

April 2021

Packaging

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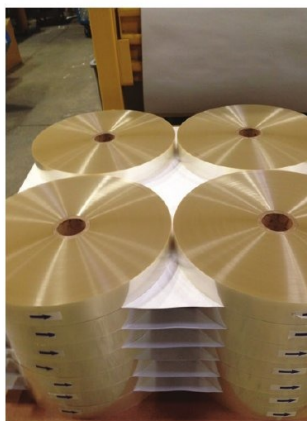
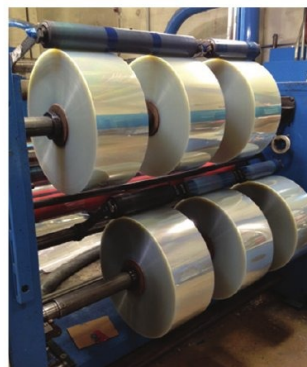
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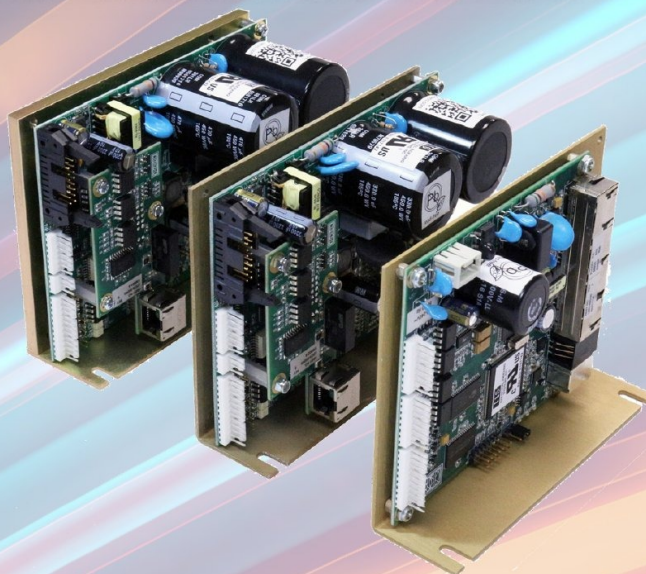
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Penciled In

Was I the only one who struggled keeping up with all of the calendar changes in 2020? Moving into 2021, my motto is "I'll pencil that in." As a person who likes to plan my calendar well in advance, the challenge of being flexible is real! We have witnessed it a few changes in our industry as we move further into 2021. Although not all events are able to do in-person gatherings just yet, we are certainly taking a step forward. Grab your calendars and let's pencil in a few things...

Making the 2021 calendar of events list this year, drupa will be kicking us off. Being held April 20-23, drupa will be moving forward as an all virtual event. You can find more about what it has in store at www.drupa.com.

SnaxPo2021 is scheduled to take place August 22-24 in Charlotte, N.C. This year it is anticipated that you will be able to test innovative sanitation solutions and speak directly with manufacturers who can help you stay ahead of developing trends in person. You can learn more about this event at www.snaxpo.com. Being that this show is a little later in the year, it could perhaps be a good insight on what we will see as far as exhibitor turn out and attendee comfort levels.

Pack Expo is also on the calendar, scheduled to take place in Las Vegas, September 27-29. More information on Pack Expo can be found here: www.packexpolasvegas.com.

I have spent quite a bit of time this past year planning (unplanned), in-person coffee meetings, and perhaps (or hopefully) 2021 is the year we can revert back to some old school ways of meeting and doing business. However, while we wait for that moment, please continue to send me your company updates and new products. Doing something innovative? I'd love to hear about it. I have also started lining up the editorial for the second half of the year. If your company is interested in providing thought-leadership features, let's talk!

Take care,

Joan Mantini
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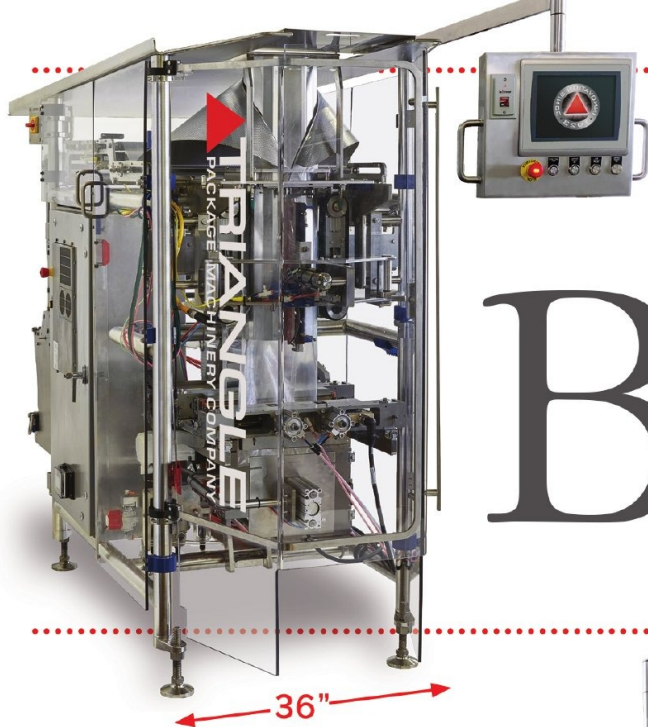
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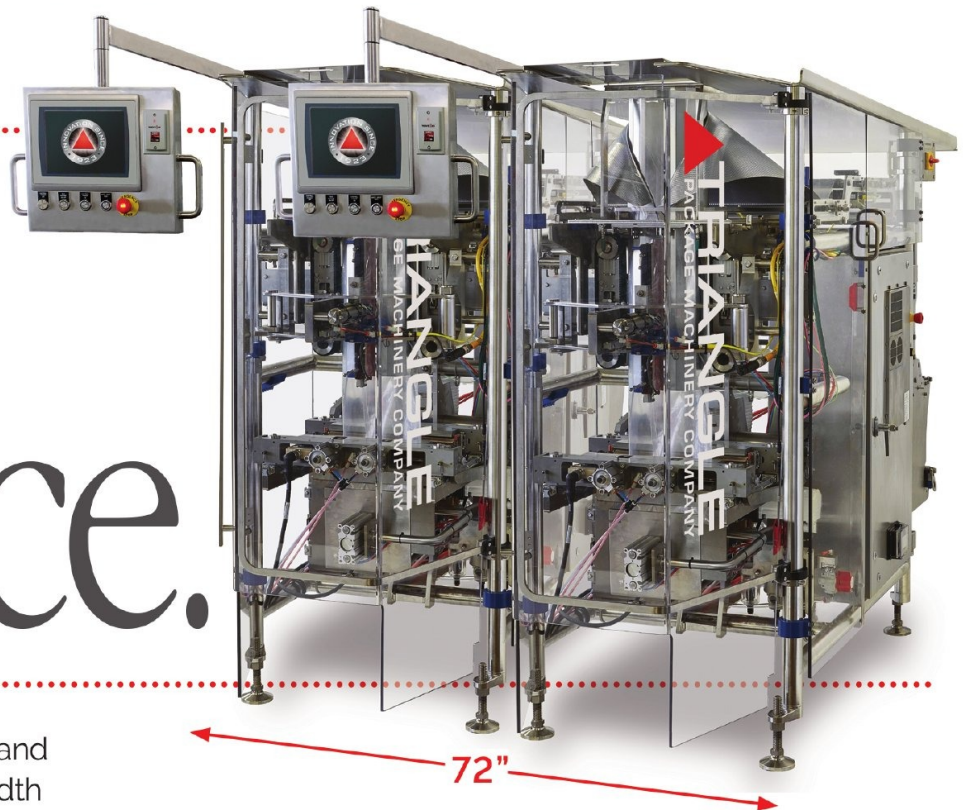
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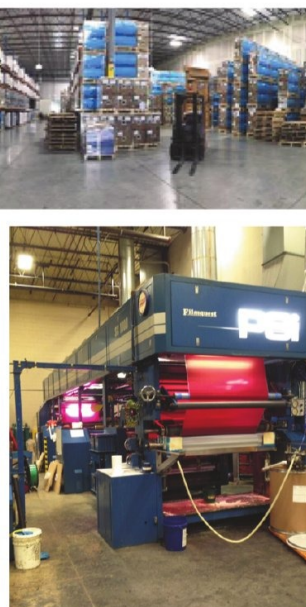
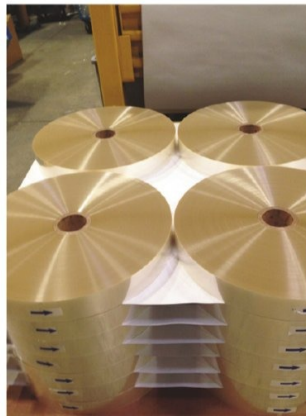
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AUTOMATION LEADING THE PACK

TIME FOR MANUFACTURERS TO MAKE THEIR PACKAGING LINES SMARTER

By Claudia Jarrett, U.S. Country Manager at EU Automation

The Automation Timeline: The Drive Toward 4.0 Connectivity in Packaging and Processing report states that there are opportunities for OEMs and suppliers to offer automation technologies to companies of all sizes, across all sectors and along the entire production line. This comes as most manufacturers recognize an urgent need to broaden their use of automation.

Breaking it down further, the report also states that leading Consumer Packaged Goods (CPGs) manufacturing lines are approximately 64 percent automated, while small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are just behind with 56 percent automation on their lines.

Automation usually plays a stronger role at the end of a production line, including in packaging and palletizing processes. However, some manufacturers have yet to apply effective return on investment (ROI) and overall equipment effectiveness (OEE) calculation strategies to get the most from automation.

Smarter production

Today's automated packaging is supported by several advancements that include motion-control devices, 3D technology and sensors. These technologies can equip packaging machines to understand and interact with their surroundings through artificial intelligence (AI).

Unlike in the past, when the aim of sensors was to collect informa-



3D technology in sensor in label printing machines allow for precise placement.

tion and perform simple decision-making processes, modern smart-sensor technologies can prepare, process and interpret collected data. This data can be converted into valuable insights and allow machines to perform complex tasks more efficiently.

For example, PWR Pack, a provider of robots for food packaging processes, has adopted 3D technology and sensors in its own packaging line as a way to improve overall efficiency. The use of 3D technology in the line's intelligent vision systems and sensors allows for precise product supervision and correct label placement, which is augmented further by PWR Pack's quality management.

Merging manual processes

Companies can significantly improve their production speeds and throughput by using automated technologies. In fact, iClick, a supplier of promotional products, did just that by implementing a cobot on their production line to combine processes, boost efficiency and increase production output.

iClick needed to increase production to meet the growing demand for its PopGrips, a circular handle that sticks to the underside of a phone with a stem that expands like an accordion, as final assembly and packaging of



Cobots can increase the speed and efficiency of repetitive tasks.



With the advancements in automated technology, packagers can integrate existing processes in order to implement IOT across enterprises.

the product had become stressed. Once a PopGrip is adorned with the logo of a sponsoring company, the finished piece is attached to a custom-printed backer card. The card, which typically contains operational instructions and promotional content, is then placed into a film bag.

Originally, the PopGrips were manually inserted onto the cards at one station and then transferred to another station to be placed in an automated bagging machine. Yet, this labor-intensive process, which necessitated a crew of four or more people, could not keep up with the demand. The task was also dull and repetitive for the employees.

However, iClick implemented an ABB dual-arm collaborative robot, also known as cobot, to maximize the capacity of the bagging machine and move its employees to higher-skilled jobs. Cobots are single or double-armed robots that can be trained to learn the repetitive motions of human workers and can learn to improve upon their initial movements over time, increasing the speed and efficiency of that specific task.

This is an example of how automated systems can reduce stress on a production line and combine two manual tasks into one automated process. iClick has also been able to use the system to work on different orders, simultaneously. Through input/output (I/O) communications between the system and worker, the robot can indicate which of several dedicated conveyors to route the bagged PopGrips.

In addition, cobots are compatible with smart sensors. This is essential for packagers wanting to maximize their ROI, as methods such as

predictive maintenance relies heavily on IoT. For instance, when IoT devices and sensors are attached to manufacturing equipment, it starts recording the machine's real-time performance data. This data can then be interpreted by the plant manager, who is then able to order replacements in time to avoid downtime.

As robots and smart sensors increasingly prove their worth, the support of an industrial parts supplier can be vital in helping manufacturers choose the right sensor for their packaging application. Parts suppliers can advise and source sensors for packagers, ensuring the transition can be achieved without requiring a complete overhaul.

With several advancements in automated technology, packagers can integrate their existing processes in order to implement IOT across their enterprise. By identifying their IIoT blind spots, and partnering up with a reliable supplier, packaging manufacturers can integrate automation into their existing processes without needing to overhaul processes or equipment. ■

About the Author

Claudia Jarrett is the U.S. country manager of automation parts supplier EU Automation.

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ADVANCED WEIGH CELL TECHNOLOGY FOR FOOD PACKAGING APPLICATIONS

By Jim Renehan, Senior Marketing Manager for WIPOTEC-OCS

For food packaging, recent technology advancements have made in-motion weighing operations more precise and profitable.

Checkweighers used in food packaging operations prevent the underfilling and overfilling of product, resulting in brand protection and cost reduction due to less product giveaway. Reducing product giveaway is eliminated by utilizing the checkweigher's filler feedback capability; the cost reductions achieved with a checkweigher implementation usually result in machine return on investment (ROI) times of well under a year.

Like many crucial machinery items, technology has evolved in recent years. The latest and greatest checkweighers incorporate weigh cells featuring Electro-Magnetic Force Restoration, or EMFR. Let's discuss what this entails, and how it compares to conventional weighing methods.

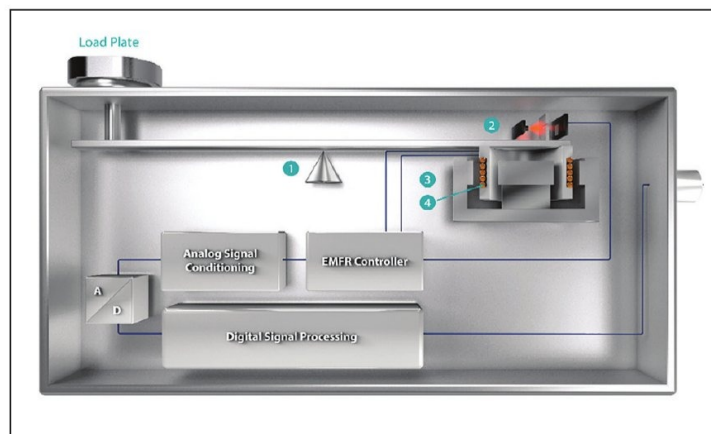


Figure 1 - Block diagram of an EMFR weigh cell

What is EMFR Technology and How Does it Work?

EMFR systems can be compared to a simple beam balance – though the intricacies are anything but. Incoming weight on the load plate causes the lever arm (1) in Figure 1 to leave its nominal resting position. The position detector (2) recognizes this slight position change and forces the coil (4) on the other side of the lever arm to move out of the magnet's field (3).

When this occurs, a photoelectrical beam recognizes any minute deviations in lever arm position and immediately sends its findings through a measurement resistor, transforming this data into a digital signal via an analog-to-digital (A/D) converter. The resulting digital weight value is determined by an advanced digital signal processor at exceptionally fast speeds with an internal sampling rate of 1mS, or 1,000 weight values per second. The weigh cell's digital signal processor output is sent to the interface connection of the checkweigher or other third party OEM device or machine.

With their lightning-quick sampling rates, EMFR-based weigh cells enable extremely accurate weighing results that provide space and cost savings when integrated into existing systems. They also possess high throughput rates, as high-speed checkweighers can capture product weights at rates up to 600 units per minute. Small and mid-range checkweighers offer fantastic price-to-performance ratios, and all EMFR scales deliver increased plant efficiency thanks to precise and reliable weighing results. It's no wonder EMFR-based solutions are used by prominent food companies to help ensure mission-critical quality control.

The Benefits of EMFR Technology

Dead Load Compensation and Resolution

Compared to conventional strain gauge scales, EMFR weighing offers a number of benefits. When compensating for a dead load, traditional strain gauge-based checkweighers require a stiffer load cell to process the weight. With strain gauge checkweighers, the resolution of the weighing range declines. Since many load cells like the one illustrated in Figure 2 rely on a relatively large amount of metal bending, they all exhibit a spring-like operational behavior, called "ringing." These type of cells cannot tolerate fast weight changes because this ringing action needs to be compensated within the load cell. Dead load weight also needs to be compensated, and it is more cumbersome to accomplish in strain gauge-based load cells.

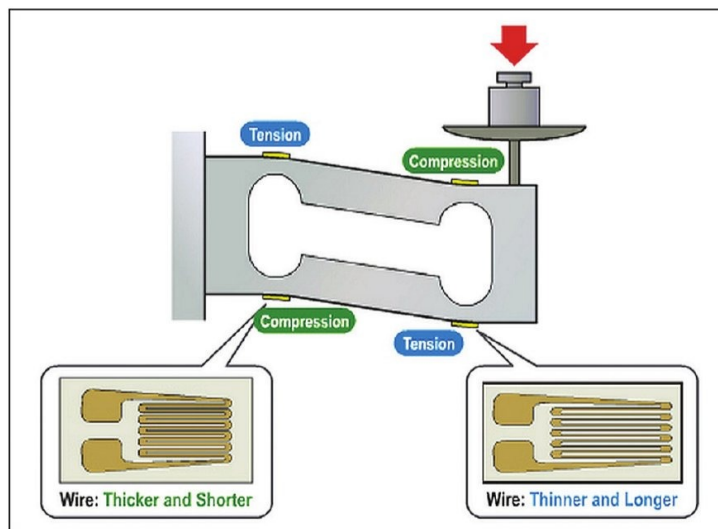


Figure 2 – Bending Beam Load Cell with Strain Gauges

Since EMFR weigh cells do not rely on large degrees of metal deflection, ringing is not a major concern. EMFR scales also can balance dead load with far less cumbersome software commands, keeping the weighing range available and the resolution intact.

Settling Time

When measuring dynamic performance, EMFR checkweighers have a short settling time and active attenuation by the electronic controller, while preventing sensitivity and resolution from changing – eliminating the need for constant calibration checks. As seen in Figure 3, strain gauge checkweighers generally possess less effective dampening oscillatory systems and a higher resonance frequency while settling, while the stiff load cell reduces sensitivity and resolution, requiring consistent calibration and maintenance.

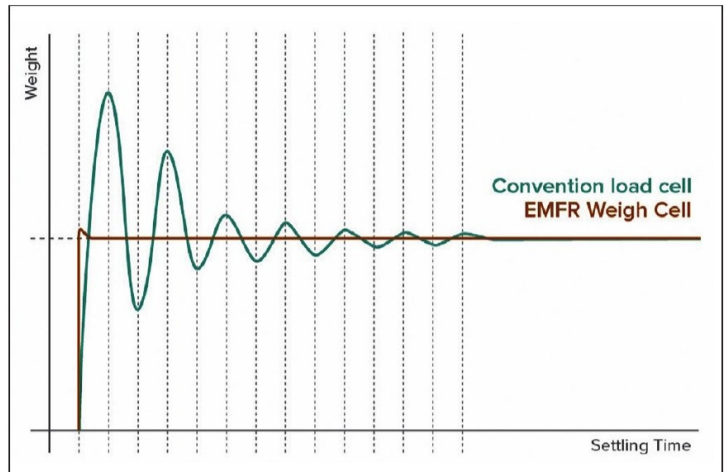


Figure 3 – EMFR Weigh Cell vs Load Cell Settling Time

By contrast, EMFR scales are faster, more efficient, more precise, and require less maintenance than conventional weigh cells. Since EMFR modules accurately acquire product information faster than a load cell, this enables more weight samples per unit of time. This is one of the major reasons EMFR based checkweighers provide more precise product weigh information at much faster throughput speeds.

Application Example

The EMFR weigh cell in the checkweigher types illustrated in Figure 4 is frequently found in the center of the machine, just under the centrally located weight bed conveyor. Checkweighers used in food packaging applications take advantage of the high sample rates of EMFR weigh cells to deliver accurate package weights at throughput speeds as high as 600 packages per minute.



Figure 4 - EMFR Checkweighers – Models HC-M and HC-A

This enables the checkweigher to make quick reject decisions if an item is over- or underweight. Frequently checkweighers in food packaging applications are placed after the package filler. This allows the user to take advantage of the checkweigher's filler feedback capability. If the



checkweigher sees a series of over- or underweight measurements, the filler feedback loop enables automatic adjustments to the filler machine to bring the package fill weight back into the acceptable tolerance range. This capability prevents expensive product giveaway errors in the case of package overweight conditions, or dissatisfied customers and/or product recalls in the case of product underweight situations.

Multitrack Checkweighing

Multiple EMFR weigh cells are also incorporated into belted checkweigher designs such as the one illustrated in Figure 5. The compactness possible with EMFR weigh cell design makes it a superior choice for this type of application.



Figure 5 – Five-lane Checkweigher with Metal Detection

The custom checkweigher shown above was designed for a cheese packaging application. Notice the five belts (i.e. lanes). Each lane has an EMFR weigh cell under the individual weigh bed conveyors, and they operate somewhat independent of each other. However, per the customer's request, if one package is over- or underweight, then all five packages in that batch are rejected.

Also notice the metal detector incorporated into this multitrack checkweigher design. In food packaging applications it is very com-

mon to see a checkweigher integrated with a metal detector. The metal detector interface is controlled using the machine's common HMI, which controls both the checkweigher and metal detector functions for simplified operation. Like the checkweighing function, if any one package is found to have metal present, then all five packages in that batch are rejected. ■

About the Author

Jim Renahan is senior marketing manager for WIPOTEC-OCS, a leading manufacturer and supplier of precision in-motion weighing and X-Ray scanning equipment. www.wipotec-ocs.com/us.



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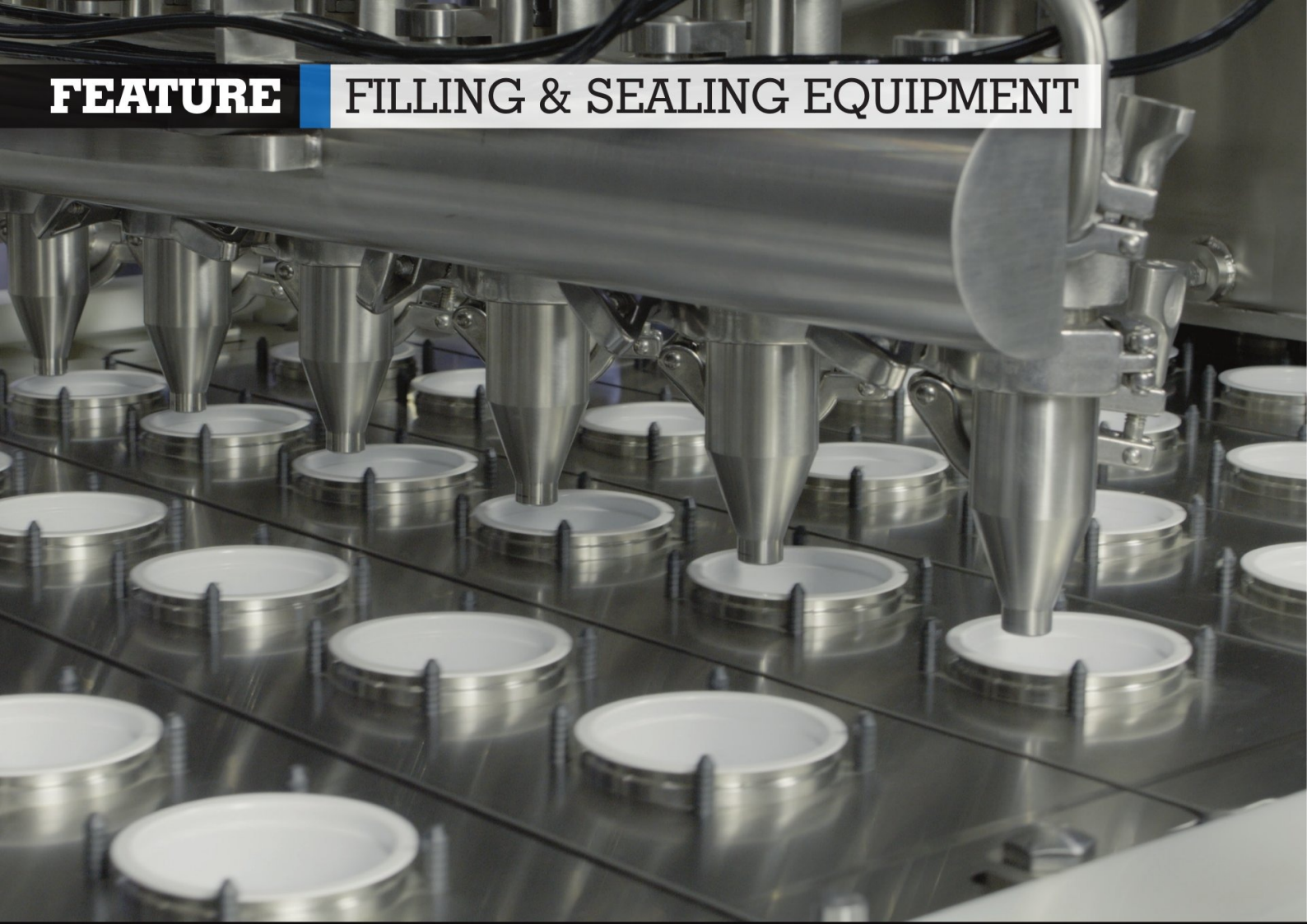
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PRODUCING THE POST-COVID CUP

PACKAGING EQUIPMENT INNOVATIONS DELIVERING QUALITY AND SPEED

By Nate Smith, Innovation and Senior Manager at R.A Jones

From creamy, spreadable cheeses to ready-meal soups to premium pet food blends, the average consumer's fridge is no stranger to cup packaging and its suitability for diverse lifestyles and occasions. A single-serve yogurt, for example, may be thrown into a lunch bag and taken to the office, a larger portion of potato salad may accompany a family on an outdoor picnic and a container of resealable margarine may be used daily while cooking meals. These consumption settings will likely become only more varied as the world emerges from a pandemic—and, through it all, cup pack-

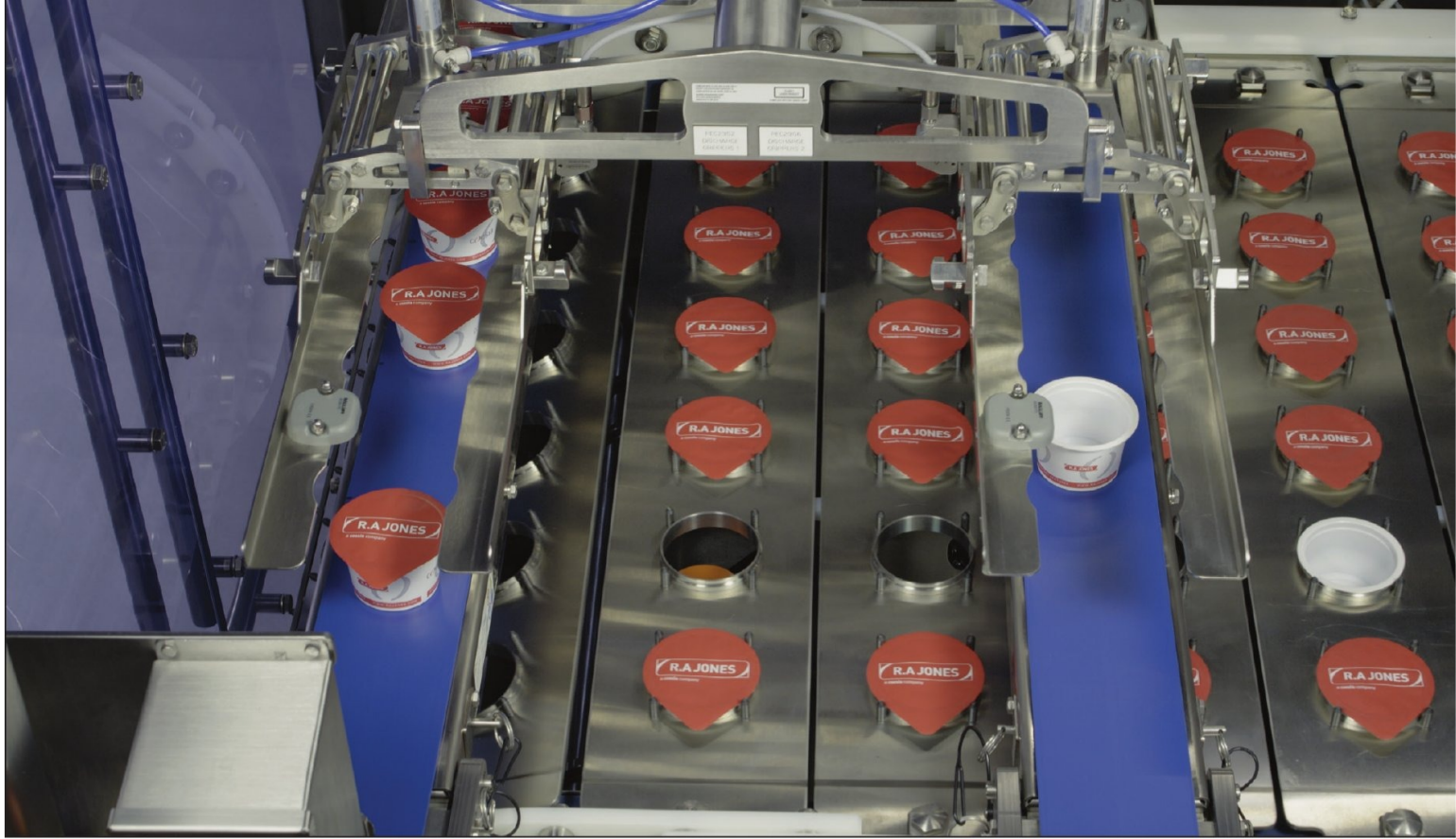
aging must continue to deliver on product quality, safety and convenience. Additionally, the format must meet these expectations under the pressure of a supply chain scrutinized and stretched more than ever before as consumers continue to socially distance and cook at home at higher rates.

With these demands in mind, how will brand manufacturers adapt, and what kinds of technologies will they need to ensure a steady supply of high-quality goods? To mitigate risks while ramping up production, brands should remember packaging is often the first interaction a consumer has with an item. By finetuning the production line and

leveraging the latest advancements in cup filling, sealing and overcapping equipment, manufacturers are well-positioned to deliver a more positive brand experience and build consumer loyalty.

Meeting strict sanitization standards

Manufacturers have long been held to high standards of cleanliness on the production floor, but following the COVID-19 outbreak, operations are under a larger microscope. Cleanliness is of paramount concern as the industry works to meet high product volumes while also minimizing risk of germ



Manufacturers can leverage emerging innovations in cup filling, sealing and overcapping equipment.

spread. For the manufacturer, meeting regulatory requirements ensures consumers receive a safe product and plant workers operate in a safe environment. Taking the right steps to properly sanitize production equipment helps to avoid costly recalls and preserve brand reputation.

With traditional cup filling, sealing and overcapping equipment, manufacturers often face challenges with components that feature uneven surfaces, tight spaces or nooks and crannies where product can become trapped—all characteristics of machine design that lead to difficult, tedious or sub-standard cleaning. Machinery that can instead be easily wiped or washed down reduces potential areas where food particles can linger and harbor bacteria. Also critical is the ability to conduct cleaning processes quickly and efficiently, allowing manufacturers to meet proper standards but minimize their downtime.

Promoting product precision and quality

Today's consumers eye their products with more scrutiny than in the past. Not only has a SKU explosion created more choices, but the pandemic has placed extra emphasis on product safety and eliminating points of exposure to viral particles. To remain competitive, brand manufacturers must renew their focus on quality and reliability. Issues like inconsistent product volume across units, faulty seals and foreign particles are unacceptable and can quickly damage brand

reputation. These defects are especially important to avoid as e-commerce and click-and-collect services become more popular, where products may not be visible until in the home and, if in unsatisfactory condition, inconvenience the consumer with additional trips to the store.

Standard cup sealers can often face issues of misalignment between container and lid, leading to a less-secure seal and increasing the likelihood of product leakage. The result is not only waste for the manufacturer and a mess for the consumer, but greater concerns around product freshness and potential spoilage. Additional risks around product quality are not necessarily visible to the consumer but are important for brand integrity. Some manufacturers provide additional quality control measures with certain machine upgrades. For example, more advanced packaging equipment is designed to flag foreign particles or contaminants that may be present in the cup during the pre-fill stage, as well as sanitize the cup thoroughly. If the machine fails to execute these tasks properly, the finished product can pose harmful threats to the consumer.

Beyond expectations of a safe, reliable product, consumers also take note of consistency and uniformity across purchases. Uneven fill levels from unit to unit or batch to batch will create frustration for the consumer, who will observe these variances as sloppiness or lack of attention to quality—not to mention product giveaway, which hurts the manufacturer's bottom line.

Enhancing efficiency and output

In addition to mitigating risks, manufacturers serving the post-COVID market must also be prepared to produce at higher volumes—a challenge when most are already running 24/7 and cannot simply add more shifts. With CPGs under such pressure, uptime is everything. Each individual component on every machine makes a critical difference in overall production efficiency, pushing manufacturers to examine where their technology is falling short and possibly detracting from overall equipment effectiveness (OEE).

Existing designs for cup packaging equipment are sometimes subject to performance issues that increase maintenance needs and shorten lifespan, such as parts that fall victim to early wear and tear. In addition, typical machines can be bulky and require a large footprint but be limited in capabilities and fail to provide added value. As an alternative, manufacturers can employ high-speed equipment with durable components designed to last and technologies that complete additional tasks within the same amount of space.

The next generation of cup packaging technology

With the pressure to balance quality with quantity and deliver on both fronts, manufacturers can leverage emerging innovations in cup filling, sealing and overcapping equipment. With the right technologies in place, brands can take their production ca-



Cameras enable precise alignment with lids—a valuable feature.

pabilities to new heights—potentially increasing output by more than 20 percent.

In regard to cleanability, new machines designed to protect water-sensitive areas and expose high-traffic areas enables manufacturers to meet stringent hygiene requirements with greater ease. A sealed rotary drive mechanism keeps critical mechanical components within a watertight box and behind a barrier wall, ensuring vulnerable parts are kept safe and dry while workers pressure wash the bulk of the machine. Also assisting with hygiene are innovative machines that utilize belt drives rather than traditional chain drives. A cleaner design that minimizes product catchpoints and promotes easier washdown, a belt drive expedites the sanitization process. Belts also avoid a common maintenance issue observed with chains, which often stretch over time and require frequent readjustment. Furthermore, belts promote precision across the production line and run more smoothly, contributing to greater output and OEE.

Advancements around filler nozzles also yield tremendous benefits for manufacturers looking to run at higher speeds and minimize opportunities for error. New nozzles that can dive deeper into the cup help to reduce splashing, an important measure for liquid or semi-solid products with lower viscosity. The diving nozzles also help eliminate peaking, which occurs when product flow lacks a controlled cut-off and creates inconsistency in fill levels and product appearance. Protection against splashing and peaking helps the machine to stay cleaner and keeps the edges of the cup product-free and dry to foster a stronger seal. Ultimately, with these precision nozzles in place, manufacturers can fill containers faster and with fewer lanes.

When it comes to quality control, more intelligent cameras now serve multiple purposes. Designed within a complete verification system, vision technology inspects all materials to flag any holes or other damage, as well as ensures the right cups and lids are paired together. Lid detection capabilities also flag when a lid is missing

entirely. Additionally, the cameras enable precise alignment with lids—a valuable feature when even a fraction of a millimeter can make the difference in a trusted or faulty seal. This system works in tandem with the larger production setup to pull rejected product off the line without halting or interrupting workflow, offering quality assurance while maintaining high speeds. Checking total product quality in the machine reduces production line sizes and third-party equipment that needs to be purchased and integrated. This can also minimize offline quality control checks once validated.

All of these elements, along with a more sophisticated machine design, help to enhance production and boost cup filling speeds approximately 25 percent compared to the rates of traditional equipment. Finally, if production or quality issues do occasionally arise and require a technician's attention, zone lighting helps to quickly pinpoint exactly where the problem lies, minimizing maintenance-related downtime.

Sourcing a suitable partner

As manufacturers work to evolve along with the cup packaging market and the needs of their customers, engaging the right industry partners is the first critical step to improving production efficiency and scaling up output. By involving an equipment supplier that is in tune with brand challenges and targeted goals for growth, manufacturers are poised to make meaningful changes to their operations and make a lasting impact with consumers—far beyond the COVID-19 era. ■

About R.A Jones

R.A Jones is part of Coesia, a group of innovation-based industrial and packaging solutions companies operating globally, headquartered in Bologna, Italy www.coesia.com.

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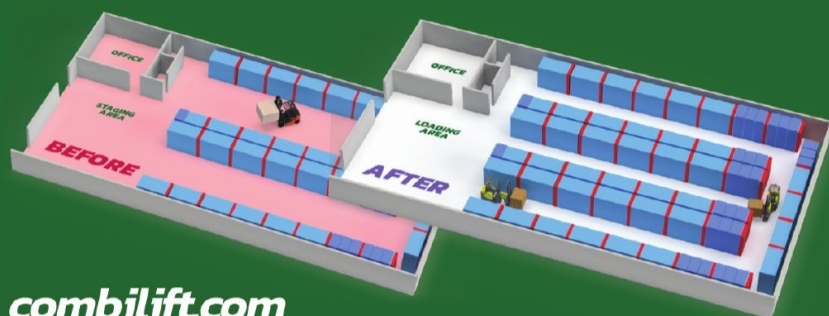
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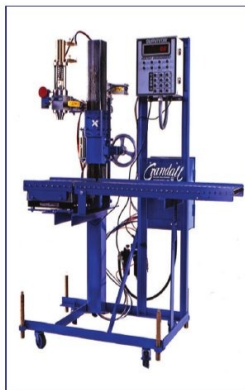


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SPANISH DAIRY FARMERS FAVOR ASEPTIC BOTTLING IN PET

By Chris Higgins, regional sales manager for Matrix Packaging Machinery

In cooperation with Sidel, Spanish dairy company Andía Lácteos de Cantabria S.L. has modernized its plant in Renedo de Piélagos with the most modern, state-of-the-art aseptic PET bottling technology for ultra-high-temperature (UHT) milk for the Spanish dairy player.

Andía Lácteos de Cantabria are a part of the Iparlat Group, which originally were created from the Spanish union of dairy farmer cooperatives. The company mainly package liquid dairy products sold under a well-known Spanish retailer brand. The same re-

tailer gave the initial impulse to move from carton and HDPE bottles towards bottling milk in PET. On their Sidel Aseptic Combi Predis™ – now in operation – extended shelf life milk (ESL), UHT milk and milkshakes are bottled in three formats (0.25 L, 1 L and 1.5 L), giving the dairy player the opportunity to broaden its spectrum of SKUs.

Sidel Aseptic Combi Predis with its dry preform and cap sterilisation technology was integrated into an existing bottling line for HDPE bottles, providing simple, cost-effective as well as sustainable and flexible production.

“The new low-speed Aseptic Combi Predis is working at full speed and it offers the best food safety conditions, perfectly matching with our extreme production quality requirements,” says Javier Villafranca, industrial director at Iparlat Group. The line is currently running at 9,000 bottles per hour with 97 percent efficiency. With this new packaging line several million bottles were produced by Andía Lácteos in 2019. “We succeeded in increasing our portfolio by producing new UHT milk recipes we could not produce before, for instance, the lactose-free milk, for which the demand in the

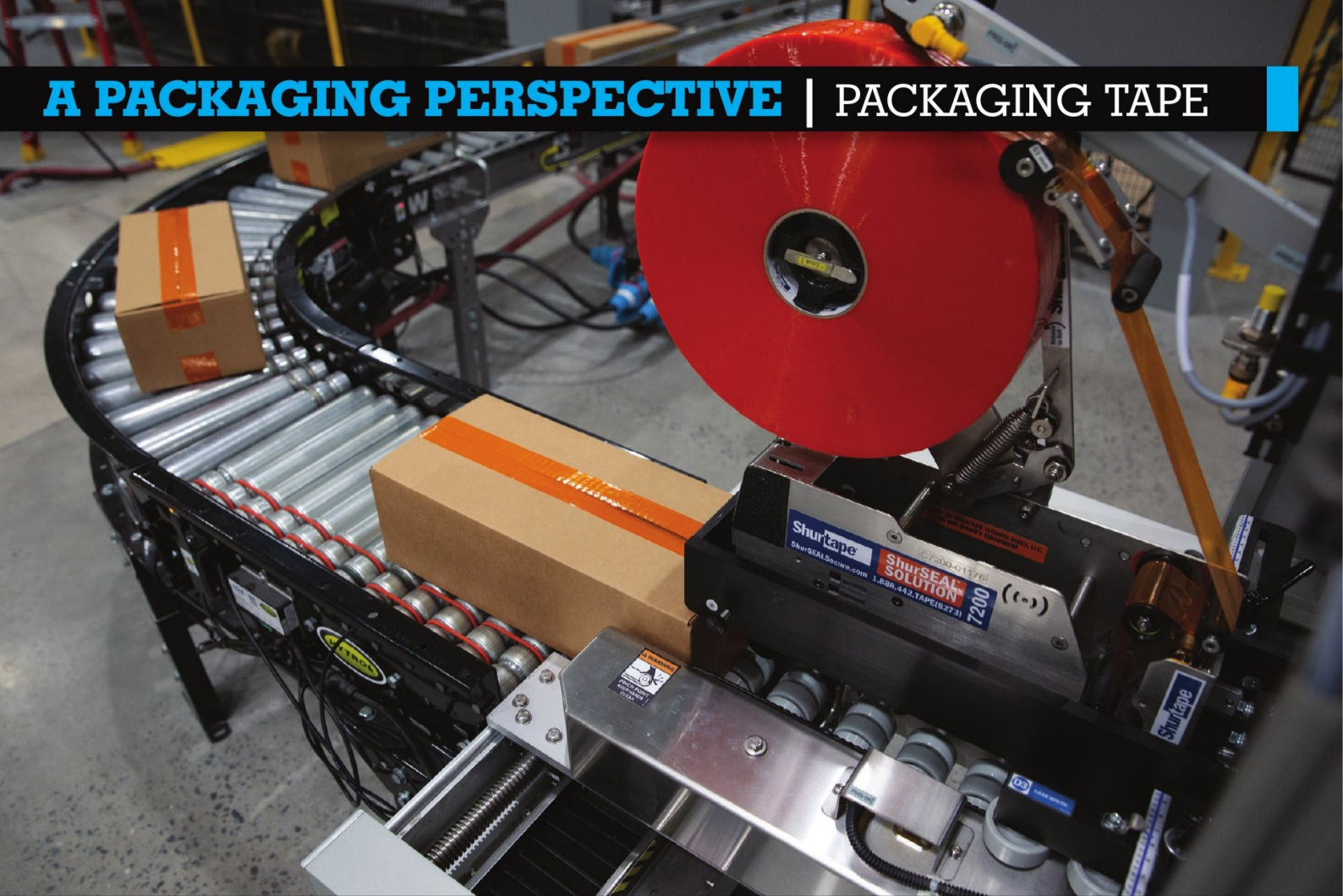


With this new packaging line several million bottles were produced by Andía Lácteos in 2019.

market is growing every day. With this state-of-the-art aseptic PET bottling line, we will be able to significantly strengthen our brand image in the Spanish market,” explains Javier Villafranca.

The milk PET bottles have proven to be highly successful. With sales soaring, Andía Lácteos de Cantabria have recently decided to invest in another Sidel Aseptic Combi Predis, combined with the conveying and accumulation solution Gebo AQFlex®, to increase its production capacity even more. ■





HOW PACKAGING TAPE CAN SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT AND MATERIAL COSTS

By: Bradley Dunlap, Senior Product Manager, Shurtape Technologies, LLC

The upward trend in online global sales has had a profound impact on packaging demands, as manufacturers are shipping more and more goods directly to business and consumer doorsteps. Even before COVID-19 further accelerated them, these sales were expected to surpass \$5.5 trillion in 2023, according to a report by Smithers.

With the abundance of corrugated cardboard and shipping materials winding their

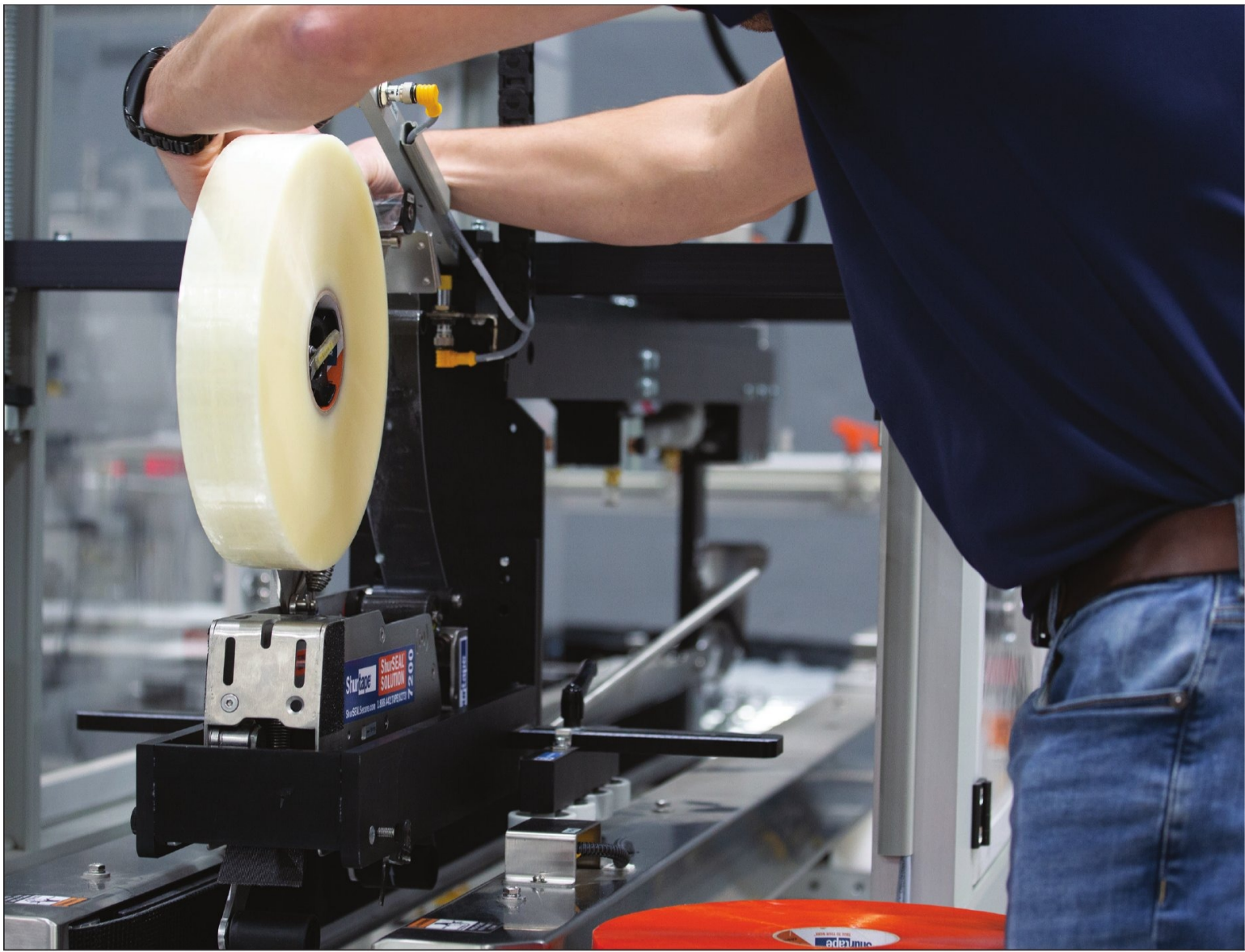
way throughout the supply chain—the corrugated industry represents 80 percent of the eCommerce demand—manufacturers continue to focus more closely on sustainability and minimizing shipping's carbon footprint. Naturally, the packaging tape used to seal cartons and secure goods plays a significant role in achieving these sustainability goals.

By rethinking their approach to selecting a packaging tape manufacturer, focusing on source reduction, examining the quality

of tape used and implementing the correct application process, operations managers and procurement professionals can reduce their packaging tape usage by a striking 20 percent. Let's take an in-depth look at how to achieve this important waste reduction objective.

Secure a packaging tape partner

It's essential to develop a relationship with a packaging tape partner that offers a consultative approach. Tape manufacturers that



Quality tapes save valuable time and are more cost effective in the long run.

find communication valuable, often conduct complimentary on-site evaluations to identify best practices for end of line case sealing, frequently illustrated in retrofitting packaging lines holistically. They provide training and online support, as well as maintenance services on the equipment. This removes pressure from the business' internal team, allowing them to focus on the upstream production and distribution of their products.

Through this open relationship, businesses will better understand which tape products from a manufacturer are best suited to help reach individual sustainability goals. Some manufacturers provide technologies that encourage source reduction—the use of less tape, less plastic, and less packaging materials—while increasing case seal integrity.

Focus on source reduction

Source reduction means taking active steps to reduce the volume of a product being used. In the case of packaging tape, it translates to less tape used to seal and protect each package.

Rightsizing the tape to the application for the best performing seal reduces waste, lowers cost and decreases the carbon footprint. However, it's important to think beyond typical rightsizing considerations, such as the grade (thickness and adhesive strength) and width of packaging tape. Often times, shortening the tapes tab length (on the sides of the box), while retaining a secure carton seal, can result in

significant waste reduction.

And while it may seem more logical to use the heaviest gauge tape in the widest width, there are packaging tapes that are thinner, while still maintaining durability and offering an aggressive adhesive that permeates the carton's fibers.

A good tape manufacturing partner also will be concerned about ensuring a business has less tape waste on its operation floor. In some instances, workers will anticipate tape breakage and replace tape rolls well before they are empty, resulting in bins full of usable tape waste.

To avoid this waste, select a tape with a release-coated backing, which requires less force when unwinding from the roll. This virtually eliminates breaking and tearing, ensuring the tape roll is good to the core. Most importantly, request that your packaging tape representative assist in educating workers on the unique qualities of the tape, as well as the proper application process.

Select a quality tape

Quality tapes save valuable time and are more cost effective in the long run. Unlike a hot melt packaging tape, an acrylic tape doesn't offer a release coating, which causes more stress on the tape and risks frequent tape breakage. This causes a significant drain on throughput and manufacturing efficiency, as lines need to be halted for tape to be re-threaded.

Another consideration is shear strength, the tape's resistance

against a shear load before failing. Acrylic tape adhesives lack the ability to resist slippage, especially in an automated system. Once stress from a robotic arm in palletization is placed on the carton, inferior tape tabs are prone to popping loose, resulting in a line stoppage to fix the issue and reset the automation.

Aggressive hot melt tapes reduce tape waste caused by rework, because they are purpose-built for producers implementing more automated packaging lines and shipping cartons that must stand up to the rigors of the supply chain.

Implement the right automated application technology

A high-quality, robust tape paired with the right application technology can reduce the amount of tape needed by enabling cartons to be sealed with a thinner packaging tape—all while still achieving superior performance.

A good, automated packaging tape application system will wipe down tape with the correct amount of pressure, creating a deeply entangled bond with corrugated cardboard fibers. If the proper amount of pressure isn't applied during wipe-down, only 50 percent of the tape's adhesive is being used. Pressure-sensitive tapes, like hot melts, need this force in order to provide strong, consistent and secure seals.

Packaging systems that fold the tape's edges are valuable because they give the tape more strength. A thinner gauge tape that is folded in and doubled at the edges—where it's most vulnerable—requires more energy to break. Applicator technology that folds the tape edge

and wipes it down with the appropriate amount of pressure increases case seal integrity and prevents breakage

Good for the environment—and the bottom line

By examining a sealing system holistically, from tape quality to application, businesses can significantly reduce the environmental impact and material costs of their packaging process. To put that in perspective: By selecting the proper quality tape for the application and applying it correctly, a company that typically uses 25 pallets of tape annually could eliminate up to five pallets for a savings of more than 5,000 lbs of raw materials. A significant source reduction of 20 percent.

As eCommerce continues to grow, businesses must become more cognizant of the environmental impact and bottom line costs associated with the increased packaging and shipping of their products. Operations managers should look for a packaging tape manufacturer with a mindset for continuous improvement that is also willing to be a consultative partner in case sealing. ■

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Speed and Separation Monitoring With Sick's sBot Safety System and Urcap for Universal Robots

SICK and Universal Robots (UR) announced a new safety solution for the safeguarding of accessible robotic applications. When combined, the sBot safety system and URCap from SICK increase productivity with immediate automated restart and profit from an easy configuration of the safety system directly from the UR teach pendant. With this partnership, SICK and UR have reportedly created the fastest way to implement speed and separation monitoring for cooperative robot applications.

The sBot Stop – URCap and sBot Speed – URCap are easy-to-use safety systems based on the smart combination of the nanoScan3 safety laser scanner and UR Robot safety features. These solutions reportedly work well in handling operations using robot applications with free access and enable manufacturers to achieve safety without sacrificing productivity.

The nanoScan3 is the world's smallest profile safety laser scanner. Its space-saving design works in both mobile robotics applications and stationary applications where space is limited. It reportedly delivers high-precision measurement data and is extremely resistant to light, dust, or dirt. It also has the highest level of flexibility with up to 128 freely configurable fields and monitoring cases.

The nanoScan3 Core safety laser scanner is combined with the URe robot safety features thanks to a provided configuration tool. This reportedly enables the easy configuration directly via the UR teach pendant.

The sBot Stop – URCap and sBot Speed – URCap are safety systems for the safeguarding of free accessible robot applications with the highlight of a fast and easy configuration of up to two safety laser scanner(s) directly via the UR teach pendant.

For more information, visit www.sick.com.



Prominent Detergent Manufacturer Solves Overage Issues with Next-Gen Cremer Counting Machines

Cremer recently helped a prominent manufacturer of laundry pods and dishwashing pacs virtually eliminate product wastage due to overage. The project, which also included mitigating the effect of detergent products' inherent stickiness, centered around Cremer's HQ Series, a line of compact counting and packaging machines providing fast, reliable and cost-efficient counting solutions for a variety of items.

The detergent products manufacturer, which has facilities in North America and Europe, enjoys an exemplary record of customer satisfaction. But despite having converted much of its end-of-line inspection to counting operations, some lines were still using traditional weighing techniques. To prevent reputation-damaging undercounts, the detergent manufacturer was erring on the side of caution.

The detergent manufacturer decided to forgo weighers or robot picking entirely, and instead installed several machines from Cremer's HQ Series. Available in HQ, HQF and HQI models, the versatile counting machines can reportedly be used for a wide variety of pods – either in bulk quantities or single piece discharges into any package. The HQ Series is scalable for varying production levels depending on product type and output, including the high volumes typically found in detergent manufacturing.

The new Cremer HQ Series counters are also reportedly better at separating stickier items than preceding models. Additionally, the laned system helps diminish downtime associated with maintenance and cleaning.

For more information, visit www.cremer.com.

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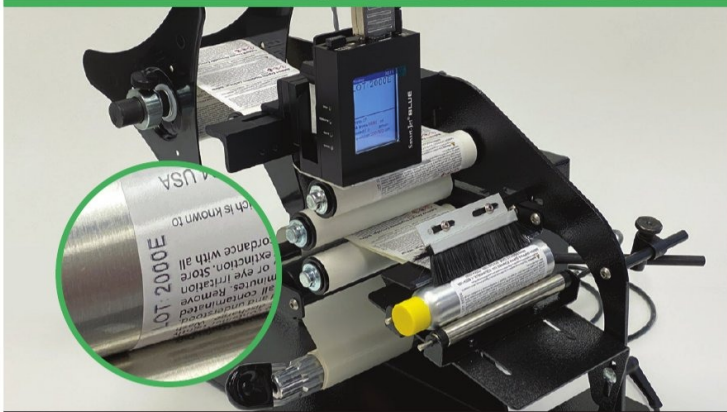
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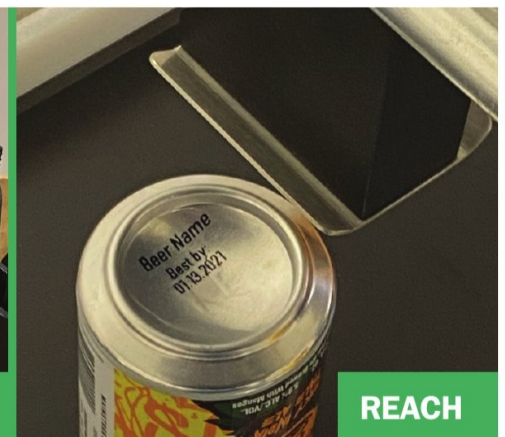
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Nestlé Launches Bio-Based Lids and Scoops Made From Renewable Resource

Nestlé announced that it will introduce bio-based lids and scoops made from sugar cane and its byproduct for a range of its nutrition products for infants and children. The main advantage of these bio-based plastics is that they are made from a renewable plant material that can be continually replenished and that absorbs carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. In addition, this packaging reportedly helps Nestlé reduce its use of fossil-based plastics.

Nestlé Nutrition's NAN infant formula packed in the new packaging materials was introduced in Hong Kong in 2020 and will be available in other markets globally from 2021, including for other brands such as BEBA and GUIGOZ.

Wyeth Nutrition is launching the new bio-based packaging for its brands SMA, LITTLE STEPS, S-26 and ILLUMA.

Nestlé Health Science is also introducing the new packaging material for its Althéra, Alfaré, Alfamino, Modulen and Peptamen Junior brands, which are part of its global range of pediatric food for special medical purposes.

The lids and scoops are made from 66 percent and 95 percent sugar cane respectively. They are certified as plant-based packaging and are recyclable in countries that have recycling facilities for polyethylene (PE). They have the same properties and functionalities as conventional plastic ones, without compromising the high level of hygiene and freshness required. The bio-based lids and scoops complement the tin can which is metal-based and is the most recycled material in the world.

For more information, visit <https://www.nestle.com>.



Graphic Packaging International Launches Cap-It to Support Beverage Customers on Plastic-to-Paper Journey

Graphic Packaging International (Graphic Packaging) emphasizes its commitment to supporting beverage brands on their plastics reduction journey with its latest recyclable paperboard packaging solution, Cap-It™.

Cap-It is an innovative clip with neck rings for multipack polyethylene terephthalate (PET) or recycled (rPET) bottles. The paperboard clip, made of renewable materials, is an alternative to traditional shrink film packaging, increasing overall pack recyclability to 100 percent.

Commonly used to house four- to eight-count bottles, the Cap-It clip uses minimal paperboard while enhancing on-shelf differentiation. Product branding can be consistently viewed in full, from all angles. The unique design provides integrity throughout the supply chain, and offers a comfortable handling experience for consumers.

Cap-It is currently in commercial use in Asia.

For more information on Graphic Packaging, visit graphicpkg.com.

Westlab and ProAmpac Deliver Innovative Recyclable Pouch for Bath Salts

Continuing its mission to deliver sustainable solutions, ProAmpac, in collaboration with Westlab, announced a recyclable pouch for premium bathing salts.



"Partnering with a leading brand like Westlab is critical in bringing to market the latest in sustainable flexible packaging innovations. Westlab's forward-thinking along with ProAmpac's material-science expertise proves that greener flexible packaging can support a variety of markets and applications," states Adam Grose, chief commercial officer for ProAmpac.

These premium bath salts are the first commercial packaging application that uses ProActive Recyclable R-1050 film, part of ProAmpac's ProActive Sustainability® product offerings. The

pouch is considered recycle-ready and approved for polyethylene film collection streams.

The new stand-up pouch includes a recyclable zipper closure and HD flexographic printing to ensure clear messaging and branding. Besides being a recycle-ready packaging solution, the new pouch contains almost 10 percent less packaging material compared with the non-recyclable version, without compromising product performance and safety.

For more information, visit www.westlab.co.uk or ProAmpac.com.

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Totani innovations and enhancements have proven effective to improve efficiency in operation of recyclable stand-up pouches.

Dealing with web melt, print variation, shadow seals, and web instability were primary factors that went into Totani's most recent pouch machine that features a number of enhancements and new proprietary technology.

Ask Totani innovations and enhancements prove effective in set-up and change over times for stand-up pouches.

Ask us about Totani's most recent pouch machine that features a number of enhancements and new proprietary technology. ■

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