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Worldwide expertise

As July edges closer, so does this year's edition of Cannex & Fillex Asia Pacific. From 16-19 July, the global metal packaging industry will meet in Guangzhou, China, to share ideas and network in a trade fair setting. You can find out about some of the exhibiting companies from page 20, with additional detail to come from more metal packaging suppliers in our July edition of the magazine.

On the subject of events, I'm excited to say that we've announced the location of 2025's CanTech the Grand Tour – turn to the news on page 8 to find out where we're heading.

At the beginning of our news pages is a piece from Evert van de Weg, a veteran of our editorial board and who I've had the pleasure of working with for the past two years now. Evert will be going into semi-retirement from his regular writing post, meaning we'll still hear from him, but with less frequency.

The final part of Evert's 2024 seaming series can be found on page 28. We hope you've enjoyed reading about the history as much as we have, and thank Evert for his plethora of insightful regular

contributions throughout the years.

Elsewhere in the magazine, Liz Newmark, Heba Hashem and Naubet Bisenov explore what the possibility of a ban on Russian metal means for the US and European aluminium industries – head to page 32 for more detail.

On page 36, Cincinnati Industrial Machinery's David Williams discusses the company's expertise in washers and dryers, which can trace its origins back to the early 1960s.

Our Q&A features come from two exhibiting companies at this year's Cannex. On page 38, Jonathan R Lasecki, director of engineering for Ashworth, shares key features of its belting solutions for can making applications, as well as detailing the industry challenges they address. In the coatings world, PPG's global segment manager for easy open ends, Viktoria Tager, answers questions around innovation, sustainability and regulations (page 40).

Enjoy the read!

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CanTech International

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Evert van de Weg retires from CanTech editorial board

In his own words, **Evert van de Weg** recounts his career in the metal packaging world, and his time writing articles for *CanTech International*

At the end of the 1960s, I became the first salesman for twist-off closures in the Netherlands at leading Dutch can maker, Thomassen & Drijver-Verblifa, based in Deventer. Introducing such a new closure concept into a diversified market of large and small brand owners made for an exciting time, also because of the manifold business contacts with other European twist-off producers like Metal Box and Schmalbach-Lubeca.

At my request, in 1980, I moved to the marketing side of our beverage can division. The breakthrough of two-piece beverage cans had just begun; brand owners like Heineken, Grolsch and Stella Artois, Bavaria had yet to be convinced. We promoted cans in various ways, and I worked fruitfully together with advertising agencies to try and convince the broader public of the can's advantages, with tempting slogans.

However, I was not only dedicated to my work and family: during the years 1985 and 1986 I completed the famous Dutch Eleven City Race three times.

This is an ice-skating marathon of over 200 kilometres at a stretch connecting 11 cities in the province of Friesland.

In 1990, I started working in the food can division. My main task there was to work within a newly formed project group on easier opening easy open ends (EOE). Our main competitor, Crown, had just launched its new Eole end and secured a contract with Mars.

In 1994, our company, called Continental Can Europe, was taken over, together with our German sister company, Schmalbach-Lubeca, by the German VIAG Group. My role moved to the new head office of CCE in Ratingen, near Düsseldorf. Within a small team, I explored potential acquisitions in and outside of Europe, as our main competitor, Crown, had recently taken over CarnandMetalbox. This endeavour led me to metal packaging companies in Turkey, Slovenia, Austria, Poland, India and the Czech Republic.

In 1997, a group of international investors bought Continental Can Europe. The new name became Impress,

and I moved back to the food can group in the former head office in Deventer. In 2000, I was dismissed due to company restructuring. In the meantime, I wrote as a columnist for leading Dutch packaging magazine, *Verpakkingsmanagement*. I continued writing for this magazine for more than ten years – not only about metal packaging, but also about other packaging formats for consumer products.

I was also invited to write about steel packaging developments in the magazine belonging to APEAL in Brussels. There, I met an English journalist who put me in contact with Neil McRitchie. In 1999, Neil purchased *CanTech International* magazine from the US. Neil and myself met shortly after in the Netherlands and agreed that I would write on a regular basis for *CanTech*. I have done that since, with much pleasure and great satisfaction.

During my time at *CanTech*, I have worked with at least five different editors-in-chief, always guided by editorial director, Sarah McRitchie.

What inspired me most was the freedom I had in choosing interview partners within a varied pool of metal packaging players.

One highlight was my trip through Turkey, interviewing the companies Öntas, Crown, Sarten, Hilal, Umar Vatan and Bati Makina. Another was interviewing the CEO of Saturnus in Ljubljana, Slovenia, just after its privatisation.

I will not easily forget the interview with the CEO of Canpack in Krakow, Poland, nor the interview I had with the CEO of Impress at the border of the Seine in Paris. The conversations with high-ranking managers of Shetron in Mumbai, India, were very striking in their insights. I could go endlessly on.

While I regret that I am to cease writing every month for the magazine due to my age (80), I can look back on many years of happy cooperation with the fantastic *Cantech International* team, and thank them very much. 🇳🇱



Evert (left) handing former owner and director of the Netherlands-based The Box, Tony Veer, the CanTech the Grand Tour Award from the virtual 2022 edition of the show. Image: Evert van de Weg

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Brandt & Partners launches internationally

German consulting business, Brandt & Partners, has launched worldwide. The company is an international network of industry experts specialising in executive search, business consulting, and talent development.

Its vast range of industries covered includes printing & packaging and can making & metal decorating, headed up by Ralf Gumbel, who has many years of experience as managing director of printing companies and as CEO of a manufacturer of metal decorating presses.

Gumbel has extensive knowledge in all technical details of printing and in the packaging industry, especially metal packaging, the beverage industry and folding cartons. He has experience at top management level with all three major German printing press manufacturers, including Koenig & Bauer.

In the areas of print, packaging and metal packaging, Brandt & Partners can assist with increasing quality and higher

output, for example quality upgrades in pressroom production, combined with pressroom management check-ups and trainings for better processes, better workflows, shorter make-ready and higher output from existing equipment.

Brandt & Partners offers high level knowledge to protect investments, as well as support in equipment and technology projects for customers and suppliers.

Its executive search and interim management services ensure that people are placed in roles that best match their skills and the needs of the business. Brandt & Partners says its team uses their knowledge of the market, databases and experience to find the right candidates with complete discretion. In the event of an unexpected gap in company management, Brandt & Partners will take over, or find a suitable interim replacement.

To receive further information, visit: brandtpartners.com or contact Ralf Gumbel at ralf.gumbel@brandtpartners.com



Location announced for CanTech the Grand Tour 2025

Bell Publishing and *CanTech International* are pleased to announce that the 2025 edition of CanTech the Grand Tour will be held in Brussels, Belgium. There is a hive of metal packaging activity in Brussels, and our location will serve as an important meeting place for can makers, suppliers, decision-makers and thought leaders to come together to discuss industry developments, and create potential new business opportunities. We hope you can all join us there.

More details will be announced shortly, but please email vicky@bellpublishing.com or aimee@bellpublishing.com to register your interest, and keep an eye on our website, cantechthegrandtour.com.

Mauser Packaging Solutions completes acquisition of Taenza

The subsidiary of Mauser Packaging Solutions, BWAY Corporation, has announced it has completed its acquisition of Taenza, a manufacturer of tin-steel general line, sanitary, and aerosol cans, and steel pails based in Mexico.

"We are happy to welcome Taenza to our Mauser family," said Mark Burgess, chief executive officer, Mauser Packaging Solutions.

"Taenza's legacy manufacturing capability and strong local presence in the Mexican markets combined with Mauser's global network will enable us to make the Taenza business, and Mauser, more successful in the future."

The transaction is expected to be complementary to Mauser's existing business and provides Mauser with numerous key strategic benefits, including growth opportunity in the Mexican paint, sanitary, and speciality markets, and additional manufacturing locations, capacity, and capabilities.

Wallram announces new partnerships

Wallram has announced a cooperation with 7Ogun, which is now Wallram's agent for South America, covering all countries south of Mexico for the company's can tooling business.

Additionally, Wallram recently announced its agreement with Joe Maurer that provides support primarily in the areas of R&D, as well as tool optimisation, especially in application.

Simak opens Oman seafood canning centre

The International Seafood Company (Simak), a subsidiary of Fisheries Development Oman (FDO), has announced it is developing a large canning plant for tuna, sardines and mackerel in the Oman Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD).

Simak boasts an estimated output of over 100 million cans annually. The project encompasses facilities for processing, cold storage and finished goods storage.



Hydro Aluminium UK receives two RoSPA awards

Hydro Aluminium UK, a subsidiary of the global aluminium and renewable energy company, Norsk Hydro, has demonstrated its commitment to elevating health and safety standards by entering the UK's leading health and safety awards scheme and scooping two accolades from The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA).

Hydro Aluminium UK was awarded both a Gold Achievement Award and a Best New Entry Award (UK) at this year's RoSPA Awards for its strong commitment to health and safety.

It was awarded the accolade after it took a thorough approach to clearly explaining and demonstrating its health and safety management system in action during the past year. The organisation also ran a series of initiatives such as a family fun day, safety stand down days and extracurricular first aid training, and installed a series of defibrillators for general public use.

Erika Curnow, an apprentice interim manager at Hydro Aluminium UK, was also announced as the winner of RoSPA's Inspiring Women in Safety Award, for her own personal inspirational impact within health and safety at the organisation.

Sponsored by EcoOnline, RoSPA's Best New Entry Award recognises outstanding submissions made by organisations entering the RoSPA Awards for the very first time. The RoSPA Health and Safety Awards is one of the largest occupational health and safety awards programme in the world.

Now in its 68th year, the Awards have almost 2,000 entries annually, covering nearly 60 countries and reaching millions of employees. The programme recognises an organisation's commitment to continuous improvement in the prevention of accidents and ill health at work.

Image: Hydro Aluminium UK

Guala Closures enters the crown closures market

Guala Closures has signed an agreement to acquire Astir Vitogiannis Bros, a leading manufacturer of crown closures. Astir manufactures over 12 billion closures annually and in the year ended 2023, generated a turnover of €75 million and an EBITDA of €19 million.

Established in 1953, Astir has two production plants in Greece and South Africa and a strong international presence. Its blue-chip clients include major international producers in both the beer and non-alcoholic beverage industries.

Stelios Vitogiannis, CEO of Astir (and the founder's grandson) will remain as CEO of the business. He will reinvest in Guala Closures and report to Guala Closures' CEO, Mauro Caneschi.

This transaction is in line with Guala Closures' strategy of pursuing and successfully integrating synergistic acquisitions to profitably grow the business. After the acquisition of Astir,

Guala Closures will be capable of offering all available closures for glass bottles worldwide.

Once completed, the acquisition of Astir will enable the Group to expand its presence in emerging markets characterised by demographic growth and increasing per capita consumption, and to provide closures for the attractive ready-to-drink and non-alcoholic beverage segments.

Astir's products are designed for glass bottles, which reflect their use in premium products in the relevant segments (including beer and non-alcoholic beverages), and are highly sustainable, both factors being highly attractive to consumers.

The agreed enterprise value for the acquisition is of approximately €136 million.

The acquisition is subject to various standard closing conditions and is expected to close in H2 2024.



Image: Guala Closures

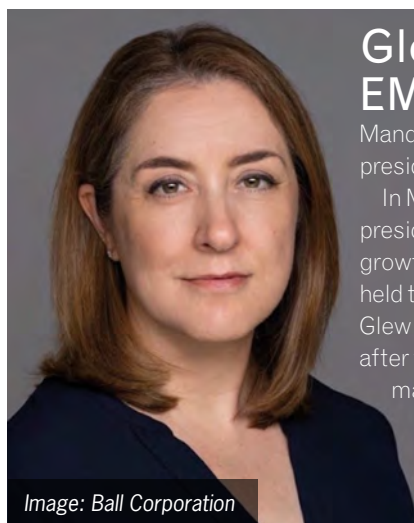


Image: Ball Corporation

Glew appointed Ball EMEA president

Mandy Glew has been elected to serve as senior vice president and president, EMEA, of Ball Corporation.

In March 2024, Glew was promoted to the role of president, EMEA, succeeding Carey Causey, Ball's chief growth officer. Glew joined Ball in 2020, and previously held the role of vice president, commercial, Ball EMEA. Glew started her career in manufacturing and logistics, after which she moved into marketing, commercial and management roles at Procter & Gamble. She holds a PhD in chemistry from the University of Hull and studied managerial finance at the London School of Economics and Politics.

BUNTING ANNOUNCES TD WRIGHT ACQUISITION

Bunting, global leader in magnetic solutions, has announced its acquisition of TD Wright, premier manufacturer of magnetic printing cylinders. This acquisition marks a significant expansion of Bunting's product range, particularly in the printing sector.

Recognised for manufacturing the original adjustable tapered shaft for the metal decorating industry, TD Wright's flagship ENOCTM System revolutionised the way label changes are performed and has become the industry standard for the Rutherford Decorator. TD Wright also manufactures CD2 and Concord cylinders for the metal decorating industry, as well as CTP cylinders and MMRE rare earth cylinders for folding carton, labelling, and

beyond. The TD Wright product line is recognised by the ModularTM Magnetic "checkerboard" design.

"We are thrilled to welcome TD Wright to the Bunting family," said Robert Bunting Jr, president and CEO of Bunting. "We look forward to building on the legacy David and Joseph McEachern have made in the printing cylinder industry. Their dedication to quality and innovation aligns seamlessly with Bunting's commitment to excellence. This acquisition enhances our ability to offer customers premium magnetic solutions tailored to their specific needs."

"With the combined knowledge and precision manufacturing of these two companies, we will be able to support the metal decorating industry and the magnetic cylinder market like never before," commented Joseph McEachern, CEO of TD Wright. "I'm excited for TD Wright to join the Bunting family, and to work alongside Robert and his team as we move forward to produce the best cylinders in the industry."

Bunting stated its acquisition of TD Wright reinforces its position as a leading magnetics company with a global presence. With facilities in North America, Europe, and Asia, Bunting continues to innovate and provide magnetic solutions for industries worldwide.



Image: Bunting

Stolle relocates Asia Pacific office

Stolle Machinery has announced it has relocated its Asia Pacific office in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Formerly located at Stolle Asia Pacific's warehouse facility in Binh Duong north of the city, the new Stolle Asia Pacific Commercial Representative office is now centrally-located in one of the ultra-modern Viettel Tower buildings, located 25 minutes south of Tan Son Nhat International Airport (SGN), which is a geographically central location in Ho Chi Minh City. Stolle Asia Pacific's warehouse facility in Binh Duong is also being renovated as part of the office relocation project to enhance the warehouse operation with more parts on the shelves and faster delivery.

According to Chris Zagrodnichek, Stolle senior vice president and head of Stolle's Asia Pacific operations, "The new Stolle Asia Pacific Commercial Representative office has been designed to enhance the productivity and effectiveness of the staff to provide better communications and

support to Stolle's customers throughout Southeast Asia and beyond."

The office is currently staffed by 12 employees that handle a range of customer service functions, including machinery sales support, spare parts ordering and field service scheduling. The staff also includes engineers who support Stolle's sales, service and can and end line facilities work throughout the region.



Image: Stolle



Image: EGA

EGA completes acquisition of Leichtmetall

Emirates Global Aluminium (EGA), the largest premium aluminium producer in the world, has announced the completion of the acquisition of Leichtmetall Aluminium Giesserei Hannover. EGA announced its intention in March to acquire Leichtmetall from Leichtmetall Holding, a subsidiary of an investment fund managed by Quantum Capital Partners. The transaction has now cleared all required regulatory approvals and closing conditions.

EGA's new German operation is a European speciality foundry that uses renewable energy to produce up to 30 thousand tonnes per year of billets, with secondary aluminium as some 80% of input material.

Production at Leichtmetall includes hard alloys and larger diameter billets up to 1,150 millimetres, with uses including manufacturing high load bearing extruded profiles and very large forged components.

Leichtmetall adds to EGA's existing business in Europe. EGA already exports over 600 thousand tonnes of primary aluminium to the European continent each year, and is a significant supplier for industries including automotive and construction.

Abdulnasser Bin Kalban, chief executive officer of Emirates Global Aluminium, said: "I am pleased to welcome our new Leichtmetall colleagues in Hannover to EGA. Becoming part of the biggest 'premium aluminium' producer in the world will give Leichtmetall new strength for its customers and to grow. For EGA, today is an important early milestone in our drive to build an aluminium recycling business in Europe, where we are already a major primary aluminium supplier, and around the world."

OEE celebrates King's Award

OEE Container Technology, a leader in providing engineering services to the global food and beverage can manufacturing industry, is proudly celebrating its receipt of the prestigious King's Award for Enterprise in International Trade. The Grant of Appointment and Trophy was presented by Alexander Scott, His Majesty's lord-lieutenant of Cumbria at a special ceremony at the company's headquarters in Carlisle, marking a significant milestone in OEE's history.

The event was attended by employees, suppliers, customers, family, friends, and notable dignitaries including deputy-lieutenant, Marcia Reid Fotheringham JP DL, deputy-lieutenant, Tess Hart MBE and the Conservative MP for Carlisle, John Stevenson.

The King's Award for Enterprise recognises British companies for their excellence in innovation, international trade, sustainable development, and social mobility. Winners of this esteemed award are granted the privilege to use the King's Award emblem for five years, symbolising excellence and quality on a global stage.

Sue Jones, managing director of OEE,



Image: OEE

shared her enthusiasm for the company's future, stating, "This accolade is a reflection of the strong relationships we've built with our global clients. It fuels our drive to continue enhancing our services and solutions within the can manufacturing industry."

Bruce Jones, managing director of OEE, also expressed his gratitude, emphasising the award as a testament to their team. "This award is a testament to our team's hard work and dedication. It motivates us to continue pushing the boundaries and expand our reach in the international

market," he said.

Since establishing a new office in the UAE in 2022, OEE has continued to secure substantial international projects. The company maintains strong relationships with some of the largest food and beverage can manufacturers globally, and equipment manufacturers in the UK and US, as well as with the UK Government, to support this growth. OEE employs a highly skilled multinational engineering team and has successfully completed projects across Europe, the Middle East, North America, South America and Asia.

SPECMETRIX AND BETTERCANS ANNOUNCE COLLABORATION

Two recognised metal packaging industry leaders have reached an agreement on an innovative collaboration and development alliance that brings the most precise film weight and coating thickness data available together with industry-leading aluminium can manufacturing expertise to help improve global two-piece aluminium beverage container manufacturing processes.

The new alliance between Sensory Analytics and BetterCans is designed to enable can makers to better utilise highly precise and impactful data from SpecMetrix systems to drive production and coating application process optimisation initiatives. SpecMetrix ACS systems produce instant, actionable, and precise coating thickness and film weight data for all applied container coatings. With decades of hands-on can making experience, the BetterCans team can work together with plant teams to suggest and implement meaningful coating process improvements based on that data to

improve container quality and reduce plant conversion costs.

According to Greg Frisby, global industry manager of SpecMetrix Systems at Sensory, "We are excited to bring meaningful impacts and immediate benefit to can makers through this innovative alliance. The BetterCans team are all highly experienced can makers that cover the entire beverage can making line. The potential for immediate improvements and impacts for can making

plants being delivered by two best-in-class solution providers is tremendous. All our valued SpecMetrix ACS system customers stand to gain significantly from this new value-added opportunity. Together with BetterCans, we expect to change film weight measurement from a regular plant expense into a new can plant profit centre."

Domingo R Gonzalez, president and founder of BetterCans, LLC added, "SpecMetrix measurement systems deliver an unprecedented level of actionable data of benefit to the can making process. Through our decades of can making expertise and hands-on experience, our proven team is uniquely qualified to guide plant and corporate teams to process improvements based on this data that has never been available before. We welcome the opportunity to enhance the quality, performance, and operational efficiency of can making lines together with the SpecMetrix systems team."



Image: Sensory Analytics



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LRS ADVANCES ALUMINIUM CAN RECOVERY

EverestLabs, developer of RecycleOS, the first AI-enabled operating system for material recovery facilities (MRFs) and recyclers, has announced its partnership with LRS, the US' fifth largest independent waste diversion, recycling and portable services provider.

With funding support from Can Manufacturers Institute (CMI) members, Ardagh Metal Packaging and Crown Holdings, LRS installed EverestLabs' RecycleOS material sorting robot in its newly opened MRF, The Exchange, on the residual line to help increase revenue and ensure maximum efficiency, recovery, and recycling of used beverage cans (UBCs). The EverestLabs robot assists in LRS maintaining quality control for over 350,000 pounds of recycled aluminium each month at The Exchange, which equates to approximately 12 million aluminium beverage cans.

The lease programme is the latest in a several-year CMI effort to demonstrate the potential additional revenue for the recycling system through capturing missorted UBCs and to spur the installation of additional can capture equipment in MRFs. The partnership with LRS follows on the heels of a collaboration between CMI, EverestLabs and Caglia Environmental, which has captured more than 1,500 additional UBCs per day since installation at a Caglia MRF.

"With both robot lease agreements that include a revenue share, CMI is able to leverage that UBCs are consistently one of the most valuable recyclable commodities," shared Scott Breen, senior vice president of sustainability at CMI. "CMI is receiving a portion of all revenue generated from the cans collected by the robot and then using those funds for even more can-capture equipment in MRFs."

Capturing mis-sorted cans at MRFs is one way to increase the US aluminium beverage can recycling rate. CMI's 2020 research, 'Aluminum Beverage Can: Driver of the U.S. Recycling System,' found that up to 25% of all UBCs entering MRFs may be mis-sorted and lost due to non-recovery. Alongside industry statistics showing a little less than half of aluminium beverage cans are recycled by US consumers, it is evident that the aluminium recycling ecosystem needs improvement, and UBCs are not being captured and utilised to their fullest potential in the circular economy. This is why CMI has proper sortation at recycling centres as one of its four pillars of action to reach its ambitious US aluminium beverage can recycling rate targets.

"The Exchange in Chicago is our second project with CMI, and we have been behind their mission to significantly increase the amount of UBCs recycled," said JD Ambati, founder and CEO of EverestLabs. "Our highly accurate, easily deployed vision systems and robots make it possible to retrofit existing sorting and last chance lines at a cost of ownership that makes perfect sense for both MRFs and aluminium packaging companies."

LRS announced the grand opening of The Exchange, a state-of-the-art MRF revolutionising waste management and recycling practices, in August 2023, and installed an EverestLabs RecycleOS Robotics cell later in the year. Supported by EverestLabs' material recovery efforts, the facility is able to divert 224 million pounds of recyclables annually, resulting in thousands of tons of avoided CO₂ emissions for the Chicagoland area. The unveiling and environmental mission behind The Exchange has opened opportunities to change the conversation around waste management and educate corporate partners and organisations on

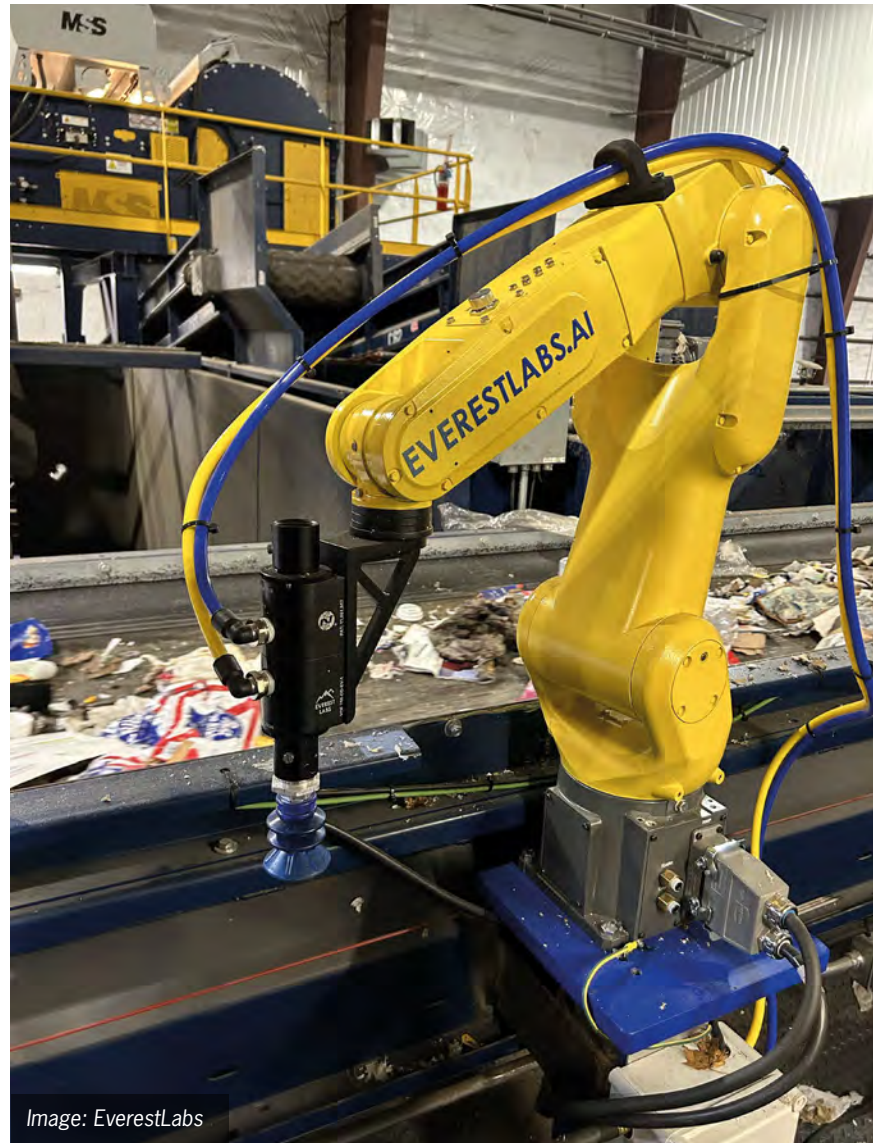


Image: EverestLabs

responsible production, consumption and recycling behaviours. LRS' pursuit of reducing its environmental footprint includes tactical changes such as infrastructure improvements, as well as seeking out organisations like EverestLabs to advance efficiency in existing facilities.

"At LRS, we're all about pushing the boundaries in recycling, and partnering with EverestLabs to install this innovative technology amplifies our commitment to sustainable recycling solutions," said John Sliwicki, area vice president, LRS. "By integrating EverestLabs' RecycleOS robot into our Chicagoland materials recovery facility, we've further enhanced our ability to rescue recyclables from ending up in landfills and advanced our mission of investing in infrastructure improvements that lessen our environmental impact."

The Exchange accepts up to 1,200 tons per day of municipal solid waste (MSW) and currently processes 25 tons of recyclables per hour. The facility features a transfer station and a single-stream sorting line with space for future expansion and accepts single-stream recyclables, non-hazardous and non-special MSW, and other various recyclables.

ALUPRO UPDATES ALUMINIUM MANIFESTO

On 30 April 2024, Alupro published a refreshed version of its pioneering Aluminium Manifesto. Initially launched in 2022, the Aluminium Manifesto outlines the views of the aluminium packaging industry and details the changes needed to deliver a world-class recycling system for the UK.

Alongside highlighting the positive progress made to date, including discussions surrounding the Simpler Recycling policy and a binary labelling system, the 2024 update also identifies where more progress is needed. This includes addressing confusion around Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and the need for sector-specific innovation support.

Its seven key asks call for changes to existing infrastructure, consistent communications and well-designed legislation.

Tom Giddings, executive director of Alupro, commented, "Aluminium packaging plays a vital role in achieving a circular economy. Our updated manifesto not only serves as a progress report, but also as a renewed call to action for the entire aluminium packaging supply chain."

"Our industry is incredibly proud of the improvement in recycling rates we've achieved over the last ten years, with over 80% of beverage cans and nearly 70% of all aluminium packaging being recycled in recent years. More remarkable still, this has been driven on a voluntary basis by Alupro members, but we're reaching the limit of what's possible without significant regulatory support."

"Our manifesto outlines seven key requests needed to deliver a world-class recycling system for the UK and, while we're encouraged by the small steps made in the past two years, there's still work to be done. We hope that it will serve as a roadmap to achieve a 100% recycling rate for aluminium packaging, foster collaboration and maximise the contribution of aluminium packaging to a circular economy in the UK."

Island Green Living recycles 3.4 million cans

Non-profit organisation, Island Green Living, aimed at initiating meaningful change on St. John and throughout the US Virgin Islands, has crushed and baled more than 3.4 million aluminium cans and 78.5 thousand pounds of captured ocean-bound plastic since its inception, it has reported.

At the beginning of May 2024, the organisation loaded up a 40-foot container donated by Tropical Shipping, which

included 251,163 cans and 8,707 pounds of plastic. The pallets made their way to recycling partner, Padnos.

Island Green Living picks up recyclables at three popular trash collection sites on St. John, with a dedicated truck.

The public can conveniently deposit their rinsed recyclable plastics and aluminium cans in Island Green's specially marked receptacles.



Image: Island Green Living

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primecontrols.com/eclipse

Four Peaks Brewing adds recycling tool to whole portfolio

Anheuser-Busch US craft brewery, Four Peaks Brewing, has announced its partnership with CIRT (Can I Recycle This?), becoming the first beverage company in the country to include CIRT's digital, location-based recycling tool on all of its packaging.

Born in Tempe, Arizona, Four Peaks launched refreshed packaging and branding this month on its entire portfolio, offering a modern look with meaningful sustainability messaging intended to increase consumer recycling behaviour. Founded in 1996, Four Peaks has become known for its award-winning Kilt Lifter and Wow Wheat beers throughout the Southwest, joining Anheuser-Busch's collective of craft brewery partners in 2016.

"We're incredibly excited for this partnership, as it was perfect timing to include on the new look of our entire portfolio," said Trevor Needle, marketing director at Four Peaks Brewing. "Four Peaks strives to make a positive impact one sip at a time. This partnership offers our consumers a way to easily determine exactly where and how to recycle our products, promoting and increasing recycling one can at a time."

In collaboration with CIRT, Four Peaks added the digital, location-based recycling tool to help recover its packaging, allowing consumers to quickly and easily access recycling instructions for all of Four Peaks's packaging, wherever they are. The tool is accessible via QR code on exterior packaging, as well as the metal cans and glass bottles themselves.

With CIRT's technology and database, Four Peaks has the potential to: provide location-specific recycling information on their packaging to over 21 million people; divert 3.5 million pounds of material from



Image: Anheuser-Busch

landfills; and offset over 5.1 million pounds of CO₂e emissions.

The CIRT platform was developed in part with backing from the 100+ Accelerator, a programme funded by Anheuser-Busch InBev, Unilever, Coca-Cola and Colgate-Palmolive. The 100+ Accelerator was created to fuel the growth of startups developing critical sustainability solutions.

UK's Defra announces Simpler Recycling approach

Robbie Moore, recycling minister for the UK's Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) has announced a new, 'common-sense' approach to recycling that aims to make it simpler and boost recycling rates for the nation.

Councils will be allowed to collect plastic, metal, glass, paper and card in one bin in all circumstances. Similarly, food and garden waste will also be allowed to be co-collected. There will remain a non-

recyclable, residual waste bin.

According to Defra, the move "will reduce confusion over what items can be recycled, as people will no longer have to check what their specific council will accept for recycling. It will also reduce complexity for councils and other waste collectors, ensuring they retain the flexibility to collect recyclable waste in the most appropriate way for their local areas."

"Additionally, the Government

is supporting more frequent and comprehensive bin collections. A minimum backstop means councils will be expected to collect black bin waste at least fortnightly, alongside weekly food waste collections. This will stop the trend – seen outside England – towards three-weekly or four-weekly bin collections. Councils are also being actively encouraged to make collections even more frequent, to prevent smelly waste from building up outside homes."

Recycling minister, Robbie Moore, commented: "We all want to do our bit to increase recycling and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill – but a patchwork of different bin collections across England means it can be hard to know what your council will accept."

"Our plans for simpler recycling will end that confusion: ensuring that the same set of materials will be collected regardless of where you live."

The plans will apply to all homes in England, including flats. Similar measures will apply to non-household municipal premises, including businesses, hospitals, schools and universities.

Image: Shutterstock



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

JUNE 2024

ALFED ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY DAY

The Environmental Sustainability Strategy Day is set to return on Thursday 6 June, held once again at BMA House, London.

Date: 6 June 2024

Location: London, UK

Website: alfed.org.uk

AEROSOL DISCUSSION EVENING

The British Aerosol Manufacturers' Association (BAMA)'s free evening which includes three 20-minute talks/discussions relating to the Association and Industry experiences.

Date: 11 June 2024

Location: York, UK

Website: bama.co.uk

PROPAK ASIA

Where processing and packaging excellence meets supply chain and value chain demands. ProPak Asia brings together stakeholders, MNC, SME, and MSME in pursuit of cutting-edge, sustainable, and cost-effective solutions for the food & beverage, agriculture, personal care, cosmetics, pharmaceutical, manufacturing and FMCG industries.

Date: 12-15 June 2024

Location: Bangkok, Thailand

Website: propakasia.com

JULY 2024

CANNEX CHINA

Cannex & Fillex – the World Canmaking Congress, is an international showcase of the latest can making and filling technologies from around the world. It provides a place to review the latest metal packaging equipment, materials and services and to make or re-establish valuable business contacts.

Date: 16-19 July 2024

Location: Guangzhou, China

Website: cannexfillex.com

SEPTEMBER 2024

UK METALS EXPO

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

Date: 11-12 September 2024

Location: Birmingham, UK

Website: ukmetalsexpo.com

LONDON PACKAGING WEEK

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

Date: 11-12 September 2024

Location: London, UK

Website: londonpackagingweek.com

IMDPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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

Date: 24-26 September 2024

Location: Illinois, US

Website: metaldecorators.org

OCTOBER 2024

ALUMINIUM EXHIBITION

The trade fair covering the entire value chain for aluminium, under the motto 'Sharing a vision.'

Date: 8-10 October 2024

Location: Düsseldorf, Germany

Website: aluminium-exhibition.com

ASIA CANTECH

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

Date: 21-23 October 2024

Location: Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Website: asia-can.com

NOVEMBER 2024

PACK EXPO INTERNATIONAL

Showcasing the latest packaging and processing innovations from 2,500 exhibitors.

Date: 3-6 November 2024

Location: Chicago, US

Website: packexpointernational.com

BRAUBEVIALE

The international capital goods specialist exhibition for the beverage industry.

Date: 26-28 November 2024

Location: Nuremberg, Germany

Website: braubeviale.org

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Cannex Fillex
Asia Pacific

Visit our **Booth 1009** at **Cannex Fillex** to learn more about Belvac's recent innovations.

info@belvac.com | www.belvac.com

The return of Cannex & Fillex Asia Pacific

Cannex & Fillex will be hosted once more in Guangzhou, China, for its **2024** edition, with the trade fair set to take place over four days

From 16-19 July 2024, the Pazhou Complex in Guangzhou, China, will be home to the World Canmaking Congress – an international showcase of the latest can making and filling technologies.

Several hundred exhibitors will be in attendance on the show floor, with visitors able to review their latest metal packaging equipment and materials services, ensuring opportunities to make or re-establish valuable business contacts.

CanTech International will be one of these exhibitors. Editor, Alex Rivers, sales manager, Sarah Hills and classified sales, Flora McRitchie, can be found in Hall 11.1, Stand 125. Our team will be on hand discuss how we can best help you further your media exposure, as well as showcase your expertise to the global metal packaging industry through our B2B publication. We will also be walking the show floor at Cannex, interviewing exhibitors and learning about the latest innovations to share with our readership.

You will be able to pick up a copy of this magazine edition, as well as *CanTech International* July 2024, from our stand. Please let us know if you would like us to set aside some for you prior to the show, otherwise

distribution will be a first-come, first-served basis.

Whether you are a can maker, filler or a supplier to the industry, Cannex & Fillex can assist in helping you develop your business, exchange information and discuss new technologies, all in one central meeting location.

For a preview of what is to come, turn the page, where you will find some of the industry experts exhibiting at this year's show, and what you can expect to explore and discuss at their stands. **CT**

*Images on this page:
SPG Events*



Companies exhibiting at Cannex & Fillex Asia Pacific 2024 include:

Antares Vision

Hall 11.1, Stand 610

Antares Vision Group is a world leader in providing machine vision inspection systems for the rigid container industry. Propelled by a spirit of innovation spanning more than 25 years, the technology of Applied Vision Corporation powers Antares Vision Group's ability to set quality standards for can manufacturers across the globe for beverage, food and aerosol cans.

Antares Vision Group offers unmatched capabilities of its Cyclops, Genius and Orion G6 platforms used for inspecting converted ends, inside can and mixed label and colorimetric decoration inspection, respectively.

www.ataresvisiongroup.com



Image: Antares Vision

Ashworth Bros, Inc

Hall 11.1, Stand 616

Ashworth Bros, Inc, a global company, is the only conveyor belt company that manufactures and services both metal and plastic belting for straight running, turn-curve, lo-tension spirals – offering customers the best solution for their specific requirements.

Celebrating over 75 years of revolutionising

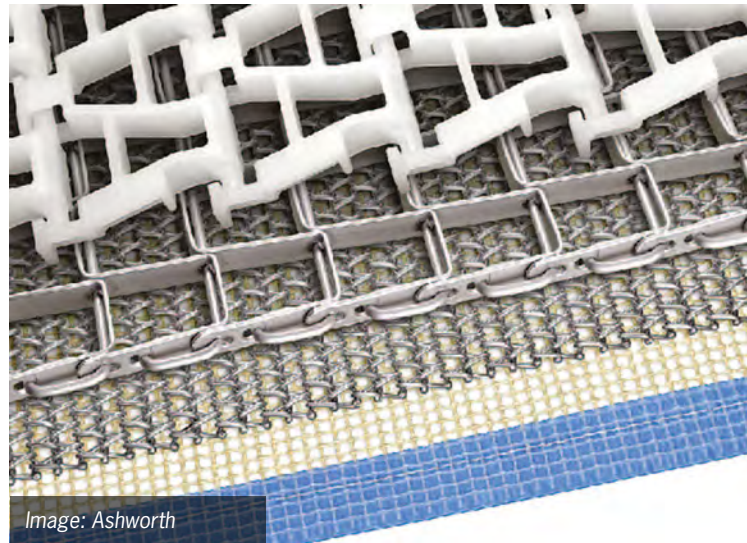


Image: Ashworth

the future of conveyor belts, Ashworth continues to lead the market with the most conveyor belt patents in the food processing and can making industries. Companies around the world depend on Ashworth's quality products, reliable customer service, and innovative solutions to resolve problems and increase productivity.

www.ashworth.com

Barberán

Hall 9.1, Stand 1516

For almost two decades, Barberán has been at the forefront, leading the introduction of single pass industrial digital printing technology into various markets. Industries like corrugated packaging, POP & signage, floor & wall panels, furniture, as well as steel & aluminium industries, are just a few of those who have benefitted of the Barberán Single Pass technology.

The Jetmaster VERSA is equipped with standard 4 colors (CMYK) and expandable up to max. 6 or 8 (depending on model), with a maximum print width of 1.61 metres and a top speed of 50m/min.

Leave behind the expenses of traditional cliché-based printing processes, as Jetmaster offers you the flexibility and output, ensuring it's an ideal solution for meeting your demands.

For more information on the steel & aluminium industries, visit us at Cannex & Fillex in Guangzhou, China, from 16-19 July 2024, at Stand 1516.

www.barberan.com



Image: Barberán

Belvac*Image: Belvac***Hall 10.1, Stand 1009**

Belvac is looking forward to the industry reuniting once again at Cannex & Fillex in Guangzhou. For the first time at this year's show, Belvac will be exhibiting with its newly acquired operating company, ARC Pacific.

"Belvac anticipates another great show allowing the can making industry to reunite once again showcasing new innovations, processes, and products. This marks our first exhibition with ARC Pacific, whose environmentally focused technology seamlessly integrates into our product portfolio, aligning well with our sustainable technologies and customer-focused approach. Committed to delivering state-of-the-art, sustainable solutions, Belvac strives to uphold the highest standards of product quality while aligning with prevailing market trends. We are looking forward to discussing Belvac's latest innovations and solutions with the can making industry at Cannex & Fillex," remarked Dave Mammolenti, Belvac president. Stop by Booth 1009 to learn about Belvac's recent innovations and the latest product line additions from ARC Pacific. www.belvac.com

**CanNeed Instrument Group****Hall 11.1, Stand 219**

CanNeed Instrument Group Ltd was established in 2006. CanNeed has become the worldwide industry leader in dedicated testing equipment. The testing equipment it produces is used for: beer and beverages, canned food, can making, glass and PET bottles, carton packaging, coating quality and film weight control, electronic component X-ray SMT Reel Counter, mobile phone glass cover IR hole transmittance, auto parts, X-ray detection and so on.

For the 2024 Cannex exhibition, CanNeed will present a series of latest fully automatic inspection equipment for two-piece cans and ends, including front/back end dimensional inspection, coating thickness and integrity inside the can, laser detection of the score residue of the ends, as well as other advanced technologies.

Join us at Cannex & Fillex Asia Pacific 2024, Guangzhou, China, 16-19 July 2024 – in Hall 11.1, Stand 219.

www.canneed.com

Image: CanNeed**Brooks***Image: Brooks***Hall 10.1, Stand 828**

Brooks will be showcasing its range of high-performance pin oven chains including fixed pin or Replaceable pin, standard or X-ring base chains. On display will also be its range of Peek spring loaded tips, single sided chain guide, plus chain & sprocket wear gauges. Brooks will also be happy to discuss the latest developments in electrostatic chain lubrication and performance lubricants.

www.brooks.ltd.uk

Image: CMbE

CarnaudMetalbox Engineering

Hall 11.1, Stand 124

CarnaudMetalbox Engineering (CMbE) designs, develops and manufactures high-performance metal forming and finishing machinery for the production of beverage, food and aerosol cans. With our commitment to innovation and precision engineering.

With CMB Engineering, manufacturers can keep up with consumer demands, capitalise on market opportunities and ensure production efficiency. We supply precision engineered can making machinery to a global market: can makers, trimmers, bead-ers, die neckers, bodymakers and decorators are all available from our headquarters in Shipley & Leeds in the UK.

We pride ourselves on supplying advanced can manufacturing solutions to customers around the world. Drawing on our wealth of experience and the latest cutting-edge technologies, we work in partnership with our customers to speed up the can making process, enhance flexibility and productivity, reduce material waste and enhance product quality.

Visit us at Stand 124, where our team will be happy to help you with all your can making requirements.

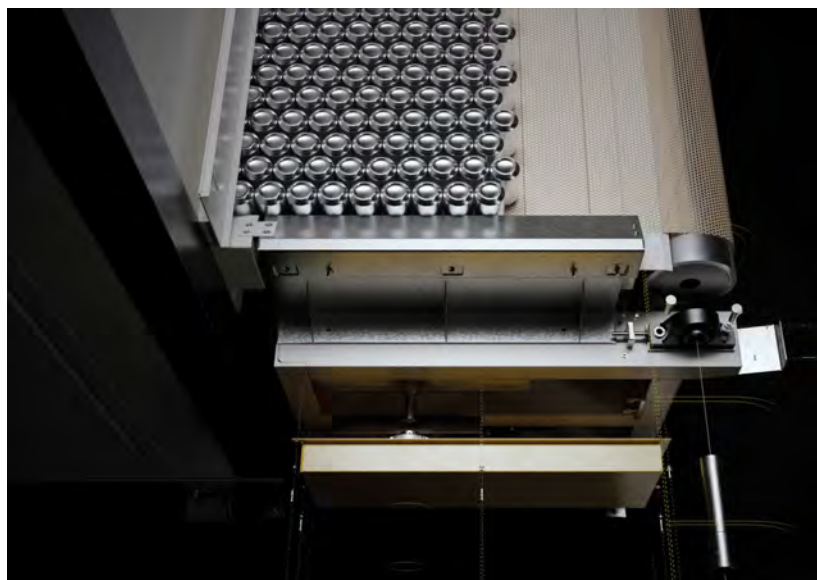
www.carnaudmetalboxengineering.co.uk

CPM Packaging Group

Hall 11.1, Stand 201

CPM Packaging Group, comprising Greenbank Technology & Proline Engineering, specialises in the design and manufacture of can making equipment and conveying. Their product offering

Image: CPM



includes can washers & dryers, internal bake ovens, pin ovens and bespoke conveying.

CPM will be presenting its latest developments which demonstrate a dedication to creating a more sustainable can making process. Visitors can learn how to increase throughput of their washers and significantly reduce water usage with the latest upgrades or new machinery offerings. Attendees can also discover more about the Hybrid Oven which can save up to 80% gas consumption and reduce CO2 emissions by up to 80%.

The company will be promoting its bespoke Proline conveying systems which maximise productivity and increase system efficiency.

CPM offers a comprehensive aftermarket care service, supporting customers through the entire lifecycle of the machine. This includes installation and commissioning support, emergency maintenance, spare parts supply and line audits.

www.cpm.net

Image: Hyperion



Hyperion

Hall 11.1, Stand 131

Hyperion Materials & Technologies is proud to be a long-time partner to the global can making industry. For over 30 years, Hyperion has partnered with can makers around the world, delivering premium tungsten carbide, ceramic and steel tooling for two-piece aluminium cans.

Hyperion understands the unique needs of the can making industry, particularly in China and Southeast Asia, offering high-performance tooling alongside comprehensive design and engineering support. Hyperion's can tooling specialists work closely with can makers to optimise tooling and manufacturing processes for maximum productivity and enhanced cost savings by reducing tear off rate, can lightweighting, and minimising spoilage rates.

Visit the Hyperion Materials & Technologies can tooling team in booth I31 at Cannex 2024 to discuss your challenges and discover how Hyperion can become your trusted partner in achieving peak can making productivity.

www.hyperionmt.com

Jorson Technology Co Ltd

Hall 11.1, Stand 411

Jorson is a metal can specialist committed to providing complete and effective metal packaging solutions. The company will exhibit several new pieces of equipment

at Cannex 2024, and we are happy to provide you with custom metal packaging solutions, together with our guidance services and general ideas for the entire factory layout. www.jorson.com.cn



Image: Jorson

INX International Ink Co

Hall 9.1, Stand 1319

Discover our latest innovations and explore the INX Color Catalog. It will help you select, communicate, and approve colour efficiently while reducing lead times and get labels to market quicker. Learn more about Ecocan metal deco inks, formulated low VOC and BPA-NI for aluminium and steel cans to help brand owners and metal decorators achieve their sustainability goals. Visit our booth to understand how you can elevate your packaging solutions with our high-quality products.

www.inxinternational.com



Image: INX

Koenig & Bauer

Hall 11.1, Stand 623

Koenig & Bauer MetalPrint, a member of the Koenig & Bauer Group, is the world market leader in the field of printing and coating lines as well as drying systems and exhaust air purification solutions for the metal packaging industry. Koenig & Bauer-MetalPrint combines the know-how of the renowned companies Mailänder and LTG, and has been a subsidiary of



Image: Koenig & Bauer

Koenig & Bauer, the oldest printing press manufacturer in the world, since 2006. With over 130 years of metal decorating expertise, Koenig & Bauer MetalPrint is your experienced and trusted partner.

The product range comprises multicolour printing presses and coating machines in combination with thermal drying ovens, UV or UV LED curing systems. Further areas of specialisation are material handling systems and state-of-the-art, energy-efficient installations for exhaust air purification. We offer complete solutions, which are tailored specifically to the customer's individual requirements.

www.koenig-bauer.com



Nidec Minster Corporation

Hall 11.1, Stand 523

Visit Nidec Minster at the Cannex and Fillex Show to learn about its comprehensive line of Minster packaging presses and services.

Products include cupping presses for two-piece beverage cans, presses for two-piece drawn and redrawn sanitary food cans, presses for high or low volume end (shell) production, and easy open end conversion presses.

Nidec Minster provides an industry-leading suite of customer service products designed



Image: Nidec Minster

for rapid response throughout the world. Field service personnel are dispatched from 27 different locations around the globe. In addition, Nidec Minster maintains customer service centres with common repair parts in stock, technical support staff, and remanufacturing capabilities in Minster, Ohio; Pinghu, China; Peiting, Germany; and Querétaro, Mexico.

www.minster.com

Image: Prime Controls



Prime Controls

Hall 11.1, Stand 509

Prime Controls is a leading developer and manufacturer of high-quality, high-speed online metal sensing and control systems for OEMs and end users in the metal packaging industry worldwide. It specialises in providing double sheet detection for sheet feeders and slitter tables, leak detection systems for light and air testers, and is the world's supplier of press protection for high-speed, easy-open end conversion presses.

Prime Controls will be featuring its newest detection system, Eclipse Leak Detection Technology, a superior light-based leak detection technology for cans and ends. Eclipse is eight times more sensitive than infrared and traditional light detection methods. Eclipse Technology penetrates smaller cracks more efficiently improving detection of circuitous defects. Prime Controls would be pleased to demonstrate the system to can plant personnel and machinery makers at Booth 509 during the show.

www.primecontrols.com

PPG

Hall 11.1, Stand 629

PPG will showcase its full line of internal and external coatings for metal cans and related packaging in China and around the globe. Committed to offering safer alternatives to address regulatory concerns including non-bisphenol, PFAS-NI and PVC-free solutions, our five lines of coatings include PPG Innovel for beverage bodies and easy open ends; PPG Nutrishield for human and pet food cans; PPG Hoba for personal care products; PPG Truetwist for caps and closures; and PPG Isense overvarnishes for all metal packaging.

www.ppg.com



Image: PPG

Roeslein & Associates

Hall 11.1, Stand 331

As a global leader in modular design-build strategy, Roeslein works to understand its client's end goal and develop a lifecycle approach utilising its in-house professional services, international manufacturing teams, construction crews, and operational support programs, including end-user training, to offer clients a turnkey solution for their capital investments. Visit Roeslein at Booth 331 to learn more about their prefabrication, preassembly, and preconstruction approach and how it can be implemented into your unique project needs.

With nearly 35 years of successful project history and over one million square feet of manufacturing space worldwide, Roeslein continues to position itself to be regionally located across North America, South



Image: Roeslein

America, Europe, and Asia to remain the industry leader in engineering, fabrication, and construction of canmaking plants. To learn more about Roeslein and its capabilities, products, and service offerings, visit www.roeslein.com

Image: Sencon



Sencon

Hall 10.1, Stand 931

Stop by Sencon's booth at Cannex to explore its range of sensing, testing and gauging products, showcased on a 3D model of a can and end plant. Check out the latest leak detection systems, ULTP for cans and ELTP for ends, both equipped with Quasar Light Detection technology for accurate identification of production leakers on high-speed lines.

Witness the MLT Micro Leak Tester for ends which features enhanced processing power and adaptive algorithms that provide maximum detection accuracy. See the demonstration of the Benchmark Back End Gauge, with its precise 360° optical scanning of finished cans ensuring crucial measurements such as flange angle and seaming clearance are accurate.

Learn about coatings integrity and film thickness on metal packaging with Sencon's 'Si' gauges, can stands, adapters, and probes all on display. Sencon's Oven Logger, which helps monitor curing and drying cycles, optimises efficiency, and reduces energy usage will also be shown.

www.sencon.com

Stolle Machinery Company

Hall 11.1, Stand 403

At Cannex 2024, Stolle will be showcasing its expertise in machinery for producing food ends and cans. As the world leader in shell systems and easy-open end conversion systems, Stolle offers systems for all sizes and types of food ends, including full-open EOE and sanitary ends. It has developed three types of unique 'folded' food ends that protect the consumer's fingers from the sharp interior edge left when a full-open end is removed from a can.

For food can bodies, Stolle builds cupping systems and draw-redraw systems for a wide variety of rectangular and round food cans, as well as bodymakers, washers, ovens and inside-spray systems for drawn and ironed food can bodies for higher volume round food can production.

In addition to can machinery, Stolle WeightControl Fillers are the most accurate can fillers available and can handle a variety of round can sizes, volumes and types of food products.

www.stollemachinery.com

Image: Stolle





Image: T.D. Wright

T.D. Wright

Hall 11.1, Stand 326

T.D. Wright is known for making the original adjustable tapered shaft for the metal decorating industry. Our flagship ENOC System revolutionised the way label changes are performed and has become the industry standard for the Rutherford decorator. ENOC shafts are manufactured with lubrication free Hycomp bearing material, ceramic and chrome seal diameters, and hardened steel. The ENOC System is unmatched in quality and has proven longevity.

Since 1975, T.D. Wright has been dedicated to producing innovative and reliable magnetic cylinders. Our Modular Magnetic design and precision manufacturing are combined to produce the strength and reliability of T.D. Wright products.

We are excited to be back at Cannex in China this year to talk about our improved lead times and streamlined manufacturing techniques. Stop by our booth to find out more.

www.tdwright.com



Image: Torus

Torus Technology Group

Hall 10.1, Stand 723

Torus Measurement Systems play a crucial role in the metal packaging industry by offering comprehensive solutions for dimensional and destructive testing within production environments.

These systems are designed to meet the stringent quality standards of our customers. Our range of offerings spans from advanced measurement machines and inspection systems to manual fixturing and fully automated turnkey solutions, ensuring a tailored approach to address diverse inspection and measurement requirements.

Torus' dedicated project team collaborates closely with clients to develop equipment that aligns perfectly with their needs, leveraging the latest advancements in both contact and non-contact technology.

Torus Measurement Systems will be exhibiting at Cannex & Fillex in Guangzhou from 16 to 19 July at booth 723. Here we will be showcasing a selection of bench top manual gauging, including our Z341 Beverage/Food/Aerosol Can Coating Analyser, our Z703 UV Base Rim Coat (BRC) Presence Gauge and our Z346 Colour Inspection Gauge.

www.torus-group.com

UTC Overseas

Hall 10.1, Stand 911

UTC Overseas is pleased to be at Cannex, meeting with industry professionals and showcasing our commitment to the metal packaging industry. For 30 years, UTC has developed partnerships with can manufacturers and suppliers, playing a major role in planning, executing, and shipping can lines, raw materials, and finished goods.

With an extensive worldwide office network, we can transport your cargo on six continents, offering door-to-door solution-driven strategies and project management services.

Visit us at booth 911 to discuss your next project.

www.utcoverseas.com



Image: UTC Overseas

Versatile Technology

Hall 10.1, Stand 920

Versatile Technology is developing new gauges covering more of the metal packaging industry. Our gauge designs already lend themselves to testing different metal products such as beverage, food and aerosol cans, and our new systems are no exception. The SW27 Manual Can Enamel Rater will be on display, demonstrating quick, manual testing using our specialised multi-size and multi-height design. The gauge is easily adapted to suit any can product.

In addition, our Senior Project Engineers will be demonstrating tailored measurement solutions, customised design, and the release of our new MT041 Mobility Tester. The gauge features fully programmable test speeds and pull distances. We have included waveform graphing with min, max, range, average and batch average results all on a tilt and turn screen. The MT041 Gauge also includes overlay graph options to see a full batch of waveforms.

www.versatiletechnology.com.au



Image: Versatile Technology

Wallram**Hall 11.1, Stand 101**

No matter what type of metal packaging you produce - Wallram always provides the right tools. Whether cupper-press, bodymaker, necker, trimmer, decorator or shell-press: Wallram tools can be found in applications all over the world.

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With around 50 years of experience in the can making business, from tool design to application support and troubleshooting, Wallram is a preferred partner when it comes to can tooling!

With can tooling production sites in the USA, Germany and Poland and customer-service-points in South & Central America, Oceania & South-East Asia and Greater China, Wallram is



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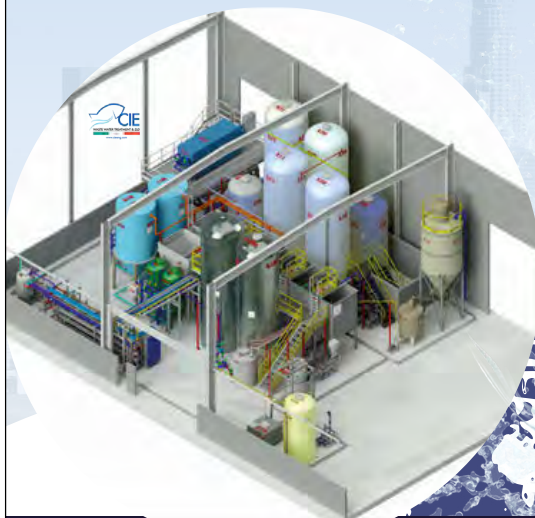
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Seaming's past, present and future

Evert van de Weg concludes his three-part special on seaming by speaking to Roberto Baroni from Italy-headquartered Imeta

Today, people take for granted that cans are always as safe as they are completely airtight. In my earlier articles about seaming, I explained how much time and effort it took to ensure that consumers worldwide could always trust the complete integrity of cans.

During the 19th century, several companies in Europe and the US experimented with various processes, using soldering to mechanise proper sealing of cans.

In the beginning of the 20th century, major can makers like Continental Can Company, American Can and several of their licensees like Metal Box, Carnaud, PLM, Hastrup, Sobemi, Thomassen & Drijver, Züchner and Saturnus, started designing and using double-seaming machines. Machinery producers like FMC, Angelus, Ferrum, Dixie, Hema, Blema, Lubeca, Sommetrade, Germann & Frei, Lanico, Klinghammer, Zacmi and others also came on the market in order to meet the growing demand for safe seamers.

Fully in line with the strong growth of the food can market from the 1950s, owing to the opening of countless supermarkets and enormous expansion of the two-piece can market for beer and beverages from the 1960s, the producers of can seamers were continuously launching new types of seamers with more seaming stations, equipped for all kinds of challenging demands.

Today, can seamers for two-piece beverage cans with a capacity of 150,000 cans per hour are no exception.

During the last few decades, the worldwide rise of the number of craft beer brewers lead to the development of fully adapted lower and medium-speed seamers.

Imeta: 'The science of seaming'

In the fertile plain around the Italian city of Parma, tomato cultivation grew rapidly in the 20th century. The thriving canning industry needed more cans, and consequently, can makers and can fillers, used more seamers. This created a perfect environment for all kinds of supporting industrial activities that stimulated efficiency and productivity.

It was in that environment that Gian Paolo Greci founded Imeta (1963), which became specialised in the manufacture of seaming rolls, chucks and various spare parts for seaming machines. Imeta developed its business successfully and became a fundamental partner for many Italian and Mediterranean can makers and canneries.

In the 1980s, Imeta moved to a larger plant in Parma, however that site quickly became too small as the company expanded its worldwide presence. The company moved to a new plant in 2005, just outside of Parma. In 2017, Imeta established its American branch in the state of New York and opened a vast warehouse for spare parts there.

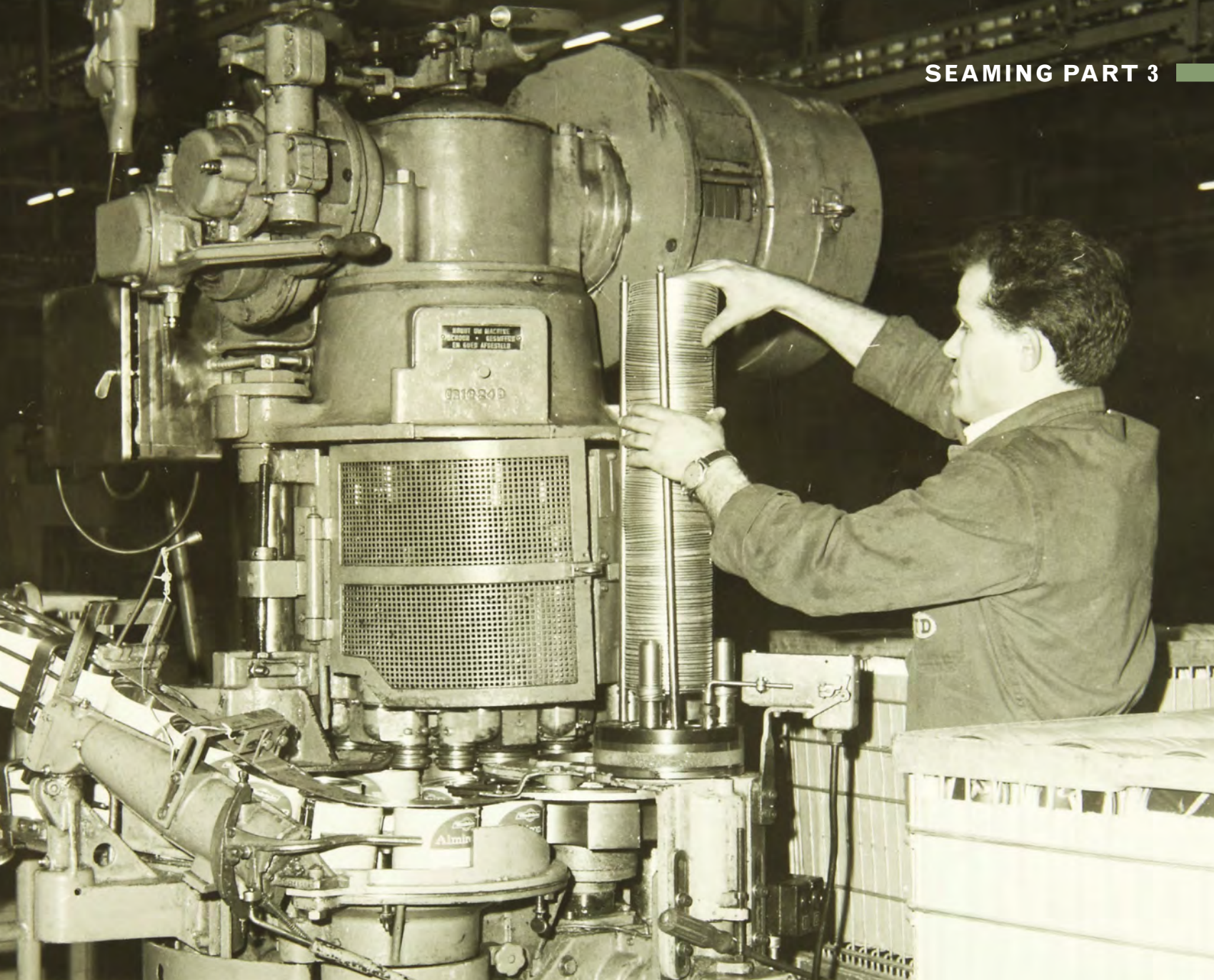
Roberto Baroni, can seaming technology expert and sales manager at Imeta, discussed the current activities of Imeta with *CanTech International*.

History, successes & projects

Imeta began as a family company, and Baroni tells us that "the founding father, Gian Paolo Greci, was succeeded by his children, Monica and Guerrino, who manage the company today."

Imeta now supplies its seaming rolls, chucks and other spare parts to can makers, including "three-piece, general line and aerosol cans," as well as "food and beverage canners," said Baroni. The company produces about 20,000 seaming chucks and 10,000





seaming rolls per year. Baroni noted that, in the three-piece market, there is “a lot of demand for tailor-made [component] parts,” which Imeta also caters to.

“We produce many useful tools for calibrating and preparing the seaming machine such as dynamometers, calibrated wires, tools for measuring levels, as well as basic tools for checking the double seam,” continued Baroni. Imeta also organises seamer classes for seamer suppliers and fillers of cans, both at the company’s headquarters and its customers’ sites, he said.

Baroni noted several innovations Imeta has found success with over the years: “Considerable innovations are the transformation with oil recirculation of the Angelus 61H, 80L, 100L and 120L seamers, as well as the upgrade into stainless steel castings. With over 60 years of experience, Imeta has continually dedicated itself to enhancing and modernising seamers. Many models from previous decades boast exceptional engineering and remain competitive alongside modern machines. The rigidity and stability of cast

“Many models from previous decades boast exceptional engineering and remain competitive alongside modern machines”

iron castings far surpass those of today’s welded frames. On the other hand, the primary limitation of cast iron castings lies in their susceptibility to corrosion and challenges related to sanitisation.

“To revamp prestigious models, Imeta now offers bases and structural parts made of stainless steel as replacements for the original cast iron components. This advancement allows renowned seamers like the Angelus 60L, 61H, 62H, 120L, 121L, and others to meet stringent sanitation standards while preserving the rigidity and robustness that have defined their historic excellence in can seaming.”

The company offers standard assemblies, but also special assemblies for rare and discontinued seaming rolls. These include the ‘Easy System’ type roll for the Angelus P Series, and the ‘Super Seal’ type roll for any seaming machines. Asked if he sees growth

Feeding cans into the seamer station.

Image: Thomassen & Drijver



Imeta's spare parts warehouse holds over 15,000 spare parts which are made ready for immediate delivery.
Image: Imeta

“Customers are always looking for greater reliability and reductions in machine downtime”

in these, Baroni commented, “I do, mostly because of technology evolution. For instance, ceramic bearings are becoming widely requested also for canneries that are running old seamers like Angelus 40P or 50P. These seamers were using needle bearings and we had to re-engineer the rolls to allow them to use ceramic bearings.”

Imeta launched its Universal Double Seam Turret Autocan in 2018. Baroni commented that this was a success that exceeded expectations, but also one that “forced [Imeta] to reconsider the project.”

He continued: “We have historically been a company that produces parts, engineering and technical

assistance. Producing machines also involves other activities, such as assembly, documentation and after-sales.

“Being highly committed to our ‘traditional’ products, we painfully chose to temporarily put the Autocan project on standby. Even though we are a team of 90 people, the real struggle nowadays is to find enough human resources for all the ongoing projects,” Baroni said.

Future outlook

Speaking in general terms about the materials used for the production of chucks and rolls, Baroni commented: “There is a continuous evolution in materials and coatings. Customers are always looking for greater reliability and reductions in machine downtime.

“High technologies such as Stoody Metal and ceramic bearings, years ago intended only for the beverage sector, are now also required by those with low-capacity lines.”

The demand in the US for Imeta’s offerings continues to dominate the company’s operations. Baroni concluded our interview by saying that “The US is always among the top export countries ever. When I started working at Imeta more than 30 years ago, the market was divided up as 80 per cent Italy, 20 per cent foreign. Today it is exactly the opposite: over 80 per cent of our products are exported all over the world – even to more remote territories like American Samoa.” 



Imeta 6-axis anthropomorphic arms.
Image: Imeta

Adopting AI

A recent European report offers insights into manufacturing priorities for artificial intelligence, as well as exploring the main implementation challenges and future impact

Artificial intelligence in manufacturing is not new, but it has now reached critical mass in awareness. AI has developed to the point where it helps with everything from predictive maintenance, to providing instant quotes within manufacturing platforms. With such a big opportunity, investment in AI is flourishing; according to data from Research & Markets, the AI in manufacturing market is expected to grow globally from US\$3.2 billion in 2023 to \$20.8 billion in 2028.

Germany-based MakerVerse, an online platform for sourcing industrial parts, recently conducted a European-wide survey on respondents working across a variety of manufacturing sectors, to assess the reality of how AI is being infused into their manufacturing operations.

A strategic priority

According to the survey, 34% of respondents said adopting AI into their manufacturing operations is important but not central. However, 24% answered that it is central, with 34% stating it has been considered but not a priority, and only 8% having not considered it.

The gap between hype and adoption

European manufacturers show a gap between what they wish to achieve and what they currently do with AI.

Most European manufacturers (43%) state they aren't using AI at all yet, with only 5% stating they use it extensively.

Things are different in other parts of the world, however. In North America, 21% of manufacturing companies say they already use an AI solution. An additional 18.5% say they've established AI use cases that generate business value.

Popular AI applications

While there are plenty of applications for AI in manufacturing, some key outcomes are sought. Some of these, as reported by the MakerVerse survey, include:

◆ **Quality control and inspection:** Potential faults and imperfections can be automatically identified, saving time and effort. In one use case, machinery OEM reduced assembly process failures by 70%.

◆ **Optimising production planning:** Manufacturers strive for efficient production planning. AI-enabled

production planning helps improve decision-making and adapt to rapidly changing situations in real-time.

◆ **Maintenance:** Machines can undergo predictive maintenance with dynamic scheduling to ensure maximum performance with minimum downtime.

◆ **Supply chain management:** AI can mitigate or prevent supply chain disruptions to help find alternative suppliers, onboard new suppliers, and more.

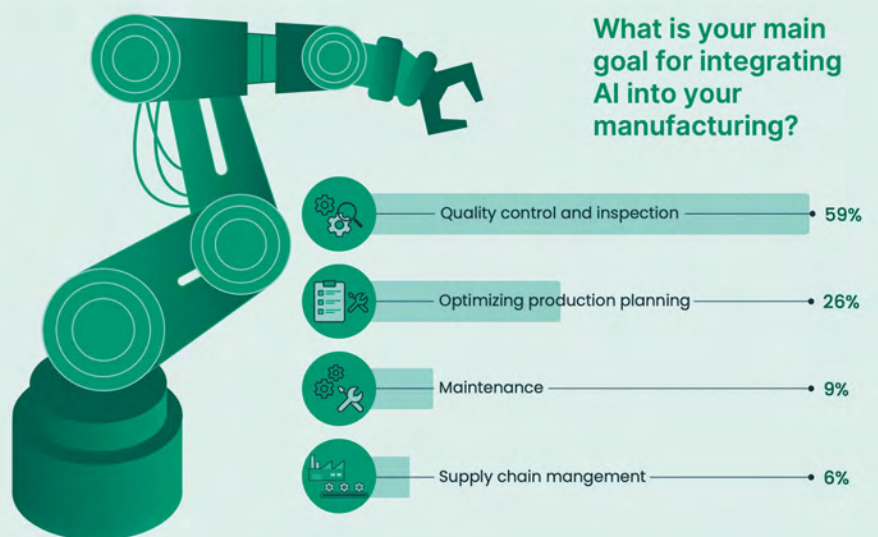
AI challenges

While the opportunities for AI in manufacturing are plentiful, so are the challenges. There is the difficulty of having the correct data, and cost is always a concern. In 2020, only 10% of companies said they received "significant financial benefits" from artificial intelligence. However, cost is no longer the major obstacle. Instead, the biggest challenge cited in the MakerVerse survey was lack of expertise (60%).

The high demand for AI is outpacing the available skills, showing a significant difference between the demand for the technology and the means to implement it.

High hopes for the future

European manufacturers may face challenges in implementing AI as freely as they'd like, but they're optimistic about the future. They have high expectations: 79% of survey respondents said they see AI greatly helping efficiency in their manufacturing operations in the future. **CT**





Tackling tighter sanctions

Russian metal import bans have compacted the aluminium market, but sanctions are expected to grow. By **Liz Newmark, Heba Hashem and Naubet Bisenov**

The global metal packaging industry is assessing the potential impact on aluminium supplies of US, European Union (EU) and British sanctions against imports of Russian aluminium, which continue to be tightened as Moscow intensifies its invasion of Ukraine.

These sanctions are more serious for Russia and its metal producers than they look, writes Russian economist, Yevgeny Kogan, on his Telegram channel. The US Treasury and the British government banned the London Metal Exchange (LME) and Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME), from accepting new Russian production of aluminium on 13 April 2024. Should these sanctions continue to tighten, they could lead to

Russia's aluminium producer, Rusal, losing the bulk of exports to the Western markets and turn into a loss-making enterprise.

Facing massive losses due to the sanctions, imposed because of Russia's two-year-old invasion, causing 10,582 civilian deaths by February 2024 according to UN figures, Rusal has already called on the Russian government to offer subsidies and buy up its products to state reserves.

With aluminium markets being global, metal packaging buyers are watching implementation. Following the recent UK and US move, aluminium prices increased by more than 9%. The picture currently mirrors the situation with Russian oil, where exports to India and China at cut



Left: aluminium factory in Shelekhov, Irkutsk Oblast, Siberia, Russia, whose output is increasingly unlikely to be exported to the west, because of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Image: UC Rusal Photo Gallery

aluminium with Russian one domestically, then it could supply its own output to the global markets and, as a result, prevent shortages of the supply and price increases.

For packaging companies, “this will simplify things,” Chiesa believes, but Russian producers will have to accept price cuts, affecting their profitability.

However, for buyers, supplies could really tighten if sanctioning countries start to impose effective secondary sanctions on countries and companies that help Russian producers circumvent sanctions. Since there are no efficient mechanisms of tracing the origin of high value-added metal products, the risk of secondary sanctions could be high, and may force, for example, Chinese packagers to abandon Russian imports of aluminium and other metals, Kogan believes.

Nornickel, a major producer of copper and nickel, has announced that it would move its production to China to avoid sanctions. However, Rusal cannot follow suit because it sources its raw material in Russia, while Nornickel imports 75% of the bauxite it processes to make aluminium, Kogan concluded. These pressures could worsen if the EU imposed a full and total ban of Russian metal imports, despite news reports warning that losing Russian metal would leave Europe with a shortfall of around 500,000 tonnes.

The EU has discussed banning most Russian aluminium, but it is not clear if its 14th sanctions package due soon, according to analysts talking to *CanTech International* (although no date has been set stressed Commission officials), will include full import bans. At present, the EU bans imports of Russian-made aluminium bars, rods and profiles; aluminium wire; aluminium plates, sheets and strip, of a thickness exceeding 0.2mm; aluminium foil of 0.2mm thickness or less; aluminium tubes and pipes. While this sounds impressive, an April question from European Parliament centre-right MEPs claimed these products entailed “a marginal share of Russian aluminium exports to the EU.”

Indeed, “We never confirm the contents or timing of upcoming packages,” a European Commission spokesperson told *CanTech International* on 10 May. “All decisions on sanctions are taken unanimously by member states in the Council. We do not comment on Council discussions or speculate on possible future developments.”

For now, unwrought (primary) lead and certain aluminium goods are excluded from EU sanctions, New York, US-based law firm Cleary Gottlieb noted in a 22 April 2024 report. Given the EU imports a significant amount of aluminium, nickel and copper from Russia, >

prices have partially replaced their imports from elsewhere.

Alessio Chiesa, an economist at the London-based Wood & Co consultancy, said that the metal sanctions’ impact depends on the ferocity of their implementation: “There have been reports on the blocking of Russian metals in the London Metal Exchange’s warehouses but I think this just means the material would move to Shanghai or elsewhere rather than impacting global prices,” Chiesa told *CanTech International*.

China is a major metal producer, including aluminium, but its output of metals is largely consumed domestically. Should China, like India with Russian oil, start replacing its own



Left: aluminium factory in Shelekhov, Irkutsk Oblast, Siberia, Russia, whose output is increasingly unlikely to be exported to the west, because of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Image: UC Rusal Photo Gallery

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Russia has imported plenty of scrap metal into Ukraine, through destroyed tanks in its invasion – above: the spoils of war near Kiev.

Image: Kyiv City State Administration, Oleksii Samsonov

switching to imports from different countries could be “challenging and costly,” said the law firm.

But aluminium industry association, European Aluminium (EA), is prepared for an EU ban. Senior manager communications, Kelly Roegies told *CanTech International*: “We have no specifics on the impact on can makers when it comes to a possible ban of Russian metal,” adding the EA “urges the Commission to include all major Russian aluminium categories in the 14th sanctions package.”

“There is no good reason not to include every major aluminium product category – ingots, slabs, billets,” EA director general, Paul Voss, added. “These categories represent over 85% of the EU’s aluminium imports from Russia.”

Citing data prepared February 2024 based on EU statistical office Eurostat, the EA noted that: “The industry is already decoupling from Russian metal, importing 34.9% less unwrought Russian aluminium in 2023 than in 2022 (512,122 tonnes compared to 786,921 tonnes).” This reduction has resulted in Russia’s market share now accounting for only about 8% of the EU’s aluminium ingot

imports (HS 7601), down from 25% just a few years ago. The Russian share of non-EU imports also decreased from 12% in 2022 to 8.1% in 2023, said Eurostat.

“Without sanctions on these products, Europe is effectively bankrolling Russia’s war machine with billions of euros,” said Voss. The EA analysis reveals EU imports provided EUR€2.2 billion’s worth of revenue in 2022, falling to €1.2 billion in 2023. Eurostat data also shows EU imports of iron and steel have decreased sharply from 2022 to 2023, from 816.54 to 597.22 million tonnes, a drop in value from €5.6 billion to €2.9 billion.

Steel sanctions are tighter, with European Steel Association Eurofer head of communications, Lucia Sali, telling *CanTech International* that “imports into the EU of Russian steel finished products are already banned under the EU sanctions regime. In particular, as regards cans, Russian tin mill (the finished steel product out of which you make cans) imports have been forbidden since September 2022.”

Eurofer also “strongly supports the EU sanctions regime targeting Russian steel imports and reiterates the need to close loopholes, in

particular as regards semi-finished steel products such as slabs, whose imports are currently still allowed (with exemptions extended until 2028)."

The Association of European Producers of Steel for Packaging (Apeal) secretary general, Steve Claus, called on the EU and member states to work harder on boosting EU metal supplies, as sanctions tighten: "Ensuring EU steel for packaging remains competitive on global export markets will enable this material to fulfil its role in helping achieve the European Green Deal aims and provide Europe with competitive technology and sustainable products," he told *CanTech International*.

"One concrete example is the chromium-free passivation alternative," for making tinplate in a less polluting way, he said. "The protective layer stabilises the tin oxide in a similar way to traditional chromium passivation, preventing further surface oxidation and maintaining product performance and using an environmentally sustainable manufacturing process."

"Apeal is advocating for the swift adoption of chromium-free solutions by supply chain partners before the conclusion of the authorisation period at the end of 2027, facilitating a seamless transition away from chromium VI compounds."

In the US, the impact of American sanctions on US metal packaging production will be limited because the industry already did not import much metal from Russia, a US Can Manufacturers Institute (CMI) spokesperson said.

While Russia had been a major supplier of aluminium to the US in past years, shipments have seen heavy declines even before Russian invaded Ukraine in February 2022. From 208,755 metric tonnes in 2022, US annual aluminium imports from Russia dropped to about 8,160 metric tonnes in 2023, and about 26 tonnes in the first four months of 2024, according to US Department of Commerce data.

US import of nickel products from Russia has also been on a downward path since early last decade. By 2023, total nickel metal shipments from Russia totalled only about 900 metric tonnes, according to an analysis from energy and commodities information provider, S&P Global Commodity Insights.

"Russia accounts for less than 1% of total US aluminium imports today, so the direct impact on US aluminium supply should be minimal. Many

US aluminium companies have diversified away from Russian imports since sanctions were placed on this metal in [April] 2018 [lifted in December that year]," said Katie Rosebrook, manager for external affairs at America's The Aluminum Association.

However, given the interconnected nature of global production networks, the ban could lead to supply chain interruptions, she admitted: "The determination to limit the acceptance of new Russian aluminium on global exchanges could have an impact on the trade of aluminium as a global commodity," said Rosebrook.

Because LME and CME are the two largest metal exchanges in the world, there are likely to be repercussions that US metal purchasers will need to plan for. "The decreased worldwide availability of these essential resources might result in increased pricing and possible supply shortages for American consumers and businesses that depend on aluminium, copper, and nickel. As a result, American metal purchasers are encouraged to diversify their supply chain to brace themselves for potential continued volatility," Chicago-based metal-market intelligence provider, MetalMiner, wrote in a post.

Unless China blinks in the face of potential secondary sanctions and stops buying discounted Russian primary aluminium to use domestically and export its aluminium products into Europe and the US, the potential for Chinese competition to seize market share is real, according to London-based economic analysis provider, ING Think.

Such concerns have already prompted a coalition of American canned food producers and steel can makers to file requests with the Biden administration on 12 April 2024, asking for protections against subsidised and unfairly priced imports from China – and for higher duties on China-made products.

"The China Canned Food Industry Association trumpeted the 19% increase in exports of canned foods to the US in 2023 of approximately 700 million cans. These imports are no doubt at least partially responsible for US food can production reaching the lowest level ever recorded by industry sources," the coalition said.

Whether this will prompt Washington to take further action against Russian aluminium remains to be seen. 



Russia's can makers may enjoy cheaper access to metal supplies, as export markets are increasingly choked off because of the country's invasion of Ukraine. Left: Russian gunpowder – exported by war, but not trade. Image: Andshel

Maintaining momentum in washing & drying technology



David Williams, division president at **Cincinnati Industrial Machinery**, speaks to *CanTech International* about the company's history and the key driving forces behind its operations

Headquartered in Mason, Ohio, in the US, Cincinnati Industrial Machinery (CIM) has been innovating industrial cleaning and finishing systems since 1943. During and post-World War II, Cincinnati became a key supplier of industrial equipment needed in production for a multitude of industries.

CIM developed the world's first two-piece can washers in response to the development in 1959 of the two-piece aluminium can from Adolph Coors Company (now Molson Coors). In 1963, Cincinnati Cleaning & Finishing Machinery Co (as the company was named at the time), made modifications to an industrial conveyor washer to deliver the world's first two-piece can washer and dry off oven. This was a crucial step in bringing the two-piece aluminium can to mass production levels.

Since then, "Cincinnati has become synonymous with can washing in the can manufacturing market," as the company's division president, David Williams, told *CanTech International*. CIM operates on a 'no subcontract manufacturing' basis, meaning that all of its two-piece can washers including washcoaters, IBOs, and pin ovens are built by CIM personnel. CIM has operations in both the US and China and has installed over 450 processing machines worldwide.

'Under one roof'

The company sells hundreds of washers globally

to all major can makers. Its wide range of washers include the required cans per minute of its customers and feature a variety of stage configurations. Patented features are also available, like CIM's quick adjust system that allows for the quickest and most accurate can height changeovers. The company also offers features for water and energy savings for sustainability.

"What makes us particularly unique is we build the whole washer to include controls under one roof, whether in our Mason, Ohio plant in the US or Chon Buri, Thailand plant. We also do a full runoff (minus chemistry) under the same roof, which means we control the quality and delivery timing better than anyone else.

"We also have an expert aftermarket team with many installations behind their belt that ensure faster startups to get product to market sooner with less downtime," said Williams.

He continued to praise CIM's aftermarket team, describing it as "the top technical support and maintenance services provider in the industry... A core principle of our company is that we do not outsource, because we want to maintain control of the quality and timing," he said.

When asked about the efficiency and productivity in its can washers and dryers, Williams replied: "Efficiency and productivity can mean a variety of things. We build machines that efficiently use

Images courtesy of Cincinnati Industrial Machinery



water and energy and can be fine-tuned to customer requirements.

“By building in one place and running the machines off prior to delivery, we have reduced the lead time to delivery and our machines can be installed and up and running with production sooner than anyone. Also, our aftermarket team provides audits, parts, maintenance, and rebuild services quickly and at the highest quality to keep machines up and producing with minimal downtime.”

Customer-centric approach

During the designing and building process, Williams explained that CIM uses its decades of expertise to develop machines “with the customer machine operators in mind. Every detail is engineered based on customer feedback,” he said.

“Our design ensures that our machines startup to faster production and stay running. Some say our machines are over-engineered to our sales disadvantage, as our machines last decades, some that remain in service from the 1960s. We use high quality components assembled by high quality teams with much experience.”

Williams emphasised that listening to the customer is of the most paramount importance to CIM. “We ask, what cans per minute do they need? What sized cans will they be running? What

chemistry will they be using? A lot goes into it,” he commented. “We help ensure sustainability starting in our own factories and how we operate.”

Williams highlighted again how doing everything in one location “cuts down on multiple shipments from multiple sites.” He continued: “Undertaking the full runoff prior to shipment means less resources are being used trying to get things up and running at the factory. Our designs allow for fine tuning water and energy usage to use just the right amount to clean the cans while mitigating waste, to include reusing as much water as possible and reclaiming heat.”

In order to remain updated on industry trends and ever-evolving regulation, Williams said that the team at CIM stays “connected to customers,” and that it “tracks developments across many disciplines to even include foreign affairs and economic news.” **CT**

Cincinnati Industrial Machinery is a division of The Armor Group, a diversified group of manufacturing companies. As a subsidiary of The Armor Group, CIM has the extensive use of shared services and experiences that come with being part of a larger company. Acme Fab, also known as AF Industries and Alvey Washing Equipment are legacy companies that are now part of Cincinnati Industrial Machinery. David Williams has been corporate president of The Armor Group since June 2021.

Belting design

CanTech International conducts a Q&A with **Jonathan R Lasecki**, director of engineering at leading conveyor belt manufacturer, **Ashworth**

Above image:
Shutterstock

Can you explain the specific challenges can making conveyor belts address?

As a conveyor belt manufacturer, we are concerned in how the cans move on and with the belting we supply. In the can making process, the cans are often presented on to the belt with the cut side down. Damage to this edge would prevent a proper seal of the lid to the can. We must present a belt surface which is smooth enough to allow can movement without damaging this cut edge.

We also must understand the loading and conditions on each individual process in the can moving production. Belt strength, proper temperature and corrosion resistance must be considered with choosing a particular belt and or belt material.

What are the key features that differentiate Ashworth's belts from those offered by other suppliers?

Ashworth listens to the challenges of the processors. Should it be chemical resistant or belt strength, we can offer the belt design and material best suited for the application.

How does Ashworth ensure the reliability and durability of its belts, considering the demanding nature of the industry?

Ashworth is known for its consistent quality. We have multiple in-process inspections at each step in the belt manufacturing process to ensure the belts we supply meet the requirements of the processor.

Can you elaborate on the different types of can making conveyor belts offered by Ashworth?

We offer T316 SS flat wire belts for the can making and washing processes and offer T304 belt where acid resistance is not required. We can also supply plastic belting if needed for general conveyance.

How does Ashworth incorporate innovation into its designs, to improve efficiency and productivity?

Listening to the challenges of the processor is our strength. If you have a challenge, we will work with the processor and offer either a new or existing belt design.

Right: Ashworth's Chemguard Prestoflex belt is now being produced in PVDF material for can washing applications, to prevent belt swelling.

Image: Ashworth



HANDLING & CONVEYING

What measures does Ashworth take to ensure the safety of operators and maintenance personnel when working with its belts?

Most conveyor belts are guarded by the machine builder. However, Ashworth considers possible pinch points when designing new belts to ensure operator safety.

Can you provide an example of successful implementation of Ashworth's belts in a real-world production environment?

Our Chemguard Prestoflex belting produced in PVDF material is now used in most can washing machines.

This belt was originally produced and installed in nearly all can wash machines, but the original polypropylene material would absorb the oils being removed from the cans. This caused the belt to swell. The belt life was only around 18 months due to this swelling which led to belt jams.

Since we introduced the PVDF material in the same belt design, the belt now lasts ten plus years, with no dimensional changes.

How does Ashworth support its customers in terms of maintenance, troubleshooting, and technical support?

Ashworth has a dedicated product/application engineering team to answer technical questions.

We also have Ashworth Factory Services which are trained to help maintain, service and install belting 24/7.

In what ways does Ashworth prioritise sustainability and environmental responsibility in the design and manufacturing of its belts?

Our belting is part of a complex conveyor system but when we design belting, we try to utilise recyclable materials.

By understanding the individual process, we can make recommendations on how to minimise chemical carry over and prevent product damage (waste).

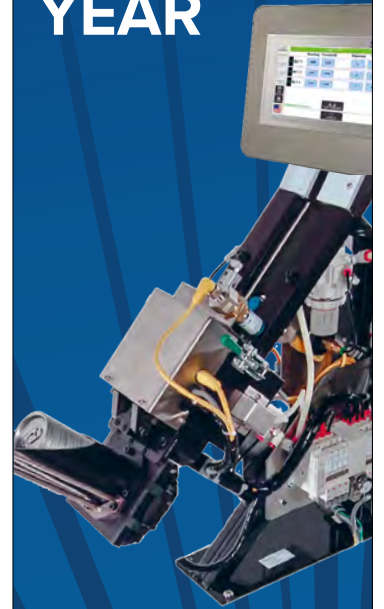
Can you discuss any recent advancements or upcoming developments that potential customers should be aware of?

We have been supplying a system we call SmartOven. This is an equipment monitoring system that records and maps trends to your smart phone, tablet, laptop or PC.

By monitoring trends and issuing warnings the processor can reliably schedule predictive maintenance instead of more costly preventive maintenance. 

Jonathan R Lasecki has over 27 years of experience designing and troubleshooting food processing conveyors and can conveyor belting. As director of engineering, he oversees the design and development of Ashworth conveyor belting.

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Viktoria Tager, PPG's new global segment manager for easy open ends, discusses the company's innovation in internal and external coatings, in relation to sustainable practice and regulation



Above image:
Shutterstock

Viktoria Tager was appointed PPG's global segment manager in September 2023.
Headshot: PPG

Could you start by explaining the importance of easy open ends in the metal packaging industry?

Easy open ends are a structural part of metal beverage cans, which makes their durability and performance extremely important. People often assume that cans are produced in one piece. However, like in many industrial processes, the parts of a can are painted in different locations and assembled afterwards.

Moreover, unlike the can body which is typically spray-coated, the can end is painted in a roll coat application, then formed in a high-speed stamping process, which puts tremendous stress and

pressure on the metal. This requires a differentiated coating technology that will perform well during the forming process.

Once the can body and the easy open end are brought together, the combination creates a strong and sustainable package that not only looks visually appealing but also ensures the beverage will last on the shelf.

Which PPG coatings are used for easy open ends and why?

Easy open ends require a coating technology that balances flexibility with hardness. The hardness

of the coating ensures it properly protects against damage and provides a sufficient barrier against the contents of the beverage can. Flexibility is required for the unique forming process that creates the shape of the end. Getting the right balance is challenging and requires specialised products.

PPG has a large portfolio of easy open end coatings that provide the ideal balance of flexibility and hardness for both the external and internal sides of the ends. Specifically, we offer non-bisphenol, solvent-based Innovel Pro and non-bisphenol, water-based Innovel Evo coatings for internal end applications. Our Isense speciality coatings are used for the external protection of ends. All these products are popular, sustainable and meet the stringent requirements of coil line applicators and end makers.

How do PPG coatings contribute to the functionality of easy open ends?

PPG has been an innovator in this area for many decades to ensure optimum performance for the coil coater, the can maker, the brand owner and the consumer. In addition to our products' balance of flexibility and hardness, we are continually working to increase productivity through film weight reduction and provide the right lubrication properties to keep lines running longer, faster and more efficiently.

Our solutions are proven on a wide variety of commercial coating and end making lines and approved by major global brands. Overall, we offer high-performing, future-proof options for brands that need to streamline supply chains and reduce risks to business continuity.

In terms of sustainability, how do easy open ends coated by PPG compare to other can closures?

PPG decided decades ago to eliminate bisphenol-A and its derivatives from all newly developed packaging coatings, including for easy open ends, using the PPG SafeAssure process. This is in line with PPG's corporate priority to develop coatings that reduce materials of concern – including all bisphenols, PFAS and vinyls – to ensure consumer safety.

In view of evolving regulation, how does PPG ensure the safety and compliance of its coatings, especially in direct contact with food and drink products?

PPG follows a robust product development process adhering to global food regulation mandates and guidance. We conduct in-house testing to ensure beverage can contents are protected by our easy open end coatings, maintain their high quality and do not change during their shelf life. We also work with third-party labs on further test data for our can



customers and beverage brands.

In a variety of ways, we lead the industry in reducing materials of concern with consumer safety and sustainability in mind.

Can you share any success stories where the implementation of easy open ends with PPG coatings resulted in notable improvements for manufacturers or consumers?

One area where PPG has innovated in an impactful way is by making our PPG Innovel Pro PPG2489 series coatings no-post-lubrication capable. With these products, manufacturers don't have to apply lubrication during the stamping process, which saves time and materials. It also means that global manufacturers can specify one coating for all regions as opposed to different ones for each. This is important considering that manufacturing practices and conditions such as line speeds, temperatures, substrates, etc. may differ from one another. Overall, our product allows PPG's customers to specify fewer products and simplify supply chains, which offers additional sustainable advantages.

What advancements or future developments can we expect to see in the realm of easy open ends for cans, particularly regarding PPG coating technologies?

With the fast-changing regulatory landscape, PPG is laser focused on continuing our approach of enhancing consumer safety and expanding our portfolio with sustainable coatings that have reduced materials of concern. Monitoring industry trends and directions in new beverage products is key to adapting new coatings that provide long-term protection. For example, when the industry makes changes to substrates – such as recycled aluminium and lighter weight aluminium – we can ensure that our robust and versatile easy open ends coatings are still a solution for our customers. 

PPG's portfolio for easy open end includes its Innovel Pro, Innovel Evo and Isense speciality coatings.

Image: PPG



thyssenkrupp Rasselstein explains how it is strategically repositioning its expertise in surface technology to align with future industry demands

Packaging steel coils.

Image: thyssenkrupp Rasselstein

The packaging industry is perpetually in motion, with materials, production techniques, and global standards continually evolving. In response to these shifts, thyssenkrupp Rasselstein is strategically repositioning its expertise in surface technology to align with future industry demands. The company's technology, innovation and quality division, encompassing the surface technology and chemistry department, plays a pivotal role in executing this strategy.

"Our department's expert teams are integral to every critical process, ranging from the development of innovative products and enhancement of existing surfaces to the certification of our tinplate. In addition, we actively contribute to work within European associations," stated Tobias Kirst, head of surface technology and chemistry (Oberflächentechnik und Chemie, OTC) at thyssenkrupp Rasselstein.

The primary aim of OTC's development efforts is centred on optimising the surface of packaging steel. The department's diverse expert teams collaborate closely with technical customer service, production and sales to enhance the fulfilment of customer needs. By consolidating innovative expertise within specialised teams and establishing cross-sector technology networks with value chain partners, opportunities for advancement are leveraged more effectively. The department is organised into five expert teams, each focusing on distinct areas of responsibility: analytics, product and production support, conformities, new surfaces, and organic coatings with lacquers or film.

The thyssenkrupp analytics expert team primarily focuses on measuring values critical to the production of packaging steel, including data related to the water cycle. These values help ascertain whether all production parameters are correctly adjusted. Additionally, analytics is an integral part of quality assurance, encompassing production monitoring tasks such as overseeing the electrolytic coating processes of the coating lines and all production bath concentrations. This expert team collaborates closely with the production support department to address customer queries about packaging steel processing.

"From the customer's perspective, it's not always clear which external factors might affect the material. Once our team identifies the cause, we join forces with the support team to devise solutions that enhance the customer's production processes," explained Kirst.

Thyssenkrupp Rasselstein places a strong emphasis on ongoing research and development, broadening its collaborations with universities and research institutes. The goal of these partnerships is to create products that are sustainable for the future, thereby providing long-term benefits to manufacturers and fillers. For instance, the OTC division is currently developing an alternative to traditional rolling oil. Collaborative research efforts are underway with the renowned Fraunhofer Institute to achieve energy efficiencies in tinplate production, as well as with other research bodies focusing on bipolar plates for fuel cells, contributing to the energy transition.

The role of regulation is becoming increasingly critical for surface technologies. Swift response times and a proactive, solution-focused approach are crucial, as recently demonstrated by the 2021 ban on perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

"Customers need to trust that manufacturers will respond swiftly and adeptly to regulations that are implemented unexpectedly, whether it's a ban on substances or adjustments to compliance limits. This is equally true for the adoption of the chromium-free passivation alternative (CFPA) for tinplate and TCCT as a Reach-compliant ECCS. In these and similar situations, we have proactively taken the necessary steps to ensure uninterrupted production. Consequently, the OTC division is deeply engaged in industry association efforts to promptly understand regulatory changes and their implications for the packaging sector," said Kirst.

At thyssenkrupp Rasselstein, the conformities and new surfaces expert team members are dedicated to overseeing sensitive material properties and ensuring product stability. They meticulously ensure, for example, that only certified packaging materials are utilised for coils to prevent any contact with hazardous substances. Additionally, the longevity of new surface treatments undergoes thorough

evaluation through storage tests. In these tests, tinplate cans filled with food are stored for periods of 12, 24, and 36 months, after which both the filling good and the packaging are examined for any potential alterations.

One of the expert teams at thyssenkrupp Rasselstein specialises in coatings and films, recognising their growing significance in combination with tinplate. Despite the company not manufacturing coatings or films itself, thyssenkrupp Rasselstein is deeply invested in this area.

"We collaborate closely with suppliers and customers to ensure the delivery of thoroughly vetted and entirely safe products to consumers. This requires a perfect alignment among the can, its coating, and the filling good," Kirst explained.

The coating's barrier effect must maintain specific porosity levels and demonstrate high stability. In this regard, the surface technology and chemistry team's expertise was recently sought in developing the chromium-free passivation alternative CFPA. The suitability of BPA-NI coating generations for chromium-free passivation was evaluated. Findings indicated that CFPA, with its higher surface energy compared to chromium-based passivations, offers improved wettability, making them ideally suited for transitioning to BPA-NI coatings. 

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Taking it slow

Integrated Packaging Solutions (IPS) and **Canline** have collaborated on a new magnetic speed controller for aluminium cups and cans

Integrated Packaging Solutions (IPS) and Canline have launched a new production tool named CanBrake, which works in accordance with the 'Lenz effect' or 'Lenz Law.'

By utilising neodymium magnets, CanBrake induces electrical eddy currents in the cans, magnetising them and effectively acting as a brake, reducing line spoilage and offering adjustable positioning for optimal efficiency. This principle can be observed in various applications, such as slowing down roller coasters.

According to the two companies, the CanBrake works seamlessly with aluminium cups and cans of all sizes, ensuring versatile compatibility across production lines.

CanBrake is utilised for track work with the cans and cups, where the magnets' proximity to the can determines the eddy currents' effect. That is why this design offers adjustability for the magnets' position.

With its electric-free design and magnetic operation, the CanBrake significantly improves equipment life by reducing wear and tear, while ensuring no contact with moving parts. It also

minimises the risk of can dents and scratches by eliminating direct contact, therefore safeguarding product integrity.

The new innovation also has capability to reduce tipped cans and maintain smooth operations, thus offering enhanced production efficiency and higher speeds.



Eddy currents act to slow and stabilise the can.
Both images: IPS

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JBT CORPORATION INTRODUCES SEAMTEC 2 EVOLUTE FOR POWDER PRODUCTS



JBT Corporation, technology solutions provider to the global food and beverage industry, has announced the launch of the SeamTec 2 Evolute for powder products.

According to the company, this development offers significant improvements in hygienic design and cleanability, ergonomics, and machine simplicity while retaining the high-performing core features for powder, such as spill reduction, packaging size flexibility, and explosion-proof technology. The seamer can be used in an expanded amount of configurations by infant formula producers.

The SeamTec 2 Evolute features redesigned elements to exceed powder market demands and optimise production. The powder seamer is easier to operate and maintain with its simplified design and features a large window for maximised visibility inside. Additionally, the reduction of the technology's footprint allows for improved layout optimisation and cost reduction.

"The evolving requirements within the industry in terms of hygienic design, ease of use and economical constraints created the need for a redesign which resulted in the SeamTec 2 Evolute for Powder," said Ronald Annendijck, JBT's global product line manager, filling & closing. "This equipment is unrivalled seaming technology offering the highest hygienic design currently within the market."

JBT has established itself as a reliable, single point of contact for integrated and complex production lines. The SeamTec 2 Evolute is the latest addition to the unique and renowned PLF International's vacuum filling technology, which has served and elevated global brands for over three decades. With this latest development, the SeamTec 2 Evolute displays mastering of the core technology for an efficient and performing production line.

"I am proud of the team for developing this state-of-the-art technology, which will be a game changer in this market segment for infant formula. The SeamTec 2 Evolute is a breakthrough development, which we proudly add to the most recent and successful launches in the last 24 months, such as the Vacuum Gassing System (VGS) and Virtus Modular Inline Filler, all primarily targeting infant formula and other valuable powdery products," said Amedeo Scapin, global director product lines, diversified food and health.

"The production of safe, high-quality infant formula is critical, and JBT continues to exceed expectations in the development of the safest, most hygienic technology available to processors today.

"JBT is known to be a reliable single point of contact for integrated and complex production lines (ISP) and with this latest development SeamTec 2 Evolute we master the core technology for an efficient and performing production line," Scapin added.

Customers of the SeamTec 2 Evolute can opt into the total maintenance package with JBT's PROcARE, offering remote, real-time support and scheduled visits from JBT technicians to ensure the seamer is running at its best, avoiding unexpected stoppages and keeping production running.

KEY FEATURES FOR THE INFANT FORMULA MARKET INCLUDE:

- **HYGIENIC DESIGN:** No infeed chain is required, no hollow body design and a sealed-off seaming area. The new open design is easier to clean and reduces the amount of lubricant for operations and guarantees no airborne oil particles, making the equipment more hygienic and further reducing contamination risks during production.
- **REDUCED POWDER SPILL:** Features an infeed scroll till seaming table, stopping lifter and the highest amount of seaming heads possible within the market for decreased rotational speed.
- **ERGONOMICS:** Combined with a heavily reduced weight of change parts, the ergonomics of the equipment are heavily improved and feature poka-yoke and combi execution.
- **MULTIPLE CONFIGURATIONS:** Configuration for each high-speed powder application, while having the possibility for low changeover capabilities for a 3, 4, and 6-head and combi 4, combi 6, and triple 6. All achievable for POE or DDE cans, with the possibility for changeover.

Image: JBT

DASH WATER DEBUTS ORANGE FLAVOUR

UK beverage brand, Dash Water, is launching a new Orange flavour which it calls “bold, bright, and brimming with flavour.”

The naturally flavoured drink is made from three simple ingredients: fresh spring water, bubbles and ‘wonky’ Spanish oranges – the bobbly, crushed, misshapen ones that others say no to. As all the other flavours in Dash Water’s range, it contains no sugar, sweeteners or calories.

Jack Scott, co-founder of Dash Water, commented, “We are so excited to announce the launch of our new orange flavour in time for sunnier days. Orange is the true taste of summer, so whether you serve it chilled, over ice or as a zero-calorie mixer, it’s sure to add even more brightness to the longer days.”

As well as offering consumers ‘a taste of sunshine,’ the launch of Orange is another step forward in Dash’s ongoing mission to change the

narrative around artificial sweeteners being a consequence-free sugar substitute.

Scott added, “With artificial sweeteners and sugars continuing to make headlines for the wrong reasons (and rightly so), we at Dash have made it our aim to give our customers a drink to feel good about.

“We’re proud that Dash Orange, like all our drinks, contains no sugar or artificial sweeteners and is genuinely healthy. It’s undeniably refreshing and a delicious alternative to the excessive sugar and sweetener-filled mainstream soft drinks. We encourage consumers to think twice before they choose an Orange can from the shelves this summer.”

Dash Orange is available to order from dash-water.com and was made available on Ocado from the end of May 2024.



Image: Dash Water

Aplós launches functional, non-alcoholic, canned craft cocktails

UK-based cocktail brand, Shake Baby Shake, is adding three new flavours to its product portfolio in the form of Lemon Gin Fizz, Pink Berry Margherita and On the Peach, all inspired by classic fruity flavours with a contemporary twist.

Lemon Gin Fizz has a tangy gin base with a splash of lemon juice; Pink Berry Margarita mixes raspberry, margarita flavour and vodka; and On the Peach comprises a smooth blend of peach, orange, coconut and vodka. The cans have an ABV of 3.4% and are presented in a 250ml single can format, with an RRP of between £1.55-£1.60 per can.

All NPD flavours are available from Sainsbury’s stores nationwide and online at www.goodtimein.co.uk, and in various pubs and bars across the UK.

Brand manager at Shake Baby Shake, Emily Seddon, said, “We’re really excited to introduce these new flavours to our Shake Baby Shake range. Each flavour has been crafted with our customers in mind – we’ve seen increasing demand for more exotic taste profiles – particularly during the summer months when we see an increase in consumption of fruity flavours.”



Image: Shake Baby Shake/Global Brands

GRAZA LAUNCHES ‘BEER CAN’ REFILLS FOR OLIVE OIL

Olive oil brand, Graza, has announced the on-shelf debut of its nitrogen-sealed ‘beer can’ refills in select Whole Foods Market stores across the US, and online at www.graza.com.

“We’ve been dreaming up our second innovation in the olive oil category since we launched in January of 2022,” said Graza CEO and co-founder, Andrew Benin. “Having the support of a world-class retail supplier in Whole Foods Market is a superpower. We are excited to bring our perfectly-portioned beer can refills to Whole Foods Market shelves, empowering customers to procure Graza EVOO (extra virgin olive oil) that has been nitrogen-sealed for maximum freshness in a lightweight and fully recyclable can.”

With the addition of Graza’s Sizzle ‘Refill’ Cooking EVOO and Drizzle ‘Refill’ Finishing EVOO, current Graza customers can refill their Graza Squeeze Bottles, and customers who have their own olive oil carafes can buy 100% recyclable Graza refills to use at home.

“We have been champions of the Graza brand since they came to market two years ago, so when Andrew and Allen told us they wanted to create an EVOO refill solution, we were immediately onboard,” said Brooke Gil, principal category merchant of Olive Oil at Whole Foods Market. “The beer cans are such a creative way to execute something that almost every kitchen has, and as their leading retailer we’re excited to bring this innovation to our customers.”



Image: Graza



Ripl Efek introduces patented detergent dispenser and refill

Laundry detergent brand, Ripl Efek, is introducing its eco and skin-friendly formula, along with a patented laundry detergent dispenser made from stainless steel, and refill containers made from aluminium.

According to the brand, "Ripl Efek's focus is to revolutionise not only how we operate

in our daily lives (doing laundry, cleaning countertops, etc.) but also how that impacts the environment and world in general. Additionally, blending laundry with the beauty industry to create something new."

Ripl Efek has plans to launch a suite of products for both retail and wholesale customers, with the goal of making a difference on a large scale, and will be announcing new products soon. Additionally, Ripl Efek has announced a partnership with CleanHub, aimed at creating more awareness around waste management, including reducing the use of plastic on land which will ultimately improve the seas.

Image: Ripl Efek

5-hour Energy receives upgrade

Innovation Ventures has announced an update to its popular 5-hour Energy product line in the US. The refresh features a bold redesign of its 16oz beverage, enhancements to classic fan favourite flavours, and an introduction of two new flavours to the lineup.

The redesign of the 5-hour Energy 16oz canned beverage sports a colourful and fun design with an enhanced logo, and also prominently displays important key attributes on the front, making it easier for consumers to make informed choices about their energy drinks and know they're getting the benefits they want from their beverage, without any sugar or calories, according to the creators.

The refresh includes carefully crafted flavour improvements and higher levels of carbonation. The two new flavours to the lineup include: Rainbow Sherbet, a combination of orange and lemon-lime flavours, and Raspberry Razz, which features summer-ripe raspberries.



Image: Innovation Ventures

William Say manufactures candle tin for TV-famous farm

William Say & Co, London's only central independent can maker, has collaborated with Diddly Squat Farm to create a hand-embossed gold candle tin for the farm's new bestseller, Summer Meadow.

Diddly Squat Farm, located in Chipping Norton, Cotswolds, is owned and run by Jeremy Clarkson and his partner, Lisa Hogan. The farm features in Amazon Prime's TV series, 'Clarkson's Farm.'

Lisa Hogan commented, "We wanted to create a candle that captured the essence of our summer meadows and depicted all the star animals from season one, two and three of Clarkson's Farm. William Say created a bespoke emboss print surrounding the tin showcasing the chickens, sheep, and even our beloved cow, Pepper, has made an appearance.

"It was important to us that the candle was made within the UK and William Say handcrafted each tin at its UK factory. It's been a true collaborative process with the team at William Say taking our ideas to help create this gorgeous lemony scented candle.

"Not only is the tin a great candle, but the empty container can actually be reused to plant flowers in or store other household items, making it a great keepsake," said Hogan.

Stuart Wilkinson, sales and marketing director at William Say and its sister packaging stockist, P. Wilkinson Containers, commented: "The 74mm diameter slip lid tin and body of the candle have a unique gold colour print and are embossed with the foliage and animals from the Diddly Squat Farm.

"All elements on the candle are created through embossing, rather than digital printing, helping the details stand out, bringing the animals to life and creating a really tactile finish.

"We supported the team throughout the whole process, from concept curation to the creation of the tin, the inputting of the candle itself and the shipping to the Diddly Squat Farm – we supplied and created the finished product from start to end," added Wilkinson.

The 200g candle is now on sale through the Diddly Squat Farm website, (diddlysquatcharmshop.com), retailing at £32.



Image: William Say & Co



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Organisations found lacking in innovative approaches

New research from Industrial Physics, packaging and material test and measurement provider, has revealed the extent of innovation within the food and beverage packaging industry, and how this is impacted by internal operations.

Last year, Industrial Physics' report found that there is a desire for innovation, with 96% of packaging professionals in food and beverage expressing that new developments in packaging were important, and with 71% believing it was very important. However, this year's data highlights that in reality, less than a quarter (24%) of organisations are currently taking an innovative approach.

The international survey of packaging professionals operating in the food and beverage packaging sector found that more than one in five (22%) packaging professionals said that their company does not usually follow up on the innovative ideas it comes up with, and half of respondents (49%) said that too many teams are involved in the innovation process, which slows them down.

The report also found that 35% of packaging professionals using organic material said that they didn't feel they had the appropriate expertise to facilitate growth and innovation in their business.

As Steve Davis, global director of product management at Industrial Physics, explains in the report, there is limited capacity for innovation despite the desire for it being there: "Overall the mechanisms, the capacity and the direction aren't quite there yet. Packaging companies understand the significant resource and investment required for the majority of innovation opportunities, therefore the decision to go ahead is not a quick or an easy one," he said.

When respondents were asked how their business had fared over the past five years, almost half (47%) said their company has had to make layoffs. This is more likely to be the case with US based respondents at 58%, compared with an average of 44% in Europe and 45% in Asia. The proportion of those making layoffs varies between material type – the highest being those working with paper (62%).

Davis added: "Many companies within the packaging sector have been operating for decades and currently do not have the capacity to pursue innovative ideas whilst maintaining their regular manufacturing output which already satisfies a consistent demand. We're noticing that companies that want to pursue innovation are running into internal barriers. In a period where budgets are extremely tight and layoffs are being made, unless a company can guarantee the ROI, there simply isn't enough justification to assign resource to innovation."

Davis concluded: "Our report highlights that pursuing opportunities in innovation is not as straightforward as it seems. With continued turbulence and both internal and external factors contributing to uncertainty, organisations need more support than ever to remain resilient and assess opportunities for innovation in packaging without compromising on the quality or safety of their products.

"With 41% saying their company is planning to take an innovative approach in the next three years, companies should start planning ahead and assessing their internal operations to make careful, considered decisions about how they're going to pursue innovation, as these changes cannot be made overnight." **CT**



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