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Furthermore, when looking at the future of conveyance, Pride Conveyance Systems has released three updates to its technology offerings and premiered six new items to its product lineup.



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Volume 30, Number 9



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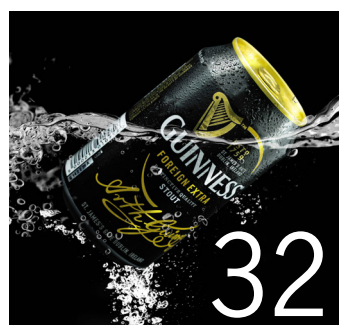
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Life post-Metpack

From *CanTech International's* point of view, Metpack 2023 was a great success – and I'm sure that was the case for many, if not all. On a personal note, it was brilliant to meet so many of you whom I've been emailing over the past year, as well as more members of our editorial board from across the globe. I have a lot to say about my first experience at Metpack, so you can find a bumper review on page 19!

We also received great interest from visitors to our stand about the upcoming Asia CanTech conference in Bangkok. At the time of writing, we only have two speaker slots left, but there are tabletop exhibition spaces available to ensure your company still receives the desired level of exposure.

Continuing with events news, we have an exciting announcement to make – in April 2024, CanTech the Grand Tour will be heading to India! More details will be released in the coming months, but to warm you up in this issue, we have a report on India's Nikita Containers on page 25, where David Hayes speaks to the company's CEO and director, Ponnuswamy Santhanakrishnan, about Nikita's expertise in decorative cans.

India's three-piece industry has been booming for years and we're looking forward to having the country's can making experts join us next April. Contact Lauren Hine (lauren@bellpublishing.com) to express your interest in CanTech the Grand Tour 2024.

You may have seen German company, Sellacan, at Metpack this year. On page 38, Evert van de Weg speaks to the company's managing director, Dietmar Raupach, about Sellacan's oven technology, and how its foundations are built on a wealth of knowledge and experience.

On page 32, Mark Godfrey reports from Dublin on how Ireland's can filling sectors are facing up to mandatory recycling regimes.

In the aerosol space, we're providing a rundown of the 2023 British Aerosol Manufacturers Association Innovation Day (page 28), where you can also find the Association's 2022 filling figures, which make for insightful reading.

There are many more features to explore this month too, so I'll let you get on!

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Wallram completes relocation

The relocation of Wallram Poland's operations to brand new buildings and a workshop in Krakow is now complete.

The new location is fitted out with state-of-the-art technology as Wallram has also invested in new machines and equipment for faster turnaround times, while maintaining the highest precision standards.

Not only does the new location give Wallram the opportunity for further production capacities, it also gives the company access to a wider pool of talent and better infrastructure, it says.

Jürgen Seel, the managing director of the group, commented, "After successfully implementing the largest investment programme in the company's history for machines and systems in 2021/2022, this is another important step for the Wallram Group in expanding its

global position as one of the leading tool manufacturers for the metal packaging industry.

"This shows that we are a reliable partner who plans for the long term and is not driven by short-term profit."

With its three locations in Germany, Poland and the USA, Wallram has been a global partner of the metal packaging industry for more than 50 years.



Image: Wallram

Industrial Physics to accelerate growth with acquisition by KKR

Industrial Physics, packaging, product, and material test and inspection provider, has announced its acquisition by investment funds managed by KKR from Union Park Capital (UPC).

With over 100 years of experience in the industry, Industrial Physics is a globally recognised specialist in testing and inspection equipment for manufacturers, production lines, and laboratories. With extensive worldwide operations, the company is integral to the operational safety and innovation of sectors including food, beverage, flexible packaging, medical products and more.

"At Industrial Physics, we are excited to work with KKR as we enter this new phase of our growth. KKR supports our employee-first culture and shares our vision for building a scaled testing and measurement platform that continually invests in growth and innovation to even better serve the needs of customers around the world," said Jim Neville, CEO of Industrial Physics.

Brandon Brahm, partner at KKR and co-head of KKR's Ascendant strategy, commented, "Testing and measurement is an attractive market that is poised to continue growing as focus on product quality and supply chain transparency

intensifies. We are thrilled to invest in Industrial Physics, a leader in this space, that has built an impressive portfolio of brands used by many of the world's leading manufacturers. We look forward to working with the Industrial Physics team and helping the company reach new heights through organic growth and M&A."

Following the close of the transaction, Industrial Physics also plans to implement KKR's broad-based employee ownership programme supporting employee engagement, which will make all employees owners of the company alongside investment funds managed by KKR.

Jim Neville. Image: Industrial Physics

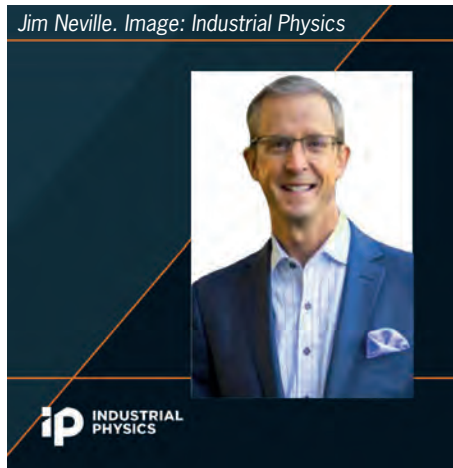


Image: Alucan



Alucan opens plant in Belgium

Aluminium bottle and aerosol company, Alucan, has opened a new sustainable plant in Lummen, Belgium.

The new plant is a sustainable building designed with minimal environmental impact and maximum energy efficiency in mind. The facility's construction features thermal insulation in the floor, outside walls, roof, doors, ports, and offices. The use of natural daylight has also been maximised to reduce the need for artificial light, with LED lights controlled by sensors to ensure minimal waste.

The offices feature sun-resistant glazing and transparent screens that allow natural light to filter in, while the smart control systems provide optimised office climatisation, heating installation, and illumination. The plant has a sanitary water system that takes advantage of rainwater, which is used for various purposes, and the entire building is foreseen with a Smart Building System.

Alucan believes one of the most exciting features of the new plant is its solar panel system. The plant's self-produced energy reduces its reliance on traditional power sources and significantly reduces its carbon footprint. Additionally, the plant features an energy recovery system from RTO or compressors, and a charging place for electric cars.

The Alucan plant's dimensions are approximately 7500m² of warehouse and production, and 500m² of office space, which offers enough room for efficient and sustainable production.



Paul Nunes. Image: Ashworth International

Ashworth International president & CEO to retire

The board of directors of conveyor belt manufacturer, Ashworth International, recently announced that Vincent Moretti plans to retire as president and chief executive officer, effective 21 June 2023. The board intends to elect Paul Nunes to succeed Moretti.

"I want to extend my sincere thanks to Vincent for his dedication and contributions to Ashworth over the last 35 years with the last 16 years as president and chief executive officer," said David Marotta, Ashworth's presiding chairman of the board.

"We are pleased to announce the appointment of Paul Nunes as president and chief executive officer upon Vincent's retirement. Paul has been with Ashworth for over 28 years which will provide leadership continuity. He offers extensive knowledge of Ashworth, its products, and the markets we serve," said Marotta. "Paul's leadership and exceptional rapport with employees at all levels of the business will help maximise Ashworth's potential and accelerate the company's future profitable growth."

Nunes has been with Ashworth since 1994. During his time at the company, he has served in several roles including controller and vice president of finance.

"I am honoured to be appointed the upcoming president and chief executive officer and sincerely thank the board for their trust and confidence," said Nunes. "I would also like to thank Vincent for his insight and leadership guidance that has left Ashworth with a solid foundation to ignite continued innovation and growth. I will continue to work closely with Vincent over the next few months to ensure a smooth transition."

AkzoNobel unveils Safety Through and Through process

AkzoNobel Packaging Coatings has revealed its robust product development process – 'Safety Through and Through' – to emphasise the critical importance of prioritising safety in the creation of its packaging coatings, from inception through to launch.

The Safety Through and Through process is a formalisation of the framework AkzoNobel Packaging Coatings has had in place for decades. It has been developed to 'design out' unintended consequences, and to ensure that all new coatings are future-proof by being compliant with future regulations, thus minimising the risk of supply chain disruptions and product recalls.

Safety Through and Through is a nine-step process that involves: identifying new materials and chemistries; studying the existing literature and data on their safety and sustainability profiles; screening them for the ideal properties of coatings; and identifying how they may be impacted by future regulations.

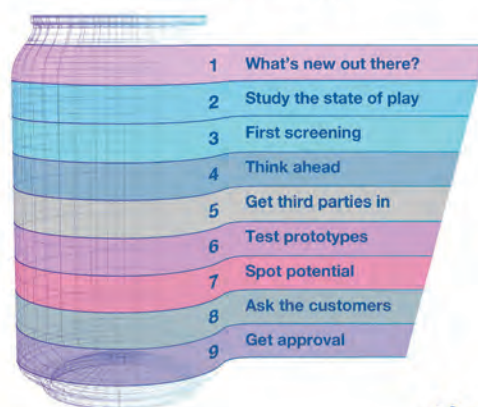
It also includes: formulating prototypes and subjecting them to rigorous testing; identifying candidate materials with strong potential; compiling scientific analysis and toxicity reviews for inspection by independent third parties and regulators; inviting customers to help with prototype testing; and submitting chosen and proven materials for regulatory body approval and third-party certification.

This extensive process is intended to achieve three objectives: first, to anticipate change before it's needed by monitoring the concerns of regulators across multiple jurisdictions and keeping abreast of the latest developments in toxicology and material science; second, the rigorous testing process by customers, regulators and independent third parties ensures that safety is prioritised throughout; and third, by inviting customers and suppliers to participate in the development process, it ensures that all new coatings are fit for the real world, not just the lab.

Chris Bradford, industrial coatings marketing director at AkzoNobel, believes that the Safety Through and Through process will provide reassurance to customers at a time when it's needed most: "Typically, the entire process involves five to ten years of research, plus two years of development and a further year of safety testing," he explained. "This intentionally cautious approach is reflected in the longevity of our coatings, enabling our customers to operate without the threat of incoming regulations while reducing the risk of damaging and expensive product recalls."

9 steps to safety

Image: AkzoNobel



AkzoNobel

Stolle enters sales partnership with Sandon Global

Stolle has signed a partnership agreement with UK-based Sandon Global to exclusively sell the lightweight pneumatic plate and roll mounting systems for use with Stolle Concord and Rutherford Decorators. The sales agreement was signed on 3 May in the Stolle stand at Metpack 2023 in Essen, Germany, by Ian Scholey, chief technical officer of Stolle, Steve Higginson, executive vice president at Stolle Europe/Asia Pacific Group, and John Millington, chief executive officer of Sandon Global. The agreement gives Stolle exclusive rights to sell three cutting-edge products developed by Sandon Global for use on Stolle Decorators.

The three systems are designed to make changing the printing plates, the overvarnish gravure roll and the overvarnish applicator roll much safer, faster and easier for the decorator operator. Each system includes special mandrels that mount on the decorator

just like the standard plate cylinders, gravure roll and applicator rolls currently do. An air fitting on the mandrels compresses an internal air membrane that allows interchangeable sleeves to easily slide on and off of the mandrels. The mandrels have no moving parts and require zero maintenance.



Gary Carmichael, Danny Goodwin and John Millington from Sandon Global with Ian Scholey and Steve Higginson from Stolle Machinery. Image: Stolle

A demonstration R&D model constructed by Sandon Global was exhibited at the Stolle stand at Metpack so that the sleeve change procedures could be demonstrated to Metpack attendees several times each day.

Each of the three patented/patent pending Sandon Global systems – the Magpro, the Gravlite and the Glidepro Applicator – offer major benefits in health and safety due to weight reduction, improved efficiency and increased productivity.

According to Ian Scholey, “We are very pleased to enter into this agreement with Sandon Global to be able to offer their exciting lightweight fast change sleeve system technology to our customers. These three systems will make a huge improvement in the day-to-day decorator operations of two-piece can makers, saving them time and money while greatly increasing operator safety, efficiency and increased productivity.”



Image: Krones

Krones opens new R&D centre

Just a few years ago, Krones' subsidiary, Steinecker, opened a technology centre in Freising, where customers can create and test recipes for beer and plant-based drinks. Now, the group is setting another important milestone in the evolution of beverages and processes.

In early May, at the company's headquarters in Neutraubling, a fully-equipped R&D lab was officially inaugurated and dubbed the Process Technology Center.

The new Process Technology Center is designed to support Krones customers in their product development processes and meet the flavour demands of the global markets. It makes no difference whether the customer already has a finished recipe for a future product, or is still at the start of the product development journey and

would like to leverage Krones' expertise for those first steps.

Krones itself will use the new technology centre to more closely analyse the effects of various process parameters on different products. The results will then go into further developing and refining Krones machines and lines.

The technology centre is divided into two sections: process technology and water design. On the process technology side, various process and treatment steps can be realistically simulated on a pilot UHT system. That makes it possible, for example, to compare the thermal impact of indirect heating using a shell-and-tube heat exchanger versus direct heating. For this, customers can choose between two processes: steam injection and steam infusion. For other trials, the

facility is also equipped with systems for mixing, flash pasteurisation, deaeration, homogenisation and filling. The results are then evaluated in-house, for example in Krones' own microbiological and chemical testing labs.

In the field of water design, customers can fine-tune the flavour of their water by adding just the right amounts of minerals and flavour compounds. The technological possibilities include deaeration, carbonation, electrodeionisation, ionisation, mineral dosing and filling.

A water sommelier provides support throughout the trials. Customers also have access to Krones' extensive network of experts, with engineers in a variety of disciplines, including food and process engineering, to collaborate on transforming product ideas into real products.

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OEE Container Technology receives King's Award

OEE Container Technology Limited (OEE) based in Cumbria, UK, has been honoured with the first ever King's Award for Enterprise for International Trade.

OEE is one of 148 organisations nationally to be recognised with a prestigious King's Award for Enterprise. It is the highest accolade that can be awarded to a British business.

OEE was set up in 2018 and is recognised globally for its expertise in packaging. With a focus on optimising efficiency, reducing costs, and improving processes, OEE offers a full suite of engineering services to help packaging producers streamline their manufacturing. OEE specialises in beverage cans and ends, food cans and ends and packaging equipment.

Products and services include value-added support, process improvement, project management, turn-key projects, automation and control, bespoke machine parts, precision tooling, training and development, and design and modelling.

OEE has achieved remarkable success, operating globally and recently expanding its business in the United Arab Emirates. The company has seen significant growth in the past few years, increasing its overseas earnings by 199%.

"It is a great honour to be recognised for our achievements in expanding our business overseas and establishing ourselves as a reputable international company," said Susan Jones, managing director, OEE.

"This award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our team, who have worked tirelessly to provide the best products and services to our clients. We are committed to continuing our success and providing employment opportunities to our local community," she added.

Bruce Jones, managing director, OEE, commented, "Our focus on quality, sustainability, innovation, and customer satisfaction has enabled us to build a reputation as a trusted and reliable partner for packaging manufacturers of all sizes."

The King's Award for Enterprise was previously known as the Queen's Award for Enterprise, and the new name reflects His Majesty the King's desire to continue the legacy of HM Queen Elizabeth II, by recognising outstanding UK businesses. The Award programme, now in its 57th year, is the most prestigious business award in the country, with successful businesses able to use the esteemed King's Award Emblem for the next five years.

Applications for the King's Award for Enterprise 2024 opened on His Majesty the King's Coronation, 6 May 2023.

Bruce and Susan Jones. Image: OEE



Moravia Cans joins MPMA as associate member

Moravia Cans has become the latest can maker to join the Metal Packaging Manufacturers Association (MPMA) as an associate member.

A Czechia-based European producer of aluminium aerosol cans, Moravia Cans has approximately 400 employees and supports its customers' businesses across Europe.

Berry van Soest, sales director, Moravia Cans, said, "We were especially interested in the MPMA's insight and involvement in developments across the UK and European packaging regulatory landscape post Brexit and with new legislation coming down the line. It is reassuring to be part of an Association that looks out for our industry's interests in this respect."

MPMA director and chief executive, Robert Fell, said, "We are delighted to welcome Moravia Cans to the MPMA fold. The metal packaging sector benefits from having a collective voice, and the wider the membership of the Association, the greater influence it will have in shaping legislation that impacts our sector."

Image: MPMA





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ROESLEIN OPENS DOORSTO NEW FACILITY

In 2019, Roeslein & Associates acquired MCS Technology and rebranded the operation as its Roeslein Poland facility. At the same time, the company purchased 12 acres of land to develop. After several years, construction, renovations, and expansions are complete, and a new manufacturing facility has been unveiled.

The renovations to the current facilities will allow Roeslein's Poland team to better organise its departments and workflow, as well as allow an increase in production capacity and the manufacturing of larger modules. Each department will also have dedicated areas to improve efficiency and streamline operations for a quicker output of units, leading to reduced project times.

"In the past, we've been very limited on space and unable to work as quickly as we'd like," said project manager, Michal Druzkowski. "This new space will give us a chance to develop and speed up our production to continue to give our customers the fastest return on their investment with the highest quality in the industry."

A new 60,000-square-foot facility was added that will be used

primarily for conveyance assembly, unitising, and preassembly. New automated manufacturing and finishing equipment, including a state-of-the-art powder coating system, was installed throughout.

"With the recent manufacturing opportunities we have been awarded in Europe, planning and executing the work in our current facility has been challenging, to say the least," said Rob Campbell, division president, manufacturing. "Our new facility will more than double our fabrication and assembly space. This, coupled with our investment in automated manufacturing and finishing equipment, will allow us to increase our output and improve our project schedules. Our Dębno, Poland facility and our Polish and Ukrainian staff members are a shining example of Roeslein's commitment to manufacturing excellence and customer satisfaction."

Over the last year, the Poland office has increased output by 74%. The finalisation of this expansion will continue to aid in the drastic increase in production, allowing Roeslein to serve its European customers better, it states.



Image: Roeslein

Reliance enters partnership with Ceylon Beverage International

Reliance Industries has entered a strategic partnership with Sri Lankan cricketer, Muttiah Muralitharan's company, Ceylon Beverage International. The partnership, according to *The Morning* news, is set to establish significant dominance in India's soft drinks market and compete with the likes of Pepsi and Coca-Cola.

To achieve its goal, Mukesh Ambani, chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries, has launched the decades-old brand, Campa Cola, in a new avatar.

As part of the deal, Muralitharan's company will undertake packing work for Campa Cola in cans. It is expected that Ceylon Beverage will set up a packaging plant in India in the future; until then, canned Campa Cola will be imported from Ceylon Beverage's Sri Lankan factory.

Reliance Consumer Products, a unit of Reliance Industries, previously partnered with Kali Aerated Water Works, a Chennai-based company, for the manufacturing and distribution of the Campa soft drinks range.

Reliance Consumer Products bought Campa Cola from the Pure Drinks Group in 2022. After relaunching the brand with a new look, it was introduced in the markets of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Ceylon Beverage International, established in 2020, operates its Sri Lankan plant with a capacity to produce 300 million cans annually.

Updating you on the dates for your diary in the world of metal packaging

JUNE 2023

ALFED ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY DAY

One-day event from the Aluminium Federation discussing the reality behind net zero.

Date: 1 June 2023

Location: London, UK

Website: alfed.org.uk/eb-events/alfed-sustainability-forum

JULY 2023

ALUMINIUM CHINA

Bringing together high-quality resources from the aluminium industry and end-use applications at home and abroad to comprehensively display innovative technologies and products.

Date: 5 July 2023

Location: Shanghai, China

Website: www.aluminiumchina.com/en-gb.html

SEPTEMBER 2023

PACK EXPO LAS VEGAS

The event bringing together packaging and processing solutions suppliers and end users from 40+ vertical industries.

Date: 11 - 13 September 2023

Location: Nevada, US

Website: packexpolasvegas.com

UK METALS EXPO

The event bringing together the entire metals supply chain, from primary metal manufacture to supply chain management, processing metals, fabrication, machinery, engineering, surface coatings and recycling.

Date: 13 - 14 September 2023

Location: Birmingham, UK

Website: ukmetalsexpo.com

LONDON PACKAGING WEEK

Combining the four events of Packaging Première, PCD, PLD and Food & Consumer Pack.

Date: 21 - 22 September 2023

Location: London, UK

Website: www.londonpackagingweek.com

IMDPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The annual conference of the International Metal Decorating and Packaging Association.

Date: 26 - 28 September 2023

Location: Illinois, US

Website: metaldecorators.org

OCTOBER 2023

BAMA FORUM & AWARDS

The British Aerosol Manufacturers Association hosts its Forum & Awards Dinner for the third year running.

Date: 11 - 12 October 2023

Location: Chester, UK

Website: bama.co.uk/event/52

ASIA CANTECH

The conference and exhibition by *CanTech International* and Worldwide Expo, bringing together global suppliers, can makers and fillers from across Asia.

Date: 30 October - 1 November 2023

Location: Bangkok, Thailand

Website: asia-can.com

NOVEMBER 2023

BRAUBEVIALE

The international capital goods specialist exhibition for the beverage industry.

Date: 28 - 30 November 2023

Location: Nuremberg, Germany

Website: braubeviale.de

CIAL FINDS ITALY EXCELS IN ALUMINIUM PACKAGING RECYCLING

In Italy, 73.6% of the total aluminium packaging entering the market, and 91.6% of aluminium beverage cans, are recycled.

In line with the principles of the new Circular Economy Action Plan of the European Green Deal, the Italian model for the management of packaging and aluminium packaging waste represents excellence in the EU landscape.

These are the results emerging from the annual meeting of CIAL (the Italian consortium responsible for the recovery and recycling of aluminium packaging) held on 12 May in Milan.

In Italy, in 2022, 73.6% of the aluminium packaging placed on the market was recycled and, with energy recovery, the total percentage of recovered material rises to 78%. The recycling rate of aluminium packaging has therefore already exceeded the targets for 2025 (50%) and 2030 (60%).

The selection of criteria for the management of the aluminium packaging supply chain ensures one of the most efficient cost-result ratios in Europe, creating an excellent model of social, economic and environmental sustainability, achieved also by involving institutions, businesses, operators, citizens and municipalities.

The efficiency of the Italian separate collection and recycling system is even more evident if considering the cross-section of the rate of aluminium beverage can recycling, which for 2022 was 91.6%, in line with that of countries with deposit-refund systems and higher than the average European recycling rate (73%).

"For aluminium packaging, 'disposable' is an almost outdated concept, while 'use and recycle' is increasingly widespread. The 'single-use' concept, generically associated with the packaging sector, does not suit packaging made with aluminium, a material that is infinitely recyclable by nature," said Carmine Bruno Rea, president of CIAL.

"Aluminium is easy to recycle and in Italy we do it well," continues Rea. "It is the ideal material for producing packaging (beverage cans, tins, aerosol cans, trays, coffee capsules, etc) because it is light, malleable, resistant to impact and corrosion and because it guarantees a barrier effect against light, air, humidity and bacteria, in line with the standards required in the food and beverage sectors for long and safe food conservation," concluded Rea. "Aluminium packaging is increasingly consistent with the principles of prevention and the socio-economic development models of the Green Economy."

Trivium's Wassenaar wins 2022 WBCSD Leading Women Award

Trivium Packaging's chief sustainability officer, Jenny Wassenaar, has been honoured with an award from the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). The WBCSD Leading Women Award honours women that display outstanding leadership and dedication to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Out of 65 nominees for the WBCSD award, Wassenaar was one of only five that were chosen to receive the award.

Wassenaar joined Trivium Packaging in 2020 and has since been a driving force behind the company's sustainability initiatives, which aim to reduce the packaging industry's environmental footprint. Under Wassenaar's leadership, Trivium has focused on minimising the environmental impact of its production processes, driving out inefficiencies and using infinitely recyclable materials where possible. She is committed to delivering sustainable value to Trivium's customers and the planet.

In addition to her role at Trivium, Wassenaar is a liaison delegate and workstream co-chair for the WBCSD and a board member for the UN Global Compact Network in the Netherlands. Throughout her career, Wassenaar has been committed to the mission of sustainability.

"I'm honoured to be recognised for our efforts towards achieving the SDGs and commitment to sustainability initiatives," said Wassenaar. "Sustainability is no longer a choice, but an imperative for the success of a company."



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Image: Trivium Packaging



AMP AND CROWN FUND ADDITIONAL CAN CAPTURE GRANTS AT RECYCLING SORTATION FACILITIES

Aluminium beverage can manufacturers, Ardagh Metal Packaging (AMP) and Crown Holdings (Crown), are funding a new grant opportunity as part of their continuing support of activities to spur the installation of additional aluminium can capture equipment in material recovery facilities (MRFs), which sort single-stream recyclables. This new grant opportunity builds on the five grants that AMP and Crown funded in 2021.

Facilitated by the Can Manufacturers Institute (CMI), the five grants given in 2021 to MRFs across the country exceeded expectations. The initial estimate was these five grants would fund equipment that, when installed, would annually capture 71 million aluminium beverage cans, generating a little more than \$1 million in revenue for the US recycling system. Recent performance data from four of the five grantees shows the impact is even higher – nearly 140 million aluminium beverage cans captured per year.

“AMP and Crown are generously funding recycling system improvements with significant environmental and economic impacts,” reported Scott Breen, CMI's vice president of sustainability. “CMI's can recycling impact calculator shows when the nearly 140 million aluminium beverage cans are captured and recycled each year due to the improvements from these grants,



Image: CMI

the annual impacts are more than \$2 million generated for the recycling system and carbon savings realised equivalent to driving a little more than 34 million miles, or nearly 1,400 times around the Earth.”

As with the 2021 grants, the new grants will be offered through The Recycling Partnership, the leading national force for improving recycling. Several grants will be awarded on a rolling basis to MRFs.

Canned Food UK supports Zero Waste Scotland to tackle Scotland's food waste

Canned Food UK (CFUK), a campaign that champions the benefits of canned food, has lent its support to a new initiative urging people to take a fresh look at tins in a bid to tackle the twin crises of cost of living and climate change.

Zero Waste Scotland's CAN-paign aims to forefront tinned food as a means of helping consumers reduce the amount of food we waste. It has seen a whole range of engaging content created to inspire householders: from recipes and social media assets to a pop-up food truck serving delicious meals made from canned ingredients.

The Metal Packaging Manufacturers Association (MPMA), which runs Canned Food UK, is committed to supporting Zero Waste Scotland's CAN-paign. This support takes the form of sharing CFUK's vast bank of resources – eg, tinned food-based recipes and booklets, and event literature – and promoting ZWS's content through CFUK social media campaigns.

Robert Fell, director and chief executive of the Metal Packaging Manufacturers Association, said, “We are delighted that our Canned Food UK platform is able to support Zero Waste Scotland. Together, we will maximise the reach and impact of the CAN-paign to promote the advantages of using canned food among Scottish households. Cans have a lot to offer, particularly in difficult times, as they help ensure the population still gets a balanced diet despite spiralling inflation.

“There are multiple benefits of using canned food as a staple in the weekly food shop. Cost effectiveness, nutritional value and an excellent shelf life, in addition to powerful sustainability and food waste reduction credentials, combine to make for a compelling argument. Our goal in lending our support to the CAN-paign is to help spread that message and put affordable, tasty, healthy food options on the nation's table,” Fell continued.

Iain Gulland, chief executive of Zero Waste Scotland, said,

“Our CAN-paign sets out to dispel some of the misconceptions around canned food and highlight it as a winner when it comes to budget-friendly ways to cut household food waste. What's more, because cans are infinitely recyclable, they can help us avoid sending unnecessary packaging to landfill too.

“CFUK and MPMA support will help to grow the impact of the CAN-paign, enabling everyone in Scotland to make the most of the food we love and create ‘tin-spired’ recipes with quality ingredients that are there when we need them.”



Image: Zero Waste Scotland

Tata Steel and LARAC enter strategic partnership

Steel producer, Tata Steel UK, has announced a strategic partnership with LARAC (Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee), a leading voice for UK-based local authorities on recycling, waste and resource management.

Commenting on the partnership, Nicola Jones, manager for Tata Steel's Steel Packaging Recycling, said, "Our partnership with LARAC marks a major step forward for our campaign to educate consumers and local authorities nationwide about the incredible power of steel packaging recycling."

"Consumers' recycling habits can determine the quality of the bales we receive for melting. If they adopt the right recycling habits – putting the right items in recycling bins – then bale quality is high, which leads to higher recycling rates."

"Our partnership with LARAC will help us increase visibility of the related issues and solutions at grass roots level – via local authorities. We won't see the results immediately but, over time, together we will make a meaningful, positive impact. Watch this space!"

As one of LARAC's key partners, Tata Steel will highlight its robust, easily-accessible collection and recycling infrastructure in the UK to the 311 local authorities that it represents across England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.

BALL AEROSOL BECOMES FIRST ASI CERTIFIED PACKAGING MANUFACTURER

Ball Corporation has received the Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI) certification for the Performance and Chain of Custody Standards for its Global Aerosol Packaging division. The certification covered all nine of Ball's manufacturing plants, aerosol packaging and slugs worldwide.

This means Ball is the first impact extruded aluminium manufacturing company able to supply ASI certified aluminium aerosol cans, slugs and bottles to its customers.

The announcement aligns to Ball's 2030 sustainability goals in achieving net zero carbon emissions before 2050 and transitioning to 100% renewable electricity by 2030. This also includes ensuring all aluminium is purchased from certified sustainable sources.

Achieving ASI certification is a way for companies to show that they are compliant with increasingly stringent sustainability protocols. These include the forthcoming Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive, expected to be introduced by the European Union in the first half of 2023.

The Performance Standard is a measure of how much effort a company is making to assess, manage and disclose its environmental, social and governance impacts. While the Chain of Custody Standard sets out requirements for the creation of a transparent and traceable supply chain.

Jay Billings, president of Ball Aerosol Packaging said, "Achieving ASI certification demonstrates our commitment to sustainability and is the result of a

rigorous process. Infinitely recyclable aluminium packaging is a prime example of material circularity where resources stay in the system, reducing impacts on the environment.

"Our aluminium aerosol business' sustainability efforts showcase what can be achieved through material and emissions reduction goal setting, innovation and, especially, partnership with customers."

Predrag Ozmo, sustainability director, Ball Aerosol Packaging, said, "ASI guarantees the highest sustainability standards throughout the entire aluminium value chain – from mining through refining, smelting, manufacturing, and product use, up to end-of-life management and recycling."

"It enables the aluminium industry to clearly demonstrate responsibility and provide independent and credible assurance of performance."

Image: Ball Corporation



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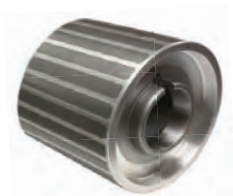
The global aluminum beverage can packaging industry is growing.

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To meet the increasing demand, Bunting made a major investment by opening a new facility exclusively for its 2-piece can decorating cylinder operation. The semi-automated facility will require less labor and feature a moderate degree of machine redundancy to reduce supply chain disruptions for decorator cylinders.

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An industry unrivalled

Alex Rivers reports on **Metpack's** much-anticipated return to Messe Essen, Germany, from 2-6 May 2023

The post-show figures from Metpack's 2023 edition indicate a positive experience for all and confirm the trade fair as a "trendsetter and innovation engine," as stated by Oliver P Kuhrt, CEO of Messe Essen, at the Metpack press conference on 2 May.

The total number of exhibitors saw a slight increase for the 2023 edition, growing from 308 in 2017 to 313 this time round. In terms of visitors, 6,500 attended the fair, with 73 per cent of them coming from abroad, demonstrating Metpack's presence as an "international event on the highest level," as Kuhrt expressed. Italy, the USA and the UK led the national rankings.

Trends in the spotlight

"The industry's big goal is to use as few resources as possible, cut costs and improve quality at the

same time. This can be achieved through new technologies and processes. At Metpack, the trade audience had every opportunity to catch up on the latest developments and experience innovations up close. The willingness to invest is high," said Metpack committee chairman, Wolfgang Niemsch.

Metpack highlighted many trends, from the importance of energy-saving machinery and automation to high-quality digital inks and graphics. Alexander Hinterkopf, managing director of digital printing specialist, Hinterkopf, noted that the industry has been hearing that "cans will die out" since the 1980s – clearly the opposite is true now. "Production for square containers has increased sixfold at the detriment of plastic," he noted. Hinterkopf also said that he sees great future growth for aluminium bottles. His company is currently working on rolling out one million >

View of Metpack Hall 3 from above.
Image: Alex Rivers/
Bell Publishing





Alexander Hinterkopf stated he sees a bright future for aluminium bottles.
Image: Armin Huber/
Messe Essen

digitally printed aluminium wine bottles globally, due to demand from consumers for unique and sustainable packaging options.

Saving energy and resources through lightweighting of cans has also been pertinent in the can industry for some time now.

CanTech International's neighbour in Hall 3 at Metpack, Tata Steel, delivered a presentation showcasing how its Protact polymer-coated steel helped Spain-headquartered global food company, Grupo Calvo, to create a consumer-friendly can form which reduces food waste and enhances shelf impact. The collaboration took lightweighting of steel for packaging to new heights of expertise; as a result, 15 per cent less oil is now used in the production of Grupo Calvo's fish products.

Regulations

At the Metpack press conference, Claudia Bierth, chair of the European affairs commission at Metal Packaging Europe, made reference to how regulation will help shape the definition of recyclability and how to measure it.

Keeping abreast of regulation is also paramount for coatings manufacturers. *CanTech* caught up with Rodolfo Ramirez, PPG Packaging Coatings' new general manager, to speak about this topic.

"It's an exciting, but also busy, time for the

industry. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has finally released its opinion on Bisphenol A (BPA) [in which it has revised and significantly reduced the tolerable daily intake set in its previous assessment in 2015], and that is going to drive further regulation, and allow coatings manufacturers to focus on those alternatives going forward.

"PPG has been working on BPA-free products for a long time now. We went commercial with our Innovel internal and external coatings in 2014; now we're launching the Innovel Pro, which is the next generation and evolution of that learning. We've coated over 200 billion cans already with the technology, and we think we're well positioned to support both can makers and brands to meet and exceed regulatory requirements."

When asked about the main challenge ahead for the coatings sector, Ramirez said, "I think the challenge is going to be the speed in which EFSA's opinion translates into actual law or regulations by the European Union states and the rest of the world, and how the supply industry to can making and brands can adjust and adapt to that.

"PPG has been working diligently in making sure that we're ready for the change and that we are an all-encompassing solutions provider for the industry. We not only have Innovel as a brand for beverage cans, but we also have Nutrishield, which



is the same solution for food cans. Our PPG Hoba does the same thing for personal care products, and our external iSense finishes assist in giving cans some character, and therefore brands the ability to differentiate themselves in the marketplace.”

Not always ‘new’

What was clear from walking through the exhibition halls at Metpack, was how robust the metal packaging industry’s knowledge base has been for years, and how its proven technological developments continue to hold up, but that they are also being continually polished and improved to keep up to date with not just regulations, but demand and sustainability targets. As Sencon’s Justin Kite observed, “it is not always about what is brand new, but what has been updated or expanded.” The company’s stand featured Sencon’s Benchmark and Master Series of semi-automatic and automatic gauges, respectively; its Quasar Light Detection systems for cans and ends; as well as its range of metal packaging sensors.

In the related sector, Philippines-based Innosen showcased its Hoverprobe II, an updated and improved version of the IS9650 equipment for coating thickness measurement. Innosen was also exhibiting two other developments at its stand: the self-calibrating IS670 Missing Side Seam Lacquer

Detector, which protects against the rusting of side seams that can lead to leakage; and the IS625 Inverted Can Label Detector.

Luc Nelen, Innosen’s president, offered his view on another noticeable trend: “It’s becoming more and more difficult to find motivated operators in factories. People that are willing to be well educated typically don’t stay very long, so there’s a lot of staff turnover. What this means is that if people are required to intervene in the process, to adjust the sensor etc, they sometimes might not do it properly.

“What the industry is trying to do is prevent interventions by operators; they’d like to move away from the human factor in the production process. So that’s what we’re trying to do: we are making sensors that you don’t have to touch. You just fit them, and they’ll calibrate themselves.”

Nelen’s sentiments were generally echoed by most attendees at the show; it’s becoming difficult to find labour, but this isn’t necessarily a negative, and paves the way for the next stage in industry digitalisation.

Metpack Conference

This year’s Metpack Conference keynote speaker, Dr Daniel Abramowicz, chief technology officer at Crown Holdings, took the audience through >

The 2023 Metpack conference speakers. Image: Schuchrat Kurbanov/ Messe Essen



Alex and Neil with Lokesh Naidu, director of DS Group, with the company's belated Asia CanTech award. Image: Bell Publishing

a vibrant history of can making patents and innovations, from the very first food storage can used by Napoleon, to the first beer can in 1930, to the invention of the easy open can, the DWI beverage can (referencing *CanTech's* August 2022 feature on DWI technology), and Reynolds' Stay On Tab developed in the 1970s.

Abramowicz then showcased some of the stand-out innovations from the last couple of decades and those which are heralding the future of cans, including, of course, developments from Crown, but also Ball, Ardagh and Belvac, to name a few.

Abramowicz reminded the audience that "opening plays a big role in the consumer experience," and even the way the drink is poured can affect taste – the Crown 360° end is an innovation that was created to improve pouring and therefore taste for the consumer. Abramowicz also highlighted Crown's FreeFlow end here, and French company Teisseire's easy to pour body design.

The look and feel of a can is important, but there are other aspects we must consider that all play a part in innovation, Abramowicz noted.

Decoration & coatings

A presentation followed from Koenig & Bauer's head of product and application, Damian Pollok, who detailed the process of the company's new

cooperation with Sensory Analytics' SpecMetrix system into the Koenig & Bauer MetalCoat 483 coating machine, in order to create a fully closed loop system. Pollok explained that a field test of the system in Germany is imminent, with plans for a market release in the fourth quarter of 2023.

Neil Finley, head of global food safety at Henkel, then discussed the aforementioned EFSA opinion on Bisphenol A. Finley informed the audience how Henkel is assisting the metal packaging industry in preparation for regulation implementation, by providing risk assessment and communication through its Triple Safety structure, which combines regulatory, analytical and toxicological assessments. Finley again highlighted the significance of lightweighting because "the lighter the can, the more you need from food safe coatings."

Data & analysis

Stolle Machinery's chief technology officer, Ian Scholey, presented us with Stolle's vision for "more good cans," which involves using data analytics to optimise production efficiency and conserve natural resources. Scholey presented a preview from a video available to visitors to the company's stand, featuring Stolle's InSight system, which it believes "marks the dawn" of a new, more efficient way to monitor and manage can plants. "I don't think we [as an industry] should chase speed, but efficiency," Scholey concluded.

Next to speak at the conference was Tim Clarke, CEO of Enpack in Europe. Clarke, like Scholey, emphasised the importance of data and investment in engineering, against the theme of the "internet of things" technology. Enpack has designed "smart factories" that are committed to integrated production and automated warehousing. The company's 4th "Generation of Automation" is now operating at Enpack's Shantou and Yangzhou plants in China, with proven results of capacity increases, and reductions in labour and transit.

Greek chemicals company, Chrotex, came next, with managing director, Dr Dimitrios Tsimpoukis, presenting the company's solutions for cost optimisation in the lacquer process, including viscosity control and tensile stress testing for flexibility.

Nippon Steel's Shintaro Yamanaka then gave the audience an insight into its chromate-free tinplate, EZP, developed to stay compliant with upcoming REACH regulation (as detailed in the Nippon Steel feature in *CanTech's* April 2023 edition).

The conference audience saw how EZP's performance is almost identical to that of current chromium properties, with Yamanaka displaying side-by-side comparisons of quality in terms of lacquer adhesion, sulphide stain resistance and heat resistance, as well as detailing EZP's food contact safety credentials.



Collaboration

Opening their presentation with the Rocky soundtrack, Rainer Berkefeld, SLAC's sales and business development director EMEA, and Jeff Harper, sales and business development for Americas at OKL Engineering, introduced the audience to SLAC's new Boxer bodymaker. With its contra power drive meaning that two cans are produced from each of its strokes, the Boxer holds a production speed of up to 700 cans per minute. Berkefeld showed the conference audience a video of the Boxer in action, and highlighted just how little vibration is caused by the machine on the factory floor – ten times less than conventional bodymakers, in fact.

In the video, Berkefeld balanced a Euro coin on its edge on the machine, and it hardly moved. Harper's involvement in the presentation was to explain OKL's role in training for the Boxer, outlining the several different training programmes available, from new to experienced maintainers.

The final presentation of the conference day came from Plasmatrete. The company's founder, owner and managing director, Christian Buske, along with Actega's coatings manager, Antonio Galhardo, and Brasilata's director, Augusto Franca, discussed how the three companies are working together to make the direct adhesion of UV possible through

plasma – no heat is needed, thus, Buske noted, the process is dubbed “cold UV.” Plasmajets have been applied to the Actega coating line in Brazilian can maker Brasilata's plant. The use of Plasmatrete's solution results in fewer VOC and CO₂ emissions, and can offer savings of 40 per cent compared to solvent-based treatments.

Metpack Awards

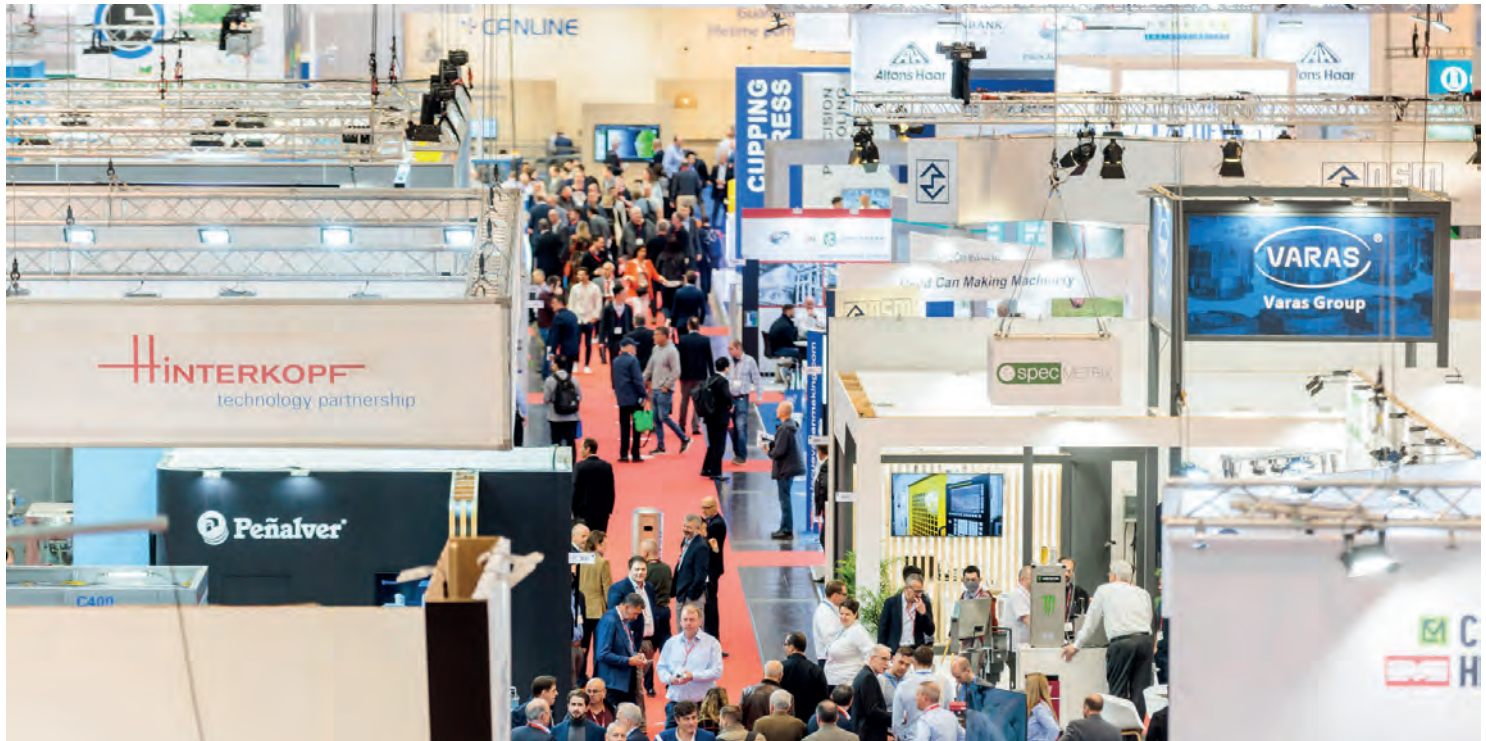
A total of 19 exhibitors submitted 31 entries to this year's Metpack Awards.

The ceremony on 3 May saw a win of the gold award by Koenig & Bauer Metalprint, for its MetalControl closed-loop colour control system. MetalControl scans each sheet and measures ink density. The results are transmitted digitally to the control panel, evaluated, and the ink zones automatically corrected. Manual adjustments are no longer necessary. Complaints, test prints and makeready times are reduced with MetalControl.

The Metpack silver award was presented to Actega, for its ROTARflow, a digital solution that monitors the amount of sealant applied to lids by rotating liners and makes immediate adjustments as a result. ROTARflow detects any deviation from the target value of the dry film weight and automatically changes pressure and needle lift accordingly. Downtimes and manual interventions >

The Metpack Innovation Award winners 2023.

Image: Schuchrat Kurbanov/Messe Essen



Above image:
Schuchrat Kurbanov/
Messe Essen

are eliminated. Production data is also available from any digital device. ROTARflow reduces cost, material and time input while increasing quality.

Can Man's PowerCUT SuperFLEX duplex cutting machine was awarded Metpack's bronze accolade. With the machine, fully automatic format changes are possible in a world record time of 15 minutes. In addition to the enormous time savings, the innovation has another advantage: damage to cutting tools is avoided by eliminating manual operation. The machine also offers maximum flexibility for cutting all formats with a high cutting accuracy.

Metpack also offered *CanTech* the opportunity to present our own caps/closures certificate and award from Asia CanTech 2022 to DS Group, who were the designers of the curved can for storage of pan masala. Unfortunately, DS Group could not be present for the ceremony in Bangkok last year, so Neil McRitchie and I held a Metpack ceremony instead on 4 May, and were pleased to congratulate director, Lokesh Naidu, and his colleagues, in person at the *CanTech* stand (photo on page 22).

Valuing human connection

Despite the industry focus on digitalisation and automation, Metpack 2023 showed us all that there's nothing like face-to-face.

Many companies have anniversaries and milestones this year, and so what better way to celebrate than with the whole industry? Tooling manufacturer, Wallram, welcomed *CanTech* to its stand for a celebration and slice of cake, commemorating 110 years of business.

Trade shows are definitely still worthwhile in the



Right: Wallram
celebrating 110
years with a
special cake from
Messe Essen.

Image:
Alex Rivers/
Bell Publishing

digital age. "A hands-on experience of a show is a different thing," said Alexander Hinterkopf, noting that there is a new generation of managers and technical leads that want to get out, network and meet their customers, as well as seeing what their competitors are offering.

An event like Metpack allows publications such as ours to thrive, as well as allowing visitors to see a plethora of equipment and machinery all in one place. It certainly enforces an appreciation for how skilled and innovative the metal packaging industry is. Long may it continue.

Metpack will return in 2026. 

Nikita Containers targets export markets for future growth

David Hayes speaks to CEO and director, **P. Santhanakrishnan**, of **Nikita Containers**, based in India

Nikita Containers Pvt Ltd is reporting growing domestic and international interest in its large collection of decorative tinplate can designs.

Domestic demand for decorative can packaging has grown recently as consumers look for sustainable solutions to replace plastic packaging. At the same time, importers in Europe and the United States have started to use India as a new decorative can production source as part of their efforts to reduce costs and widen their import supply networks.

Nikita Containers offers clients a collection of more than 1,000 decorative cans designs for a wide range of uses, according to the company's CEO and director, P. Santhanakrishnan, known as Santha to his clients and work colleagues.

"We make a wide variety of decorative tins in different shapes, sizes and finishes. We specialise in both three-piece and two-piece cans," Santha explained.

"Our printing effects on tin cans include glossy, matte and stone finishes, wrinkle effect and leather effect finishes, which demonstrate our strengths in printing."

Decorative confectionery cans are used as special gift packaging for all of India's many religious, state and other festivals. Rectangular, round and square cans are the three most commonly ordered decorative can shapes.

The most popular confectionery can sizes are those designed to hold 50gms, 100gms, 250gms, 500gms and 1,000gms of contents.

"The benefit of decorative cans is that tinplate is an economical material, it's easy to handle and very safe, both to produce resistant packaging and for those who are in direct and indirect contact with food," Santha said. "It's easy to use, very durable and lightweight compared to other materials."

The use of decorative cans as confectionery packaging, in particular for chocolate and cookies, has seen rapid growth during the past two years. "Many confectionery companies have moved towards the sustainability approach of using decorative tin cans on their packing lines instead of plastic packaging," Santha remarked.

"Domestically, another major demand for decorative tin can packaging here is for packing

sweets in south India. These packing lines include those that are packing dried fruit."

India's decorative can market was affected by Covid-19 early on, but demand for fancy cans used to pack food and pharma products began catching up again by the latter stages of the pandemic.

"After Covid, there was a big expansion from all the other decorative can-user categories, including gifting and many others, as they re-established their prominence," said Santha. "India's decorative can market is growing because sustainability, brand recall and the premiumisation of products are all answered by using decorative cans."

"Decorative cans are more than collectible as they are seen as a better alternative to plastic packaging."

Nikita serves more than 35 business categories with its decorative can packaging and has hundreds of can designs for customers to choose from. "Right now, we cater to more than 650 clients in India, as well as exporting to the United States, Europe, Russia and the Middle East," Santha commented.

"Our firm has the manufacturing capability to deliver even the most challenging of its clients' design needs.>

The use of decorative cans as confectionery packaging, in particular for chocolate and cookies, has seen rapid growth during the past two years





“India’s decorative can market is growing because sustainability, brand recall and the premiumisation of products are all answered by using decorative cans”

P. Santhanakrishnan

Nikita has had three Crabtree printers installed to ensure high quality printing, including a latest fourth generation single-colour Crabtree Fast Ready printer

“We are always keen to introduce innovative new decorative can designs for our customers, such as our flip-top mint sweet tins. These lidded mint cans are very compact, easy to carry sweet tins for sweet shops and are called Food Pac (Sliding Model Tins).

“Small candies are packed in these tins which are very handy and made in sizes that are attractive to children.”

Among design trends that have gained in popularity recently, is the use of embossing to highlight patterns and artwork decorating the can body. “Embossed cans are popular nowadays to give a better shelf appearance and to be more prominent. 3D modelling is catching up, while 2D modelling already is common,” Santha explained.

“Apart from food category cans for confectionery, the main products now being packed in embossed cans are tea, cosmetics and cookies. Dry fruit packers, however, prefer to use cans with see-through windows, so consumers can see the contents.”

Serving a large and diverse customer base produces a constant flow of new can design ideas to develop for clients. Santha revealed that Nikita is

venturing into new innovative design developments using multiple material options such as glass mirrors and holders to make the can design more versatile for different category needs.

“Special coatings with colour-based additives are among recent developments we are exploring to create sturdier tins with good curable surfaces to withstand fabrication stress,” Santha explained.

“Cost reduction efforts continue, driven by competition among decorative can suppliers. This leads to thinner gauge tinplate being used each year for a number of our decorative can sizes and specifications.”

Nikita also supplies decorative cans to premium packaging clients that use highly visual cans to promote their brand and package selected branded goods. “The premium can market has its own space where customers have passion in their products,” Santha commented.

“Secondary packaging of liquor, perfume bottles and cosmetic product applications is the next level to accelerate in demand.”

Meanwhile, the recent worldwide lifting of Covid-19 travel restrictions and the resumption of

Nikita produces decorative, reusable tin cans for on-the-go sweets and savouries in the Indian market

international trade shows and exhibitions is encouraging a growing number of decorative can importers to begin travelling again to visit their existing suppliers and meet potential new supply sources.

In addition to India's expanding domestic market, Nikita is optimistic that more confectionery packers in the US and Europe will begin to increase their volume of orders in future, as more of them seek additional supply sources in countries other than China.

Santha noted that Nikita's recent participation in the 23-25 April 2023 Pro Sweets Cologne Confectionery Show in Germany generated strong interest among European and American businessmen attending the show. Many visitors to the company's stand, however, were unaware of recent developments in India's confectionery packaging market.

"Based on our recent experience at the Pro Sweets Cologne confectionery show in April, the Western world is not fully aware of India's tin can manufacturing capabilities, so trade shows and exhibitions, and more travelling, will help change this," Santha commented.

"Many decorative can customers would like to find additional or alternative suppliers to China for decorative cans due to the current economic and political scenario."

Decorative can prices and minimum order quantities are other factors, after the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, encouraging European and American can importers to investigate new supply sources. "Our minimum order quantity is another reason for them to move supplier to avoid having a huge inventory," Santha said.

"Our quality is never compromised and supporting all customers, including those with the lowest order quantity, is another important strategy that Nikita is known for.

"Nikita has proved itself to many customers in western countries by replacing their existing cans with equal or, in some cases, better tin can printing quality. Our prices are competitive and globally acceptable. Competing suppliers always give the buyer healthy market purchase value.

"Nikita's capability is proven by many customers moving their sourcing from other parts of the world to India."

Established in 1995 in Puducherry in southern Tamil Nadu state, Nikita Containers is one of India's leading manufacturers of decorative cans. Since starting up to make general line cans to hold talcum powder, Nikita has grown in size and today owns two factories in Puducherry and a third in Chennai, located 170km away to the north.



Nikita Containers' three plants are ISO 9001:2015 Quality Process certified and SEDEX-SMETA certified to comply with global export market requirements.

"Exports will be a prime focus as a business driver in the coming years," Santha forecasted.

"Our qualification in meeting the SEDEX-SMETA requirement is another important passport that Nikita has to enter export markets."

Employing more than 300 staff in total, the three plants provide over 130,000 square feet of production space and are equipped with imported and locally made production equipment.

Three Crabtree printers have been installed to ensure high quality printing, comprising a latest fourth generation single-colour Crabtree Fast Ready printer; a two-colour Crabtree Marquess printer; and a single-colour Crabtree Marquess printer.

"Our can making lines consist of both automatic forming machines, which are imported and also built by our firm's own engineering division for various sizes," Santha said. "These comprise about 14 automatic lines and more than 200 stamping presses for tin can components production."

"We have also upgraded our automatic coating lines to cater for various requirements in the consumer can category."

Nikita uses printing inks and coatings that comply with EU Commission food safety directives and US FDA requirements, after having previously upgraded production to meet the needs of customers in those markets.

"We use approved food grade lacquer for all our confectionery tins," Santha noted. "We are very watchful about the quality and consistency of the ink we use to decorate our tins. All our inks and coatings are food grade and free of heavy metals."

In addition to importing production equipment from Europe and China, Nikita's own in-house engineering design team has been involved in developing much of the firm's domestically built can manufacturing machinery. This includes can body locking machinery and the automatic pick-and-place support systems installed to increase productivity and ensure press operator safety on the can fabrication lines.

Other in-house-designed equipment includes dial feed lines for curling operations to improve production of mint cans that are designed to hold small candies.

In addition to machinery used to manufacture decorative cans, Nikita operates two Veema and Butterfly welding lines used to produce cans for filling with dairy products and food colouring powder for the food industry. 

Spraying sustainably

Alex Rivers reports on the 2023 edition of the **British Aerosol Manufacturers Association's Innovation Day**

The British Aerosol Manufacturers Association (BAMA) returned once again to the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds, UK, for its Innovation Day on 19 April 2023.

BAMA's chief executive, Patrick Heskins, opened the day with an announcement on the release of the Association's NMVOC Pathway. NMVOC stands for non-methane volatile organic compounds, and links to the UK's department for environment, food and environmental affairs' (Defra) 2019 Clean Air Strategy.

Heskins outlined that the new pathway's goal is to reduce NMVOC emissions from aerosols sold in the UK to the level the industry was at in 2005 – 59 kilotonnes – because, at the current rate of increase, the industry could reach a staggering 80.3kt by 2030.

He stated that there are “no fixed solutions” for reducing the emissions, but one way is for manufacturers in the research and development stage to make these reductions a priority, well before their products have gone to market. The personal care category, which dominated the market in 2022, according to BAMA's filling figures, should be the forerunner in this.

More details are set to be released on the NMVOC Pathway soon.

The second initiative announcement from the Innovation Day came from Alupro's Tom Giddings, who presented the organisation's new roadmap to increasing UK aerosol recycling. The roadmap document outlines five key challenges preventing higher aerosol recycling rates and details a proposed solution to tackle each head-on.

These include: improving data quality through vigorous sampling of materials at MRFs; driving an uplift in kerbside volumes by establishing collection consistency; investing in new pathways to treat non-empty containers; increasing consumer education through standardised labelling; and improving the overall design of aerosol containers to optimise the value in recycled materials.

In addition, Alupro's new roadmap also presents the results of extensive consumer research analysis from local authorities and in-depth interviews with key industry experts, with the aim of clarifying best practice to maximise capture rates in a post-EPR, post-DRS landscape.

Available to download from the Alupro website, the report aims to inspire sustained collaboration

between government and the wider supply chain.

The Innovation Day presentations certainly offered opportunities to expand learning. Attendees could never have guessed that the day would begin with a David Attenborough clip on Bombardier Beetles. The clip was chosen by L'Oreal's Jonathan Gawtrely to illustrate the concept of biomimicry and how nature can inspire product innovation. The Bombardier Beetle has two chambers in its body that use a chemical boiling process in order to generate a deadly spray that is used to ward off predators. The chambers, said Gawtrely, provide a reusable and refillable solution from mother nature. The “out of the box presentation,” as Gawtrely commented himself, made for an engaging first session and set the tone for a day of widening horizons.

New spray technologies are emerging in the aerosol sector, and Thomas Schuffenhauer, executive vice president of business development and marketing at the Netherlands-based AFA Dispensing Group, showcased the Flairosol solution, a next generation liquid dispenser that delivers a fine mist and which is gaining significant traction in the beauty industry due to its continuous spray and refillable screw top.

Flairosol's focus is on removing the propellant gas and reusing the aerosol container, a focus which is also shared by the Fillinfinite counter-top machine. Fillinfinite's CEO, Franco Osculati, illustrated how this machine fills the standard aerosol container to



Hungarian company Respray's refillable aerosol machine.
Image: Respray

set a customisable pressure, by injecting the product through the valve. The pressure is generated by GreenSpense's patented technology, which uses an elastic rubber bag-on-valve to force the liquid out, without the need for liquified compressed gasses.

Fillinfinite and GreenSpense's partnership was not the only one highlighted by BAMA's event. Alan Murphy, head of national accounts UK (aerosol & bulk) at AvantiGas, emphasised the need for companies working closely together in order to achieve similar sustainability goals and help reduce climate impact, something which is particularly paramount in the aerosol industry. "We can't reach net zero without collaboration," he stated.

AvantiGas has been working on the production of renewable dimethyl ether (rDME) under Dimeta, a joint venture between AvantiGas parent company, UGI, and SHV. DME can be used as fuel for off-grid heating, and also works effectively as an aerosol propellant, stated Murphy, because of it being soluble in water, which allows reduction of the overall VOC content of a standard can.

What was clear from the presentations BAMA collated was that refillable solutions are becoming more important and more in demand. There are exciting developments happening in this area; in a presentation from Hungarian company Respray, Gergely Zámbo, co-founder, and his partner, presented their design of an in-store aerosol refill machine using compressed air as a propellant. The Respray machine has been trialled at the drugstore chain, Rossman, using the retailer's own brand of deodorant, and allowing refill for a maximum of five times. According to Zámbo, this test run was incredibly successful and generated a great deal of interest in both consumers and the media.

Among the aerosol solutions offered at the Innovation Day, there were more outside-the-box ideas offered to the audience. As Patrick Heskins emphasised, "innovation comes from being exposed to things you don't already know." A notable innovation we were 'exposed' to came from Polytag, based in Wales. Polytag's Ric Exley outlined how serialised QR codes can help the aerosol industry pave the way for a future of effective recycling, customer loyalty and circularity. The 'QR' in QR code – as it turned out nobody in the audience knew previously – stands for Quick Response, and offers digital tracing on products for both businesses and consumers. With Polytag, each individual QR code can be scanned for deposit return only once, and only after it has passed through store check-out, to avoid fraud.

In the Innovation Day attendee packs were BAMA's much-anticipated 2022 filling figures, showing a domination from personal care products, with a record 71 per cent of the total volume filled. There was the ongoing small decline in the filling of deodorants/body sprays, but this was more than



compensated for with an 11 per cent increase in antiperspirants.

Heskins commented, regarding the smaller volume categories, "The filling of food aerosols has not been a big sector for the UK fillers, and the small volume filled until recently has now shrunk to insignificance. Likewise, the miscellaneous category, which includes novelty products such as silly string and snow sprays, has declined as, in particular, the regulatory pressure on the propellant gases used for many years starts to have an impact. Many of these products still find their way on to the UK market from overseas manufacturers: whether they actually meet the UK regulatory requirements is something those placing them on the market should check very carefully," commented Heskins.

"We hope 2023 will allow us to get back towards the volumes we enjoyed in the late 2010s," is Heskins' conclusion. "There are certainly a variety of challenges coming our way as an industry, but the consumer demand for products in the aerosol format doesn't appear to be diminishing which we must use to support our business while we develop the next generation of products with ever-increased environmental credentials."

Turn the page to view BAMA's 2022 filling figures in full. [📄](#)

AFA Dispensing Group's Flairosol.
Image: AFA



2022 AEROSOL FILLING FIGURES IN THOUSANDS TOTAL : 1.44 BILLION



PERSONAL CARE 1,021,269



HOUSEHOLD 273,812



INDUSTRIAL 45,614



PAINTS & LACQUERS 37,705



MEDICAL / VETERINARY 31,075



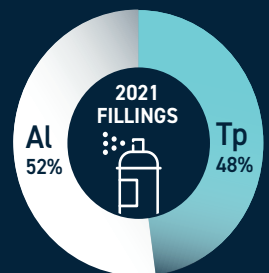
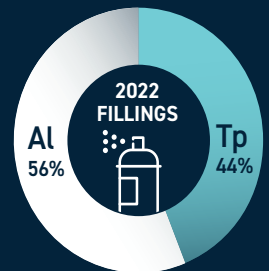
AUTOMOTIVE 16,416



INSECTICIDE 8,514



MISCELLANEOUS 1,473

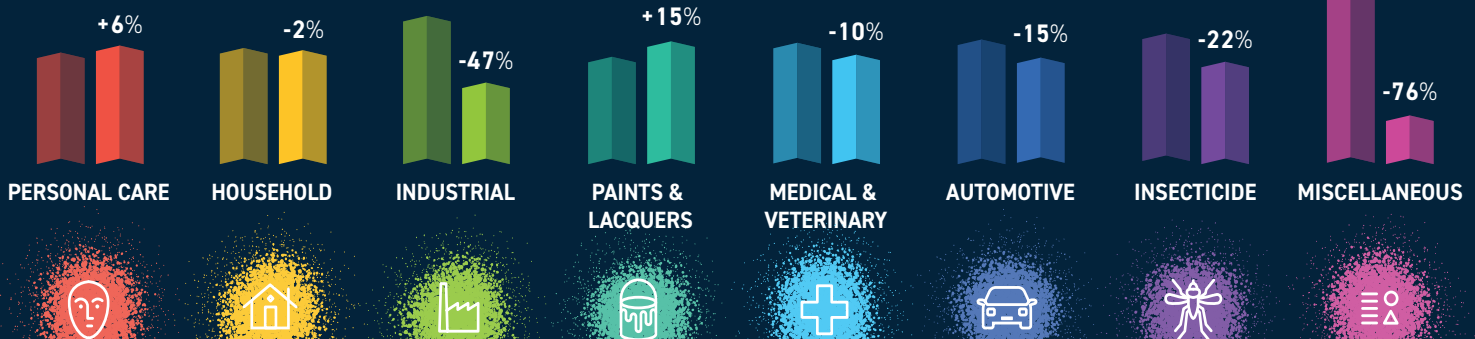


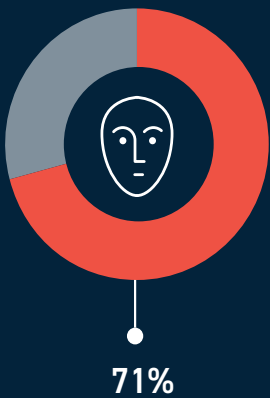
“

The growth in personal care led to a 4% swing toward aluminium when compared to tinplate”

PATRICK HESKINS
BAMA CHIEF EXECUTIVE

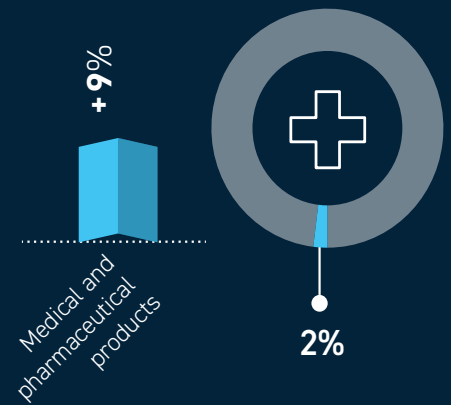
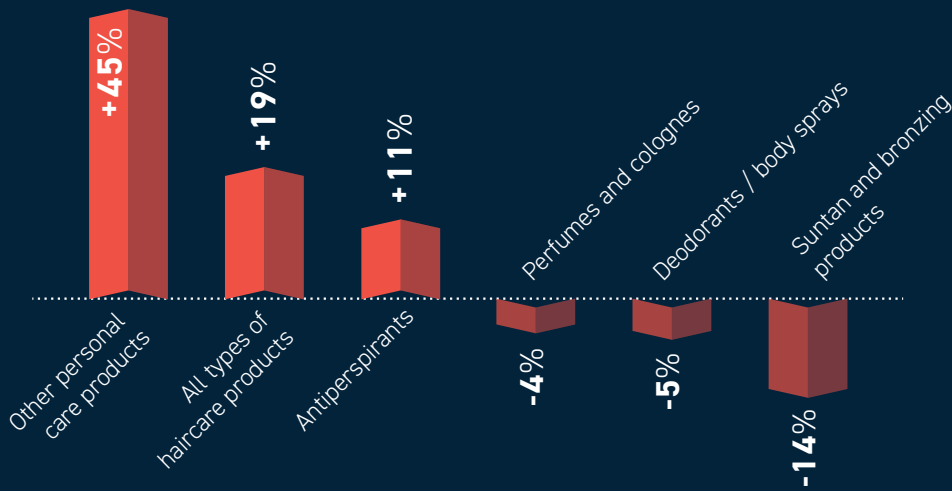
2021 v 2022 Comparison





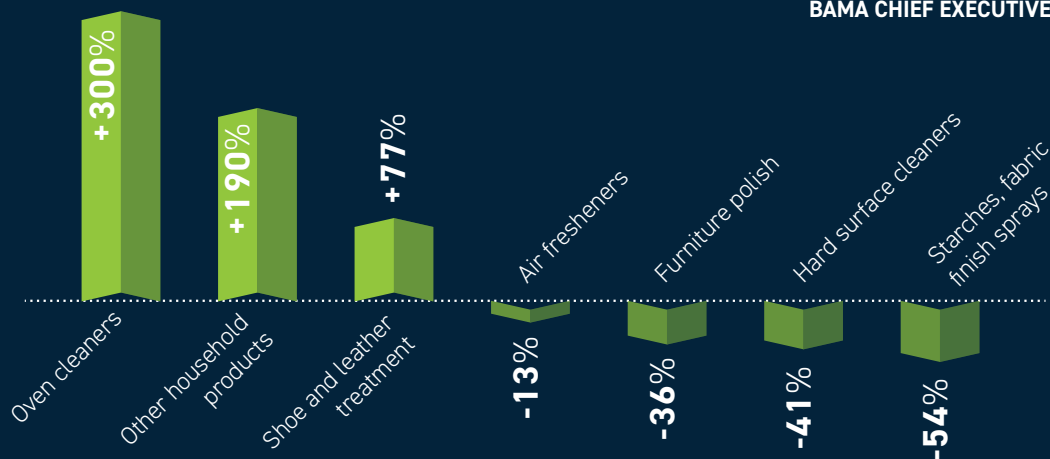
“ Personal Care products dominated, with a record 71% of the total volume filled. There was the on-going small decline in the filling of deodorants/body sprays, but this was more than compensated for with a stunning 11% increase in antiperspirants.”

PATRICK HESKINS
BAMA CHIEF EXECUTIVE



“ Filling of medical and pharmaceutical aerosols continues to grow.”

PATRICK HESKINS
BAMA CHIEF EXECUTIVE



“ The share of household products slipped below the 20% mark for the first time in many years, with a drop off in air freshener output of nearly 13%.”

PATRICK HESKINS
BAMA CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Ireland's can filling sectors face up to mandatory recycling regimes

By Mark Godfrey in Dublin

A new national mandatory recycling regime announced last November (2022) being introduced by Ireland's government has local breweries shying away from canned beer formats.

"We wouldn't consider cans now because the DRS [deposit return scheme] is punitive in its execution," said Richard Siberry, founder, general manager and head brewer of Roscommon-based Black Donkey Brewing, a craft brewer with nationwide sales.

The scheme, which should operate from February 2024, will add labelling costs for brewers using cans, said Siberry. "You need new labels, new barcodes;

if you are exporting you need a different barcode. There are only two printers in Ireland able to do the labelling required, as opposed to 15 who can't."

Moreover, he said: "You have to put money aside to fund the DRS: that's €0.15 per can, which would be €15,000 per week. Any brewery with a shop will be obliged to take cans back, and you can't crush them as they must be fed into a machine."

Tom Giddings, executive director of UK-based trade body the Aluminium Packaging Recycling Organisation (Alupro), which has Irish members, and who has also been watching the scheme, said: "While we're happy that the Irish government's scheme is producer-led and has a variable rate, we're disappointed that it excludes glass."

"We believe that a well-designed DRS can offer widespread benefits and, in time, lead to an

Maybe the most famous canned product made in Ireland – canned Guinness stout. Image: EMSTUDIOSng



increase in recycling rates,” he said.

Indeed, said Giddings, best practice from successful schemes operational in other countries (such as Norway, for example) suggest that an ‘all-in’ mechanism for packaging materials is most effective, “resulting in maximum benefit and maximum impact.” As such, experience suggests that glass bottles should be subject to the same targets, at the same pace, as PET (polyethylene terephthalate) and aluminium, to ensure a fair and level playing field.

Giddings had written to Ireland’s environment minister, Eamon Ryan, in 2021, to request a scheme that put variable costs on variable materials so that materials like aluminium would not subsidise a less valuable or harder-to-recycle material.

The experience gained by Irish can makers and fillers may be useful, however, as the European Union (EU) is debating imposing EU-wide rules mandating similar schemes in all member states.

“The indication that DRS will be present everywhere by 2029 is welcome news, so long as the systems are well designed and can add value to the can collection economy... As EU targets loom, we’re confident that cans will compete well under a balanced system,” said Giddings.

As regards the alcoholic product can segment, fillers and their suppliers are also having to contend with another set of restrictions imposing minimum unit pricing requirements introduced in 2022 under the Public Health (Alcohol) Act.

Aimed at preventing retailers from selling slabs of cheap beer cans especially, the law puts a floor of €0.10 per gram of alcohol for sales of alcohol cans or bottles. That said, alcohol sales are rising, with 2022 data released by the Revenue Commissioners showing consumption in Ireland was 10.2 litres of alcohol per capita, up 7.6% compared to 2021. Beer consumption increased by 11.6% in 2022 year-on-year, although consumption of cider – another key canned product – stayed flat.

Ireland is home to a key player in the global beverage can industry: the Dublin-based Ardagh Group, which, in a 27 April briefing by the company, CEO and CFO pointed to “resilient non-alcoholic consumption, with particular strength in the energy [drinks] segment.”

Despite the 2022 increase in sales, Ardagh said the beer market by contrast was weaker, suffering from “consumer inflationary pressure,” with inflation in Ireland being 7.7% in March. Ardagh’s sales growth of aluminium cans in Europe remains sluggish at 2% year-on-year for the first quarter of 2023, said the CEO/CFO briefing, compared to a 4% sales increase in the Americas.

The company, which currently has no can making plant in Ireland, points to environmental regulations as likely to fuel future growth, given the recyclability of metal cans, especially the



Another high-profile canned beer line from Ireland – Murphy's stout. Image: Biosketch

packaging and packaging waste regulation under consideration in the EU. This increased demand will be met partly on the island of Ireland, with Ardagh planning to open a GBP£140 million (\$200m) metal can manufacturing plant in County Antrim, Northern Ireland.

International major, Crown, has transit packaging service centres in Kilkenny and Gorey, in the Republic. Ball Corporation manufactures can ends at its plant in Waterford.

But it is two other events that have really shaken Ireland's can segment; in recent years, Brexit and Covid-19 have also shaped demand for metal packaging. The pandemic and subsequent cost-of-living crisis also boosted the fortunes of discount retailers.

It is the market for canned goods that is most important in Ireland, however. Here, the growth of two large German retail chains, Aldi and Lidl, both stocking significant numbers of canned lines, is important. They went from a combined market share of grocery sales which includes alcohol of 13.6% in 2013 to 25.4% in the 12 weeks to 16 April (2023), according to London-based market research firm, Kantar.

Ireland supermarket major, Dunnes Stores, had a 23% market share of total Ireland grocery spend in the 12 weeks to 16 April.

Visits to Aldi and Lidl stores in Clarendon and Castlereagh for this article revealed a larger presence of tinned options than neighbouring outlets of Ireland-based SuperValu, which had a 20.7% market share in the 12 weeks to 16 April. The rise of discounters, (who offer a more limited selection of products than Dunnes Stores and SuperValu, but larger offerings of canned fish, meats and vegetables), is attractive in a country whose grocery prices remain high by EU standards. Last year (2022), the Central Statistics Office found that >



Brexit has caused headaches for the import and export of canned products into and out of Ireland – to and from the UK and the rest of the remaining EU. Here, a protest in Cork by Republic of Ireland main opposition party Sinn Féin, a party elected to share power with unionists in Northern Ireland.
Image: Sinn Féin

Irish prices for milk, cheese and eggs were on average 25% higher than the corresponding EU average. In 2022, Ireland boasted the second highest prices in the EU (after Luxembourg), with alcohol prices here just over double the average price in the 27 member states.

Such a discrepancy suggests discounters could grow their market share – with canned goods sales rising accordingly. Food and beverage price annual inflation in March (2023) was 13.1%.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, aluminium packaging volumes grew strongly in Ireland, according to Giddings. “However, due in part to a reduction in the number of people purchasing beverage cans for consumption in the home following the lifting of restrictions [on movement and social distancing], volumes have since levelled off.”

Pandemic lockdowns created trends towards greater pet ownership which boosted the country’s canned pet food industry: Longford-based C&D, part of the bigger ABP Food Group, is one of Europe’s top ten producers.

C&D is a member of FEDIAF, a trade body representing the European pet food industry and one of 120 trade bodies to pen a letter recently to the European Commission protesting at what it



said were “unilateral, divergent national packaging requirements” by member states on reuse and recycle targets – an issue likely to be resolved by the reforms under discussion. Market researcher, Euromonitor, predicts the pet food market in Ireland is forecast to reach \$146.07m (in retail prices), thus increasing at a CAGR (Compound Annual Growth Rate) of 1.44% per annum for the period 2020-2024.

The impact of Brexit on the Irish can manufacturing and filling sector appears to have manifested itself most strongly in the fish industry. Access to stocks of key species such as mackerel has been limited by a deal which saw Ireland contribute the single largest share (40%) of fish stocks handed to Britain under the deal. The country’s sole fish canner, Donegal-based Irish Fish Canners, is predominately a co-packing business

for market leader John West Foods (part of Thai Union Group). Yet the firm faces a crunch in local supply for its own range of premium quality canned mackerel under the Irish Atlantic Canned Fish brand, according to chief executive officer of the Irish Fish Producers Organisation (IFPO), Aodh O Donnell.

He said at €1.3 billion, the value of the entire Irish seafood sector is 20 times smaller than the value of Norwegian seafood exports. Since Brexit, the UK – along with Norway, the Faroe Islands and Iceland – has been “fishing an unfair share of pelagic species” like mackerel and blue whiting, claims O Donnell. This has left smaller volumes for Irish fishermen who are now being offered buyouts to scrap their vessels under an EU-funded Brexit compensation scheme.

With Brexit otherwise largely having vanished from the media and political agenda in Ireland, the economy has rebounded strongly after the pandemic. The government posted a surplus of €8bn in 2022, compared to a deficit of €6.8bn in 2021, as corporate tax takings surged. The surplus is bigger than the €1.9bn posted in 2019 yet the country also has one of the highest debt to GDP ratios of any western economy, at 48%.

Economist at Dublin stockbroker Davy, Conall Mac Coille, is bullish about Irish consumer spending in 2023: “The rapid pace of jobs growth, rising wages, temporary income supports and a small cut in the savings ratio to 20 per cent have helped households sustain spending,” he said. Mac Coille is projecting Irish consumer spending to grow 2.2% in 2023.

Meanwhile, as Ireland readies the introduction of its DRS scheme, the country will also have to look at implementing other EU requirements to reduce packaging waste.

In a position paper on the EU’s packaging and packaging waste regulation (PPWR) proposal, the Association of European Producers of Steel for Packaging (Apeal) said it “fully supports” an EU Commission objective that all packaging on the EU market be reusable or recyclable in an economically viable way by 2030.

Alexis van Maercke, secretary general of Apeal, in comments for this article, said his organisation also welcomed the introduction of a set of so-called ‘recyclability performance grades’ based on design for recycling criteria – with steel given an ‘A’ grade and harder to recycle plastics labelled as ‘E.’

“Bearing in mind the new PPWR regulations and updated recycling rate calculation methodology, I believe that steel packaging will certainly continue to rise in popularity,” said van Maercke. “Steel is a permanent material that is circular by nature and its magnetic properties make steel easy to collect from any waste stream.”

With Ireland no longer being a primary producer of steel (or aluminium), flows of can-making metals will have to come via recycling and reuse waste streams. 

Conveyance options for moving containers

Ska Fabricating advises on how to choose the right discharge, decline and pallet conveyor to pair with a depalletiser

Much credit is given in designing a line to the larger pieces of the operation – the depalletisers or palletisers or direct-to-container digital printers. These Cap-Ex items certainly are splashier and more of what draws the eye's attention when viewing a layout, but just like in our bodies, a heart is no more than a fancy pump without the arteries and veins to feed and fuel it. On a packaging line, the conveyance and accumulation that surround these large pieces of equipment are integral in keeping a line optimised for speed, agility and maximum uptime.

All conveyors are built to customer specific elevation/discharge heights, and are typically paired with depalletising and palletising equipment, so when selecting the right canning line understanding speed requirements is paramount. The top two questions to always ask are, "What is the speed you need to achieve?" and "Will you be doing a lot of start/stop or do you hope to continuously feed?" The answer to these questions will determine which depalletiser is needed, and what conveyance options are necessary to meet those speeds.

Ska Fabricating (Ska Fab) takes great pride in the work that its engineering team does to design lines that take its customers' products to market and change the way they operate to ensure they are able to scale at the rate they imagine for their business.

Here are some examples from high, medium and low throughput systems that illustrate the importance of speed in conjunction with proper conveyance and how this alignment can impact a line.

High throughput systems

A recent customer purchased a high throughput system from Ska Fab and needed to run 16, 23, 24 and 25oz glass jars, and wanted to continuously feed their filler at speeds up to 300 CPM. The sales engineers at Ska Fab recommended the FHA 5000 depalletiser, capable of unloading both glass, plastic and metal containers. For loading the full-height pallet of containers, an extended automatic powered pallet chain conveyor was added to the line, as automatic powered chain conveyors allow for continuous production by immediately loading the next pallet as soon as the empty pallet is discharged. With the extended chain conveyor, it is possible to stage two pallets at the infeed.

Once the pallet is loaded into the depalletiser, it is immediately elevated to the proper discharge height and pushed onto an inline high-speed single filing conveyor with extended mass accumulation table, which accepts two layers of containers. A high speed/low speed photo eye on the accumulation table can remove the space created between layers caused by the time needed to remove the slip-sheet

Below (L-R): Ska Fab's FHA 5000 depalletiser and inline high-speed single filing conveyor





and time caused between lowering the empty pallet and raising the new pallet.

To lower the glass jars to line level, a fully-adjustable s-style side grip lowerator with ionised air-rinse system was included, as its small footprint saves valuable floor space and the tool-less adjustability makes line changeovers quick and easy. Elevation heights for containers entering side-grip (top) and discharging (bottom) were built to customer specifications.

All of these conveyance options allow Ska Fab's customer to meet the filler speeds to allow for continuous production.

Medium throughput systems

Another customer needed a depalletiser capable of running 180 CPM of HDPE canisters, several sizes. Ska Fab recommended an FHA 3000 depalletiser capable of unloading full-height pallets of lightweight containers. A gravity roller infeed conveyor is used to stage and manually push in the full pallet of containers. Once the pallet is unloaded and returned to floor level, the operator manually pulls the empty pallet from the pallet bay with a pallet hook.

The layer requirements were smaller. In order to meet the speed requirements a high-speed single filer with extended mass accumulation table was the right fit. Like the higher throughput system, a high speed/low speed photo-eye on the accumulation



Ska Fab's s-style side grip lowerator (far left); high-speed single filer with extended mass accumulation table (above); and FHA 3000 depalletiser (left)

table removes the space created between layers caused by the time needed to remove the slip-sheet and time caused between lowering the empty pallet and raising the new pallet.

Low throughput systems

A Mini Side-Grip Lowerator is an appealing choice when there are space constraints within a facility, as it eliminates the need for multiple chutes for handling multiple containers. No tools are required to adjust the lowerator during product changeovers which reduces overall changeover time. Elevation heights for containers entering side-grip (top) and discharging (bottom) are built to customer specifications.

Lessons learned

Optimising for speed and accuracy has much more to do with conveyance and accumulation choices that one might believe. Sales engineers at Ska Fabricating relish any challenge and have seen it all when it comes to space considerations in conjunction with line speed and throughput requirements. The company believes a team that is responsive and flexible is everything when designing a line. 

Decades of drying know-how

Evert van de Weg speaks to **Dietmar Raupach**, managing director of Germany-based **Sellacan**, about the company's formation and its journey to becoming one of the most experienced partners in industrial heat treatment

We all know that tinplate (and aluminium as well) must undergo many treatments before it becomes a can. Even early-made tinplate was covered with a layer of paint, sometimes as protection and sometimes as decoration. Today, tinplate undergoes a protective coating (lining) to the interior, a layer of paint or varnish is applied to the exterior (the basecoat), if the can has to be printed, coloured inks decorate the exterior and then, to protect the ink, a layer of varnish (the topcoat) is applied. Every layer of paint, ink or varnish applied to a sheet of tinplate must be dried or cured in an oven at high temperature.

The development of coating and printing technology is very closely bound up with that of drying techniques. Originally, chamber ovens were used. These operated at temperatures of around 65°C. During the 19th century, these were heated using town gas. Varnish requires dry heat and the

faster it can be dried, the better the results. The printed sheets of tinplate were originally placed in racks, which could be rolled into the oven on rack trolleys. Drying was a lengthy process.

Around the year 1900, gold varnish had to remain some two-and-a-half hours in the oven. By the 1920s, tunnel ovens had come onto the market. The wet sheets were drawn through these on metal stands, emerging dry from the other end. To dry paint and varnish, 30 to 40 minutes at a temperature of 180°C to 210°C was generally required. Such tunnel ovens thus shortened the time to dry a lining, eg of gold varnish, by some two hours, compared with chamber ovens. Over the many decades since then, capacity of drying ovens increased considerably. The use of new types of paints and inks reduced drying times often to just a few seconds.

Along with the development of industry in the 20th century, in many different branches, industrial

Mesh belt dryer.
Image: Sellacan



ovens were used for a variety of applications, including drying, curing or baking components, or parts of final products. Producers of industrial ovens were founded in Germany.

In the city of Detmold, the company Neitz became an important manufacturer of industrial ovens, and it built up a strong reputation in the metal packaging and automotive business, until it had to close in the early nineties due to economic changes. The knowledge and experience in oven construction, collected over decades, was at risk of being lost. However, the leading technical manager within Neitz, Dietmar Raupach, and some experienced alumni of Neitz, came together and reformed in 1996 to form the company Sellacan.

Sellacan Industrieofen GmbH

The company Sellacan, based in Lage, near Detmold, can thus look back on many years of experience in the construction of industrial furnaces based on its rich heritage of expertise. The company's name is actually the translation of the German phrase 'verkauf eine Dose' which translates into 'sell a can.'

Sellacan's managing director, Dietmar Raupach, divulges more about the company and its highlights: "I founded Sellacan in 1996, together with three fellow campaigners. The inner circle of the founding community were former employees of Neitz. The furnace sector lost a supplier through the closure of Neitz, and we wanted to preserve know-how and continue developing our capabilities. Sellacan started in the metal packaging market with ends drying ovens, and we have found much success since then."

Did Sellacan begin with the production of drying ovens for metal can production, and later add on ovens for other products?

"At that time, there had been only a few really independent suppliers of drying ovens in the metal packing industry. From the very beginning, Sellacan has focused on drying ovens for the twist-off sector. We have also solidified our market position with the advantages of our well-known furnace concept: individually adjustable heating zones and temperature ranges. The fact that we have managed to achieve this position, especially in the twist-off area, was retrospectively, on the one hand, so that we could establish Sellacan after minor initial problems as an eligible partner.

"The second reason is that we have also been able to build up a market position in other product areas, in which we have brought appropriate proficiency. Today, we are a supplier of tempering furnaces for the automotive industry and of brazing furnaces for industrial applications. The story would not have been successful just with the metal packaging business alone."



Is the production of drying ovens for the metal packaging industry the most important part of your sales?

"The development of equipment with high-speed lines in the lid area in competition with low-cost suppliers has asked us to look for other product areas. We have broadened our activities to new markets and supply our individually optimised designs in industrial furnace construction to the automotive industry, namely heat treatment and brazing lines."

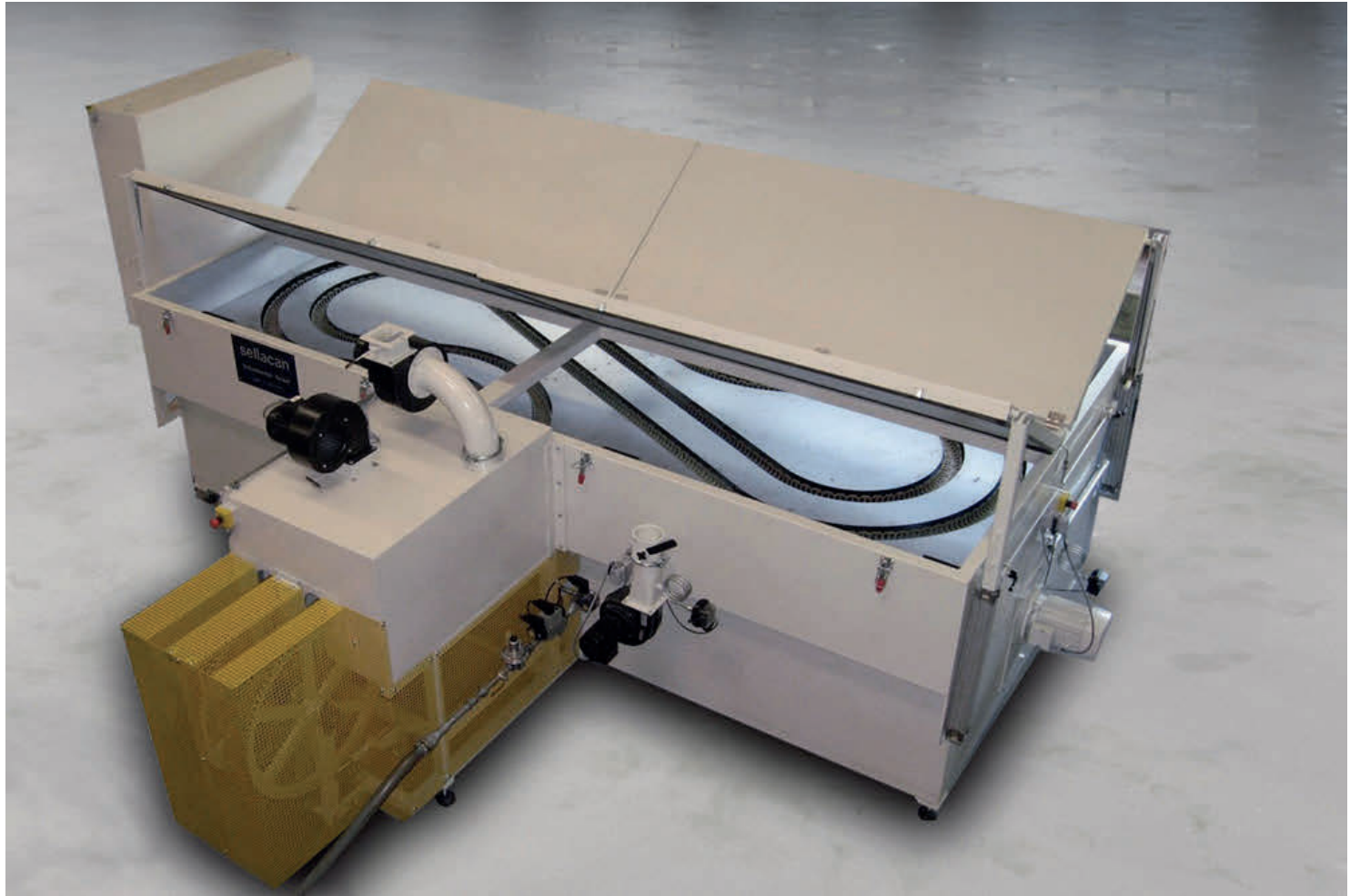
How did Sellacan learn about the importance of stable temperatures for the various types of can coatings?

"Back then, only relatively expensive oven concepts containing a temperature range, or low-cost providers were known. We have developed and strengthened our knowledge, together with our experienced engineers – to provide the appropriate temperature setup for the different applications of our valued customers. Our mission: listen to customers, gain own experience by running trials, and never give up satisfying customer needs – that is the short answer. Sellacan's mesh belt drying ovens for twist-off, for example, are delivered to six continents. The design allows a reliable and condensation-free operation of our dryers."

Your list of credentials names many international can makers; are the conditions in your ovens for can and closure coatings still subject to further developments?

"With respect to the development of the PVC-free sealing for twist-off lids, there was meanwhile a noticeable drop in demand for us. The market has since consolidated, and we've gone back to previous numbers. As there are generally, both >

Coating lines for can making circa 1920. Image courtesy of Evert van de Weg



OMEGA dryer.
Image: Sellacan

in the metal packaging industry and at our other customers, continuous evolutions or requirements to be considered, Sellacan's ovens are subject to ongoing development. The most important things for Sellacan are quality and precision in manufacturing – from design to implementation. We build long-term relationships with our customers and intend to be a partner."

What would you consider the most important innovations in your drying ovens for metal cans/closures in the last few years?

"We have set up small improvements, especially for the control and industry 4.0 – to keep our products always up to state-of-the-art status, the reliable process of drying itself is not affected."

Are you working on a transition to lower energy use of your ovens? Are you thinking about replacing the use of natural gas by electricity, or even other sources of energy?

"The impact of the war and climate crisis is challenging all industries. Regarding our gas-powered drying ovens, we offered our customers conversion packages, from gas to conventional

electric heating. But, after initial euphoria, only low orders were placed. The discussion about higher admixtures of hydrogen into natural gas is certainly interesting. The keyword here is H2-ready. However, there is still a lot to be done on the supplier side."

Has your company ever considered UV curing ovens?

"We have carried out corresponding test series in the past. It turned out that the use of UV devices leads to rapid heating. This means skin formation on the compound and thus blistering, but no uniform drying."

"I would like to mention an important development we undertook. This was the special individual development of our Repair coating machine. The high-speed machines are equipped with electro-mechanical spraying guns, with the ends running on a rotating vertical table. The R12S works reliably and has the advantage of little overspray on the device. A magnetic belt system feeds the ends after application into our horizontal pocket dryer. Two Repair Coaters can be connected to a dual-line dryer to increase output. The system is equipped with an exhaust system to extract emerging lacquer mist." 

Vacuum and compressed air

We continue with another case study from **Pneumofore** as it celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2023 – this time detailing its setup of vacuum and compressed air at the Pachuca plant of Envases Universales

In 2019, at the Pachuca plant of Envases Universales, near Mexico City, Pneumofore supplied the pneumatic machinery and engineering. Since then, three separate pressure systems for vacuum, low- and high-pressure have been installed with remarkable results, measurable now after four years of continuous operation.

Dealing with ambient air warrants consideration of the humidity, the temperature, and the pressure at the installation site. Being at an altitude of 2,432 metres, the extraordinary situation in Pachuca requires attention only to the pressure. The air is ‘thinner’ due to the reduced ambient pressure. The cooling system on board of every vacuum pump and air compressor is dimensioned to cope with this altitude-related challenge. Larger coolers and stronger fans are installed. The ventilation of the compressor room, as well as the evacuation of hot air, requires engineering work with calculations of duct length, size, layout, and the necessary fans.

The initial decision to divide into three pressure lines has proven to be the most appropriate solution. The low-pressure loop is served by dedicated low pressure compressors, which perform at their best efficiency, being designed to run at the low pressure of 4 bar(g). There is more nominal compressor power installed for the low-pressure than for the high-pressure loop. The third pressure line is dedicated to vacuum.

The usual installation of two pressure lines only, one for compressed air and one for vacuum, and the use of pressure reducers to match the different compressed air pressure levels required in production, seems to be a simpler solution, but it is very costly to operate. Basically, there is no need to compress up to 8 bar if the required pressure is 4 bar; half the work is wasted. Compressors are energy intense machines which merit the same careful attention in selection and installation for long-term economic operation, as required by two-piece can factories.

Machines alone do not make up the entire pneumatic system. The setup of the three different pressure lines follows pipe and duct calculations to optimise system performance. Pipeline length and receivers are integral parts of the system. Often, dryers are installed to discharge all the condensed humidity. At Pachuca, the entire system was calculated, designed, and installed with reasonable

dimensional safety criteria, to contain the costs, while yielding the best all-over performance.

‘Performance over time’ was the initial requirement, and this is how Pneumofore succeeded in the project.

The machine performance is constant over more than 120,000 hours, without overhauling. Ordinary maintenance is performed once per year. With regular service and the use of original consumables, the rotary vane machines of Pneumofore have maintained the same initial performance in the four years since the installation date.

This result is remarkable due to the 3.77 total installed MW of electrical power. With the Mexican industrial electrical rate of \$0.10 for 1kWh, with all machines running, the yearly electrical cost is \$3.3 million, amounting to almost \$13 million since installation. This value is much higher than the machine cost at purchase. The good thing is that the performance has remained as new. No sudden costs have appeared, and no further costs other than ordinary service are foreseen for the next ten years. >



**A180.8
compressors
at Envases
Universales**



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The electrical bill for the compressors and vacuum pumps is the largest expense involved in running a can factory, besides the raw material expense for production. A loss of performance of the compressed air and vacuum system by as little as one per cent, incurs the additional yearly cost of \$33,000. When machines are new, once they are fine-tuned, they usually perform well. Once production has started, it is prudent to keep it running and stop as little as possible. By doing so, hour-counters turn, and millions of dollars are spent on energy, to keep the manufacturing up and running.

Pneumofore's goal is to install machines with the lowest environmental impact. It is not about machines with a fantastic performance over a few months only. The target is to keep a good performance over many, preferably ten plus years, of continuous operation. As a clear statement, the company offers the warranty of five years for functionality and efficiency for the pumping air-end on board of every machine. Any manufacturing defect would have appeared during the first three years of operation; it is probable that the entire pneumatic system will keep performing for decades.

Older Pneumofore installations have run trouble-free in Mexico in rougher applications than two-piece can production. Machines installed in 2016 with more than 50,000 hours of operation provide sound evidence of their performance integrity. Elsewhere, in Europe, other can making facilities have had UV vacuum pumps running 24/7 since 1998, going more than 200,000 hours without overhauling. These and other references consolidate the company's reputation, which boasts 100 years of experience as a global leader in vacuum.

Innovation is essential to stay up to date. Latest industry 4.0 trends focus on electronic devices and offer tremendous potential of control and management. In Pachuca, the customer requested that the electrical panels be made with Allen Bradley components and required variable speed drive and PLC, as well as HMI. The onboard information available on the touch screen gives immediate access to all key parameters of the machine. Additionally, the units are connected and communicate to have even working hours. The flexibility required to satisfy these customer specifications cannot be given by serially produced machines. Pneumofore adapts to the various climatic, voltage or PLC requirements to fit perfectly.

Substantial works are being undertaken in Waco Texas, USA for the erection of the new Envasas Universales can factory. Following the positive experience thus far, this growing player in the international two-piece can world scene selected Pneumofore again for the three pressure lines required to run the new factory.

In summary, at the core of any decision regarding industrial machine investment, we find the quest for 'efficiency over time.' Rising costs of electrical energy and gas have generated a new approach with a greater emphasis on longevity rather than the purchase price alone. Running power costs of energy-intense equipment, like compressors and pumps, make the largest share of their total life cycle cost. The constant efficiency over time offered by the rotary vane technology of Pneumofore is highly appreciated and translates into significant savings, so that the return of investment, when replacing other technologies, namely screw, is sometimes shorter than 18 months. **CT**

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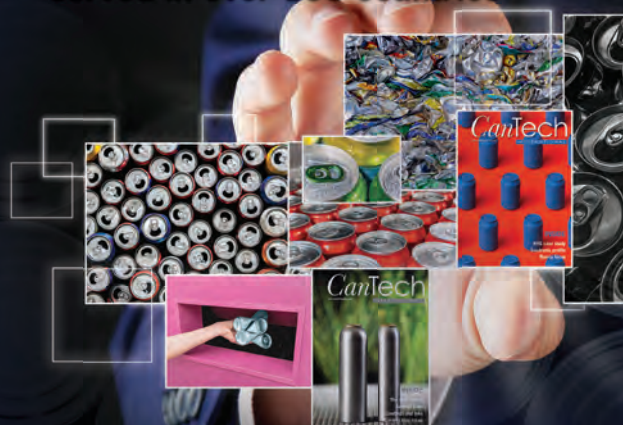


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Sealed with safety in mind

ROCOL, UK manufacturer of industrial lubricants and fluids, details the benefits of effective food-grade lubricants in can seaming

Food and beverage manufacturers are under more pressure than ever to ensure almost surgical levels of hygiene within their manufacturing plants, to protect both consumer wellbeing and the company's reputation from harm.

The correct maintenance and lubrication of machinery in these environments forms a major part of ensuring that the risk of contamination is minimised, and any downtime is kept to an absolute minimum.

The correct lubrication of can seaming machinery using a food-safe lubricant is vital for secure can sealing. It also greatly reduces the risk of contamination from a seaming machine flinging lubricant when in operation. Further to this, using the correct product in the right way will help prevent costly audit failures.

Preventing irregular seams

Poor quality or incorrect seaming can lead to premature product deterioration and potential contamination. Poor and incorrect seams are often an early sign that there is an issue with your equipment. Contamination risk from poorly applied lubricant does not always offer the same warning signs.

Effective lubrication helps to reduce the corrosion of parts on the seamers, which in turn offers protection from rust contamination. Using a non-food grade lubricant can negate these benefits, which is why Rocol developed its FoodLube Seamer Fluid 150.

Image: Shutterstock



Meeting stringent audit requirements

One of the key reasons for using a specialist food grade lubricant is to ensure food safety. If a product displays the NSF H1 logo, its formulation has been verified as safe for use in food, beverage and pharmaceutical production environments.

As of February 2023, the BRC Global Standard Food Safety (Issue 9) is in effect, with manufacturers being audited accordingly. BRCGS Issue 9 puts an increased focus on creating a strong product safety culture across food manufacturing facilities. It specifies the safety, quality and operational criteria that manufacturing organisations are measured against to ensure legal compliance and the protection of the end consumer.

It extends food safety criteria across a wider range of companies, which means that more facilities that operate at every point in the food manufacturing supply chain are being audited to the same stringent criteria. A food packaging provider must now show the same stringent food safety performance as a chocolate maker.

FoodLube Seamer Fluid 150 from Rocol works with both total loss and recirculating systems, carries the NSF H1 logo and is also certified by the Vegan Society. Using FoodLube products will help when a facility is audited to BRCGS standards.

Why use a specialist lubricant?

A dedicated seamer lubricant should boost the performance and adhesion of your seamer and provide excellent corrosion protection, prolonging the equipment life.

With either a total loss or recirculating lubrication system, excess lubricant and grease can gather above the open cans on the seamer roll bearings or upper turret. This presents an increased risk of lubricant or grease dripping, being flung or tossed from moving parts. If a non-food grade lubricant is used and enters the can during the seaming process, the product is contaminated and unfit for sale or consumption.

Andy Howard, food segment specialist at Rocol, says, "Open cans and fast-moving seamer components all increase the risk of accidental contamination.

"Effective lubrication helps improve seamer performance and achieve a higher quality end product without compromising on food safety. Add in the reduced risk of production downtime, and it's easy to see why a high-quality seamer fluid is a must for your production line." 

Belvac debuts new necker machine

Belvac, part of Dover, and a leading global supplier in the two-piece metal packaging industry for over 60 years, has announced the latest development in can necking technology, the Servo Belvac Necker.

"The Servo Belvac Necker marks a new generation of energy-efficient machinery for the two-piece aluminium packaging industry. With the growing industry demand for sustainable technology, the Servo Belvac Necker has been engineered to maximise the profitability of can plant operations," said Eric Hodge, director of global sales operations at Belvac.

The Servo Belvac Necker can continuously operate up to 3,600 cans per minute while utilising advanced servo motor control, allowing for every turret to independently rotate. The Servo Belvac Necker uses up to 15% less electrical consumption compared to the standard motor and gearbox configuration on a traditional necker. The independent rotation is ideal for quickly resolving can jam situations, facilitating faster resetting and synchronisation, which in turn increases efficiency.

"Belvac has invested significantly in value engineering the machine, which addresses our customers' need for more sustainable technology," said David Mammolenti, president of Belvac.

The company showcased the Servo Belvac Necker for the first time at Metpack in Essen, Germany.



Image: Belvac

IPS introduces CanSpray

Integrated Packaging Solutions has introduced its new CanSpray, which it is calling 'a better IC spray machine.'

The IPS CanSpray applies inside coating to two-piece can bodies. With advanced spray capture, automated gun nozzle cleaning and a servo gun positioning system, the CanSpray provides a consistently cleaner and more efficient spray application. Designed with an industry standard footprint, the CanSpray easily replaces outdated machines, or is a perfect addition to a line speed-up, according to IPS.

The CanSpray can handle speeds up to 350 cans per minute, with can diameters of 52mm – 73mm, and can heights of 76mm – 203mm.

Features of the CanSpray include the servo controlled GunMOUNT PRO, which enables repeatable gun positioning; the ExhaustBOX, which improves spray capture resulting in a cleaner machines with less maintenance; and the NozzleCLEAN, which reduces manual gun cleaning, ensuring a consistent, quality spray pattern.



Image: IPS

Bonfiglioli Engineering showcases leak inspection for low-thickness aerosol cans

Manufacturers are continuously looking to save on production costs while maintaining high-quality packaging. The aerosol can market is no different; however, these cans are especially sensitive to metal thickness reduction due to overpressure inside the cans. In addition, any leak testing solution of aerosol cans must meet the requirements outlined in the ADR (European agreement concerning the international carriage of dangerous goods by road).

Bonfiglioli Engineering, a global specialist in the design and construction of packaging inspection systems for various industries, was awarded a project to manufacture a new generation of KBA systems with high-speed inspection capabilities, which exceeded the previous speed threshold. This innovative solution for 100% in-line leak testing is equipped with the ESA (Enhanced Sensitivity Algorithm), which provides leak testing for low-thickness aerosol cans at speeds of up to 800 aerosol cans per minute.

The KBA non-invasive, non-destructive leak inspection machine for empty aerosol cans is available in various configurations: 24, 36, 48 and the recently delivered 60 testing heads. This versatile design ensures that customers' production speeds are easily matched, even for cans with internal pressurisation levels that range up to 15BarG/220PSI.

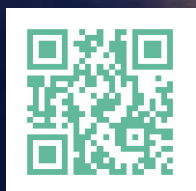
The KBA system is designed to meet and exceed the needs of the customers while meeting global regulatory standards such as those outlined in FEA guidelines, ADR, DOT requirements (49 CFR 173.306). Bonfiglioli Engineering KBA leak testing machines are engineered to be compliant with Industry 4.0 requirements, with the ability to monitor pneumatical and electrical energy consumption. Other system options include MES (Manufacturing Execution System) connection, also referred to as OEE) and Statistical Process Control, which reduces deviations for a better yield control and challenge leak mode.



Image: Bonfiglioli Engineering

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Absolut enters US collaboration with Ocean Spray

Absolut Vodka has announced a new ready-to-drink (RTD) line with Ocean Spray, building on the brands' successful marketing partnership in the US.

Inspired by the classic combination of vodka and cranberry juice, the Absolut Vodka and Ocean Spray Vodka-Cranberry Range RTD will be launched in early 2024. The range will include a variety 8-pack of four sparkling combinations, two 4-packs and single cans.

"Ocean Spray's cranberry heritage is bringing real juice credentials to the spirits category," said Monisha Dabek, chief commercial officer and general manager, USA, at Ocean Spray. "We're excited to bring to life a longstanding consumer favourite



pour, Vodka + Cran, and are incredibly excited to collaborate with the Absolut and Pernod Ricard USA teams to delight consumers into the future."

"Absolut Vodka and Ocean Spray Cranberry Juice have long been enjoyed together at bars and in homes across the country," said Natalie Accari, vice president, RTD & Convenience North America, Pernod Ricard USA. "We are very excited to be bringing this beloved classic cocktail to our consumers in a convenient new format."

Absolut Vodka and Ocean Spray Vodka-Cranberry Range is manufactured, marketed, and distributed by Pernod Ricard USA.

Moonlight can illuminates branding for naka CBD waters

French beverage startup, naka, is launching its new all-natural CBD water, naka moonlight.

The enchanting naka moonlight can joins the original edition, naka sunset, and expands a distinctive graphic universe dreamed up by acclaimed UK-based Chinese illustrator, Jason Lyon, brought to life through naka's close collaboration with the French graphics team at Ardagh Metal Packaging (AMP) and finished with AMP's Premium Print solution. With the launch of the new flavour, naka's floating jellyfish is now the focal point on two cans, cementing the brand's identity across its packaging.

Gerlof Toenhake, director of regional sales at Ardagh Metal Packaging Europe, said, "The first naka can was already a head-turner – a great example of what can be done when a customer's fantastic creative idea meets the dedicated technical expertise of our local graphics teams, who are based all over Europe. The new naka moonlight can is another triumph, pairing beautifully with the original and boosting the overall branding for naka."

Lorène Tanchou, naka co-founder, commented, "Working closely with AMP's graphics team in La Ciotat helped us ensure the perfect look once again for our second product. From the initial colour selection, to approving the proof cans and taking it to final high-speed production, all the steps went smoothly and meant we could achieve a timely market introduction for naka moonlight."

The 250ml slim aluminium can was an obvious format for naka CBD waters, emphasising the verticality of the design as well as offering a 360-degree surface for the dreamy graphics. It is filled by expert can filler, Cacolac, a family-owned entrepreneurial company based near Bordeaux.

The two naka cans are available across France in major supermarkets and groceries such as Monoprix, Casino and Franprix, as well as specialist channels like La Grande Épicerie de Paris. With ambitions to become a category leader in the emerging CBD drinks sector, naka will be targeting exports as the next distribution frontier.



TUBEX UNVEILS NEW REFILL PACK

Tubex has launched a 100% recycled and recyclable refill tube made of a single material.

French luxury beauty label, La bouche rouge, was the first brand to adopt the MonoRefill and is using it for the refills in its new perfume range. The brand is known for its 'no plastic' policy and for making beauty products from recycled and upgraded materials with natural ingredients and formulas.

The MonoRefill is lightweight, made of 100% recycled aluminium (95% of which is PCR), and is easily recyclable. Designed for a low environmental impact, the MonoRefill reduces emissions, helps to eliminate waste, and keeps valuable packaging materials in the loop.

A unique alloy, designed especially for Tubex, allows for the reuse of aluminium packaging that has already been disposed of and recycled. The tube is manufactured in a single step using a single aluminium slug for the entire tube. This means it is made of a single material (no plastic cap) and therefore much easier to recycle.

The MonoRefill was also designed with the consumer experience in mind. It is easy and satisfying to use, according to Tubex: consumers simply snap off the aluminium closure and empty the contents into the original container – down to the last drop. The tube allows easy emptying while preventing spillages and mess – even with liquids like perfume. When the MonoRefill is empty, consumers can flip the closure over and insert it back into the tube so that



Image: Tubex

everything gets recycled together.

"We designed the MonoRefill to provide brands with a sustainable solution for refilling complex original packaging, or as an alternative to existing refills made of plastics or other materials that are hard to recycle. Most of the refill solutions available on the market are not circular, and many are not even recyclable. We have seen a lot of interest for our solution in a variety of sectors, including beauty and personal care, and home care," said Thierry Bitout, Group CEO at Tubex.

"The MonoRefill can be used to refill perfume bottles and different types of jars and small bottles. It can also carry concentrates to refill bigger bottles or dispensers. We believe many product categories can benefit from our solution."

thyssenkrupp launches keg made of CO₂ reduced tinplate

German tinplate manufacturer, thyssenkrupp Rasselstein, has launched the world's first five-litre keg made of CO₂-reduced bluemint steel, together with the German companies Kleemann and Westerwald Brauerei.

In the joint project, thyssenkrupp Rasselstein supplies the CO₂-reduced packaging steel, Kleemann produces and prints the kegs, and the Hachenburger brewery uses 100% aromatic hops for the production and filling.

"In the production of the new bluemint packaging steels, we are clearly focusing on CO₂ reduction: by using biomethane and specially processed steel scrap, we can save up to 69% of our CO₂ emissions, making packaging steel even more sustainable," explained Dr Peter Biele, CEO of thyssenkrupp Rasselstein.

By using bluemint steel in the production of the beer kegs, Kleemann has been able to significantly reduce its Scope 3 emissions.

"Kleemann is a partner with whom we

have been working for years. Long-term partnerships at eye level are our aim. Thanks to sustainable raw material and a reliable partner for Westerwald Brauerei, I see our five-litre party kegs well-positioned for the future," said Jens Geimer, managing partner of Westerwald Brauerei.

The five-litre party keg is a successful concept of the family-owned brewery from the Westerwald. By switching its five-litre party kegs to bluemint steel, Westerwald Brauerei can further reduce its carbon footprint.



Image: thyssenkrupp Rasselstein

ACE Cider releases new pineapple offering

ACE Cider, a premium craft cider company and wholly owned subsidiary of Vintage Wine Estates (VWE), has introduced its newest product: ACE HIGH Imperial Pineapple, which joins the ACE HIGH Imperial lineup in the US.

ACE HIGH Imperial Pineapple is an 8% ABV version of top-selling ACE Pineapple, packaged in 12oz aluminium cans and available on draft at select locations across the US.

The beverage delivers a refreshing, tropical taste with a slightly higher alcohol content, according to the cider company.

"ACE Pineapple Cider is one of the best-selling hard ciders in the US. Launched just in time for summer, ACE HIGH Imperial brings a bigger, exciting version, loaded with flavour, and dialled up on the ABV," shared Tracey Mason, senior vice president and general manager of ACE Cider.

"Our HIGH Imperial line is a big hit with our consumers and ACE HIGH Imperial Pineapple gives our leading, preferred flavour an extra kick that we are certain will gain new fans."



New visual identity for Mirinda cans

PepsiCo-owned carbonated soft drink brand, Mirinda, has revealed its new global brand platform, 'There's no flavour like your flavour,' alongside a playful new visual identity system, which honours creativity and uniqueness in all generations.

Coinciding with the #NoFlavourLike YourFlavour launch, Mirinda has been given a striking new visual identity called 'Making an M-pact,' which was developed by PepsiCo Design and Innovation to ignite creativity. The Mirinda logo has been refreshed with a brighter green, along with sharper corners and cleaner lines to amplify its distinction. The iconic Mirinda 'M' serves as a canvas of creativity from which the brand is brought to life. The new visual identity features playful colour palettes which provide a burst of refreshment, while twirling spheres, fizzing bubbles and zesty fruit illustrations convey a sense of playfulness and energy throughout, says the brand.

Mirinda's new visual identity is being rolled out across the leading 20 international markets, with many featuring their native languages on the cans. Kicking off with Vietnam and Thailand, the new visual identity will then appear in Poland, Romania, Czechia, Ukraine, Hungary, Croatia, Gaza/Palestine, Mexico, Argentina, Egypt, Iraq, Uganda, Ethiopia, China, Pakistan, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates, with more to come.



Image: PepsiCo

Image: ACE Cider

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AUTOMATED PACKAGING LINE EQUIPMENT



Ska Fabrications
545 Turner Drive,
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Tel: +1 970 403 8562
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BAGGERS AND WRAPPERS FOR ENDS



Autorema
Polígono industrial El Saladar, I
C/ José Guillén Martínez, esq. C/ Río
Quipar
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Tel: +34 968 687 523
Fax: +34 968 687 565
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BALANCING OVENS & OXIDIZERS



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BEADING UNITS



Cheng Shin Enterprise Co., Ltd.
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Longjing Dist., Taichung City, Taiwan
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BEVERAGE / SANITARY END-MAKING SYSTEMS



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BEVERAGE / SANITARY END-MAKING SYSTEMS



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BODYMAKER COOLANT FILTRATION SYSTEMS



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BODYMAKERS



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BODYMAKERS D+I



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BODYMAKER SPARE PARTS



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CANTRIMMERS



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CAP MAKING MACHINES



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CAPPING MACHINES



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COATING MACHINES



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COATING MACHINES BOTTOM RIM



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COIL HANDLING SYSTEMS



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CUPPING SYSTEMS



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CUPPING/SHELL DIES



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More environmentally minded consumers than ever before

Trivium Packaging's 2023 Buying Green Report, released in conjunction with this year's Earth Day, has found that, despite consumer prices rising substantially due to global inflation, consumers are increasingly willing to pay more for products in sustainable packaging.

In partnership with Euromonitor International, Trivium's fourth Buying Green Report surveyed over 9,000 consumers across Europe, North America and South America.

The survey found that 82 per cent of respondents overall would be willing to pay more for sustainable packaging, up four points from 2022, and eight points since 2021, signalling that even with a worsening economic situation, the environment remains a consumer priority. Younger consumers (18–24 year-olds) are even more willing, leading the Trivium statistics at 90 per cent.

Consumers now consider the impact their purchases have on the environment, and the majority already have incorporated sustainable practices in their daily lives; two-thirds of consumers consider themselves environmentally aware. Up six points from last year's survey, 63 per cent of consumers are now less likely to buy products with packaging that is harmful to the environment. Their intentions are reflected in their actions: 71 per cent already engage in reusable and refillable activities (and 80 per cent are interested in buying refillable packaging products to reduce their environmental impact), while over half engage in reducing food and packaging waste.

Narrowing in on sustainable packaging specifically, the report states that 71 per cent of consumers are actively choosing products due to the sustainability factor of the product packaging. Interest in purchasing products in sustainable packaging has increased since 2022, especially among younger consumers and high earners. But while 59 per cent look for information on the label about recycling and sustainability, 46 per cent say the biggest barrier to purchase was unclear labelling on packaging, something *CanTech International's* published insights have found repeatedly.

"There's a major opportunity here to improve consumer understanding of sustainability claims," said Jenny Wassenaar, chief sustainability officer at Trivium Packaging. "The data in this year's Buying Green Report shows that consumers are seeking out more information than ever before to improve their understanding of eco-friendly packaging. Trivium's imperative is to not only incorporate sustainability at every level of our business but to educate consumers on what they're buying and the impact of their purchase."

"The data in this year's Buying Green Report presents a strong case that transitioning to sustainable packaging is not only the right decision for the environment but also the right decision for the business," said Trivium Packaging CEO, Michael Mapes. "It's clear that consumers are paving the way for a sustainable future, and businesses need to listen – external factors like the economy don't phase the eco-conscious demand. Buyers are looking at the big picture: the survival of our planet. Consumers are turning away from harmful packaging and turning towards sustainable, recyclable options like metal packaging." **CT**

Image: Trivium Packaging Buying Green Report 2023, page 16

% of consumers very likely or likely to purchase a product based on sustainable packaging claims



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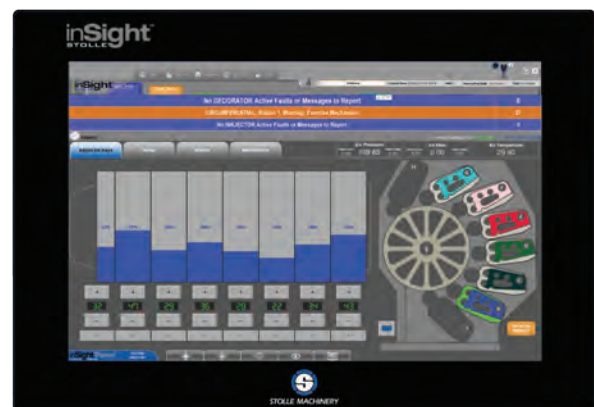
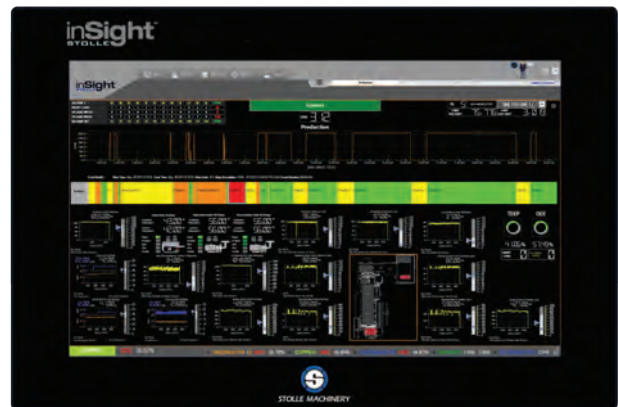
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