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Contents & features

Welcome to Issue Four of Packaging Suppliers Global, where the focus turns to packaging machinery and automation at one of the busiest times of the year for the industry.

As manufacturers look to improve efficiency, flexibility and resilience, this issue explores some of the challenges and technologies shaping modern production. Our guest writer Ton considers whether maximum speed still defines efficiency when increasingly varied production demands greater flexibility, while consultancy specialist TPC looks at why successful automation begins with eliminating process variation. We also explore the growing role of AI and the challenge of equipment obsolescence.

With exhibition season in full swing, we also turn our attention to two major industry events: the PPMA Show® and PACK EXPO International. Both offer opportunities to discover the latest machinery, automation and technologies, making it an exciting time for the sector.

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Ton's take: When flexibility becomes efficiency

The fastest packaging line is not necessarily the one with the lowest Total Cost of Ownership.



We are approaching another very busy packaging exhibition season. London Packaging Week, ThePackHub's Brand Owners & Retailers event, PPMA, PACK EXPO and CPHI are just some of the events where brand owners, retailers, packaging suppliers and machine manufacturers will meet over the coming months.

Walking around these exhibitions, we will undoubtedly see faster machines, more automation, AI, new materials and plenty of claims about efficiency.

But perhaps we should start asking a slightly different question.

“ *How relevant is maximum speed when the market increasingly asks for maximum flexibility?* ”

For decades, the economics of packaging production were relatively straightforward. You would run the same product, in the same pack, for days or even weeks, so speed and uptime were everything. The faster the machine and the higher the OEE, the better the economics.

Those production environments certainly have not disappeared and neither will they. There are still many high-volume products where dedicated lines can happily run 24/7 with relatively few changes. For these operations, maximum speed, uptime and OEE remain extremely important.

But they are no longer the standard situation across the packaging industry.

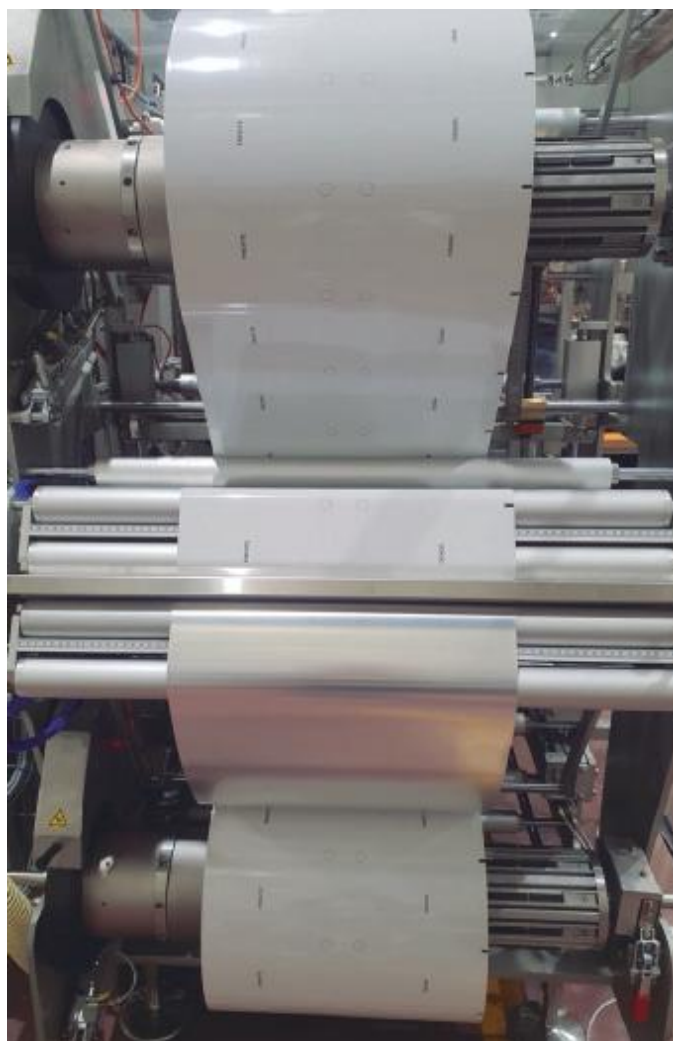
An increasing part of today's market has to deal with a very different reality: more SKUs, shorter production runs and much more frequent changeovers.

Consumers expect more choice and retailers want differentiation. Private label is an important driver of this development. Or perhaps we should increasingly call it what it really is: **the retailer's own house brand.**

These house brands are no longer simply cheaper alternatives to the established brands. In many categories retailers have developed sophisticated ranges covering mainstream, premium and increasingly very specific consumer needs. And sometimes they are even leading the innovation. Gluten-free, lactose-free, vegan, high-protein, organic and other propositions have in several categories been pushed very actively by retailers and their private label suppliers.

The traditional brand owners cannot ignore that development. In order to keep up, they respond with more flavours, more formats, different pack sizes, premium variants, products for specific consumer groups, seasonal products and promotional editions.

Add retailer-specific requirements on top of that and the result is fairly obvious: **more SKUs and shorter production runs.**



Co-packers have been living in this world for years

This development is not completely new to me. During my years working closely with the European co-packing industry, flexibility was always one of the strongest arguments for outsourcing production.

A co-packer can rarely afford the luxury of making one product for weeks. One customer may require a particular product and pack size in the morning, another customer something completely different in the afternoon. Different products, different customers, different formats and increasingly different packaging materials, all using the same production assets.

What was once mainly a characteristic of the co-packing business is becoming much more relevant to mainstream manufacturing.

And that changes what we should expect from packaging machinery.

My career has mainly been commercially driven and I certainly don't pretend to be a machine engineer. But for many years I was also responsible for the P&L of a packaging production operation. That experience makes you look at machine efficiency somewhat differently.

“ *The fastest machine on paper is not necessarily the machine which makes you the most money.* ”

If production runs become shorter, changeover time suddenly becomes much more important. Ten minutes saved on a changeover doesn't make much difference when you run the next product for three weeks. It makes a huge difference when you are changing products or formats several times a day.

The same applies to start-up waste, cleaning, adjustments and the time needed to get the next production run stable.

This is where Total Cost of Ownership becomes much more interesting than maximum theoretical output.

PPWR adds another dimension

At the same time, packaging materials themselves are changing.

PPWR will accelerate the move towards recyclable packaging, increased recycled content and packaging structures designed around a more

circular economy. Brand owners and retailers have already started to adopt mono-materials, paper-based solutions, recycled materials and other structures which sometimes behave quite differently on existing packaging equipment.

That creates another challenge for machine manufacturers.

A packaging machine purchased ten years ago may still be mechanically perfectly good. Nobody is going to replace Europe's installed packaging machinery base simply because packaging materials are changing. Nor would that make much economic – or sustainability – sense.

So retrofitting becomes increasingly important.

Sometimes relatively modest adaptations can make an existing machine suitable for a new generation of packaging materials. This could involve controls and sealing systems, but also something as practical as different forming shoulders which handle the characteristics of a new film better.

Machine manufacturers are increasingly working on exactly these challenges: testing new materials, retrofitting existing equipment and making machines more adaptable to different formats and material structures. I recently discussed this with **Guillem Lloret of Mespac**, who explained how they have incorporated many of these developments into their new generation of machines.

And Mespac is certainly not alone. Across the industry, flexibility is increasingly becoming a design requirement rather than an optional extra. For me, this is an important consequence of PPWR which sometimes receives too little attention.

“ *Developing a recyclable packaging structure is one thing. Running it efficiently at industrial scale is something completely different.* ”

Sealing is part of the equation

Sealing is a good example. Conventional heat sealing technology has served our industry extremely well for decades and has improved considerably along the way. It will continue to do so.

But the requirements are changing.

As the variety of packaging materials increases, technologies such as digital sealing, as developed by watttron, or ultrasonic sealing from specialists such as Herrmann Ultrasonics, can offer additional



Guillem Lloret, Mespac.

possibilities for precise process control and flexibility.

I have been exposed to both technologies during my career, although I will happily leave the technical comparison to the engineers. What interests me more is the business case.

Can a machine handle a wider range of materials? Can it change from one product, format or material to another faster? Can we reduce waste during start-up?

And ultimately, does all of this improve the Total Cost of Ownership?

That is the discussion I find much more interesting than which technology looks best on the exhibition stand.

And then there is the operator

There is another major change taking place inside our factories.

The operator who has worked on the same production line for twenty years is becoming a rare species.

Many of us know these operators. They could hear that something wasn't quite right before anybody else noticed it. They knew exactly which adjustment to make and sometimes had that almost impossible to explain fingertip feeling for keeping a difficult line running.

Many of these people are now retiring.

Their replacements may stay with a company for five years, two years or perhaps only a few months. Temporary workers are also a fact of life in many production environments. Training every new operator for months before they can independently run a packaging line is simply becoming less realistic.

Machines therefore have to become easier to operate.

Recipe management, automatic settings, vision systems, guided changeovers and increasingly machine learning can help. Not because every packaging machine suddenly needs an AI sticker on the front – we will probably see enough of those at the exhibitions – but because some of the process knowledge which previously existed in the heads and fingertips of experienced operators will increasingly have to be captured by the equipment itself.

We are already seeing this development across the machinery industry. Digital operator support, camera inspection, automatic process control and machine learning are increasingly becoming part of the machine rather than optional extras.

The objective should be simple: a machine must deliver consistent output without being completely dependent on that one operator who has been with the company since 1998.

Different exhibitions, same direction

This is what makes the coming exhibition season particularly interesting.

At London Packaging Week and ThePackHub's Brand Owners & Retailers event, we will see where brands and retailers want packaging to go: more differentiation, premiumisation, sustainability and new formats.

At PPMA Show® and PACK EXPO, we can see how the machinery industry is responding and whether that flexibility can also be delivered in a commercially viable way.

And at CPHI, many of the same issues appear in an even more demanding environment of pharmaceutical packaging. Smaller production runs, contract manufacturing, multiple products and formats, but combined with additional strict requirements around validation, traceability, hygiene and product safety.

Different markets, but increasingly similar challenges.

And then we move into 2027. Packaging Suppliers Global itself will start the year with *Packaging for Tomorrow*, around Packaging Innovations & Empack Birmingham, followed by *Pharmaceutical Packaging & Industry Transformation* around PHARMAP.

By then, I expect flexibility to have moved even further up the agenda.

A different definition of efficiency

Because ultimately this isn't about producing less efficiently.

Quite the opposite.

It is about redefining efficiency for the market we have today.

A machine still needs good output. Of course it does. **And for those 24/7 high-volume operations, outright speed will remain a major part of the equation.** But for a growing part of the market, efficiency has become a broader calculation.

Combine good output with short changeover times, low start-up waste, the ability to handle different formats and new materials, less dependency on highly experienced operators and the possibility to retrofit equipment as market requirements change.

Put all of that into the Total Cost of Ownership calculation and the result may be considerably better than simply buying the machine with the highest number of packs per minute on the specification sheet.

So perhaps, when walking the exhibition floors over the coming months, we should not only ask machine suppliers:

"How fast does it run?"

I would also ask:

"How fast can it change?"

Because the packaging market has changed.

And the machines will have to change with it.

If you have any thoughts or comments on this topic, feel free to reach out to me via LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/tonknipscheer/



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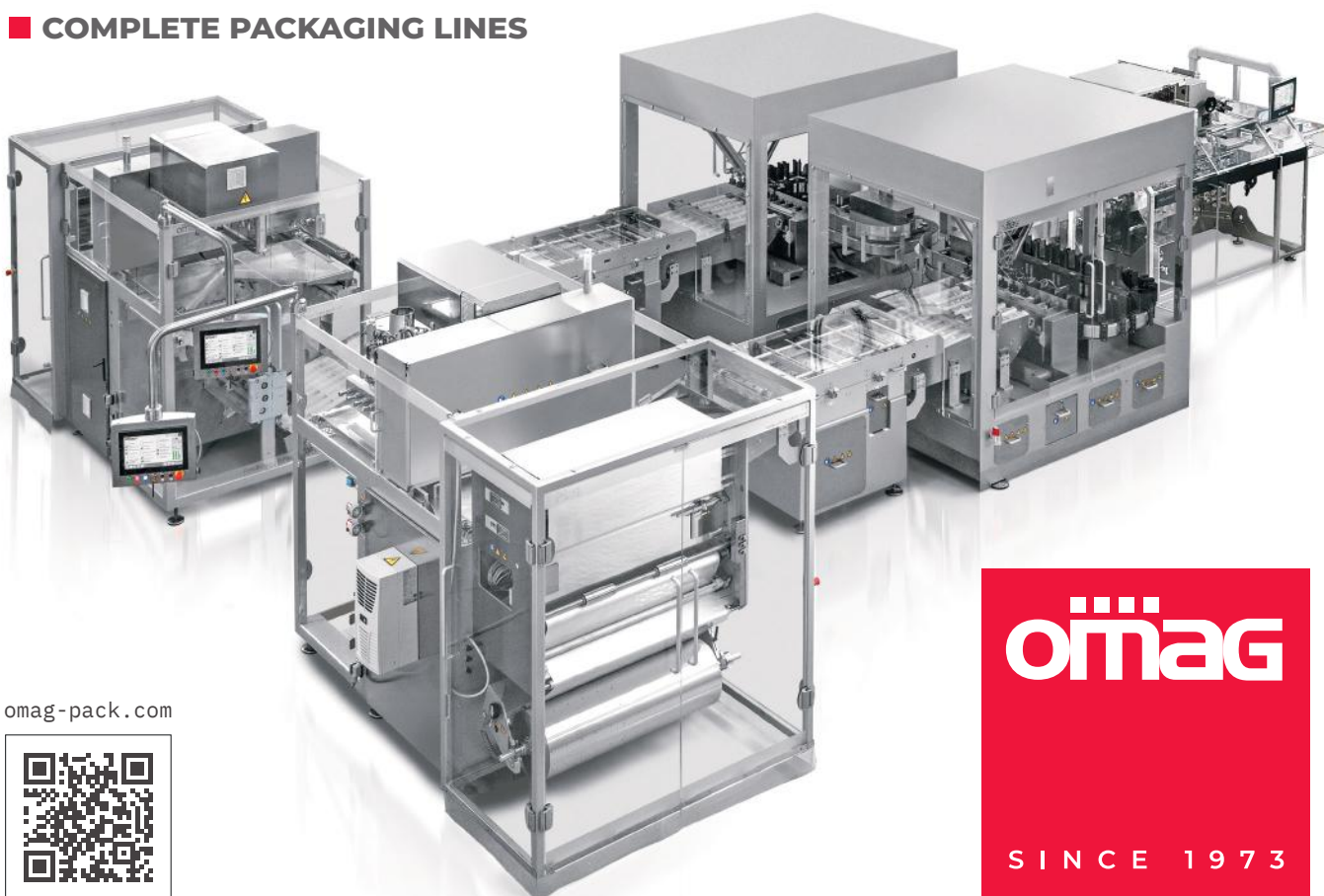
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PACK EXPO International showcases solutions to industry's most pressing challenges



As packaging and processing operations face accelerating technological change, workforce shortages, and rising sustainability demands, PACK EXPO International 2026 (Oct. 18-21, McCormick Place, Chicago) returns at the right time for packaging and processing professionals seeking solutions to these challenges and more.

The show will be the largest in its history, featuring 1.3 million net square feet of exhibit space, more than 2,600 exhibitors, and approximately 48,000 professionals from over 40 vertical markets. The event brings together packaging and processing solutions across industries including food and beverage, pharmaceuticals and life sciences, logistics and supply chain, pet food, processing, personal care and more.

Industry research from show producer PMMI, The Association for Packaging and Processing Technologies, highlights why attending PACK EXPO International is more important than ever. According to PMMI's [2026 Building an AI Advantage in Packaging Equipment](#) white paper, the range of AI applications in packaging equipment has expanded significantly in the past two years, with solutions becoming increasingly affordable and sophisticated. As awareness and proof-of-concept implementations grow, AI is becoming accessible to a wider range of manufacturers and brand owners.

At the same time, the industry continues to face significant workforce challenges. PMMI's [2025 Inside the Workforce Gap](#) report identifies the

shortage of skilled technical workers as one of the most significant barriers facing manufacturers today, a challenge many expect to persist or even worsen in the coming years.

“In the two years since our last show, trends like AI, robotics, and automation have taken off and become prominent in the industry,” says Laura Thompson, vice president, trade shows, PMMI. *“We’ve also seen workforce challenges, sustainability demands, and regulatory pressures remain top concerns.”*

PACK EXPO International provides a unique opportunity for attendees to address these challenges firsthand. The show floor will feature thousands of solutions designed to improve productivity, streamline operations, and support evolving industry needs, from automation and AI-driven technologies to sustainability innovations and workforce development tools.

“PACK EXPO International offers brands an opportunity to see thousands of solutions to these pressing industry challenges on the floor in real time, learn from leading industry experts, and utilise their time effectively to come away with tangible results.”

In addition to technology demonstrations, attendees will have access to more than 150 free educational sessions on five different stages located directly on the show floor, providing insight into the industry's most important topics including the State of the Industry (packaging and processing), Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), GS1 Sunrise 2027, recycling, material handling, logistics, supply chain, and more.

New for 2026

To support small and medium-sized businesses, PACK EXPO International will introduce the SMB FastTrack program, highlighting exhibitors and educational sessions tailored to the needs of small to medium-sized businesses (SMB). During the show, PMMI Media Group will host [PACK EXPO Discovery Tours](#), curated expert-led tours designed to help busy professionals efficiently navigate the expansive show floor and discover relevant innovations.

Returning Pavilions

PACK EXPO International will once again feature specialised areas dedicated to key industry sectors, including:

- Logistics Pavilion
- Confectionery Pavilion
- PACKage Printing Pavilion
- Healthcare Packaging Pavilion
- Containers and Materials Pavilion
- Food and Beverage Processing Zone
- Reusable Packaging Pavilion

Networking, Students, and Show Resources

Attendees will also benefit from numerous networking opportunities and special events such as A Night Out with PACK gives BACK®, the Packaging & Processing Women's Leadership Network (PPWLN) Breakfast, and the Young Professionals Networking Reception sponsored by Beckhoff Automation. Gold sponsor for the PPWLN Breakfast includes Morrison Container Handling Solutions. Silver sponsors include BW Packaging, Plexpack Corp., and Septimatech Group Inc.

Students exploring careers in packaging and processing can participate in programs such as the Amazing Packaging Race, PACK Challenge, and the Future Innovators Robotics Showcase.

To help attendees maximise their time at the show, PMMI provides a variety of planning tools including the new [Visual Category](#) search where attendees can find packaging and processing equipment at the show by category. Also, [My Show Planner](#) is a personalised tool for organising must-see exhibitors, sessions, and meetings before, during, and after the show.

“We know attendees are focused on driving results,” says Thompson.

“PACK EXPO International is both expansive and easy to navigate — from targeted pavilions to programs designed specifically for SMBs. The goal is to help every attendee leave with practical insights, strong connections, and a clear path forward for their business.”

Discover what's possible at PACK EXPO International 2026 — the largest and most comprehensive packaging and processing event in North America.

Registration is \$30 through Sept. 25, increasing to \$130 afterward.

Learn more and register: packexpointernational.com.

This article was originally published by [PMMI](#).

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Food S-3514
Pharma W-26038

Re:imagining the Factory of the Future

Syntegon at PACK EXPO International



At PACK EXPO International 2026, Syntegon will provide answers to customers' most pressing challenges. With highly innovative solutions, the company will demonstrate how operations in the food, pharma, and biotech sectors can be elevated to the next level of efficiency, flexibility and sustainability.

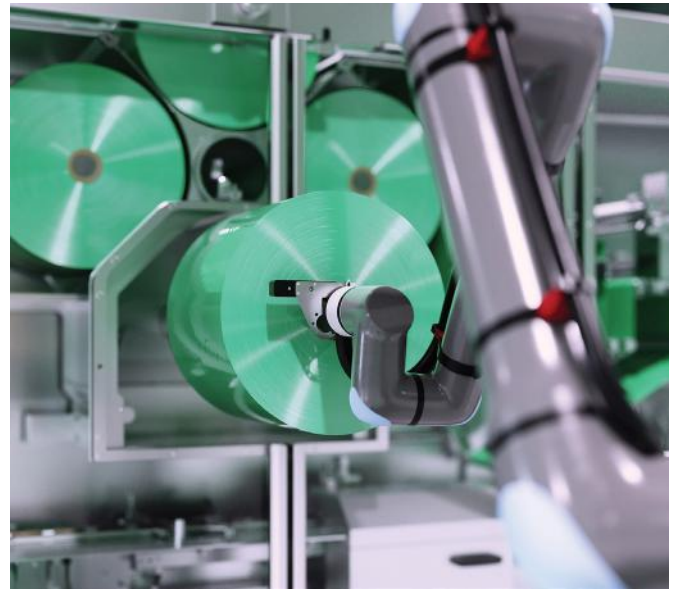
The US industry faces unique challenges. Rising cost pressure, growing demand for flexibility, labour shortages, and increasingly complex regulatory requirements are reshaping production environments across all sectors. To stay competitive, manufacturers need to plan for their factory of the future. Syntegon addresses these needs with innovations developed in close collaboration with its customers. The vision: a factory that can regulate itself, adapt to changing requirements, and support human decision-making through an AI-enabled control centre.

Challenges as a driver for innovation and growth

"At PACK EXPO International, we will demonstrate how our COCREATE and COSUCCEED concept helps customers in the US market address their most pressing production challenges. Game-changing innovations, jointly developed with pioneering customers, deliver greater business impact. Our innovation highlights, neXt and SVX, raise the bar in the food sector. Moreover, we support our pharmaceutical customers in mastering ever-stricter regulatory demands with automated technologies and seamless line solutions. Syntegon's promise as a strategic lifecycle partner combines innovation leadership with best-in-class lifecycle services as the ultimate enabler for our customers' growth," says Torsten Türling, CEO of Syntegon.

neXt: seamless, smart, and touchless

The food industry is evolving quickly: Consumer and retailer demands are changing overnight, requiring utmost flexibility – especially in a fast-moving market like the US. Labour is scarce and increasingly expensive, and regulatory as well as market expectations are driving the shift toward more automation and flexibility. The neXt system from Syntegon will celebrate its North America premiere at Pack Expo. neXt takes on the challenges by providing seamless operation, smart performance, and touchless automation. neXt allows operators to focus on the highest value-adding activities. Seamless operation increases efficiency and minimises downtime. Real-time, smart data drives fact-based action and optimised OEE. Touchless automation and an intuitive UX result in faster changeovers, less training, and higher flexibility across product portfolios.



SVX: high speed, fast changeovers

The highly innovative SVX vertical packaging platform is second to none in addressing today's and tomorrow's customer challenges. Its immense speed of 300 bags per minute enables the lowest cost per bag – a decisive factor in a market shaped by cost pressure and high-volume production. Changeovers across various bag styles are simple and fast, allowing for maximum uptime and flexibility. SVX's compact footprint dramatically increases productivity per square meter, providing a boost to business growth. At PACK EXPO, Syntegon will display the new SVX to produce corner seal bag styles and a completely new line solution to package frozen food.



Annex 1: mastering compliance with seamless line solutions

Pharma and biotech are booming sectors, with the US remaining one of the world's most important markets for biopharmaceutical innovation and production. Syntegon supports customers in mastering regulatory compliance, for example with the new settle plate changer SPC 4000. It fully automates active and passive viable monitoring, resulting in less manual intervention, higher process safety, and increased machine availability. The SPC 4000 can be integrated into both new and existing equipment such as Syntegon's seamless vial line solutions, which visitors can also discover at PACK EXPO International.

Lifecycle services for food and pharma customers

Syntegon is the strategic lifecycle partner of its customers. The company's deep application

expertise supports customers from the first ideation of their Factory of the Future – from concept development to implementation in complex production environments such as those found across the US market. Engineering solutions tailored to customers' specific business needs create the best return on investment. Excellent project execution from the start to an up-and-running factory enables faster time to market. Qualified field and on-site service engineers secure reliable performance and high uptime. Constant line upgrades based on AI-powered data analytics make any investment future-proof.

Syntegon at PACK EXPO International: food booth S-3514, South Hall; pharma booth W-26038, West Hall.

www.syntegon.com



IMA Flexible Packaging Hub: At the centre of your next complete flexible packaging line

The IMA Flexible Packaging Hub represents a unique approach to packaging innovation, bringing together technologies, expertise and brands within the IMA Group to offer customers a single point of access to complete flexible packaging solutions. Built on the principle of synergy, the Hub combines primary, secondary and end-of-line technologies into integrated packaging lines designed to meet the evolving needs of global markets. From food and pet food to pharmaceuticals and nonwoven products, the IMA Flexible Packaging Hub delivers tailored solutions that maximise efficiency, flexibility and sustainability.

The strength of the IMA Flexible Packaging Hub stems from the expertise and complementary technologies of several specialised IMA companies and brands, including IMA Ilapak, IMA Eurosicma, IMA Record, IMA Delta Systems, IMA Fillshape and IMA Tecmar. Together, they contribute decades of experience across primary, secondary and end-of-line packaging, enabling customers to access a complete portfolio of technologies through a single integrated ecosystem.

At the heart of the Hub is a clear vision: helping customers develop complete packaging lines

rather than standalone machines. By leveraging the expertise of multiple IMA companies, customers gain access to a broad range of technologies capable of handling virtually every flexible packaging format. Horizontal and vertical form-fill-seal systems, stand-up pouch solutions, bagging systems, feeding and handling technologies, weighing solutions and advanced automation can be seamlessly integrated into a single production environment.

The value of this integrated approach extends far beyond equipment supply. The IMA Flexible Packaging Hub acts as a strategic partner throughout the entire packaging process, supporting customers from concept development and validation to implementation and long-term optimisation. Combining technologies from different IMA centres of excellence, the Hub delivers turnkey packaging lines engineered to meet specific production requirements while ensuring performance, reliability and scalability.

A key strength of the Hub lies in its ability to address the growing demand for sustainable packaging. IMA technologies are designed to process a wide range of recyclable and sustainable materials, including mono-material structures,

paper-based packaging solutions and other environmentally responsible materials developed to support circular economy goals. This enables customers to reduce environmental impact while maintaining high levels of productivity, package integrity and product protection. Combined with advanced automation, connectivity and digital solutions, the Hub helps manufacturers improve operational performance while preparing for the future of sustainable packaging.

The flexibility of the Hub is reflected in the wide variety of pack styles it can support, including flow wraps, vertical bags, stand-up pouches, stick packs and sachets. This versatility allows manufacturers to respond rapidly to changing consumer preferences and market trends while maintaining the highest production standards.

The IMA Flexible Packaging Hub serves a broad range of market segments. In the food industry, solutions are available for bakery products, biscuits and cookies, breakfast cereals, chocolate and confectionery, dairy products, meat, IQF products, fresh produce, pasta, noodles and rice, snacks, fish and seafood, and coffee. The Hub also provides advanced solutions for pet food, pharmaceuticals, nonwoven applications and other specialised industries requiring high performance and strict quality standards.

An important pillar of the Hub ecosystem is the growing network of IMA Flexible Packaging Hub Customer Experience Centres, dedicated environments created to accelerate innovation and collaboration. More than traditional showrooms, these Centres enable customers to explore technologies, test materials, evaluate packaging solutions and validate concepts under real operating conditions. Developed in close connection with the IMA OpenLabs initiative and continuously expanding across strategic locations worldwide, they provide direct access to IMA expertise, technologies and application know-how.



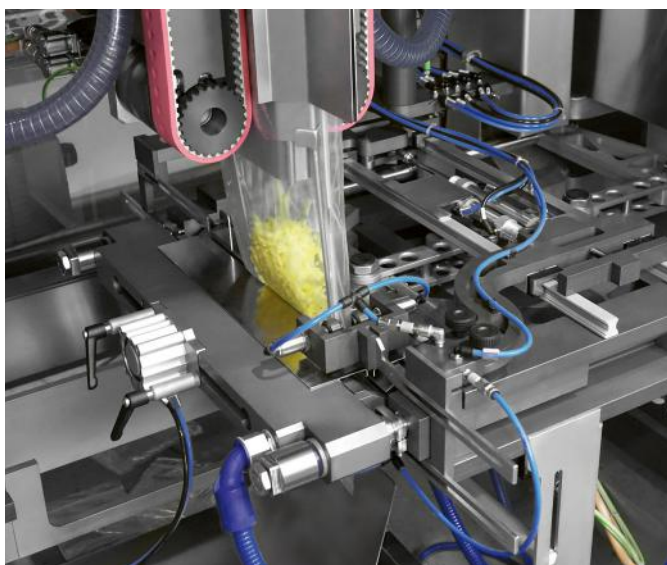
Within the Customer Experience Centres, visitors can experience complete packaging lines and technologies across multiple product categories, assessing performance, efficiency and packaging quality before making investment decisions. The objective is to create a collaborative environment where customers and IMA specialists can work together to identify the best solutions for current and future packaging challenges.

Demonstration lines include horizontal and vertical form-fill-seal technologies, complete flow-wrapping solutions, feeding systems, cartoning applications and innovative packaging concepts for a wide range of products. These installations provide tangible evidence of how different technologies can be integrated into highly efficient production environments.

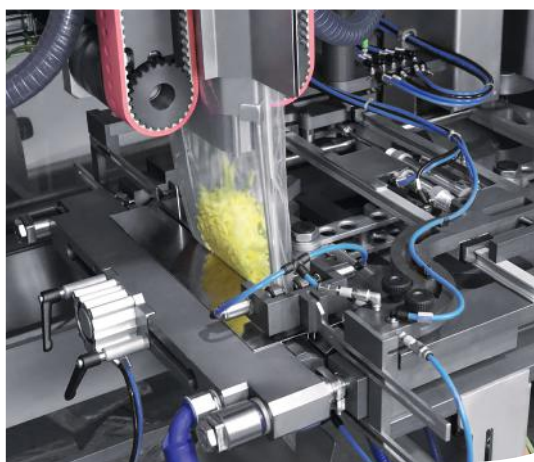
Innovation is further supported by advanced R&D capabilities, including robotic workstations where customers can evaluate automation technologies, vision systems and customised handling solutions. Rapid prototyping tools enable the fast development and validation of tailor-made concepts, reducing project risks and accelerating innovation.

Ultimately, the IMA Flexible Packaging Hub is much more than a collection of technologies. It is a collaborative ecosystem designed to place customers at the centre of innovation. By bringing together leading flexible packaging brands, sustainable solutions, automation, digital technologies and customer-focused development services, the Hub enables manufacturers to transform packaging challenges into competitive advantages. Through complete packaging lines, an expanding network of Customer Experience Centres and a commitment to continuous innovation, the IMA Flexible Packaging Hub provides a comprehensive platform for shaping the future of flexible packaging.

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PACK EXPO 2026

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AI gains ground in packaging industry

Lower costs and greater functionality are helping increase adoption

As costs decline and functionality expands, more consumer packaged goods companies and OEMs are expanding usage of artificial intelligence (AI), according to a report released in February 2026 by PMMI, The Association for Packaging and Processing Technologies.

The report, [Building an AI Advantage in Packaging Equipment](#), updates a paper published by PMMI in 2024 and attributes the growth in AI's role to:

- Lower costs and increased accessibility for companies of all sizes.
- Higher awareness and movement beyond pilot projects.
- Stronger confidence in the technology and willingness to invest.
- Greater acceptance as workers, especially on the frontline, experience tangible benefits.

A global product line manager at an industrial technology and automation company predicts a future with even greater benefits: *"In the next five years, the trajectory will move from isolated optimization to coordinated orchestration. Plant-wide systems that dynamically balance throughput, quality, cost, and energy consumption across every production stage will mature from specialized installations to standard capability."*

Based on interviews with AI vendors, packaging machinery manufacturers, and consumer packaged goods companies, the latest report discusses technical innovations, driving forces, barriers to adoption, and examples of successful real-world implementations.

"Manufacturers across the packaging value chain are recognizing that AI can help address some of their most pressing challenges, from workforce knowledge gaps to operational efficiency. What we're seeing now is a shift from isolated pilots toward broader adoption, where AI supports smarter, more connected production environments," says Jorge Izquierdo, vice president, market development at PMMI.

As use of AI expands, the most common applications fall into five categories, with knowledge transfer and machine vision currently experiencing the highest momentum, followed by predictive maintenance, regulation and compliance, and data transparency.

Despite growing usage, obstacles remain to implementing AI. Primary concerns include data hallucinations and accountability for AI-generated errors. This has increased interest, especially from smaller firms, in software-as-a-service models

that shift risk to providers. In addition, although progress has been made in strengthening security, cybersecurity remains a major issue. Other barriers include internal attitudes, ROI, latency challenges, existing data infrastructure, job security, and gaps in operational readiness.

The report outlines five steps needed to achieve a successful AI strategy:

- Identify business or product challenges.
- Consult AI experts and identify a suitable approach.
- Assess system readiness.
- Manage change and drive adoption.
- Foster collaboration across stakeholders.

The AI landscape is advancing at an unprecedented pace, with transformative developments occurring within remarkably short cycles. See the latest innovations in AI at PACK EXPO International 2026 (Oct. 18–21; McCormick Place, Chicago) and experience the largest and most comprehensive packaging and processing event in North America.

Explore 2,600 exhibitors and discover machinery, materials, and technology solutions for 40+ industries — all in one place. With 48,000

“Artificial intelligence is becoming a practical tool for improving packaging operations, and PACK EXPO International offers a unique opportunity for companies to see these innovations in action and explore how they can be applied on the plant floor.”

— Jorge Izquierdo, vice president, market development at PMMI.

attendees, targeted pavilions, and curated planning tools, it's easier than ever to find what your operation needs, uncover emerging trends, and make valuable connections. Held only once every two years, PACK EXPO International is a can't-miss opportunity for packaging and processing professionals.

To learn more and register, visit packexpointernational.com today.

Registration for the show is \$30 until Sept. 25, after which it increases to \$130.

This article was originally published by [PMMI](#).



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You do not need new equipment to improve pallet stability. Antim® anti-slip sheets fit directly into your existing palletising process and can make a noticeable difference from the first pallet. Start where the need is greatest and experience the effect in your own production.

When a pallet reaches its destination safely, it is easy to assume that the palletising process works as it should. But stable deliveries do not necessarily mean the process is as efficient as it could be.

Perhaps you use more stretch film than necessary. Employees may need to realign products that shift on the way to the stretch wrapper. Or your corrugated interlayer sheets may occupy more warehouse space and require more frequent refills than you realise.

Each issue may seem insignificant. Together, they can consume time, materials, and production capacity. Because the costs occur at different stages, they are not always connected to the choice of interlayer sheets.

Start with friction

Antim® is anti-slip paper placed between product layers during palletising. Its friction coating limits movement when a pallet accelerates, brakes, or turns during handling and transportation. This helps the layers remain in place and the load stay together.

With a slip angle of more than 50 degrees, Antim® is particularly suitable for heavy, slippery, or fragile products. The added friction can reduce the risk

of shifted layers, collapsed pallets, and damaged goods. By stabilising the load from the start, it can also reduce stretch film consumption by up to 30%.

One of the greatest advantages is how easy it is to get started.

Antim® is available as pre-cut anti-slip sheets in the size required for your production. They can be placed directly in your existing sheet magazine, allowing you to try the solution without investing in a new machine or rebuilding the palletising line. With warehouses in Denmark and the United States, Antim® is close to manufacturers across markets and ready for fast delivery. You can get started quickly and experience what added friction means in your own production.

A small change with a noticeable effect

When Antim® anti-slip sheets are added between product layers or replace smooth interlayer sheets, they create friction where products might otherwise begin to move. The effect can be immediate: Layers remain in place, the pallet becomes more stable, and the risk of shifting during internal transportation is reduced.

You can begin with the products or pallets where the challenges are most apparent without changing the rest of the process. This makes Antim® a simple first step toward fewer manual adjustments, less risk of damage, and a more stable flow from palletising to storage and transportation.

The right solution depends on product weight, packaging surface, and pallet handling. Palcut helps identify the appropriate paper grade, sheet size, and placement for each production setup. The aim is to create value from the start and remain a trusted partner as your requirements evolve.

When paper handling needs to keep up

For some manufacturers, pre-cut Antim® anti-slip sheets are the right long-term solution. For others, increasing consumption eventually makes frequent refills and manual handling the next bottleneck.

An automatic Palcut sheet dispenser can then be the natural next step. It cuts one sheet at a time to the required length directly from a roll of Antim® anti-slip paper and presents it at a fixed pick-up height. This means fewer refills and less risk of the robot picking up multiple sheets and stopping the line.

At Danish mineral water producer Aqua d'Or, Palcut sheet dispensers were installed on three palletising lines. Rolls of Antim® replaced stacks of corrugated sheets, increasing capacity from 400 to 3,800 sheets per refill.



“ We have gone from 400 sheets of cardboard to 3,800 sheets of Antim® paper. That means that instead of going into the line two times per hour, we now only have to go every three hours.

– John J. Warberg, Operations Director at Aqua d'Or

The reduction in downtime contributed to an additional 50,000-100,000 bottles per day, equivalent to a productivity improvement of 4-8%. Storage requirements for interlayer materials also fell from 120 to 20 pallet spaces.

The switch also improved stability between the palletiser and stretch wrapper. The sharp edges of the corrugated sheets had previously caused the stretch film to tear. That issue disappeared with the more flexible Antim® paper.

Ready to see what one sheet can change?

Start with Antim® anti-slip sheets, experience the difference in your own production, and take the next step when it makes sense for you.

Palcut is ready with expert guidance and a solution that can develop alongside your production – from the first sheet to automatic sheet dispensing.

Meet Palcut at **booth LU-8459 at PACK EXPO International**, or learn more at palcut.com.

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MORE GRIP MORE STABLE PALLETS

Antim® anti-slip sheets keep product layers in place
and fit straight into your existing palletizing setup.



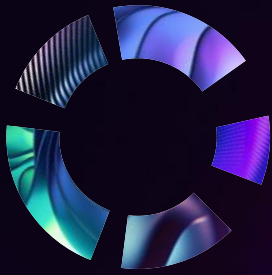
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October 18-21, 2026
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Rethinking packaging automation

Why successful automation starts with eliminating process variation

END OF LINE PACKAGING AUTOMATION

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Integrated automation solutions that improve throughput, ensure package integrity, and reduce total cost—across every step of the end of line.



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ROBOTIC CASE PACKER
Consistent, precise case packing with minimal product handling.



AUTOMATIC CASE SEALER
Reliable sealing for secure closures and fewer shipping damages.



PRINT & APPLY LABELER
Accurate, real-time labeling for tracking, compliance and traceability.



ROBOTIC PALLETIZER
High-speed palletizing with flexible patterns and maximum stability.

A FULLY INTEGRATED END OF LINE SOLUTION

 CASE ERECTOR Automatic case erecting for uninterrupted production flow.	 PRODUCT INFED Optimized product handling and accumulation.	 CASE PACKING Servo-driven precision for maximum pack density.	 CASE SEALING Top & bottom sealing ensures case integrity in transit.	 LABELING & CODING Print & apply labels and codes for full traceability.	 CHECKWEIGH & INSPECT Verify weight, check seal, and inspect for quality.	 PALLETIZING Robotic palletizing for stable, safe pallet loads.	 STRETCH WRAPPING Secure loads for transport and warehouse handling.
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BUILT FOR YOUR BUSINESS

- ✓ Modular & scalable to grow with you
- ✓ Seamless integration with existing systems
- ✓ Data-driven insights for continuous improvement
- ✓ Designed for reliability and easy maintenance

When discussing packaging automation, manufacturers often focus on robotics, conveyors, vision systems, or autonomous palletisers. While these technologies matter, many packaging operations miss substantial performance gains because they automate an inconsistent process instead of first addressing and fixing the root cause.

A recent packaging system assessment by The Packaging Cooperative (TPC) at a food manufacturing facility showed that improving packaging performance doesn't always require large capital investments. TPC approached the issue as a comprehensive packaging system challenge, rather than focusing only on the packaging material itself. By examining factors like product interaction, primary packaging, corrugated cases, packing methods, freezing conditions, palletisation, and downstream distribution, TPC found opportunities to boost performance through

ergonomic improvements, standardised operator tasks, and specific package design changes—all without reducing production throughput. Successful automation begins by eliminating variation.

The problem: Process variation is the hidden enemy

The manufacturer faced repeated case bulging and occasional pouch failures after frozen distribution. Initially, the team considered changing the pouch film specification, believing the packaging material failed during transport. However, TPC questioned this assumption and started by evaluating the entire packaging and handling process to identify the true source of the failure. TPC's assessment found no evidence that the pouch film itself was the primary failure point. By observing the packing operation and evaluating the package configuration under frozen conditions, TPC determined that

product expansion during freezing, combined with inconsistent pouch orientation during manual case packing, created internal stresses that deformed the corrugated cases. This shifted the focus from a potentially costly material change to controlling the process variable that was driving the problem.

This distinction delivered immediate value. Altering packaging materials might have raised costs, caused supply issues, and required extra testing or qualification, all without fixing the actual failure cause. By first identifying the true source of variation, TPC offered a safer, less disruptive way to improve.

The approach: Standardisation before automation

During TPC's on-site assessment, a key observation was that operators loaded pouches in various orientations, mainly driven by speed and personal preference. TPC recorded these different methods and analysed how each affected product expansion during freezing. Although all methods seemed acceptable during production, the variations in pouch positioning influenced how the frozen product pressed against case walls, leading to inconsistent case performance. This is a classic automation challenge.

A robot would likely repeat whichever loading pattern it was programmed to perform, but unless the correct orientation is first identified and standardised, automation simply reproduces the existing problem at higher speed.

Instead of quickly suggesting new equipment or a complete packaging redesign, TPC turned the assessment results into a practical process-control solution: a straightforward angled packing fixture. This fixture helps operators load packages in the preferred orientation, ensuring production speed and better ergonomics. It offers a cost-effective alternative to modifying case size and pallet pattern, while establishing a repeatable process that can be automated in the future.

The evaluation: Automation should reduce variation

The best automation projects accomplish three objectives simultaneously:

- Standardize operator actions
- Reduce ergonomic strain
- Improve product consistency

Even simple fixtures, poka-yoke devices, and guided workstations can significantly reduce



process variation prior to robotics installation. TPC enhanced value by integrating packaging engineering, operator ergonomics, process standardisation, and automation preparedness into a unified solution, instead of addressing each issue separately.

Once each product is consistently oriented during packaging, justifying further automation becomes simpler. Vision systems encounter fewer errors, robotic pick-and-place devices make fewer misloads, and downstream packaging machinery functions more reliably. In numerous facilities, these enhancements boost overall equipment effectiveness (OEE) without compromising product quality.

The impact: Looking beyond the production line

Automation decisions should not be based solely on labor savings. Packaging engineers must account for how upstream processes affect warehousing, transportation, and distribution. TPC evaluated two redesign options for accommodating frozen product expansion: increasing case length or height. While either could add more space for the pouches, palletisation analysis indicated that these dimensional changes could lower pallet density by about 30%. This decrease would lead to increased storage needs, higher freight costs, and more handling expenses. By assessing these downstream tradeoffs prior to recommending a redesign, TPC prevented a local packaging improvement from escalating overall supply-chain costs. Such system-level thinking is crucial for effective packaging automation.

The solution: The future of packaging automation

Packaging automation advances with robotics, AI, machine vision, and digital manufacturing. Yet top-performing operations understand that automation enhances process capability rather than creating it.

Before adding robots or high-speed equipment, manufacturers should examine the fundamentals:

- Is the packaging process repeatable?
- Are operators performing the task consistently?
- Has unnecessary variation been eliminated?
- Does the package design support the manufacturing process?
- Have downstream logistics been considered?

Answering these questions frequently reveals opportunities for measurable improvements in throughput, quality, and operating costs



without needing large capital investments. TPC's role is to connect these questions throughout the entire packaging system — from operators and packaging lines to package design, pallet setup, warehousing, transportation, and end-use conditions — ensuring that enhancements target the root causes instead of merely relocating issues downstream.

The recent TPC assessment revealed that the most impactful automation upgrade was not a robot or conveyor but a straightforward ergonomic workstation design. The team developed this through direct observation, failure-mode analysis, package-system review, and palletisation assessment. By standardising product placement, improving operator consistency, optimising pallet efficiency, and preventing unnecessary material changes, the solution addressed the immediate quality problem and laid a stronger foundation for future automation.

Effective packaging automation depends not only on selecting the right equipment but also on meticulous pre-planning. TPC offers an independent, system-level engineering perspective—identifying true sources of variation, evaluating operational and logistical tradeoffs, and translating these insights into actionable solutions. These improvements boost packaging efficiency while keeping costs, material consumption, and testing demands manageable.

This article was contributed by The Packaging Cooperative, a specialist consultancy focused on packaging engineering and innovation. Learn more at: www.pkgco-op.com



Bradman Lake showcases next-generation packaging automation at PACK EXPO

Following a successful global debut at interpack 2026, Bradman Lake brings its latest innovations to North America



FT-iFLEX
Flow Wrapper



IL120 Carton Closer

Bradman Lake, a global leader in advanced packaging machinery and automation, will showcase a powerful portfolio of integrated, high-performance solutions at PACK EXPO International 2026 in Chicago (18–21 October). At booth S-1742, visitors will experience a fully connected packaging line engineered to maximise productivity, flexibility, and sustainability for modern manufacturing environments.

Building on the momentum of its successful interpack 2026 launch in Germany, Bradman Lake will demonstrate how its latest technologies deliver measurable operational benefits for North American manufacturers seeking greater efficiency, adaptability, and line performance.

North American debut: FT-iFLEX Flow Wrapper

Making its North American debut at PACK EXPO, the FT-iFLEX Flow Wrapper will be presented as part of a fully integrated, space-efficient packaging line.

Designed for high-mix production environments, the FT-iFLEX combines precision engineering, operational flexibility, and maximum uptime within a modular, future-ready platform.

Its architecture also provides backward compatibility with existing Bradman Lake modules, including adaptable sealing options for a wide range of materials and applications.

At the heart of the machine is Rockwell Automation's compact iTRAK® intelligent track system, delivering:

- Zero-pressure product infeed
- Independent product movement
- Automatic variable pitch adjustment without mechanical changeovers

By removing the limitations of traditional pitch systems, the FT-iFLEX synchronises product spacing with film length in real time, ensuring highly accurate placement and consistently superior seal quality.

Key advantages include:

- Precise product positioning and premium seal integrity
- Exceptional registration accuracy
- Rapid response to upstream product variation
- Reduced change parts and downtime
- Lower wear and maintenance requirements

Suitable for food, pharmaceutical, medical, and multipack applications, the FT-iFLEX also features push-button size changeovers and an open-frame hygienic design for improved accessibility and sanitation.

Intelligent integration: Motion Loader & SL903 Cartoner

In the live demonstration line, wrapped products transfer seamlessly into Bradman Lake's Intelligent Motion Loader (IML), powered by a medium-frame iTRAK® system.

The IML automatically:

- Accepts randomly spaced products
- Collates and synchronises product flow
- Delivers continuous, precision loading into the cartoner

With independently controlled movers and advanced product tracking, the system provides reliable, high-speed performance while minimising wear and reducing the need for change parts.

Completing the integrated line is the SL903 End Load Cartoner, a proven solution trusted by leading global manufacturers. Renowned for its durability and versatility, the SL903 handles a wide variety of carton materials — including recyclable and lower-grade board — helping manufacturers achieve both operational and sustainability goals.

Flexible top-load cartoning solutions

Also featured at the stand will be Bradman Lake's HS Carton Former and IL120 Carton Closer, forming part of a versatile top-load cartoning solution designed for reliable, high-efficiency carton erection and closing.

HS Carton Former & Tray Erector

A long-established and dependable solution across multiple industries, the HS offers:

- Speeds of up to 180 cartons or trays per minute
- Fast, repeatable changeovers
- A modular design supporting a wide range of carton styles

At PACK EXPO, the system will be configured for three-flap carton lock-erection.

IL120 Carton Closer

Designed for smooth, jam-free operation, the IL120 features:

- Flexible rubber finger technology for handling overfilled cartons
- Tool-less size changeover
- Consistent, repeatable sealing performance

Together, these systems provide a scalable cartoning solution that integrates seamlessly within Bradman Lake's broader packaging ecosystem.

Engineered for sustainability and operational efficiency

Sustainability will be a central theme across the Bradman Lake stand. During live demonstrations, the FT-iFLEX and SL903 will run recyclable packaging materials, highlighting:

- Compatibility with eco-friendly films and carton board
- Energy-efficient drive architecture using iTRAK® and ArmorKinetix® technology
- Reduced material waste and minimised downtime

Rockwell Automation's integrated control platform further enhances performance through streamlined diagnostics, connectivity, and machine visualisation via the Optix interface.

Complete line integration

All equipment on display will operate using Allen-Bradley® Studio 5000 Logix Designer (formerly RSLogix 5000), providing unified control architecture across the entire line. Fully integrated safety systems ensure compliance while simplifying operation and maintenance.

Visitors will also be able to explore video case studies and installation footage showcasing Bradman Lake systems operating in real production environments across:

- Flow wrapping
- Cartoning and sleeving
- Tray packing and case packing
- Shrink Wrapping
- Slicing and bagging
- Palletising

Experience it live at Booth S-1742

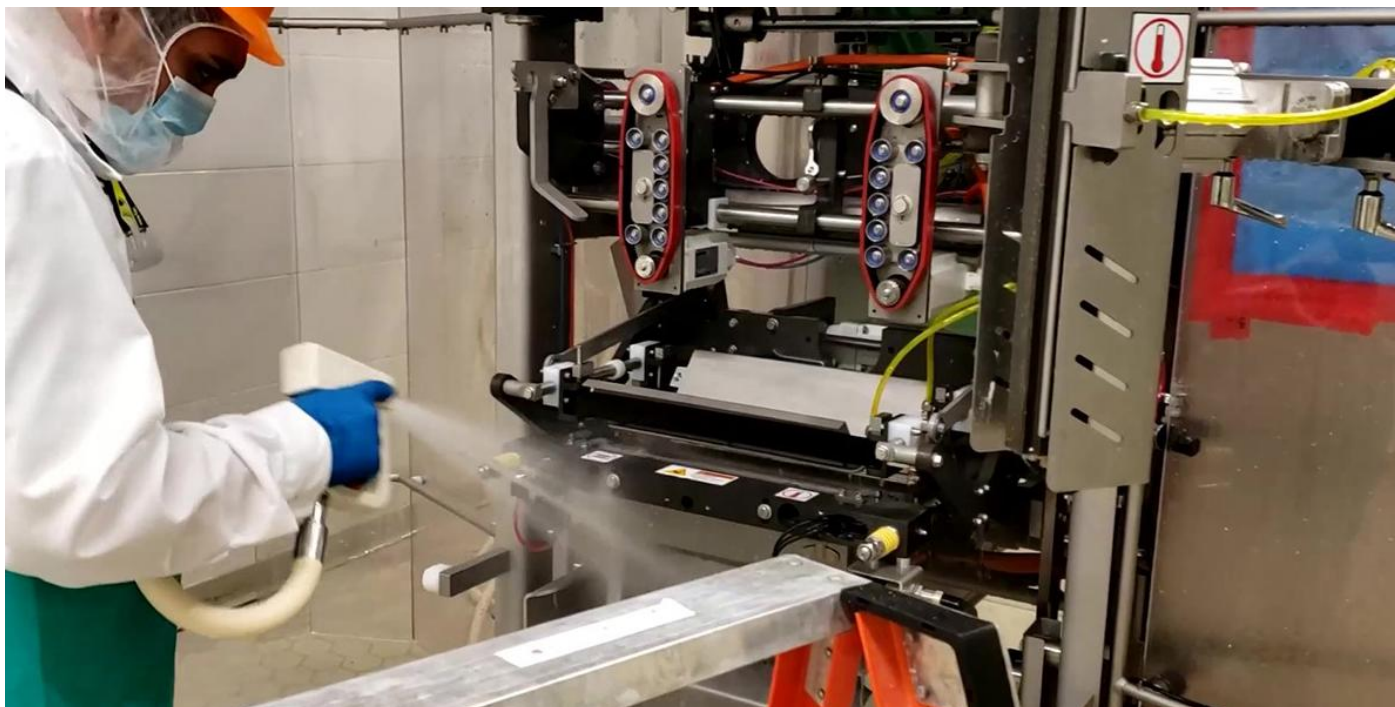
Stop by booth S-1742 to explore these cutting-edge automation solutions and discuss your next packaging project with our expert packaging team.

www.bradmanlake.com



Bradman Lake Group
Integrated Packaging Technology

How to reduce food safety risks through hygienic packaging equipment design



Reports of food contamination and recalls are a regular occurrence, and the consequences can be severe. According to the World Health Organization, contaminated food sickens 866 million people annually. For manufacturers, recall costs can quickly reach millions of dollars, with additional expenses tied to production interruptions, lost business, and reputational damage.

While factors outside your facility can be difficult to control, you can reduce risk on your packaging line by following current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMPs) and partnering with an OEM that prioritises hygienic equipment design. Strategic equipment choices and sanitary design features play an important role in protecting product integrity.

Where food safety risks can occur

Temperature control

Maintaining produce and other food products at the proper temperature is the first step in preventing

bacterial growth. Temperature controlled transportation and storage makes this easy to accomplish.

Production environment

The area around your production line, both above and below, should be inspected for problems such as leaky pipes and backed up floor drains. Even when functioning properly, these areas, along with air compressors, need to be monitored as places where excessive moisture, including condensation, can create a welcoming environment for bacteria. Despite the need to control moisture, maintaining and documenting a robust cleaning schedule is critical. Follow the OEM's recommended cleaning procedures and frequency, while meeting applicable regulatory requirements. Keep records of cleaning activities for inspection purposes.

Within your production line, the only place product is actually touching the machine is in the forming tub. Gas flushing here removes oxygen, replacing it with gases such as nitrogen or carbon dioxide. In addition to stopping the growth of bacteria, the

gas helps preserve product freshness, while also creating a pillow that protects against crushing. If you aren't currently using a gas flush system, it can be added to an existing packaging line. Your OEM should be able to suggest which gas is the best for the products you package.

Transition points

Places where packaging materials or products are transferred between processes can also be places of risk. These can include loading film rolls, catch pans where product can accumulate, and moving packaged goods to sealing stations. Watch for places with multiple risk factors: human interaction with product, places where product residue can accumulate, and complex equipment.

Equipment design features that support your sanitation/hygiene goals

In addition to taking advantage of gas flush technology, there are other ways the design of your packaging equipment contributes to how hygienic your product line is.

Hygienic design principles

These design principles help eliminate cracks and crevices where bacteria, debris and moisture can gather. Important features of Hygienic Design are:

- Using continuous welds instead of spot welds
- Sloped surfaces so water runs off
- Changing from tubular frames to flat frames to prevent moisture from getting inside the frame
- The use of standoffs to keep bearings and drives, where debris can be caught, out of product zones
- Machine accessibility—your operators and maintenance team should have easy access to every part of the machine to do the thorough cleaning required to prevent the growth of bacteria

Some OEMs work to achieve special certifications for the markets they serve. For example, BW Packaging proudly maintains 3-A certification, earned through a rigorous authorisation and inspection process. The USDA also provides certification, and BW Packaging's **Hayssen ISB (Intelligent Sanitary Bagger)** has received USDA Dairy Acceptance, as well as USDA Meat and Poultry Acceptance.

How to choose the right materials in your packaging equipment

Translating a sanitary design into a hygienic machine begins with the materials used. Be sure your OEM partner uses not just stainless steel, but a food-grade stainless steel (304 or 316) on your packaging machinery. Food grade stainless steel will stand up to harsh chemicals, brine, acidic



The Hayssen ISB from BW Packaging.

products such as tomatoes or citrus, and provide better resistance to corrosion and pitting.

Although less expensive steel can be used, reduced hygiene performance and shorter equipment lifespan can make it more costly in the long run. Most importantly, food grade stainless steel is fundamental to having an effective Clean-in-Place (CIP) procedure.

Advantages of Clean-in-Place systems

The sanitation of your product line can be transformed by a CIP system. CIP delivers precise cleaning solutions to every equipment surface, reaching areas that manual cleaning might miss. Because CIP uses strong cleaning products and high temperatures, equipment must be able to withstand repeated cleaning cycles.

Look for an OEM who plans for your sanitation success

BW Packaging's Hayssen ISB demonstrates how sanitary design and material selection can meet demanding food safety requirements. Engineered for wet production environments, it packages products ranging from frozen meal kits to pre-sliced apples while meeting rigorous hygienic standards. Its sanitary design withstands IP66 wash down can help reduce cross-contamination risks, maintaining product integrity throughout your operation.

Partnering with an OEM that values the safety of your line highly as you do is an important step in reducing food safety risks.

www.bwpackaging.com



Constantia Flexibles brings system-thinking approach to pharmaceutical packaging innovation at PACK EXPO International 2026

From high-barrier blister packaging to child-resistant features and Section 232-free sourcing options, the company will showcase solutions designed to address interconnected industry challenges.

Constantia Flexibles, one of the world's leading manufacturers of flexible packaging solutions for consumer and pharmaceutical products, will showcase its latest pharmaceutical and healthcare packaging innovations at PACK EXPO International 2026, taking place October 18-21 at McCormick Place in Chicago. Visitors can meet the company's experts at West Hall, Booth W-25050, Healthcare Packaging Pavilion, to learn how Constantia Flexibles applies system-thinking to packaging innovation. Rather than evaluating packaging through a single lens, the company considers the entire packaging ecosystem, balancing product protection, patient safety, manufacturing performance, circularity, and supply chain resilience across the packaging lifecycle.

“ *Pharmaceutical packaging manufacturers are under pressure to address multiple priorities at once, including operational efficiency, regulatory requirements, and supply chain continuity. We help customers navigate these evolving requirements and identify packaging solutions that support their product and business goals. PACK EXPO provides an opportunity to discuss these challenges and demonstrate how our portfolio helps address them.”*

– Chris Gullard, Regional Sales Manager North America at Constantia Flexibles



REGULA CIRC: a new approach to high-barrier blister packaging

A key focus of the company's presence at this year's event will be REGULA CIRC, a PVC-free cold-forming blister structure for pharmaceutical applications that require high-barrier protection. Developed through collaboration across product development, procurement, operations, and sustainability teams, REGULA CIRC was designed to balance product protection, manufacturing efficiency, circular compatibility, environmental considerations, and regulatory readiness.

Compared with conventional PVC-containing Alu-Alu blister packaging, REGULA CIRC reduces polymer content while maintaining the barrier



The company will also showcase a recent commercial milestone for PERPETUA: the launch of designed for recycling mono-material stick packs for a leading consumer healthcare brand in Germany. The project brought together parties to successfully scale the solution for commercial production, demonstrating how collaboration across the value chain can accelerate the adoption of new packaging technologies.

performance required for sensitive pharmaceutical products. The solution also supports operational efficiencies through improved machinability, higher production yields, reduced shrink-back during converting and packaging processes, and lower sealing temperatures that can contribute to energy savings during production.

By replacing chlorinated polymers with a simplified material structure, REGULA CIRC supports material recovery and helps transform packaging waste into a more valuable secondary resource. Internal assessments indicate that when produced using aluminium from the company's Low Carbon Aluminum offering, which is manufactured using renewable electricity, REGULA CIRC has the potential to achieve up to approximately 50% lower cradle-to-grave carbon footprint compared with conventional PVC-containing Alu-Alu blister solutions, depending on product specifications, manufacturing conditions, and end-of-life assumptions.

In an independent industrial waste-sorting trial, REGULA CIRC achieved an 88% sorting efficiency, supporting material recovery where appropriate collection and recycling infrastructure is available. The innovation has also been recognised by the Sustainable Procurement Pledge (SPP) as a good practice example.

PERPETUA family: mono-material solutions for pharmaceutical and healthcare applications

Alongside REGULA CIRC, Constantia Flexibles will highlight its broader portfolio of pharmaceutical packaging solutions, including PERPETUA and PERPETUA ALTA, which apply the same system-thinking approach to balance recyclability, product protection, and commercial performance. Both are based on mono-material polypropylene (PP) structures designed to meet the demanding barrier requirements of pharmaceutical and consumer healthcare applications. PERPETUA has received third-party recyclability certification from the cyclo-HTP Institute and also RecyClass Technology Approval. PERPETUA ALTA extends the platform to applications requiring enhanced chemical resistance and higher barrier performance. PERPETUA ALTA received the RecyClass Letter of Compatibility (Design for Recycling).

Child-resistant solutions for safety and accessibility

Beyond its blister and stick pack solutions, Constantia Flexibles will showcase its comprehensive portfolio of child-resistant packaging features, developed to help pharmaceutical companies meet safety requirements while maintaining accessibility for intended users. The portfolio includes solutions such as APERTA, DUO, FLECTA, FORTE, LUX, and TRIA, each offering a distinct opening mechanism tailored to different product formats and patient needs. These technologies can be implemented across the company's pharmaceutical packaging range, enabling customers to select a child-resistant solution that aligns with their product, market, and regulatory requirements. Constantia Flexibles' packaging specialists work closely with customers to develop customised solutions that balance product protection, usability, and compliance.

Supply chain resilience under Section 232

Visitors to the booth will also have an opportunity to learn about Constantia Flexibles' innovative mono-polymer packaging solutions, including PERPETUA. Free of aluminium, these solutions are not subject to Section 232 aluminium tariffs and provide pharmaceutical customers with an alternative sourcing option in a changing trade environment. Combined with domestic production capabilities, they support supply chain resilience, cost control, and continuity of supply.

PACK EXPO International 2026 October 18-21, 2026

Constantia Flexibles will exhibit in the
Healthcare Packaging Pavilion,
West Hall, Booth W-25050

Visitors are encouraged to schedule meetings
with the Constantia Flexibles team in advance
to discuss their specific packaging needs and
priorities.

pharma.cflex.com/pack-expo-2026-pharma

B&R Moll International expands finishing portfolio with two new machine launches

B&R Moll International has expanded its range of finishing equipment with the launch of two new machines: the euroFold folding and gluing system and the Moll FlexCut 508 rotary die-cutter.

Part of the wider B&R Moll group headquartered in Pennsylvania, B&R Moll International has built its reputation on delivering specialised finishing solutions for the commercial print and packaging industries. The company focuses on integrating processes such as die-cutting, folding and gluing into streamlined systems designed to improve productivity and reduce labour requirements. The two latest additions extend this approach across folding, gluing and rotary die-cutting applications, with both machines commercially available immediately.

euroFold targets short-run packaging production

Developed with the short-run packaging market in mind, the new euroFold provides a compact folding and gluing solution particularly suited to digital printers producing smaller volumes of packaging.

The machine can process sheets from a minimum of 50 mm wide and 100 mm long up to a maximum of 506 mm wide and 460 mm long. Its compact footprint and flexible configuration make it suitable for SMEs and digital print businesses looking to add packaging capabilities without investing in a larger-scale system.

The bottom feeder section incorporates sheet separator calipers with micro adjustment, alongside non-marking belts for feeding sheets in continuous mode. Two- and three-inch drive belts with removable support pans are also incorporated into the system.

Industry 4.0 compliant, the euroFold features a working surface measuring 609 mm wide by 1,168 mm long and can operate at speeds of up to 30.5 metres (100 ft) per minute.

The system is capable of producing smaller packaging formats, including vapo box-style applications, as well as larger cartons. It is supplied with two folds and a glue line, with options available for taping and an additional glue head.

By combining a small footprint with folding and gluing capabilities, the euroFold has been developed as an accessible route into short-run packaging production for businesses looking to expand beyond their existing digital print offering.

Moll FlexCut 508 brings rotary die-cutting to a compact platform

The second new addition is the Moll FlexCut 508, a rotary die-cutter designed to combine cutting, creasing and perforating capabilities within a straightforward production system.

The FlexCut 508 can process sheets from 279.5 x 215 mm up to 508 x 508 mm, with a minimum cut size of 63.5 x 63.5 mm. It can handle paper stocks ranging from 190 gsm to 600 micron and is designed to operate at speeds of up to 5,000 sheets per hour.

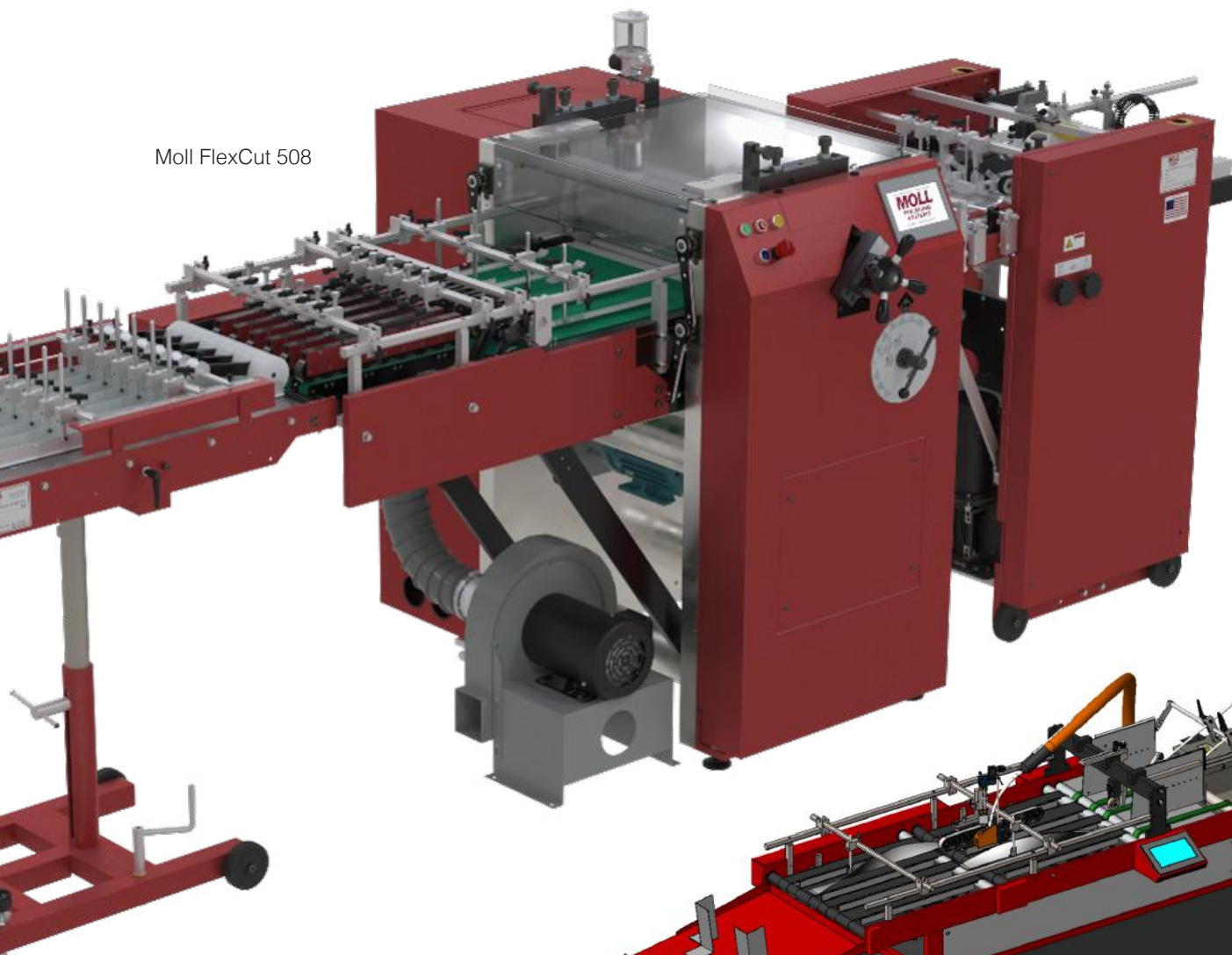
The machine incorporates a pile feeder with register and uses top and bottom cylinders to accommodate creasing, perforating and cutting applications.

Moll's patented Micro Gap Technology is used for die adjustment of the cylinder, providing control over the cutting process.

Following die-cutting, the FlexCut 508 can remove waste from the finished product and operates with a 100% nickless process. Finished sheets are then transferred to a shingle delivery.



Moll FlexCut 508



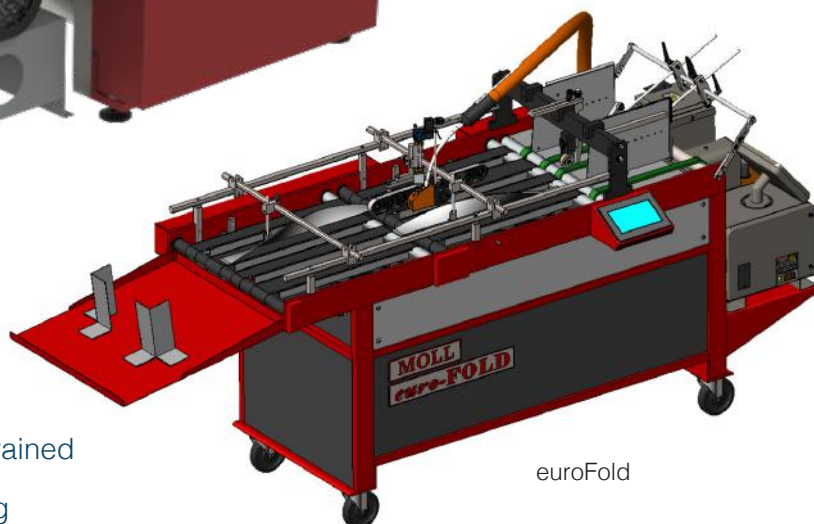
Ease of operation has also been considered in the machine's development. The FlexCut has been designed so that operators can be trained relatively quickly to set up and run the system, helping businesses introduce rotary die-cutting without requiring highly specialised operating skills.

Together, the euroFold and FlexCut 508 provide businesses with additional options for bringing folding, gluing and die-cutting capabilities into their finishing operations.

Meet B&R Moll International at PACK EXPO International

B&R Moll International will be exhibiting at PACK EXPO International, providing visitors with an opportunity to meet the team and discuss its range of post-press and packaging finishing technologies.

With decades of experience in engineering and finishing equipment, the company continues to develop systems aimed at helping commercial printers and packaging manufacturers combine processes, increase productivity and expand their production capabilities.



euroFold

**Visit B&R Moll International at
PACK EXPO International in the
PACKage Printing Pavilion,
West Hall, booth W-30052.**

THE FINISHING SYSTEMS EXPERTS

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- Servo driver pre-registration
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- Mechanical double-sheet detector
- Digital Print to cut registration and lead edge cut registration
- Servo driven registration – Gripper – less
- One servo driven infeed nip to drive and register sheets into the die cutter
- Dual magnetic cylinders which houses magnetic flexible die
- Micro Gap die control in 0.0001 increments
- Spherical roller bearings class 3 - Sealed for life
- Direct vertical cylinder loading – the sheets of paper stay flat while traveling through machine
- Run speeds up to 7,000 sheets per hour w/ variable speed adjustment
- One no-sheet detector after die nip, which will shut down machine if sheet, is missing after going through die nip
- Stripping section that deflects the matrix waste down
- Jam detector at the matrix diverter

The MOLL die cutter, folder gluer creates a distinct position in the Label, Mail, Printing and Packaging Markets for sheet-fed applications. It will also kiss cut and cut-score products in an infinite number of shapes and sizes including substrate thicknesses up to 24pt paperboard. It's ideal for finishing boxes, cartons, labels, pocket folders and other types of packaging.

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The growing challenge of equipment obsolescence

A new report published by PMMI Business Intelligence, part of PMMI, The Association for Packaging and Processing Technologies, identifies equipment obsolescence as an increasing challenge for manufacturers, with software, digital systems and electronic components among the areas most frequently affected.

The report, *Managing Obsolescence*, states that advances in technology remain the primary driver of obsolescence, although equipment failures, digital compatibility issues, material availability and rising costs also contribute.

According to the report, stronger collaboration between end users, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and component suppliers could help improve planning, reduce operational disruption and better prepare businesses for future obsolescence events.

Despite the potential impact on operations and costs, the report found that many end users, OEMs and component manufacturers have yet to establish formal obsolescence management processes or appoint dedicated personnel responsible for managing the issue. It also notes that communication surrounding obsolete components is often provided later than preferred, with replacement parts remaining available for shorter periods than many organisations would like.

The report outlines a range of strategies currently used to manage obsolescence. End users commonly increase spare parts inventories, identify alternative components, invest in replacement machinery and extend equipment life through preventative maintenance programmes. They also encourage OEMs to provide earlier notification of obsolescence, minimise the use of custom components and support long-term planning.

OEMs, meanwhile, typically respond by offering conversion kits, developing replacement components or recommending new equipment. According to the report, OEMs also seek earlier communication from component manufacturers, together with greater transparency around product development and discontinuation plans.

To support customers, some component manufacturers provide explanations for product withdrawals, recommend alternative components and supply information on expected product lifecycles and conversion costs.

The report concludes that improved communication, more structured planning and greater collaboration across the supply chain could help reduce the operational impact of obsolescence and minimise disruption caused by component shortages or discontinued products.



OMAG: FUTURE IS OUR TIME. MAKE IT YOURS!

The future does not simply arrive. It is built, step by step, through choices, investments, people and the courage to look beyond the present.

Three years ago, we launched our strategic program **“Future Is Our Time.”** Since then, in a global environment that remains complex and constantly evolving, OMAG has continued to grow, strengthen its position in international markets and, above all, earn the trust of customers who choose us as a reliable partner for their most demanding packaging challenges.

Our strength is not measured by a single order or by short-term results. It is measured by the long-term relationships we build with our customers and by our ability to anticipate their needs, sometimes even before those needs are explicitly expressed. Today, this vision is becoming increasingly tangible.

Investing in the future

One of the clearest examples is the expansion of our main facility, with a new 2,000 square meter area distributed over two floors. This is much more than an increase in production and logistics capacity: it represents a concrete investment in the future of OMAG and in the people who will shape it.

The new offices have been designed as modern, bright and collaborative environments, equipped with the technologies needed to encourage creativity and the exchange of expertise among increasingly specialised teams.

The expansion also significantly strengthens our logistics capabilities. Four new vertical warehouses, directly connected to our company MES, have been installed to support more efficient production management. Additional space is dedicated to the

storage of fully packaged machines, ready to leave OMAG and reach pharmaceutical markets around the world.

Complete lines for liquid and solid oral products, stick-pack and sachet applications, pre-glued and top-load cartoners, together with the latest generation of robotic systems: all proudly **Made in OMAG.**

But technology and production capacity are only part of the story. The new facility has also been designed around the need of a growing organisation, with larger changing rooms, a more spacious and welcoming canteen and new working environments able to accommodate increasingly specialised teams.

We believe that investing in people means investing directly in our ability to innovate, respond to customer needs and deliver increasingly advanced solutions.

From testing to real-world performance

Another key investment is our advanced testing laboratory, equipped with the technologies and instrumentation required to analyse customers' products and packaging films and identify the most suitable dosing and packaging solutions.

This expertise has allowed OMAG to successfully tackle some of the most complex products, including challenging applications such as Macrolog and probiotics.

The laboratory is complemented by an approximately 100-square-metre temperature- and humidity-controlled area, equipped with an air-handling unit (AHU). This allows us to reproduce, during testing and commissioning, environmental conditions comparable to those found in pharmaceutical production facilities.

The objective is simple: reduce uncertainty, validate performance and give customers greater confidence before the machine reaches their site.

Technology at the service of people

Our vision of the future is also reflected in the way operators interact with our machines.

OMAG is currently developing a new generation of Human-Machine Interface (HMI), designed not simply as a software update, but as a new approach to machine operation.

The goal is to make interaction more intuitive, clear, intelligent and efficient. Data should not merely be displayed: it should be processed, contextualised and transformed into useful information that helps operators make the right decisions.

Changeovers, cleaning procedures and format changes are increasingly critical, particularly in



pharmaceutical packaging where flexibility and traceability requirements are extremely high. The new interface will simplify these operations, allowing operators to recall the appropriate recipe directly through the HMI and significantly reducing downtime and the risk of errors.

Most importantly, this innovation will be included as standard in all new OMAG primary and secondary packaging machines, without changing their price.

Because we believe innovation should not be a luxury. **It should be a value that benefits every customer.**

Make It Yours

This is the natural evolution of **"Future Is Our Time": Make It Yours.**

The message is an invitation to our customers to take an active role in shaping what comes next. The future is our time, but our real ambition is to make it the time of everyone who chooses to work with OMAG.

That means building partnerships that go far beyond a commercial transaction. It means starting together, growing together and, most importantly, sharing a clear vision of where we want to be ten years from now.

Our expanding Service Team is part of this commitment, with one clear objective: providing continuous, outstanding support to the true focus of our mission — our customers.

For OMAG, technology serves people, not the other way around. The future is therefore not a destination waiting for us.

**It is a journey we build together.
Future is our time. Make it yours.**

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Boix Europe strengthens UK presence as packaging automation takes on greater importance



As UK manufacturers and packers face pressure from labour availability, packaging costs and changing sustainability requirements, Boix Europe is strengthening its presence in the British market with automated solutions for cardboard trays, boxes and punnets.

The UK packaging landscape is changing. Businesses are being asked to improve efficiency and increase output while simultaneously managing labour challenges and responding to growing pressure to reduce packaging waste. For Boix Europe, these challenges are closely connected. With decades of experience in automated cardboard forming machinery, Boix Europe is expanding its focus on the UK market, combining its established machine portfolio with local sales and technical support. Boix Europe specialises in equipment for forming corrugated and solid board packaging, including Plaform® trays, column boxes and cardboard top-seal punnets. Its machines are used across fresh produce, food and other industries where reliable, high-volume packaging production is essential.

Automation when labour is increasingly valuable

For many UK packing operations, automation is no longer simply about producing more packaging per hour. Recruiting and retaining labour for repetitive tasks can be challenging, while businesses still need to maintain consistent output and pack quality throughout shifts and seasonal peaks. Automating tray and punnet forming can remove repetitive manual processes, provide predictable output and allow employees to be deployed where their skills add greater value. For businesses moving from manual box forming, or replacing machinery with limited forming capabilities, the benefits can be significant. Depending on production volumes and labour requirements, some Boix customers achieve a return on investment in as little as one year through reduced labour costs, increased output and improved efficiency.

Boix machines are also built for the long term, with many still operating reliably after 15, 20 and even more than 30 years. Around 95% of machine parts are produced in-house, from nuts and bolts



Top Seal



to chains and gears, giving Boix close control over quality and parts availability. An extensive in-house stock of spare parts enables rapid supply for servicing or breakdowns, including support for machines that have been operating for more than 20 years. Combined with reliable automated forming, consistent pack quality and local UK support, this helps minimise production downtime and maximise the long-term value of the investment. With machinery for different capacities and packaging formats, Boix can match automation to the specific requirements of each operation.

The changing economics of packaging

At the same time, the material from which packaging is produced is becoming an increasingly important commercial consideration. The UK's Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging scheme has introduced waste disposal fees based on packaging material. For 2025/26, the confirmed base fee for paper and card is £196 per tonne, compared with £423 per tonne for plastic.

Plastic Packaging Tax adds another consideration. From April 2026, applicable finished plastic packaging containing less than 30% recycled plastic is subject to a tax of £228.82 per tonne. The precise financial impact varies according to the packaging used and a company's obligations, but the direction is clear: recyclability, material choice and packaging weight are becoming increasingly relevant to the total cost of packaging. This creates an opportunity to look beyond the packaging itself and consider how alternative formats can be produced efficiently at scale.

From plastic punnets to fibre-based alternatives

Fresh produce is one area where this transition is particularly visible. Boix's MCT-1/TS has been developed for the automated production of cardboard top-seal punnets. The machine can produce up to 4,800 punnets per hour, providing an industrial-scale option for businesses considering a move away from conventional plastic formats. A well-designed cardboard punnet can substantially reduce the amount of plastic.



There is another advantage that is sometimes overlooked: the packaging becomes a communication platform. Rather than relying on a largely transparent plastic container and a comparatively small label, printed cardboard provides significantly more space for branding, product information, imagery and sustainability messaging. For producers competing for attention on crowded supermarket shelves, this can help turn a packaging change into a branding opportunity rather than simply a compliance exercise.

Looking beyond the UK

For British businesses supplying European markets, packaging developments within the EU are also important. The EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) introduces restrictions from 2030 affecting certain single-use plastic packaging formats, including packaging for less than 1.5 kg of pre-packed unprocessed fresh fruit and vegetables, subject to defined exemptions. Although this is EU legislation rather than UK legislation, UK producers exporting into European markets need to consider how future packaging formats fit within these changing requirements. Investing in flexible forming technology can therefore be about more than solving today's production challenge. It can form part of a longer-term packaging strategy.

Local support, backed by Boix Europe experience

As Boix Europe strengthens its position in the UK, local presence is an important part of the company's approach. Customers can discuss their application directly with a UK-based team that understands the local packaging market, supported by the wider engineering and manufacturing experience of the Boix organisation.

The conversation does not have to begin with a machine. It can start with the product, existing packaging, required output or an idea for moving from plastic towards a fibre-based alternative. From there, Boix Europe can assess the appropriate packaging format, forming technology and level of automation.

www.boix.com

Lantech packaging machines bring flexibility to e-commerce and logistics

Fast, flexible packaging systems designed to support warehouse logistics and optimise the shipment of goods.



The MFC multi-format case erector can be equipped with two to four individually configurable magazines © Lantech

End-of-line packaging machine manufacturer Lantech offers a range of innovative packaging systems to provide the logistics and e-commerce sector with fast, flexible packaging machines that set new standards in warehouse logistics and optimise the shipment of goods.

Efficiency with rectangular cases

The modular case erectors produce up to 1,800 cases per hour with flexible dimensions ranging from 200 x 150 x 150 mm to 800 x 600 x 635 mm. The case erector produces rectangular boxes with 90-degree corners, regardless of the type of corrugated board, fluctuating temperatures or humidity, and varying dimensions of the flat blanks. Users are assured of rectangular shipping

boxes that are ideal for the supply chain and offer maximum stability. Depending on the customer's preference, the base of the box is sealed with hot melt, tape or both. Right-angled cases are stable and perfectly suited for gluing four-sided lids.

Auto Load Magazine option

Lantech's software engineers in Malden have developed a unique system for automatically loading the case erector's magazine. The case blanks are picked up and placed in the magazine, regardless of their position on the pallet. The straps are also removed and automatically deposited in a waste bin. There are no specific requirements for the pallets and no human intervention is required making this ideal in smart factories.

Multi Format case erector

Lantech's MFC Multi Format Case erector increases the flexibility of the packaging process by allowing cases of different sizes to be erected with just one machine. This compact solution has up to four magazines that can be configured separately and filled during operation. This allows different case sizes to be produced on a single machine without the need for changeovers or production interruptions.

Save valuable production space

Compared to using multiple conventional case erectors with a single magazine, the MFC requires significantly less floor space, making it a very space-saving solution. Even more space is saved by the central output point for the cases, as there is no need to combine different conveyors into a single output system.

Choice of many cases sizes

The Multi Format case erector can also be easily integrated into existing packaging lines and distribution centres. The MFC can handle cases with dimensions from a minimum of 200 x 150 x 150 mm to a maximum of 620 x 450 x 650 mm. The maximum throughput speed is 1080 cases per hour. The MFC is also equipped with Lantech's Total Control System. This ensures accurate control during the erection process, so that the cases are perfectly square. These uniformly square cases prevent jamming and are easier to load, stack and palletise.

High-Speed Random Case Sealer

With a maximum capacity of 1,320 boxes per hour, the CS-1000 High-Speed Random Case Sealer can seal cases of various sizes in random order. The sealer can automatically adjust based on an upstream signal or on a measurement taken in the first section of the machine. An upstream signal ensures that the machine automatically adjusts to the next incoming box. The machine can also be fitted with sensors or light curtains to measure the height and width of the box as it enters the machine. It then adjusts fully automatically to seal the case. The machine is ideal for use in packaging environments where multiple packaging lines, handling a wide variety of case sizes, converge the flow of goods at the output end for centralised processing by a single case sealer.



High Speed Random Case Sealer © Lantech

Lantech®

Meet Lantech at Logistica Next and LogiMAT

Logistica Next

3–5 November 2026 | Jaarbeurs
Utrecht, the Netherlands
Hall 7, Booth B006

LogiMAT

16–18 March 2027 | Stuttgart, Germany
Booth 1.B72

Visit Lantech for live machine demonstrations and to discuss its logistics packaging solutions with the team.

www.lantech.com



AmbaFlex brings packaging to you this October

**Innovation on Tour:
Experience AmbaFlex in
your region**

This October, we are taking our latest packaging and conveying innovations on the road. Rather than inviting the industry to a single location, we are bringing packaging to you! With exhibitions across Europe, North America and Asia, packaging professionals will have multiple opportunities to experience our latest developments in conveying, accumulation and product elevation technology firsthand.

Experience integrated conveying in action

Following a highly successful appearance at interpack earlier this year, we are bringing some of our most exciting solutions back to the exhibition floor. At the heart of the showcase is the return of the crowd-favourite demonstration loop featuring the AccuVeyor, Portal Solution and AmbaVeyor working together in one fully integrated system. This live setup demonstrates how different conveying technologies can be combined to create a seamless and efficient packaging operation.

You can experience how the AccuVeyor creates controlled dynamic buffer capacity while maintaining product integrity and flow. Combined with the Portal Solution and the versatile AmbaVeyor, the system provides a practical example of how modern packaging lines can improve productivity, reduce bottlenecks and adapt to changing production requirements. More importantly, it showcases our approach to delivering complete solutions rather than standalone machines.

Designed for modern packaging operations

As production facilities continue to look for ways to increase throughput while maximising available floorspace, efficient conveying and elevation solutions have become more important than ever. Our solutions are designed to integrate smoothly into existing production environments, helping manufacturers improve operational efficiency without major modifications to their facilities. The ability to optimise both horizontal and vertical space remains a key advantage for companies looking to grow production capacity while controlling costs.

By combining innovative technologies with practical engineering, we enable manufacturers to transport, accumulate and elevate products efficiently throughout the packaging process. Whether the application involves cartons, trays, cases or packaged goods, you will be able to discuss your specific requirements with our elevation experts and discover solutions tailored to your operations.

Bringing packaging to you

October will be one of the busiest exhibition months of the year for us. Packaging professionals in the United Kingdom can meet our local team at the **PPMA Show** in Birmingham, while those attending **PACK EXPO International** will be able to experience the latest innovations in person in North America.

The exhibition journey does not stop there. We will also be present at **Eurasia Packaging**, **AllPack Jakarta**, and **Cibus Tec Parma**, bringing our expertise and technology to customers and partners across multiple regions. No matter where you are, there is a good chance an AmbaFlex team will be nearby and ready to discuss how intelligent conveying solutions can help elevate your packaging operations.

Seeing equipment in action remains one of the most valuable ways to evaluate a solution. Live demonstrations provide a clear understanding of product flow, accumulation, integration possibilities and system performance. It also offers the opportunity to engage directly with our engineers and specialists behind the technology.

A partner in complete conveying solutions

What continues to set us apart is our commitment to delivering complete conveying solutions. Every project starts with understanding the customer's challenges and objectives, resulting



in systems that help optimise space, improve efficiency and support future growth. This solution-focused approach, combined with continuous innovation and global service support, enables customers around the world to achieve reliable and sustainable performance improvements.

If there was ever a moment to experience the latest in packaging elevation technology, this is it. This October, we are bringing packaging to you. Visit us at one of our exhibitions to see our solutions in action, meet our specialists and discover how AmbaFlex can help elevate your packaging operation.

We look forward to meeting you this October and showing how AmbaFlex can elevate your packaging performance!

 **AmbaFlex**
SCIENCE IN SPIRALS



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What to expect at the PPMA Show® 2026

The UK's leading event for processing and packaging machinery returns to the NEC, Birmingham, from 22–24 September 2026.

Organised by Automate UK, the three-day event brings together the latest innovations in processing, packaging, automation and industrial vision, giving manufacturers the opportunity to discover new technologies, gain expert insights and connect with the companies shaping the future of production.

With more than 350 exhibitors representing over 1,500 leading brands, the PPMA Show® 2026 will once again attract thousands of manufacturing professionals looking for practical solutions to today's operational challenges.

Discover the technologies transforming manufacturing

Manufacturers continue to face increasing pressure to improve productivity, reduce costs, tackle labour shortages and meet evolving sustainability and regulatory requirements. At the same time, advances in automation, robotics, artificial intelligence and digital technologies are creating new opportunities to improve efficiency and future-proof operations.

The PPMA Show® 2026 offers visitors the chance to explore these innovations first-hand.

From processing and packaging machinery to robotics, automation systems, industrial vision and smart manufacturing technologies, attendees can compare solutions from leading suppliers all under one roof.

Whether investing in new equipment, upgrading an existing production line or planning future improvements, the event provides access to technologies designed to enhance productivity, consistency and operational performance.

One of the show's biggest attractions remains its live machinery demonstrations, allowing visitors to see equipment operating in real production environments and better understand how new technologies can be integrated into their own facilities.

Exclusive product launches and live innovation

Returning for 2026 is the popular Innovations Eleven showcase.

This dedicated feature gives selected exhibitors the opportunity to unveil brand-new technologies live during the exhibition, allowing visitors to be among the first to experience the latest product launches while hearing directly from the companies behind them.

Alongside hundreds of additional product launches taking place across the show floor, the PPMA Show® continues to provide an unrivalled opportunity to discover the next generation of processing and packaging technology.

Practical insight from industry experts

Alongside the exhibition, visitors can attend a comprehensive programme of keynote presentations from leading industry speakers and expert-led seminars exploring the trends shaping modern manufacturing. Sessions will cover topics including automation, artificial intelligence, digital transformation, sustainability, productivity, workforce and skills shortages, supply chain resilience and regulatory compliance.

The seminar programme is designed to deliver valuable takeaways for every stage of the manufacturing journey. From practical implementation advice to emerging industry trends, visitors will leave with fresh ideas, expert guidance and greater confidence to make informed investment decisions that support long-term business growth and operational resilience.

Bringing the manufacturing community together

Beyond the technology on display, the PPMA Show® is one of the UK's most important

networking events for the manufacturing sector.

Each year it brings together manufacturers, suppliers and technology providers from industries including food and beverage, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, household products, industrial chemicals, pet food, engineering, FMCG manufacturing and contract packing.

For many visitors, the opportunity to meet suppliers face-to-face, compare multiple solutions and discuss challenges with industry peers remains one of the event's greatest strengths.

Supporting manufacturers through change

Scott McKenna, Chief Operating Officer at Automate UK, believes the PPMA Show® continues to play a vital role in helping manufacturers embrace innovation and remain competitive.

"The PPMA Show® is now in its 39th year, and our goal is to make it bigger and better every year, ensuring it remains relevant, educational and insightful for the entire manufacturing sector."

"The processing, packaging and industrial vision sectors continue to face a range of challenges, from labour shortages and sustainability pressures to regulatory compliance and automation adoption. The PPMA Show® provides visitors with the opportunity to explore practical solutions, connect with leading suppliers and gain valuable insight from industry experts and keynote speakers."

"As always, attendees will have access to state-of-the-art technologies designed to optimise performance, reduce costs and future-proof operations, with many innovations being showcased publicly for the very first time."

Register for free today

Whether you're looking to invest in new technology, compare suppliers, discover the latest innovations or gain practical advice from industry experts, the PPMA Show® 2026 offers everything you need to improve performance and prepare for the future.

From live demonstrations and exclusive product launches to expert seminars and valuable networking opportunities, the exhibition remains the UK's premier destination for manufacturing innovation.

The PPMA Show® 2026 takes place at the NEC, Birmingham, from 22–24 September 2026. Attendance is free, and registration is now open.

Register today at: www.ppmashow.co.uk



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Addressing the manufacturing skills shortage at PPMA Show®



Organisers of the UK's biggest processing and packaging machinery, robotics and industrial vision event will address one of the biggest challenges to the sector when it returns to the NEC, Birmingham in September: the skills gap and how to bridge it.

The PPMA Show® 2026, which will take place from 22-24 September, is the must-attend event for professionals from across the manufacturing spectrum, providing access to brand-new technologies, live equipment demonstrations, tried and trusted advice from industry experts and crucial networking opportunities.

Amongst the wealth of insight available to visitors to this year's event will be on-the-ground advice and support on how to bridge the skills gap within their organisations courtesy of Automate UK's own initiatives.

Scott McKenna, Chief Operating Officer at Automate UK said: *"Of all the challenges facing the manufacturing industry at present, a diminished workforce and shortage of skills is perhaps the most pressing.*

"Automate UK has an established reputation for encouraging and supporting young people seeking careers in engineering, automation, robotics, and

manufacturing, and the PPMA Show® is the perfect platform for those looking to work within the sector, and businesses looking to address those workforce challenges to find out more about the work we do."

"This year's show will be the first we've hosted since the launch of our Apprenticeship Cluster programme. This initiative, teamed with our expert seminar sessions, will provide employers and young people looking to enter the workforce with huge opportunities," he explained.

Automate UK's groundbreaking Apprenticeship Cluster programme, a fully funded initiative designed to address critical skills shortages in the manufacturing and engineering sectors, was launched in January 2025.

It brings together businesses, educators, and apprentices to shape the future workforce through a collaborative, sector-wide approach. The initiative is fully funded through Automate BEST — Automate UK's charitable arm — using profits generated by its members to create a sustainable future for the sector and its workforce.

Scott added: *"One of the best-attended seminars at last year's PPMA Show® was a panel discussion focused on addressing the skills gap, focusing on both education and training, and attracting, developing, and retaining talent.*

"We hope that this year, in addition to providing a platform for the latest state-of-the-art technologies, we can play a vital role in bringing new talent into the sector, providing them with a route into the industry that combines hands-on experience with structured, high-quality training, and in turn offering businesses opportunities to thrive in an ever increasingly competitive marketplace."

With more than 350 exhibitors and 1,500 brands in attendance, The PPMA Show® 2026 is free to attend.

For full details of Automate UK's Apprenticeship Cluster initiative, visit <http://www.automate-uk.com/>.

Packaging automation from primary pack to case

Adpak highlights the latest SMIPACK technologies designed to bring flexibility, performance and automation across different stages of the packaging line.



For businesses looking to increase automation and improve packaging line performance, selecting machinery that can adapt to changing production requirements is increasingly important. Adpak supplies packaging machinery and systems to businesses across a wide range of UK industries, supported by more than 10,000 machine installations since 1988.

Through its longstanding partnership with SMIPACK, Adpak provides access to a broad portfolio of packaging technologies covering applications from primary flow-wrapping through to shrink-wrapping and secondary case packing.

Three of the latest developments from SMIPACK demonstrate how automation, connectivity and flexibility are being incorporated across different stages of the packaging process.

Flowwrapping and MAP: FW750S SERVO XB

Designed for modified atmosphere packaging (MAP), the FW750S SERVO XB provides an automated flow-pack solution for applications where product protection and preservation are key considerations.

The machine can process barrier films designed for MAP applications, creating hermetic seals intended to support product preservation. Some of these materials can also be shrinkable, allowing stable and compact packs to be produced, with the option of pairing the machine with a shrink tunnel where required.

Available in upper and lower reel configurations, the FW750S SERVO XB can be equipped with

belt or vane infeed conveyors and integrated into different production layouts and automatic lines. The machine is designed for production speeds of up to 80 products per minute and is compatible with Industry 4.0 and IoT platforms.

Features include preparation for MAP gas injection, a pneumatic press system for extracting air from the pack, a 'no product – no bag' function, box-motion cross sealing and a film-scrap recovery system. Servo-assisted movements are incorporated to support precision and consistent operation.

Strengths and competitive advantages

- Hermetic sealing – pack stability and optimised product preservation
- Use of recyclable films – aligned with circular-economy principles
- Ergonomics and advanced electronic management – fast and intuitive format changeover
- Servo-assisted movements – precision and consistent performance
- High final pack quality – balanced protection, aesthetics and logistics efficiency



Automated Shrinkwrapping: XP650 ARX-T VSS

For end-of-line applications, the XP650ARX-T VSS expands SMIPACK's XP Series of automatic overlap shrink wrapping machines.

Designed to accommodate cylindrical, oval, square and rectangular containers, the machine incorporates a synchronised dosing conveyor at the infeed capable of handling up to 80 product introductions per minute in continuous motion. Brushless motors and electronic controls allow adjustments to be made while supporting stable product flow at higher operating speeds.

The system has also been developed to optimise shrink-film consumption and is compatible with recyclable films and other more sustainable materials. Its compact construction and low energy consumption are intended to balance production performance with reduced resource use.

The combination of automated product dosing, continuous motion and flexibility across different container formats makes the XP650 ARX-T VSS suitable for businesses looking to increase end-of-line packaging efficiency while maintaining adaptability.



Connected case packing: WPS 350CS

Moving into secondary packaging, the WPS 350CS Wrap Around Case Packing Machine is designed particularly for products arriving horizontally on the production line that need to be packed vertically.

The format can support shelf-ready packaging applications and is intended to provide flexibility when packing products that require stability throughout subsequent stages of the packaging process.

Connectivity is a central feature of the WPS Series. The case packers can integrate with Industry 4.0 and IoT systems and communicate with other equipment across the production line. This enables performance to be monitored in real time, with collected data available for analysis to support operational optimisation and predictive maintenance.

The WPS 350CS uses cardboard for secondary packaging, with SMIPACK also highlighting recyclable board and waste reduction as considerations within the WPS Series.

Supporting UK packaging operations

Together, these technologies demonstrate the range of automation available across primary, end-of-line and secondary packaging operations. Through its partnership with SMIPACK, Adpak supports UK businesses with machinery selection alongside installation, training, maintenance and access to consumables and spare parts.

Visitors to the PPMA Show® 2026 can meet the Adpak team and discuss their packaging requirements at stand C10.

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Adpak proud to supply first high-performance shrink film with certified recycled content

CRYOVAC CT-400 Shrink Films - 40% PCR Content

High-performance shrink packaging film with certified recycled content

CRYOVAC CT-400 shrink films are designed for non-food shrink packaging applications where product protection, retail presentation and sustainability performance all matter. With a minimum of 40% certified post-consumer recycled content, the range helps reduce virgin plastic use while maintaining reliable pack strength and operational efficiency.

Sustainability

Reduce

These films are available in thicknesses from **11 to 38 microns**, with micro-layering contributing to **20% to 50% weight reduction** compared to conventional PE films.

Reuse

The films contain a minimum of **40% Post Consumer Recycled (PCR) content**, certified to **EN 15343**, which establishes procedures for track and trace of recycled plastic content sourcing and use in product manufacturing.

Recycle

All **CRYOVAC® brand CT-400 series films** are recyclable in **PE waste recycling streams**.

Benefits

CRYOVAC® brand CT-400 series shrink films use Sealed Air's patented micro-layering technology platform to combine product protection, visual appeal and recycled-content performance for non-food applications. The film structure supports efficient packaging operations while helping customers reduce reliance on virgin plastic.

Product integrity

- High film puncture resistance
- Strong sealing characteristics prevent pack breakage
- Safe storage and handling

Operational efficiency

Longer rolls result in:

- More packages per roll
- Increased equipment uptime
- Higher productivity with up to 50% reduction in roll changeovers (when compared with PE rolls)
- Reduced warehouse space and management for packaging supplies

Brand enhancement

- High optics, clarity and low haze for improved merchandising appeal

Typical applications

This general-purpose polyolefin shrink film range is suitable for small lightweight products, larger heavy products and a wide range of non-food applications in between.

Typical sectors include:

- Health & Beauty
- General Manufacturing
- 3PL
- Textiles

From packaging automation to inspection: Inside the Jenton Group

Meet Jenton Group at PPMA Show® 2026 – Stand A60 | Jenton Dimaco – Stand B70



The Jenton Group has been designing, manufacturing and supplying packaging, automation and UV solutions since 1973. There are six business areas within the group.

Jenton Dimaco

Jenton Dimaco has pioneered label and data verification systems and vision-based seal inspection. These products help prevent food waste and recalls by checking 100% of the data on 100% of the labels – or checking seals on 100% of packs. Systems can be online, offline or fitted to existing production equipment or OEM systems.

Jenton Dimaco are experts on GS1-DL and all UK specifications for food labelling – It's all about the Data!

Jenton Ariana

Jenton Ariana developed the first pack convergers, mince portioners and seal testers in the 1980s.

The current range includes converging (in-liner) conveyors, stackers, MAP seal testing and pad placing automation. Jenton Ariana equipment works in line, at high speed, with rollstock thermoformers and tray top sealers. 2/3 and 2/3/4 lane switchable convergers are available. Random infeed and wet products can be accommodated. Stackers can stack for banding or batching.

Jenton Ariana understands that line length = cost. Systems are compact and easy to look after.

Soken Engineering

Soken Engineering manufactures heat sealers for trays, blisters and sandwich / wrap packs – as well as for non-food card based 'blister' packs. Soken equipment varies from bench top to conveyorised heat sealing systems for card-based packaging for food and non-food folded and lidded packs and blisters. In addition, trays and pots can be sealed with lidding films and profile cut is possible. Full control over time, temperature and pressure delivers consistency of seal.

JenAct

JenAct have 30 years experience in UV disinfection, including 15 granted patents! The brand specialises in UV disinfection solutions for air and surfaces including conveyors. JenAct are experts in UV generation with conventional and LED sources. UVC can be used to disinfect air ducts, HVAC systems and then conveyor surfaces or the products themselves. Packaging is disinfected it progresses from low-care to high-care and within the processing area. In addition, UVB systems are manufactured for vitamin D enhancement.

Jenton Packaging Team

The Jenton Packaging Team manage the packaging equipment lines for which we are UK distributors – including Banding and Bag Sealing equipment. In all areas we offer everything from bench top, hand loaded machines to fully automatic robot loaded systems. Banders can operate with paper or film bands and all materials can be printed. Pronova Joker® machines, Jenton Bandit® machines and Plexpack Emplex® machines are ideal for contract packing operations and we have trial and hire machines when necessary.

All the above products are designed and manufactured both to meet sustainability and waste reduction targets and to be economically sensible choices – easy to use, easy to fix, long lasting, reliable and good value.

Jenton Group systems and equipment are designed and manufactured in Whitchurch and Bedford, UK. All software, electrical and control systems are designed and made within the company and service support and training is available.

Contact us to discuss your packaging and automation needs:

t: +44 (0) 1256 892 194

e: sales@jenton.co.uk

w: jenton.co.uk



SIRLOIN STEAK
100% Beef, matured and tender

WEIGHT 230g	PRICE PER PACK £ 6.53
PRICE PER kg £ 28.63	USE BY 12 MAY

BORN IN: UK GB1234
REARED IN: UK GB1234
SLAUGHTERED: GB 6789

KEEP REFRIGERATED

RED TRACTOR CERTIFIED STANDARDS

Verification of all data on the label.

Jenton Group seeks international partners

The Jenton Group is interested in developing our market outside the UK.

Jenton has been designing, supporting and supplying packaging equipment in the UK since 1973. Now it is time to improve our contacts over the sea! Jenton Group companies are actively interested in working with resellers, distributors and OEMs who can sell and support this varied range of products. Own branding is also possible.

In addition, Jenton is interested in reciprocal distribution opportunities for products that can enhance our range of products in the UK market. The Group has developed good connections within the UK packaging industry over the last 53 years!



Jenton Group

Excellence in packaging, automation and UV solutions

The go-to place for innovative and bespoke equipment that improves production efficiency and processes.

Specialising in Packaging and Automation, Tray and Sandwich Pack Sealers, UV Disinfection, Packaging and Banding, Pouch and Bag Sealing and UV Curing.



- ✓ **Converge It**
- ✓ **Test It**
- ✓ **Stack It**
- ✓ **Verify It**
- ✓ **Disinfect It**



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Sovereign

LABELLING MACHINES

Discover The Sovereign Standard

Visit us on Stand G10 at PPMA Show 2026

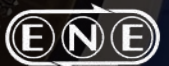


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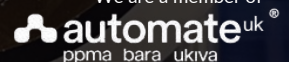
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sales@sovereign-labelling.co.uk
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Discover 'The Sovereign Standard' and what it means for brands and co-packers



Sovereign Labelling Machines is returning to PPMA Show® 2026, and the leading UK name in labelling and sleeving equipment will demonstrate how its tailored, flexible approach supports brands, retailers, and co-packers in their pursuit of consistently accurate, high-quality labels and packaging.

Sovereign is using PPMA Show® 2026 to demonstrate the true value in the solutions and services it offers: a genuinely flexible, customer-led approach that spans everything from consultation and advice, machine design and engineering, manufacture and installation, through to after-sales service and support.

Visitors to PPMA Show® 2026 are invited to Stand G10 to experience this for themselves.

Thomas Glendinning, Sovereign Labelling Machines Managing Director, says: *"What sets us apart and defines 'The Sovereign Standard' is the time, care, and attention we pay to each and every customer, to uncover their challenges, hear their pain points, guide and advise them."*

Ultimately, we provide them with the knowledge and solutions to elevate their labelling and sleeving to new heights.

"Each of our labelling and sleeving lines are tailored to the needs of the customers and thanks to our consultative approach, oftentimes the machines are suited to needs our customers didn't even know they had!"

Sovereign works with large and independent brands, national retailers, and diversified co-packers active in a range of industries, including food, beverage and dairy, cosmetics and beauty, as well as pharmaceuticals and chemicals. Whether serving B2B supply chains, distributing products through recognised retail channels, or selling direct to consumers via a new generation of e-commerce portals, customers rely on Sovereign's solutions to help maximise the visibility and impact of their labels and packaging. Sovereign has built its reputation on solving labelling and sleeving challenges that off-the-shelf products can't achieve, from unusual container shapes and low-volume, high-SKU job baskets to

businesses needing to scale up or looking to add additional capacity.

This includes the Sovereign Monarch platform, engineered for adaptability across a wide variety of applications, and Desktop Labeller, which is designed for businesses that need reliable, precise labelling without the footprint or investment of a full production line.

Together, they reflect a simple philosophy: no two challenges are the same, so no two solutions should be either.

To further support this position, Sovereign works with leading OEMs and third-party partners to supply and integrate any number of value-adding solutions into labelling and sleeving lines. This will be realised at PPMA Show 2026, where a carton feeder and labelling system developed with Rotech Machines will be one of the demonstrations on Stand G10.

Thomas continues: *“With brands, retailers, and co-packers having such a wide range of challenges, it is essential that we can call on partners to help supply them with coding, marking, labelling, verification, and quality control tools that optimise the performance of their labelling and sleeving lines.”*

His colleague, Jordan Hynes, Business Development Manager at Sovereign Labelling Machines, adds: *“By understanding a customer’s opportunities and challenges, we can tailor solutions exactly to their needs and make sure they get what they need out of their manufacturing equipment.”*

140 Top & Base
Labeller



“It is important that this goes from consultation right through to after-sales, as labelling and sleeving is more than an investment in hardware, it is a commitment to collaboration, long-term growth and mutual success.”

This will be realised at **PPMA Show® 2026** which takes place at the NEC, Birmingham on 22-24 September 2026. **Sovereign Labelling Machines is exhibiting on Stand G10.**

“PPMA Show® 2026 is one of the highlights of our calendar and this year we are really looking forward to welcoming brands, retailers, and co-packers onto Stand G10 and helping them get to the bottom of their labelling and sleeving challenges,” concludes Thomas.

www.sovereign-labelling.co.uk



Desktop Labeller



Sovereign
LABELLING MACHINES

End-of-line packaging solutions

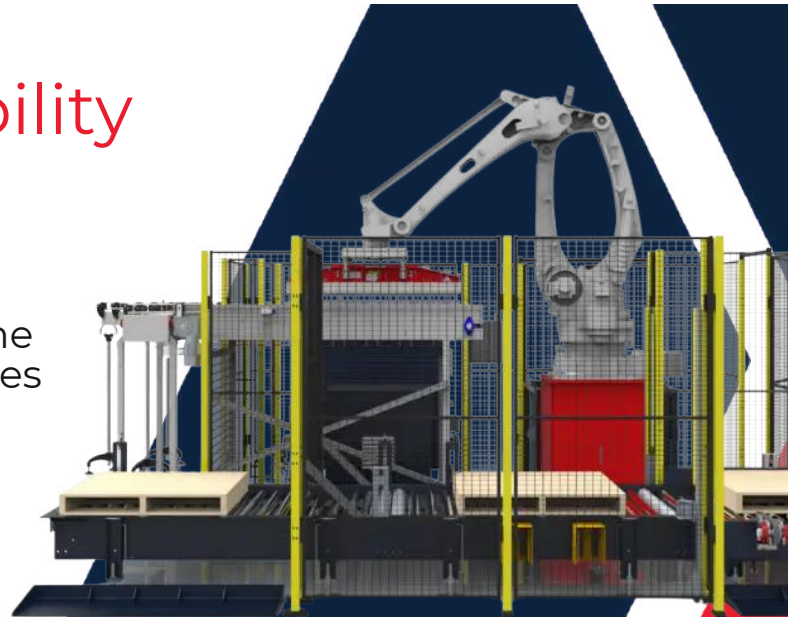
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PPMA Show® sees a full packaging line-up and new division from Autopack

Autopack Group brings its largest-ever machinery showcase to the PPMA Show® 2026 – with a new distributorship, new machinery and launches a brand-new division.



This year's PPMA Show® will be the biggest one to date for leading independent supplier of packaging machinery Autopack, with the group also unveiling its new weighing and inspection division Autoweigh. A total of 25 machines across two stands (A12 and B20) will showcase the full capabilities of the Autopack Group's flexible and rigid businesses alongside its new weighing and inspection systems.

The range of flexible and rigid packaging machinery solutions across food, beverage, snacks, dairy, pet care, pharmaceutical, personal & home care sectors, nutraceuticals, agriculture and quarrying will be on show. The stands bring together the packaging strengths from Autopack's acquisitions, partnerships and engineering expertise. The launch of Autoweigh adds further capabilities for the group's range of weighing and inspection equipment featuring on stand A12.

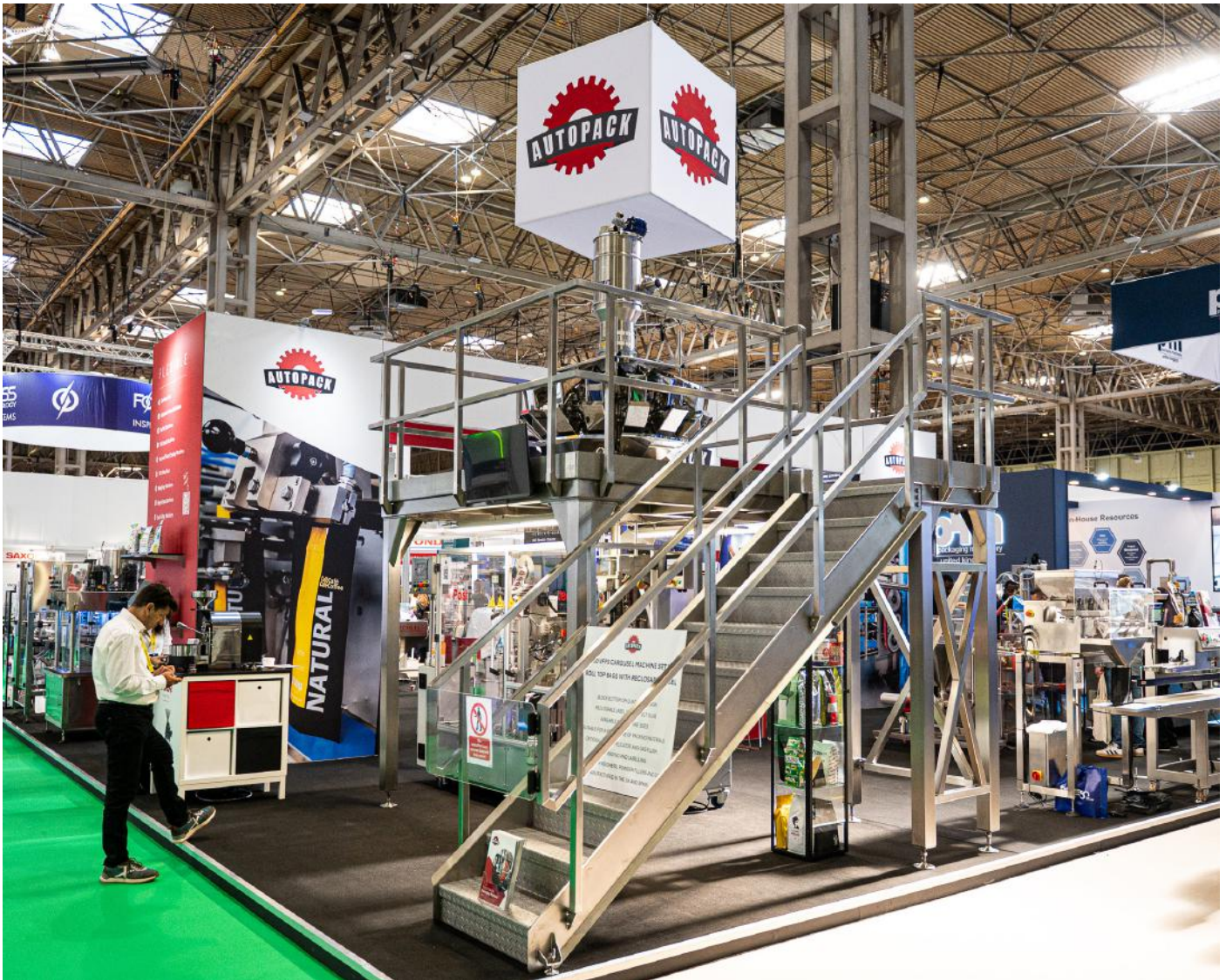
Autopack Group Managing Director Wayne Kedward said: *"The PPMA Show is the perfect*

platform to demonstrate the breadth of our flexible and rigid packaging machinery solutions, as well as launching our new Autoweigh division. Visitors will be able to see a complete working packaging line alongside individual machinery.

"With the addition of Autoweigh we can now offer UK made handling, weighing and inspection solutions for traditionally difficult to handle products which are easily integrated into full turnkey packaging lines for our customers."

For Autopack's flexible packaging solutions, Technosys' popular coffee solution the A300 quad seal with degassing valve will be featured alongside an A200 VFFS machine with an Autoweigh linear weigher, supplying sachets into the EX1 compact Xray machine. The EX1 forms part of the German inspection manufacturer Sesotec's portfolio and is the latest brand to sign a distributorship with the Autopack Group.

Stand A12 will focus on the sack filling range with the new AP500 from APM, part of



Autopack's flexible packaging division. The auger-fed gross weigher system, designed for B2B sellers, can fill 10 to 50 kilograms of powder or granular products into open-top sacks and is adaptable for a variety of industries. Alongside the AP500 will be the AP400 valve sack packing machine together with the AP600, which is an automatic open mouth sack placer, and the latest bulk bag discharger will also be featured at the show.

Shaun Davies, Sales Director at APM, said: *"Businesses across many sectors are facing ongoing battles with labour shortages, rising costs and safety concerns. Our sack filling machines deliver automation for manufacturers by reducing manual handling, improving consistency and increasing throughput, allowing businesses to run more efficiently and cost-effectively."*

Autopack's Spanish division will be demonstrating its versatility in premade doypacks and pouches with the MH25 set up for sports nutrition powders and the MH200 Spouted Pouch machine, running fully recyclable spouted pouches for shampoo refills.

The line-up for rigid containers will show a full turnkey liquid line in operation. Unscrambling containers, air rinsing, filling and capping will be the focus. Separately, the stand will also feature a Van Rijn bucket filling and lidding system and a range of semi-automatic depositors.

Jonathon Stewart, UK sales director, said: *"This year's stand has been planned to show the full value the Autopack Group can bring to a project. The machinery on display gives us the opportunity to talk through real packaging applications and explain how the right combination of equipment can improve efficiency, accuracy and long-term reliability."*

The PPMA Show® 2026 takes place at the NEC, Birmingham, from 22nd to 24th September 2026. Visitors can meet the Autopack team on stands A12 and B20.

www.auto-pack.co.uk

Fuji Alpha X: The next generation flow wrapper designed for safety, reliability and performance



The packaging industry continues to demand higher levels of efficiency, flexibility and operational reliability. FUJI's new Alpha X flow wrapper meets these expectations, building on the strong foundation of the Alpha 8 platform to deliver a significant step forward in flow wrapping technology. The machine is built around six key principles: safety, consistency, reliability, flexibility, intelligence and connectivity.

Safety

Designed with operator welfare in mind, the Alpha X provides a safer working environment while making daily operation more intuitive. Clear operating procedures, highly visible displays and universal design fonts help reduce operator errors, with support for 50 languages ensuring accessibility across global manufacturing teams. In the centre seal section, resin gears reduce noise and simplify maintenance, while a new Teflon-free coating, Prest EX, delivers excellent surface hardness and lower friction with reduced environmental impact. Improved cover designs let operators inspect

sealing conditions without opening safety guards, boosting both visibility and safety.

Consistency and reliability

Strengthening and stabilisation of the machine's main frame has improved assembly accuracy and packaging consistency, while high reproducibility after parts are removed and reinstalled reduces changeover time. Additional infeed-side support legs increase stability under demanding production conditions.

In the infeed section, a larger drive sprocket (up from 18T to 24T) extends chain and sprocket life, a reinforced conveyor guide minimises deflection and vibration, and extended side covers offer greater protection. The overhead transfer brush system now allows external height adjustment during operation, and power-assisted hinges make safety covers easier to open. For box-motion models, a strengthened end seal section with advanced spline shaft technology and wear-resistant guide rails improves sealing precision and equipment life.

Flexibility

A redesigned box-structure frame in the film handling section adds rigidity and supports additional equipment such as printers, labelers and film splicers. The Alpha X now accommodates film rolls up to 350mm in diameter, reducing downtime from roll changes, while improved forming box design enhances repeatability and package presentation.

Intelligent FUJI Vision System (FVS)

The enhanced FVS improves registration mark detection, including on challenging materials such as aluminium metallised films, and automatically identifies splice locations without manual adjustment. Film threading error detection now works even on films without barcodes, and predictive monitoring flags consumable parts approaching replacement. A redesigned operation screen consolidates key settings and controls on customisable home screens, with guided product registration helping even first-time users create packaging recipes with confidence.

Connected

The Alpha X supports remote operation and troubleshooting via local networks or online through Secomea, with optional OPC-UA and Modbus/TCP communication enabling integration with factory automation systems. Electrical control cabinet capacity has increased by 25 percent over the Alpha 8, leaving room for future customisation, including the forthcoming Active Drive film tension system and DELTA Boxmotion end seal unit.

“ *This is my 4 Alpha wrapper launch over my 24 years with Fuji, the new Alpha X wrapper is another ground up redesign, incorporating previous proven features and some new ones that make Fuji wrappers the most reliable and market leading wrappers in the world, The new Alpha X series with its enhanced communication capabilities is ready for today's automated factory systems.*

– Aaron Bessell, Paramount Packaging Systems Director

With advanced automation, enhanced safety, improved durability and smart connectivity, the Fuji Alpha X is designed to exceed modern manufacturing requirements, delivering the reliability, flexibility and productivity packaging operations need to stay competitive.

To see the Alpha X in action and speak to the Paramount Packaging Systems team make sure you visit stand F20 at this year's PPMA Show®.



A packaging machine that exceeds everyone's needs

- Intelligent software built around your operator
- Maintenance made simple
- Stronger sealing, thinner, greener films

**STAND
F20**



Make the most of the PPMA Show® 2026 with smart digital tools and features

Presenting the latest technologies from 350+ exhibitors, this year's PPMA Show® promises to be bigger and better than ever.



Anticipation is building as the UK's leading processing and packaging event returns with live demos, expert talks, and valuable networking opportunities.

Planning will be vital if you're to get the most from your visit.

That's where the Matchmaker tool, Show App, and other digital features come in.

Make the right connections with PPMA Matchmaker

The **matchmaker tool** is a digital feature designed to make each visit even more focused and productive.

It will allow for personalised connections, even before the show has begun. So, you can arrive with knowledge of who you want to speak to and where their exhibition stand is located.

It's a simple matter of answering a few quick questions about your challenges and priorities.

This will generate a list of relevant exhibitors, making it that much easier to find the innovations, practical advice, and expert support that you need.

It will help you avoid missed opportunities and connect with the right experts.

Explore the PPMA Show app

You can get even more from your visit with the **PPMA Show app**.

Putting the entire event at your fingertips, this app will help to plan, discover exhibitors, and navigate the show with ease.

Whether planning to explore the latest innovations, connect with suppliers, or hear the most valuable insights, it will make for the best event experience.

With the app, you can:

- Create your own show agenda
- Book seminar theatre sessions
- View the floorplan and navigate with ease
- Save a personalised list of favourite exhibitors
- Stay updated with the latest show information
- Search for products, technologies, and suppliers

With SmartScan and ContentCapture built in, there's no need to switch between apps.

These features will also enable visitors to scan QR codes for the instant sharing of their registration details for follow-up after the event.

Capture the event experience with 360° Virtual Tours

PPMA Show® exhibitors will have the opportunity to extend their reach beyond the show floor with immersive 360° virtual stand tours.

Using the latest camera technology, these tours will capture stand views and layouts, with the option of adding interactive offers and multimedia content.

The exhibitors can share product demos, exclusive offers, and downloadable materials for engagement long after show ends.

Stay updated with the PPMA Show® TV and Podcast

The PPMA Show® 2026 promises all-new levels of connection, with the key activities being captured and broadcast on the exhibition TV screens and website.

The film crews will be there to capture high-quality videos of the latest innovations and industry developments.

Exhibiting members will have interview opportunities, with recordings being posted on the PPMA Show® TV YouTube channel.

We're also excited to be launching the PPMA Show podcast, featuring exclusive interviews with exhibitors and industry leaders who will share insights into the latest trends and innovations.

Get set for the greatest PPMA Show®

To make the most of the PPMA Show® experience, we encourage you to visit the matchmaking page and download the app today.

With the innovative displays and insights being shared through our TV and podcast channels, there's no need to miss out.



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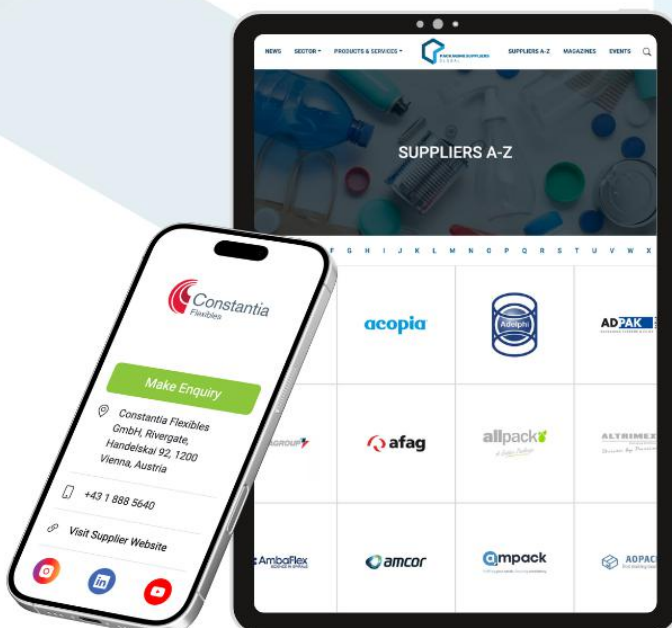
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Allpack expands with grip® systems enhanced pallet wrap portfolio and new product lines

Allpack, a leading UK packaging solutions provider, has announced a significant expansion and enhancement of its grip® Systems Pallet Wrap Portfolio, introducing new product lines designed to improve efficiency, sustainability, and operational performance across warehousing and logistics environments.

Building on the success of its grip® range, the updated portfolio strengthens Allpack's commitment to innovation by delivering solutions that simplify pallet wrapping processes while improving load security and user experience.

Advancing performance in pallet wrapping

The grip® System is designed to streamline pallet wrapping, offering a faster, more reliable, and user-friendly solution compared to traditional stretch film methods. The grip® System helps reduce user fatigue while increasing wrapping speed, positioning it as a practical alternative for high-volume operations.

Key performance enhancements across the expanded range include:



- **Reduced material consumption** – Improved film performance enables a significant reduction in material usage versus standard stretch film, supporting cost savings, operational efficiency and sustainability ratings.
- **Enhanced load stability** – Premium-quality films have been engineered to maximise load containment and protection during transit and storage.
- **Ergonomic application** – The grip® applicator reduces user fatigue through lightweight handling and simplified application processes.

Expanded product range and new film options

The enhanced portfolio introduces new grip® pallet wrap variations across multiple performance levels to meet a wider range of operational requirements, from light-duty to heavy-duty applications.

In addition to traditional clear films, the expanded offering includes:

- **Coloured pallet wrap films** for rapid product identification and stock segregation
- **Concealment solutions** to protect high-value goods in transit
- **Flexible specifications** tailored to different load weights and wrapping requirements
- **Ergonomic Hi-Lo Applicator** to reduce bending and over-shoulder reach when wrapping low and tall pallets

These additions enable businesses to better manage inventory, improve warehouse efficiency, and enhance supply chain visibility.

A major product development within the range is the new grip® Film Hi-Lo Applicator, designed to help operators wrap both low and tall pallets without bending or lifting their arms above shoulder height. The extended-handle design supports improved posture and helps reduce the risk of fatigue, aches and strains, while maintaining consistent wrap tension from the base to the top of the load.

Strengthening sustainability credentials

As part of Allpack's wider sustainability strategy, the grip® portfolio has also been developed with environmental responsibility in mind.

Updated product lines now incorporate:

- **Recycled content integration**, contributing to reduced reliance on virgin plastics
- **Plastic Tax compliance**, supporting customers in meeting regulatory requirements
- **Reduced material usage**, lowering overall environmental impact per pallet wrapped

This aligns with Allpack's ongoing investment in sustainable packaging innovation and its commitment to helping customers reduce their environmental footprint.

Supporting customers through innovation

The expansion and incorporation of the full grip® systems product range reflect Allpack's approach to innovation by combining product performance, sustainability, and operational efficiency to meet the evolving needs of modern logistics and fulfilment environments.

Request a demonstration

Product demonstrations are available to display grip® System's real-world benefits, including engineered films for warehouse needs, coloured film options, ergonomic applicator features, and machine pallet wrap lines.

Contact us via sales@allpack.uk.com or www.allpack.uk.com/contact to book a demonstration meeting or pallet wrap consultation to discover how using grip® Films can enhance your performance.

grip SYSTEMS® **HiLo**





grip SYSTEMS

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partner

You could be using over 40% less film per pallet

Most businesses are over-wrapping,
overspending, and utilising under-
performing load retention solutions.

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ineffective wrapping processes leads to damaged loads,
operator fatigue and inefficiency.

Performance^{lab}
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**Talk to our experts and book your
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The GRIP Performance lab will help you identify the
perfect load retention system for your requirements.

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From trays to top-seal punnets: Automate your cardboard packaging production with Boix Europe



Boix Europe will be exhibiting at PPMA Show® 2026 on stand D34, where visitors can meet the Boix team to discuss their packaging requirements, automation projects and opportunities to move towards fibre-based packaging.

Boix offers a wide range of automated cardboard forming solutions for the UK market, from machinery for standard and more complex tray designs to solutions for forming top-seal cardboard punnets. Whether the objective is to increase production capacity, reduce reliance on manual labour or introduce a new packaging format, Boix can help identify the right solution for each application. The **Boix Q-1530**, for example, is a versatile and reliable tray forming machine capable of producing a wide range of cardboard tray formats efficiently and consistently. For businesses looking to move from conventional plastic punnets towards fibre-based alternatives, the **MCT-1/TS** is designed specifically for forming cardboard top-seal punnets for tomatoes, berries, fruit, vegetables and other fresh produce applications. Depending on the pack design, the machine can achieve speeds of up to 4,800 punnets per hour.

Packaging requirements are changing

For UK manufacturers, growers and packers, the choice of packaging material is becoming increasingly important. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), Plastic Packaging Tax and growing pressure throughout the supply chain to reduce plastic are encouraging businesses to look more closely at both the materials they use and how efficiently their packaging is produced. Moving towards fibre-based packaging can help reduce reliance on plastic while providing packaging that is widely recyclable.



Cardboard also offers excellent opportunities for high-quality printing, allowing brands to use graphics, product information and distinctive designs to create greater impact on the shelf. Automation can make that transition commercially practical. By automating tray and punnet forming, businesses can increase output, achieve more consistent packaging quality and reduce their dependency on manual labour, an increasingly important consideration as UK labour costs continue to rise.

Bring your packaging project to PPMA

PPMA Show® 2026 provides an opportunity to discuss these challenges directly with the Boix team. Whether you are considering automating an existing manual process, increasing production capacity, developing a new cardboard tray or punnet, reducing plastic use, or planning a completely new packaging line, our team can discuss your requirements and explore the most suitable approach. Boix combines decades of experience in cardboard packaging machinery with local UK sales and technical support, helping customers from the first discussion and packaging trials through to machine selection, installation and after-sales support.

Meet Boix Europe at the **PPMA Show** in Birmingham at **stand D34**! Bring us your packaging ideas, production challenges and upcoming projects. Talk to our UK team and discover how Boix can help develop the right solution for your operation.

www.boix.com



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Bradman Lake to showcase top-load carton forming and closing solution at PPMA Show®

Bradman Lake, a global leader in integrated packaging technology, will showcase its well-established carton forming and closing solution at PPMA Show® 2026, taking place at the NEC Birmingham from 22 to 24 September. Visitors can meet the team at Stand C100, Hall 5, where the company will be demonstrating the HS Double Head Lock Former and IL120 Carton Closer.

Designed to deliver high-speed, reliable carton and tray erection, the HS Double Head Lock Former combines performance with flexibility. Suitable for a wide range of carton and tray formats, the machine is ideal for applications across the bakery, confectionery, chilled and frozen food, healthcare, and consumer goods sectors.

Complementing the former is the IL120 Carton Closer, a robust and efficient solution for carton closing and sealing. Incorporating Bradman Lake's proprietary Flexible Carton Control (FCC) technology, the machine can reliably close cartons containing products that protrude above the carton base, significantly reducing the risk of jams. Fast, tool-free changeovers further enhance operational efficiency, making the IL120 particularly well suited to manufacturers running multiple carton sizes and formats.

From process to pallet: Experience complete line integration

Alongside the live machinery demonstration, visitors to Stand C100 will be able to view exclusive video presentations showcasing Bradman Lake's comprehensive packaging capabilities. The demonstrations will highlight fully integrated packaging lines spanning flow wrapping, cartoning, case packing, tray packing, shrink wrapping, and palletising, illustrating how the



HS Erector

company's technologies work together to deliver seamless, end-to-end packaging solutions from a single supplier.

With decades of expertise and thousands of installations worldwide, Bradman Lake continues to help manufacturers improve efficiency, enhance line performance, and meet evolving market demands through innovative packaging automation solutions.

The Bradman Lake team looks forward to welcoming visitors and demonstrating how its integrated technologies are helping to shape the future of automated packaging. Our packaging experts will also be on hand to discuss specific project requirements, share industry insights, and explore tailored solutions for any packaging challenge.

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E-commerce Packaging & Labelling Expo returns to New York this fall



The E-commerce Packaging & Labelling Expo returns to New York on September 30–October 1, 2026, bringing together the suppliers, technologies, and industry experts shaping the future of e-commerce packaging, labelling, fulfilment, and delivery.

Taking place at the Javits Center, the event is designed for retailers, e-commerce brands, online sellers, logistics professionals, procurement teams, and business leaders looking to discover new ways to improve packaging, streamline operations, and deliver a better customer experience.

As one of the country's leading events dedicated to e-commerce packaging and labelling, the Expo provides visitors with direct access to suppliers and solution providers from across the industry. From sustainable packaging and custom-branded mailing solutions to labelling technology, fulfilment services, warehouse automation, and delivery solutions, attendees can explore a wide range of products and services designed to help businesses

operate more efficiently and compete in an increasingly demanding e-commerce market. With online shopping continuing to evolve, packaging has become much more than simply a way to protect a product in transit. It is now an important part of the customer journey, influencing everything from brand perception and sustainability to shipping costs and operational efficiency. The E-commerce Packaging & Labelling Expo gives visitors the opportunity to see how businesses are responding to these changing expectations and discover practical solutions they can take back to their own operations.

Visitors will be able to explore the latest packaging formats, labelling solutions, fulfilment technologies, and logistics innovations through live demonstrations, interactive features, and face-to-face conversations with industry suppliers. Whether a business is looking to reduce packaging waste, improve shipping efficiency, create a stronger unboxing experience, automate warehouse processes, or find more cost-effective

fulfilment solutions, the Expo offers an opportunity to compare options and speak directly with the companies behind them.

The event will also feature expert-led sessions covering some of the biggest challenges and opportunities facing e-commerce businesses today. Topics will include packaging design, labelling technology, sustainability, shipping efficiency, warehouse operations, fulfilment, and the changing expectations of online consumers. The sessions are designed to provide practical insight, helping visitors understand not only what is changing across the industry, but how those changes can be applied to their own businesses.

For visitors, one of the biggest advantages of attending is the opportunity to see multiple areas of the retail and e-commerce ecosystem in one place. The E-commerce Packaging & Labelling Expo is co-located with three other leading events: White & Private Label Expo, Smart Retail Tech Expo, and Retail Supply Chain & Logistics Expo.

A single free ticket provides access to all four shows, creating a comprehensive destination for anyone involved in retail, e-commerce, sourcing, technology, packaging, fulfilment, or supply chain operations.

Together, the four events bring the wider retail journey under one roof — from finding and developing products, through to technology, packaging, warehousing, fulfilment, delivery, and supply chain management. Visitors can move between shows to discover new suppliers, compare solutions, make valuable connections, and gain a broader understanding of the trends influencing the retail industry.



For businesses looking to grow, improve efficiency, or stay ahead of changing consumer expectations, the event provides an opportunity to make meaningful connections with suppliers and industry professionals while discovering new ideas and technologies.

The E-commerce Packaging & Labelling Expo is also a valuable networking opportunity. With thousands of industry professionals expected to attend, visitors can connect with potential suppliers, service providers, partners, and fellow professionals who understand the challenges of operating in today's fast-moving e-commerce environment.

From packaging innovation and sustainability to automation, fulfilment, and delivery, the Expo will showcase the solutions helping businesses prepare for what comes next.

With all four events taking place at the Javits Center on September 30–October 1, 2026, visitors can make the most of their time by exploring a broad range of retail and e-commerce solutions in a single visit.

Entry is free, and your ticket provides access to all four co-located events.

Register for your free ticket and join the E-commerce Packaging & Labelling Expo in New York on September 30–October 1, 2026.

Free ticket: www.whitelabelexpo.com





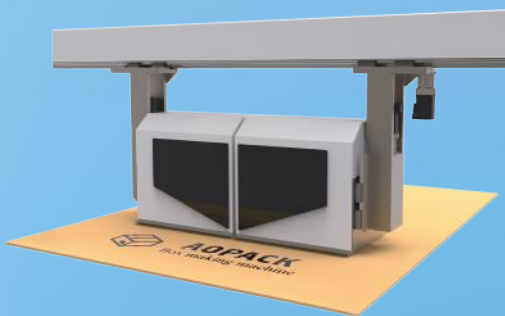
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Digital printing and corrugated box converting in one workflow with BM2800-Ultra



AOPACK's BM2800-Ultra combines digital printing and corrugated box converting in one integrated machine, allowing manufacturers to print and produce customised corrugated boxes within the same workflow.

The machine is already in production at customer sites in Xinzhen and Kunshan, China. Another BM2800-Ultra, equipped with digital printing, automatic feeding and automatic box collecting, will soon be shipped to AOPACK's distributor showroom in Italy, where customers can see the machine in operation.

Digital printing integrated with box making

The **BM2800-Ultra corrugated box maker** combines digital printing with slotting, slitting, creasing, cross cutting and other corrugated box converting processes.

For short-run printed box orders, corrugated sheets do not need to be printed separately and then transferred to another machine for converting. Printing and box production can be completed in one workflow.

The digital printing system uses the Epson S3200 industrial printhead and supports waterproof ink.

It can be used to print logos, recycling symbols, handling marks, product information, QR codes and other graphics directly onto corrugated board.

Because the BM2800-Ultra is designed for single-colour digital printing, preparing artwork is straightforward. The machine supports common image formats including JPG, PNG and PDF. For most applications, operators simply convert the required artwork to a single printable colour before importing the file.

This is particularly useful for manufacturers handling short-run orders where logos, symbols or

printed information frequently change from one job to another.

Epson S3200 printhead with automatic maintenance

Maintaining the condition of the printhead is important for consistent digital printing performance.

The BM2800-Ultra therefore includes an automatic printhead moisture-retention system. When printing stops, the system helps prevent the printhead nozzles from drying out. An automatic flushing function is also integrated into the printing system for routine printhead cleaning.

Together, these functions reduce manual maintenance requirements and help maintain stable printing quality during daily production.

From standard corrugated board to AAA board

BM2800-Ultra is not limited to standard corrugated board.

The machine can process corrugated materials ranging from E flute to AAA, making it suitable for both standard packaging applications and thicker, high-strength corrugated board.

This gives manufacturers greater flexibility when different customers require different board structures, box dimensions and packaging strength.

For irregular box structures, the machine can also be equipped with vibrating knife cutting.

CAD drawings can be imported into the machine to cut holes, curves, angled lines and other irregular shapes without traditional cutting dies. This is particularly useful for customised boxes and short-run jobs where producing a dedicated cutting die would add additional cost and lead time.

Automated feeding and box collecting

The BM2800-Ultra can also be configured with automatic feeding and automatic box collecting systems.

The upcoming machine for the Italian showroom includes both systems, allowing corrugated sheets to be automatically fed into the machine, printed and converted, and then collected at the output side. This reduces manual board handling and provides a higher level of automation for repeated short-run production.

Different configurations can be selected according to the customer's production requirements.

Designed for short-run and customised box production

The BM2800-Ultra is designed for manufacturers handling different box sizes, different box styles and frequently changing printed content.

Digital printing removes the need for conventional printing plates, while automatic adjustment of the converting modules allows different box orders to be changed quickly.

The combination of printing, converting, AAA board capability and optional vibrating knife cutting means that one machine can handle a broad range of customised corrugated packaging requirements.

AOPACK also offers a growing range of **box making machines** for different board widths, box formats and production applications.

With BM2800-Ultra machines already operating at customer sites in China and another fully automated configuration heading to an Italian distributor showroom, more customers will be able to see how digital printing and corrugated box converting can be combined within one production system.



AOPACK
Box making machine

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The latest in automated packaging from YPS at PPMA Show® 2026



The YPS Team will be available to discuss both machinery and materials.

Automated packaging specialists Yorkshire Packaging Systems (YPS) will be exhibiting at the PPMA Show® at the NEC in September. The YPS team will be available at stand A62 to discuss both machinery and materials that help production operations achieve increased throughput, improved consistency and reduced materials use.

"We're celebrating 50 years in business this year! Over those years, we've helped numerous manufacturers and contract packers to find the right packaging system for them," explained YPS MD, Glyn Johnson.

"We'll have shrink wrapping and bagging systems on show, as well as our display of materials. We offer a wide range of specialist materials, so our team can talk through all the options and explain

how materials and equipment can work optimally together."

YPS supplies shrink wrapping systems for display applications as well as transit wrapping options. Display applications deliver shelf-ready packs and are achieved by using L-sealer and side sealer shrink wrappers.

The company's automated bagging systems range includes both horizontal and vertical bagging equipment, suitable for everything from small operations to those processing thousands of packs a day.

"We'll be at stand A62 and are looking forward to meeting producers and helping them with their packaging challenges," concluded Johnson.

www.yps.co.uk

Build production line confidence at the PPMA Show® 2026



From rising costs to the demand for high output, manufacturers across the processing and packaging sectors are facing a variety of pressures.

There's shared recognition that production line confidence isn't just desirable, but vital for staying competitive.

Taking place from the 22nd to the 24th of September, the PPMA Show® 2026 promises to build such confidence through the presentation of transformative technologies and insights.

Why production line confidence is key

The lack of production line confidence inevitably leads to downtime, rejections, compliance issues, and avoidable waste.

Teams lacking certainty in systems, processes, or equipment are likely to hesitate in making decisions that are key to desirable output.

However, there are practical solutions that can be implemented for smoother operations, better decisions, and more consistent performance.

Such solutions can make the difference in overcoming challenges such as downtime, quality maintenance, and the avoidance of recalls and rejections.

They matter more than ever, with manufacturers facing labour shortages, sustainability demands, and pressures to keep up with technological developments.

Solutions presented at the PPMA Show® 2026

As a showcase for the latest technologies and expertise, the PPMA Show® 2026 will point the way to such impactful solutions.

It is an essential event for manufacturers looking to optimise performance and ensure operational sustainability.

With processing and packaging taking centre stage, there will be the opportunity to see the latest technologies presented by 350+ exhibitors, experience live demonstrations, and connect with leading innovators.

Presenting the latest technologies

As Bells of Lazenby's Tim Conder said of the 2025 show, "anything you're looking for in processing and packaging, you'll find it here".

We'll be delivering on that promise again in 2026, with a selection of exhibitors taking to the stage to unveil their cutting-edge products and services for the first time.

Rather than having to rely on supplier promotions, this will give you the chance to see how equipment performs in the real world and relative to your production needs.

More than 1,500 brands will be represented, with experts on hand to talk you through the live demonstrations and answer any questions.

This will be the chance to assess and build confidence in the ideal equipment for your production line.

Sharing expert insights

Following the success of the newly revamped seminar theatre, the PPMA Show® 2026 will again be the platform for a series of expert-led talks.

From the integration of AI manufacturing systems to the reduction of waste and improvement of energy efficiency, these talks will address a variety of key industry issues. Inspiring greater confidence in the most effective production-line decisions.

Building industry connections

With thousands of influential visitors expected at NEC, Birmingham, you can expect valuable

“Anything you're looking for in processing and packaging, you'll find it here”



discussions with suppliers, peers, and specialists who understand your production line challenges.

The conversations will continue to flow during the free exhibitor and visitor networking reception, strengthening the kinds of relationships that will benefit your business well into the future.

This will be a valuable learning experience, with the comparison of investment decisions, the uncovering of hidden issues, and greater clarity on the kinds of solutions that will make for better performance.

Register now

Considering the range of confidence-building opportunities, there's every reason to book your free passes to all three days of the PPMA Show® 2026.

This will be time excellently spent, as you discover the greatest solutions to your biggest challenges.

Don't miss out, [register today](#).



Events & exhibitions

Stay ahead with our global round-up of packaging events and exhibitions, conveniently colour-coded by location.

Have an event to share? [Get in touch](#) to add it to our calendar.

 Europe
  United Kingdom
  Asia
  Americas

Sept
16-17

**London
Packaging
Week**

London, UK

Sept/Oct
29-01

**LUXE
PACK
Monaco**

Monaco

Sept
22-24

**PPMA
Show®
2026**

Birmingham, UK

Sept/Oct
30-01

**E-commerce
Packaging
& Labeling
Expo**

New York, USA

Sept
29-30

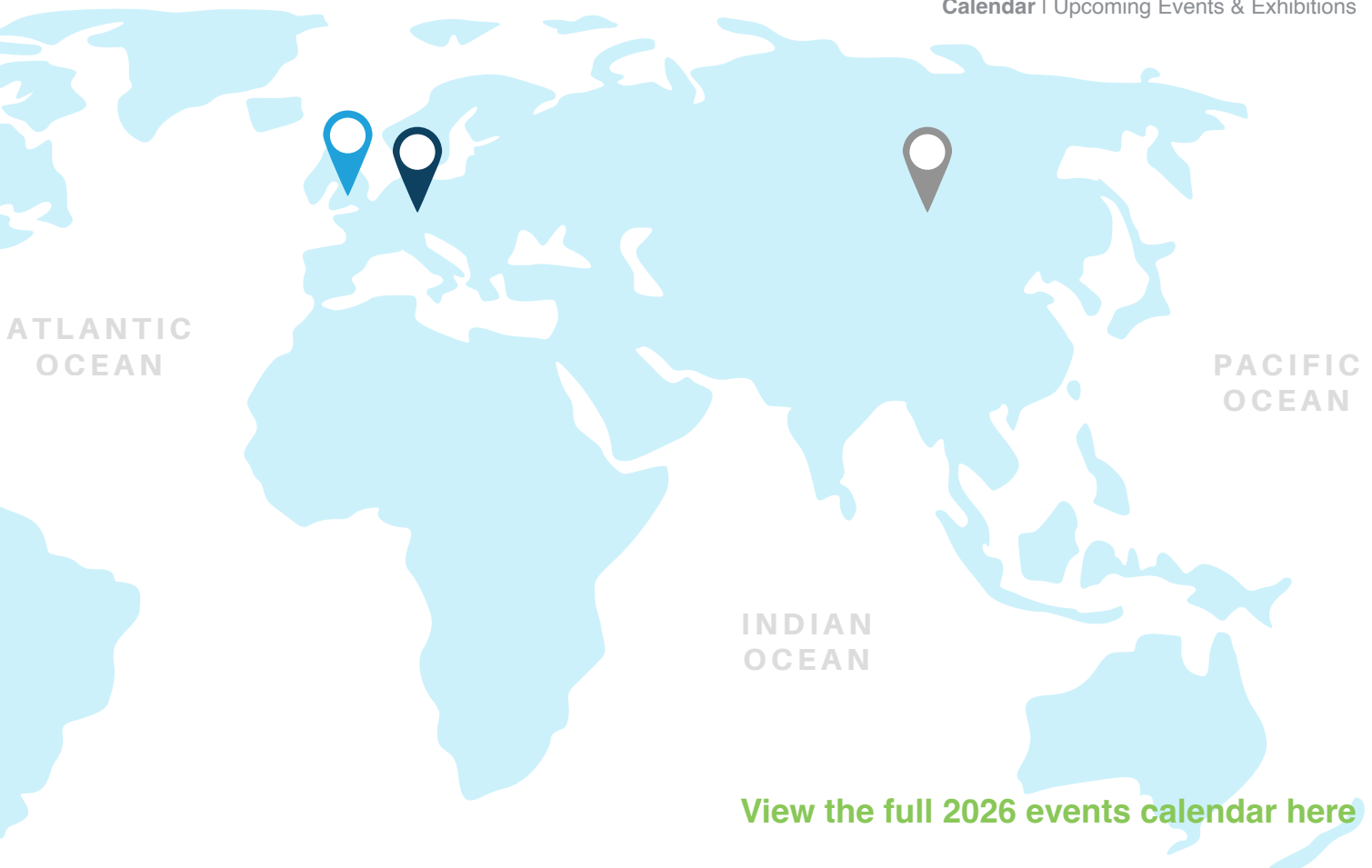
**Responsible
Packaging
Expo**

London, UK

Oct
06-07

**Clinical Trial
Supply
Forum**

California, USA



[View the full 2026 events calendar here](#)

Oct
15-17

**Asia Ink
Expo 2026**

Guangzhou, China

Nov
10-11

**UK-
Packaging
Expo**

Liverpool, UK

Oct
18-21

**PACK EXPO
Int. 2026**

Chicago, USA

Nov
10-12

**11th BioPharma
Supply Chain &
Logistics Nexus**

The Netherlands

Nov
03-05

**Gulfood
Manufactur-
ing 2026**

Dubai, UAE

Nov
11-12

**Clinical Trial
Supply
Forum**

California, USA



PACKAGING SUPPLIERS
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THANK YOU

We hope you enjoyed this issue. Stay connected for the latest packaging news and innovations.

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