

September 2021

# Packaging

## TECHNOLOGY TODAY

Trends, Solutions and Package Innovations of Today

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# Filmquest

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# We're growing our solution-based platform

IN MARCH 2021, DURACO SPECIALTY TAPES, A LEADING MANUFACTURER OF PRESSURE-SENSITIVE TAPES AND SPECIALTY MATERIALS, ACQUIRED FILMQUEST GROUP, INC. A PREMIER CONVERTER AND SUPPLIER OF POLYESTER AND SPECIALTY FILMS.



For more than 65 years, Duraco has been providing solutions for adhesive coating and converting customers across North America. Their proprietary processes and manufacturing capabilities mean they make your tape better, ship faster and give you trusted results without the wait.

Filmquest joins long-time collaborator and sister company, Infinity Tapes LLC based in Lawrence, MA, previously acquired by Duraco in 2020.

Infinity is a U.S. manufacturer of Double Coated Tapes, Adhesive Transfer Tapes, Tamper Evident Films & Tapes and Silicone Coated Papers & Films. They have the capability to provide custom solutions in formulation and converting to meet your specific application needs.

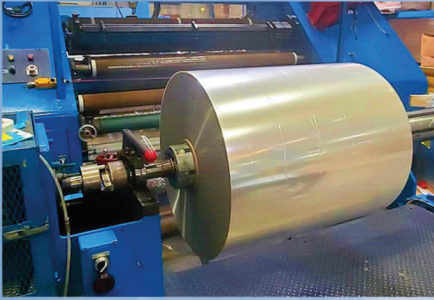


Filmquest offers the widest range of PET films available, capable of meeting industry specifications including corona and chemical treatments, specialty coatings, anti-static, heat sealable, PvDC, colored, anti-fog, hazy, ultra-clear, shrinkable, twistable, metalized, and other market and performance-driven properties.



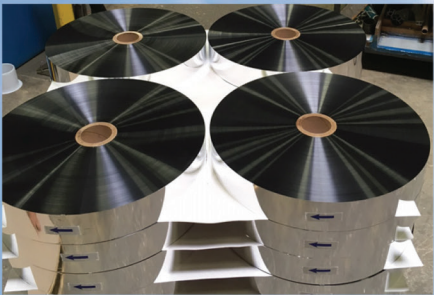
# About Filmquest

Filmquest Group is the largest merchant converter of polyester films in the USA, supplying the market exclusively with Questar® brand polyester films, complemented with a full range of value-added products.



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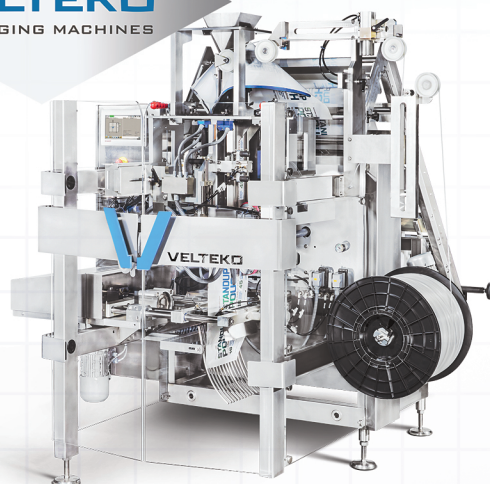
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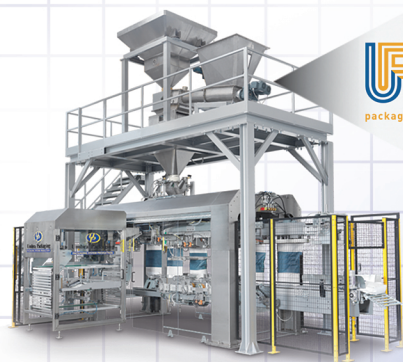
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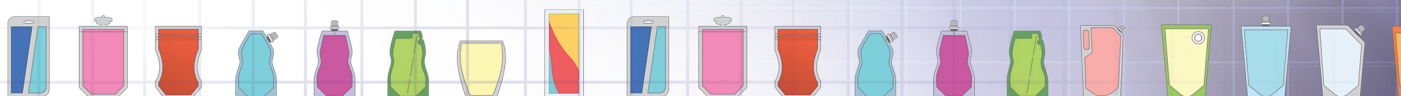
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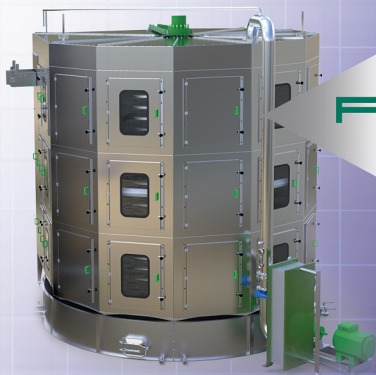
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## EDITOR'S NOTE

### It All Adds Up

Overcoming challenges has indeed been the trend these last several months, and one of the biggest challenges companies are facing as we remain in a global pandemic status is the lack of supply and demand balance. As the demand increases, supply is not keeping up quite as well, and manufacturers are feeling the pressure to make more adjustments in their supply chains. With that also comes the increase in prices across the board.

Looking at the paper industry solely, we are seeing a unique combination of events that are constraining paper supplies and leading to price increases. A few of the factors driving these price increases include:

- Increased pulp prices;
- Mills being closed, scaled production or lack of workers;
- The increase in transportation costs; and
- The lack of balance in supply and demand.

According to the US Producer Price Index, "woodpulp is at a current level of 216.90, up from 207.90 last month and up from 145.50 one year ago. This is a change of 4.33 percent from last month and 49.07 percent from one year ago."

We also cannot exclude the fact that after the Chinese Ministry of Ecology and Environment banned the import of waste paper in January, the short supply of raw materials for papermaking worsened. The plastic restriction order in Beijing is sending consumers and companies rushing to switch to paper packaging. This switch does not go without

increased pressure on its already stressed paper-based food packaging and packing bags supply.

Indeed, paper prices have been on the rise since mid-2020, and there is no sign of this slowing down. However, the paper industry is just one of many that are being challenged by the 2020 conditions.

We have also witnessed one supplier after another in the print industry announcing their price hikes in recent months. All of which have also attributed the price spikes to the costs of raw materials, freight, logistics, and procurement due to pandemic-related restrictions.

The increasingly falling supply plus the rising demand, equals inevitable price increases. We can also add in the unpredictable supply-chain disruptions across the globe that we are still seeing frequently, and the equation worsens.

As we look to paper as a solution for more sustainable packaging option, we can also see the prices of packaging continue to rise in the transition.

Enjoy,

**Joan Mantini**  
**586.295.1888**  
**Joanm@rdgmedia.net**

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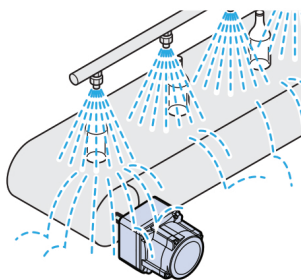


Watertight, dust-resistant brushless DC motors withstand wet and dusty environments and can be washed with water.

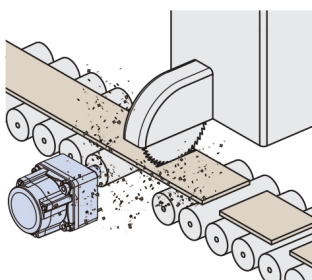
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**IP 6 7**

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- Completely dust-proof structure



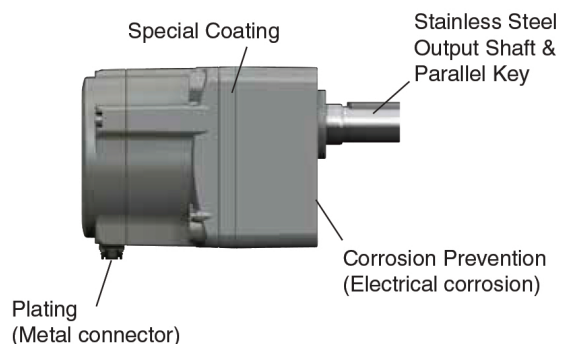
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# Packaging

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#### PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

Randy Green . [randy@rdgmedia.net](mailto:randy@rdgmedia.net)  
586-227-9344

#### INTEGRATED SALES MANAGERS:

Scott Franz . [scott@workplacepub.com](mailto:scott@workplacepub.com)  
937-550-4055

#### EDITOR

Joan Mantini

#### ACCOUNTING MANAGER

Kristen Green . [kristin@rdgmedia.net](mailto:kristin@rdgmedia.net)  
586-242-8397

#### PACKAGING/IMS AUCTIONS

Angi Hiesterman . [angi@rdgmedia.net](mailto:angi@rdgmedia.net)  
515-351-7973

#### OPERATIONS/CUSTOMER SERVICE

Jody Kirchoff

#### ART DIRECTOR

Jake Needham

#### Web Design

Josh Scanlan

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# SURVIVING THE PERFECT STORM IMPACTING PACKAGING AND SHIPPING OPERATIONS

By Peter Schwoerer, Vice President at CMES Robotics Inc.

**P**ackaging and shipping operations across all market segments were already being squeezed prior to 2020 by tight labor markets and cost pressures. The pandemic created the perfect storm in 2020 by not only intensifying an already tight labor market, but also by the exponential growth in all forms of eCommerce B2B and B2C.

To meet this exponential growth logistical operations need to be able to scale in complexity quickly to meet a growing demand, while your company ensures you are offering the same level of quality, consistency and safety with each delivery. Of course whole also controlling costs and dealing with a fierce competitive environment.

Automation is seen by many packaging and shipping operations managers as a cost effective means to overcome labor shortage and the ability to handling the exponential growth in package handling. Freeing your workforce from repetitive and tedious tasks is one of the most cost effective moves an operations team can make. The additional

benefits of increased safety and reduced material cost only increase the ROI achieved by automating select processes.

Where and how to automate is the question being asked by many operations teams. There are two key areas to take a look at, “void-filling” and “palletization/de-palletization” that can provide significant benefits by the use of automation.

## **Automating void-filling**

Void-filling provides the accurate amount of protective packaging within your boxes ensuring two issues are accomplished, the items arrive at the destination intact and that only the required amount of protective packaging is utilized reducing waste and cost.

In an unautomated world of packaging and shipping an employee must take a box filled with items and estimate the amount of fill material needed often overfilling thus creating waste or worse under filling a box leading to damaged product during shipment. This is a boring, repeti-





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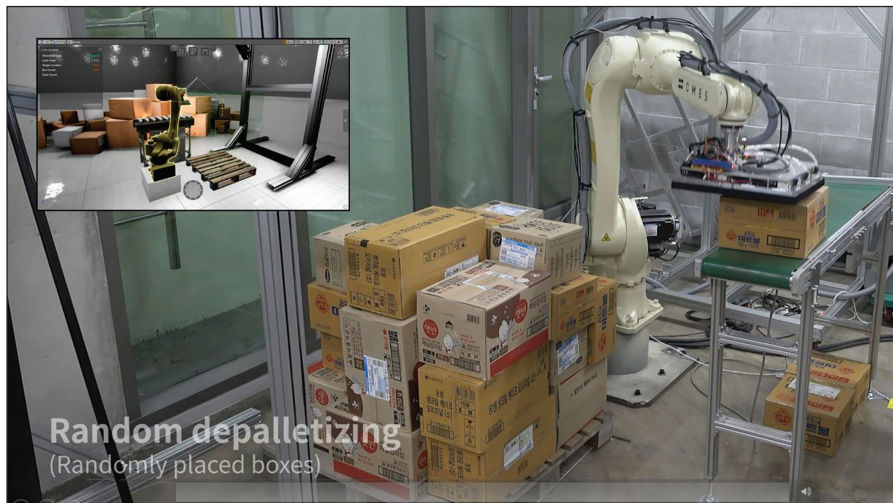
tive and tedious job to ask anyone to do for an eight hour shift without errors.

Now if you automate this process, the box containing the items which can be of any shape or size is accurately scanned with a 3D sensor creating a point cloud map of data points. This information is sent to the artificial intelligence (AI) software to calculate the exact void within the box. This information is sent to the dispensing unit of the protective packing material to fill the box accurately as it moves down your packaging line. You have now freed that employee from a boring, repetitive and tedious task enabling them to work on more complex tasks. You have also controlled your cost by using only the exact amount of packing material needed and ensuring customer satisfaction by the products arriving intact.

### Automating palletization/de-palletization

The exponential growth in eCommerce has meant more packages coming and going, whether you are a manufacturer shipping products or a fulfillment center receiving products that will eventually be turned around the sheer number of packages being handled daily has exploded.

Loading and unloading pallets of packages is a strenuous job that often leads to injuries and all the associated costs of an on the job injury. Just as with void-filling, automating



**3D sensors and artificial intelligence software work together to create an efficient path for de-palletization.**

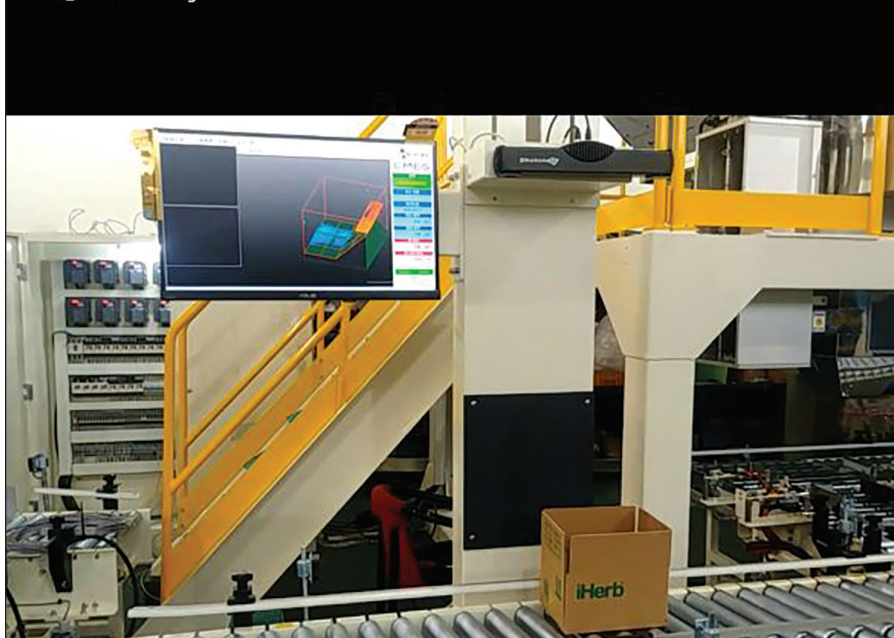
this process eliminates the risk of employee injuries while also providing consistent package handling.

The automation process begins with the pallet of packages, which are often of different sizes and shapes being scanned with a 3D sensor. The sensor sends this information to the AI software to calculate the size and location of each package creating the most efficient path for de-palletization to take place and placement of the packages.

It is estimated that by 2040 95 percent of purchases will be made online, so now is the time to take a look at your packing and shipping operations to find those areas that will benefit from automation and free up your employees for more complex tasks. Automation takes away the repetitive, tedious and boring tasks while increasing efficiency and productivity.

Void-filling and the palletization/de-palletization processes are two of the areas that can provide a fast ROI of your investment in automation. ■

CMES\_Box void filling



**Automating void-filling can ensure the accurate amount of protective packing within boxes in a timely and efficient process.**

### About the Author

Peter Schwoerer is the vice president of CMES Robotics Inc. America's operations. CMES Robotics Inc. is an enabling technology that allows industries to overcome a critical labor crunch through robotic automation. CMES Robotics AI gives Robots eyes and a brain to free workers from repetitive, tedious, and boring tasks, allowing them to handle more critical tasks.





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# ADDING EFFICIENCIES TO YOUR PACKAGING STARTING WITH THE END-OF-LINE

By Naomi Holdvogt, Director of Marketing, Robotics and End of Line at ProMach

**W**hile end-of-line packaging is the last in a series of steps your products undergo before leaving your facility, many would argue they're the most important. That's because the manner in which products are packed and arrive to your customers is the first exposure to your brand. Products that are carelessly packed or damaged due to inadequate wrapping reflect poorly on your brand. This can lead to a decline in confidence with your customers, costly returns or loss of market share.

End-of-line packaging is not an area to cut corners. Rather, new technologies are helping drive a higher level of automation into this critical area. These advancements are not only increasing efficiency and productivity, but really work to set the stage for your brand's long-term success.

What exactly is end-of-line packaging? Think of it this way: bundle it, pack it, seal it, palletize it, wrap it, and go. As implied by its name, end-of-line packaging refers to the final stages of the packaging process

before a product is shipped. This includes machinery such as case and tray forming, shrink wrapping, case and tray packing, robotic packaging, case sealing and stretch wrapping.

## Case/tray forming and sealing

One of the first areas of end-of-line packaging is forming cases or trays and sealing them once product is packed. Commonly also known as pack and seal machines, the value they bring to customers are numerous, from increasing throughput, reducing labor, improving ergonomics – all while improving product protection so the product safely arrives from facility to their store.

Furthermore, some pack and seal machines can be integrated with customers' existing ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning). That integration makes a pack and seal machine "smarter" – controlling the entire process from order picking to shipping. The system will be able



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**Innovations like vertical shrink wrappers can be placed in-line with the filler, and product is wrapped in the upright position, using a top or bottom trim seal.**

to determine the most efficient case size based on the quantities and sizes of each item. That accuracy and efficiency reduces the amount of time to package while increasing throughput and saving money. This is important for companies dealing in e-commerce where the size of the package is a big determinant of the shipping costs.

When pack and seal machines accurately determine the correct box and packaging material, there is no waste. A machine that minimizes waste reduces the amount of dunnage needed to package products. The added value and cost savings are why smarter, fully integrated pack and seal machines are growing in popularity.

### Shrink wrapping

For many products, such as bottles, cans and jars, or bundling multiple products together, shrink wrapping is an ideal form of packaging as it provides a cost-effective, secure seal. Today, innovations like vertical shrink wrappers can be placed in-line with the filler, and product is wrapped in the upright position, using a top or bottom trim seal. This eliminates the time and labor of laying the product down before wrapping. Wrapping product vertically with a trim seal has become a popular method as it removes the unsightly seal seam across the side panel of the package, allowing product graphics or printed film graphics to appear crisp and clean.

In the sealing head of shrink wrappers, orbital-motion designs eliminate the need for the head to move with the product while the seal is being made, which increases the throughput speed of the wrapper.

### Case packing

Many companies who have been successfully hand-packing cases

find themselves needing more speed to meet growing demand. Automating their case packaging and palletizing processes is a great place to gain efficiencies.

Case packing machines are reliable, efficient and easy to operate. Popular styles such as side-load or top-load, intermittent or continuous motion designs bring a high degree of accuracy to applications. human machine interface (HMI) software allows operators to switch pack patterns and case dimensions, which is helpful when packing different brands that have specific packing requirements.

In side-load case packing, product is pushed into cases that are partially assembled. Once product is loaded, the flaps of the case are automatically closed and sealed. In top-load case packing, cases advance into the machine fully formed, robotics then pick the items and place them into the case, which are then closed.

A type of product that lends itself better to side-load case packing are cartons. That's because they are more stable and consistent in shape and size while being pushed into cases. On the other hand, flexible pouches are better candidates for top-load case packing. Reason being since they are flexible, their shape may alter while being pushed in a case and affect the overall packing process. Pick and placing flexibles into a case eliminate that concern.

### Palletizing

Automation is also lending a helping hand to palletizing. End-of-line systems are designed to take cases and automatically load pallets ready for shipment. Whether stacking cases or trays through mechanical methods, or using robotic pick-and-place solutions, the efficiencies gained through automating this area is impressive compared to manu-



# How To Guide

## How to: Minimize Software Maintenance costs on your packing line

The Matthews MPERIA platform takes all the software needed to fully drive the line, and merges into a single simple-to-use controller to keep production running efficiently, easily, and at low operating costs. The MPERIA platform combines up to six separate software packages currently in use in your facility, which reduces maintenance and support needs, and makes it easy to train seasonal workers or new employees.

### **Consolidate with Matthews and get the following with MPERIA Platform:**

#### **Message Editor**

- Message editing can be done at the printer for quick fixes or updates to messages
- Same message editor interface on touchscreen is available in standalone form or remote login
- Automatic message conversion between printer drivers allows you to create one message and use for multiple printers



#### **Secure Data Transfer**

- MPERIA makes it easy to connect with data to be printed from PLCs, MES, or ERP systems
- Use MPERIA netFolder to automatically transfer database files or new messages

#### **Line Controller**

- Add multiple printers to your line without adding the headache
- MPERIA alerts users of upcoming tasks, keeps a pulse on all printer operations, and clearly displays the messages being printed

#### **Print Controller**

- MPERIA can control one, or 40, printers from one location
- Drive all of the products on your current production line with no third party middleware including printers, scanners, and vision systems

### **CHALLENGE:**

As regulations, requirements and printing technologies change, more software is added to the packaging line, increasing the maintenance costs and complexity.

### **SOLUTION:**

Matthews' MPERIA platform reduces maintenance and complexity by driving and controlling all printers within the facility from one central location and consolidating into one single software package.



- Simple interface alerts of upcoming actions or low ink on a printer

#### **Cost Estimator**

- Input your ink cost, ink type, and printer model and MPERIA will calculate your cost-per-mark based on your message
- Adjust density and opacity of the message to save on ink and reduce cost-per-mark

#### **Mechanical Setup & Maintenance**

- MPERIA provides on-screen walk-through instructions for printer setup and maintenance
- Smart interface provides you the setup and maintenance required for the printer you are working on.

#### **Built in OS**

- Linux Operating system within the firmware means no maintenance costs due to Windows security issues or updates and no ongoing license costs for the Operating System
- MPERIA only installs what you need and when you need it. No additional drivers or software exist on your hardware taking up space and using processing time.

Matthews has worked hard to combine what you need on your packing line and address the challenge of maintaining, training, and using multiple software packages. Now you can use one solution for all your needs.

ally performing these tasks.

Robotic pick and place has become a common fixture in today's manufacturing environments. Gone are the days of spending hours troubleshooting and repairing robots. The advanced engineering found in modern robots bring a high level of reliability. Robotic systems have proven performance, along with the flexibility to work multiple SKUs with little to no changeover points compared to a conventional, hard automation system. Additionally, many companies don't have the staff with the skillset anymore to accomplish that more complex changeover. Customers would rather have equipment that can perform changeovers with a push of a button; automatic changeovers are available for both robotic and hard automation case packers. These are just a few reasons why so many industries are using them to automate their processes.

Using 2D cameras or 3D sensors, robots are able to identify, inspect, distinguish, select and reach the right items within their work envelope to be picked and placed in preparation for packaging. Robots excel at orientating items in a prescribed pattern quickly and consistently, operate cleanly and provide a level of repeatability that's critical to industries.

## Stretch wrapping

Stretch wrapping pallets is often the final stop before your products head out the door. And yes, automation is making an impact here, too. The benefits are clear: protecting product during transport.

By automating your stretch wrapping capabilities, you are providing a safer and secure way to transport pallets. Automatic stretch wrapping systems include turntable, rotary tower and orbital config-

urations. All three offer advantages, including a tighter wrap. That's because film is designed to be stretched when wrapped around a load. By stretching the film and applying it to the load, it acts as a rubber band keeping the product tight and secure. When film is applied by hand, a person at the beginning of their shift may be applying 100 percent stretch to the film (that percentage drops as fatigue sets in). While that percentage may seem impressive, it doesn't compare well to automatic units that typically wrap with pre-stretching film at 260 percent or higher. A pallet that's wrapped with film pre-stretched to 260 percent uses less film than a pallet hand-wrapped at 100 percent.

It wasn't that long ago that most of these end-of-line areas were performed manually, and in some cases they still are. But technology is providing a much-needed assist in helping companies' end-of-line systems significantly boost their productivity; the more automation deployed, the stronger ROI is realized. No two packaging applications are alike, so it's important to match the correct end-of-line machinery that best meets your production goals. A reputable packaging equipment OEM can audit your processes and recommend a fully integrated solution. There's no better place to begin growing your business than by looking at the end of the line. ■

## About the Author

Naomi Holdvogl is the director of marketing for robotics and end-of-line at ProMach (<https://www.promachbuilt.com/>). She can be reached at 320-852-7705; [Naomi.Holdvogl@promach-built.com](mailto:Naomi.Holdvogl@promach-built.com)

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The cosmetics industry may become a focal point for manufacturers of liquid filling machines.

# 6 TRENDS IN LIQUID FILLING

By Devin Partida, Contributing Writer

**L**iquid filling is an essential step in many production lines. Food and drink manufacturers, cosmetics companies, and more all rely on automated liquid filling machines to maintain precision and efficiency. As such, changes in the liquid filling market have far-reaching impacts across multiple industries.

Like many other industries, liquid filling is on the verge of a substantial period of change. Disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic will spur innovations and shifts over the next few years. Here are six of the most significant of these.

## 1. Supply chain restructuring

Pre-pandemic supply chains sprawled across the globe, leading to considerable disruption when COVID-19 hit. As a result, logistics networks in many industries, including liquid filling, will restructure and adapt in the coming years. A February 2021 survey revealed that 70 percent of U.S. companies are likely to reshore after the pandemic.

Liquid filling facilities are more likely to start sourcing from suppliers geographically nearer to them. These reshoring and nearshoring initiatives could cause initial disruptions as supply chains adapt but may ensure more long-term security. Future issues with international shipping may not affect liquid filling centers as heavily.

Similarly, many manufacturers will likely look to source liquid filling

machines and parts from domestic suppliers. These may come at higher costs but could prevent bottlenecks from international uncertainty.

## 2. Flexibility

The disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic have created a larger desire for flexibility. Facilities now want liquid filling machinery that can adapt to varying production levels to account for unexpected demand shifts. Machines that can quickly adjust their output will see more implementation than those that can't.

Similarly, tightened budgets will lead manufacturers to look for machines that can serve multiple purposes. Packagers will want machines that can handle various sizes and shapes of containers, caps, and labels. This flexibility will enable manufacturers to produce multiple products on the same line, saving money to help recover from the pandemic faster.

Replacing old machines with these more flexible options may lead to higher short-term spending. After that, though, manufacturers using them will likely reduce expenses.

## 3. Multi-function machines

Another action many liquid filling facilities will take in response to lower budgets is opting for multi-function machines. While the traditional approach to liquid filling involves separate machines for each part of the process, that may fall out of favor. Single machines that

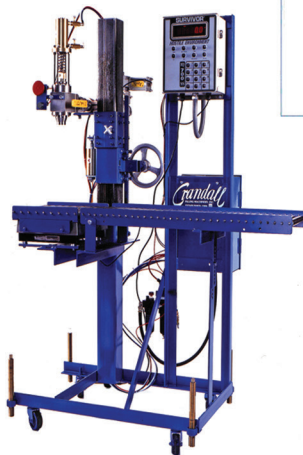




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can perform multiple operations will become more common to reduce space and expense.

As this trend continues, liquid filling machines will grow increasingly complex. Some manufacturers predict machines will be able to handle four to six operations in a single system. This level of functionality will help smaller operations still produce a wide array of products.

#### **4. IoT integration**

Internet of Things (IoT) technology is already prominent in industries that use liquid filling processes. The number of connected devices in the world is already in the tens of billions, and IoT growth shows no signs of slowing. In fact, IoT integration in liquid filling machines will likely rise in the coming years.

IoT connectivity will let these machines communicate with others in a facility, creating more cohesive and flexible workplaces. Workers can also use these features to check on maintenance data remotely. As more liquid filling machines feature this connectivity, their users will get more value from them.

#### **5. Higher cleanliness standards**

Internet of Things (IoT) technology is already prominent in industries that use liquid filling processes. The number of connected devices in the world is already in the tens of billions, and IoT growth shows no signs of slowing. In fact, IoT integration in liquid filling machines will likely rise in the coming years.

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As more liquid filling machines feature this connectivity, their users will get more value from them.

#### **6. Increased demand in some markets**

Many industries that rely on liquid filling struggled in the past year, but some are set to see considerable growth. While food and drink production may be the sector people most closely associate with liquid filling, cosmetics may soon become the fastest-growing application.

The cosmetics industry's growth rate has increased each year since 2016. Products like fragrances are seeing rising demand as working people's disposable income rises, especially in emerging markets. As a result, the cosmetics industry may become a focal point for manufacturers of liquid filling machines.

Cosmetics won't likely overtake food and beverage, but it may grow faster. Many of liquid filling operations' short-term goals, in turn, will likely zero in on this rapidly advancing market.

#### **The liquid filling industry's outlook is bright**

While the past year has been full of uncertainty, the future looks promising for liquid filling operations. Some smaller, shorter-term disruptions may come as facilities adjust to new needs, but these will lead to long-term growth. Facilities that rely on liquid filling operations should take note of these trends to prepare for the future. ■

#### **About the Author**

**Devin Partida** is a BizTech and supply chain writer covering the latest in retail and packaging innovations.

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A qualified label designer can start at the end and “reverse engineer” a top-notch label that will print the way it should.

# CANNABIS LABELS WARRANT THE RIGHT ATTENTION, TALENT AND TIME

By Gary Paulin and Mark Lusky

**A**fter a do-it-yourself, homespun start, cannabis companies have upped their game in both professionalism and pizzazz when it comes to labels.

Product labels are essentially a company’s “front door.” To compete effectively, cannabis companies need to ensure that their custom cannabis labels look good, stand out from the competition, and can impart much-needed information about efficacy and safety.

Doing this warrants the right attention, talent, and time to make sure everything looks and reads well, is clear and complete, and offers a conduit to further information as needed. A well-done product label is an admirable “goodwill ambassador” for a company’s products.

To ensure everything is well-done, following are recommendations that can make the entire process efficient and cost-effective:

## 1. Get a designer who knows the 3Ps.

The 3Ps are print design, printing, and prepress. While digital design skills are extremely important, print is a different world. The rules that apply for digital are far different in many cases than print. For example, higher-resolution 300 DPI rules in print, while digital requires lower resolution files. CMYK is the color palette in print, while RGB applies to digital. Print blends and fades don’t work the way they do on a digital screen.

Knowing how print design works with prepress and printing processes is another big plus. A qualified label designer can start at the end and “reverse engineer” a top-notch label that will print the way it should. Too often, grandiose designs run into trouble because they can’t be printed accurately or, in some cases, cost-effectively.



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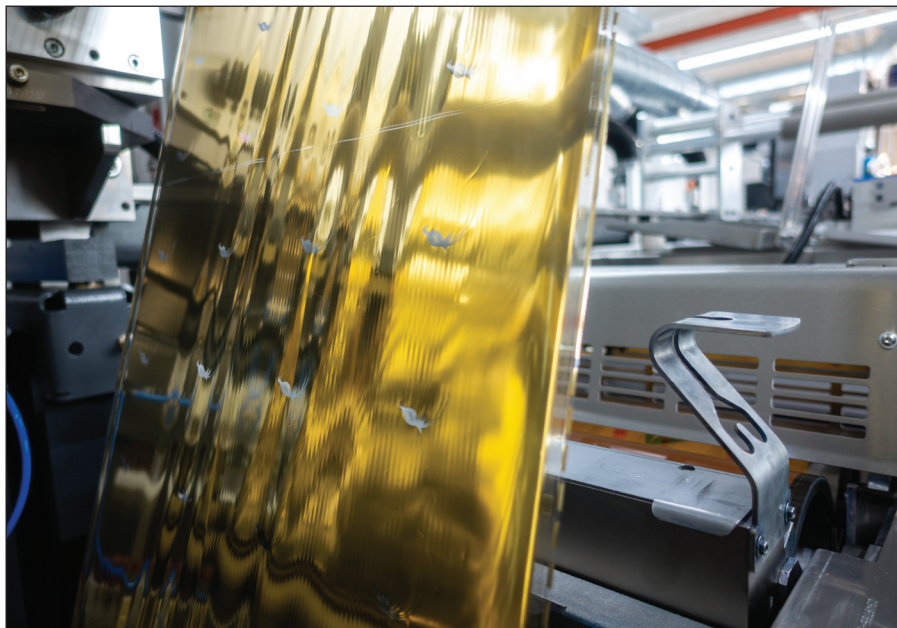
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**Using reflective labels can be great, but how will they look in different types of lighting?**

## 2. Don't overload your labels.

It's human nature to fill a blank space. This can be very problematic when considering cannabis labels where too much "stuff" can create visual and informational challenges. For example, including a QR code or barcode to connect people with valuable additional information, documentation and explanation can be very effective—but they require space. It's important to make decisions about codes or the newest technology, Augmented Reality, at the beginning of the label planning process.

Then, there are ingredients, required disclosures, and disclaimers—depending on product type and where it's being sold.

Last, but not least, labels that pop are about more than flashy, provocative design. They're also about a clean, non-cluttered look. The whole world is overwhelmed with information and visual overload. Keeping cannabis labels simple, yet elegant and impactful, can provide a huge competitive edge.

## 3. Make it readable as well as red-hot.

Legibility is about much more than type that's big enough to read without a microscope. Readability needs to consider many angles, including lighting, packaging and contents. For instance, reflective labels can be great, but how will they look in different types of lighting? Consider the line width. A thin font doesn't stand out as much, and can defeat the purpose of making type legible—

particularly if the lighting isn't conducive. Then, there's the famous compare-and-contrast exercise looking at how the label renders on the actual package. A clear label may not be the best choice if what shows through is the same color as logos or other elements that "fade" into the background.

And, of course, there's the choice of ink colors and the label material and color. How well does everything play with each other? Does the label achieve the desired branding image? Wild and crazy may be attention-getting, but for a cannabis company wanting to project stability, professionalism, and quality, it may be a bridge too far.



**The choice of ink colors and the label material and color play an important role in how well the label can achieve the desired branding image.**

## 4. Get team buy-in and direction upfront.

Company decision-makers, graphic designer, and printer are well-advised to discuss strategy and desired outcomes at the beginning of the label printing process. If there is dissension about what the label should look like, convey, and accomplish, this is the time to resolve it and get on the same page. Otherwise, the labels themselves may wind up looking muddled and indecisive, reflecting the decision-making process itself. It's vital that the graphic designer and printer be able to share ideas openly and completely—even if they're not adopted. Cannabis companies deserve to know what they're getting into upfront—and transparent, direct communication ultimately can lead to much better outcomes.

Labels that are well thought-out, designed, and printed can help propel a cannabis company into a productive and profitable position. ■

## About the Authors

**Gary Paulin is vice president, sales and client services at Lightning Labels, a Denver-based custom label printer that uses state-of-the-art printing technology to provide affordable, full-color custom labels and custom stickers of all shapes and sizes. Mark Lusky is president of Lusky Enterprises, Inc., a marketing communications and content development company. Contact: [sales@lightninglabels.com](mailto:sales@lightninglabels.com); 800.544.6323 or 303.481.2304.**

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# A GUIDE TO PET FOOD LABELING

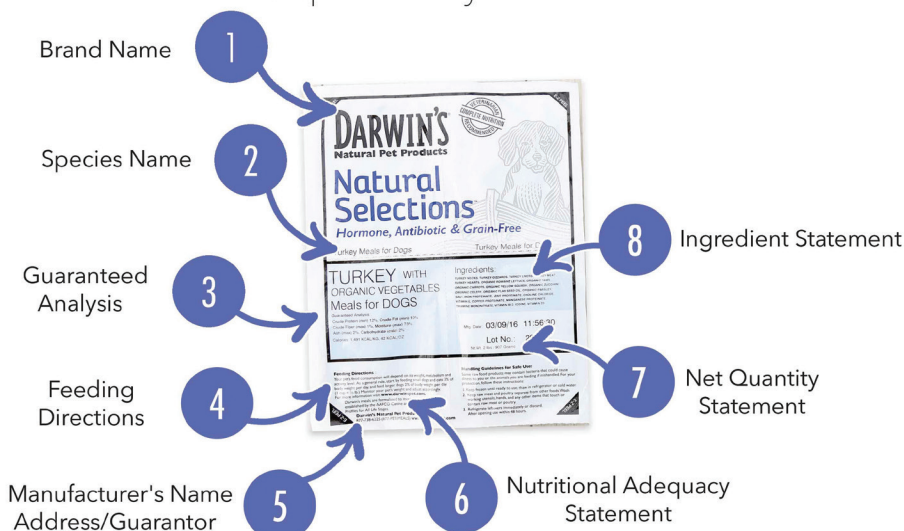
By Brindha, Contributing Writer

**M**any people adore pets, and give more importance to them by treating them more or like an extended family member. With the rising craze for pets in every home, the pet food industry is experiencing vast growth by producing unique pet foods and supplying it to the pet owners or retailers in the market. The industry has a huge scope to generate a handsome income in the coming years with the rising demand for pets.

Brand packaging faces lots of pressure from the implementation of new regulations and language complexities, all of which could vary from one country or region to another. Brand managers, therefore, need to adapt to these changes and prepare themselves from a process standpoint.

Before outsourcing pet-related supplements, it is essential to meet the standard labelling requirements for better brand reachability. Always go for transparent labels that reveal the ingredients used in the product and their advantages to instill confidence in the consumers. The labelling process is cate-

## Information Panel Label Categories Required by AAFCO





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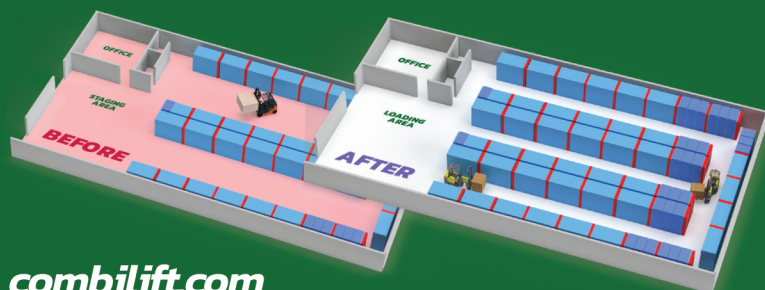
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gorized into two different levels. The Federal Regulation stated by the United States Food and Drug Administration enforces the standard rules applicable for animal foods like the availability of net quantity, name of the manufacturer and address, and ingredients coverage on the label. Other items found on the label are calorie content, feeding instructions, total quantity, and warnings if any.

## What needs to be mentioned on the pet food label?

### 1. Nutritional adequacy

American Feed Control Officials have stated that the manufactured product must supplement adequate nutrition to the users to lead a healthy life through different life stages. The life phases include growth and reproduction covering lactation in the latter phase. Certified pet food with the appropriate label stating the food is suitable for all life stages or whether it can be fed as a treat or substitute during a specific stage is all about the nutritional adequacy statement.

### 2. Ingredient list

All the ingredients must be listed on the product label with the highest calorie in the first. This way of enlisting the content would be helpful for pet owners to choose products wisely if their pets are allergic to certain substances. Also, today many consumers expect the brand makers to list the contents along with their percentage in the label to be aware of the product.

### 3. Guaranteed analysis

The guaranteed analysis (GA) is the actual split-up percentage of nutrients in pet foods' composition of vitamins, protein, and fat. A GA is inevitable for any product that is certified as nutritious for dogs. Also, if

the pet food is rich in some ingredients, it must be mentioned outright on the label for the owners to choose the right food for their pets.

### Pet food labels

**Guaranteed Analysis**

Crude Protein	24.0% min
Crude Fat	14.0% min
Crude Fiber	3.0% max
Moisture	10.0% max
Calcium	1.0% min
Phosphorus	0.7% min
Omega 3 Fatty Acids*	0.5% min
Omega 6 Fatty Acids*	3.0% min
Glucosamine*	400 mg/kg min

\*Not recognized as an essential nutrient by the AAFCO Dog Food Nutrient Profiles.

**Nutrition Statement**

Life Protection Formula Chicken and Brown Rice Recipe for Adult Dogs is formulated to meet the nutritional levels established by the AAFCO Dog Food Nutrient Profiles for maintenance.

**RECOMMENDED DAILY FEEDING CHART**

Up to 15 lbs.	1/2 - 1 1/4 cups*
16 to 25 lbs.	1 1/4 - 1 3/4 cups*
26 to 40 lbs.	1 3/4 - 2 1/2 cups*
41 to 60 lbs.	2 1/2 - 3 1/2 cups*
61 to 80 lbs.	3 1/2 - 4 1/4 cups*
81 to 100 lbs.	4 1/4 - 5 cups*
Over 100 lbs.	Feed 5 cups* + 1/2 cup for each additional 20 lbs.

\*Use a standard 8-oz. measuring cup.

Note: Individual dog's requirements may vary from this chart due to age, breed, environment and activity level. Adjust food as required to maintain optimal body condition and ask your veterinarian if you are unsure.

**AAFCO Complete and Balanced Statement**

**Calorie Content Statement**

Calorie Content (ME Calculated): 613 Kcal/kg, 377 Kcal/cup

**American Feed Control Officials have stated that the manufactured product must supplement adequate nutrition to the users to lead a healthy life through different life stages.**

## Top trends that impact your food label in 2021

Let us look into the top trends that need to be followed in the pet food labelling to stand out from the crowd in the pet food marketing industry. These trends aim at providing a user-friendly solution to the consumers in the view of the safety of the pets.

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## 1. Health and wellness

Gone are those days when pet owners used to buy the average foods for pets for their survival. Today, pet owners treat pets like their family members and look up to provide quality food for their dog with the right amount of supplements. This is done to ensure they are healthy to adore them for a longer time. Keeping this in mind, many pet owners prefer organic foods with balanced ingredients to prevent side effects in pets.

## 2. eCommerce

Many pet owners find it challenging to buy pet foods due to the lockdown in the current pandemic situation. Therefore, the alternate solution is to buy products through online stores that deliver hassle-free at their doorstep. The eCommerce industry is vast, and the best way to retain customers is by sending messages on promotional offers for regular customers. Pampering customers boost the revenue of the eCommerce pet business by increasing brand awareness across multiple channels.

### 3. Private label

Private label manufacturers are independent producers of pet foods claiming complete ownership of their products. This is one of the best trends in the pet food labelling industry as the products delivered come from authorized partners and are reliable to consume by the pets. These companies understand the requirements of pets and make pet foods accordingly to pass the compliance tests.

### 3.1.1 Directions for use statement

is required to be legible and informative and reflect the pet food as it is – whether it is a complete food meant to contain all necessary nutrition or a feed product meant to supplement the main diet

### 3.1.2 Incomplete label – All ingredients of a packaged feed, with the exception of water, shall be declared in a statement arranged in descending order of the proportion by weight of the ingredient contained in the feed

### 3.1.3 Nutritional information panel

All packs should, as a minimum, list:

- Protein
- Crude fat
- Crude fibre
- Available carbohydrate energy (also called calorie content). Other nutrients must be listed if they are claimed to deliver above average and balanced nutrition or have a special benefit e.g. Glucosamine for healthy pet maintenance

### 3.1.4 Nutritionally Complete feed, a pet food that is nutritionally complete shall conform to the requirements for cats or dogs or conformance with an internationally accepted nutritional profile such as the ones established by AAFCO in the US or FEDIAF in Europe. Must packs will state which profile they use, however compliance to pet of the audit.

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### 3.1.6 Guaranteed Analysis

Guaranteed Analysis is a statement of the minimum and maximum levels of certain nutrients in a feed. It is a statement of the minimum and maximum levels of certain nutrients in a feed. It is a statement of the minimum and maximum levels of certain nutrients in a feed.

Guaranteed Analysis	Minimum	Maximum
Crude Protein (min)	10.0%	12.0%
Crude Fat (min)	1.0%	1.5%
Crude Fibre (max)	1.0%	1.5%
Available Carbohydrate Energy (min)	1.0%	1.5%

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**Many pet owners prefer organic foods with balanced ingredients to prevent side effects in pets.**

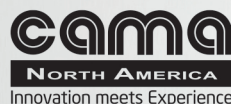
## 4. Sustainability

This is the last but crucial trend followed in the pet industry, implying the safety of the animals without affecting human lives by making it undesirable for consumption. Ensure the pet foods are packaged and supplied in an eco-friendly way without harming the surroundings and include the needed supplements for pets to give them a healthy life.

Pet owners must be conscious about the foods given to their pets to avoid any consequences in the future. On that note, many manufacturers adopt pet labelling to sell their products fast in the competitive market by connecting with the customers. The label reveals all crucial information about the pet foods enhancing the brand awareness rather than ads that do not provide any visual evidence. To conclude, stick to products that comply with the standards considering the well-being of the pets. ■

## About the Author

**Brindha is a passionate writer currently writing engaging content on Packaging Artwork and Labeling. She has dynamic writing experience for various niches for various clients across the globe.**



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By Dennis Calamusa, President and CEO at ALLIEDFLEX Technologies

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In our role in the supply of packaging machinery and secondary automation systems we also have the opportunity to work intimately

with the supply chain who provide the vast array of innovative flexible packaging materials and value-added solutions that deliver the important consumer features that add functionality and convenience to the flexible package format i.e. spouts, fitments, zippers, etc. These package enhancements provide the needed package functionality, safely and convenience with the goal of delighting the consumer and ultimately reflects in customer satisfaction and repeat sales.

Packaging is a strategy, and this is now truer than ever as companies compete for a changing and evolving mix of consumer preferences, changing demographics, as well as the incredible expansion of



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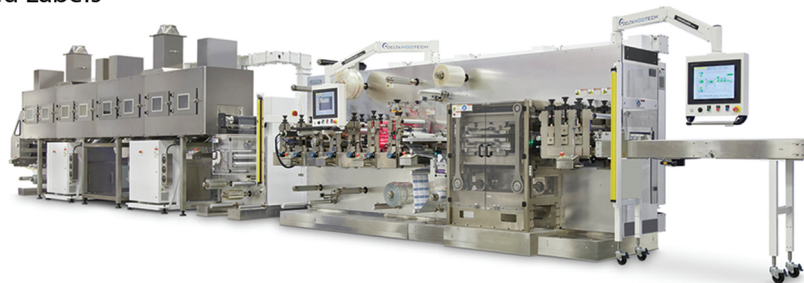
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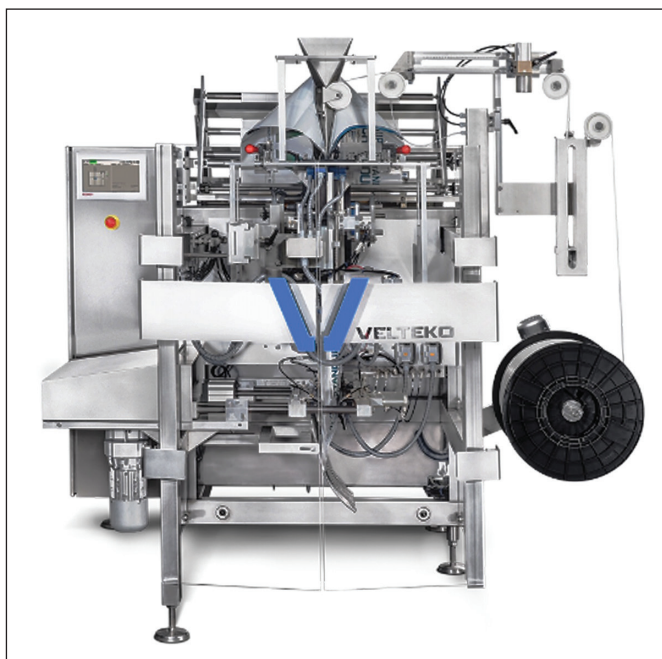
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the eCommerce business. And flexible packaging is playing a major role in this packaging shift from traditional legacy packaging formats to new innovative flexible packaging.

To say the market is changing and so is packaging is an understatement. The days of depending on the same old package format is being challenged with a view toward “what’s next”.

Over the past decades many of the large multi-national consumer product companies have “become the package” that they have “standardized” on. Food companies have become “box” companies, “can” companies, “bottle” companies, etc. which has driven the company’s existing logistics and infrastructure packaging processes. As a result, many of these companies are reluctant and challenged to change due to the complexities of “change” due to their well-established and refined internal and external infrastructures straight through to the retail shelf which evolved over the past several decades, but packaging change is inevitable, and the transition is already dramatically under way.



**VELTEKO will debut new Standup Pouch 360 model at Pack Expo 2021.**



**The ALLIEDFLEX FLX SpoutFill Monobloc and Sundry Retort Pouch compact and economical processing machinery models offer packagers an automated “slower speed” alternative to get them started and on the road to successfully introducing a flexible packaging alternative.**



**Bossar BCF-2**

This change dynamic is creating a unique strategic opportunity for the entrepreneurial market disrupters enabling them to step in with new packaging that is providing convenience, improved portability, and the unique ability to stand out on the shelf in the multitude of new marketing outlets all competing for the new consumer of today. In addition, flexible packaging can also reduce costs, simplify logistics and streamline the internal packaging process, all of which will be critical as we move into the future.

During the upcoming Pack Expo 2021 Las Vegas scheduled for September 27-29, we will see an array of new packaging machinery solutions that will reflect the changing packaging landscape and flexible packaging machinery will certainly be a highlight throughout this long-awaited exhibition.



VELTEKO will debut their new Standup Pouch 360 model which they have “purpose engineered” from the ground up to specifically and economically produce popular high-quality standup / zipper pouches on-line from pre-printed rollstock. This system will enable packagers to package in-house utilizing economical rollstock as an alternative to more expensive pre-made bags.

Spouted pouches continue to grow in popularity for a broad array of products including fruit puree, baby food, nutritional and energy supplements, beverages, personal and homecare, etc. Packaging machinery technology is now available to fill pre-made / pre-spouted pouches through the spout and cap or produce the complete package on-line from roll stock. The choice is now yours based on volume and budget. One of the biggest challenges in introducing a new packaging format is “getting started” and taking that “first step” by introducing that new package format to market before investing in higher speed, higher cost solutions.

The ALLIEDFLEX FLX SpoutFill Monobloc and Sundry Retort Pouch compact and economical processing machinery models offer packagers

an automated “slower speed” alternative to get them started and on the road to successfully introducing a Flexible Packaging alternative. These machines are not only suitable for the smaller start-up company, but has also been a helpful tool for use in larger companies and institutions for pilot plant or laboratory packaging machinery solutions.

As volume grows, faster machines will be needed to accommodate shifting production demands from traditional packaging to a variety of innovative flexible packaging formats. This transitional growth will drive the demand for higher output machinery providing more flexibility with automated and improved “changeover” features and advanced servo technology to satisfy the changing and evolving markets which will continue to demand different package sizes, package formats and price points.

As we look into the future, we will continue to see new, fresh and exciting methods of packaging appear on a global basis. Since my perspective is based on innovative flexible packaging, I am continually providing my future insights as to why the flexible packaging category will continue to be the fastest growing method of packaging.

Flexible packaging is here to stay and will be further enhanced by the flexible packaging industry’s continuous commitment toward addressing environmental and sustainable concerns through the increased introduction of recyclable, bioplastics and compostable materials as our industry has the most to gain based on the numerous advantages that the flexible packaging format provides versus the traditional alternatives.

Walk the supermarket, aisle by aisle and witness the packaging shift first hand. A re-packaging evolution is underway . . . ■

## About the Author

**Dennis Calamusa is the president and CEO of ALLIEDFLEX Technologies, Inc based in Sarasota, Fla. He has dedicated the past 30 years of his career to the commercialization of the standup pouch and other innovative flexible packaging solutions in the North America market. For more information, visit [www.alliedflex.com](http://www.alliedflex.com).**







Communication tools like Teams or Zoom have made it more efficient for companies to collaborate while reducing the need for travel.

# HOW THE PANDEMIC CHANGED PACKAGING FOREVER:

## WHAT WE CAN EXPECT TO SEE MORE OF IN THE FUTURE

By Fernando Pires and Sam Moses

**T**he coronavirus pandemic resulted in a mad rush for packaging. As people remained at home, there was a boom in demand tied to food and pharmaceuticals in particular, ranging from packaging for frozen vegetables to insulin. Now that restrictions have been easing, it's clear that new purchasing habits are emerging, including with cosmetics. Companies have been putting pressure on suppliers to get products to market faster, but they are still being cautious with orders, often buying smaller volumes of more diverse products.

All of those trends have created new packaging needs, required new tooling, and accelerated the pace of virtually everything the packaging industry does. Some of the changes are likely here to stay, including the faster flow of information and the increased use of technology and automation. And while global supply chain challeng-

es will hopefully improve in the years ahead, those challenges have resulted in valuable lessons learned that the packaging industry can adopt moving forward.

### **Faster flow of information and new uses of technology**

The trends described above have meant constant changes in schedules – both for packaging companies and their customers – to accommodate a variety of customer demands. Gone are the days where a customer simply emailed an order one or two weeks out. Quick changes are now the norm, and customers are using newer technologies like Microsoft Teams and WhatsApp to communicate.

The information flow is a lot faster but not always more accurate. Many in the packaging industry can relate to receiving frantic



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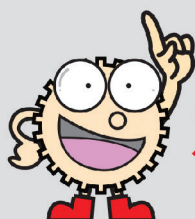
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**Packaging companies are having to plan further ahead to create more of a buffer in their schedules.**

communications from customers, who are themselves reacting to “I need this now” demands. This level of volatility is leading

packaging companies to change their staffing capacity and scheduling, with increased use of expanded, traditionally off-shift hours

to deal with the quick surges of work that come in. While the industry may be able to return to more normal capacity and scheduling in the future, companies now have a game-plan they can turn to when demand ramps up.

In addition, the faster flow of information through newer technology has created advantages that are likely to stick around. Communication tools like Teams or Zoom have made it more efficient for companies to collaborate with their outside attorneys and other support professionals while reducing the need for travel. These tools have also reduced the costs that go into having a field service technician or outside salesperson, as remote meetings can effectively complement one-on-one interactions and site visits.

And, the use of artificial intelligence is becoming instrumental to the growth of demand. The use of this technology is pushing consumer demand in a way that society has never experienced. Amazon, eBay and Shipt are all home delivery platforms that use AI to drive consumer demand for retailers, distributors and manufacturers.

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## Continued supply chain challenges

The supply chain is not in the best of conditions, to put it mildly. A variety of factors are challenging the shipping carriers to deal with massive disruptions that limit their ability to get products to market.

Packaging companies are having to plan further ahead to create more of a buffer in their schedules. There is a constant demand to be faster and more efficient. And when all else fails, there are additional costs, such as having to pay couriers to drive the product to the customer. There is also a trend toward maintaining higher inventory that will likely persist in the future.

As the supply chain gradually gets back to normal, it is anticipated that the packaging industry will be able to capitalize on the lessons learned from the pandemic, enabling companies to react faster in the event of another major global disruption. A great industry example of how a company was able to utilize the lessons learned from the pandemic is how Marbach America developed new proxies or new flow without jeopardizing quality. The result is both a better process and a blueprint for continued process improvement.

## Increased automation and shifts in the packaging workforce

As a result of adaptations and increased efficiency from the pandemic, the size and skill of the packaging industry's workforce may change in the future. The threat of having to shut down because of an outbreak led many companies to introduce automation into their manufacturing process – or accelerate its use. The skill set of the employees that these companies will be looking for will be higher as a result. As certain lower-skill jobs are automated, companies need employees with additional training to oversee their higher-tech processes.

A simple example is the step in the die-cutting process that requires rubber pieces to be put on a die. In the past year, more plants have started using a machine that can do that by itself. Now the machine's operators, instead of using their hands to apply the rubber, are at a terminal running the program. This one change allows companies to complete that step twice as fast and with greater accuracy.

## Final takeaways

Die-cutting innovation had been in the works before the pandemic, but it found its way into plants faster because of COVID-19. There are many other examples in the packaging industry of new or accelerated innovations from the recent past, including in the areas of automation, process improvement, and scheduling. These kinds of creative solutions have better prepared packaging companies for the next challenge and increased their value right now. ■

## About the Authors

**Fernando Pires** is CEO of Marbach America. He can be reached at [fernando.pires@marbach.com](mailto:fernando.pires@marbach.com).

**Sam Moses** co-leads the manufacturing and distribution industry team at the law firm Parker Poe. He can be reached at [sammoses@parkerpoe.com](mailto:sammoses@parkerpoe.com).

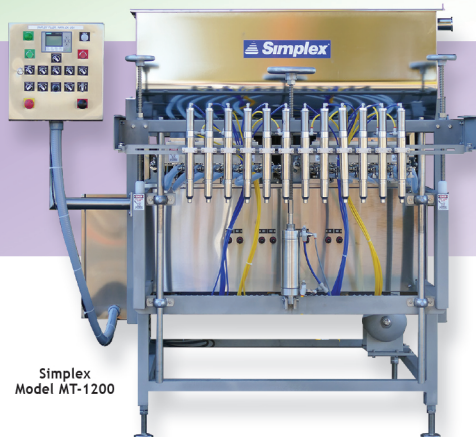
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### PDI Healthcare Introduces Dual Access Lid on Sani-Cloth Products

PDI Healthcare announced a breakthrough in canister packaging with its new Dual Access Lid, designed to improve the convenience of disinfecting wipes for faster and easier access.

The innovative wide opening of the Dual Access Lid ensures users pull the appropriate number of wipes for the job, allowing them to dispense one wipe for small surfaces or multiple wipes for larger surfaces, with rapid threading in case of fall back. The flip cap is designed with "Snap & Close" technology to snap securely in place with just one tap and the definitive open/close positions provide better moisture protection.

The Dual Access Lid is the latest in the company's commitment to develop products and packaging innovations that improve operations and compliance throughout healthcare facilities. Launched in June, PDI's portable softpack for the Super SANI-CLOTH Wipes saves 80 percent in packaging and is ideal for daily use in fast-paced environments. SANI-CLOTH Bleach Clinical Size Wipe, a 6-in. x 5-in. disinfecting wipe ideal for smaller medical equipment, provides more than double the disinfection applications per canister and helps reduce unnecessary waste.

The Dual Access Lid is being integrated in every PDI disinfecting wipe canister, beginning with Super SANI-CLOTH wipes.

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

### Baralan Introduces Wide-Neck Glass Jar for Skincare Products

Baralan has introduced its Oprah Jar 30 Super-Weight (SW), a wide-neck glass jar developed specifically for skincare products. This new jar expands Baralan's existing Oprah Jar line to now include three sizes: Oprah Jar 5, 15, and 30 SW.

The Oprah Jar 30 SW most notably features a thicker, super-weight glass-bottom designed for modern, premium style appeal. This new jar is produced with press-press technology, which forms the container by pressing the glass without it being blown inside, guaranteeing better continuity of the internal surface of the container. Oprah Jar 30 SW is characterized by a big diameter, wide mouth, and low profile. In



addition, the jar's large neck enhances the user experience by making it even easier to retrieve product and minimize waste.

The new jar has a 30 milliliter capacity with a GPI 70 Doubly Entry neck thread, which guarantees a secure closure ensuring the integrity of the filled product with no product loss. Moreover, the body of the jar fits perfectly in line with the Malang 70 cap for optimal compactness.

For more information, visit [www.baran.com](http://www.baran.com).



### Fabrizia Spirits Vodka Soda Packaging Honors the Company's Italian Roots

Fabrizia Spirits was founded with a respect for "the old country" and the delicious Sicilian lemons that grow there. A 2003 trip to Italy turned out to be life-changing for owner Phil Mastroianni, who believes the old saying, "you don't know where it is you're going until you know where you came from."

After discovering limoncello and inspired by his own family's Italian history and traditions, Phil started making the lemon liqueur at home and quickly turned his passion into a

successful business. Now Fabrizia Spirits has expanded into the booming ready-to-drink segment with its new line of vodka sodas made with real fruit juice.

For its latest venture, Fabrizia Spirits partnered with the team at Studio One Eleven to create beautiful packaging that celebrates the brand's quality ingredients and authentic Italian roots.

The graphic designers started with hand-drawn fruit illustrations that reflect the artisanal craftsmanship that goes into each cocktail. They surround an organically-shaped blue seal that houses a simple brandmark, differentiating these sodas from the company's other products. The white and blue color palette feels clean and refreshing, while color-coded flavor banners improve shoppability in the crowded ready-to-drink beverage aisle. Both the product – and its packaging – provide a little taste of Italy.

For more information, visit [www.berlinpackaging.com](http://www.berlinpackaging.com).



### **IWK Introduces Modular, High-Speed Top-load Cartoning Line for Prefilled Syringes, Vials & Other Fragile Pharma Containers**

IWK Packaging Systems, Inc. has introduced a modular, high-speed top-load cartoning line to meet dramatically increased demands for packaging pre-filled syringes, vials and other delicate pharma containers.

The company's IWK TL Series arrives amid continued efforts to produce billions of additional COVID-19 vaccine doses, and offers a slew of benefits not typically found in conventional top-load cartoning equipment.

Most importantly, the IWK TL Series reportedly assures safe, reliable product handling designed to virtually eliminate glass-to-glass contact. The machine builds upon IWK's reputation for cGMP-guaranteed, floorspace-conscious equipment with quick tool-free changeover, exemplary cleanability and easy line clearance.

Among other notable highlights, the IWK TL Series incorporates an intelligent transport system that is not typically found in top-load units. Instead of requiring a fixed distance between carton holders, customers get an individually adaptable setup. This allows for a variable number of items per function, simplifying operation significantly. Secure carton holding is assured throughout via mechanical hold and, since the system does not use vacuum belts or conveyors, risk of breakage-caused

contamination is mitigated.

Another key facet of the IWK TL Series is its unsurpassed modularity – a crucial element as many pharma manufacturers continue experiencing evolving production needs. The series' monoblock design allows for mixing and matching various stations per product-specific needs, including product feeding, carton erection and divider insertion units prior to transport to end-of-line closure, reject and discharge modules. Marking can be performed via inkjet or laser printing, and quality control features include code reading and presence verification for both products and inserts.

The IWK TL Series can form and fill carton from 90-180 millimeter in length, 50-150 millimeter in width and 15-80 millimeter in height, based on carton flats from 150-500 millimeter long and 150-400 millimeter wide. Depending on box size and insert parameters, the machine can produce up to 120 completed cartons per minute – considered top-speed in a sector that has experienced surging demand.

For more information, visit <https://iwk.de>.



### **To Simplify International Clinical Trials, Schreiner MediPharm Equips Hanger-Label for Infusion Bottles with Booklet**

Schreiner MediPharm, a Germany-based global provider of innovative functional label solutions for the healthcare industry, has developed a new specialty label for infusion bottles to enhance convenience and efficiency in international clinical trials. The new Pharma-Tac Plus Label combines a Booklet-Label with a label-integrated hanger for infusion bottles, creating ample space for comprehensive product descriptions in multiple languages.

The specialty label provides research-based pharmaceutical companies with a marking solution that offers greater flexibility and reliability for clinical trials – especially those conducted in multiple countries or languages.

Schreiner MediPharm's Clinical Trial Supply Team, which specializes in solutions for clinical research, combined the original Pharma-Tac label's strong hanger with a multipage paper booklet. The hanger is an integral component of the

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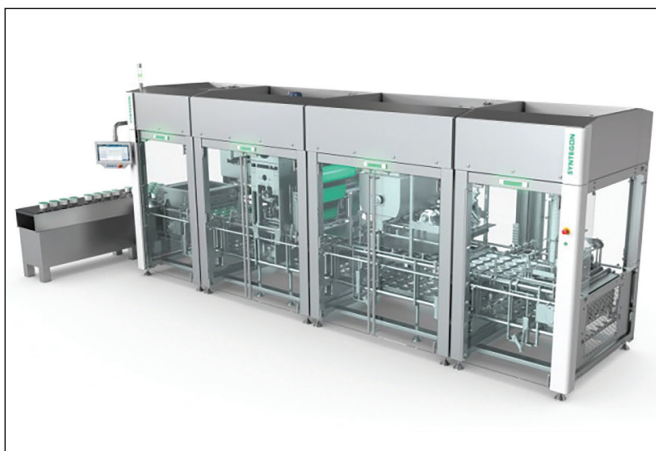
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label; in a simple, user-friendly fashion, the hanger is separated from the label and folded over to suspend the infusion bottle.

The multipage Booklet-Label is firmly connected to the base label, and can be opened and reclosed via a tab. The customizable solution reportedly offers ample space for multilingual product information. The hanger label and booklet combination can be adapted to various vial and bottle sizes, and the number of booklet pages can be tailored to suit specific requirements.

The Pharma-Tac Plus Label with integrated booklet reportedly provides pharmaceutical companies and contract research organizations (CROs) with a convenient, flexible labeling solution that efficiently supports international clinical trial efforts. Healthcare professionals benefit from the new label solution as well, since it enables fast and safe administration of infusions, and because including relevant product information in various languages facilitates clinical studies on an international scale.

For more information, visit [www.schreiner-group.com](http://www.schreiner-group.com).



### **Syntegon: Next Generation Filling Machine LFS Sets New Standards in Dairy and Food Production**

The portfolio of cup filling and sealing machines from Syntegon subsidiaries Ampack GmbH, Germany, and Osgood Industries, LLC, USA has been extended with the new LFS filling machine for the dairy and food industry.

Available in clean and ultra-clean hygienic executions, the LFS fills and packages liquid, viscous and pump required products, such as yogurt, sour cream, margarine, deli salads, dips, sauces, soups, or retorted pet food into preformed containers.

The machine's new modular concept reportedly enables manufacturers to react quickly to changing market demands. Each machine function can be retrofitted, added or exchanged to meet customized requirements. The open design ensures optimum accessibility and visibility for easy cleaning and maintenance, resulting in a highly efficient and economical production.

The LFS consists of individual modules which include main

machine functions such as cup supply, disinfection, filling, sealing, capping, and cup discharge. Each module can be configured, added or retrofitted according to individual production needs for maximum flexibility. The dosing station incorporates exchangeable nozzles as well as integrated CIP (Cleaning In Place) and SIP (Sterilization in Place) for ultra-clean configurations.

The LFS processes all common container formats with a diameter between 60 and 160 millimeters on up to eight lanes with a maximum output rate of up to 20,000 cups per hour. In sequential indexing configuration, alternating carrier plates allow for processing two different packaging formats one after another without format changes needed.

To ensure optimum hygienic conditions during the filling process, the disinfection station can be configured to meet individual product requirements. For ultra-clean applications such as products with extended shelf life, customers can opt for two types of chemical-free disinfection methods: UVC light or pulsed-light. Optionally, the same technology can be used to disinfect the lids before placing them on the cups.

In addition, HEPA filters purify the air, while container vacuums remove loose particles and debris from the cups before filling. Food producers can seal their product's packaging either using pre-cut foils or heat-sealing rollstock film. Integrated sensors perform seal integrity checks to detect any leakage or poor seals to ensure product safety.

For more information, visit [www.syntegon.com](http://www.syntegon.com).



### **Rieke Pioneers MonoTM-2e Pump Designed for Recyclability**

Rieke, part of the TriMas Packaging group, has advanced its commitment to providing customers innovative solutions in sustainability with the commercialization of its patented MonoTM-2e pump, a dispenser pump that is ready to be recycled.

This innovation is the first fully-recyclable, mono-material

pump on the market. After proving production and commercial robustness for nearly one year, Rieke's Mono-2e is commercially available and ready for advanced design applications for its consumer packaged goods (CPG) customers, serving the beauty, personal care and other end markets with Love Beauty and Planet by Unilever.

The single-polymer pump was designed to facilitate the recycling process for dispensers, which was desired by both CPG customers and consumers. As a result, Rieke's global design and engineering teams conceived the Mono-2e. As an industry innovator, Rieke developed its mono-material pump without compromising quality, formula compatibility, aesthetics or performance.

Today, Rieke's unique dispenser made from a single type of polymer was the first commercial-ready option available to customers and is already well adopted in practice by a global CPG company as an integral part of the packaging for one of its major new brands.

This was a unique simplification in plastic, moving up to a model of circular economy where the focus is the optimization of the following stream at the end of lifecycle of the product. The full homogeneity of the recycled polymer increases the performance and quality, while it extends possible high-quality applications of following products molded in Postconsumer Resin.

The Rieke Mono-2e was recognized as a 2020 Finalist of the Sustainability Packaging Coalition Innovator Awards for this revolutionary single-polymer design, as the patented pump features six parts, all made from one material. It is 100 percent recyclable and designed to massively reduce its carbon footprint. It's designed to be more easily recycled than ever before. This allows closures and dispensing systems manufacturer, Rieke, to use PCR with the ability to integrate up to 100 percent of Postconsumer Resin, Polypropylene or Polyethylene into caps or closures.

For more information, visit [www.riekepackaging.com](http://www.riekepackaging.com).

## Siemens Introduces Sinamics V20 Smart Access Web Server Module

Siemens announces the launch of its Sinamics V20 Smart Access web server module, designed to mount directly onto the drive, transforming a mobile device or laptop into a virtual operator panel for drive control. By providing a wi-fi hot spot, the wireless connection on this module facilitates setup, programming, commissioning, production monitoring and maintenance on a variety of machines and production equipment.

A simple, embedded graphical user interface (GUI) enables easy use of the Sinamics V20 in every phase of operation. No separate app is required, nor is a written operator manual needed, making operation of this new server module and subsequent drive control highly intuitive and easy-to-learn.

Smart Access reportedly provides convenient access to the Sinamics V20, up to 100 meters away, even when the drive is located in difficult-to-access installations. Utilizing WPA2 security, the web server module offers full flexibility with both



iOS and Android operating systems, along with commonly used HTML5-capable web browsers such as Chrome, Safari, Internet Explorer and others.

A built-in, multi-color LED provides quick communication status readout. Security features enable limit/restrict operator access and control functionality.

In use, the Sinamics V20 Smart Access module requires only a few steps to set-up and no installation or download of additional software is needed.

The onboard Quick Set-up Wizard provides users a fast and easy commissioning procedure, enabling all the following: motor data can be entered and checked, connection macros for digital inputs/outputs can be activated, application macros can be selected and activated for pumps, fans, compressors and other devices plus the common and frequently used parameters on the drive can be set for motor start, acceleration, deceleration, min./max. speed, etc.

Smart Access allows monitoring of the drive status including speed, current, voltage, temperature and power, as well as drive servicing, with an overview of alarms, faults and individual values. Fault codes can be transferred via e-mail to a local service provider, while the immediate status of all digital and analog inputs and outputs can be checked at a glance. Parameter adjustment, motor test functions and full data back-up, storage and sharing with fast firmware downloads can all be accomplished via the web server.

For more information, visit [www.siemens.com](http://www.siemens.com).

## Nutra-Pack Systems Launches with Dedicated Packaging Equipment and Integration Focus

Nutra-Pack Systems officially launched as a dedicated provider of packaging equipment and complete integrated packaging lines specifically for the nutraceutical industry.

Nutra-Pack's solutions are designed for a wide variety of nutraceutical applications, including gummies, blisters, solid dose tablets, capsules and softgels, liquids and powders. Nutra-

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Pack reportedly offers nutraceutical packaging line equipment from start to finish, including tablet counters, thermoformers, and fillers for liquids, powders and gummies.

Thanks to the company's strategic partnerships with industry-leading OEMs, Nutra-Pack designs and integrates complete nutraceutical lines that work accurately, efficiently and safely according to the application. From unscramblers to palletizers, and everything in between, solutions include individual packaging machines, complete preconfigured packaging lines and custom options for specific requirements.

For more information, visit [www.nutra-pack.com](http://www.nutra-pack.com).

## Baralan Introduces DEA, Its Airless Packaging Solution in Glass

Baralan, a consolidated player in primary packaging for the cosmetics and beauty industries, has introduced DEA – which stands for Developing the Evolution of Airless – a new series of products composed of glass airless containers designed for several applications. Unlike other airless systems, DEA has no internal plastic container, making it the first airless system in which the filled product is directly in contact with its glass container.

As a more sustainable solution, the DEA series reportedly represents a new philosophy of primary packaging in glass, using fewer components and significantly reducing the amount of overall materials, resulting in a lighter and more functional packaging that still offers impact to brands with a new level of user experience. In addition, its airless nature helps better preserve the integrity of the product ingredients, is suitable for different usages and is extremely versatile in application.

DEA reportedly features high-quality glass packaging that provides further aesthetic appeal. Moreover, glass is known to be notably more compatible with formulas. The DEA series is available in two versions: classic and premium, both of which allow for the possibility of single-use or refillable solutions of the glass container.

A unique concept, the refillable version allows for convenient replacements of the glass container to promote the re-usability of components. The ability to also quickly and



practically separate components provides new opportunities to improve product lifecycle – embracing sustainability and eco-consciousness in packaging.

DEA is available in three nominal capacities: 15 milliliters, 30 milliliters and 50 milliliters. Its standard GPI 18/400 neck finish, combined with the airless system, is compatible with a vast range of pumps. This allows for increased modularity for different sets, as well as high levels of product personalization. In each version, the transparent glass allows for the filled product's color to remain visible for an authentic appeal.

For more information, visit [www.baralan.com](http://www.baralan.com).

## Onnit Labs' New Alpha Brain Black Label Package Design Has Beauty and Brains

There's nothing quite like the feeling of being in the flow, in the zone, "on it." That's what Onnit Labs strives to deliver with its unique, effective, and innovative line of supplements, foods, and fitness equipment.

Onnit Labs' newest high-performing product is its Alpha Brain Black Label supplement, launching mid-July. This ultra-premium variation of the company's flagship product is designed for important occasions when peak cognitive performance is essential. The product reportedly supports the brain's ability to function at the highest level when it comes to mood, memory, and focus.

To bring this new supplement to market, Onnit Labs teamed with Berlin Packaging and its Studio One Eleven in-house design division.



The team at Studio One Eleven knew this special product needed to differentiate from other Onnit Labs supplements as a super-premium alternative worthy of its higher price point. The team started by creating a minimal, uncluttered label design with clean typography and simple graphic elements that elevate the aesthetic beyond that of traditional supplements. An impactful metallic Onnit Labs logo was added to the cap to create stronger brand presence as well as added quality assurance.

Next, the designers developed a sleek cylindrical secondary packaging structure that mimics the shape of the bottle. The matte black tube opens like a gift to reveal the beautiful glass bottle inside, with interior silver foil details adding an element of surprise and luxury.

For more information, visit [www.berlinpackaging.com](http://www.berlinpackaging.com).

## Safe Conveying of Instant Milk Granules with Piab's piFLOW®p Vacuum Conveyor

Facing continuous quality problems during the transport of granules of instant milk within its process line, Polmlek Raciaz, a member of the Polmlek Group – Poland's largest 100 percent Polish-owned dairy company, needed to modernize its system. The blower, screw and rotary valve used for this process did not render the expected result and led to regular product damage and waste.

"Since we already have two Piab vacuum conveyors in use at other stations and considering our satisfaction with the service experienced so far by Piab's Polish entity, we decided to replace the old system by Piab's premium product, the piFLOW®p vacuum conveyor," said Bogdan Graczyk, technical manager, Polmlek Raciaz.

"To confirm that the vacuum conveying process would indeed improve the process and avoid damages of the granules, we ran test at our inhouse demo unit and established the necessary parameters to ensure a smooth process at Polmlek," said Tadeusz Fobke, product sales manager, Piab Poland.



In addition to solving the initial problem with product quality, the deployment of Piab's piFLOW®p vacuum conveyor reportedly reduced the manpower required, as the process needed less supervision. Furthermore, due to reduced machine downtimes and maintenance requirements, the production output could also be increased.

Piab's piFLOW®p conveyors for powders and bulk solids are reportedly matched to the high standards of operational safety and hygiene in the food and pharmaceutical industries. The machines are made of electropolished stainless steel and materials that comply with US FDA and EU 1935/2004 regulations.

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As a conveying line, a suction hose made of PU is used. An internal steel spiral helps to minimize the electrostatic charge of the product or diverts it to equipotential bonding. The filter in the upper part of the conveyor is cleaned with a filter shock after each conveying cycle. The device control is in a separate control cabinet.

The piFLOW®p conveyors are also ATEX Dust and Gas certified. For more information, visit [www.piab.com](http://www.piab.com).



### Rotary Tower Automatic Stretch Wrapper with Conveyance – RTC

Orion's Rotary Tower Automatic (RTC) Stretch Wrapper with Conveyance is the ideal solution for easy integration with 18-inch pass-height conveyors due to its compact size, affordability, and the option to expand with additional conveyance.

The RTC is fully automatic and attaches the stretch film at the cycle start, cutting it at the end. The forklift operator simply places the pallet-load on the infeed conveyor and pulls a lanyard switch while moving away to collect the next load. This design increases employee safety by removing them from proximity of the moving rotary arm.

Using your pre-determined specifications, the machine will wrap the load using the Orion InstaThread film carriage with 260 percent standard pre-stretch for maximum stability and load retention. Film force to load control is automatic, performing like cruise control, so the film constantly adapts to the load shape, size, and machine operating speed, resulting in minimal film breaks at maximum stretch. The load is automatically conveyed on to the exit conveyor for pickup, or to continue down your existing conveyor.

For more information, visit [www.orionpackaging.com](http://www.orionpackaging.com).



### KM's Shaped Pouches Have Stand-Up Shelf Appeal

Global flexible packaging and lidding films supplier KM Packaging has added pre-made stand-up shaped pouches to its product range.

KM most recently provided a customer in the U.S. with pouches for confectionery products featuring thematic designs for Easter, Halloween, and Christmas.

The key features of the pouches, that are suitable for dried snacks and pet treats as well as confectionery, include:

- Pre-made, shaped and printed with heat sealable opening;
- Clear windows so the product can be seen by consumers or solid white finish;
- Gusseted at the bottom, allowing the pouch to stand upright on retail display;
- High quality Roto-Gravure print;
- Available with zip-lock reclosure;
- Can be supplied in mono polymer structures (PE/PE and PP/PP) for better recyclability and using compostable materials;
- Strong shelf appeal;
- Ideal for seasonal sales; and
- Excellent packaging for gifts.

Sophisticated technology is reportedly used to make, shape, and cut the pouches and KM's print management prowess and procedures ensure customers are provided with a high-quality eye-catching product.

The pouches can have a matt or glossy finish and clear windows and are available in a traditional PET/PE structure or a mono polymer structure or using compostable materials.

For more information, visit [www.kmpackaging.com](http://www.kmpackaging.com).

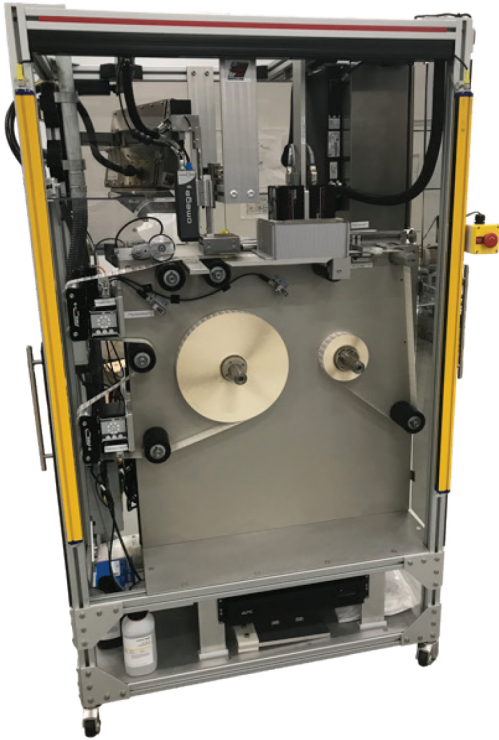
### Brown Machine Group Announces NAS e-Wrap Series Vertical Wrapper

Brown Machine Group (BMG) is pleased to announce the new NAS e-Wrap Series™ vertical wrapper, an automated wrapping system that increases throughput and efficiencies, while reducing material costs and manual labor.

The e-Wrap Series wrappers are ideal for a wide array of eCommerce markets, including apparel; office equipment/supplies; tool and part suppliers; and publications; as well as

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# Why Not Be Smart??? Consider This!!! What if one Printing and Inspection System Could Replace 15 In-Line Printing Systems?



- 600 DPI Resolution Print, Down to 3 Point Font
- Print Speed as High as 260 Meters/Minute
- That is 10,236 Unique Serialized 1" Labels/Min
- What if each Printhead Handled 54mm (2.125")
- Stack 4 Piezoelectric Printheads and Cover 8.5"
- Print on Porous and Non-Porous Surfaces
- Oil Based and UV Cured Inks Available

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Trace • Labels • Thermal Transfer Ribbon • Automation Development  
Consulting • Covert Product Authentication • Warehouse Automation  
Mobile Data Capture • Systems Integration





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the sampling industry; pharmaceuticals; and the fulfillment markets. The NAS e-Wrap Series reportedly offers up to seven times the productivity of manual wrapping systems.

With its small footprint and user-friendly controls, the e-Wrap Series offers simple plug and play functionality with easy installation and a patented low temperature sealing system which reduces maintenance and downtime. Using center folded roll stock to sleeve product into a bag, the e-Wrap Series automatically forms an envelope for product to be placed, seals it, and applies a shipping label. It can be used for sealing polyethylene, polyolefin, and poly mailing. The e-Wrap Series features a unique auto bag length feature that saves significantly on material use and eliminates the need for pre-made bags.

The e-Wrap Series is adaptable to multiple warehouse management systems (WMS) and can be easily integrated into existing automated robotic conveyor systems. It also provides integrated printer and shipping labeling functions in one complete package.

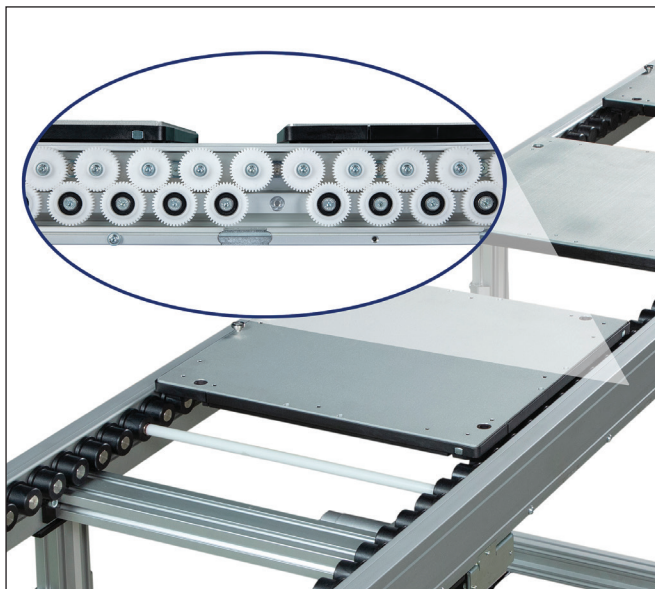
Available in a variety of seal assembly configurations to make bags from 8-inches by 10-in. to 20-in. x 20-in., the NAS e-Wrap Series vertical wrapper features an adjustable seal assembly opening of up to 12 inches. It is offered in both pneumatic and servo-driven operations.

For more information, visit [brownmachinegroup.com](http://brownmachinegroup.com).

## Create Zones for Better Control in Accumulation and Assembly Applications with Dorner's ERT250 Conveyor

As automation becomes more integrated into medium- and heavy-load accumulation and assembly applications, the need for conveyors with zoning capabilities increases. Dorner's Edge Roller Technology (ERT®250) precision edge roller pallet and tray handling conveyors are engineered specifically to handle zone functionality.

Creating zones along a conveyor is an important feature for applications where product accumulates before moving on



to a downstream action, or for assembly applications where product moves from one stage to the next. Primarily, zones are important as they prevent pallets from bumping into each other during movement which can disturb product orientation or even damage more delicate products.

The solution is to create no-contact zones along the conveyor. These zones offer precision traffic control of product through zone roller technology that's powered by a patented linear gearbox drive system. Creating zones is accomplished by simply removing a lower gear to locate a split between zones. Each zone acts independently of other zones and is powered by a brushless DC gearmotor.

The ERT250 uses rollers to move pallet conveyors smoothly with no friction. The ERT250 uses pallet sensors and control logic to determine when a pallet is free to move forward, or if a pallet is stopped downstream. If a pallet is required to stop, it will stop in the next zone.

Motors operate only when pallets advance forward or reverse. Multiple zones can be created on a single conveyor. Using zones reduces the number of stacked-up pallets, while still providing effective accumulation capabilities.

The ERT250 is also ideal for applications calling for pallet or tray handling with no- and low-back pressure accumulation, and cleanroom applications such as medical product or device manufacturing, assembly, packaging and others.

For more information, visit [www.dornerconveyors.com](http://www.dornerconveyors.com).

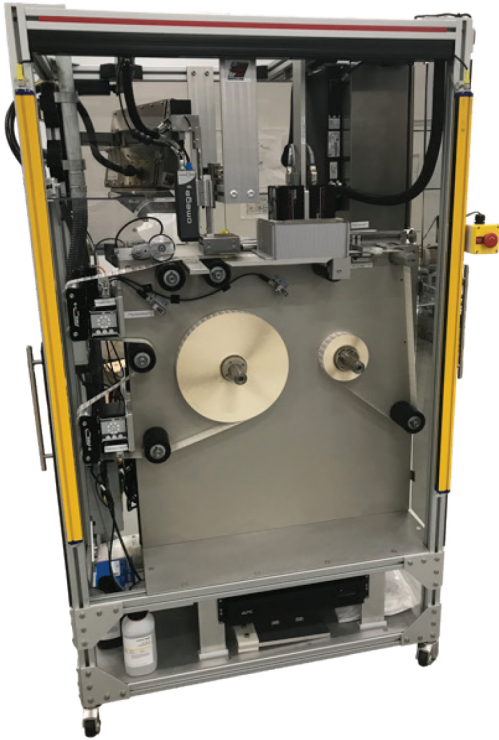
## Aptar Food + Beverage Announces Launch of its SimpliCycle Valve Technology in Kraft Heinz Packaging

Aptar Food + Beverage announced its recyclable SimpliCycle™ valve will be launched within new Kraft Heinz Ketchup packaging.

In addition to Heinz Ketchup, other Kraft Heinz brands including Heinz Mustard, Heinz Mashups, and Heinz BBQ Sauce,

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# Why Not Be Smart??? Consider This!!! What if one Printing and Inspection System Could Replace 15 In-Line Printing Systems?



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Mobile Data Capture • Systems Integration



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will convert to the SimpliCycle valve by the end of the year. Testing was coordinated and administered by both companies to ensure the consumer experience was equally matched in the conversion.

Composed of a low-density material, the SimpliCycle valve is easily separated from the PET stream and ultimately recycled within the PP/PE olefin stream while maintaining the same high performance, cleanliness, control and convenience of silicone valves.

For more information, visit [www.aptar.com](http://www.aptar.com).

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