Beading comes of age

Inside:
- Aerosols on the rise
- The can of the future?
- Asia CanTech preview
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our customers no matter how large or small the job.”

- Steve Martin

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ENGINEERS  •  FABRICATORS  •  CONSTRUCTORS
I’d like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new editor of CanTech International. Having worked on Food & Drink Technology, one of our sister titles, for some time now, the opportunity to fully immerse myself into the world of metal packaging proved highly tempting – especially with the level of innovation currently happening in the can making sector.

I have already witnessed just how vibrant the industry is, and despite ‘doom-mongers’ proclaiming the end of the can, you only have to scratch below the surface to see that the can making sector is as buoyant as ever.

My first port of call after joining the magazine was to head to Munich for Drinktec, and I’m pleased to report that a very healthy can and metal packaging presence was felt throughout the exhibition. A full round-up can be read in our show review on page 36.

Also featured in this month’s issue is a look ahead to Asia CanTech, our annual event which this year takes place in Surabaya, Indonesia. Details on the keynote speakers, the gala awards and a list of exhibitors – along with other useful information – can be found in our comprehensive preview on page 18. For the latest updates visit the website at www.asia-can.com.

We also have a focus on canned foods, with an in-depth look at the so-called ‘next generation food can’ jointly produced by Ardagh and vegetable canner Bonduelle. Interestingly, nitrogen dosing techniques are used in the filling process, and we analyse the potential benefits this could bring.

Elsewhere is a look at global growth opportunities for can makers in China, details on how Vietnam Brewery has doubled its production rates since converting from glass bottles to cans, and insight into how new machinery is achieving greater levels of downgauging.

In the meantime, I look forward to meeting and conversing with as many of you as possible, and if there’s anything you’d like to see in forthcoming issues, please drop me an email to simon@bellpublishing.com. I hope you enjoy this month’s issue.

Simon Rowley, Editor, CanTech International
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Are you committed to energy efficiency?

Minimising power consumption doesn’t just reduce your running costs; it’s also the environmentally-responsible choice. If you’re serious about energy efficiency, the 5610 Bodymaker from CMB Engineering is the solution you need.

The CMB 5610 Bodymaker can be fitted with three clutch options: Hydraulic, Pneumatic or our new Hybrid clutch. Since this clutch is dry-running and hydraulically actuated, there is no reliance on plant air and no need for additional pumps. The CMB 5610 Bodymaker also features a Standby Mode, designed to help save energy when the machine is not in use, and Variable Frequency drive pump control.

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News and views from the metal packaging industry

Laser-etched tabs in North America

Crown Beverage Packaging North America, a business unit of Crown Holdings, has introduced its Laser-Etched Tabs (LET) technology to provide beverage brands in North America with a new way to engage consumers and build brand loyalty.

Given their placement and function, beverage tabs are pivotal to the drinking experience and are prime real estate for images or messages that reinforce a brand’s identity or positioning. Using a different technology to what’s available to Crown’s customers in Europe, Crown’s proprietary process uses a focused laser to remove the top coating of the tab in the required design, either to expose the clear coating beneath or reveal a second colour of coating below.

“At Crown, we are always exploring opportunities to help brands innovate with beverage packaging and more effectively engage consumers,” says Neill Mitchell, vice president marketing and strategic development at Crown Beverage Packaging North America. “Adding laser-etched tabs to our portfolio of services expands our customers’ messaging options and serves as a new vehicle to drive brand sales.”

LET’s are compatible with all can sizes and types of beverage ends. Ideal for use with soft drinks, beer, and sports or energy drinks, LETs can be combined with Crown’s promotional ends, shaping, finishing and printing capabilities for added impact and engagement. The technology rounds out Crown’s existing family of tab options for beverage cans, which also include coloured and incised versions.

Rexam joins Dow Jones Sustainability Index

Rexam, the global consumer packaging company, was recently selected to join the Dow Jones Sustainability Europe Index (DJSI). Members of the DJSI represent leading sustainability companies around the world and Rexam is one of an exclusive group of five companies within the containers and packaging sector chosen for the 2013 Index.

This follows Rexam’s recent ‘gold’ (top award) rating by Ecovadis, a comprehensive system used by several of the company’s largest customers to monitor the sustainability performance of suppliers.

For more than a decade, the DJSI has tracked the performance of sustainability-driven companies worldwide, providing reliable, objective benchmarks for asset managers with sustainability portfolios. Selection is based on social, environmental and economic performance. Graham Chipchase, Rexam’s chief executive, comments, “With 60 billion cans produced globally each year, Rexam places great importance on sustainability.

The performance factors considered in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index selection process have long been engrained in Rexam’s culture. To be included among this elite group of companies is superb recognition.”

Press-in hinge closure for metal cans

With a strong and long-standing track record of capping metal containers with state of the art LDPE pourer devices, Bericap is now introducing a new concept for metal can markets in general and businesses in the syrup industry that use metal cans.

These markets traditionally use two-piece closures, comprising a screw-on top fitting and a threaded pourer pressed into the metal can piercing.

This proven solution generally offers the best tightness and robustness against counterfeiting. The metal can market is a fairly conservative market, so it is a real challenge for the manufacturer, can maker and bottler to develop a new closure concept and launch it on the market.

In its VU HC SK 27/25, Bericap is delivering a new concept consisting of a one-piece hinged PP closure fitting its existing pourer range from 24 to 32 piercing diameters.

This is suitable for bottlers trying to configure a new closure for the preferred metal can, as they can simply use the existing approved pourer on the same piercing. The only change is the flip-top closure for the appropriate pourer, which comes with a reactive hinge made of PP to allow transparency and light.

Product integrity is ensured by means of a tear-off membrane that can be torn away after the hinged overcap has been opened.

Clean pouring is enabled by an anti-drip feature on the pourer part.

Asia CanTech technical session

Details of the Asia CanTech 2013 problem-solving technical session have been released. Industry experts from Stolle will facilitate the high level technical discussion on various process issues in the plant that can cause both quality and efficiency problems throughout the can making production line.

The extended discussion, which will include a dedicated question and answer session, will take place at the end of day one of the conference. An overview of the topics will be available prior to the event and delegates will be able to propose areas of interest in relation to these via the Asia CanTech organisers. A full show preview can be found on page 18.
**World News**

**Eight-colour press for Chinese can maker**

A new Chinese can maker, SWKD, has started production with the first eight-colour metal decorating press in the Chinese market.

The MetalStar UV from KBA-MetalPrint is accompanied by the country’s first MetalCoat 480 coating machine and a 42m long dryer.

When the first press was being commissioned earlier this year, SWKD ordered two further UV press lines, a six-colour MetalStar UV with an integrated coating tower for UV varnish, and a six-colour MetalStar UV with an inline coating machine MetalCoat 480 and LGT dryer.

Depending on product and application (food or general packaging) SWKD can decide whether to use hybrid processes with UV links or alternatively with conventional metal decorating inks and solvent-based coatings with its printing and coating lines as well as the 42m-long drying oven.

With an output of up to 8,000 sheets per hour it will be the fastest conventional printing and coating line in China.

All three presses are equipped with DensiTronic Professional cutting-edge measuring and control technology, ACRC (automatic camera register control system) and are networked with a CIP3 link to prepress. This technology has yet to become the norm for all metal decorating presses.

SWKD, based in Qian’an, says it is now well positioned to meet future demands and trends in metal packaging in the Asian market.

**Caps and closures campaign**

Alupro is looking for a number of new local authorities in the UK to partner with and take advantage of its package of free support to educate households and promote the importance of recycling aluminium caps and closures.

The ‘Leave Your Cap On’ communications campaign was launched by Alupro in July 2013 and forms an important part of the work the organisation does to promote the recycling of all aluminium packaging. In particular, Alupro is looking for one or more local authority that may wish to develop the campaign as part of its kerbside recycling scheme.

The campaign has been developed in partnership with British Glass in order to highlight the importance of recycling aluminium closures, such as those used on wine and spirit bottles. To keep the material in the recycling system, the most effective way of collecting and separating it for reprocessing is via the glass recycling system.

Alupro has developed a range of free communications materials including adverts containing recycling container, web banners and PR materials. In addition, help is available to launch and promote the campaign to residents.

Rick Hindley, executive director at Alupro, says, “This is an exciting opportunity for local authorities to engage with its residents to help them recycle more at home and to highlight the value and importance that aluminium screw tops and collars have as a recycled material. In addition to supporting them through any bank schemes, we would particularly like to partner with a local authority in a kerbside scheme and elicit a behavioural change that simply screwing the top back on the bottle before recycling is the simplest and easiest way to do their bit in recovering this valuable, sustainable and recyclable material.”

**Alupro is looking for a number of new local authorities in the UK to partner with and take advantage of its package of free support to educate households and promote the importance of recycling aluminium caps and closures.**

**Sugary drinks tax unveiled in Mexico**

Mexico’s president has announced plans to introduce a tax on ‘sugary’ drinks in a bid to tackle the country’s obesity rate.

Enrique Peña Nieto’s proposals would see a litre of sugar-sweetened beverage taxed MXN1 (US$0.08), according to reports.

The bill also includes a tax on concentrates, powders, syrups, essences and flavour extracts based on the volume of sugar-flavoured beverage that these items would produce.

A statement on the president’s website said that the tax on sugary drinks is in order to discourage their consumption and thereby reduce obesity rates, especially in children. A 2011 study found that Mexico is now the world’s leading consumer of soft drinks, and in July, it emerged that the country had overtaken the US in obesity levels.

The measures announced are part of a wider Fiscal Reform Bill, designed to raise revenue for investment in education and Mexico’s infrastructure. It is believed that Mexico’s Congress is expected to approve the plans by mid-November.

**AkzoNobel to close five German offices**

Canned paint giant AkzoNobel has revealed more details of its plans to ‘streamline’ its structure with more than a quarter of German-based roles facing the axe. Following the recent announcements of plans to divest both its building adhesives business and decorative paints stores in Germany, AkzoNobel has informed employees of its intention to streamline its organisational structure in Germany. The proposals involve reducing the number of office locations from eight to three by the summer of next year. The three remaining offices will be located in Cologne, Hamburg and Stuttgart.

AkzoNobel says this is a ‘high-ly fragmented footprint’ and the result of various mergers and acquisitions that have occurred during recent years. When completed, these developments will result in a reduction of more than 25% in the total number of personnel employed by AkzoNobel in Germany to approximately 2,600.

“By bringing office-based management and supporting staff together in fewer locations and better aligning them with the needs of our businesses in Germany, we aim to improve our operational effectiveness as well as lowering overheads,” comments AkzoNobel executive committee member Werner Fuhrmann.

**AkzoNobel to close five German offices**

**Hot sodas planned for Japan**

Hot sodas are on the radar for at least two fillers in Japan this winter, as both Coca-Cola (Japan) and Kirin Beverage Co have been quoted as planning to release hot drinks in time for Japan’s winter season.

The drinks will be fizzy and non-alcoholic and are aimed at boosting sales during the colder months when soda can sales traditionall-y slump. Coca-Cola is reportedly launching Canada Dry Hot Ginger Ale on 21 October, creating what would be the first carbonated Coca-Cola group product that is intended to be served at a warm temperature. The cans are expect-ed to sell for ¥120 ($1.20), mainly at convenience stores and in vending machines. It will be available only on a seasonal basis.

Kirin Beverage’s Kirin no Awa, based on a cold carbonated drink released last year, is due to arrive in stores on 5 November and will cost approximately ¥1.30.

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Can design app released

The world’s first free online drinks can design app has been unveiled by the UK Can Makers. The trade body representing drinks can manufacturers in the UK has specifically created the app to make it easy for designers to visualise and share creations in 3D.

Just a few clicks, CanCreator brings designs to life in 3D in a variety of sizes and finishes, and is ideal for soft drinks, beer brands or something completely different.

Templates for popular can sizes are available to download for use in Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator, so designers can focus on their creations. Once complete, it’s easy to upload designs for a 3D view from any angle.

There are also innovative printing techniques, such as heat-sensitive thermochromic inks and tactile finishes, available at the touch of a button. Geoff Courtney, chairman of the UK Can Makers, says, “Packaging plays such a vital role in making products stand out on shelf, and drinks cans offer so many possibilities. We wanted to make exploring and showcasing drinks can designs easy, so we worked closely with designers to create an app that would let them see for themselves without any hassle. Initial feedback has been very positive, and we hope everyone finds it a useful tool for creating impactful drinks can designs.”

The app can be downloaded for Mac and PC by visiting www.cancreator.com.

Interactive packaging with augmented reality

At InsideAR, the augmented reality fair, Ball Packaging Europe is due to showcase how AR can be combined with the beverage can to boost sales.

Amongst numerous examples – all from case studies that were conducted in close co-operation with Ball’s customers – the packaging expert will show how Coca-Cola’s Burn cans trigger virtual snowboarders. Consumers who scan the flame of the brand mix in Brazil.

Crown launches 425ml can in Brazil

Crown’s Brazilian arm is to introduce a 425ml sleek can to the country. Crown Embalagens Metálicas da Amazônia SA, a subsidiary of Crown Holdings, claims that the new can gives the company the largest portfolio of beverage packaging available in Brazil.

“Beverage brands continue to build their share of the flourishing Brazil market by frequently introducing product innovations and novel packaging options,” says Rinaldo Lopes, president, Crown Embalagens Metálicas da Amazônia SA. “We were the first to offer the 550ml can in Brazil to meet our customers’ demands; the 425ml beverage can is another size which was commercialised to cater to our energy, beer and soft drink customers that want an exclusive format for their brand.”

In addition to these newer formats and the standard 355ml can, Crown manufactures 269ml, 310ml and 355ml sleek style cans in Brazil, which help to differentiate brands on store shelves. Crown also offers larger 475ml cans, making a total of seven different sizes in its product mix in Brazil.

Mountain Goat, an Australian craft brewer, has unveiled a canned version of its summer beer for the first time. Available in 375ml cans, the new 4.7% ABV Summer Ale beer is brewed using wheat malt and un-malted wheat, which are blended together with new-world Australian and New Zealand hops.
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Ball introduces XL can

With two new can sizes, Ball Packaging Europe has expanded the opportunities for manufacturers to market their products in the perfectly sized container to match drink and consumer with the situation in which the drink is enjoyed.

While the 35.5cl Sleek can has a slender silhouette and feels comfortable to hold, the XL can contains nearly a litre and is designed for sharing.

The new XL can – with a volume of 32oz or 946ml – will attract attention due to its sheer size. “Our new can size serves the needs of many consumers for quantity and is a real eye-catcher in the shop as well as on the living room table,” explains Benoît Hirszowski, marketing director at Ball Europe.

The narrow can size 35.5cl sleek ensures an eye-catching differentiation at point of sale.

The high format stands out on the shelf and embodies health, youth and freshness. Ball states that the new sleek can – available in steel – is well suited to sophisticated beverages.

Ball showcased the new cans, and other innovations, at Drinktec. Turn to pages 36-37 for more.

Aluminium awards honour Novelis

Novelis has been named Aluminium Fabricator of the Year, and its Yeongju, South Korea, recycling centre was the Best Brownfield Technology Project winner at the Global Awards for Aluminium Excellence.

The Yeongju recycling centre is the largest aluminium beverage can recycling facility in Asia. It uses state-of-the-art recycling technology, including a de-coater that increases the centre’s ability to process scrap contaminated with plastic. With recent recycling and rolling expansions totalling more than $1.7 billion, Novelis is poised to supply the growing demand for aluminium can sheet worldwide with expectations to purchase and process 60 billion used beverage cans in 2015. This year, the company released the Evercan, the first independently certified, 90% recycled aluminium sheet content for the beverage can market.

“These awards are further evidence of our industry leadership, the strength of our people and our deep commitment to innovation and sustainability,” notes Phil Martens, president and CEO.

Winners of the Metal Bulletin Global Awards for Aluminium Excellence were determined by a panel of industry experts based on a fully audited, point-based judging process.

Tooling measurement for can makers

Integrated Packaging Solutions (IPS) has announced the release of ToolScan, a precise tooling measurement system.

The system uses a non-contact LED micrometer to measure bodymaker punch OD and contour scan/ironing and redraw die ID and OD.

ToolScan also features an innovative punch scan feature, which scans the punch contour along the longitudinal profile, measuring all the punch profiles – and thus making it ideal for punch step and rework analysis. The system was engineered from the ground up by can makers, and is designed solely for the can manufacturing industry. IPS reports that the system features an easy-to-operate touch screen operator control panel, an easy access safety door, and customisable reports with an easy pass/fail analysis.
Prime Controls makes influential fastest growing list

Sensor and control manufacturer Prime Controls has been named on an influential business magazine’s top 5000 fastest growing private companies in America.

The company came in at number 3044 on the Magazine’s 32nd annual 500|5000 list.

The list represents the most comprehensive look at the one of the most important segments of the economy – independent entrepreneurs. Companies such as Microsoft, Oracle, Facebook, and many other well-known names gained early exposure when they were featured on the list.

Prime Controls president, Larry Tucker, says, “It is such an honour to be recognised for this achievement. Over the course of our first 20 years in existence, our company listened intently to customer and market needs and built a wide range of protection equipment – from double sheet detectors to light testers for leak detection.

“The growth we are experiencing now is a result of our great effort during start-up, our amazing customers and partners, who always lead the way, and our skillful suppliers, who lend credit to our reputation for quality.”

Prime Controls continues to prepare for further growth.

It has expanded its workforce by 50% in the last couple years and has recently purchased and renovated a building for its expanded manufacturing operations.

Canned food initiative celebrates 20 years

A New Zealand initiative aimed at providing canned food for the needy has marked 20 years of operation.

The Wattie’s Cans Film Festival 2013, which runs across the country, helps people in need by collecting much needed cans of food for The Salvation Army food banks across the nation.

Throughout the years, people have supported the cause by heading along to their local participating cinema up to ten days before the night of the festival, which takes place on 13 November, and swapping a can of food for a movie ticket. “The Christmas period is a very difficult period for many Kiwis. We would struggle to meet the demand for food parcels during this time without the help of the Wattie’s Cans Film Festival, and the ongoing donations from New Zealanders keen to help out their communities,” says Shane Chisholm, territorial public. A total of 43,064 cans were donated to The Salvation Army by the festival last year.

Pneumofore celebrates the 90th anniversary

Pneumofore, a manufacturer of vacuum pumps and industrial applications for a wide range of industrial applications, is celebrating its 90th anniversary.

Established in 1923 by Swiss engineers, Pneumofore continues to research rotary vane technology for 24/7 running factories, with a strong focus on two-piece can plants.

Still owned and managed by the same family, Pneumofore’s mission to offer the lowest life cycle cost of compressors and pumps remains the same.

The increasing environmental awareness and understanding comes as no surprise to Pneumofore, which anticipated today’s efficiency requirements back in the 1970s.

Growing global competition and energy costs motivate plant managers to accurately select their machine investments with a good look to the Total Ownership Cost (TOC), but often the purchasing price is almost a negligible fraction of the TOC. Electrical consumption in plants is set under pressure.

Air compressors and vacuum pumps make up about 50% of the entire plant electrical energy need. Thus, reliable and durable and super-efficient machinery finally end up being the preferred choice, despite the initial investment cost.

Like electricity and water, compressed air and vacuum also need to be available for production without interference; such reliability criteria reduce the choice of vacuum pumps and air compressors suppliers.
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Can making machinery is widely regarded as robust and reliable, and in many instances, can last for decades without experiencing any deterioration in operating efficiency. However, timely replacements and upgrades of older machinery can both extend machinery lifetime and increase performance; and via second-hand equipment, it need not be an expensive burden.

Even if machinery is currently running without fault or any apparent sign of degradation, enhancements and upgrades can often avoid disruption and downtime, and can be of huge benefit in a number of ways. To find out about the current state of the used equipment market, we spoke with California-based Container Fabrication Machinery (CFM), one of the world’s largest dealers of used can making equipment that has been in business for over 30 years.

**Used equipment trends**
Gary Alexander, president of the company, told us, “On the used equipment side of things, the D&I (Drawn & Ironed) can making sector is seeing higher demand than ever before, and as a result, our inventory of this equipment is low. Sadly, the same cannot be said of three-piece equipment, which isn’t proving anywhere near as popular – and as a result, inventory is much higher.”

Quizzed on the potential reasons for this trend, Alexander explains, “For manufacturers producing a higher volume of cans, it’s all about cost per thousand. The production of two-piece cans remains significantly cheaper than three-piece – despite the fact that they can result in a higher volume of rust – and so the equipment is moving faster.

“Capital remains tight, so companies in North America are turning to rebuilt equipment as it is often more cost-effective than seeking a direct replacement. We can offer used machinery ‘as is’, or cleaned, printed and touched up (as opposed to completely refurbished); or, depending on the customer’s requirement, it could alternatively be fully rebuilt as new.”

Selling more than just parts, however, CFM also offers complete canning lines, and has recently completed the sale of a complete D&I can making plant from the Middle East into China. Whilst a rare occurrence, the purchase – bought on spec – serves to highlight just how strong interest is in the D&I area at present.

**Emerging markets**
Looking ahead, it is anticipated that emerging markets will likely be in South America and the Pacific Rim – encompassing Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, among other countries – and additionally, CFM is also receiving more and more enquiries and sales from Africa. Yet despite these growth areas, the majority of sales are still in its domestic market in the US.

Earlier this year, other retailers of second-hand can making machinery stated that they were seeing a shift towards new machinery, rather than used or rebuilt machinery being considered, but for CFM, this is not the case.

Speaking on why CFM is proving so popular amongst can makers, Alexander states that his philosophy is ‘to be all things to all people’. He says, “We offer everything, from single machines to a complete line. The US is a great source of used machinery, because labour costs are so high, and used equipment offers a cheaper option. Because of the quantity of new equipment being installed, the supply of used machinery is also becoming greater.”

In the longer term, Alexander believes that there will always be a market for used machines, as long as there’s disparity in labour costs between continents. He concludes, “The most important part of our success is the fact that we deliver good value to our customers. We don’t just sell them a machine, but we utilise our database of consultants and supply expert contacts to make sure they have the right equipment and that they know how to use it.”
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Creating a good quality seam is essential to ensuring beverages are delivered to the consumer in the best possible condition. Poor seams could result in leakage, off taste or metal pick up irrespective of the manufacturer of the can or end. What beverage fillers want is to get a product that maintains the efficiency of their lines from competitive suppliers and to be able to change suppliers if they wish.

In order to achieve this, the challenge for can makers and our customers is to ensure interchangeability between our products. This gives the filler flexibility to use cans and ends from all manufacturers without having to carry out major changes to their process.

Assembling a can and end at high speed requires precision, well maintained equipment and consistent product conforming to industry specifications. The can and end specifications have been in place for many years, and all manufacturers conform to these. As an industry, we continue to review these specifications in line with market requirements. However, the current values are fit for purpose and by controlling these parameters during manufacturing, the products delivered will allow good seams to be formed. So what can affect the double seam and influence whether there is complete interchangeability between products from different suppliers?

Significant variation in can height will require adjustment in the seamer. Having an industry agreed height for different can sizes and a range of ± 0.3mm will ensure that cans from different suppliers will seam without issues. Similarly, significant variation of flange width will affect the seams. So, for similar cans, the flange width parameters are the same so that the seams would be unaffected when changing from one can supplier to another.

For can ends there are also parameters that, if not controlled correctly during manufacturing, will make changing from one supplier to another more difficult. For example, variation of the outside curl diameter or the curl height may change the way the seam is formed in the first operation, which curls the end under the flange of the can, resulting in differences in the finished seam measurements. As the majority of the seam is formed in the first operation, it is vital that the variation between suppliers is kept to a minimum so that changes will not be required to seaming equipment when switching.

To maintain good quality seams, good maintenance and target setting of the seamer, combined with regular measurement of both the first and second operation seam parameters, is essential. Comprehensive guidance can be found in the Beverage Can Makers Europe (BCME) Seaming Booklet.

Further work is being carried out on the next generation of beverage ends to ensure that sound advice and recommendations can be given to customers regarding seamer set up and tooling to give full interchangeability between suppliers. Specifications have been set across the industry for the different ends that have been introduced and we are working with the equipment suppliers to determine the optimum tooling set required to ensure the customers’ needs are met. Our goal should be to ensure we don’t create any problems with compatibility of similar products.

However, there can still be times when it is necessary for a beverage filler to make adjustments to a seamer when switching from one supplier to another. Can makers continue to investigate the root causes for this, with the aim of eliminating all instances of poor compatibility between products from different manufacturers.

Enabling interchangeability between the products from different can suppliers is achieved by close control of parameters during manufacturing and good seamer set up. By achieving this, we will allow flexibility at the filling line and ensure an effective supply chain.
Asia CanTech 2013 Preview

Asia CanTech 2013, the technical conference and exhibition for can makers, fillers and their suppliers, will take place in Surabaya, Indonesia on 11-13 November. What can delegates expect from this year's event?

The countdown has started to this year’s Asia CanTech, the all-inclusive conference and tabletop exhibition for the Asian metal packaging industry. The event will assemble technical experts from global suppliers and can makers in a setting that promotes business interaction.

Asia CanTech will take place at the Marriott Hotel in Surabaya, Indonesia on 11-13 November 2013. The conference features keynote speakers from Universal Can, Ardagh and Tata Steel, along with a problem-solving technical session and presentations of the latest trends and developments from the global industry suppliers.

There’s also a tabletop exhibition, two evening arrangements and extensive time for informal networking and discussion.

The conference is structured as an all-inclusive event that runs over three days. Registration takes place during the afternoon of the first day, along with the tabletop exhibition and networking.

Keynote speeches and technical presentations run on days two and three. The exhibition hall is open on all three afternoons, offering time for in-depth business negotiations and product demonstrations.

Comment from the Editor

For the first time, Asia CanTech is taking place in Indonesia, and the three-day event will prove of huge value to everyone involved in the metal packaging industry – not only for those based in Asia, but for those located further afield also.

In addition to the ever-intriguing tabletop exhibition, I’m particularly looking forward to this year’s conference, which promises to offer an insightful look into current trends and activities in the global can making sector. A plethora of expert speakers have been scheduled to appear – including those mentioned within this preview – and the exchange of information and networking opportunities promises to be invaluable.

At the end of the second day will be our annual gala dinner, in which our awards winners are formally announced and recognised. An impressive array of cans have arrived at the office in recent weeks, and selecting winners will not be an easy task. See you at the show!

Simon Rowley, Editor, CanTech International

Keynote speakers

Tarun Daga, managing director, The Tinplate Company of India

Mr Daga has been working with the Tata Steel group for over 20 years and now sits as the managing director of The Tinplate Company of India. The company is an associated company of Tata Steel. He has extensive experience in manufacturing, marketing and strategy development. He also holds positions at various boards and governing bodies, including as the chairman of the Kolkata branch of the Indian Institute of Packaging, chairman of the Tinplate Promotion Council in India and chairman of the Tinplate Group of the International Tin Research Institute based in the UK.

John Bigley, managing director of Metal Australasia, Ardagh Group

Ardagh Group is Australia’s largest manufacturer of tinplate and aluminium aerosol cans, and a major producer of food cans in the region. A graduate engineer and MBA, Bigley has worked in the metal packaging industry for 28 years. Before moving to Australia in 2011, John was manufacturing director for the Specialities Division of Ardagh Metal in Europe. He was also previously the chairman of the British Aerosol Manufacturers’ Association and also the [UK] Metal Packaging Manufacturers’ Association. John was recently appointed as president of the Aerosol Association of Australia.
View from the Publisher

It’s been an interesting and challenging year for CanTech events, with a new show and two new venues. Euro CanTech made its debut in Birmingham in the UK, and Asia CanTech comes to Surabaya, Indonesia. Two very different settings – Birmingham was a dream from an organisational point of view, but it was just a shame that some can makers were too busy to come and learn about the latest technology and manufacturing efficiencies.

As opposed to Indonesia, difficult to arrange the venue and organise, but can makers are eager to come and learn about state of the art manufacturing equipment. So if you are a can maker, take away with you as much as you are able to absorb, and as a supplier, make the most of this great hungry region of Asia.

Here in the UK, the fourth largest economy in the world, there’s currently huge opposition to a high speed rail line linking London to the north of England. Perhaps it stems from the same apathy to new technology – who knows?

Neil McRitchie, Publisher, CanTech International

Asia Can Awards

The Asia Can Awards will be presented during the gala dinner on 12 November. The prestigious awards are open to all can manufacturers in the South East Asian region. The categories are Aerosols, Beverage 2-piece, Beverage 3-piece, Decorative/Speciality, Ends/Caps/Closures, Food 2-piece, Food 3-piece, General Line and Innovation.

The winner of last year’s Supreme Award was Thailand-based can maker Benjamit Holdings. Ueno has been heavily involved in the promotion of the present aluminium bottle in Japan, as well as overseas.

Hiroshi Ueno, general manager, marketing department, Universal Can Corporation

Mr Ueno has been working for 21 years with Japanese beverage and food companies in roles comprising factory manager and general manager. Since joining Mitsubishi Materials Corporation in 2000, he has been in charge of research and marketing at the company. Universal Can Corporation was established in 2005 by integrating the aluminium beverage can business of Mitsubishi Materials Corporation and that of Hokkan Holdings. Ueno has been heavily involved in the present aluminium bottle in Japan, as well as overseas.

Attendants

The location, relevance and strong keynote panel has already attracted a high number of delegates. The attendee list is, as always, multinational and comprises all aspects of the canning industry.

Delegates will come to Asia CanTech from countries as varied as Australia, Austria, China, Dubai, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Italy, Korea, Malaysia, The Netherlands, Philippines, Singapore, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, UK, US and Vietnam.

The current delegate list is available for download from the Asia CanTech website now, and will be regularly updated as even more delegates join.

Registration is convenient, with a form that can easily be completed directly from the website www.asia-can.com by going onto the ‘Can maker’ or ‘Supplier’ pages. We look forward to seeing you all again for yet another successful Asia CanTech.

Current exhibitors at Asia CanTech 2013 include

- Arc Pacific
- Applied Vision
- Ashworth
- Can Man
- Cazander Bros & Sis
- Chemtool
- CMB
- CMK Kuhnke
- Corima International machinery
- Crabtree of Gateshead
- Custom Machining Corp
- D.I.E.C Singapore
- Daesung Metal Printing Co
- DET
- FSG Tool & Die
- Gebr. Leonhardt
- Grace China
- Heibenstreit
- Heilbronn Container Presses
- Henkel
- Heraeus Noblelight Fusion UV
- Hinterkopf
- Ibea
- Innosan
- Intercan
- International Can Ends
- International Container Supply
- Intralox
- INX
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- Lighthouse Systems
- Mall + Herlan
- Minster Machine
- Nordson
- NPB Automation AB
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- Pressco Technology
- Prime Controls
- Quaker Chem
- Rosario
- Senscon
- Sensory Analytics
- Shantou Xingjian Cannery Machinery Co.
- Shinyi Can-making Machinery Industry Co.
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Nitrogen fuels can of the future

Ardagh has joined forces with vegetable canner Bonduelle to produce a ‘next generation food can’. CanTech International contributor Evert van de Weg finds out more

In a joint press release, Ardagh and Bonduelle recently announced that they have launched a new food can that has enhanced consumer appeal and offers significant environmental benefits. The announcement also referenced the fact that nitrogen dosing techniques were used in the filling process, which was reason enough for us to find out more about this intriguing launch.

We firstly spoke with Ardagh Group’s R&D director, Phillipe Gimenez, who explains, “We are continually undertaking metallurgical research using finite element analysis techniques at our R&D centre in Crosmières, France. The aim is to numerically calculate all kinds of suitable can concepts and designs, which is aided by a pilot line we acquired eight years ago that enables us to try out various new shapes. We needed such a pilot line in order to support the development within our company of the DWI technology we had in-house in the meantime.

“Several years ago, we realised that the use of nitrogen dosing technology was potentially ideal for use in food canning, and during regular discussions between the..."
The production line for DWI cans at Ardagh’s Deventer plant

Filling focus: Food

technical teams of ourselves and Bonduelle, we analysed in-depth the potential of using liquid nitrogen in the filling process of thin-walled DWI cans. We concluded that it might lead to the use of less metal in cans, and decided to make some concept cans, which we named ‘Nemo’. Aside from the downgauging possibility of the new can – which has ecological and economical benefits – the main aim was to present a new look."

Existing technology in a new context

Liquid nitrogen injection has been successfully used for many years in the beverage sector. However, the application in food canning never got off the ground, although the thinner can wall gauges it allowed did make the process very attractive. The complications caused by the overpressure created in the cans by the gas-phase – and also the need to have thicker ends – has thus far discouraged the application of the technology in food canning.

Jacqueline Turlings, business development and marketing director at Bonduelle, comments, “Going through the development process with our customer, we both saw the attractiveness of very thin and smooth walls in contradiction to the beaded walls of the common three-piece welded can. The look would become quite different and the weight reduction promised was considerable – another important argument to go ahead”.

Gimenez adds, “The liquid nitrogen dosing equipment used for the vegetable filling is a conventional technique. There is ample experience with nitrogen in food products and it is well known that the nitrogen itself does not have any effect on the taste of the vegetables. Nitrogen is of course abundantly present everywhere in nature.

“The technical challenge for Bonduelle was to make sure there was consistency of the nitrogen dosing for the products in question. Retorting these cans with variable headspaces, and then dealing with the consequent variable pressures in the cans, required more development work: in particular, by the Bonduelle team. Our own R&D team, however, was faced with the challenge to design a can that would be able to cope with the increased internal pressures. We re-designed and re-engineered the existing DWI can completely, and the Nemo can is now able to withstand pressures up to 4.5 bar. “The liquid nitrogen injection enables a much thinner wall thickness (43 per cent thinner), but because of the higher pressures arising in the process, we need a heavier, easy-opening end. Normally, we use a steel thickness of 0.18mm for the easy-opening end, but in this case, we have to use 0.22mm thick steel sheet. Nevertheless, the final balance is quite rewarding. The total can weight of the Nemo can, compared with a best-in-class benchmark in three-piece cans, goes down by an impressive 15 per cent. We have calculated that if one billion cans were to convert to the new can design, the material savings would be equivalent to the weight of all the metal in the Eiffel Tower. Not only that, but there would also be approximately 15 per cent savings in CO2."

Of course, re-designing the easy-opening end in such a way that the end is able to withstand the pressures during the retorting process, whilst also remaining convenient to open, was a real challenge for the Ardagh team.

Gimenez continues, “The requirements for the easy opening ends on top of these cans are quite special. The pressures during the retorting process are higher than with the ordinary three-piece cans, and there is an overpressure at the end of the cycle instead of a vacuum. For the easy open end on a beverage can, which also has to cope with an overpressure in the can, it is a different story. That end has a diameter of 52mm and a partial opening, whereas our ends are 73mm and are the full-aperture type. Consequently, the end has to be stronger and thicker. However, we made sure the opening forces of the newly designed end remain the same as the earlier version. Many years ago, Ardagh introduced its range of Optilift easy opening ends to the market, with the best proven consumer convenience available on the market. For the Nemo cans, Bonduelle is using the Optifix version within this range.”

An exciting new look

Crucial for the success of the new two-piece DWI food cans is, of course, acceptance by consumers.

Turlings adds, “There is a long-held belief that to avoid spoiling the contents, cans have to show up concave ends and bottoms. Consumers are also accustomed to see and feel beads in the can walls of food cans, and it is quite a change when consumers suddenly get food cans with smooth walls and convex ends.”

The re-engineered can does away with the need for beading. For three-piece welded food cans, the beads helped safeguard the can integrity, particularly during post-retort cooling, when the pressure imbalance can otherwise cause cans to crumble. A positive side effect of this is that the smooth can walls lend themselves to direct printing in the same way as the cans for beverages are printed. Bonduelle used wraparound paper labels for this launch, but theoretically, it could have opted for direct printing as well.

Turlings notes, “Bonduelle makes its consumers aware
of the new look of the cans, and also explains that the can is lighter and more ecologically sensible. To do this effectively, Bonduelle puts a sticker on the can – one that also details that the contents of the can are quite fresh, demonstrated by the ‘psshhht’ sound effect of the pressure release. Bonduelle carried out intensive consumer research and was highly encouraged by the positive reactions of consumers on the new food cans with their somewhat different properties.”

When we asked Bonduelle to comment on its experiences with the new can, a spokesman noted that it would not comment at present as it considers the launch of the two new bean products in Nemo cans on the German market as an extended test market. However, in a statement Bonduelle already issued, it stated that ‘The Nemo can has many benefits for the consumer and it is a true success story for sustainable metal packaging.’

Maximum sustainability

Gimenez comments, “The Nemo can we made for Bonduelle is already the lightest can for food products today, due to its 15 per cent reduction in total metal content. With packaging sustainability increasingly important, you could already call this can ‘the most sustainable food can today’. We do, however, still see potential to downgauge further in the future.”

Turlings concludes, “The Nemo development confirms the correctness of our decision to go into DWI technology. Whereas we are more or less at the end of the lightweighting possibilities with three-piece can making, we are only at the beginning of our possibilities in DWI two-piece food cans. Our customers are delighted by the technical properties of the DWI cans, which run very well on their filling lines.” It is anticipated that Ardagh will soon roll out its DWI food cans across the world, and a forthcoming project in the USA with the ConAgra Group may prove a strong indication of that.

Maybe it was indeed high time to try and change that old-fashioned image of somewhat ‘boring’ food cans by adding a little bit of flavour from the much more aesthetically-pleasing two-piece beverage cans. It’s surely good for the whole can making market.

Ardagh’s history in DWI food can production

In 2005, Ardagh (trading under the Impress name at the time) acquired Alcan in Sutton-in-Ashfield in the UK, where two-piece DWI food cans were produced on a large scale for Pedigree Petfoods. Later in the year, Impress then acquired US Can (formerly named May Verpackungen) in Germany. This company supplied large quantities of three-piece welded pet food cans in Germany and Denmark. Impress management realised that these can volumes, together with the supply of cans to the pet food markets in the Benelux countries and France, would justify the investment in high-capacity DWI lines. After studying all of the available options, Impress decided to invest in the most modern DWI technology to make 400g two-piece food cans at the Impress plant in Deventer in the Netherlands. The broad experience gained in the Sutton-in-Ashfield plant helped to build a highly efficient production line that started mass production at the beginning of 2008. It was the first DWI line producing two-piece food cans on the European continent, and the results were so good that major capacity expansions were implemented in 2009 and 2011.

In 2010, Ardagh acquired Impress. By building a new DWI line in the French Ardagh plant in Moëlan-sur-Mer (Brittany), the company was able to keep rolling out the DWI technology for food cans, and in 2012, Ardagh built a similarly new line at its plant in Znoimo, Czech Republic.

In 2011, Ardagh management explained that both they and its customers found the two-piece DWI cans more robust than three-piece welded cans. The lack of two critical points in the can – namely, the weld and the seam to fix the bottom end to the can body – were the main factors in this satisfaction. Ardagh’s customers also highlight the good processability of the two-piece DWI food can as another benefit.
G Technologies have been designing and realizing innovative and reliable technological solutions as far as the metal decorating sector is concerned by cooperating with the major machine constructors and installing U.V. curing systems. The DRY-METAL series U.V. dryers suit the curing of U.V. products and are available either air-fluid or simply air-cooled. They can be installed both in-between press decks and on set-stock conveyer belts.

All G Technologies curing systems can be both retrofitted on existing machines and installed on new generation ones.
Beading comes of age

Driving forces

The main drivers behind necking are stability, visual appearance and cost reductions of the ends. Necking a three-piece can diameter of 73mm to a neck diameter of 70mm and a 99mm can to a neck diameter of 97mm has been commonplace for decades – initially due to a desire to make cans stackable on supermarket shelves and in the consumer’s cupboard at home.

However, necking a 65mm can for energy drinks in China to a neck diameter of 52mm, reducing the wall thickness below 0.20mm and the tinplate of a very hard temper, is much more demanding. Nevertheless, Cantec has achieved this via its latest die-necking technology. The necking is done in four stations – the machine firstly applies a long draw, followed by three shorter draws. Wrinkles in the neck are eliminated, and the surface remains brilliant, which is quite an accomplishment.

Flanging also had to undergo big changes to realise...
Beading, Necking & Flanging

the high seaming speeds and the seam quality that fillers demand, as flawless seams rely on flawless flanges. Die-flanging, spin-flanging and swing-flanging can each be used, depending on the specific demand. Latest developments for thin gauges include a body supporting spin flanging, whereas beading is vital for further down-gauging, as it determines the paneling and the axial load of cans.

The bead profiles of the can wall and the beading process itself are the determining factors. Rail beading is the most commonly used technique, because of its speed, simplicity and rigidity of rail beaders – but for can diameters larger than 99mm and for taller can heights, rail beading had limitations in the number of forming revolutions. This prompted us to introduce Can-O-Mat 2, which is designed to cope with this problem.

The new beading process
There was a specific market need to offer further down-gauging for can sizes larger than 0.5 litres, and even full litre cans. As a result, we designed a new version of Can-O-Mat that is suitable for can diameters between 99mm and 133mm in size, and heights of up to 250mm.

Due to the revolution limitations in the forming process to make beads in rail-type operations, we sought to completely eliminate these operations in the new machine; replacing them with twin-roll beading and the rail seaming with roll seaming. The roll seaming requires less space, yet the infeed height is 900mm – the same height as for the smaller Can-O-Mat 1.

Necking, flanging, beading and seaming have four spindles, whereas the new twin roll beading has eight spindles. Meanwhile, the new twin-roll beader has two beading rolls – one inner and one outer roll – per head. The cans are lifted up and the two rolls are clamped, to avoid deviation by the uplifted base plate.

Novel design features
The number of can revolutions for the beading process is flexible due to the fact that the rolls are driven by a separate motor. This number can be set on the control panel to between four and eight revolutions, which now facilitates bigger cans – such as milk powder cans – accurate bead- ing of very thin and hard tinplate, along with the ability to also form large and deep beads.

We made the operation of the new machine as simple as possible. The beading tools, which are in fact only rolls, are easy to handle for setting or changeover; and no height change parts are required for the can lift and the infeed into the beader. For cans with a height of up to 180mm the capacity is 300 cans per minute, and for cans up to 250mm the capacity is 250 cans per minute. We have already supplied the first example of this machine to a can maker in the Netherlands.

Downgauging is of huge importance in today’s market – particularly for bigger cans – and we fully expect strong interest in this new development from all can makers that are producing this type of can.

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Much is being made about what will happen to the Chinese economy, which is set to grow in 2013 at the slowest pace in 23 years. The can making industry is watching with keen interest as the new Chinese administration faces slowing factory production and reduced investment. While some are cautious about the future in China and other portions of Asia, one of the leading systems integrators in the D&I industry believes the market will remain strong through 2014.

Roeslein and Associates Inc. opened a manufacturing and construction facility in Shanghai nearly three years ago to establish a local presence in a country it believes will eventually become the largest consumer market in the world. Per capita consumption in China is currently only about 17 cans per year, far below the 360 cans each person consumes in the United States annually. But Roeslein and Associates believes that China’s 1.3 billion people and growing middle class points to increased consumption.

“China has very wisely invested in infrastructure. There are cities emerging before your eyes with skyscrapers, multi-family housing, highways, and state-of-the art transportation systems. That investment is growing the wealth and consumer prospects of the country. It’s why we see such potential there,” says Brian Sneed, Roeslein and Associates chief financial officer.

The US Commercial Service reports the Chinese food and beverage sector grew 29 per cent annually between 2006 and 2011, which was a byproduct of growth in the country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) which more than quadrupled to $7.32 trillion from 2001-2011. A slowdown in such rapid economic growth was inevitable. Still, the International Monetary Fund projects that the Chinese GDP will grow by 7.75 per cent in 2013.

Despite the Chinese economy slowing, opportunities for can manufacturers still remain. Sheldon Ripson explains further

“We just need to go identify the opportunities and make it happen. The consumer market here presents great opportunity to grow in can making. Roeslein is the leader in this area, which gives us every reason to believe we will continue to be the top performer in the world,” comments Gangwei Wu, director, Roeslein Shanghai.

CEO and founder Rudi Roeslein is in a unique position to understand the opportunities in China and throughout Asia. The company serves D&I customers in more than 50 countries, primarily from manufacturing and construction facilities in the United States. Roeslein and Associates delivers high quality unitised and preassembled systems that provide customers with certainty on engineering, cost, quality and scheduling for process applications. Roeslein credits a joint venture in China with Ball Corporation and MC Packaging in 1985 as a milestone that led to the founding of the company in 1990. The timing coincided with the beginning of China’s transition to a more open economy.

“We migrated from doing business with American and European customers to Chinese customers. Once we did that, we came to the stark realisation that no matter how much we talked about quality and value purchasing, customer decisions are predominantly about price in China. And the only way you can overcome the price issue after you look at shipping cost, labour differential, and
import issues is by doing things in China locally to serve the local marketplace,” Roeslein notes.

Preparations for building the 3,000 square metre Shanghai facility began two years before it opened in 2011. The operation employs nearly 50 local engineers and manufacturing employees, supported by staff in the US and Europe. The Shanghai facility is currently working at full capacity in container manufacturing, and is also filled with projects for process and energy clients.

“Fortunately, there was a stream of business at the beginning,” Roeslein continues. “We went to a customer who brought me to China originally – Ball – and told it what we are doing. I was very anxious to have that local presence and the cost benefits of doing things in China locally, and that really provided the springboard.”

The initial orders prioritised decision-making about the correct building space, equipment purchases, supply chain and personnel. “These start-ups are difficult. It takes a lot of commitment. It was a real team effort on the part of the guys who came here to set things up,” Roeslein explains. “But the sense of urgency you get when there is real work to do pushes you through some of those things. It provides the motivation to say ‘we are doing this for a reason’, rather than going through a lot of academic exercises that could end up costing a lot of money.”

Understanding the culture
The company needed the right personnel to succeed, which required hiring local Chinese employees and quickly training them according to Roeslein’s own quality and operational standards. That meant understanding the culture which drives traditional Chinese workforce practices, where managers tend to use discipline quickly and where employees are hesitant to make independent decisions.

“The first challenge is bridging the culture. A typical Chinese company does not expect employees to lead; they are expected to follow. But as a young company in Shanghai, our expectation is that our people will be leaders,” Wu says. “We don’t expect perfection every time. But we do expect them to improve every time. That is the culture we are trying to instill.”

“Communication within our US organisation was a key as well. We really wanted to keep the message consistent that the Chinese entity was to serve Asia and that it wasn’t here to cannibalise the work we are doing in the States,” Sneed says. “If we had been unclear about the intention, we probably would have received some push back. But instead, we got a lot of good co-operation.”

“In five years, the Shanghai operation will have 200 employees, doing up to $50 million in revenue across Asia. I truly believe that can be accomplished.”

“Communication within our US organisation was a key as well. We really wanted to keep the message consistent that the Chinese entity was to serve Asia and that it wasn’t here to cannibalise the work we are doing in the States,” Sneed says. “If we had been unclear about the intention, we probably would have received some push back. But instead, we got a lot of good co-operation.”

“We are in a position where a lot more doors are swinging open as a result of having the technology and know-how here along with the cost structure that allows us to compete locally. It could be that this opportunity will grow exponentially over the next five years,” Sneed comments.

Roeslein sees a strong market continuing in the D&I industry for years to come and anticipates additional corporate growth from its process and energy group. In China, the company believes a portion of that growth will spring from its modular construction methods serving customers in the emerging energy and agriculture sectors. It recently landed a contract with a multi-national agriculture company relating to a Greenfield facility in China.
A combination of industry trends caused by rising material costs and transportation considerations led Vietnam Brewery Limited (VBL) to change from bottling in glass to canning. The company chose three canning lines by Sidel to be put in across two of its plants, a process that began in 2009.

All of the chosen lines use vertical space where practicable, which takes up only half the space of the original glass lines. The crucial improvement in the canned lines, compared to glass, is that it has doubled the rate of production of the lines since the change over.

Background
VBL, a joint venture between Asia Pacific Breweries Limited, Saigon Trading Group (SATRA) and Heineken NV, opened its first brewery in 1993 in Ho Chi Minh City. The brewery was, at the time, considered the most modern in the region and still claims to be the fastest, biggest and most advanced canning line in all of Vietnam.

But the market has moved and the company has continued to expand, meaning that more production facilities quickly followed in other locations across the country – at Da Nang, Quang Nam and Tien Giang. Today, those four breweries are still owned and managed by VBL and are still serving the beer market in central and southern Vietnam with various brands including Tiger, Heineken, Bivina, Larue, BGI and Foster’s.

The company remains focused almost solely on the Vietnamese market and has very little to do with exports. However, with sales of the majority of its brands consistently in Vietnam’s top ten annual sales list, the brewer still feels there is the potential to grow through its strong brand portfolio. Two of its main beers, Heineken and Tiger, are creating high consumer awareness and the products have generated a positive image for the company throughout the country.

New canning lines
To deal with the increased demand for its products and to create future capacity for growth, VBL ordered three lines for two plants from Sidel. The first two lines were to update its first and main brewery in Ho Chi Minh City, with the third line added as an upgrade to its site in Da Nang.

The order for the first high-speed canning line, for the Hóc Môn plant (in a rural district of Ho Chi Minh City) was placed in February 2009 for a 1500 cans per minute (CPM) line. That line has proved immensely successful and has
significantly improved efficiency. As a result, the order for a second line was placed in January 2010. Installation on that line began in June 2011, with production starting just three months later. The order for a third line was also placed in 2011, this time for VBL’s facility in Da Nang. That line became fully operational in August last year.

There were several decisive factors surrounding the new canning line. The location of the brewery, the space available there, and the need for maximum production capacity required the optimisation of the production line’s footprint. Having a local team enabled Sidel to communicate effectively with VBL. Sidel was able to leverage the technical expertise it had acquired installing the first two lines to complete the third one. Sidel also coordinated the shipment of crucial equipment from different countries – including Italy and Switzerland – and also dealt with the strict export and import documentation necessary for this process.

The mutual confidence gained by both VBL and Sidel in the performance and reliability of the equipment, and also in the skill and experience of the line-engineering experts and on-site technicians, let both parties collaborate closely throughout the installation process.

Global beer market
The beer market, like many in the beverages industry, is demanding. Whilst the overall market is improving after a slump in the recession, this growth is not true for all parts of the world, as the markets of North America and Europe are declining or stagnating, at best. Yet in the developing countries of South America, Africa, and particularly in Asia, demand is rising steadily. In Asian countries with large populations, per capita consumption of beer is still relatively low, but as the standard of living in these developing countries rises, consumption is expected to grow too. The Asian beer market is considered to represent the greatest potential for growth in the immediate future. The Vietnamese market is the third largest in the region, behind only China and Japan.

Nearly three quarters of the population are under 40 years old and one million young Vietnamese turn 18 each year. This means that a ‘primary drinkers’ targeted by the brewing industry within the country – those aged 20 to 40 years old – is expected to grow by 5 per cent by 2015. This is the equivalent of an extra 1.7 million potential customers. With the growing availability of light beer, the market is also experiencing increased demand from female consumers.

Heineken is still a relatively new competitor in the beer market in Vietnam. Imparting the fashionable and luxurious appeal of the Netherlands, the beer is enjoyed mostly by the young and the upper class Vietnamese for its distinctive taste.

High-speed operation
The Sidel lines are the first high-speed canning lines that Heineken has invested in. The first line ordered in 2009 and installed in 2010 is capable of producing 90,000 cans per hour (CPH), or 1500 CPM, filling 330ml or 500ml cans with Heineken or Tiger beer. This first high-speed canning line met record-breaking installation times and efficiencies to respond to peak demand in the market. After three months, production was high and reliable enough to make any further performance test unnecessary. The second line, which was also installed in the plant in the Vietnamese capital of Ho Chi Minh City, is equally fast and is used only for the 330ml sized cans.

The most recent line also produces 330ml cans of Heineken and Tiger beers, along with Larue and Larue Export beers at 90,000 CPH. With its famous Tiger emblem, Biere Larue is produced under license. In 1909, it was the first beer to be brewed in the Far East and named after the French founder of the Brasseries et Placieres de L’Indochine Brewery, which was built in Vietnam. Biere Larue acquired a reputation as one of the Far East’s premier European lager-style beers beyond its original Indochine borders.

All three VBL lines comprise fillers, pasteurisers, can dryers, palletisers and depalletisers, conveyors and Sidel’s EIT (Efficiency Improvement Tool) – the automated data acquisition and information system. This enables instantaneous remote connection to the plant floor and close monitoring and analysis of production data, and empowers plant personnel and decision-makers with actionable information to better measure performance, discover issues, reduce losses and to ultimately increase line output.

EIT also aids with maintenance, as it helps users to react faster, set priorities and develop proactive measures. The productivity of the equipment and reliability of the production line as a whole is reflected in the attainment of 90 per cent proven line efficiency for every operational line over each of the last three years.

Critically, the project was delivered ahead of schedule, with shipments coming from different continents. At the same time, the team has continued to quicken the time for quoting and supplying spare parts for the existing lines. The order of a third line is a direct result of the team’s commitment to deliver parts on-time, services and value-for-money. Heineken, through VBL, is pleased with the line and its efficiency and is now considering the Sidel canning line as its chosen standard in other parts of the world.ROTOCUT™
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The raw materials master plan

Innovation and recycling are the keys to success for the raw materials market, reports Simon Rowley

According to a recent report issued by the European Commission, raw materials are the lifeblood of EU industry, and at least 30 million jobs in the EU depend upon access to them. There is increasing demand for unprocessed minerals and metals and, in parallel, strong challenges to the supply of certain raw materials – including price volatility and market distortions.

In response, the High Level Steering Group of the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) on Raw Materials released a Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) describing how the industry can act to ensure a sustainable supply of raw materials to the European economy and make Europe a world leader in raw materials exploration, extraction, processing, recycling and substitution by 2020.

The SIP outlines detailed actions that the parties involved – EU countries, companies, researchers and NGOs – can use to foster technological and non-technological innovation in the raw materials value chain, as well as in the international arena. These include a wide range of initiatives such as new cost-effective exploration concepts and technologies, better recovery and recycling of demolition waste and finding substitutes for critical raw materials.

European Commission vice president, Antonio Tajani, responsible for industry and entrepreneurship and a leader of the High Level Steering Group, comments, “Innovation in raw materials – be it in mining, processing, recycling, or substitution – holds the key to future growth and jobs. With our proposal we underline that Europe is capable of addressing these important challenges, drawing on our innovative EU research capabilities, as bolstered by Horizon 2020. This will help our industry both create jobs and protect the environment.”

Value chain challenges

In order to secure a sustainable supply of raw materials, Europe is confronted with a number of challenges along the entire raw materials value chain - exploration, extraction, processing/refining, recycling and substitution. The SIP aims to address all actions necessary to achieve the objectives and targets, including research and development, raw materials knowledge, exchange of best practices, revision of selected legislations, licensing steps, standardisation and policy dialogues.

Concrete targets of the SIP include the launch of up to ten pilot projects to promote technologies for the production of primary and secondary raw materials, to find substitutes for at least three applications of critical and scarce raw materials, and to create better framework conditions for raw materials in Europe.

The SIP also lists actions to improve Europe’s waste management framework conditions and excellence, and to reinforce EU knowledge, skills and raw materials flows.
Raw materials

by developing an EU Raw Materials Knowledge Base and potentially setting up a EIT Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC). Actions are also proposed to support an international co-operation strategy, at bilateral and multilateral level.

Recycling in Europe

Responding to the EU waste management targets, the European Aluminium Association (EAA) has urged the commission to improve the EU waste rules and increase the availability of scrap for the European recycling industry.

The aluminium sector in Europe already boasts high recycling rates, with end-of-life recycling rates above 90 per cent in transport and construction and close to 70 per cent for beverage cans. Aluminium recycling is critical to sustainable development, as it saves material resources as well as energy, reduces waste, and helps aluminium producers to continue to supply metal within Europe at a time when primary production is declining.

Gerd Götz, director general at EAA, says, “The aluminium industry has contributed, since its existence, to a resource efficient society. Today, over 75 per cent of all the aluminium ever produced is still in use. We see recycling as a win-win solution: it helps the environment and helps the European industry to continue producing and providing valuable and innovative end-use products. However, a change in legislation is needed to help to further unlock the recycling potential of our industry and respond to growing scrap leakage.”

The UK aluminium market

Recent statistics released by Wrap, the organisation for recycling in the UK, indicates that aluminium can prices were broadly stable in the seven months to March 2013 at around £700 ($1,130) per tonne, before rising to £825 ($1,330) per tonne in June 2013. Between June and August, prices have been stable at around £800 per tonne. Meanwhile, steel and mixed can prices have been broadly stable over the last 12 months at £138 per tonne and £115 per tonne respectively.

More specifically, recovered aluminium prices increased by £4 ($6.50) per tonne during 2013 to £8.50 ($13.75) per tonne in July 2013, yet they are still £1 per tonne lower than July 2012 levels. Meanwhile, recovered steel prices are unchanged compared with year earlier levels at £12.50 per tonne in July 2013. Recovered steel prices peaked in October 2012 at £40 per tonne.

Packaging recovery and recycling

In the second quarter this year, a total of approximately 20,000 tonnes of aluminium packaging was recovered for export and UK reprocessing – the largest amount recorded since the third quarter in 2012. Compared with the first quarter in 2013, there was a 4,000 tonne increase in aluminium packaging going to UK reprocessing and a slight (1,000 tonne) decline in the amount being exported.

The amount of recovered steel packaging that is being reprocessed or exported stands at 104,000 tonnes in the second quarter of 2013, down 3,000 tonnes from the first quarter of 2013 but up 29,000 tonnes compared with the second quarter of 2012. The proportion of steel packaging being reprocessed in the UK jumped from 48 per cent in the third quarter of 2012 to 63 per cent in quarter two of 2013.

The North American market

In North America, waste management expert Think Green is keen to stress that empty food and beverage cans are a natural resource, and notes that the scrap value of the 36 billion aluminum cans Americans discarded in one year alone was worth about $600m (£3.7m). Apart from the economic impact, the environmental savings of recycling metal are enormous. Recycling steel and tin cans, for example, saves 74 per cent of the energy used to produce them. A steel mill that uses recycled scrap reduces related water pollution, air pollution and mining wastes by about 70 per cent.

Furthermore, steel cans make up about 90 per cent of the US food can market, with Americans using about 100 million steel cans every day – equivalent to 36.5 billion cans a year. At present, approximately 63 per cent of steel cans are recycled, making them the most recycled packaging product in the US. Steel cans contain at least 25 per cent recycled steel, but many are made almost entirely of recycled material.

A great deal of this recycled steel comes from scrap metal. Recycling steel saves at least 75 per cent of the energy it would take to create steel from raw materials, which is enough energy to power 18 million homes.

During the recycling process, steel cans (in bales or loose) are fed into the furnaces of a steel mill or foundry. They may be mixed with new steel. The facilities called “mini” steel mills manufacture their products from 100 per cent recycled steel.
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2013
As part of the 2013 Beverage Innovation awards that took place at the exhibition, can2close – a resealable beverage can – was named as a finalist in the ‘best closures’ category.

The resealable beverage can end is a new mechanism that replaces the standard stay-on tab opening of beverage cans with a simple mechanism that is easier to open and can be repeatedly sealed.

Whilst resealability is present on plastic bottles and other types of beverage containers, it is not yet a common feature on cans. Since the 1960s, many inventors have attempted to solve the riddle of the resealable can, but even the most-promising solutions were too technically complex or not economically viable to integrate into the internationally-standardised filling processes. The last significant change to the soda can was arguably the stay-on tab – launched in 1974 – which replaced the ring-pull and reduced litter and the risk of injury. However, can2close believes that its new concept further evolves the can and meets the needs of today’s market.

The patent-pending concept from Germany offers a number of advantages for the consumer, including the ability to portion canned beverages and easily transport them after the first opening. The resealable end also claims to keep drinks fresher, prohibit unwanted contaminants (such as wasps, cigarettes, and drugs) and reduce the risk of spilling. The plastic mechanism can be opened with one hand and is reportedly fingernail friendly, while the larger opening releases more aroma and flavour and is usable with a straw. The product offers beverages new branding possibilities, as the shape and colour of the closure components can be customised. can2close also states that filling companies can easily integrate the resealable end into established filling processes.

High speed Marksmen

Graphic Packaging International demonstrated the latest addition to its range of high-speed wrap machines for cans and bottles. The Marksmen X5 offers improved ergonomics for carton loading and maintenance, as well as high operational efficiency and faster changeovers. This machine also incorporates a number of refinements, including a new optional low-level feeder for easy operator access.

The Marksmen X5 is demonstrated with a variety of features and product control belts for increased productivity, as the machine can run package formats from 1 x 2 to 2 x 6 at speeds up to 300 packs per minute, depending on package style and configuration.

The machine was shown running two very different bottle package styles. The first was a 1 x 3 ‘over the crown’ pack, which provides a maximised billboard product display and incorporates Graphic Packaging’s lock system – its most secure and strongest lock available for single line packs. The second was a 2 x 3 ‘neck-through’ pack, which includes a pre-glued convenient handle and incorporates an improved tab locker feature for maximum product security and package strength.

Can drying system

Air Control Industries (ACI) displayed examples of its can and bottle drying technologies that are ideal for lines running a few hundred cans an hour up to those running many thousands.

Employing the company’s energy efficient, blower-powered air delivery systems – JetPlate and CanTunnels – and/or air knives in conjunction with neck and cap dryers, ACI’s can drying technology ensures effective drying to enable efficient labelling and clear product coding.

Systems are available as totally enclosed units (LNL) with air delivery systems and blower housed in a single moisture containing, noise reducing cabinet right through to a simple open system with separate airknives and blower.

For high throughput lines, ACI offers its JetPlate and CanTunnels.

JetPlate comprises a pair of facing plenums that serve to both deliver air and act as guide rails. Their close proximity to the bottles and the air slot pattern ensures both efficient air delivery and effective moisture removal. It can be complemented by neck and cap drying equipment.

CanTunnel is available in both single and multi-lane formats. Cans pass through the CanTunnel and air is delivered via precisely configured slots. This arrangement...
ensures all moisture is removed and contained so as to avoid dispersal of moisture to prevent it being deposited again on cans or elsewhere.

**Magic moments**

Beverage can manufacturer Ball Packaging Europe displayed its recently introduced ‘magic straw can’, with prototypes looking every bit as impressive as the initial marketing images.

Ball was keen to highlight the versatility of its beverage cans, noting that they can prove a very useful marketing tool for specific consumer targeting. Dynamark, the company’s new, variable printing technology, enables up to 24 design variants to be applied per production run – even in the case of large batch sizes. From logos and portraits to graphics and individualised messages, there are a multitude of possibilities. This is especially true of the magic straw can, which offers additional space for brand presentation in the form of logos or promotional codes not just on the can, but on the straw itself too. Ball representatives remained optimistic that the concept would soon find its way onto store shelves.

Ball also presented three new special-effect finishes for aluminium beverage cans, with features ranging from combined glossy and matte effects, to hidden messages in invisible ink and signal-sending neon colours. Beverage manufacturers can use these finishes to effectively highlight their brands and products and make them stand out at the point of sale.

Design elements printed on cans with the new “sunlight effect” ink are not noticeable at first glance, but become visible when the can is placed in the sun and UV rays strike the can. When the UV light disappears, the images or text vanish.

Meanwhile, the ‘silk and shine effect’ is a new Ball printing technology that, for the first time, combines the effects of high gloss and matt printing. Certain areas and design elements on the surface of the can have a special tactile-like effect, which adds an exclusive look and feel that is especially appealing for premium products.

Lastly, Ball’s neon effect pays homage to the trend of the 1980s by creating an intense neon-yellow for enhancing can designs. A new ink pigment produces a striking colour effect and adds sharp, vibrant contrasts – especially against a black background.

**Total packaging**

For the very first time, Rexam Beverage Can showcased its photochromic ink and thermochromic printed ends innovations. Announced earlier this year, the printed ends – available in 12 colours and suitable on 200 and 202 ends – change colour based on temperature, indicating when the product is ready for consumption.

Also on show was Rexam’s ‘first to market’ editions technology, which allows the production of up to 24 designs of the same label simultaneously on a single pallet. Continuing to push the manufacturing potential of the beverage can sector, Rexam also displayed a prototype of Fusion Contour, an aluminium bottle that it originally unveiled in November 2012.

Along with a wide range of beverage cans, bottles and other special finishes, the company was also keen to highlight its sustainability credentials. Iain Percival, Rexam’s European sector director, explains, “We understand the effect our actions can have on those around us, and it is vital that we work closely with all our suppliers and customers to ensure we are striving to be as sustainable as we possibly can across the whole supply chain process.”

**Separator for craft brewing**

Alfa Laval was on hand to launch its new bottom feed Brew 250 separator for craft brewing.

Part of a recent portfolio extension that includes a total of three brewery separator modules, these beer polishers and classical clarifiers are specially created to satisfy the needs of craft brewers. They are compact, energy efficient and easy to operate plug-and-play modules. Featuring a hermetic design, all the equipment is mounted into one skid.

The Brew 250 separation module for beer polishing is designed to clarify up to 250 hl/l beer after fermentation and maturation, as well as for beer polishing.

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‘The premium all-rounder’

Aluminium aerosol cans are on the rise. Gregor Spengler, Aerobal secretary general, explains why

Following several years of solid growth, the international aluminium aerosol can industry achieved a production record of 6.93 billion cans in 2012, and prospects for 2013 are also satisfactory. What are the reasons for this striking success, and what makes the aluminium aerosol can so unique compared to other competing packaging formats? The answer is not simple, but as manifold as the characteristics of the aluminium aerosol can itself.

Firstly, aluminium aerosols are extremely attractive from a marketing point of view. The flexible impact extrusion technology allows the production of full-body shaped and embossed containers with all kinds of shoulder types. Underpinned by innovative, photo-realistic printing designs, the shaping options lead to an utmost shelf impact that ensures brand recognition and paves the way for a sustainable brand loyalty.

Another asset is the excellent barrier property, which differentiates the aluminium container from non-metal packaging. Aluminium is acknowledged as an absolute barrier, preventing any negative influences on the container’s contents from the outside. For example, CO₂ migration and UV radiation can have a damaging effect on personal care, pharmaceutical and food products and on other UV-sensitive formulations, negatively influencing the effectiveness of (natural) ingredients, the odour, flavour or colour of the product.

Due to its unique barrier and material properties, aluminium cans are able to cope with all kinds of propellants and fillings. Mainly used for body care products – such as deodorants, hair care products and shaving foams – in the last few years, they have also developed into the household, pharmaceutical and food product sectors. In this context, non-metal aerosol cans are currently niche products that are limited to a few propellants and fillings, significantly narrowing the field of application.

When it comes to sustainability, aluminium packaging can be infinitely recycled without any loss of quality, and downcycling is not an issue either. In 2012, the European Parliament acknowledged metal (ie aluminium and tinplate) as permanent materials, which differentiates them from other materials.

Used aluminium packaging, which can be easily sorted from the packaging waste stream thanks to the eddy current technology, reaches a recycling rate of 55 per cent in Europe. In other world regions, the industry is working on improving the recycling of used aluminium packaging. On top of that, the high scrap value of aluminium makes the aluminium can, which is made of high-purity aluminium, a strongly demanded material.

Apart from these environmental, functionality and market-related aspects, safety requirements also play a vital role when it comes to pressure packs such as aerosol cans. Due to its material properties and the monobloc (one piece) technology, aluminium cans offer a very limited point of attack for potential defects.

Aerosol dispensers, in general, have to meet the provisions of the Aerosol Dispensers Directive 75/324/EEC and international transport regulations (ADR, UN Model Regulations). In addition, customers are asking can manufacturers for a guarantee that the packaging is stable for a period of up to three years. In this context, leakage, the ageing and degradation of the material play a vital role where aluminium is outperforming non-metal aerosol containers currently available on the market.

Non-metal aerosols still have to demonstrate that they comply with the requirements laid down in a draft industry standard worked out by the European Aerosol Federation (FEA), which will soon be implemented into European aerosol and international transport legislation. The provisions ensure the safe handling and use of aerosol containers along the supply chain.

Thus, multi-functional aluminium aerosols live up to the most demanding marketing, environmental and safety requirements.

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![Image of Soudronic / Ocsam machinery](image1)

![Image of Soudronic machinery](image2)

![Image of Angelus machinery](image3)

![Image of Wilcomat machinery](image4)

![Image of Can Man machinery](image5)

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To enable food manufacturers to boost the flexibility of their processing lines, Mettler-Toledo Safeline Metal Detection has advanced the software of its profile metal detection systems. The new software improves detection sensitivity in wet and dry food products and, with Profile metal detectors’ existing Product Clustering feature, it simplifies product changeovers, allowing manufacturers to process a range of products on a single frequency setting.

The Profile Software Enhancements support compliance with rigorous food safety standards, such as the British Retail Consortium (BRC) Global Standards Version 6 and the International Featured Standards (IFS) Version 6. With its upgraded data monitoring and storage, the new software also enables manufacturers to demonstrate due diligence in their production processes, helping to reduce the risk of a product recall.

The product clustering function included in the profile metal detector range permits a range of food products of similar moisture content or conductivity to be grouped in one detection frequency setting. This effect can mask the signal given off by any metal contaminants. Inspecting multiple products on a single setting minimise downtime for manufacturers, enhancing efficiency and productivity. Profile metal detectors already installed on production lines can be easily upgraded with the software enhancements, enabling food manufacturers to benefit from the optimised sensitivity and simplified product changeover with minimum disruption to their processing line.

The software will feature as standard in new profile metal detectors.

For further information visit www.mt.com

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**Inkjet coder meets demand for packaging versatility**

Markem-Imaje has introduced its new 9232 S inkjet coder printer. Reportedly easy to use and reliable, it prints high quality codes on a wide range of substrates at the highest speeds, providing optimal coding integrity and printer availability for beverage manufacturers.

Launched at Drinktec, the 9232 S offers premium quality coding at higher line speeds than ever before and is suitable for all commonly used beverage packaging including cans, bottles, returnable glass bottles, bricks, flexible pouches, caps, packs and shrink-wraps.

Martin Bailey, Markem-Imaje UK operations manager, says, “The 9232 S is capable of printing high quality codes on up to 120,000 products per hour and has been developed in response to demand for greater versatility from manufacturers managing multiple types of packaging substrates.”

Additional flexibility is provided by the new range of multi-use ketone free or MEK free high contrast inks – a single ink can cover most production needs reducing the possibility of error and requiring just one stock unit.

Bailey adds, “An intuitive colour touch screen user interface makes the 9232 S one of the easiest coders to use, reducing the risk of operator error and associated downtime. In addition, ink cartridges can be replaced in less than 30 seconds, without stopping production.”

For further information visit www.markem-imaje.co.uk
acids has been clinically shown to increase alpha waves in the brain, elevate serotonin and dopamine levels and reduce stress without drowsiness. Zenify also includes 100% of the recommended dietary allowance of five b-Vitamins, which are designed to work synergistically in the beverage to reduce stress.

“The tactile printing adds another dimension to the brand,” says Brian Liu, co-founder of Zenify. “In addition to taste, sight and smell, our product now has a distinct texture all its own. We’ve already received tremendous customer feedback on the new can.”

In addition to its exclusive tactile can design, Zenify benefits from the many inherent advantages of aluminium cans, including portability, durability and sustainability.

Rexam has utilised tactile printing technology in the US on 12oz Sleek cans used for the launch of Zenify, a stress relief drink that is reportedly 100% natural.

Zenify is a clean and refreshing stress relief drink that contains 25 times more stress-relieving antioxidants than green tea, but without the caffeine. The drink’s blend of natural antioxidants and amino acids has been clinically shown to increase alpha waves in the brain, elevate serotonin and dopamine levels and reduce stress without drowsiness. Zenify also includes 100% of the recommended dietary allowance of five b-Vitamins, which are designed to work synergistically in the beverage to reduce stress.

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Aluminium cans are infinitely recyclable with cans able to be melted, converted to cans again and back on retail shelves within 60 days. In the last 15 years, the beverage can industry has reduced the overall carbon footprint of the aluminium can by more than 45%. These facts help make cans the most recycled beverage container in the world, with a US recycling rate of 65.1%, more than double the rate of other beverage packages.

Rich Grimley, president and CEO, Rexam BCNA, comments, “Our 12oz Sleek can helps brands attract attention on store shelves. Utilising our tactile printing technology takes it one step further, allowing the product to stand out even more, while benefiting from the inherent advantages of cans that include superior recycling, filling, distribution and retail

Aerosol-style spray for Vaseline

Skincare expert Vaseline has revolutionised the skincare category by launching its Vaseline Spray & Go Body Moisturiser – a new, aerosol-style spray that is intended to make moisturising quicker, easier and more convenient.

Rolled out across Vaseline’s Oat Soft, Aloe Fresh and Cocoa Radiant ranges, the new spray-and-go body moisturiser boasts a continuous spray system which dispenses the lotion quickly and evenly, its fast absorbing formula, which contains pure natural extracts and Stratys-3 multi-layer moisture, allows the lotion to absorb in seconds. The quick and convenient spray lotion is designed to lock in moisture and leave skin feeling instantly soft.

Froukje Wijbrandi, Vaseline marketing manager at Unilever UK & Ireland, says: “We are thrilled to be introducing the first ever aerosol-style moisturising spray into the market. The new format taps into the consumer demand for a convenient moisturiser that is quick and easy to use, and which also fits into their daily beauty regime. We are confident that this breakthrough innovation will attract new consumers to the category, as well as providing something new and exciting for existing users – and we expect it to drive further growth into the category.”

Dermatologically approved, the moisturiser has a similar pack design to the brand’s core range of body moisturisers so that consumers can identify and find the product easily.

Commemorative Coke can

Coca-Cola has introduced a ‘sleek’, limited edition Diet Coke can to commemorate its 25th anniversary. The design of the slender can incorporates American singer-songwriter Taylor Swift, who signed an endorsement deal with the soft drinks company earlier in the year.

The can features Swift’s signature, along with text from one of her favourite inspirational quotes. A new commercial featuring Swift has been recorded to help promote the launch.
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Olive oil demand boosts aerosols

The popularity of the Mediterranean diet combined with consumers seeking convenience is driving growth in aerosol-based foods, according to the Lindal Group, a developer and manufacturer of valves, actuators and spray caps for aerosol products.

“Major brands such as Bertolli have already successfully created aerosol olive oils using our Cozy model plus oil insert,” says Philip Brand, global marketing director for Lindal Group. “Bertolli launched a three-SKU line of Extra Virgin Spray Originals, and many other brands have the system under consideration—for a variety of reasons.”

Carbonell, a Spanish producer and bottler of olive oil since 1866, is on-board with the Lindal Group platform, with brands such as Heritage, Carapelli, Hojiblanca, Koipe, Koipesol, Sasso, Loult, Friol and Maya. The Spanish contract filler is Maeva. Brand says that the Lindal solution is easy for consumers to use and is handy for cold dishes, such as salads, vegetables and pastas—all of which are mainstays of the Mediterranean diet.

According to Lindal Group executives, the global market for olive oil is exploding and is one of the food industry’s fastest growing segments. In the relatively mature US market alone, olive oil consumption is expected to more than double by 2020.

Much of the growth in mature olive oil markets is driven by Millennials which, as a demographic group, are open to new packaging platforms—such as aerosol—and less locked into traditional consumption methodologies. Olive oil packaging has not changed in decades and shelf-life stability of bottled oils and larger cans represents a flavour and quality issue. This confluence of factors has industry observers agreeing that the time is right for a new packaging platform in the category.

Important, too, is the fact that aerosol-packaged olive oils are pure. The oil itself is separated from the propellant and protected from light and air—which can have a negative impact on longevity—thus enhancing flavour as well as hygienic appeal. Furthermore, aerosol olive oils allow precise, efficient usage for Mediterranean style recipes.

“Accurate, sparing, 360-degree operation, plus long-lasting, fresh flavour are assured,” Brand adds. “The market potential is unlimited and the consumer is primed for innovation in this category.”

Americans encouraged to drink more water

First Lady Michelle Obama attended Watertown High School on 12 September to encourage Americans to drink more water. She also joined Partnership for a Healthier America president and CEO Lawrence A. Soler to launch a new nationwide campaign.

Wisconsin-based water charity, CannedWater4Kids (CW4K) also feels that Americans should drink more water. The group recently unveiled a programme that gives schools the opportunity to buy purified water in aluminium cans instead of plastic bottles.

CW4K founder, Greg Stromberg, comments, “When schools purchase our water, they can feel good knowing that the aluminium can is infinitely more recyclable than plastic—which is better for the environment.

“In addition, when schools buy water from CW4K, they can feel good knowing that they are helping to make a difference in the world.”

The charity uses 95% of all money obtained from donations and sale of its water to fund clean water projects worldwide.

Union Craft cans its beers

Acknowledging customer demand for beer in cans, Union Craft Brewery recently added a new canning machine at its production facility in Remington, Maryland, USA.

As a result, it is now offering many of its beers—including Duckpin—in a canned six-pack in local stores, retailing for $11 (£6.80).

To achieve the canning ability, the brewery had to be expanded by an additional 70%, and extra fermentation space had to be made available so that it has enough beer to fill the cans—as the brewery continues to supply draught beer to bars and restaurants throughout the Baltimore region.

Killer Whale heads to cans

Bold City Brewery, based in Jacksonville, Florida, is for the first time canning its Killer Whale Cream Ale and Mad Manatee IPA products.

The move follows the brewery’s launch of its first canned beer, Duke’s Cold Nose Brown Ale, in June 2013. The new products are available in local stores with a retail price of $8.99 (£5.60) for a six-pack.

To celebrate the launch, the brewers served a 5-gallon cask of Killer Whale aged on cilantro and jalapeno pepper with added honey at the brewery’s tap room.
South Africa converts to aluminium cans

Between 100-200 million South African Rand (£6.1m-£12.2m) a year will flow into the scrap metals and recycling industry as a result of the conversion from tin-plated steel cans to aluminium cans, providing an additional 2,000-3,000 people a source of income from collecting and selling used cans, estimates South Africa’s sole beverage can manufacturer, Nampak Bevcan.

“The value of used aluminium cans is much higher than that of tin-plated steel cans. The conversion will, therefore, be a more economically viable option for informal can collectors to earn a living or supplement a low income, which will ultimately result in an increase in recycling volumes,” says can recycling and recovery initiative Collect-a-Can public relations and marketing manager, Zimasa Velaphi.

“Currently, the recycling rate of all beverage cans recycled in South Africa is estimated at 72% – significantly more than any other beverage container format in South Africa,” he adds.

Over the next 18 months, South African consumers will be seeing new developments in the beverage market as aluminium cans are introduced, in addition to the traditional tin-plated steel beverage cans currently on the market, Bevcan reported in July.

“Aluminium is already the preferred medium for beverage cans internationally. Globally, 85% of all beverage cans are made from this material,” says Bevcan MD, Erik Smuts. The new aluminium can lines at the Bevcan Springs Nuffield plant will be capable of running eight can sizes and produce cans at speeds of up to 3,000 cans a minute, as opposed to the 1,600 steel cans currently produced a minute. “The decision to move to aluminium-bodied cans was a natural progression, owing to the inherent advantages the conversion holds for the economy, the beverage industry, consumers and the environment,” says Smuts.

The expansion has already had a positive impact in the Bulhuleni metropolitan region, with more than 40 new jobs being created owing to the first aluminium line installation, with two more existing tinplate lines still to be converted to aluminium.

Premium soups with a twist

Heinz has introduced a new range of premium soups that it hopes will appeal to younger consumers.

The new soups, available in the UK, offer a ‘flavoursome twist’ on Heinz’s traditional recipes, and are available in four flavours – Cream of Tomato with Fiery Mexican Spices; Cream of Tomato with A Kick of Chili; Cream of Chicken with Aromatic Thai Spices; and Cream of Mushroom with Wild Porcini mushrooms.

Heinz is supporting the launch with a £1.4m ($2.2m) marketing campaign.

Jack Wallace, Heinz classics marketing manager, comments, “We wanted to create a range of soups that would really appeal to upmarket and younger consumers, who want the soup they know and love, but with an exciting twist – something a bit special. “These new and exciting flavours cater to consumer demand, providing a wider variety of interesting and delicious flavours, as our consumers’ tastes continue to evolve.”

Heinz also recently added new soups, including French onion, lentil and bacon, and chicken and sweetcorn. The new varieties are offered in 400g cans.

Crown continues with aerosol innovation

With sustainability and innovation continuing to be of key importance to the industry, Crown Aerosols and Specialty Packaging Europe – a business unit of Crown Holdings – believes that its advanced aerosol solutions are ideally suited to today’s marketplace.

Crown is striving to design new, enduring packaging applications that meet the consumer’s needs. Veronique Curulla, marketing director at Crown Aerosols and Specialty Packaging Europe, explains, “Crown was the first to bring the Bican solution to market more than a quarter century ago, when it was traditionally used to dispense shaving gels.

“Today, Bican is seeing an even wider appeal as brand owners increasingly look for technologies that enable them to dispense new liquid and viscous products in aerosol cans, particularly for the skin care markets. The technology is an ideal format for these applications.”

Crown’s range of aerosol technologies is designed to differentiate brands and engage shoppers in stores, which is achieved via high-impact decoration, uniquely shaped packaging, slimline cans offering enhanced ergonomics, and tactile finishes that encourage consumer interaction.

As one of the biggest producers of tinplate aerosol cans in the world, Crown currently operates 11 aerosol plants globally and draws from its extensive industry experience to support brands throughout the entire packaging process.
Canned craft beer update

Russ Phillips is the founder of www.CraftCans.com. He regularly updates readers on the canned craft beer market in the US.

Donations can be made at http://foundation.oskarblues.com/

Sun King Brewing Company’s CANvitational was recently held in downtown Indianapolis. The event featured over 30 different canning craft breweries from around the country. Sun King also teamed up with fellow Indiana brewers, Three Floyds Brewing, and canned ‘Royal Brat’, an ESB that was brewed just for the event. The Midwest’s largest canned craft beer festival to date, CANvitational is set to be an annual event worth attending.

Tallgrass Brewing Company in Manhattan, Kansas recently released its Zombie Monkey Robust Porter. According to the brewery, the new beer is equipped with the world’s first textured ‘tactical grip’ on the side of the can. Crown Cork and Seal supplied the cans.

Jim Koch, founder of the Boston Beer Company, has become craft beer’s ‘first billionaire’. Since first releasing the flagship Boston Lager back in 1984, Koch’s Samuel Adams lineup has gone on to include a wide array of beer styles. Earlier this year, Samuel Adams beers made their way into cans for the first time in the company’s 29-year history.

Substantial flooding in Colorado has done some minor damage to several craft breweries but major damage to plenty of homes and businesses. Oskar Blues Brewery, located in heavily damaged Longmont, has founded the Can’t Aid Foundation to raise money for the victims and those in need.

Pumple Drumkin
Cisco Brewers
Nantucket, Massachusetts

Nantucket Island’s Cisco Brewers recently released its popular autumn seasonal brew, Pumple Drumkin, in cans for the first time. Featuring an eye-catching, colourful design, Pumple Drumkin joins a growing list of Pumpkin Beers now being made available in cans.

The beer itself is a lightly spiced, malt-forward beer with some earthy pumpkin flavours and a semi-sweet finish. Like many pumpkin beers, this one has a subtle pumpkin pie flavour featuring spices like allspice, cinnamon, and nutmeg.

A nice option for an autumn evening, Pumple Drumkin also pairs well with pumpkin donuts, pumpkin bagels, pumpkin pies and pumpkin muffins.

CraftCans.Com’s Can of the Month

Pumple Drumkin
Cisco Brewers
Nantucket, Massachusetts

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International Thermal Systems LLC
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Milwaukee, WI 53214, USA
Tel: +1 414 672 7700
Fax: +1 414 672 8800
E-mail: matt.wingert@itsllcusa.com
Web: www.itsllcusa.com

European Office:
International Thermal Systems Ltd
11 Ham Common, Richmond
London TW10 7JB, UK
Tel: +44 7001 191 352
E-mail: david.reeve@itsllcusa.com
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ITS Industrial Thermal Equipment Co Ltd
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E-mail: matti.wingerlt@itcsusa.com

### Compound Lining Equipment

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E-mail: sales@stollemachinery.com
Web: www.stollemachinery.com

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450 Armour Dale
Winchester, VA 22601, USA
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Web: www.ashworth.com

### Cupping Systems

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73033 Göppingen
Germany
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Fax: +49 7161 66 659
E-mail: info@schulergroup.com
Web: www.schulergroup.com
Contact: Michael Marschall

### Cupping Presses

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36 Burner Lane
Klin Farm, Milton Keynes MK11 3HB, UK
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Fax: +44 1908 307519
E-mail: enquiry@tgcan.com

**TG Can Technology (USA) Inc**
Suite 200 470 Olde Worthington Road
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Fax: +1 614 410 6673
E-mail: usa-enquiry@tgcan.com

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### D&I Can Tooling

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Colorado Springs, CO 80916, USA
Tel: +1 719 355 2600
Fax: +1 719 596 3019
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### D&I Cup Tooling

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E-mail: customerservice@icstrading.net
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</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>B&amp;K Acoustic Technologies</td>
<td>Telephone: +44 1905 827800, Fax: +44 1905 795876</td>
<td>Stonebridge Cross Business Park, Sencon (UK) Ltd, Droitwich WR9 0LW, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belvac Production Machinery Inc</td>
<td>Telephone: +1 708 496 3100, Fax: +1 708 496 3105</td>
<td>8220 Brabrand, Denmark, InnoScan A/S Sødalsparken 11, 2220 Brabrand, Denmark</td>
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<td>Sencon</td>
<td>Telephone: +1 708 496 3100, Fax: +1 708 496 3105</td>
<td>6385 W 74th Street, Sencon Incorporated Bedford Park, IL 60638, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stolle Machinery Company, LLC</td>
<td>Telephone: +49 7143 961 7280, Fax: +49 7143 961 7281</td>
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<td>Telephone: +1 847 394 5810, Fax: +1 847 394 2739</td>
<td>3200 Tellview Drive Rolling Meadows, Il 60008, Usa</td>
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<td>No 43 Chung Cheng St, Shin-I Machinery Works Co Ltd, Chingshui, Taichung, Taiwan ROC</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sargiani SpA</td>
<td>Telephone: +39 0523 615 250, Fax: +39 0523 539 938</td>
<td>No 43 Chung Cheng St, Shin-I Machinery Works Co Ltd, Chingshui, Taichung, Taiwan ROC</td>
</tr>
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<td>Car-Bera-Str.12, Tec Technology GmbH, 74366 Kirchheim/Neckar, Germany</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Line Installation & Maintenance

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Littell LLC</td>
<td>Telephone: +1 630 622 4700, Fax: +1 630 622 4747</td>
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<td>No 43 Chung Cheng St, Shin-I Machinery Works Co Ltd, Chingshui, Taichung, Taiwan ROC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEC TECHNOLOGY GMBH</td>
<td>Telephone: +49 (0) 7143 961 7280, Fax: +49 (0) 7143 961 7281</td>
<td>Car-Bera-Str.12, Tec Technology GmbH, 74366 Kirchheim/Neckar, Germany</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Lubrication Technology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liners for Non-Round Ends</td>
<td>Telephone: +1 616 949 0853, Fax: +1 616 949 9503</td>
<td>Grand Rapids, MI 41592, USA, Unist, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainer Naroska Engineering GmbH</td>
<td>Telephone: +49 5261 6606 0, Fax: +49 5261 6606 30</td>
<td>No 43 Chung Cheng St, Shin-I Machinery Works Co Ltd, Chingshui, Taichung, Taiwan ROC</td>
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<td>No 43 Chung Cheng St, Shin-I Machinery Works Co Ltd, Chingshui, Taichung, Taiwan ROC</td>
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<td>TEC TECHNOLOGY GMBH</td>
<td>Telephone: +49 (0) 7143 961 7280, Fax: +49 (0) 7143 961 7281</td>
<td>Car-Bera-Str.12, Tec Technology GmbH, 74366 Kirchheim/Neckar, Germany</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Lug Cap Manufacturing Lines

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<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
<th>Address</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cantec GmbH &amp; Co KG</td>
<td>Telephone: +49 201 633 1461, Fax: +49 201 633 1239</td>
<td>D-45143 Essen, Germany, Cantec GmbH &amp; Co KG</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shin-I Machinery Works Co Ltd</td>
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<td>Grand Rapids, MI 41592, USA, Unist, Inc.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Car-Bera-Str.12, Tec Technology GmbH, 74366 Kirchheim/Neckar, Germany</td>
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CanTech International October 2013
Q: Please tell us how you got to where you are today.
A: Having started my career with CMB Engineering in 1994 as a fresh-faced apprentice engineer, I soon moved up through the ranks, working in both the sales and engineering functions before taking on the role of assistant plant manager in 2010. In this position – as well as during my time as plant manager – I worked with the team to implement lean manufacturing practices and improve our equipment, production and delivery processes. As of July 2013, I’ve been appointed general manager at CMB Engineering. I’m also simultaneously studying for my degree in mechanical engineering at Bradford University. It’s a busy time!

Q: What does your day-to-day role involve?
A: I spend a lot of my time interacting with customers to ensure we’re providing them with the innovation and technical support they need to grow their businesses. However, I’m also focused on the amazing group of individuals that make up CMB Engineering and make this company successful. From our award-winning apprentices to my colleagues in senior management, I am passionate about helping every member of the team grow and develop here at CMB Engineering. Working with the team, I am responsible for driving company growth and developing and implementing our vision for the future.

Q: When you consider the work of CMB Engineering as a whole, what aspect are you most proud of?
A: Seeing members of my team grow and reach their potential has always been very rewarding for me. I am proud of the practices we have in place at CMB Engineering to encourage people to learn and develop in the industry, which includes our fantastic apprenticeship programme.

Recently, a team of our apprentices won a Medallion for Excellence in the manufacturing team challenge at the international finals of the WorldSkills competition in Germany – a truly amazing accolade. They were the only team with a can making background that made it through to the final, and as a former apprentice myself, that makes me particularly proud.

Q: What are you currently working on?
A: On the product development front is the new CMB 5610 Bodymaker, which is designed to provide unrivalled flexibility in terms of can size and greater levels of efficiency. We are also focused on expanding our service to Asia’s growing base of can makers. That’s an extremely exciting market, and one in which we see a great deal of potential.

Q: If you could change anything about your career, what would it be?
A: To be honest, I wouldn’t change a thing. The can making industry is extremely dynamic and the team at CMB Engineering is highly skilled. When you combine that with our varied global customer base, it means that we are constantly challenged and motivated to continue to deliver. While it’s not always easy, it’s certainly incredibly rewarding.

Q: What are your predictions for the industry and where the industry will see growth and decline?
A: One of the trends currently impacting can makers is the demand for greater choice in can shapes and sizes. Can making machinery is evolving to allow greater production line flexibility, enabling manufacturers to produce short runs of particular can sizes and shapes and helping their customers to respond quickly and efficiently to changing market demands. This demand for flexibility will continue to grow, and suppliers that are able to support this flexibility will thrive.

Emerging markets such as Asia will also play an increasingly important role for suppliers like us. There will be more investment in new can making equipment in this region, while at the same time a greater investment in upgrades and enhancements in the more established can making markets like the US and Europe.

Q: Which accomplishments would you most like to be remembered for?
A: If my team is strong and successful, and I have played a part in seeing individuals grow, develop and prosper at CMB Engineering and in the industry as a whole, I will consider that a great achievement.

Q: When you’re not working, what do you like to do to relax?
A: When I am not at work, I enjoy relaxing with my young family - they play a huge part in my life and I cherish the time I get to spend with them.

As mentioned before, I am studying at Bradford University, which is very challenging, but satisfying at the same time. Besides that, sports gives me a real buzz – whether it is playing golf, watching The Ashes or the football World Cup, or going for my daily swim.

I also take a keen interest in current affairs, both domestically and globally, and find the world we live in fascinating: I have travelled the world, have an international family, I enjoy seeking out new places and meeting people who broaden my understanding. That all adds to the excitement of life.
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РЕЗКО СНИЗЬ КОЛИЧЕСТВО БРАКА ПРИ ПЕРВОЙ ВОЗМОЖНОСТИ ПУТЕМ ПРОВЕРКИ “BLANKET”.

無駄の劇的な削減を初めて可能にしたプランケット検査

A la première occasion, l’écart est considérablement réduit grâce à l’inspection “Blanket”.

Die Untersuchung der Blankets am erstmöglichen Kontrollpunkt reduziert den Abfall erheblich.