitive prices.'

For general manager Cathy Zonomessis, it's essential to have state-of-the-art equipment as well as an exceptional team to be able to provide sustainable



FINISHING TECHNOLOGIES

solutions for customers to ensure the company's reputation as a high-quality yet reliable partner remains intact. 'We're passionate about what we do and over the years, we've gained an in-depth industry knowledge that has enabled us to create award-winning packaging. It's undoubtedly what makes us pulse and thrive.'

Make every **product unique**

with transfer finishes, sustainable embellishments and visual enhancements.

Allow KURZ and H+M products to transform print and product designs into visual and tactile masterpieces making them irresistible for the consumer.

KURZ's transfer innovations create metallizations directly in the printing process, with high efficiency, captivating beauty, and fine filigree patterns.

Maximize customer satisfaction all without ever losing sight of sustainability.



synchron
JUST IMAGINE



+27 21 527 7100



www.synchron.co.za

Yamada Lubrication: customer and pump solutions provider

WIDELY respected for its superior quality, reliable and innovative pneumatic pumps, Yamada Lubrication has made a valuable contribution to the R55-billion (GDP) printing sector with its customer-driven values, goals and ethics.

Founded in 1905 in Japan as a specialised industrial equipment manufacturer, Yamada Corporation has become a global leader in the production and distribution of fluid handling products and pneumatic pumping technology.

Yamada Lubrication was established in 1996 and is the authorised distributor in South Africa and sub-Saharan Africa. Headquartered in Umhlanga, Yamada Lubrication has grown an extensive agent and distribution network across the country, including Cape Town, Johannesburg, Gqeberha and Mpumalanga. It has also branched out into neighbouring markets with satellite offices in Namibia, Zambia, Botswana and Mozambique.

He explains that even though Yamada finds itself in a niche market, the team's creative problem-solving skills is what gives it that competitive edge, and helps the company stay relevant. 'We pay close attention to our customer's individual needs, business operations, behaviour and preferences, allowing us to provide them with cost-saving solutions.'

Most of Yamada's customers in the print and packaging sector operate on an uncompromising schedule. Due to supply and demand, Yamada is compelled to be available on a 24-hour basis. 'Operating under these conditions has been part of our daily business for close on 30 years. This unpredictability is what inspires our staff to wake up the next morning. They're always willing to seize any opportunity to connect with customers irrespective of the circumstances.' Since Yamada's products and services are in such high demand, staff are always prepared to assist customers, and to do whatever is required to get the job done right. None more so than Yamada Lubrication's managing director and founder Rajesh Sewpershad.

Total quality management has been a priority for Yamada, and as a result, the value of a reliable product such as the AODD (air-operated double diaphragm) pump for ink dispensing on printing presses cannot be understated. 'Total quality management enforces the idea to do the job right the first time, every time. In striving to achieve this goal, we save our company and customers time, money and effort on repairing errors.'

Wesley explains that inferior pumps can cause tons of wastage resulting in customer dissatisfaction. He also says a R50 to R60-million state-of-the-art printing press is rendered useless without a quality R20 000 to R40 000 pump to do the job. 'So, when machines are printing 500m/min, and running three or four shifts per day, any mechanical breakdown, even if it's just for a minute or two, could cost a company hundreds of thousands of rands. Hence the reason that a reliable pump is vital to a company's continued operation.'

Proactive and safety conscious

Regulations and standards governing safety, health and the environment are necessary in all businesses, and Yamada is no exception to the rule. The components that often go into the ink for flexographic and lithographic presses are usually raw solvents or highly flammable liquids, which can create a potentially hazardous environment. 'When a mixture of air gases, vapours, mist or dust combine, it can ignite under certain operating conditions. There are cases of printing businesses having gone up in flames as a result.' Yamada pumps are ATEX-approved and EX-rated (explosion-proof), giving business owners peace of mind when operating under potentially dangerous conditions.



Cohen Charles (product support), Rajesh Sewpershad (MD and founder), Joel Sewpershad (technical manager) and Wesley Emmanuel (acting CEO).

According to Wesley Emmanuel, acting CEO of Yamada Lubrication, the company's success can be attributed to the long-standing relationships formed with customers along with being a solution-driven organisation. 'It might sound cliché, but we're dependent on our customers, not the other way around. We believe the customer comes first in everything we do. One of Yamada's most prominent characteristics is to continually work towards improving customer satisfaction.'





Before and after. Yamada Lubrication's air-operated double diaphragm pump for ink dispensing helps operators to prevent wastage and mechanical breakdowns, so that they can do the job right the first time, every time. This results in savings across three metrics: time, money and effort on repairing errors.

FLEXO FORUM

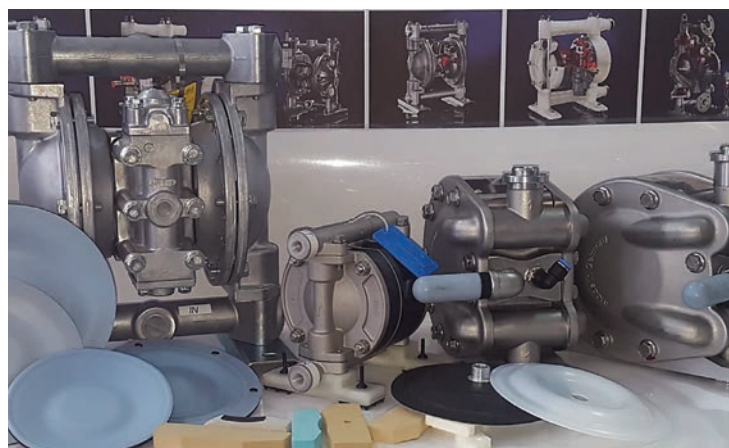
Another component of Yamada's success story is that it has a proactive, rather than a reactive, approach to business. 'As a result, we're capable of supplying the customer on demand. We'll always try and encourage customers to hold sufficient stock of spare parts. But we know it's not always possible, and often, an emergency or breakdown compels them to find spare parts in a hurry. But as mentioned earlier, we understand customers' businesses, which is why we hold an ample supply of spare parts and pumps for our agents, distributors and customers.'

At Yamada, you'll not only find a team with in-depth market knowledge, but one that's truly committed to service. Yamada firmly believes that it cannot do business today with yesterday's products,

and which is why the company continuously strives to evolve and keep up with the latest market trends and technology. 'We use this knowledge to the benefit of our customers.' Yamada understands that customers form the backbone of every business model. By remaining customer- and solution-orientated, it ensures the company stays relevant. 'Our approach means customers remain satisfied and loyal, allowing their business to thrive over time.' This dedicated approach has yielded great levels of success for Yamada. The company's longevity and year-on-year growth in a competitive market can be attributed to the notion that its values, goals and ethics are not only shared by employees, but by customers too.



Yamada AODD Pumps: Versatile and Reliable Positive Displacement Pumps for all Printing Applications



- Yamada AODD (air-operated double diaphragm) pumps, are a type of positive displacement pump.
- These pumps are known for their versatility and ability to handle a wide range of fluids.
- AODD pumps are commonly used in industries such as printing, packaging, ink, and chemical manufacture for transferring, metering, and dispensing fluids.
- They are simple to operate and easy to maintain, making them a reliable choice for many industrial applications.
- AODD pumps are commonly used in flexographic and gravure printers of all brands.
- These pumps are ATEX approved for operation in potentially explosive environments.
- A mixture of air gases, vapors, mists, or dust can ignite under certain operating conditions, making ATEX-rated pumps necessary for these types of applications.

Durban: 59 Meridian Drive, Umhlanga Ridge
Johannesburg: 27 Dytchley Road, Midrand
Website: www.yamadalube.co.za
Email: sales@yamadalube.co.za
Vat: 4450178258 Registration: 2015/315773/07
Director: Rajesh H. Sewpershad



Tel: +27 31 584 1600
Tel: +27 11 310 1885
PO Box 2621
Umhlanga Rocks
4320, South Africa

Windmüller & Hölscher

Fischer & Krecker

Comexi

Uteco

OFEM

BOBST



All-shoring: reconfiguring the roadmap with the right software

HOW we work is changing dramatically and is the reality of doing business in 2023. Enabling all-shore processes means embracing multiple locations, various time zones and countless individual work environments while servicing them all seamlessly. It's all possible with the right technology.

'Long before the lockdowns that accelerated interest in more automated processes, adoption was already gathering speed. Automation doesn't replace the people in the print shop/on the production facility floor or take their jobs; it allows businesses to refocus employees on higher-value, more fulfilling tasks. It also makes it possible to have fewer people onsite and leverage the power of a global talent pool to grow your business more effectively,' explains Pat McGrew, analyst and MD of McGrew Group. 'This type of all-shore process is used by many industries to embrace working on a 24-hour schedule to bring efficiency and optimisation to business processes. Print workflows are uniquely suited to that same all-shore approach to meet reduced turnaround times and tighter deadlines.'

Workflow automation solutions are designed to deliver crucial flexibility, but it requires smart technology implementation and the right platform to build for success. 'But the platform alone isn't enough. It takes the right people to leverage the platform. Alone, neither the platform nor the people will be enough to keep up with the changing pace,' Pat says.

She provides the following tips on how to create the ecosystem to support flexible optimisation.

Rationalisation

To take advantage of opportunities to engage global teams to streamline operations requires a workflow that removes those time-consuming, inefficient manual processes that plague many print environments. The goal is to enable job preparation and approval workflows that provide real-time visibility into each workflow step. Dashboards are an excellent way to show the status of each relevant touchpoint during job preparation, print and finishing. They can be visible to team members in any location and provide alerting mechanisms to deal with bottlenecks or job issues in real-time instead of waiting for the next shift.

To rationalise a strategy that embraces team members in multiple time zones, consider the number of steps in the workflow from the point the job enters the shop to the point it gets onto a press. In most cases, there are dozens of steps and some have loops that extend the time it takes to get a job ready

for production. Automation can make it possible to streamline preparation, but there are always those jobs that need extra attention. An all-shore strategy can ensure that no job waits for the next shift to start for resolution. The combination of all-shoring and automation empowers people to create a smart, streamlined workflow that's flexible, configurable and adaptable.

Templatisation

An essential element in automation is creating a process that will work for most situations. Think of it as building a workflow template for each type of job that comes through the shop. This is the essence of lights-out manufacturing, removing touchpoints and potential errors. Templatising the workflow results in improved efficiency and cost savings, which every shop can use.

Most modern workflow software permits workflow rules and templates, and many make it simple. Using templates to normalise everyday processes makes it easy to build invaluable repeatability that meets your exact specifications. Those processes, once established, are easier to automate.

Configuration

Every business is different, so configuration is essential. Solutions that make it easy to set up dashboards modularly and configure them without custom coding are ideal. 'Solimar Systems has that solution and offers easy-to-access virtual training. It embraces the modularity and scalability that are the key foundational blocks of a workflow that can be configured to meet the needs of a wide range of print operation types. It empowers customers to set it up, maintain it and grow it, while still having someone to call when there's a question,' explains Pat.

Optimisation

'PDF optimisation is at the heart of the Solimar Systems offerings and central to its Chemistry workflow software platform. Its goal is to ensure that PDFs are optimised, ready for production printing and easily repurposed into additional products. The optimisation relates to more than the PDF files, but to every facet of a business. Its goal is to empower everyone to work in the way that best suits them using optimised processes, optimised data, optimised workflows and, of course, optimised people,' she concludes.





Converting Matters

FLEXIBLE PACKAGING

Flexothene invests in the automation benefits of the Bobst VISION CI flexo press

Bordic expands through Polymer Division

Industry trends and digital innovations according to Bobst and HP Indigo

Berry Global's agricultural business aims to balance sustainability, usability and affordability

PLASTICS IN PACKAGING

How Plastics SA is lobbying for sectoral load shedding relief measures

Sustainability at the heart of Innovia's communications campaign

FOLDING CARTONS

Market observations and collaborative projects from Beswick Machinery, BusinessPrint, Magnum Packaging, Masterpack and Shave & Gibson

A shared vision for print perfection

THE acquisition of the Bobst VISION CI flexo press has put Durban-based Flexothene at the forefront of innovative printing technology. It has also strengthened the company's long-standing relationship with press supplier Bobst and local agent Beswick Machinery – both businesses with a reputation for delivering the goods.

For over half a century, Flexothene Plastics has been a trusted manufacturing company in the extrusion, printing, laminating and conversion of flexible plastic packaging material in South Africa. Founded in 1971, the business has grown consistently over the years and in 1985, the company settled into modern premises in Phoenix Industrial Park, a factory space that now comprises more than 18 000m².

The company has homed in on the development of sophisticated materials for automatic packaging lines and achieving high-quality printing. To keep abreast with the latest industry innovations and technology, new equipment and machinery has been added on a regular basis. Managing director Mohamed Bhabha says there's strong emphasis on technical support and service. 'Over the years, we've managed to purchase the latest equipment on a regular basis, which has enabled us to remain at the forefront of technology in the plastic packaging industry.'

Another focus area for Flexothene is hands-on equipment maintenance to limit the risk of downtime and improve overall efficiencies. For this, the company turned to Beswick Machinery at the end of last year to install and commission a Bobst VISION CI flexo

press. Supported by Beswick's competent team of technicians and engineering department, the press was fully installed and has gone into production very successfully.

Riaan Hopley, Beswick Machinery's web fed product manager, says the press's ergonomic design enhancements make it less strenuous and more user-friendly for operators. He reports this ultimately persuaded the Flexothene team of the investment potential of the Bobst VISION CI. 'It not only offers world-class printing quality and great local support, but the press is fast to set up and change over thanks to its automated and patented SmartKEY and SmartSET features.' This combination of automated features reduces consumable and substrate waste to less than two web lengths to achieve saleable products on job start up.

According to Riaan, the SmartKEY perfectly aligns the printing sleeves to ensure pin-point accuracy for the best preregister results. Fully automatic bearing blocks open and close all eight sleeve shafts simultaneously for the quickest possible sleeve changeover and maximum rigidity. In addition, the SmartSET includes the SmartVIEW inline inspection system that provides optimal web visibility at the CI directly after printing. It includes easy access print deck controls for making minor adjustments during start-up.

The Bobst VISION CI press's automated features provide greater control over the machine's performance for all production lengths on a wide



The sum of all parts expertly assembled by Bobst and Beswick Machinery's technicians and engineers.





Early Festive Season present arrival at Flexothene Plastics.



Engineering poetry in motion.

range of substrates. 'Investing in state-of-the-art and intuitive technology like this not only helps improve operator safety, but provides new learning opportunities for staff, which ultimately adds value for our customers,' comments Mohamed.

Bruce Beswick emphasises that to design and manufacture the VISION CI, Bobst assembled the best R&D teams from Italy and Germany to bring this product to life. 'The goal was to create a flexo press for converters looking to add a powerful and reliable production tool to their arsenal. With today's brand owners growing ever-increasingly uncertain of demand levels, trends are shifting towards much shorter run lengths, making the VISION CI an ideal investment choice. The Smart automatic features ensure repeatable process consistently, minimal waste and ease of operation with maximum production speeds of 400m/min.'

Riaan provides further insights into the design improvements of the press. 'The doctor blade

chambers are lightweight and feature quick locking for rapid changing. The inter-colour dryers are equally light, making them easy to remove for cleaning. The bridge dryer features impingement and floating dryers to achieve the maximum printing speed of 400m/min.'

Both Mohamed and Riaan agree that the print quality from the Bobst VISION CI is one of the best they've seen in the market. 'We're confident that the VISION CI will set the benchmark in terms of print and dot quality at maximum speed, a prospect that once seemed almost unlikely,' states Riaan.

The team at Flexothene is very pleased with the print quality, performance and reliability of the press thus far and is looking forward to building on the long-standing supplier/customer relationships that have been formed. 'The press has met our expectations to date, and we are satisfied that with a local technical presence in Durban, Beswick Machinery will fulfil our after-sales support needs well into the future,' Mohamed remarks.

Sustainability, usability and affordability

BERRY GLOBAL'S agricultural business is adopting a circular approach to reducing plastic waste and developing more sustainable solutions that remain functional and affordable for customers of its silage bales, silage sheets and grain bags.

To achieve this, Berry is focusing on products that are fully recyclable, the downgauging (light weighting) of products and incorporating post-consumer recycled material.

'Our 2025 goal is to use at least 30% circular plastics in our products,' explains Tony Nawar, VP of Sustainability, Strategy and Innovation. 'The development of new sleeve packaging, bale wrap manufactured with patented ProTechnology and Sustane bale wrap with a proportion of

recycled material are all practical examples of how sustainability is taking centre stage in our business.'

With ProTechnology, for example, Berry asserts it has succeeded in making agricultural films up to 25% lighter and thinner than conventional alternatives. This enables more length per roll, which means that fewer are needed to wrap the same number of bales, reducing transport and storage requirements and CO₂ emissions.

Additionally, the business has replaced cardboard boxes for transporting the bale wrap with sleeve packaging. It maintains that this reduces the use of packaging material and offers a convenient recycling alternative.



Flexibility as a growth enabler



WHETHER it's the need to adapt due to external pressures, such as raw material price hikes, skilled staff shortages and supply chain challenges, or the pressure to be at the forefront of the sustainable packaging revolution, the flexible packaging industry requires more flexibility than ever.

'At Bobst, we understand the challenges that converters and brand owners are facing and we are working hard to help them stay ahead of an ever-shifting curve,' says Sara Alexander, Bobst marketing & communication manager: Flexible Packaging

Sara gives the good news first: the flexible packaging market is more buoyant than ever. MarketsandMarkets' global forecast suggests that the category is projected to grow from \$160.8-billion in 2020 to \$200.5-billion by 2025. 'This upwards trend will likely continue due to increasing demand for flexible packaging in the food and beverage, medical and consumer goods industries among others,' she continues. 'For these industries, flexible packaging solutions still provide the optimal combination of protection, user convenience and enhanced aesthetic appeal.'

Leading the sustainability charge

Sara says the issue in the past has been sustainability, but the flexible packaging industry is leading the charge to meet consumer and brand owner

expectations in this area. 'With a significant number of major brands, including the likes of Coca-Cola and Nestlé, having pledged to make all their packaging recyclable by 2025, our industry is answering the call,' she remarks.

A major milestone was reached at K 2022 when Bobst with its partners revealed oneBARRIER, a family of alternative and sustainable solutions. This includes oneBARRIER PrimeCycle – an EVOH-free, topcoat-free solution with full PE barrier that is an alternative to metallised polyester film. 'As a polymer-based mono-material, which is recycle-ready while retaining excellent barrier qualities, it is a potentially groundbreaking development for sustainable packaging,' Sara explains (turn to page 19 for details).

Automated, connected workflows

Meanwhile, the industry is facing extraordinary pressures due to global supply chains, resource and skilled labour shortages. In an industry already under pressure to deliver smaller lot sizes in shorter timeframes than ever before, these added pressures are making automation more essential.

'Bobst is introducing greater automation at the machine level and across the entire workflow,' she maintains. 'At the heart of this vision is Bobst Connect, an open architecture cloud-based platform linking pre-press, production, process optimisation, maintenance and market access, and orchestrating the entire production process from the client's PDF to the finished product.'

Sara adds that another major development in 2022 was the launch of One complete solution, a range of tailored packages of end-to-end solutions by Bobst to create a perfect flexible packaging workflow for converters, based on their specific production needs. 'It's a portfolio of end-to-end workflows that connect all steps – with a choice of solutions from production file and pre-press through to the reels of printed or laminated substrates, or of high barrier functional films or paper – to make the whole process smoother and servicing considerably easier.'

'Although there is a lot of unpredictability in the current environment for the flexible packaging industry and beyond, we believe we have the tools to give converters the flexibility they need to succeed, whatever the future holds,' she asserts.



STITCHING MACHINES

Designed to close a wide variety of industrial packaging materials including paper, plastic, woven polypropylene and jute bags.

Call us today on:
+27 11 613 8024

email: info@bucklepack.co.za | www.bucklepack.co.za



Golden Tree Holdings through its Bloemfontein-based manufacturing plants New Tech Packaging and Concord Packaging and its Estswatini-based facility called Swaziland Polypack has the capacity to produce approximately 200 million traditional woven polypropylene and BOPP laminated bags annually.

35 years of bagmaking excellence

GOLDEN TREE'S origins can be traced back more than 50 years, when it established one of the first woven polypropylene plants in Taiwan. Its South African operations commenced production in 1987. After humble beginnings, the group has grown over the past 35 years into a leading southern African regional manufacturer of polypropylene packaging materials.

Golden Tree operates the largest woven polypropylene manufacturing facilities in sub-Saharan Africa, reports MD Sylvia Lin. It manufactures high-quality woven polypropylene bags, BOPP laminated polypropylene bags and a variety of flexible packaging materials, including form-fill-seal bags, four-side seal and box pouches as well as other stand-up pouches.

Woven polypropylene material and bags are produced by Bloemfontein-based New Tech Packaging and Swaziland Polypack in Ngwenya, Kingdom of Eswatini, while flexible packaging is produced by Concord Packaging in Bloemfontein.

The average age of equipment in the group's plants is between two-and-a-half and three years. This ensures that Golden Tree is always using state-of-the-art modern technology sourced from leading manufacturers in Europe and Asia. 'This commitment to upgrading equipment benefits our loyal customer base, ensures that we produce products in the most efficient manner and contributes to the growth of the company,' says Sylvia.

She adds that Golden Tree has in the past 10 years intensified its focus on using materials and equipment that produce products in a more environmentally friendly and energy efficient manner. 'We work with

a global supply chain of material suppliers and endeavour to make products that are more recyclable and environmentally friendly,' Sylvia states.

Golden Tree Holdings is also committed to employee training and skills development. 'We believe training is fundamental to the successful implementation of the good hygiene practices and food safety principles required by HACCP and ISO 22000:2018.'

According to Sylvia, the main challenges during the past two years for flexible, woven and BOPP laminated bag manufacturers have been the sourcing of various grades of raw materials used in the manufacturing process, both from local and international suppliers. 'To date, Golden Tree has managed to navigate these challenges successfully and has continued supplying our loyal customer base with the top-quality products they are accustomed to,' she maintains. 'This has come at great cost financially to Golden Tree as higher prices were paid for materials components and equipment by the group to maintain our position as a leading packaging industry manufacturer. However, the upside of these challenges has been that we were forced to invest in better equipment and to develop and implement strategies for reducing our reliance on traditional energy supply.'

Sylvia also points out that the demand for quick adjustments in the design of packaging materials both from a printing and construction point of view is growing and Golden Tree's ability to work with both suppliers and customers to make this happen will ensure that it continues to grow its market presence.





Southern Africa's trusted Polymer supplier.

- Supplier of commodity polymers into South Africa and Africa
- Extensive local infrastructure to service all regions
- Experienced team in commodity trading

T +27 11 880 5200 | sales@bordic.co.za

www.bordic.co.za

Aiming to hit the perfect note with polymers

FOLLOWING the opening of its owner-managed 7 000m² warehousing facilities – two equally-sized warehouses split by a yard where cargo is separated into filmic materials for warehouse one and polymers and papers for warehouse two – and expanded slitting facility capabilities, with three slitters to slit master rolls to customers' specific requirements, in Clairwood, Durban in early 2022, Bordic has diversified its business model and entered the polymer supply sector.

This was the next logical step in the company's organic growth process as a well-established supplier of plastic films and paper stock to flexible packaging and labelling converters across southern Africa, especially after polymer supply industry veteran Les Whittal joined the team in 2022.

Les, who now heads up the Polymer Division, has nearly 33 years' experience in the sector and his know-how is vital in the roll-out process for Bordic because the sale of raw materials – as opposed to rollstock film or paper – is a new venture for the company.

'Polymers are traditionally high-volume, quick turnaround commodities used by many of Bordic's customers in the flexible packaging sector who already extrude and laminate films, so our plan is to supply material to them and to diversify into other value-added market sectors,' Les explains. 'We have been thinking outside of ticking standard boxes and spent most of last year laying the groundwork for projects within South Africa as well as how to work with suppliers to export to neighbouring markets such as Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and Botswana. This includes negotiating agreements with large trading houses. My understanding of the materials, principles and ethics of their operations, with Bordic's strong balance sheet behind me, is helping to navigate the market transitions that we are witnessing.'

He also points out that Bordic strongly believes in the untapped opportunity to add value to small



Les Whittal, head of Bordic's Polymer Division (pictured right), with DBC Plastic's MD, Rogan Robertson, and production director, Roy Haripersad, at the opening of the warehouse and slitting facility in Clairwood, Durban.

and medium-sized converters by managing the potential complications of the many different material grades they require and warehousing the 300 tons of dedicated stock they can't afford to store on-site for three months, especially when quick turnaround times and service excellence are key.

He emphasises that the Bordic team possesses the necessary skills and capacity to manage the unpredictable shipping costs, supply delays and challenges of getting material through the ports, where documentation problems can clog up supply lines and delivery to customers.

Sales director Craig Lloyd adds that the warehouse and slitting teams play a vital role in getting Bordic across the finish line each day to meet customers' requests because they handle the large raw material volumes and take direct control of customers' logistics-related queries to improve lead and delivery times. 'Equally important are the group of service providers behind the warehouse and the three divisions, which allow each team to doggedly pursue world-class customer service, he concludes.



We'll ensure you **always** get the best results

Leading manufacturer and supplier of multi-layer t.nano cast stretch, plastic liners, top covers, shrouds and colour films in South Africa.



For further information

Gauteng 011 974 1811
Cape Town 021 948 2215

E-mail peter@taigan.co.za.

www.taigan.co.za

 **TAIGAN**
M-STRETCH

Partnerships and responsibility initiatives drive compliance

AS a result of South Africa's population of 59 million individuals, there is growing pressure to limit the quantity of packaging waste disposed of in landfills and that litters the environment. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Regulations are a crucial tool for addressing the rising levels of packaging and plastic pollution. EPR necessitates that brand owners and product manufacturers, converters, importers and retailers (the producers of packaged goods) manage their post-consumer packaging waste.

In essence, this means that the producer is responsible for ensuring that the packaging products it places onto the South African market do not harm the environment after consumers have finished using them and that the proper post-use treatment takes place.

Governments worldwide have implemented EPR to control this issue and South Africa followed suit in May 2021 by enacting mandatory EPR under Section 18 of the National Environmental Management Waste Act (59 of 2008).

The introduction of EPR schemes makes businesses accountable for the products they place into the local market throughout their life cycle. All stakeholders in the value chain are responsible for EPR and need to be subscribed to an EPR scheme(s).

The key requirements for producers to understand are that they need to register with the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DFFE) as well as a Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO) that will establish and implement an EPR scheme, which contains the entire value chain on their behalf, pay the appropriate monthly levy to the EPR scheme, fulfil monitoring and reporting obligations as required by the Act, and commit an offence if they contravene or fail to comply with the regulations. Producers or PROs convicted of an offence under the regulations are liable to an appropriate fine, imprisonment for a period not exceeding 15 years or both a fine and imprisonment.

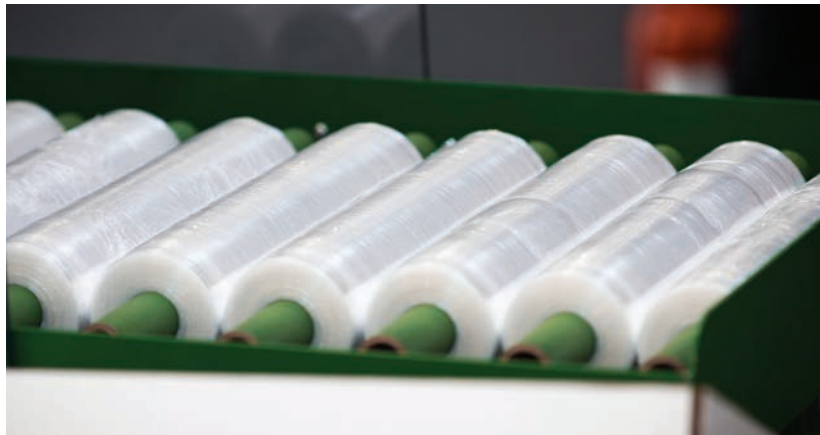
How does Taigan M-Stretch™ assist its customers with meeting key compliance requirements?

The team analyses any problems and conducts yield tests to provide the correct solutions rather than just products. 'When a customer comes to us, we provide that business with an integrated packaging solution, which is premised on our "Going Green" environmentally conscious approach,' explains managing director and shareholder, Peter McCullough.

Taigan M-Stretch's t.nano multi-layer cast stretch

film is manufactured by state-of-the-art 33, 55 and 67 layer cast extruders and uses advanced nanotechnology to deliver hand wrappers and machine rolls which are stronger, thinner, sustainable and more stretchable.

Taigan products ensure consistent performance, which will reduce pallets yields and, therefore, costs per pallet. 'We also provide training that educates customers on optimising wrapping, reducing costs per pallet and unnecessary wastage. This is especially important as the levy incurs an extra bottom-line cost per ton,' Peter states.



t.nano machine rolls represent the next generation in load stability and safety, offering more stable palletised loads, better retention values and stronger, stretchable and puncture resistant film. Their enhanced clarity offers optimum product appearance and allows for easy barcode scanning.

'Our core recycling programme maximises core usage to an average of four uses per core. Additionally, our t.nano products are made from 30% post-recyclable content, which makes them more environmentally responsible thanks to a reduction in CO₂ emissions and a conscious drive to use less plastic per pallet. This is made possible through using the latest folded edge technology and pre-stretching the films to 300% to provide better yields, which require less energy to be expended during the wrapping process,' he reports. Taigan's rolls are also packaged in boxes made from non-virgin recyclable corrugated paper, which is reusable and sustainable, and to offer enhanced product protection.

'Taigan is committed to working closely with customers by ensuring we meet their environmental, social and corporate governance mandates, while still supplying them with a market superior product,' Peter concludes.





The timeless design and overall distinctive shape of the Onyx Go have been obtained by disrupting a unique solid block – separating it into the core print unit and the complementary high-tech unit – and creating coherence by enclosing them in a simple and unified volume, unique macro and solid shape. This design represents the seal of quality on the performance that the press delivers.

It's a go across six performance metrics



UTEKO launched the Onyx Go central impression (CI) flexo press at K 2022, which has been created according to performance-driven design principles to place the operator at the centre of the new design and add unique ergonomic features that help maximise functionality and productivity.

The Onyx Go offers the fastest printing speed in the short-run flexo segment at up to 400m/min, which enables converters to print up to 50 million square metres annually across three print widths: 820, 1 020 or 1 320mm.

It also provides the fastest changeovers in the ultra-short and short-run flexo segment at under three minutes to set up printing pressures and register, enabling converters to gain up to 240 extra hours of production/year compared to competitor solutions.

Active Pack allows converters to equip their Onyx Go presses with top-notch sustainability technologies. Active Pack consists of three components: Active Start, Active Ink and Active Dry. This package can save converters more than €100 000 annually on energy and material consumption and actively helps them to repay the machine in a shorter time.

This is thanks to the Active Start feature that automatically recognises printing plates and sets the printing pressure and register. The system recognises the cliché's 3D characteristics and transmits the printing set-up information to other machine components such as the drying and inking systems and ensures repeatability across different jobs.

Active Start, also, automatically adjusts the printing pressure among the cylinder, cliché and substrate almost instantaneously, enabling repeatable performances over time.

Sustainable

The automatic printing pressure and instantaneous register setting system make it possible to minimise material waste to 18m during the set-up phase of each print run. Additionally, the patented Active Dry® system (part of the Active Pack package) optimises energy consumption by regulating the drying power according to the printing characteristics. It is assisted

by the ventilation system, which guarantees perfect insulation and saves up to 50% of annual energy consumption versus comparable flexo presses without this patented Smart Drying system.

It is complemented by the Active Ink dosing system (part of the Active Pack package), which has been positioned on the side of the CI drum to optimise the ink flowing into the circuits. This dosing system detects the printing characteristics on the cliché, optimises the quantity of ink pumped to each printing unit and saves up to 60% on annual energy consumption compared to other flexo presses without the Active Ink system.

The Sprint Wash system saves up to 40% of solvent consumption annually versus comparable flexo presses on the market because it completes washing cycles in less than three minutes and enables constant washing performance on all the printing units, regardless of their position.

The Dynamic Ink (Dynamic Doctoring) system automatically regulates ink flow by means of dynamic dumpers placed on the sides of the doctor blade, which open/close and optimise inking system pressures for greatest printing quality. Uteco's R&D team has also chosen an extremely light doctor blade (less than 10kg) to reduce blade wear and consumption.

Compact

With a total footprint of 50m², the Onyx Go has been designed to minimise the off-press operating space and free operational space on the back of the machine.

Easy and safe to operate

Uteco's engineers have strived to create a noiseless design by selecting materials to reduce vibration and noise levels to below 80db. Operators can regulate ergonomics through the Dynamic/Adaptive Cockpit by adjusting the level of the high-tech HMI according to their height and maximising its automated features, which are connected with external systems for real-time data monitoring and processing.



Operators can also easily remove the upgradable Dynamic Drying Box (toolless) with a single move to directly access the central drum when cleaning and maintenance are required. Furthermore, they can easily replace the drying box nozzles with different shapes to enhance the drying power when required.

Operators no longer need extra equipment or ladders to reach and change higher colour units, thanks to the two Dynamic Lifts that have been integrated within the CI Unit and positioned in correspondence with the first and last colour units.

It is now easier and safer for operators to substitute the splice guards for washing and maintenance purposes because they don't need tools – the Sprint magnetic system allows them to simply attach and detach these guards.

Operators can easily access the upper part of the machine by means of a catwalk that extends to the total length of the press and a fixed ladder positioned on the rewinder rear side. This design makes it easier for them to safely monitor the web and easily access the CI drum and the drying system for cleaning and maintenance.

Versatile

The Onyx Go has been designed as a multi-ink (water- and solvent-based), multi-material (plastic films, aluminium, paper, cardboard and laminates) and multi-industry (food and beverages, pharmaceutical, health care, personal care home, office and industrial) CI flexo press.

Converters can boost the Onyx Go's end-use application flexibility even further by ordering a



Uteco kit configuration best suited to their needs.

1. Water-based KIT: These printing inks demand special requirements, for example, stainless steel, pH control and anti-foam.

2. Heavy Duties KIT: Provides the proper management of heavy materials such as cardboard or paper, which require special tensioning and web threading mechanisms.

3. Tropicalisation KIT: Production sites located in warm climates need extra care on the cooling systems and treatment of substrates, especially if the latter are very extensible.

4. Aluminium KIT: For production environments using aluminium substrates.

Uteco is represented in southern Africa by Sareltech. Visit www.sareltech.com for more information or email: marketing@sareltech.com



JUST ENERGY TRANSITION (JET)

How is the SA Packaging Industry responding to this?
Thursday 23 March, 13h00-14h30

The webinar which will address key energy related topics such as:

- 💡 Process Methodology for Energy Management Systems
- 💡 Utility Audits, Energy Audits and Measurement and Verification Methodologies
- 💡 Optimising Energy Management Systems in your plant
- 💡 JET and Decentralised Energy Systems
- 💡 ISO 50001:2018 (Energy Management System)

This webinar should assist you to evaluate your company's preparation and strategy to deal with energy management and contribution to an industry managed plan for Just Entry Transition.



To register: email Vanessa@ipsa.org.za



Digital adoption key in this growing market

FLEXIBLE PACKAGING is a growing market. In 2019, the global consumer flexible packaging market value was estimated to be \$108-billion, however, by 2024, it is forecast to grow at an annual average rate of 4.4% to reach \$128-billion.

'The market is mostly analogue,' comments Wendy McLoughlin, business development executive at Kemtek, the southern African agent for HP Indigo digital presses. 'On the one hand, it is very conservative and on the other, it is eager for change,' she adds.

Digital adoption is still in its infancy stage, but is making impactful change and growth. Packaging is the one medium you can neither avoid nor exclude. 'Figures show HP Indigo digital customers growing nine times faster than the general flexible packaging market and doubling their print volume (113%) from 2019 to 2022. Digital flexible packaging adaptors are innovators, disrupting the market with short runs and fast delivery,' maintains Wendy.

Market trends

She explains that there are seven trends driving changes in the market.

- 1. Sustainability.** This is not just another trend, rather it is a requirement changing the face of the flexible packaging industry. Sustainability is increasing at every step of the value chain.
- 2. Rise of small brands.** Small consumer packaged goods (CPGs) are eating the share of the giants, fuelled by the personal demands of consumers and an exploding CPG industry that is evolving to keep pace.
- 3. E-commerce.** The world is going digital and so is the shopping behaviour of consumers.
- 4. Generations are changing.** Millennials and Gen Zs are demanding and will become the main buying force in just a few years' time. As per Pinterest Business (1/2022), GenZ-ers bought 80% more new products in the last 12 months compared to other generations. Eighty-three percent want the brands they purchase to align with their beliefs and values.
- 5. Margin compression.** A reality across the fast-moving consumer and retail sectors.
- 6. Personalisation and digitisation of packaging.** These technologies connect digital campaigns with real products. Additionally, smart packaging enhances customer experience and supply chain optimisation as well as digital commerce for enhanced customer-facing and internal operations.
- 7. Agility and fast time to market.** Brands realise the need to be responsive to global movements to boost their popular appeal. Craft brands are disrupting global consumer packaged goods domination. Small brands are looking to play like big brands and big brands want to return to the advantages of being small and fast.

Cassandra Plas, founder of Gezellig Cookies in central Florida, which sells its cookies to speciality

retailers, represents a prime example. Prior to using the advantages of digital, Cassandra packed her popular cookies in a plain pouch with hand-applied labels featuring the company logo on the front and nutrition and flavour information on the back. The front labels were the same, regardless of flavour, so consumers didn't know which was which without turning the package over. 'With digital capabilities we had the flexibility to receive a quick turnaround with no set-up or plate fees, which is extremely important for a small company with many SKUs,' says Cassandra. She was able to order a small volume of each variety, based on the company's sales volume, and put the product on-shelf within a couple of days. 'With the new design, look and feel of vibrant packaging, Gezellig Cookies doubled its sales and is still accelerating.

Happy doesn't begin to describe how we feel about our partnership with our digital printer,' she comments.

So...why digital?

The production floor is becoming more challenging, especially in the 'conservative' flexible packaging market which is still in an analogue mindset. With the power of digital, flexible packaging converters can achieve smart supply chains, higher volumes with lower minimum order quantities (equalling more jobs per day), agility and frequent design changes, sustainable and increased production (but not headcount) and new demands such as brand protection and intelligent packaging features.

'Digital saves you time and money by optimising production,' explains Wendy. 'With HP Indigo technology, most applications can be optimised in the flexible packaging industry: snacks – flow pack, resealable, stand-up pouch, recyclable, compostable, cold seal, lids, flat bottom double-sided gusset, sachets and spouted pouches.'

'Converters can leverage HP Indigo's track record of success, HP has dominated and reshaped the digital flexible packaging market since 2014. HP Indigo press customers have grown their print volume 10 times and many customers' sites have multiple presses installed to cater for the additional business growth,' she concludes.



Rolling blackouts have detrimental effects on SA's plastics industry

FROM manufacturing and production to retail and education, not a single industry is being left unscathed and unaffected by the notorious rolling blackouts that have plagued our country for more than a decade. Plastics SA executive director Anton Hanekom says that the local plastics industry is no exception when it comes to experiencing the negative impact of relentless interruptions in power supply.

'Our industry is especially exposed when it comes to load shedding due to the fact that the processing and production of plastics and plastic products are done primarily through thermal processing. This means that high temperatures must be maintained throughout the manufacturing process,' explains Anton. 'However, without power, these high temperatures cannot be effectively reached and maintained, nor is there enough time between scheduled power outages for the machines used to reach the required temperature for the processes to be restarted.'

Furthermore, when producing and manufacturing large quantities of polymer materials, the extrusion process is required in which the materials are enriched with additives and melted in order for production to be completed successfully. This entire process comes to a halt when manufacturers experience power outages. While restarting the production process may appear simple, there are serious consequences when machines shut down unexpectedly for extended periods.

'During the extrusion or melting process, once the machine shuts down for a three- to four-hour load shedding stint, the materials that were being processed solidify in the machine. This means that the time required to remove the solidified materials, clear the machine and prepare to restart the process from scratch is added to the overall production time,' says Anton. 'A significant amount of time and material is wasted, which has a knock-on effect on operating costs, staffing and production. Revenues are being eroded and thousands of jobs are being threatened in an industry that is a priority sector and contributes approximately 17% of the country's manufacturing GDP,' he adds.

Ripple effects felt by other industries

When the plastics industry faces such severe challenges, it quickly snowballs and affects other closely related and critical industries such as the packaging sector, which accounts for half of the total plastic polymer consumption in South Africa, followed by the building and construction sector.

'Our country has a number of major packaging producers. However, the challenges extend beyond the financial bottom line of these producers as effective packaging is important to avoid food waste, extend shelf life and prevent spoilage or breakage of certain products,' maintains Anton. 'We need to start talking about "packaging security" in the same breath as food security. When plastics packaging production suffers, it leads to increased transportation costs, food waste and inflation.'

Impact of load shedding on the recycling of plastics

During the previous reporting period, the country's plastics manufacturing and recycling industries showed a welcome recovery from the devastating effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, indicating a 4.7% growth rate in 2021. Unfortunately, load shedding threatens to undo these gains and efforts to recoup the industry.

'The recycling process is in essence also an extrusion process based on thermo-processing principles. Profit margins in this industry are already extremely marginal. Add to that rising transportation costs and the need to invest in alternative energy sources such as generators or solar power to stay operational and our recyclers are being brought to their knees when left in the dark for up to six hours at a time,' Anton emphasises. 'Smaller entrepreneurial companies doing collection and baling do not have the funds for alternative energy sources and this causes further bottlenecks in the supply of recyclables.'

Relying on generators does not pose an effective long-term solution for large companies that mass-produce plastic products. Owing to the high cost of diesel, manufacturers find themselves paying double the tax when they use generators. In 2000, government started implementing a diesel refund system to provide full or partial relief from the general fuel levy and the Road Accident Fund (RAF) levy to primary sectors such as agriculture. The refund system is in place for the farming, forestry, fishing and mining sectors. However, during the last budget speech, in light of the electricity crisis, a similar refund on the RAF levy for diesel used in the manufacturing





PERFORMANCE COLOUR SYSTEMS

A division of  Ferro South Africa



The Leading plastics colour & additives manufacturer in Africa

Each product is engineered to meet our stringent quality standards

Johannesburg

Glenn Roppa 082 416 8352
Lurika van Staden 066 186 5533
Jarred Swart 082 736 5326
Thabang Lechalaba 067 027 0785
Ulene Govendar 076 102 8642
Elias Setati 066 083 6640

Cape Town

Brett Pollard 082 691 3758
Barry Shaw 083 408 9226

Durban

Colin Counder 071 363 1829
Ryan Kavanagh 083 702 2996

East London

David Boatwright 083 893 4131

Port Elizabeth

Warren Sinnot 079 889 3099

Zimbabwe

Terence Hoal +263 772 602 339 (cell)
+263 430 5613 (office)

Exports

Richard Jacobs 083 779 9383

www.coloursystems.co.za

process, such as for generators, has been extended to the manufacturers of foodstuffs. 'We believe this refund must be extended to all manufacturing sectors using generators to bring much-needed relief from the general fuel levy and RAF levy,' highlights Anton.

The importance of becoming self-reliant

With the country's power utility predicting at least two more years of load shedding, the plastics industry cannot afford to wait on the government to solve its problems. Anton says that as the representative body of the plastics industry, Plastics SA strongly advises plastic producers to find practical and innovative ways of getting around the power supply issues they face. Load curtailment is another alternative solution for those companies that get their electricity directly from Eskom and arrangements exist whereby Eskom can ask energy users to curtail or reduce their power usage up to a certain percentage of the load.

If no other economically viable solutions can be found, Anton recommends that manufacturers at least bargain for longer periods. The industry would

welcome load shedding cycles of 12 hours or more. In other words, switch off the supply for 12 hours, but then allow manufacturers and recyclers to run continuously for seven days. The stop-start cycles are not the solution for thermo-processing technologies.

As part of government's Industrial Policy Re-imagined, a Plastics Industry Master Plan is being developed to put the industry on a growth trajectory. This plan is already three years in the making and sees an active collaboration between industry, labour and government to develop a vision for the industry, identify blockages and constraints, and develop a set of key actions that need to be taken forward over the short and medium term. 'We are tapping into these resources and partnerships to try and find affordable and workable energy solutions to ensure our industry remains competitive. Whether these solutions involve going off the grid, feeding power back into the grid or using renewable energy, a viable solution needs to be found and implemented as a matter of urgency if we hope to see any form of success in the future,' Anton concludes.

Sustainability at the heart of communications campaign

INNOVIA FILMS has launched a Better Future communication campaign that underpins the company's 90-year role as a leading manufacturer of BOPP film in creating more sustainable and recyclable materials for use in consumer packaging, labelling and graphic film applications.

'As the name Innovia suggests, it's all about innovation and future requirements both from the customer's point of view and in a sustainable sense,' says president Guenther Birkner. 'Hence the new claim: "Pack for progress" and the headline mechanics: "We give the future a better label/package/print" when developing sustainable and recyclable packaging that will benefit our environment.'

Simon Huber, MD of Innovia Films Europe, adds: 'The development of sustainable packaging

solutions and the implementation on a larger scale is in full swing. We have exciting developments to offer for applications such as polypropylene film for mono-material pouches and also polyolefin films that are used for low-density shrink sleeves that automatically detach from PET bottles and float in the recycling process – these examples illustrate how we see a better future for packaging without risking food waste.'

The Better Future campaign will be rolled out globally within the next few months and be the centrepiece of communication activities in the media, at trade fairs, internally and in all the Innovia Films media channels. 'We chose a very clean and modern design to reflect how current our work and film portfolio is for many industries,' comments Marika Knorr, head of Sustainability & Communications.

'As we have a global customer base, we wanted the campaign to be a universal one – and are proud to have achieved a look and feel that works in all regions. Additionally, the campaign design is very flexible, so we can introduce new key visuals for various occasions.'

According to Innovia, its Better Future communication campaign underpins the importance of the company's role and its use of material science in creating more sustainable and recyclable materials for the future, which are used in consumer packaging, labels and for graphic films.



Above the fold

WHEN it comes to brand perception, an elegant yet functional folding carton design packs a powerful punch. We unbox some of the most notable trends in this space.

Of late, market reports in the packaging industry are fixated on the value of inventively designed folding cartons. Lauded for its ability to sway a consumer's purchasing decision, the demand for practical and sustainable folding cartons has compelled local and international manufacturers to wise up on production and technological developments in the sector.

Reaching an estimated value of \$136.7-billion in 2021, folding cartons' growth trajectory is likely to continue moving upwards in the global market. By 2026, Packaging Portal believes its market value will increase to \$172-billion, and Smithers predicts converted carton volumes will reach 61.58 million tons.

Think in (and outside) the box

New technologies and changing consumer demands contribute to the ever-evolving nature of folding cartons. With a greater focus on food safety and sustainability, manufacturers are addressing concerns through improved packaging designs and production technologies.



Folding carton brands printed on Bobst converting equipment, which is represented in southern Africa by Beswick Machinery.

As part of their sustainable packaging drive – removing single-use plastics from their stores – Shoprite Checkers partnered with Shave & Gibson to design a carton to replace the plastic bag carrying its popular rotisserie cooked chickens.

The biggest challenge for S&G's innovation manager Michael Downes was finding a suitable board substrate able to cope with the product's requirements. 'The cooked chicken releases a fair amount of gravy juice and is placed in a heated in-store holding cabinet, so we had to find a board capable of withstanding substantial staining and that was durable enough not to break down in the heat.'



Chicken-in-a-Box was awarded a silver medal in the Perishable Food category of the Institute of Packaging SA's 2022 Gold Pack Awards. The judges lauded the practicality of the design and the ability of Shoprite Checkers staff to self-erect it in-store, which allows for easy distribution, transportation and storage.

The design and production team also had to source a material capable of delivering on the retailer's stringent sustainability requirements while considering the cost of a surface suitable for a consistent and quality litho print.

The size of the chicken in the carton proved to be another hurdle for S&G. 'During the gluing process, we found that the overall size of the carton did not match the parameters of our clamming machines.' But able to think quickly on their feet, Michael and his team decided to go with a self-erecting (unglued) carton.

To stop the sauce from leaking, side locking tabs were introduced to create a webbed edge at each of the four corner points, and a glued window patch was added to make the chicken visible to consumers. In addition, air holes were created and die-cut at the end of each corner to allow for steam emission. To save on expenses, S&G decided on a simple, one-colour graphic that befits a single-use container of this nature.

According to Michael, the Chicken-in-a-Box has been well-received by consumers, many of whom appreciate the retailer's conscious move towards more sustainable packaging. 'Shoprite Checkers has managed to set the tone for eliminating single-use plastics and introducing a sustainable replacement. Eventually, other retailers will follow suit and consider folding cartons as a viable packaging offering.'

Know when to fold 'em ...

Beswick Machinery's managing director Bruce Beswick has noticed a steady uptick in the growth of South Africa's folding carton and corrugated sector over the last few years. He chalks it up several factors, such as substrate substitution, the rise of e-commerce and home deliveries, convenience foods and beverages as well as agricultural exports.

The company's product manager for the sheet-fed division, Martin Attwell, adds that while basic packaging still accounts for the bulk of business, the value-added sector is constantly driving innovations.





Circular thinking in every box.

Our quality carton
packaging is recyclable
and environmentally friendly.



Our quality carton packaging comes in all shapes, sizes and specifications. We design and manufacture innovative, smart, customisable packaging solutions for Agricultural to Industrial to Retail customers and everyone in between. It's carton packaging that's built on trust and integrity.

Our design team consider all aspects from airflow (for agricultural products) to stacking strength, to brand presentation. Mpact Corrugated products are also environmentally friendly, recyclable and made from sustainably-sourced paper.

Who would've thought cardboard could be so impressive?
Contact us for a packaging solution today. Tel: **+27 (0)11 994 5500** or Email: **info@mpact.co.za**

‘Embellishments are becoming more commonplace in the folding carton space as brand owners look to boost a product’s shelf appeal. This has resulted in a need for more complex and flexible printing and converting equipment.’

Marketing director at Magnum Packaging, Andrea Naicker, reports that customers are requiring more customisation options, automation and smart technology during the printing and converting process to increase efficiency and reduce waste. ‘In terms of materials, brand owners are looking for sustainable options such as recyclable and biodegradable materials, and lightweight options to reduce transportation costs.’

Another trend among Magnum’s customers is functional coatings, such as antimicrobial and oxygen-barrier coatings, to increase the shelf life of perishable goods and maintain product freshness. ‘Overall, they are looking for packaging that’s functional, visually appealing and environmentally friendly,’ Andrea comments.

For Masterpack’s managing executive, Stewart Butler, the issue remains pricing. He says the paper and board industry has experienced tremendous price increases, as well as a shortage of raw materials. ‘Although defending the price increase wave big is a driver in the market at the moment, the shortage of raw materials and stock availability presents an opportunity,’ he admits. ‘We’ve also noticed a trend where printers seek cheaper substrates that can perform equally.’

In terms of sustainability, Stewart considers compostability as a viable future solution and a reasonable motivator to increase volumes in the cartonboard sector. ‘Often seen as a solution to the waste problem, customers feel a strong pull towards compostable products.’

Because of the historic, real-world recycling success rate of paper-based packaging, Martin believes folding cartons and corrugated packaging, coming from a renewable resource, is definitely perceived as a more environmentally-friendly alternative. ‘Eventually, it comes down to practicality, the availability of raw materials and the fine line between cost and environmental responsibility.’

Elevating perceptions

Folding cartons have proven to be an aesthetically pleasing and sustainable option for lightweight



products, from cosmetics and fragrances to candles and food, and can be fully customised inside and out, giving companies the creative freedom to express their brand’s personality and identity. Attention-grabbing decorative effects invite consumers to further consider the product inside or connect a brand to specific values.

Stewart agrees that folding cartons have the ability to elevate a brand’s message and perception. ‘Here, we preach the concept of First Moment of Truth (FMOT),’ and we work closely with our customers to achieve this.’ The term FMOT was first coined by Procter & Gamble in 2005, referring to the three to five seconds when a shopper noticed an item in a retail environment.

Bruce concurs that folding cartons and corrugated packaging provide the perfect platform for final product marketing and play a critical role in getting the brand’s message across. ‘This is evident in competitive spaces where choices are endless. It’s also important in the export market where local produce is often displayed alongside more established and recognisable brands. Care is required for packaging to become a brand ambassador, not only for the product but for the country as a whole.’

Massimo Mancini, CEO of BusinessPrint, reports that there’s a definite trend among customers towards sustainable materials with Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification. ‘Customers are seeking more cost-driven and consumer-facing enhancements to boost brand perception.’

He says with a premium look and feel, folding cartons have the ability to augment brand value and shelf appearance. To illustrate his point, Massimo refers to a FMCG customer that decided to move away from plastic sleeves, and use folding cartons instead, for a more customer-centric approach to marketing its brand. ‘We also service lifestyle brand owners who dedicate time and effort to the look and feel of their folding cartons. They firmly believe that this form of packaging adds tremendous value and appeal to their brand.’





FMCG Pack

ANNIVERSARY FEATURE

Foster International Packaging's 25-year journey from South Africa to Ireland and Australia

POUCH PAGEANT

News and views from CTP Flexibles, HP Indigo, Industex and SRF Flexipak SA

LABELLING, CODING & MARKING

The latest radio frequency identification, near field communication and augmented reality smart labelling technology developments from Avery Dennison, Label Leaders and Vollherbst Labels

ENTER-PRENEURIAL PACKAGING

The Graphic Ballroom helps redesign Mama Bongji's cookie packaging to include a digitally printed header card and customisable gift tag

END-OF-LINE MACHINERY

KHS installs high-capacity returnable glass line and two modular labellers at Cervejas de Moçambique brewery

SPICE UP

YOUR PACKAGING GAME WITH US!

With 25 Years of experience in the packaging industry, we are well equipped to handle your packaging needs!

Great packaging has the ability to alter the way a consumer experiences your product, so you can rest assured knowing that by leaving your packaging in our hands, we will ensure that the consumer has a never before experience with your product! From eye-catching designs to functional packaging, we've got you and your business covered.



We supply customisable, innovative packaging:

- Flat Bottom Pouches
- Stand Up Pouches
- Quad Seal Pouches
- 3 Side Seal Pouches
- Spout Pouches
- Retort Pouches
- Reel Packaging
- Sustainable Alternatives



LEAVE THE PACKAGING TO THE EXPERTS!

Visit our website: www.fosterpackaging.com
Or contact us: info@fosterpackaging.com

25 Years of PACKAGING EXCELLENCE



A DIVISION OF  Close the Loop GROUP
Create - Recover - Reuse

Foster International Packaging

Celebrating 25 years as a leading innovative flexible packaging supplier



For a quarter of a century, **Gill Loubser** has tracked Foster International Packaging's admirable progress since CEO, **Joe Foster**, decided to quit the corporate world and strike out on his own.

TWENTY-FIVE years ago, when Joe Foster embarked on an ambitious venture to establish his own packaging business, he remarked: 'It will be very successful; the name Foster will feature strongly in South Africa and internationally.'

How gratifying it is to confirm that bullish prediction was correct!

Some might retort 'it's the luck of the Irish', but Joe

Foster doesn't accept that simple explanation; the ever-affable Irishman has a more prosaic view. 'If you want more luck, you have to work harder and take more chances,' he maintains.

Today, Foster Packaging continues to progress packaging and innovation through the hard work and determination of its strong team of dedicated packaging professionals.

Where it all started

It was in 1998 that Joe Foster left the corporate world intent on fulfilling his dream of 'flying solo', which saw the birth of Foster Packaging out of small back room in



First Logo (1998).

Cape Town. With a focus on the South African market, and working closely with local converters, Foster Packaging began to build its foundation in South Africa.



The first office in Cape Town (1998).



Joe Foster at Propak Africa (2005).



The first products launched in 1998.



2008 saw the launch of a fresh logo.

Taking the 'outsource' route

Joe's initial business model was unusual. He opted to go the 'outsource' route – buying and selling what best suited requirements instead of touting only what he could supply or manufacture. With an established partnership with Schutlok closures, and a well-established relationship with other selected suppliers, Foster Packaging was well equipped to offer the most efficient and cost-effective packaging to meet customers' needs.

'We partnered with selected suppliers who offered the best resources, standards and the constant innovation demanded by our customers,' notes Joe. 'Customers should always feel confident that they're getting the right specification, the right quality, and on-time deliveries – we are committed to being a reliable supplier and our success proves that we've

delivered on this promise. Supplying packaging is not a 'one-off' deal, but an ongoing relationship,' he adds.

Specialising in flexible packaging and bread closures, Foster Packaging became well established within the South African market but Joe had the urge to broaden his horizons! The early inclusion of the word 'international' was also prophetic. With an export programme in place in 1998, a supply base established in China in 2001, and Joe's relocation to Ireland in 2002, to establish a market in Europe, saw Foster International Packaging at the forefront of the global market. From 2003 to 2008, Foster International Packaging saw exceptional growth within European and South African markets, as well as an increase in sales volumes, and in 2013 an office was opened in Johannesburg.

First-ever digital flexible packaging

In 2009, Foster International Packaging established a dedicated short-run digital flexible packaging business in Ireland. Its centerpiece was an HP Indigo ws4500, and this was the birth of Flexible Express. Until then, the business had relied on medium- to long-run high-resolution gravure printing. However, by establishing this dedicated short-run facility, short-run flexible packaging could be supplied to its growing US, Irish and UK markets, as well as supporting the African market via the Cape Town office.

According to HP at that time, this was the first business in the world to establish a dedicated short-run digitally printed flexible packaging facility, meeting short-run requirements for pouches, films, and bags.



Digitally printed pouches.

Customer testimonials

'Congratulations to Foster Packaging on this 25th anniversary! Over the years, Foster Packaging has been synonymous with cutting-edge technology and innovation in the South African packaging industry. Now more than ever, it has become a global player as it continues to provide innovative environmental solutions that meet the demands of brand owners and retailers like ourselves. Woolworths is committed to supporting a circular economy for plastics and like always the company has responded to our call for recyclable packaging solutions, while maintaining excellent on-shelf appeal.'

Don MacFarlane, packaging senior at Woolworths Foods SA

'We have been with Foster Packaging for over 15 years because its main attributes have been quality and service. Where there are issues, Foster Packaging is more than willing to resolve them as soon as possible. We would recommend the company as a supplier. In fact, we have turned away many other suppliers over the years due to the service we receive from Foster.'

Lucius Petersen, procurement manager at Ina Paarman's Kitchen

The Pouch Shop concept takes off



Chris O'Brien and Joe Foster jointly set up The Pouch Shop.

tps the pouch shop

In 2012, back in Cape Town, a sister enterprise known as The Pouch Shop also took flight. Established jointly by Joe Foster and Chris O'Brien, and aimed at start-up ventures, it offered a range of unprinted, off-the-shelf pouches.

This enterprise helps businesses to get going and once they're strong enough to have their own branding on pouches they're passed over to Foster Packaging.

The Birth of O F Packaging

In 2010, Foster Packaging saw a further move, this time to Australia, where Foster Packaging Australia was established, among other things breaking fresh ground by offering digital printing for short-run flexible packaging. 2016 saw a key development – a merger between Foster Packaging Australia and Omniverse, resulting in Omniverse Foster Packaging. Following some years of collaboration, the owners decided to pool their resources, and expertise, creating a broader global footprint, better purchasing power, improved stock management, and more efficient supply chain logistics. The merger shifted both companies out of the SME space, creating a mid-tier supplier as an alternative to major packaging manufacturers and importers.

Says Joe Foster: 'The Australian market needed a nimble local supplier with an international footprint to offer innovation, speed to market and the flexibility to cater for any run length while providing access to a comprehensive range of packaging from accredited worldwide sources.'

In 2019, Omniverse Foster Packaging saw an identity change and rebranded their name to 'O F Packaging',



Omniverse Foster logo (2016).



O F Packaging logo (2023).

and this name has become recognised throughout Australia, and globally. With manufacturing facilities based in Melbourne, in addition to offshore capabilities in China, Vietnam and India, O F Packaging now ranks among the top packaging companies in Australia and Asia-Pacific, providing premium flexible packaging films, pouches, bags, and carton-based packaging products.

Stepping into the sustainability sector

In 2021, O F Packaging and Close The Loop merged to form and ASX list Close The Loop Group (CLG), which led to Foster International Packaging becoming a division of this group. The combining of these two already well-established, sustainability focused entities allowed for advanced innovation in product development, as well as the creation of end-to-end solutions. 'Merging the two companies allows us to create a business suited for the circular economy and gets us closer to achieving the holy grail of recycling packaging back into packaging', says Joe. As with becoming a division of CLG and sustainability becoming the core of its innovation efforts, Foster International Packaging realised that it was more than capable of targeting the South African and international sustainability markets, with the main goal of working towards a more sustainable future for packaging. With recyclable, recycled content, and compostable packaging alternatives,



**Close the Loop
GROUP**

Create - Recover - Reuse

Close The Loop Group Logo (2023).



Dedicated staff at Propak Africa (2022).

the company urges consumers to move away from single-use plastic packaging. By constantly pushing its manufacturing capabilities and packaging design limitations, and investing in research and development, Foster International Packaging is consistently working to improve the sustainability of its packaging, while upholding the high quality of its packaging, as the company believes that a great packaging partner not only provides solutions that meet the needs of brand owners' products, but also addresses industry-wide issues.



Recyclable pouches.

Where Foster International Packaging is today

Foster International Packaging's 25-year journey has not been without its trials and tribulations, but this has moulded the company into what it is today.

Having become a private company in 2017, reaching a record sales year in 2018, becoming a division of CLG in 2021, and having become one of the best flexible packaging companies in South Africa, Foster International Packaging has most certainly grown from nothing into something.

It would not be without the confident sales representatives, establishing relationships with customers and listening to their needs, or dedicated sales administrators, keeping customers in the loop from order placement all the way through until delivery, or driven management staff that ensure the constant smooth running of the business, that Foster Packaging would be where it is today.

With offices in Cape Town and Johannesburg, a team with extensive experience in the packaging industry, storage capabilities, and housing The Pouch Shop, Foster Packaging is well equipped to satisfy

both small and large business needs. Providing flexible packaging formats, sustainable alternatives, and bread clips, Foster Packaging ensures that each product is carefully manufactured and goes through extensive quality control processes to ensure the highest level of both customer and product satisfaction.

As an innovation-based company, Foster Packaging loves to take on new challenges that others have turned down. The company constantly pushes its boundaries to reach new capabilities when it comes to both flexible and sustainable packaging, to meet ever-changing consumer and environmental needs. With 25 years' worth of experience in the packaging industry, the company brings a wealth of knowledge that serves as a solid foundation for innovation. Anybody would be hard pressed to find a company that is as competent and as dedicated as Foster International Packaging!

Who would have thought that such an established company came from such humble beginnings?



A DIVISION OF Close the Loop GROUP

Logo (2023).

The Johannesburg (left) and Cape Town (below) office and staff.



Vouch for the pouch

MANUFACTURERS are capitalising on the latest trends in pouch production and supply. However, printers and converters realise that diversification could be their biggest asset for a competitive advantage in this sector.

Statistics reveal that the global pouch market is expected to grow at 5.3% CAGR, increasing from \$50.5-billion in 2022 to \$84.6-billion in 2032. Future Market Insights reports that industries such as food and beverage, home care, and cosmetics are fuelling pouch sales.

Pouch packaging that's currently on trend includes stand-up, gusseted and pillow pouches. While pouches are typically produced from different materials such as plastic film, aluminium foil and paper, it's forecasted that foil pouches will take the lead in this category as more retailers focus on the food safety and hygiene aspects of their products. Future Market Insights also reports that spouted and inverted stand-up pouches are gaining wider acceptance among major retail sauce and condiment brand owners. Predictions that non-food markets will also experience stand-up pouch usage, particularly in applications that benefit from spouted pouch use are widespread.



An example of a flat-bottomed pouch with a five-panel design that is manufactured by CTP Flexibles.

There are several reasons behind the increasing demand for pouch packaging. According to Paul Prophet, new business executive at CTP Flexibles, sealability, lightweight, printability, eco-friendliness and the wide range of materials available make pouches an attractive option for brand owners. CTP Flexibles serves multiple liquid packaging needs, from concept



In 2022, Mondi Group and Henkel partnered to launch a fully recyclable mono-material refill pouch for Henkel's Pril dishwashing brand, which enables refilling of plastic bottles from flexible pouches.

to final product, filling machine design to installation as well as several laminates from 250ml to 20-litre single pouches and linked pouches manufactured from plain to printed reels. 'Besides serving many liquid product sectors,' says Paul, 'the main market sector for pouch packaging is wine, mostly packed in bag-in-box style with a variety of dispensing taps.'

For pouch production, Paul says the company uses best-in-class lamination machines capable of constructing three-layer laminations in one pass, including 12 high-speed pouch makers capable of 30 styles of pouches and a bank of intellectual capital. He states that glass shortages have revived business opportunities for the industry. 'This, coupled with a consumer drive for sustainable solutions, has kept our R&D department busy with generating new ideas with regards to the environmental and recycling aspect of the product.' In 2019, South African Wine Industry Statistics (SAWIS) reported that flexible bag-in-box packaging had surpassed glass.

Industex CEO Steve Evans, explains this company supplies the South African market with flexible packaging raw materials, including PET products for the liquid pouch market, covering the entire base of converters that have pouching facilities. Steve has seen a steady increase in demand for liquid pouch packaging among customers of late. 'Trends include nozzles, a variety of goods packed in pouches and increased interest shown towards more sustainable packaging that may eventually result in a move away from PET,' he states.

Tom van Herzele, marketing head of SRF Flexipak SA, reiterates Steve's sentiments. 'We're engaging with a number of our customers in this sector on alternative or sustainable solutions in terms of reducing multilayer packaging.' He refers to BOPP films that can be used as a substitute to PET and vice





HP INDIGO LABELS AND PACKAGING DIGITAL PRESSES

25K

JUMP ON THE FAST MOVING TRAIN.
Mid-web digital press for Flexible Packaging and labels



8K

THE PRODUCER. High capacity
narrow-web digital press for labels



6K

ANY JOB, EVERY DAY with this
narrow-web digital press for labels



35K

THE FUTURE UNFOLDS.
B2 digital press for Folding Carton



THE FUTURE GETS REAL

The future is digital. HP Indigo has fueled digital printing growth over the last 25 years, partnering for success with those who dare to go beyond. Discover why there is no better time to buy an HP Indigo press, today.

National 0861 KEMTEK Johannesburg +27 (0)11 624 8000 Pretoria +27 (0)12 804 1410
Durban +27 (0)31 700 9363 Cape Town +27 (0)21 521 9600 Port Elizabeth +27 (0)41 364 3690
www.kemtek.co.za

To learn more about Kemtek's range of growth-fuelling HP Indigo presses,
contact Carl Zerle on 083 632 3232, Pierre Driver on 082 446 3860 or Donovan Blom on 076 353 0632.

© Copyright 2020 HP Development Company, L.P. The information contained herein is subject to change without notice.



kemtek
beyond technology

SCAN ME



J28428

versa. The company also offers sealable PET films that can be utilised to enhance the sealability of PET-based pouches, Tom adds.

Opportunities and challenges

As pouches can be produced in custom designs, sizes and a wide variety of materials, print businesses can leverage these benefits to increase their customer reach, upscale business and generate more revenue. Steve agrees, saying when it comes to digital decoration in the pouch sector, 'production runs are getting smaller and graphics more creative'.

'One of the major concerns globally for any new packaging idea is scope and scale of potential production. We require low volume manufacturing units for launch quantities and trialling of new ideas and concepts,' Paul reports. CTP Flexibles has a division with digital printers and narrow web printing with specific reference to launches and focus groups.

For Paul, the biggest challenge in the pouch packaging industry is the filling line quality. 'This will eventually influence the level of complexity of the sealant layers used in the final laminated construction.' He reveals that CTP Flexibles has invested in state-of-the-art co-extruders to deal with all possible complex material constructions required for proposed applications and end uses.

For Steve, the biggest hurdle is creating 'sustainable packaging that can be converted in the waste stream. When it comes to sustainable packaging, Tom feels clear communication about the recyclability of this packaging solution is critical to end user adoption.

March issue: tray sealing machinery and lidding

ACCORDING to researchers, the global market for tray sealing machines will expand at a compound annual growth rate of 6% to reach a value of \$4.9-billion by the end of 2031, thanks to rapid pharmaceutical, food and beverage sector growth.

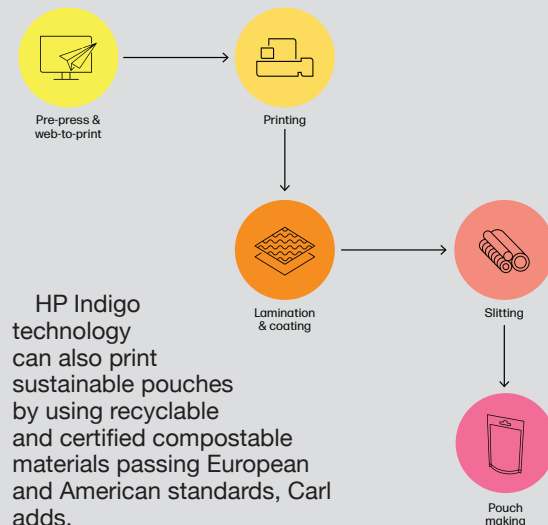
Additionally, the penetration of automation and machine learning technologies across various industries aimed at minimising human errors, as well as the adoption of integrated systems such as seal and leakage inspection to minimise wastage, will bolster growth opportunities in the tray sealing machine market.

Make sure your company's ground-breaking product and technology advances (or those of your overseas principals) are published in this March edition feature by sharing your news and views with Anton Pretorius (anton@packagingmag.co.za) by Wednesday, 15 March.



Digital pouch factory of tomorrow

'HP INDIGO technology offers the most sustainable and efficient way of producing on-demand flexible packaging, from pre-press and web-to-print, printing, lamination (solventless, thermal, electron beam or water-based) and slitting to pouch making in a seamless process,' maintains Carl Zerle, head of Digital Print Solutions at Kemtek, the southern African market representative.



He explains that there are key drivers that are increasing the demand for more sustainable packaging.

1. Brands. Most brands have already declared they will be using recyclable or compostable packaging by 2025.

2. Consumers. Seventy-five percent of millennials and Gen Zs will only engage with brands that can prove that they are helping to protect the earth's resources.

3. Converters. A large percentage of converters have goals to reduce printed material waste and need to meet the targets set by brand owners and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations.

4. Governments. Due to the diffuse nature of sustainability goals, governments and regulators have an important role to play in creating and enforcing targets to minimise environmental impacts. In South Africa, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment has set five-year collection, recycling and incorporation of recycled content targets for various packaging formats via EPR regulations.



Providing perfect MAP top-seal solutions

CUSTOMISATION

Endless possibilities with digital printing to engage with customers. Digital printing allows companies to keep their messages as fresh as their produce.

WHY DIGITAL?

Outstanding print quality, no printing plates = zero origination costs, from sample to full production runs & an offering in personalisation & customisation technology. CO² neutral printing press. Negligible print setup waste over multiple SKU's.

FILM EXPERTS

State-of-the-art MAP capabilities including macro & micro laser perforation. Speciality films for almost every requirement including high-barrier & recyclable options.

VARIABLE DATA

Batch numbers and best before dates. Ideal for promotions & competitions.



SPECIALIST MACHINE SUPPLIERS

Agents for Proseal and SmiPack with full back-up service, maintenance & spare parts.

SPEED TO MARKET

10 to 14 days turn-around time from artwork approval.

FOOD TECH SERVICES

To optimise MAP solutions for extended shelf-life, ongoing monitoring & reporting.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE

Up to 30% less plastic than a clamshell, minimal waste with customised recyclable options. Improved packaging performance = Reduced food waste.

Two companies under one roof - endless possibilities.



Trempak / Didget operation has a 60kW/day solar power capacity.

The facility has a recycling collection and sorting operation for all in house "waste", linked to a social responsibility program.

Vishva Exim: no slouch in pouch production

IN today's fiercely competitive packaging market, industries worldwide rely on quality pouches for the preservation and safe transport of their products. As a renowned manufacturer of stand-up pouch making machinery, Vishva Exim has made huge strides in the South African market, reaching a significant milestone when it recorded a total of 125 machine installations last year.

According to MD Uday Shah, the global demand for flexible packaging and stand-up pouches is primarily for food packaging that requires extended shelf life, and Vishva Exim believes stand-up pouches with zippers are poised to eventually replace plastic containers.

Uday emphasises the company is committed to providing only the best for local customers. 'We adhere to the concept of "for the people" by consistently providing suitable solutions and suggestions, a fully operational office and dedicated on-call engineering support.'

Vishva Exim is also a frequent international trade shows exhibitor. 'The success of every show motivates our team to achieve new heights. Our six-servo high-speed stand-up pouch making machine caused a real buzz at the recent PlastIndia exhibition,' he enthuses. 'We believe in building long-term relationships

with customers through innovations, product enhancements and sustainable solutions. We're constantly striving to build a strong market presence and deliver top-notch products and services.'



| SIDE SEAL MACHINES

| Our Product Range

- › High Speed Side Seal Machine
- › Security/Courier Bag Machine
- › Zipper Side Seal Machine
- › Side Seal Machine For 30mm Bags
- › Wicketer Side Seal Machine



| FLYING KNIFE BOTTOM SEAL MACHINES

| Our Product Range

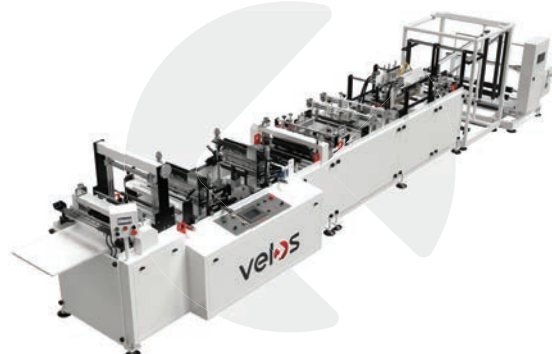
- › High Speed Flying Knife Bottom Seal Bag Machine
- › Flying Knife Bottom Seal Bag Machine With Spine Seal



| STANDUP POUCH MACHINES

| Our Product Range

- › Full Servo Standup Pouch Machine
- › 6 Servo Standup Pouch Machine
- › 3 Servo Standup Pouch Machine



| CENTER SEAL POUCH MACHINES

| Our Product Range

- › Center Seal Three Side Seal Pouch Machine
- › Center Seal Machine



The Missing Billions

The real cost of supply chain waste

Overproduction and waste are exacerbating the supply chain crisis and hitting businesses as nearly 8% of stock perishes or is discarded. This loss amounts to \$163.1 billion worth of inventory.

Is your brand ready to take the next step?

Download the report at supply-chain-waste.com

KZN and Eastern Cape

kuben.naidoo@eu.averydennison.com

Cape and Gauteng

andrew.zwicky@eu.averydennison.com

East & West Africa and SADC

pramod.tiwari@ap.averydennison.com

Connecting the dots

AS the digital age beckons, label and packaging print service providers (PSPs) are turning towards new manufacturing applications to create smart or connected labels that bring consumers closer to brands and provide useful data to continuously improve products and services.

When referring to labels and packaging, the term 'intelligence' might seem a bit paradoxical. After all, true intelligence requires thorough examination and scientific processes. The concept of smart packaging and labelling technology, however, aims to connect brands and consumers for an enriched experience before, during and after purchase.

Smart labels allow retailers and brands to engage directly with consumers, and with manufacturers to track inventory through the supply chain – which, in turn, provides consumers with the packaging transparency and convenience they desire. Consumers can use smartphones to 'read' the smart label for product information or promotional offers. Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology generates data not seen on the physical label and includes a microchip or antenna to track products in real time. Smart labels bring a functional element to packaging, giving everyday products a unique digital identity that can be used to connect supply chains or optimise inventory. It creates a unique consumer experience and protects products against theft and counterfeiting.

Head of digital print solutions at Kemtek Carl Zerle believes intelligent labels and smart packaging have the ability to improve a PSP's margins, and create additional value for customers. According to Carl, the shift towards online trading as well as changes in consumers' purchasing behaviour have created a need for more brand security. 'It's vital to have the necessary tracking and anti-counterfeit solutions in place. Here, PSPs can add value to a product with minimal effort. The early adopters of this tech will benefit in the long run.'



Label Leaders' Muehlbauer's IL 15000 is a fully automatic RFID inlay insertion machine for printed or finished self-adhesive labels. The finished labels are fed into the machine from a reel and transferred to the process module. Each label is then lifted off the liner and a RFID inlay is inserted underneath the sticky side of the label. After this process step, the label is put back on the liner.



In collaboration with label printer Eurostampa, Avery Dennison created a tequila brand prototype illustrating the capabilities of intelligent NFC labels and corresponding digital consumer experiences. When a consumer scans this label on their mobile device, they're taken to a unique website with provenance and authentication for their bottle of tequila. The label also provides tamper-proof protection.

Keeping track

Combining a self-adhesive label with an RFID inlay, creates an intelligent label that can store and capture information and wirelessly transmit data. The RFID inlay consists of an integrated circuit or chip – which holds the memory that stores the identification data – and an antenna that transmits data to a reader. Both components are built onto a flexible carrier that's then inserted into a finished label. An RFID reader extracts the data from the label and uses it for inventory optimisation and supply chain connectivity to prevent counterfeiting and increase consumer engagement.

Label Leaders' company director Theo Raubenheimer says the business has been actively involved in the converting of RFID inlay technology and labels for the past three years. 'Demand has grown exponentially, but there are still many hurdles in the process that printers and customers should be wary of.' He says it makes more financial sense to seek out system integrators and machines that produce quality products consistently. 'With certain inlay software and machinery, you might get an 88 to 90% yield, meaning 10 out of every 100 labels are faulty. This presents a serious challenge when you need to reach yield rates of 99%.' With this in mind, Theo and his team opted for the Rolls Royce of inlay converting machines, a Muehlbauer IL 15000.

Theo says when potential customers hear about the benefits of RFID technology, they want to get on board. But the challenge is finding reliable software integrators who know what they're doing. 'When problems arise, some software integrators



“As NFC technology evolves, it will increase customer interaction and satisfaction levels while providing valuable data about consumers and the product’s viability.”

will recommend costly solutions to replace the entire management information system. But if you understand the product, you quickly realise that this kind of expense is unnecessary.’ He refers to barcodes, which, incorporated simultaneously with RFID, act as the perfect failsafe when there’s a malfunction with the inlay tag. RFID-enabled scanners can take effective inventory of stock, scanning up to 620 items/second.

Theo believes RFID and barcode technology present immeasurable time and cost-saving solutions for customers. ‘The combination represents a fantastic tool for stock management. In the past, companies would take stock once every three months. When stock goes missing, it requires time and resources to go back and locate the problem. With RFID inlays and barcode scanners, customers can conduct live, detailed stock inventory on a daily basis, which results in considerable savings in terms of time and money should any issues arise.’

There are different frequencies for RFID technology. UHF (ultra-high frequency) operates at 860 to 960 MHz, and its primary function is to ‘read’ a large number of products in a short time without line of sight. NFC (near field communication) is a subset of HF (high frequency) that operates at 13.56 MHz. NFC was originally designed for payments like Apple Pay, but is emerging for consumer engagement and authentication applications.

According to RFID expert and business development manager for NFC at Avery Dennison Tony Fahzev, NFC technology has several beneficial features. However, the most significant aspect is the tech’s ability to grant each item or product a unique identity. ‘This is important for consumers in terms of product authenticity and it enables the retailer or brand owner to gather rich data about how, when and where the product is used and even disposed of.’

Tony points out that turning the data from NFC into valuable insights requires a good software platform. ‘Many companies who provide the software also offer campaign design advice. With the high penetration of smartphones around the world, we expect to see more companies launch these types of campaigns in the near future.’

Theo believes that RFID will become an important application in the future for South African companies that ship and export goods to foreign markets. Places like the European Union have speeded up the adoption of this technology to effectively keep track of stock. ‘In the near future, there might well be mandatory requirements for fresh produce exporters to adopt RFID technology to continue doing business with international markets,’ he comments.

Enhancing engagement

Vollherbst Labels, an innovative German label printer with a range of South African wineries as clientele,

launched the digital brand called LABELinmotion, applying augmented reality (AR) to wine labels, allowing a new wave of beautiful designs to engage wine consumers via animated or real-life interpretation on their mobile devices. ‘We provide brand owners with a platform to tell their story, share manufacturing information, and offer other engaging content through digitally programmable labels and rich media content,’ comments managing owner Matthias Vollherbst. ‘That’s how you tell stories about origin today. Not only visibly, but also tangibly to add authenticity and make them stand out in a highly competitive market.’

Smart labels are also an influential promotional tool that brands can use to provide loyalty points, in-store discounts and other incentives to build customer loyalty. According to Matthias, ‘the possibilities are endless’.

In collaboration with label printer Eurostampa, Avery Dennison’s Concept Lab developed a collection of prototypes illustrating the capabilities of intelligent labels and printing techniques for the wine and spirit segments. They developed a proposal to create a tequila brand with three unique NFC labels and corresponding digital consumer experiences.



Vollherbst Labels’ LABELinmotion applies augmented reality to wine labels, allowing brands to engage with wine consumers via animated or real-life interpretation on their mobile devices.

‘When a consumer scans this label on their mobile device, they’re taken to a website with provenance and authentication for their bottle of tequila,’ Tony explains. The information is pulled up based on the NFC tag within the label. ‘This authentication and provenance data is designed for consumers who want every detail of their bottle of tequila, from where it was made to the exact barrel from which it came. The informational content for this specific brand focuses on brand equity, product quality and consumer trust of a premium brand.’ Furthermore, the tequila’s label features an embedded NFC tag in the tamper-evident pressure sensitive label that extends over the bottle lid. ‘The label performs double-duty in that it provides the information a user is looking for as well as tamper-proof protection,’ Tony states.

Customers’ engagement with products through NFC smart labels has the potential to revolutionise the label and packaging industry. As the technology evolves, it will increase customer interaction and satisfaction while simultaneously providing valuable data about the consumer and the product’s viability.





Investing in flexible packaging production capacity and rebranding to its new name 'Siyaka' reflects Siyaka's capability to provide brand owners with a diverse range of packaging solutions from narrow to wide web under one banner, so they can meet products' varied quantity requirements at a competitive advantage.

Siyaka rebrands to reflect its growth into flexible packaging

A well-known and respected brand within the labelling industry, Siyakha Imperial Printing Company had maintained the same image for the past two decades. Siyaka knew it was time to elevate its visual identity into modern times with a logo change that expressed simplicity while holding true to its symbolic 'green'.

'Our focus is continually based on the customer experience, so we took the same DNA and went through a process of distillation. With each wave of simplification, it felt sharper, cleaner and more flexible,' explains Jessica Busa, head of special projects.

The rebranding to Siyaka was made in conjunction with the company's advancement of its investment into flexible packaging production capacity and capabilities. 'Having witnessed the significant growth and local requirements in this segment, Siyaka added a 10 000m² facility to produce ready-made pouches, mono- and multilayer substrates and laminates with solvent-less and solvent-based laminations as well

as cold seal applications,' explains management executive Mikhail Lutchman.

According to Mikhail, the main asset of this production centre is the opportunity to maximise commercial synergies between the narrow and wide web business units, whose manufacturing sites have been specifically optimised under lean methodologies to guarantee maximum efficiencies and continual support.

Mikhail believes that flexible packaging has a universal appeal due to its high-barrier properties and optional reclose features. This allows brand owners to provide numerous consumer benefits, including product freshness that retains rich flavours and aromas. 'Siyaka understands product requirements and can recommend the most suitable films for high-barrier and airtight seals. By maintaining value-engineering packaging at the forefront, we ensure the alignment of design, converting and application so we can provide the best product to market,' he concludes.

SIYAKA
FLEXIBLES & LABELS

 www.siyaka.net

 info@siyaka.net

 +27 31 502 5050

BRCS
Packaging Materials
CERTIFICATED

B-BBEE
LEVEL 1
sanas

 **FSSC 22000**

Always Listening, Responding & Evolving.

Continuing to deliver the same Craftsmanship that we have mastered over the decades.

RFID TECHNOLOGY



**PROVIDING REAL
EFFICIENCY ADVANTAGES
TO INDUSTRIES**

Bidvest Mobility, leaders in RFID, mobile computing and barcode technologies

- ✓ Improved accuracy and reliability
- ✓ Cost effective
- ✓ Eco-friendly
- ✓ Enhanced security
- ✓ Automation and Efficiency
- ✓ Real-time data collection and analysis



 **Bidvest
mobility**
mobile computing & barcoding solutions



RFID technology provides real time efficiencies to multiple industries



BIDVEST MOBILITY, leaders in mobile computing and barcode technologies, supplies and supports a range of RFID-enabled solutions for barcode printers, barcode scanners and enterprise grade mobile computers. These devices are deployed in various environments, such as transport and logistics, manufacturing, healthcare, retail, mining and agriculture.

Radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology is a wireless communication system that allows for the identification and tracking of objects using radio waves. RFID technologies have been widely adopted in various industries because they provide significant advantages, such as efficient and accurate tracking of products or assets in the supply chain, allowing businesses to automate processes and provide real-time data analysis, enhanced security, reduced costs, and a more eco-friendly solution.

Automation and efficiency

One of the most significant advantages of RFID technology is its ability to automate processes and improve operational efficiency for inventory management, asset tracking, and supply chain management. By utilising RFID technology, businesses can reduce manual labour, save time and costs, and increase accuracy in identifying and tracking products.

Real-time data collection and analysis

RFID technology can provide real-time data collection and analysis, which is crucial for businesses that require quick decision-making. RFID systems can capture data on the movement, location and condition of products or assets, which can be analysed in real-time. This information enables businesses to quickly respond to changes in inventory, supply chain, and demand, allowing them to make better decisions to improve their operations.

Enhanced security

RFID technology can improve security by providing access control and tracking capabilities. RFID tags can be embedded in ID cards, allowing only authorised personnel to access secure areas. RFID tags can also be used to track high-value assets, ensuring they are not tampered with or do not leave designated areas.

Improved accuracy and reliability

RFID technology provides accurate and reliable data collection, even in harsh environments. Unlike barcodes, which can be damaged or degraded, RFID tags can be read from a distance through a variety of materials. This makes RFID a more reliable and accurate tracking technology, reducing errors and improving supply chain visibility.

Cost effectiveness

RFID technology is becoming increasingly affordable, making it accessible to small and medium-sized businesses. Some RFID tags can be reused, reducing the cost of consumables. RFID technology can also be integrated with existing systems, minimising the need for additional infrastructure.

Eco-friendly

This technology can reduce the need for manual labour, decreasing carbon emissions associated with transportation and labour-intensive processes.

As RFID technology continues to evolve, it is expected to become even more affordable and accessible, providing an even greater value proposition for businesses across various industries.

Visit www.bidvestmobility.co.za/products/rfid-tags-readers for more information about RFID, or email: leads@bidvestmobility.co.za

The chips are never down when they leave Mama Bonggi's oven

ANYONE who doubts the status of the chocolate chip in the cookie jar of life should bear in mind that the humble ingredient of the world's greatest crumbly crunches has not one but two national days, the first in May, the second in September. Ok, that's in America, but it was, after all, an American, Ruth Graves Wakefield, who created the confection – in 1937 when she ran out of baker's chocolate to add to her dough and threw in the non-melting semi-sweet variety instead.

The biscuit's enduring appeal is what prompted Mama Bonggi to dismiss digestives, shelve shortcake and reject rusks and lend her name to a sure-fire hit. 'Everyone loves a choc-chip cookie,' she stresses.

Mama, real name Sibonginkosi Msipha, is among the many entrepreneurs who turned Covid-19 to her advantage. And what an advantage it turned out to be – her brand can now be found the length and breadth of the country, from mainstream stores to quaint country delis, even Wellness Warehouse, where the vegan version is causing a stir. She estimates that she's sold more than 38 000 packs since June 2020 and demand isn't letting up.

Mama started her baking exploits by making cookies for the customers of Cape Town company Amazing Spaces at which she works. They proved so popular that her venture soon rose into a fully-fledged bakery business employing three people and supporting 21. 'It allows me to send money home to my children, whom I had to leave in Zimbabwe,' she points out. 'I always dreamt of being a teacher and the business lets me lift up and teach others to cook, something that I love dearly.'

Having initially packaged her treats in a plain cellophane bag, but finding supply a problem during the pandemic, it was decided to zhooosh things up a little. Enter The Graphic Ballroom, headed by founder Jason Forbes, who stepped in with a stylish swagger and a shwe shwe spirit to give the brand added African oomph.

'The redesign gave the packs a bright and modern feel while retaining the "home-grown" image of the brand and keeping the look simple and affordable,' he elaborates.

'The addition of a "header card" allowed us to keep the natural-looking uncoated paper stock courtesy



Mama Bonggi, Prince Chavula and Sylvia Mxaku proudly showing off the redesigned cookie packs, which now feature a 'header card' that is printed digitally in small quantities. This enables an easy design change for seasonal promotions such as Valentine's Day and Easter.



of technology that enabled us to print on kraft paper using a digital white ink. This makes the design pop without losing the brand's authenticity. Because the cards are printed digitally in small quantities, the design can be easily changed and updated for seasonal promotions such as Valentine's Day and Easter.'

Mama was overjoyed at the result, which now oozed shelf appeal and took the African feel to a new level. 'Quite a few other brands are now using the brown kraft bag that we use, but the shwe shwe elements differentiate ours in the marketplace and reflect our roots perfectly.'

The chocolate chip on top was the incorporation of a tag so that the buyer could write a personal note and gift the cookies to someone special.

Amazing Spaces was honoured that Jason chose Mama Bongzi as a beneficiary of his company's 25th anniversary celebrations, says the business's owner Julia Finnis-Bedford. 'We were given several carefully-thought-out and beautifully-presented options that demonstrated a thorough understanding of the story behind the brand.'

Jason sees his involvement in the project as a privilege, helping as it did a small enterprise at a time just before the festive season when legacy brands pump millions of rands into campaigns. 'It's not easy to stand out,' he maintains. 'In conceptualising our design, we made sure our approach was sustainable and had longevity. Now Mama Bongzi can now adapt her packaging cost-effectively to any theme or occasion.'



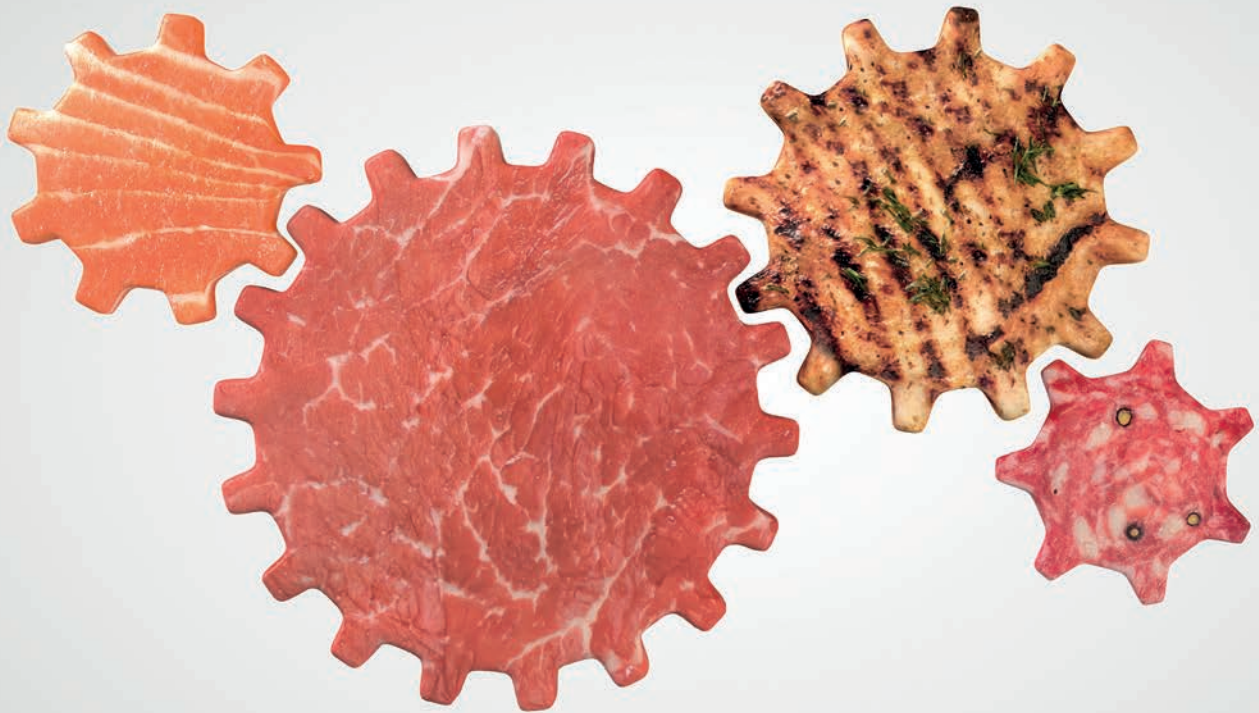
Mama is unashamedly proud of every batch of deliciousness that makes its way from her oven to appreciative customers. These are people such as Tristan Shaun Henry, who wrote to her: 'They truly are the BEST chocolate-chip biscuits ever. I love a something sweet with my coffee. I call it my Oprah Winfrey five-star moment and Mama Bongzi makes it better. And Lyndal Marshal, who stated: 'I may have eaten a whole bag of the mini ones in one sitting, but I will neither deny nor confirm that.' Or vegan blogger Garth Tavares, who admits to hiding his stash from his family.

'We love that our product makes people smile,' Mama concludes. 'We may in due course explore one more product for the range, but at this stage there are still many places in South Africa where people can't get our cookies, so must get that right first!'

LINK
YOUR COMPANY TO
EXCELLENCE IN PACKAGING



For sponsorship opportunities
contact secretary@ipsa.org.za or call 011 804 1614



Smarter, faster, together.



Every business has challenges; ours is to help you overcome yours. Whether you need a single machine or a complete production line, we can provide you with a solution tailored to meet your exact needs. Our industry-leading technology can support meat, poultry, fish and seafood applications, including fresh, sticky, coated and marinated products. Our expert know-how covers every stage of the production process, from weighing, grading and tray sealing to x-ray inspection and packing automation.

Smarter Faster Together

► To set the wheels in motion visit ishidaeurope.com

Mozambique shines with Africa's largest and most modern brewery

ACCORDING to AB InBev, it has built the largest and most modern brewery on the continent in Mozambique. The facility is managed by its local subsidiary, Cervejas de Moçambique (CDM) and features the fastest returnable glass line, whose successful installation and commissioning neither a catastrophic tropical cyclone nor the Covid-19 pandemic were able to prevent.

The returnable glass line from KHS allows up to 80 000 550ml bottles/hour to be filled – this format accounts for about 95% of total sales. 'This line capacity is extremely high for the continent. In this region, it's rare to find more than 40 000 bottles/hour being processed,' explains Tobias Zeimentz, who as key account manager at KHS is responsible for AB InBev's global account.

CDM is the first brewery to have risen to the challenge of making a drinkable beer from the cassava crop, which it launched in 2011 under the brand name of Impala. Privatised in 2005, the company now unites all of Mozambique's established beer brands in its portfolio, including 2M, brewed since 1950, as well as Laurentina, the first beer brewed in Mozambique in 1932. With a turnover of around €300-million (in 2021), the brewery,

now largely owned by the AB InBev Group, is by far the largest local beer producer and market leader.

This status has been earned by CDM's consistent strategy of growth and continuous increase in capacity. In 2010, a third factory was opened in Nampula in addition to the existing facilities in the capital Maputo and Beira further north up the coast. Eight years later, the foundations were laid for a further greenfield project in Marracuene a few kilometres outside Maputo where production started up with a capacity of 1.6 million hectolitres a year that can be easily expanded to six million hectolitres.

International network capabilities

CDM was in a hurry to get its new Mozambican plant finished. To meet the ambitious schedule and supply the various components as quickly as possible, KHS called on its international network. The conveyors thus came from Mexico and the sedimentation tanks from South Africa. The line was to be installed by engineers from Ukraine, Turkey, Mexico and Germany. KHS colleagues from Brazil were then to train personnel on the machinery as they could communicate with the operations' team in their mother tongue Portuguese.



According to KHS, Innoclean uses a small amount of energy and other resources, while the DM bottle washer scores low on water usage.





In addition to its traditional 2M and Laurentina brands, since 2011 CDM has brewed Impala from locally-grown crop cassava.

However, in March 2019, the country was hit by tropical cyclone Idai, which according to the World Bank, inflicted around €1.7-billion worth of damage in Mozambique and its neighbouring countries of Zimbabwe and Malawi.

The region close to the capital was also impacted by this natural catastrophe, resulting in delays to the CDM schedule. The production shop could not be finished on time to accommodate the machines ready for installation. KHS reacted by making partial deliveries wherever possible. Installation then started in October 2019, although much of the production shop was still little more than a shell. From this point forward, however, all of the deadlines could be met and, in February 2020, the first bottle was filled on the line.

Lockdown impacts

However, within just a few weeks, Covid-19 mushroomed into a global pandemic. Within the space of a day, Mozambique announced it was closing its borders. 'Our team literally had no other choice but to flee the country,' Tobias remembers. 'At this point, line optimisation was only three-quarters finished and we still had two months' work ahead of us.'

The project needed to continue on-site, however, as Frank Schepping, technical director at CDM,

emphasises: 'Our local team in Marracuene now faced the challenge of commissioning this line through online meetings, phone and video calls and KHS's remote maintenance service ReDiS without any advance training,' he says. 'This initially turned our ramp-up plan on its head. With lots of hard work, overtime and a few sleepless nights, however, we finally managed to ramp our most important format, the 550ml bottle, up to capacity so that we were able to supply local beer consumers.'

This shortfall in production was compounded on the marketing side by the government limiting the sale of alcohol to certain business hours and imposing curfews in the spring of 2020 – with a noticeable effect on beer consumption and CDM's business. Despite this, the brewery did not allow itself to become disheartened by the temporary slump and instead launched the 2M Flow product.

Finally fit for acceptance

It was not until September 2020 that most KHS colleagues were able to return to complete their work. A full audit was first held before the system was successively readied for acceptance with overhauls, maintenance and cleaning – all taking the demands of ongoing production into account. The pandemic also was not over despite the strictest safety precautions being taken, these, in turn, causing further delays.

Finally, in the summer of 2021, the plant officially went into operation after a five-day performance test that was successfully passed with a line efficiency of over 95%. Besides the two modular KHS labellers – a first for AB InBev – the two Innofill Glass DPG ECO fillers delivered low total package oxygen pickup values of 19 micrograms per litre and a CO₂ consumption of just 150 grams per hectolitre.

Modular labelling flexibility

AT CDM in Mozambique, AB InBev has had two modular KHS labellers installed for the first time the world over. The machines can be equipped with various stations that are changed over within a very short time as they are easily docked and undocked using a lifting truck.

'This flexibility gives CDM greater future security, enabling it to react quickly and easily to new market trends and dynamics,' states technical director, Frank Schepping. 'Performance figures of just 0.054% faulty labels and an efficiency of over 99% demonstrate the high quality of KHS labelling technology.'



The ins and outs of closure production explained

THE INSTITUTE OF PACKAGING SA's Western Cape Region arranged a factory site visit to Guala Closures South Africa, makers of aluminium and plastic closures, in Paarden Eiland, Cape Town.

'Few people know of the intricacies of the making and printing of closures, but the visit to Guala Closures SA's 12 000m² site enabled 12 delegates to experience the secret behind the factory doors,' commented IPSA Western Cape's Education & Tours facilitator, John Byett.

'An effective seal on a container plays a multi-functional role: providing the necessary leak proofness, ease of removal, product compatibility, tamper evidence, pressure resistance (sometimes) and aesthetic appeal,' John notes. 'This blend of closure properties needs to be carefully assessed for each product, particularly in the high-end luxury goods market for wines and spirits. And this necessitates excellence in the machines used on the factory floor, from the material stamping through to printing as well as quality procedures and online checks. IPSA's visit to Guala Closures certainly confirmed why the company is held in such high regard in our packaging industry.'

Quality manager Simone Noble, who has since departed Guala SA, led the tour and explained the nuts and bolts philosophy of the company. 'It's important to create a distinctive brand identity, and closures form an important part of a brand's image,' she commented while showing how it's possible to have a customised approach to create unique and unmistakable screwcaps for wines.

'We're able to offer both side and top foiling decorative options, which are sure to attract the attention of consumers and present the brand's image in a unique way.'

The Guala Closures Group was founded in Italy in 1954. It operates in five continents through 30 production plants and via a sales network covering over 100 countries. The group's passion is to deliver premium and innovative closure solutions that offer protection and convenience to consumers while enhancing customers' brands.



Guala Closures' Savin Premium closure provides brands with an opportunity to side print or foil the closure and to decorate the top using printing, foiling or embossing techniques.

'Being part of the Guala Group enables us to keep up with international trends and offer innovative solutions because we have access to the group's R&D department,' Simone noted.

But it's not the only place where innovation occurs as the local company designed and developed the Savin Premium wine closure, a screwcap closure with an internal thread. 'The larger surface allows for additional branding opportunities with side printing or foiling decoration while top decoration can be either printing, foiling or top embossing,' she remarked.

Through investments in machinery and innovation, Guala Closures can offer customised closures in a wide range of colours, designs, finishes and sizes for the wine, spirits, water, beverages and pharmaceutical markets. Finishing design options include glossy, satin, matte and ultra-matte varnishes.

'Aluminium closures represent a sustainable and modern method of closing bottles. These closures also prevent wine spoilage and have a positive effect on functionality, taste and convenience,' Simone asserted.

Just Energy Transition webinar

THE INSTITUTE OF PACKAGING SA is hosting a webinar, in conjunction with Able-Energy, from 1-2.30pm on Thursday, March 23 to assist packaging value chain companies to evaluate their preparation and strategies to deal with energy management and contribution to an industry managed plan for Just Energy Transition (JET).

The webinar will be led by Able-Energy's Gregory Diana and address key energy-related topics such as process methodology for energy management systems; optimising plant energy management systems; utility audits, energy audits and measurement and verification methodologies; JET and decentralised energy systems plus the ISO 50001:2018 energy management system.

To register for the webinar, email Vanessa von Holdt: vanessa@ipsa.org.za

Yours irreverently . . .

The other night I overheard three women talking...

Their accent appeared to be Scottish, so I approached them and asked: 'Hello, are you three lassies from Scotland?'

One of them angrily screeched: 'It's Wales! Wales, you bloody idiot!'

So I apologised and replied: 'I am so sorry. Are you three whales from Scotland?'

And that's the last thing I remember.

Work words of weariness – or worse....

- I wake up with a good attitude every day. Then idiots happen.
- Here's to another day of outward smiles and inward screams.
- So you mean to tell me a stress ball isn't for throwing at people who stress you out?
- Work tip: Stand up. Stretch. Take a walk. Go to the airport. Get on a plane. Never return.
- Come here, you big, beautiful cup of coffee. And lie to me about how much we're gonna get done today.
- I don't always tolerate stupid people. But when I do, I'm probably at work.
- Whoever says nothing surprises them should try working at our office.
- Deja Poo: The feeling of having heard all this c*** before!
- Dear boss, first of all, I would like to let you know I'm typing this with my middle finger.

Short chuckles...

Me: Dad, how did you guys manage without WhatsApp & SMS?

My Dad: We used to keep useless information to ourselves.

A foreigner asks an Indian husband: 'Why do Indian women have red dot on their forehead?'

Husband replies: 'Because they record everything...'

Q: What does an agnostic, dyslexic, insomniac do?

A: Stays up all night wondering if there is a Dog.

Wife: (looking in mirror) 'I'm looking really fat today, please give me a compliment...'

Man: 'You have damn good eyesight'.

- I just watched my dog chase his tail for ten minutes, and I thought to myself, 'Wow, dogs are easily entertained.' Then I realised: I just watched my dog chase his tail for ten minutes.
- When I was a boy, my momma would send me down to a corner store with \$1 and I'd come back with five potatoes, two loaves of bread, three bottles of milk, a hunk of cheese, a box of tea and six eggs. You can't do that now... too many damn security cameras.
- What happens when you play country music backwards? You get your wife back, your kids back, your house back...
- A masochist asks a sadist, 'Please hurt me.' 'No,' replies the sadist.

Advertisers' Index

FEBRUARY 2023

Avery Dennison.....	62	Mpact Corrugated.....	49
www.label.averydennison.com		www.mpactcorrugated.co.za	
Beswick Machinery.....	OFC	Performance Colour Systems.....	46
www.beswick.co.za		www.coloursystems.co.za	
Bidvest Mobility.....	66, 67	Propak Ghana.....	22
www.bidvestmobility.co.za		www.propakwestafrica.com/propakghana	
Bordic.....	38	Propak Cape 2023.....	13
www.bordic.co.za		www.propakcape.co.za	
Buckle Packaging.....	36	Rajoo Engineers.....	20, 21
www.bucklepack.co.za		www.rajoo.com	
ColorFlow Solutions.....	26	Rotocon.....	OBC, 5, 6, 7
www.colorflowsolutions.co.za		www.rotoccon.world	
Fibre Circle.....	15	Siyaka Flexibles & Labels.....	65
www.fibrecircle.co.za		www.siyaka.net	
Foster Packaging International.....	52	SRF.....	17
www.fosterpackaging.com		www.srf.com	
Institute of Packaging South Africa Education.....	IBC	Synchron Markings.....	29
www.ipsa.org.za		www.synchron.co.za	
Institute of Packaging South Africa JET Webinar.....	43	Taigan M-Stretch.....	40, 41
www.ipsa.org.za		www.taigan.co.za	
Institute of Packaging South Africa Sponsorship.....	69	Taiwan Golden Tree Group.....	IFC, 37
www.ipsa.org.za		www.tgt-group.com	
Ishida Europe.....	70	Trempak.....	60
www.ishidaeurope.com		www.trempak.co.za	
Kemtek Imaging Systems.....	58	Uteco Converting.....	42, 43
www.kemtek.co.za		www.uteco.com	
Midcomp.....	24	Vishva Exim.....	61
www.midcomp.co.za		www.vishvaexim.com	
		Yamada Lubrication.....	31
		www.yamadalube.com	



ADVANCED DIPLOMA

IN PACKAGING TECHNOLOGY

Online

ENHANCE YOUR PROFESSIONAL PACKAGING SKILLS

This Advanced Packaging programme is open to all graduates of the Institute's One Year Diploma in Packaging Technology or those with appropriate experience or an equivalent qualification and builds on the basic course.

It is aimed at individuals who are being prepared or preparing themselves for senior or management level positions in the industry.

The course is now being offered as an on-line course nationally.



THE INSTITUTE OF
PACKAGING SA
www.ipsa.org.za

For more information
and registrations email
Lara-Jane Venter on
Education@ipsa.org.za
or telephone
082 776 2201

The Perfect Partnership

We're committed to bringing youth and industry together through graphic skills development and technology to inspire innovation in wine label design.

Please see our [ROTOCON.world news](#) on [Page 6 & 7](#)



ROTOCON