PACKAGING SUPPLIERS GLOBAL

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INSIDE

Food and beverage packaging & processing

— featuring Gulfood Manufacturing & UKPackaging Expo

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& features

Welcome to our final edition of what has been a busy year for the industry. This time, the focus turns to food and beverage packaging, a sector navigating evolving regulations and increasing production complexity.

In this issue, our guest writer Ton explores the challenges of managing complexity in a changing food and beverage packaging market, while we also examine the decisions facing businesses as the EU's Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) brings new considerations to the forefront. Together, these features highlight some of the key pressures and priorities shaping the sector.

We also turn our attention to two major industry events: UKPackaging Expo, as it enters a new chapter, and Gulfood Manufacturing, which brings together the latest developments in food and beverage production and packaging. As we round off the year, we look forward to another busy year ahead.

Contact

w: packagingsuppliersglobal.com
e: info@packagingsuppliersglobal.com
t: +44 (0)117 318 4321

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Ton's Take: Food & Beverage packaging – Managing complexity in a changing market

More SKUs, shorter production runs, growing private label portfolios and increasing sustainability demands are changing the economics of food packaging. Flexibility is becoming just as important as speed.



Growing product variety and SKU proliferation are increasing complexity in food packaging.

A product may have a shelf life of twelve months, while the commercial life of its packaging design can be considerably shorter. That is just one of the contradictions facing the food and beverage packaging industry today.

In my previous contribution to Packaging Suppliers Global, When Flexibility Becomes Efficiency, I explored how machine learning, smarter automation and faster changeovers could help manufacturers manage shorter production runs while reducing their dependence on highly skilled operators.

Nowhere are these developments more relevant than in food and beverage packaging. But the challenges extend far beyond machinery. Changing consumer behaviour, the growth of House Brands (Private Labels), increasingly fragmented demand and mounting regulatory pressure are fundamentally changing how products are developed, manufactured and packaged.

The real question is no longer simply how fast we can package a product, but how efficiently we can manage an increasingly complex product portfolio without compromising food safety, quality or profitability.

More SKUs, shorter lifecycles and less predictability

Walk through any supermarket and the consequences become obvious. One sauce becomes six flavours. A snack appears in multiple pack sizes, seasonal varieties and promotional editions. Retailers introduce premium, organic, plant-based and healthier alternatives, while established brands respond with their own innovations.

Yet more product variants do not necessarily mean higher overall consumption. Frequently, the same market volume is divided across an increasing number of Stock Keeping Units (SKUs).

For manufacturers, this means smaller production batches, more frequent changeovers, additional packaging components and increasingly complicated production planning.

At the same time, commercial product lifecycles are shortening. Products may disappear from shelves before manufacturers have fully recovered their development and tooling investments.

This creates an uncomfortable reality: production systems traditionally designed for long, predictable runs must now accommodate a market characterised by constant change.

House Brands are changing the rules

One of the most significant developments is the transformation of House Brands, commonly referred to as Private Labels.

Once primarily positioned as lower-cost alternatives to established brands, retailer-owned brands have evolved into sophisticated product portfolios. Premium ranges, innovative formulations, sustainability commitments and distinctive packaging designs have become important competitive tools.

Persistent pressure on household budgets, higher food prices and economic uncertainty have encouraged consumers to reconsider the price premium of established brands. Retailers have responded by investing in the quality, positioning and innovation of their House Brands. What begins as a value-driven purchase can become a lasting change in shopping habits when the product delivers on expectations. This strengthens the retailer's influence over product development and adds further variety and complexity to packaging operations. For retailers, some House Brand products can also justify modest margins by drawing shoppers into their stores: unlike widely available national brands,



Sainsbury's switches to cardboard trays for own-brand chicken and fish packaging.

exclusive ranges give customers a reason to return, generating value across the entire shopping basket.

Retailers increasingly control not only the commercial positioning but also product specifications, packaging requirements, launch schedules and, in some cases, the direction of innovation.

This has consequences throughout the packaging supply chain.

Traditionally, packaging innovation followed a relatively linear route from material and machinery suppliers through brand manufacturers to retailers and consumers.

Today, the relationships are considerably more complex. Packaging suppliers, food manufacturers, private label specialists, co-packers and retailers increasingly need to collaborate directly.

For packaging suppliers, understanding the requirements of the retailer may be just as important as understanding those of the manufacturer.

And for manufacturers, serving several retailers with different product specifications and packaging formats can turn what appears to be one product category into dozens of individual production challenges.

From owning factories to managing partnerships

Another consequence is the growing strategic importance of co-packing and contract manufacturing.

Brand owners and retailers increasingly recognise that developing products and building brands does not necessarily require owning every production asset.

Specialised manufacturing and packaging partners can provide capacity, technical expertise, flexibility

and access to equipment without requiring the brand owner to make substantial capital investments.

For House Brands in particular, this model offers opportunities to introduce products faster, test new concepts and respond to changing demand.

However, outsourcing does not eliminate complexity. It transfers much of the operational responsibility to a specialised partner.

Co-packers may handle multiple customers, different formulations, varying packaging materials and numerous artwork versions, sometimes on the same equipment.

Their competitive advantage therefore depends not only on production capacity, but on the ability to manage changeovers, cleaning procedures, traceability, allergen controls and quality assurance efficiently.

"Flexibility has a commercial value, but it also has a cost. Unless that cost is understood and reflected in pricing, a busy packaging operation is not necessarily a profitable one."

Shelf life: the challenge that cannot be compromised

There is an important distinction between shorter commercial product lifecycles and product shelf life.

This is also why I have long advocated realistic shelf lives. A 'best before' date is primarily about quality, while a 'use by' date concerns food safety. Both should reflect validated product performance under realistic storage and distribution conditions, rather than unnecessarily conservative assumptions



Lidl GB replaces 'use by' dates with 'best before' dates on its own-brand milk and yoghurt products to help reduce food waste.

or commercial convenience. Getting this balance right can help prevent avoidable food waste without compromising consumer safety.

The first concerns how long a product remains commercially attractive. The second concerns how long it remains safe and meets its defined quality requirements.

Food packaging must deliver both operational flexibility and reliable product protection.

Whether we are talking about oxygen-sensitive coffee, moisture-sensitive snacks, chilled sauces or fresh bakery products, packaging performance must be considered together with formulation, processing, hygiene, storage and distribution.

A packaging material cannot be evaluated solely on its price, weight or recyclability.

Barrier properties, sealing performance, mechanical protection and compatibility with production equipment all influence the final result.

A supposedly more sustainable packaging structure that significantly increases food waste may ultimately deliver a worse environmental outcome.

Reducing packaging waste is important. Preventing food waste can be even more important.

Sustainability adds another layer of complexity

The European Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) introduces additional requirements concerning packaging design, recyclability, material reduction and, where applicable, recycled content.

This creates new challenges for packaging developers and equipment manufacturers.

Switching to mono-material structures, reducing film thickness or introducing alternative substrates may improve certain sustainability characteristics. However, these changes can also influence barrier performance, sealing windows, machine speeds and product protection.

A packaging material that performs perfectly during laboratory testing may behave quite differently on an industrial filling line.

Consequently, sustainable packaging development cannot take place in isolation.

Material suppliers, machine manufacturers, food producers, retailers and co-packers need to work together at an earlier stage.

The objective should not simply be to develop a recyclable package,

but to deliver a packaging solution that is technically reliable, commercially viable and environmentally responsible throughout its lifecycle.

Smarter machines for a more demanding environment

This brings us back to the subject of my previous article: machine learning and the increasing importance of operational flexibility.

As product portfolios expand and production runs become shorter, the time spent changing formats, adjusting settings, cleaning equipment and restarting production becomes increasingly significant.

At the same time, manufacturers face a shortage of experienced technical operators.

Modern equipment can help address both challenges.

Automatic recipe management, guided changeovers, intelligent weighing systems, optical inspection, predictive maintenance and machine learning can reduce start-up losses, improve consistency and make operations less dependent on individual experience.

For example, a multihead weighing system can optimise product distribution and filling accuracy, while vision technology can help identify product or packaging defects. Machine learning can potentially recognise patterns in production data that indicate deteriorating performance before significant losses occur.



Automated weighing, bagging and packing equipment used in food packaging operations.

But technology does not eliminate the need for competent operators or effective food safety management.

A machine may automatically select the correct operating parameters, but proper verification of packaging materials, allergen information, date coding and cleaning procedures remains essential.

> *"The objective is not to replace human expertise, but to embed more knowledge into the process and enable operators to manage increasingly complex operations reliably.*
>
> *And perhaps most importantly, the true benefit of a faster changeover should not be measured solely in minutes saved."*

Reduced start-up waste, fewer rejected packs, improved quality consistency and faster release of saleable products can be considerably more valuable.

Efficiency needs a different definition

For many years, packaging machinery investments were primarily evaluated in terms of maximum output: packs per minute, units per hour or tonnes per shift.

Those figures remain relevant, but they no longer tell the whole story.

A machine capable of producing 300 packs per minute may be less economical than a slower alternative if it requires lengthy changeovers, specialised operators or substantial material losses whenever the product changes.

In today's food and beverage market, the more meaningful measure is how many compliant, saleable packs can be produced across the actual product mix, at an acceptable total cost.

That includes downtime, cleaning, changeovers, material waste, quality losses and the complexity of managing multiple SKUs.

For co-packers, private label manufacturers and increasingly for brand owners, this broader understanding of efficiency is becoming essential.

The real competitive advantage

Food and beverage packaging is entering an era in which flexibility, collaboration and operational intelligence are becoming as important as traditional production capacity.

House Brands are accelerating product differentiation. Consumers expect greater variety. Retailers demand faster innovation. Regulation is reshaping packaging design, while manufacturers must simultaneously protect shelf life, control costs and manage shortages of skilled personnel.

No single packaging material, machine or technology will solve all these challenges.

The companies best positioned for the future will be those that understand the entire value chain and make informed decisions across product development, packaging design, manufacturing and distribution.

After more than three decades in packaging, one observation continues to prove itself: optimising one part of the process does not necessarily optimise the whole operation.

And that is perhaps the most important lesson for food and beverage packaging today.

> *"The future belongs not necessarily to those who package fastest, but to those who manage complexity best."*

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



Ton Knipscheer,
TK Packaging Consulting.

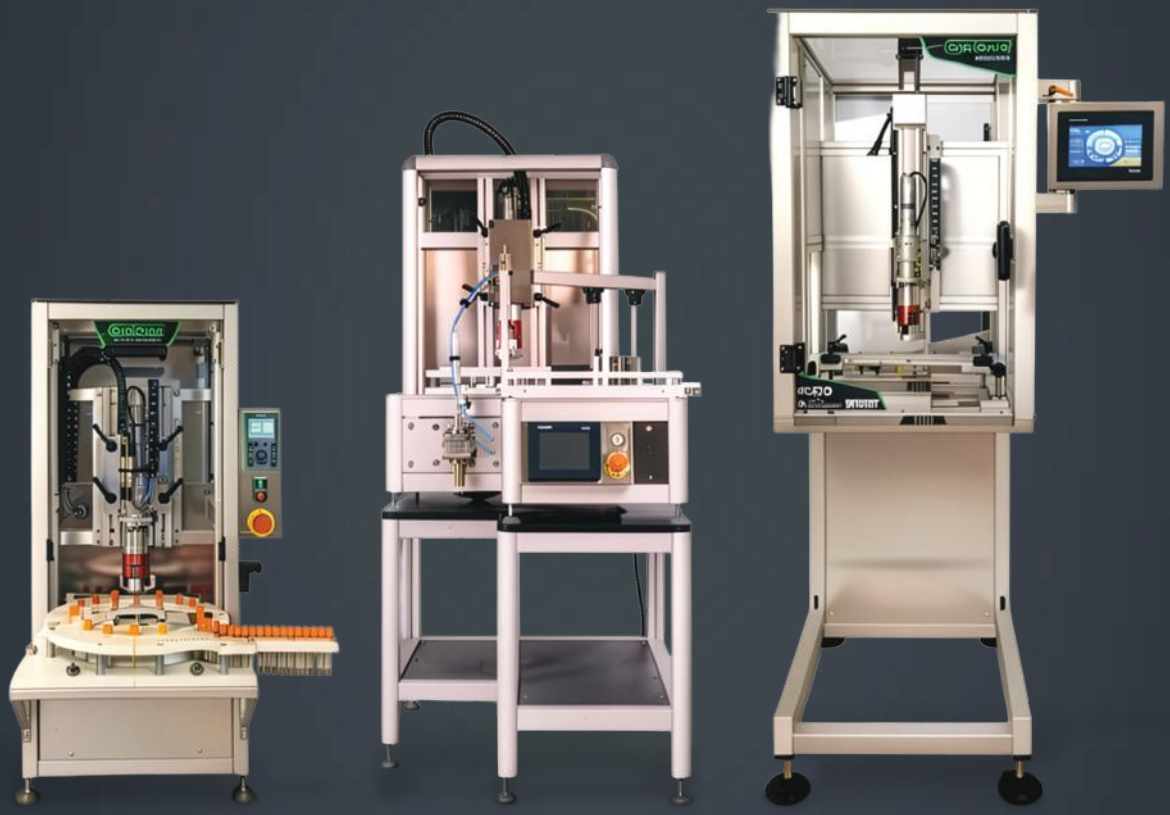


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UK PACKAGING EXPO

A new chapter for UKPackaging Expo unfolds



Packaging Suppliers Global is looking forward to the second edition of UKPackaging Expo, a groundbreaking packaging trade exhibition now in its second year. The event will run from 10th-11th November 2026 at Hall C of the Exhibition Centre, Liverpool.

The event will unite international bellwether brands with exciting new entrants to the marketplace, serving industry categories that range from Food & Beverage through to Automotive and eCommerce, Beauty, Pharmaceuticals and more. Specifiers, buyers and all-round decision makers will discover best-in-class turnkey solutions alongside niche developments and groundbreaking sustainable concepts.

The contemporary exhibition space offers an exceptional venue for packaging professionals across the supply chain to network, collaborate and come up with solutions to every kind of packaging challenge or opportunity.

Managing director, Jordan Bamford comments: *"We had a very successful launch of UKPackaging Expo in 2025 and we're hugely looking forward to the second chapter opening in Liverpool. There is clear demand for an exhibition that properly serves – but isn't limited to - the north of England and we've established ourselves as a crucial platform for suppliers in this sector.*

"We are offering a credible and cost-effective alternative to other national shows, which addresses the specific needs and priorities of northern packaging businesses. Our exhibitors will cover everything from large scale, turnkey machinery to packaging boxes and the glue that holds it all together.

Jordan adds: *"We've built a great deal of momentum with a solid offering that reflects the diversity of the industry. It is a commercially driven, insight-led show which has relevance to multiple sectors."*

Sarah Greenwood from the North of England Packaging Society gave it the thumbs up, saying: *"We are all about building a better packaging community and we support the initiative".*

Exhibitors include: Unilever, Markem Imaje, Konica Minolta, Berlin Packaging | BlueSky, BPF (British Plastics Federation), MPMA (Metal Packaging Manufacturers Association), RECOUP, Ravenwood Packaging, Viking Masek, Beyondly and – the most recent sign-ups to the show - Waste Equipment Supplies Ltd, AstroNova, Hybrid Software, U-Pack and Universal Pack.

Sustainable packaging solutions

As Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), recyclability demands and carbon reporting reshape the industry, UKPackaging Expo will platform a new Sustainable Packaging sector.

Marketing Manager, Naomi Stewart says: *"Across the UK we're seeing a tightening regulatory landscape, rising expectations around recyclability, and a clear shift toward carbon-led decision-making. Our Sustainable Packaging sector mirrors these pressures directly, giving visitors access to suppliers and specialists who are actively developing solutions in these areas. We are bringing together the organisations, technologies and insights pushing that transformation forward. For packaging teams navigating EPR, redesigning for recyclability or seeking credible carbon-reduction strategies, the show offers a timely and highly relevant platform".*

Exhibitors in this specialist sector include Beyondly, EcoPlast, Cradloop, Recoup, Zevero and Brook Green Supply, each addressing a different facet of the sustainability challenge.

Future Packaging Conference

With packaging now occupying a pivotal position at the intersection of branding, consumer expectations, sustainability, logistics, AI and an increasingly complex regulatory landscape, the Future Packaging Conference will bring these conversations together through a comprehensive two-day programme featuring almost 60 speakers and industry experts.





This year's conference programme will address sustainability head-on, with sessions designed to help packaging teams navigate regulatory change and make better environmental decisions. Naomi has crafted sessions which closely align with the topics dominating industry debate and give visitors practical insight into the next phase of sustainability-driven transformation.

In line with packaging industry macro-themes, sustainability and EPR compliance will have crucial centre-stage roles, not only via absorbing sessions at the Content Theatre but also with expert consultants on the show-floor who are able to provide invaluable on-the-spot guidance and advice to both visitors and fellow exhibitors.

As Naomi explained: *"Sustainability is reshaping every part of the packaging supply chain, and our goal is to give the industry a space where those challenges and opportunities can be explored in a meaningful, commercially focused way. We've strengthened that with a programme of thought-provoking, insight-rich seminars designed to ensure visitors leave with practical guidance and the solutions they need. We're proud to see the show becoming a northern hub for innovation, and are excited to welcome the brands, converters and manufacturers who are driving the next phase of sustainable packaging forward."*

UKPackaging Expo will run from 10th-11th November at Hall C of the Exhibition Centre, Liverpool, a fantastic venue between the Royal Albert Dock and Queens Dock on the River Mersey.

For more information about UKPackaging Expo and to register for free visit the website: www.ukpackagingexpo.co.uk

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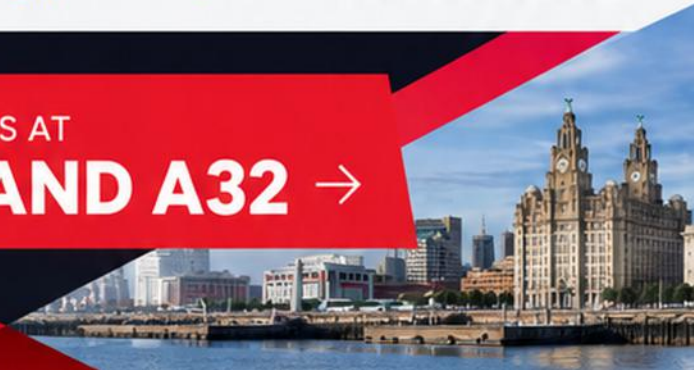
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Expertise built-in, since 1976

British-built filling and capping machinery takes centre stage at UKPackaging Expo

For fifty years, Oxfordshire-based Cap Coder has been designing and building filling and capping machines for manufacturers around the world. This November, the team is bringing three of them to the UKPackaging Expo in Liverpool, running live on Stand D28.

More than machines

At Cap Coder, the goal has never been just to build machines. It's to build confidence. Since 1976, the company has helped manufacturers keep their filling and capping lines running smoothly, from compact benchtop setups to fully automated clean-room systems. Whatever the scale, every machine is designed to deliver reliability, repeatability and ease of use.



CC1100

Production never stops, and neither does Cap Coder. Customers come for the engineering, but they stay for the people behind it: approachable experts who care as much about a line running smoothly as the customer does.

Enablers of growth

Cap Coder's vision is to be an enabler of growth. That means building reliable automation designed with people in mind: machines that make operators' lives easier, processes that scale as a business grows, and solutions that give real control and confidence in every fill, cap and bottle. From small and medium-sized businesses to large-scale manufacturers, the aim is the same: to help companies grow without the growing pains.

The mission is refreshingly simple. Cap Coder keeps its expertise up to date so that its machines are easy to use, the company is easy to do business with, and it's an easy place to work. If it feels complicated, they're doing it wrong.

Expert. Human. Committed.

Three values sit behind everything the team does.

Expert: knowledge is shared freely and built into every machine, every process and every relationship. Yes, they're engineers, but they speak human too.

Human: customers and colleagues are treated with respect and honesty, and the machines are designed to be intuitive and practical rather than intimidating.

Committed: what they promise, they deliver, from customer service to sustainability.

Built in Britain, from the first drawing to the final test

Cap Coder has always been proud to manufacture in the UK and support local jobs and suppliers. Every machine is designed and built in-house at its site in Chalgrove, Oxfordshire. A dedicated design team, CNC machine shop and assembly line all work under one roof, and the wiring and programming are done in-house too.

That gives Cap Coder complete control over quality at every stage of the build, and it means every machine is built to the UK's world-leading safety standards, protecting both the people who run it and the product it handles. It also means customers get local support, expert advice, spares on the shelf and a warranty they can rely on.

Cap Coder is a proud member of Made in Britain, and its machines are at work with major clients around the world. Export customers get exactly the same service, build quality and spares availability as those in the UK.

From benchtop to turnkey

The range covers filling, capping and complete production lines. Filling machines run from benchtop units to inline fillers with up to twelve heads, with peristaltic or gear pump options for brilliant accuracy.

On the capping side, whatever the closure, Cap Coder has a solution to tighten, crimp, press or roll it over, across proven platforms for everything from small-batch work to large-scale production. And for businesses that want one partner to design and build an entire line, Cap Coder offers bespoke turnkey solutions.



Micro Mono

CC570



See it for yourself at Stand D28

The best way to understand what Expertise Built-In means is to see it in action. At the UKPackaging Expo, three machines will be running live on the stand, and all three are available to buy:

CC1100 Benchtop Capper (New): a powerhouse benchtop capper that boosts production with real speed and accuracy, without taking up floor space.

Micro Mono Filling & Capping Machine (Used): compact, modular and precise, bringing filling and capping together in one small footprint. A great opportunity to own Cap Coder engineering at a pre-owned price.

CC570 Capping Machine (New): a flexible inline capper that handles multiple container types, simple to operate and built to grow with your production.

Paul and Ross will be on the stand across both days. Bring your questions, your trickiest container, or just your curiosity, and watch the machines at work. There's no better way to find out what Cap Coder could do for your line.

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EST. 1872
CROXSONS
William Croxson

The future of glass packaging isn't just lighter … it's smarter



It is clear sustainability expectations continue to evolve, and Croxsons is demonstrating why the future of glass packaging depends on balancing material efficiency, technical performance and smarter supply-chain decisions.

For the glass packaging industry, sustainability is no longer simply a question of recyclability. While glass has long been valued for its ability to be recycled repeatedly without losing quality, growing pressure to reduce environmental impact is encouraging manufacturers, suppliers and brands to look more closely at how packaging is designed, produced and transported.

Glass remains an important packaging material, particularly within the food and beverage industry, where product protection, quality and presentation are essential. However, its manufacture is energy and resource intensive, while bottle weight, recycled content and transportation all influence its environmental footprint.

For Croxsons, a fifth-generation British glass packaging specialist with more than 150 years of experience, the challenge is not simply to supply lighter bottles, but to help customers make better-informed packaging decisions.

Finding the right weight

Reducing the amount of material used in packaging is an important part of improving resource efficiency.
However, making a bottle lighter is not necessarily as straightforward as removing glass.

Packaging must still withstand the demands of filling, handling, transportation and storage, while delivering the quality and appearance that consumers expect. For premium food and drink brands in particular, packaging also plays an important role in communicating product identity and value.

This thinking underpins Croxsons' Rightweight® approach, which focuses on optimising glass weight without compromising technical performance, functionality or presentation.

One example is its British-made 330ml Mountain® bottle, which has achieved a 9.5% reduction in glass weight. By challenging established specifications and examining where material can be used more efficiently, Croxsons has demonstrated how practical design changes can reduce glass requirements while maintaining the bottle's intended performance.

The principle is straightforward: the objective should not always be to produce the lightest possible bottle, but the right bottle for its intended application.

For the glass packaging industry, the next stage of progress will depend on bringing these considerations together. Rather than focusing on individual sustainability claims, manufacturers, suppliers and brands have an opportunity to make more informed decisions that balance environmental responsibility with the performance and quality customers expect.

The future of glass packaging is not simply about using less. It is about using materials, expertise and resources more intelligently.

w: croxsons.com

Paramount Packaging Systems helps traditional bakery secure its future with Fuji CX2 and robotic automation

Facing rising labour costs and ongoing staffing challenges, a small independent UK bakery replaced manual feeding with a fully integrated flow wrapping and robotics line. Two years on, the owner credits the system with keeping the business open.

Paramount Packaging Systems, the exclusive UK and Ireland supplier of Fuji flow wrapping machinery, has completed a packing line automation project for an independent UK bakery producing traditional baked goods. Combining a Fuji CX2 box-motion flow wrapper with PWR robotic automation, the line runs at 60 packs per minute and has removed the bakery's dependence on manual feeding. Visitors to UKPackaging Expo in Liverpool on 10 and 11 November can meet the Paramount team on stand F32.

Labour costs put a growing business under pressure

Demand for the bakery's products was strong. The difficulty lay in packing them.

Its line relied on staff hand-feeding an ageing flow wrapper, so every pack that left the site needed someone there to load it, and output rose and fell with staffing levels.

As National Insurance increases and rising wages pushed up the cost of manual packing, and recruitment remained difficult, the owner reached a clear conclusion. Without significant automation, the business would struggle to survive.

A new wrapper on its own would still have needed the same people at the infeed, so Paramount looked at the whole packing process instead, aiming for a line that could run consistently without a full team on every shift.



> *"Many smaller producers assume automation is only for large plants. This project shows that isn't the case. The real conversation with the owner was about what packing would cost in a few years if nothing changed. Looked at that way, the decision becomes much clearer."*
>
> **- Aaron Bessell, Managing Director, Paramount Packaging Systems**

Fuji CX2 at the heart of an integrated line

At the centre of the system Paramount supplied and integrated is the Fuji CX2, a box-motion horizontal flow wrapper designed for bakery applications. It was selected for its gentle handling of delicate products, its seal integrity and the pack presentation it maintains at higher speeds.

Robotic infeed removes the reliance on manual feeding

Feeding the CX2 are PWR robotic cells, which pick, stack and place products onto an automatically fed U-card system. Each pack is presented to the wrapper in the same way every time, and the line runs at a steady 60 packs per minute.

Reliable results two years on

The system has now been in production for two years and has remained reliable and trouble-free.



For the bakery, the project has delivered:

- A significantly reduced labour requirement on the packing line
- Stable, repeatable output that no longer depends on staffing levels
- Improved pack consistency and reduced waste
- Protection against further rises in labour and National Insurance costs

After the CX2 was installed, the bakery's owner said they doubted the business would still be trading without the investment.

Making automation work for smaller producers

For small and medium-sized food producers, the case for automation often comes down to one comparison: what manual labour costs today against what it is likely to cost in two or three years. Paramount works with businesses to model those options before any investment is made.

About Paramount Packaging Systems

With more than 30 years in the industry, Paramount Packaging Systems is the sole UK and Ireland agent for Fuji Machinery Co. of Nagoya, Japan, and has supplied over 800 machines to food, non-food, pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers. Its own service technicians install, commission and maintain the full Fuji range, backed by spares and ongoing support, and the company holds ISO 9001 accreditation.

Visitors to UKPackaging Expo at Exhibition Centre Liverpool can meet the team on stand F32.

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UKPackaging Expo 2026

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UK PACKAGING EXPO

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UKPackaging Expo to spotlight food & beverage packaging



The second edition of UKPackaging Expo will place the food and beverage packaging sector firmly in the spotlight when the second edition of the show runs at the Convention Centre at KingsDock, Liverpool, on 10th – 11th November 2026.

With regulatory reform, sustainability targets, retail competition and changing consumer expectations transforming packaging strategies across the UK, Republic of Ireland and wider Europe, the event will bring together packaging manufacturers, food producers, designers, converters, retailers and supply chain specialists to explore the technologies and trends driving the next generation of food and drink packaging.

The UK and European food packaging market is in a period of rapid transition. According to the Food and Drink Federation (FDF), UK food and drink exports reached a record £25.6 billion in 2025, underlining the continued scale and resilience of the sector despite economic pressures.

Ireland remains one of the UK's largest export destinations, alongside France and the United States, reinforcing the importance of packaging innovation that supports cross-border retail performance, shelf life and supply chain efficiency.

At the same time, sustainability legislation is reshaping packaging priorities across the region. The introduction of the UK's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework and the emergence of the UK Packaging PRO organisation are accelerating industry investment in recyclable, reusable and lower-impact materials.

Industry bodies are increasingly positioning packaging as a central component of wider net-zero strategies. The FDF's Ambition 2030 programme highlights the sector's commitment to reducing emissions across the agrifood supply chain, with packaging innovation viewed as critical to achieving these targets.

Sustainable solutions and strategic branding

Across Europe, manufacturers are responding with significant advances in sustainable food packaging technologies. Market analysts such as Mordor Intelligence report strong growth in mono-material packaging, fibre-based alternatives, compostable materials and lightweight flexible packaging solutions, driven by both regulation and consumer demand.

Mordor's UK Packaging Market Size & Share Analysis Forecast for 2026-31 found that, plastic still held 48.02% of UK packaging market share by packaging type in 2025, but paper is projected to expand at a 4.62% CAGR through 2031. By packaging format, flexible solutions accounted for 54.40% of the United Kingdom packaging market size in 2025; rigid alternatives are forecast to grow at 3.58% CAGR to 2031. By end-use sector, food applications led with 28.60% revenue share in 2025, whereas e-commerce packaging is advancing at a 5.28% CAGR through 2031.

Flexible packaging formats are becoming particularly influential within food and beverage markets because of their ability to reduce material usage while improving transport efficiency and visual impact. The popularity of flexible packaging is being supported by rising demand for stand-up pouches, digitally printed short-run packaging and premium artisan presentation formats.

For artisan and premium food producers, packaging is increasingly seen as a strategic branding tool rather than simply a protective layer. Consumer-facing trends are driving demand for packaging that delivers sustainability credentials while also creating standout shelf appeal and social media visibility. Analysts point to the growth of minimalist aesthetics, bold typography, tactile finishes and premium labelling as brands compete for attention in increasingly crowded retail environments.

Research into retail shelf performance also reinforces the commercial value of strong packaging design. Studies examining shelf placement and product visibility show that packaging presentation directly influences purchasing behaviour and product demand, particularly in high-competition FMCG categories.

Meanwhile, environmentally conscious purchasing habits continue to strengthen across Europe. Research cited in industry reporting shows many consumers are actively rejecting products perceived to use excessive or unsustainable packaging, placing additional pressure on brands to deliver recyclable and lower-impact solutions without compromising aesthetics or convenience.

Smart packaging technologies and reducing food waste

The emergence of smart packaging technologies is also expected to feature prominently at UKPackaging Expo 2026. Developments including QR-enabled packaging, freshness indicators, intelligent labelling and digitally connected packaging systems are helping food brands improve traceability, transparency and consumer engagement.

Packaging's wider role in reducing food waste is becoming another major area of innovation across Europe. The European Commission has identified food packaging as a key enabler of sustainable food systems, particularly in extending shelf life and improving product preservation throughout increasingly complex supply chains.

In parallel, investment into next-generation materials continues to accelerate. UK-based innovators are developing plant-based and biodegradable alternatives capable of replacing billions of single-use plastic packaging products over the coming years, reflecting the growing commercial momentum behind sustainable material science.

Marketing Manager, Naomi Stewart says:

"As food and beverage brands balance sustainability, operational efficiency and increasingly sophisticated consumer expectations, UKPackaging Expo 2026 aims to provide a platform for industry leaders to examine how packaging can deliver both environmental performance and commercial differentiation.

The exhibition will showcase innovations spanning sustainable materials, food-safe packaging technologies, premium branding, digital print solutions, smart packaging systems, labelling technologies and advanced manufacturing processes, while also creating opportunities for networking and collaboration across the UK and European packaging supply chain. We're hugely looking forward to welcoming all our exhibitors and visitors to the show in November as we work together to help shape and support the rapid pace of technological change taking place in our industry."

Taking place on 10th – 11th November 2026 at the Convention Centre at KingsDock, Liverpool, the second edition of the show is expected to attract packaging professionals from across the UK, Republic of Ireland and mainland Europe as the sector continues to navigate one of the most transformative periods in its history.

Register to attend: www.ukpackagingexpo.co.uk

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Don’t underestimate the box: The packaging underdog that delivers

The hidden engineering behind corrugated packaging—where strength, smart design, and supply chain performance meet.



For food and beverage manufacturers, corrugated case strength deserves as much engineering attention as filling speed, automation efficiency, and shelf appeal. A case that performs well at the end of the production line may behave very differently after weeks in storage, exposure to humidity, and transport on a stacked pallet. The difference isn’t simply the board grade, it’s how the entire packaging system performs under real distribution conditions.

When a case fails, the impact goes beyond damaged cardboard. Crushed packs, leaking containers and unstable pallets can lead to rejected deliveries, product waste, rework and unnecessary logistics costs. At The Packaging Cooperative (TPC), we treat these challenges as system-level engineering problems, assessing how the primary package, corrugated case, pallet configuration and distribution environment interact.

Start with the actual load not the box specification

Before selecting a board grade, establish the packed case weight, pallet pattern, number of layers, storage duration, and environmental conditions. Determine whether pallets will be double-stacked and whether primary containers provide dependable vertical support. Treat warehouse practices, pallet design, and stretch-wrap application as design inputs, not downstream assumptions.

Double stacking changes load requirements: depending on deck geometry and contact points, bottom-tier cases may bear weight transferred from an upper pallet. Column stacking generally aligns load-bearing edges to improve vertical compression resistance. Interlocking can improve unit-load stability but may reduce compression performance if supporting edges no longer align. TPC evaluates these trade-offs through palletisation analysis and load-path assessment, balancing case strength, handling stability, and material efficiency.

Understand what ECT and the McKee estimate can tell you

The McKee relationship estimates box compression strength using edge crush test (ECT) strength, board thickness and case perimeter. It is a useful screening tool, especially for regular slotted containers (RSCs), but ECT alone cannot predict finished-case performance across the distribution process. Geometry, converting quality, flute direction, flap configuration, printing, load alignment and environmental exposure all play a role.

Consider a 32 ECT, C-flute RSC measuring approximately 381 × 305 × 330 mm. A preliminary estimate using the McKee-based estimate is

approximately 237 kgf (522 lbf) of compression resistance. That is an initial engineering estimate, not a validated allowable stacking load. Construction details and use conditions can significantly reduce actual performance, so any reduction factor must be justified for the specific package and distribution system.

Humidity and time change the answer

Chilled rooms, humid warehouses, and temperature changes can expose corrugated packaging to moisture and condensation. Humidity can reduce compression strength, while sustained stacking loads cause creep, or progressive deformation under load. These effects are especially important for dense beverages, canned foods, and products stored before shipment.

For illustration, suppose environmental and storage conditions reduce the preliminary 237 kgf estimate to approximately 115 kgf after 30 days at 75% relative humidity. Compared with a required supported load of 105 kgf, this leaves a reserve of only about 9.5% of the required load (115 ÷ 105 – 1). This is a narrow-calculated margin, not proof that the case will survive distribution. The adjusted value is hypothetical and must be supported by board-specific data and representative testing before any specification decision.

Design the entire unit load

Pallet overhang, gaps between deck boards and concentrated contact points can cause localised compression and instability. A heavier board won't necessarily fix a poor load path. Bottles, cans and rigid containers may provide support, but that support must be verified. Flexible pouches and fragile food products may offer little reliable support. Inserts and dividers can help when properly designed and positioned.

TPC combines structural packaging assessment with palletisation, material optimisation and distribution risk evaluation. This cross-functional approach helps manufacturers identify where strength is truly needed—and where they can reduce unnecessary material, dimensional weight or packaging costs without compromising product protection.

From calculations to defensible decisions

A robust qualification strategy combines engineering estimates with representative testing. McKee calculations can screen design options; finished-case compression tests, such as ASTM D642, can evaluate performance under defined conditions; and distribution simulations, such as an applicable ASTM D4169 or ISTA procedure, can assess broader handling hazards. The selected method, conditioning, acceptance criteria and test severity should reflect the actual supply chain and intended use.

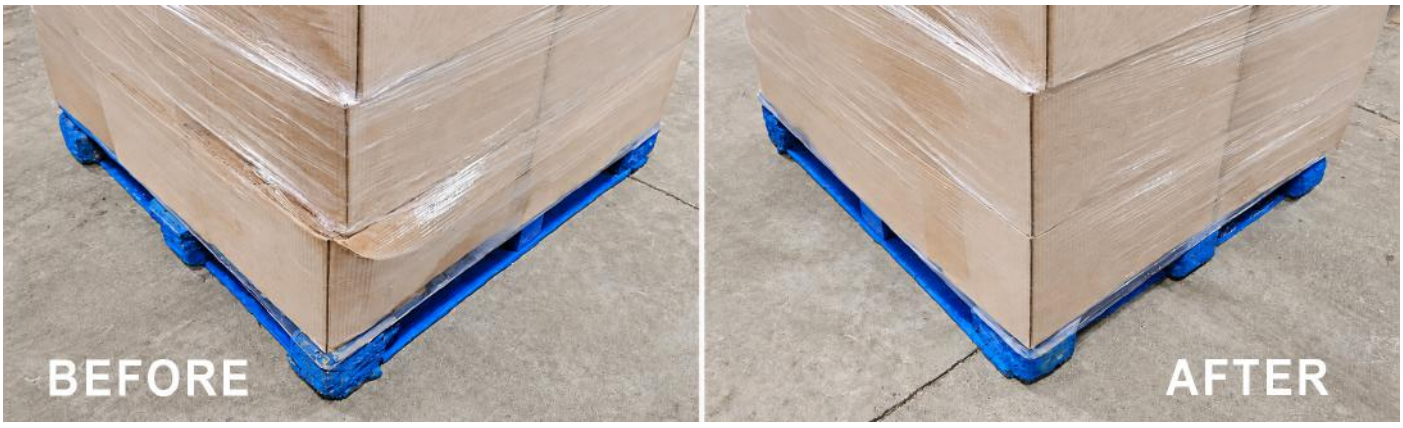
Before reducing ECT, board thickness or case dimensions, manufacturers should account for converting variability, humidity, stacking duration, pallet support and realistic handling. TPC supports this process—from initial packaging assessment and specification harmonisation through design optimisation, test protocol development and verification—as either a fractional engineering resource or a turnkey project partner.

The business case for engineered packaging

The goal isn't the strongest box on paper; it's a right-sized, fit-for-purpose packaging system that protects the product, supports operational performance and uses materials responsibly. Asking how a proposed case performs after moisture exposure, prolonged stacking and real-world pallet handling leads to better decisions than choosing by board grade alone.

The Packaging Cooperative (TPC) brings together packaging, quality and engineering specialists with more than 250 years of combined experience. Across food and beverage, consumer products, medical devices and life sciences, TPC draws on cross-industry expertise to help clients reduce distribution damage, improve packaging specifications and move confidently from concept to commercialisation.

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The Lantech® technology behind the success of Dutch fulfilment marketing company Sidekix

Find out how Sidekix uses Lantech's Parcel Tray Erector and Lid Applicator technology to ship millions of Tony's Chocolonely bars every year.



Sidekix specialises in large consumer marketing campaigns. The company has experienced significant growth over the past few years, with new clients, a strong increase in the workforce and ever-growing shipping volumes. To keep up with this growth, Sidekix has invested heavily in smart machine handling.

We sat down with Jochum to discuss how Lantech's TE/LA Parcel technology has contributed to logistics projects at Sidekix.

"We facilitate tens of millions of customer interactions a year for our clients. For example, we package and ship millions of chocolate bars for the National Postcode Lottery every year. The key is designing our processes as efficiently as possible and continuously investing in automation and mechanisation."

- Jochum Boeijen, Operations Manager at Sidekix

Which logistics issues did Lantech help you with, and why was it important to resolve them?

"We recognised the benefit of packing and shipping in letterbox format early on. A long-standing project involves packaging and preparing Tony's Chocolonely chocolate bars for National Postcode Lottery participants. Participants who play multiple lots and win receive a proportional number of bars. The challenge was to efficiently pack and ship single and multiple bars. Loose bars can be packed and sent in an envelope, but with more bars, this becomes difficult. We saw that a standardised, large enough letterbox package could solve this. Using a standard letterbox package solves two problems: it can be delivered on time and bundled, and facilitates more efficient warehouse handling. With the Lantech Parcel Tray Erector and Lid Applicator, we can now pack four chocolate bars in one letterbox package. This is more customer-friendly and sustainable than four separate envelopes with one bar each.

It also has the added benefit of significantly lower packaging and transport costs for the supplier."

How did you end up at Lantech?

"Salex Systeemtechniek, our sparring partner on early adopter projects, introduced us to Lantech. We were excited that Lantech could offer the right packaging solution as well as direct support when needed. On top of that, Lantech delivers excellent quality." We also considered other machines, but we soon realised that we needed a tray erector that applies a lid after the tray is packed. Then you start looking at whether these machines can be integrated into a compact packaging line and linked to our software."

How much labour have you saved on the packaging line?

"We went from 20 workers to 3 permanent colleagues, reducing the turnaround time from 14 to 8 days. That's a significant saving in terms of both cost and time. Even better, we now have a permanent team of trained employees who know exactly how to operate and set up the machines. This brings a much higher level of engagement. We can also see that they really feel responsible for ensuring that the production process runs smoothly. It's great to see. The focus, alertness and commitment of the people working with the equipment is an asset not to be underestimated."

Are fewer deliveries being returned now than before?

"Yes, we have made significant improvements in this area. One major advantage of standardised packaging is that it significantly reduces the margin for error. In the past, we used to have discussions with PostNL about size and packaging methods. Parcels were sometimes even returned because they did not meet certain format requirements. With the fully standardised letterbox packages that we now use, which are always the same size and quality, those discussions have disappeared. This saves a lot of time and reduces returns."





What added value do you offer your customers?

"Letterbox parcels mean lower shipping costs, nicer-looking packages and less damage. Logistics handling is much more efficient. The contents may vary, but the package format remains the same. This allows more parcels to fit into one delivery, reducing transport costs and CO_2 emissions."

Any other benefits from this automation project?

"It's great to see that not only I, but also our workers on the shop floor have become fans of the Lantech machines. With the move from manual packing to operating the machines, they have a responsible job to do. They also take that task seriously. They see it as a challenge to make the automated packaging process fast, careful, and free of errors."

Although the Parcelpack machines can produce various packaging sizes on the same machine, this was not necessary for this project.

Visit Lantech at Logistica Next, Hall 7, Stand B006, from November 3–5 at Jaarbeurs Utrecht for live machine demonstrations and inspiring discussions with Lantech's packaging professionals.

Machines on display will include the Parcelpack machine combination featured in this article, alongside the C1000 Case Erector and CS1000 Random Case Sealer (Tape).

www.lantech.com

Reusable plastic packaging driving better beverage retail performance



As sustainability becomes an increasingly important priority for retailers, reusable packaging is emerging as a practical, proven solution for reducing waste, lowering costs and improving supply chain efficiency. Beyond the environmental benefits, it also helps retailers create cleaner shelves, streamline replenishment and deliver more attractive in-store displays that support both sales performance and compliance with evolving packaging legislation.

Tosca is helping lead this transition. As a global provider of recycled, reusable and recyclable plastic packaging and pooling solutions, the company delivers innovative systems that move products safely, efficiently and sustainably from production to the point of sale. Its integrated beverage solution, which combines the UDP half pallet with durable, reusable plastic beverage trays, demonstrates how reusable packaging and pooling can work together to improve operational efficiency while delivering measurable commercial value across retail supply chains.

The power of reusable plastic packaging for retail supply chains

Reusable plastic packaging offers increased consistency, durability, and hygiene compared to single-use packaging. Made from 100% recycled and fully recyclable plastic, Tosca's packaging is designed for repeated use, maintaining strength and quality through every cycle. Plastic doesn't absorb moisture, warp or splinter - making it ideal for food and beverage environments where both hygiene and shop floor presentation are essential.

By switching from single-use packaging to reusable solutions, retailers and brands reduce their dependence on disposable materials, reduce carbon emissions, and significantly cut packaging waste. Independent analysis shows that, compared to a single-use display of 100 products, the UDP half pallet can reduce carbon emissions by 400–600 kilograms of CO_2 equivalent, delivering measurable sustainability gains without compromising efficiency.

Pooling: Delivering sustainability and business success

Tosca's pooling model extends the benefits of reusable packaging beyond the asset itself. Rather than purchasing and managing packaging assets, customers access them through Tosca's pooling network. After use assets including pallets, crates and beverage trays are collected, inspected, washed and returned to the pool, ensuring they remain in circulation for as long as possible.

For retailers, this approach removes the need for upfront capital investment while reducing storage, maintenance and asset management requirements. It also helps ensure a reliable supply of packaging, even during seasonal demand peaks. By maximising asset utilisation across multiple users, pooling supports more efficient operations, reduces waste and helps create a more circular, resilient supply chain.

Smart, clean, and efficient beverage merchandising

Within this model, Tosca's reusable UDP half pallet and beverage tray combination provide a complete, retail-ready beverage display system that brings the benefits of reusable packaging directly to the shop floor. Built for efficiency, the UDP half pallet combines a load capacity of up to 500kg with a compact 800 × 600 mm footprint, enabling faster handling and easier movement through warehouses, distribution centres, and stores.

The reusable beverage trays are designed to work seamlessly with the UDP half pallet, creating a stable, hygienic and retail-ready display solution that can move directly from distribution to the shop floor. By reducing the need for unpacking and shelf replenishment, the system helps store teams restock more quickly while keeping displays organised, well-stocked and easy for shoppers to navigate.



Built for repeated use, the trays are easy to clean, help protect products during handling and transport, and support a consistently high-quality in-store presentation. The result is improved shelf appeal, more efficient store operations, faster replenishment and reduced labour and packaging waste.

Improving retail sales and customer experience across FMCG brands

In-store, the UDP and trays are more than just operational tools – they're powerful sales drivers. Their space-saving design enables eye-catching end-of-aisle and seasonal displays that can be moved, refreshed, or repositioned in minutes. Retailers can react faster to promotions or stock changes, maximising every square metre of selling space.

For customers, these displays offer a cleaner, more engaging experience. Products are well-presented and easy to pick up, encouraging impulse purchases and reducing the clutter associated with single-use cardboard. In the UK, this approach has already proven successful for retailers: Tosca's beverage solution is widely adopted by over 150 FMCG brands.

Proven performance across Europe

"The UDP half pallet is more than a logistics tool - it is a proven driver of revenue," says Adrian Fleming, Managing Director – Northern Europe, Tosca.

"By moving directly from production to the shop floor without the need for unpacking or handling, it allows retailers to launch promotions quicker, optimise retail selling space, and generate additional sales even when shelf space is at capacity."

Following its success in the UK, Tosca's beverage solution is expanding across Europe, helping retailers and brands enhance efficiency, improve hygiene, and embrace sustainability with a proven, circular model.

tosca

Contact Tosca:
uk_sales@toscaltd.com

Speak with an expert:
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Tosca Beverage Trays

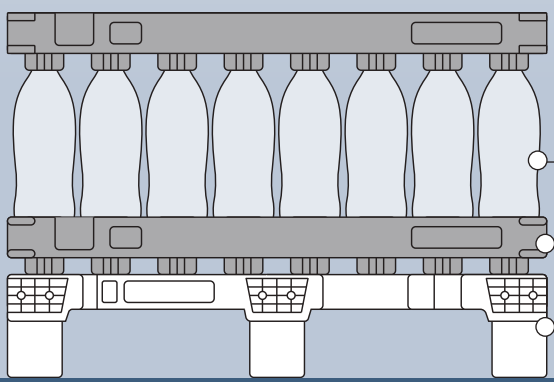
Reduce costs, increase sales.

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Optimise your beverage supply chain with reusable plastic packaging.

- 100% reusable and recyclable - compliance with PPWR.
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- Reduces product breakage.
- Reduces replenishment time and cost.
- Maximises product availability, boosts sales.





BEVERAGES

TOSCA BEVERAGE TRAY

UDP HALF PALLET

toscaltd.com

Rethinking coffee packaging through sustainability and design

Q&A with Emma Loisel, Executive Chair of Volcano Coffee Works



Tell us a little about Volcano Coffee Works and what you think sets the business apart in the speciality coffee market?

Volcano Coffee Works makes speciality coffee easy to get right - helping more venues serve seriously good coffee, straight up.

We are a full-service speciality coffee partner, combining great-tasting, responsibly sourced coffee with the machinery, training, technical support and practical guidance businesses need to deliver it consistently well. The difference is that we bring the quality, ethics and credibility of speciality coffee without the unnecessary complexity that can sometimes surround it.

We support everyone from cafés and restaurants to workspaces, cinemas, gyms and hotel groups, helping them make better coffee practical and commercially valuable. We also have the infrastructure and service capability to support multi-site and high-volume partners at scale, while maintaining the quality and consistency that customers expect.

What do you think is the most important thing for businesses to consider when choosing a speciality coffee partner?

Businesses should look for more than a coffee supplier; they need a partner that can make great coffee work in the real world.

The coffee itself has to taste brilliant, of course, but the right partner should also understand the day-to-day realities of running a venue. That means offering the right equipment, training teams properly, providing reliable technical support and giving



straightforward advice that helps maintain quality at every touchpoint.

It is also important to find a partner that can grow with the business. Whether a venue has one site or a national estate, it needs confidence that its coffee programme can remain consistent, reliable and commercially effective as demand changes. Great coffee should never feel complicated to deliver!

In terms of packaging, what is one change you have made that has made a demonstrable difference?

In 2019, we moved our wholesale coffee from 1kg to 2kg bags. It was a relatively simple change, but at the volumes we were producing at the time it removed approximately 1,500kg of plastic from our packaging each year. As our wholesale business has grown, we estimate that the same change now saves around 2,550kg of plastic annually – enough plastic bottles, if stacked end to end, to reach approximately 27km high, or more than three times the height of Everest.

It reflects how we tend to approach packaging sustainability more broadly. Rather than looking at any material or format in isolation, we consider the amount of material being used, its lifecycle and likelihood of actually being recycled, while making sure the packaging can still properly protect the coffee.

> *"Sometimes relatively straightforward changes to format can have a significant impact at scale."*

Have you ever explored alternative packaging solutions?

We've explored a number of alternative materials over the years, including paper and compostable formats.

> *"Our view is that there isn't a single universally sustainable packaging material: you have to balance the total amount and lifecycle of the material, the likelihood that it will actually be recovered through existing waste infrastructure, and its ability to protect the product."*

We were the first speciality-grade coffee business in the UK to produce compostable coffee pods. Launched in 2017, the range received a Product Innovation Award at the London Coffee Festival and went on to secure nationwide grocery listings, demonstrating the appetite among consumers for more sustainable alternatives.

Why is that especially important in the coffee market?

Roasted coffee needs an effective barrier against oxygen and moisture to preserve freshness, while the valve allows gases released by freshly roasted coffee to escape without allowing oxygen back into the bag. A packaging material that compromises either can shorten the useful life of the coffee and potentially create waste elsewhere.

That's why, within the UK's current waste infrastructure, we believe recyclable packaging



currently offers the best balance between real-world disposal and preserving product quality. Volcano moved to fully recyclable coffee bags in 2019, and we're now moving to bags containing 30% recycled material as the next step in reducing the amount of virgin material we use.

We've taken a similar approach to our secondary packaging with the various boxes that coffee ships in. Since 2019 our boxes have been FSC-certified and made from 70% recycled material.

How does your packaging approach play into your wider CSR commitments?

Packaging is one important part of a much wider commitment to reducing our impact and doing business responsibly. We are always looking at practical ways to make better choices, including using recyclable packaging, while recognising that there is no single fix and that meaningful progress comes from looking at the whole operation. As packaging touches every part of our supply chain, it is also an area where we can track and measure progress relatively simply. Our paper packaging contains an average of 77% recycled material, rising to as much as 90% across some boxes.

That means considering everything from responsible sourcing and our support for initiatives such as the Sombra/MIO agroforestry project, to renewable energy, carbon-offsetting and our wider journey towards carbon insetting. This includes practical changes such as moving from hessian coffee sacks to Klabin recyclable bags, while where smaller producers cannot yet facilitate this switch we find local manufacturers that can repurpose hessian into furniture and accessories. As a B Corp, we want to keep taking practical action and make those choices accessible for the businesses we work with, without compromising on coffee quality.

We've spotted you use really beautifully designed colourful packaging. Can you tell us more about that?

The coloured bags are primarily a navigation tool rather than decoration. One of the challenges with speciality coffee is that packaging asks customers to process quite a lot of information - origin, process, variety, roast and tasting notes - before they have any real sense of whether they'll actually enjoy the coffee.

We wanted to make that decision much more intuitive and colour was the universal language we found most effective. The different colours create a simple visual shorthand for flavour, helping customers quickly distinguish between coffees and understand where they sit within the range. They actually reference the SCA Flavour Wheel which is the standardised reference the industry uses for known flavour notes in coffee. Research, including work by sensory scientist Dr Fabiana Carvalho, shows that colour helps shape flavour expectations. It does not dictate what someone will taste, but it gives them a useful cue as to the flavour profile they may discover.

Ultimately, we want to bring the quality and expertise of speciality coffee without making people feel they need to become coffee experts themselves. The packaging obviously still gives you the detail if you want it, but the visual system helps you make a good decision before you've had to read all of it.

w: volcanocoffeeworks.com

Viscose Closures – Decorative Shrink Sleeves

What are decorative shrink sleeves?

Decorative shrink sleeves, also known as full-body sleeves, shrink bands, shrink sleeve labels, or heat shrink sleeves, are made from thermo-film materials that shrink tightly around containers when heat is applied. This flexibility allows them to conform seamlessly to uniquely shaped bottles, cans, and containers, creating a smooth, high-quality finish that can cover part or all of the packaging.

The result is maximum shelf impact with bold, eye-catching branding. Shrink sleeves enable full 360° decoration, allowing brands to incorporate vibrant graphics, detailed product information, and stand-out designs in a single application. At Viscose, we use durable flexographic printing to produce sleeves that resist scuffing and wear, maintaining a premium look throughout the product lifecycle. Unlike traditional pressure-sensitive labels, decorative shrink sleeves are typically applied without adhesives. This eliminates the need for release liners and avoids the glassine liner waste generated by many high-volume labelling processes.

Challenges faced by brands:

Standing out on the shelf – With crowded retail environments and many similar products competing for attention, strong packaging design is essential for differentiation.

Limitations of traditional labelling – Conventional labels can wrinkle or bubble on curved containers and rely on adhesives and release liners. The glassine liner used in many labelling systems is difficult to recycle and is frequently sent to landfill in large volumes. Direct printing on containers can also limit flexibility, can often require large minimum order quantities and making design updates costly or time-consuming.

Regulatory and sustainability pressures – Packaging regulations and recycling requirements are evolving rapidly. Updates to ingredient listings, recycling guidance, or legislation can require artwork changes that make existing packaging stock obsolete. At the same time, brands must increasingly demonstrate compliance with initiatives such as the UK Plastic Packaging Tax (PPT).

Why choose decorative shrink sleeves?

Decorative shrink sleeves offer a versatile and modern packaging solution that combines strong visual impact with practical advantages:

360° Branding – Full-body decoration allows brands to maximise design space and create striking, highly visible packaging.



Works across complex shapes – Shrink sleeves conform perfectly to curved, tapered, or uniquely shaped containers without wrinkles or bubbles.

Durable, high-quality finish – Inverse printing protects the ink layer beneath the film, providing excellent resistance to scuffing and moisture. This often removes the need for additional varnish layers.

Reduced labelling waste – Because shrink sleeves do not require adhesives or release liners, they eliminate the glassine liner waste associated with pressure-sensitive labels.

Recycling compatibility – Shrink sleeves can be designed to support recycling through features such as perforations for easy removal, recyclable films, and floatable materials that separate during recycling processes. Using compatible materials such as PET or rPET sleeves on PET or rPET bottles can also support material parity and simplify recycling streams.

Flexible and cost-effective – Designs, QR codes, nutritional information, and regulatory content can all be incorporated into one sleeve application.

Ideal for short runs & limited editions – Unlike pre-printed cans or containers that require large order commitments, shrink sleeves enable smaller production runs, making them ideal for craft beverages, seasonal launches, promotional campaigns, and product trials.

How Viscose can help:

High-quality flexographic decorative shrink sleeves
Using advanced flexographic printing technology, we deliver premium shrink sleeves with excellent print quality and fast turnaround times
Our capabilities include:

- Up to 8-colour flexographic printing.
- A range of materials including recyclable PET, industrially compostable PLA, and 30% post-consumer recycled (PCR) rPET. rPET is designed to support compliance with UK Plastic Packaging Tax (PPT) requirements through the use of recycled content.
- Minimum order quantities from 10,000 sleeves or 3,000 metres of tubing.
- Lead times from as little as two weeks.
- Complimentary technical advice and container compatibility review.
- Multiple supply formats: reel-fed tubing, pre-cut sleeves, and pre-formed sleeves.
- In-house colour matching and design guidance.
- Pre-distortion and artwork creation available on request.
- Optional finishes including matte, gloss, matte varnish, and perforations.





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To make the process even easier, we also offer a complete contract sleeving service. We can manufacture and apply sleeves directly to your products, providing a convenient end-to-end packaging solution that saves time and simplifies production

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Flexible production – Low MOQs and short lead times for both large and small production runs.

Sustainable Materials – PET, 30% PCR rPET, and compostable PLA options support regulatory compliance and environmental goals, including PPT readiness.

Technical expertise – Complimentary advice, container reviews, colour matching, and artwork support.

Complete service – From design and printing to contract sleeving, we manage the process end-to-end for faster, hassle-free production.

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Getting packaging and labelling right: What e-commerce businesses should look at next



For most online shoppers, the package is the only physical contact they have with a brand. It arrives at the door, gets opened at the kitchen table, and either reflects the care that went into the order or does not. For the retailer, the same package is a cost line that touches several departments: purchasing, warehousing, shipping, customer service and sustainability.

Because it sits across so many functions, packaging often receives less strategic attention than it deserves. Decisions are made box by box and supplier by supplier, and the overall picture is only examined when costs rise or a customer complains. The E-commerce Packaging & Labelling Expo, taking place on 11th and 12th November at Excel London, gives businesses a chance to step back and review it properly.

Where the pressure is coming from

Shipping cost is the most immediate. Carriers price on weight and size, so oversized boxes and excess void fill add cost to every parcel. Right-sizing, whether through automated packing equipment or a better range of standard sizes, is one of the most direct ways to bring that down.

Product damage and returns come next. A damaged item means a replacement or refund, a courier collection and a dissatisfied customer. Packaging that protects the product without being over-engineered reduces all of these. The same applies to returns, where packaging that can be reused makes the process simpler for the customer and cheaper for the seller.

Sustainability and regulation are also becoming harder to ignore. Customers notice what is used and how much of it can be recycled, and rules on packaging materials and producer responsibility continue to develop in many markets. Businesses need to understand what they use and where it comes from, and choosing materials is easier with samples in hand and a supplier who can explain the options.

Labelling accuracy completes the picture. Shipping labels, product labels and compliance information all have to be correct and legible, often at high volume. Errors lead to misdirected parcels, delays and rejected goods. Print quality, label materials and integration with warehouse and order systems matter more as order volumes grow.

Why an event rather than a catalogue

Packaging is a physical product. A sample can be judged by its weight, strength and finish in a way a data sheet cannot. At the Expo you can handle materials, watch equipment running and speak to the specialists who understand your sector, rather than waiting for a quotation by email.

You can also compare suppliers in one place. For a business weighing up options for mailers, cartons, labels or automation, that can shorten a process that would otherwise take weeks.

What to expect

- A wide range of packaging materials, formats and protective solutions
- Labelling and printing technology, from shipping labels to product identification
- Packing automation and equipment demonstrations
- Seminars on sustainability, cost reduction and compliance
- Networking with other e-commerce and operations professionals





Who should attend

The Expo is relevant to founders and operations managers, warehouse and logistics leads, procurement teams, e-commerce managers, and sustainability and compliance officers. Smaller brands shipping from a spare room and larger fulfilment operations will each find suppliers suited to their scale.

Register for your free ticket

As a partner of the E-commerce Packaging & Labelling Expo, we can offer you free entry to the event on 11th and 12th November at Excel London. If packaging costs, returns or labelling errors are affecting your margins, a day spent comparing solutions and speaking to experienced people is well worth the time.

Register for your free ticket here.

E-COMMERCE, **PACKAGING &** **LABELLING** EXPO

DESIGNED FOR EVERY CHALLENGE

VELTEKO
PACKAGING MACHINES

Smart food packaging solutions from VELTEKO

From seasonings and sauces to delicate chocolate biscuits and frozen raspberries.



A seasoning blend, a smooth sauce and a delicate chocolate biscuit each demand a different packaging approach. Food manufacturers need to protect product quality, create attractive retail packs and maintain efficient production as products, materials and market expectations change.

For 35 years, VELTEKO has combined high-tech vertical packaging technology with close customer cooperation. Food is our largest industry segment, and we export 90 % of our production worldwide. Flexibility, efficiency, sustainability and partnership shape our engineering and our commitment to delivering vertical packaging machines and solutions for our customers: **Designed for Every Challenge.**

Advanced technology for diverse foods

From free-flowing solids to liquids and viscous products, our vertical packaging machines handle an exceptionally broad range of foods. Our customers package salt, seasoning blends, coffee, tea, cereals, dried herbs, grated cheese, fresh fish, meat, crisps, biscuits, confectionery and chocolate eggs. Liquid and viscous applications include sauces, baby food, fruit toppings, syrups and caramel. And the list goes on.

We also develop solutions for frozen fruit and vegetables, including packaging in Doypack pouches. Fragile raspberries require gentle handling, while frozen products demand reliable operation at low temperatures. Powders require accurate dosing and clean sealing areas; liquids need carefully coordinated filling and reliable seals.

By combining appropriate dosing, controlled product transfer, precise bag forming and sealing, we address these challenges as an integrated system. We welcome special requirements and work with customers to find effective solutions.

The benefits of VELTEKO's vertical packaging technology

VELTEKO's machines help manufacturers use floor space efficiently and produce bags directly from a roll of film. For suitable applications, they can achieve pouch appearance and seal quality comparable to horizontal systems, with a smaller footprint and potentially lower investment and operating costs.

Multiple bag formats on one configurable machine reduce the need for dedicated equipment. Fast changeovers help manufacturers respond to orders and introduce new products, while repeatable settings support consistent packaging quality. Our machines are designed for a long service life and low energy consumption, helping customers meet their sustainability goals. Durable construction, high-quality materials and easy maintenance help protect the investment over the long term.

Doypack: shelf appeal and convenience

Doypack pouches produced on our VFFS machines combine upright shelf presentation with generous printable surfaces for distinctive branding, product information and promotional messages. They are convenient to store, and optional zippers allow consumers to reclose the pack.

For coffee, seasonings, snacks, cereals, nuts and frozen produce, this combines retail appeal with everyday practicality. VELTEKO brings Doypack production and other bag formats together on versatile vertical platforms.



Our solutions for demanding food production

VELTEKO offers a range of packaging solutions customised to a wide range of production needs. For demanding operations running around the clock and requiring frequent bag format changes, VERSATILE-360 provides a flexible, modular platform.

It supports 12 bag types and 15 bag modifications, with suitable configurations also handling demanding liquid products. Bag-type changeovers take approximately 5–45 minutes, depending on configuration. Maximum speeds reach 200 bags per minute in continuous operation or 100 in intermittent operation.

Where intensive wet cleaning is essential, WASHDOWN-360 combines versatility with hygienic engineering. Its stainless-steel construction and IP69K protection allow washdowns at temperatures



VERSATILE-360 vertical packaging machine

up to 80°C and pressures up to 100 bar. Rounded corners and sloped surfaces facilitate thorough cleaning. Supporting 12 bag types and 15 bag modifications, it delivers up to 160 bags per minute.

Both machines handle fill volumes of up to 20 litres. Actual output depends on the product, film, bag format and machine configuration.

Partnership throughout the machine's life

Choosing the right solution starts with understanding the customer's product, film, output targets, available space, hygiene procedures and future plans. Product samples, testing and consultation guide machine customisation and help assess the suitability of mono-material and alternative films.

The result is a solution that meets today's production needs and can adapt as products and packaging requirements evolve.

Cooperation continues through installation, service and remote diagnostics. For VELTEKO, smart food packaging means advanced technology, practical production benefits and a lasting partnership, ready for the next challenge.

w: velteko.com
t: +420 728 528 604
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Gulfood Manufacturing 2026 puts food security and manufacturing innovation at the centre of region's growth agenda

Dubai to bring together manufacturers, technology providers, investors, and policymakers as the UAE envisions growth in food production, trade, and industrial capabilities.

The UAE's food and beverage sector is entering a new phase of industrial growth, with the country targeting an increase in the sector's contribution to GDP from AED 30 billion to AED 40 billion by 2028, alongside plans to grow food trade from AED 25 billion to AED 40 billion, and create around 20,000 new jobs. The country is also targeting AED 2 billion in annual food import substitution through local production, supporting up to 200 food factories and increasing local production capacity by 15–30 per cent. Together, these ambitions signal the scale of the shift underway as the UAE and wider GCC region accelerate efforts to strengthen food security and expand the role of local production within the economy. Building the industrial capacity to manufacture, process and distribute food at scale will be critical to converting these ambitions into sustained economic growth.

Supporting this momentum, Gulfood Manufacturing returns to Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC) from November 3–5, 2026, under the theme 'Powering Food Security Through Manufacturing Innovation', bringing together leading food manufacturers, suppliers, investors, technology providers and policymakers. Aligned with the UAE's National Food Security Strategy 2051, the exhibition spans the full F&B production value chain - from ingredients, processing and packaging to supply chain solutions, control and automation - connecting the technologies, expertise and partnerships needed to build more efficient and future-ready food systems.

The Destination for industry-defining manufacturing innovation

Global processing and packaging leaders, including GEA, Heat & Control, Husky, Ishida,

KHS, Krones, Middleby, Multivac, SIG Combibloc, Sidel, Tetra Pak and TNA, alongside ingredients powerhouses ADM International, BUNGE, Cargill, Chocolake, Döhler, DSM, Givaudan, IFF, IFFCO, MANE and Symrise, and supply chain specialists, including ACME, Addverb, Delta Systems and Kanoo Machinery, will converge in Dubai to showcase the technologies and expertise driving more secure, efficient and scalable food production and distribution. Across advanced processing and packaging, next-generation ingredients, robotics and automation, AI and digital manufacturing, traceability, cold chain and predictive planning, the exhibition will showcase the technologies helping manufacturers improve efficiency, increase output, reduce waste and produce closer to market.

Mark Napier, Vice President, Gulfood Manufacturing, inD stated: *"Strengthening food manufacturing capacity is fundamental to advancing the UAE's food security and economic ambitions. A more capable and agile manufacturing base can support greater local production, attract investment, accelerate technology adoption and strengthen the supply chains underpinning the food economy. As a global trade and manufacturing hub, Dubai is uniquely positioned to connect regional manufacturers with international investors, technology providers and supply chain partners. Gulfood Manufacturing and its co-located platforms bring this wider ecosystem together, creating opportunities to forge partnerships, access new technologies and build the capabilities needed for the next phase of regional growth."*

Vijay Injeti, Head of Sales and Business Development, Asia Pacific, Middle East and Africa, Intralox, said: *"As production volumes rise across the Middle East and Africa, manufacturers are looking for ways to increase throughput without compromising safety or consistency. At Gulfood Manufacturing, we are looking forward to hearing directly from processors about the challenges on their production floors and exploring how automation, hygienic design and predictive maintenance can help them operate more reliably and efficiently."*

Yannick Lefevre, Sales Manager, MEA and LATAM, FAM STUMABO, said: *"Across the Gulf and neighbouring India, food production and value addition are growing rapidly, creating a clear need for smarter, more precise processing. At Gulfood Manufacturing, we look forward to meeting companies who are focused on improving yield, reducing waste and increasing capacity, and showing how the right cutting technology can translate those priorities into measurable gains on the production floor."*

Khaled Abo El-Nasr, General Manager of Döhler MENA, said: *"Food security starts with supply*



reliability. At Döhler, we are strengthening our global network and supply chain to help customers navigate disruption and secure the ingredients they need to innovate and grow. Gulfood Manufacturing gives us the opportunity to engage directly with manufacturers, technology providers and industry leaders, exchange ideas and turn emerging opportunities into practical solutions for our customers."

Four exhibitions. One connected food value chain.

Complementing Gulfood Manufacturing's focus on production and industrial capability, ISM Middle East, Private Label Middle East and GulfHost extend the proposition across the wider food and hospitality value chain, from product innovation and sourcing to retail, private label and foodservice operations.

ISM Middle East will spotlight the latest confectionery and snack innovations, connecting buyers with the products, brands and suppliers shaping the category. Private Label Middle East will connect retailers, brands and contract manufacturers with fully customisable private label solutions spanning food, non-food and branding services. GulfHost will showcase the latest equipment, technologies and solutions driving greater efficiency across commercial kitchens and foodservice operations.

Together, the four exhibitions present an end-to-end commercial ecosystem spanning the food value chain, giving buyers and industry leaders access to the technologies, products, suppliers and partnerships driving growth across the sector.

Registration is free for trade professionals. To register and learn more about Gulfood Manufacturing, please visit www.gulfoodmanufacturing.com.

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Meet Bandall Middle East at Gulfood Manufacturing STAND S2-103

Create packaging that's smarter, kinder and ready for the future.

Beyond the label: How banding is changing food packaging

An industry feature from Bandall, exploring linerless labelling solutions for ready meals, fresh meat and other food packaging applications.



Food packaging labels have an important job to do. Beyond identifying the product, they must communicate essential information, including ingredients, allergens, nutritional details, preparation instructions, weight, price and use-by dates. For manufacturers handling multiple products, packaging formats and frequently changing information, finding an effective way to present these details can be challenging.

Traditional adhesive labels remain widely used across the food industry, but they can present limitations. Available space is often restricted, larger labels may obscure the product, and conventional pressure-sensitive labels generate backing liner waste during application.

Bandall's banding technology offers an alternative approach to food labelling, allowing manufacturers to combine branding, product information and variable data within a single material wrapped around the packaging.

A different approach to linerless labelling

A conventional pressure-sensitive label typically consists of three components: the label, adhesive and a release liner. While many linerless labels eliminate the backing liner, they still rely on adhesive to remain attached to the packaging.

Banding operates differently.

During application, printed banding material is wrapped around the product, tensioned and sealed to itself to form a secure band. This removes the need for a backing liner and allows the material to remain in position without adhesive being applied to the primary packaging.

Rather than attaching a label to a tray, lid or film, the band itself becomes the labelling surface.

This approach can also provide additional space for branding and information. While conventional labels are generally limited to a defined area of the pack, banding extends around the packaging, allowing information to be distributed across the circumference of the product.

For ready meals, where ingredients, nutritional information, allergens and preparation instructions must often compete for limited space, this can provide greater flexibility without covering a larger portion of the product.

Combining branding with variable information

One of the challenges facing food manufacturers is managing information that changes between products, batches or production runs.

Ready-meal recipes may be updated, ingredient declarations can change, and manufacturers frequently handle multiple SKUs or seasonal product ranges. Pre-printing every detail onto packaging materials can create difficulties when information needs to be amended, potentially leaving existing stock unusable.

Banding allows manufacturers to combine pre-printed branding and fixed information with variable data added during production.

Brand colours, logos and product names can be incorporated into the banding material in advance, while designated areas remain available for information printed shortly before application.

Depending on the product and application, this may include ingredients, allergen declarations, batch information, use-by or best-before dates, barcodes and QR codes.

By adding changing information during the packaging process, manufacturers can reduce their dependence on maintaining pre-printed materials for every product variation.

Weigh, price, band: An integrated approach to meat packaging

For fresh meat packaging, accurate product information and visibility are important considerations. Meat products are commonly presented in trays, skin packs and vacuum packs, with consumers often wanting to inspect the colour, cut and appearance of the product



before purchasing. Banding provides space for branding and essential information while leaving much of the packaging visible.

For products sold by weight, however, labelling also needs to accommodate information that changes from pack to pack, including weight, price and barcodes. Traditionally, these details may be printed onto separate adhesive labels and applied in an additional production step.

Bandall's SmartBand™ solution brings these functions together through an integrated weigh, price, band process. Each product is weighed, the corresponding price and variable information are generated, and the details are printed directly onto the banding material before it is applied around the pack.



The system can receive variable data from connected weighing equipment, ERP software and production databases, allowing pre-printed branding to be combined with product-specific information on a single band.

For meat producers handling different cuts, weights and batch sizes, this integrated approach can reduce the need for separate label application and provide greater flexibility when managing product-specific information.

Beyond product identification

Banding can also perform functions beyond displaying information.

Because the material is tensioned around the packaging rather than attached with adhesive, removing the band does not leave adhesive residue on the tray, lid or film.

The band can also be removed separately from the primary packaging. Depending on the materials used, this may support easier separation of packaging components after use.

For certain ready-meal formats, banding can provide an additional tamper-evidence function.

When positioned around a tray, bowl or clamshell pack and across its opening points, the band must be broken or removed before the packaging can be opened.

A damaged or missing band can therefore provide a visible indication that the pack may have been opened.

This allows the same material used for branding and product information to serve an additional purpose, where the packaging design is suitable.

Rethinking food packaging labels

For food manufacturers reviewing their packaging processes, assessing whether existing labelling methods meet the needs of their products, production lines and consumers is an important starting point.

Packaging format, production speed, variable data requirements and opportunities for integration are all factors worth considering when evaluating alternative labelling solutions.

With applications ranging from ready meals to fresh meat and more, manufacturers can explore how linerless labelling with banding could be incorporated into their existing packaging operations or future production plans.

To explore the possibilities or discuss specific food packaging requirements, visit www.bandall.com.

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Interview: Volker Dersch on the new Hastamat KBM compact bag maker

Volker Dersch has been an authorised signatory and head of the engineering department at Hastamat since 2022. As a proven industry expert in packaging technology, he is responsible for the development of practical, high-performance solutions – backed by the experience of over 650 successfully implemented systems and projects on the market.



From left to right: Olaf Piepenbrock, Arnulf Piepenbrock and Volker Dersch.

Question 1: Mr. Dersch, you played a key role in the development of the new KBM at Hastamat. What was the central idea behind reintroducing the machine to the range, and what market requirements had to be met?

Volker Dersch: *The new KBM was developed with the very clear objective of closing the existing sales gap in our machine programme once again and meeting our customers' current requirements. The clear requirement in this case was to produce stand-up block bottom bags – featuring precisely formed bag bottoms and high-grade product presentation using a variety of top-seal styles. At the same time, the machine had to be highly practical in everyday operation: quickly accessible, easy to clean and reliable in processing.*

What I have often seen on the market: You either have the flexibility, or you have ease of operation and maintenance – it's rarely both. When it comes to the KBM, we have brought it all together: flexibility in bag design and filling, plus a concept which really saves time in production and reduces downtimes.

Question 2: You bring years of experience in the design of this type of machine and know the typical weak points among competitors. Which "mistakes" did you know you wanted to avoid – and how is this reflected in the KBM?

Volker Dersch: *A common issue is poor accessibility: If I first have to remove covers or "work my way through" struts in the format area for cleaning, maintenance or format changes, every little task becomes an ordeal. That is why we have consistently opted for swivelling safety doors for the KBM – for me, that is one of the major practical benefits.*

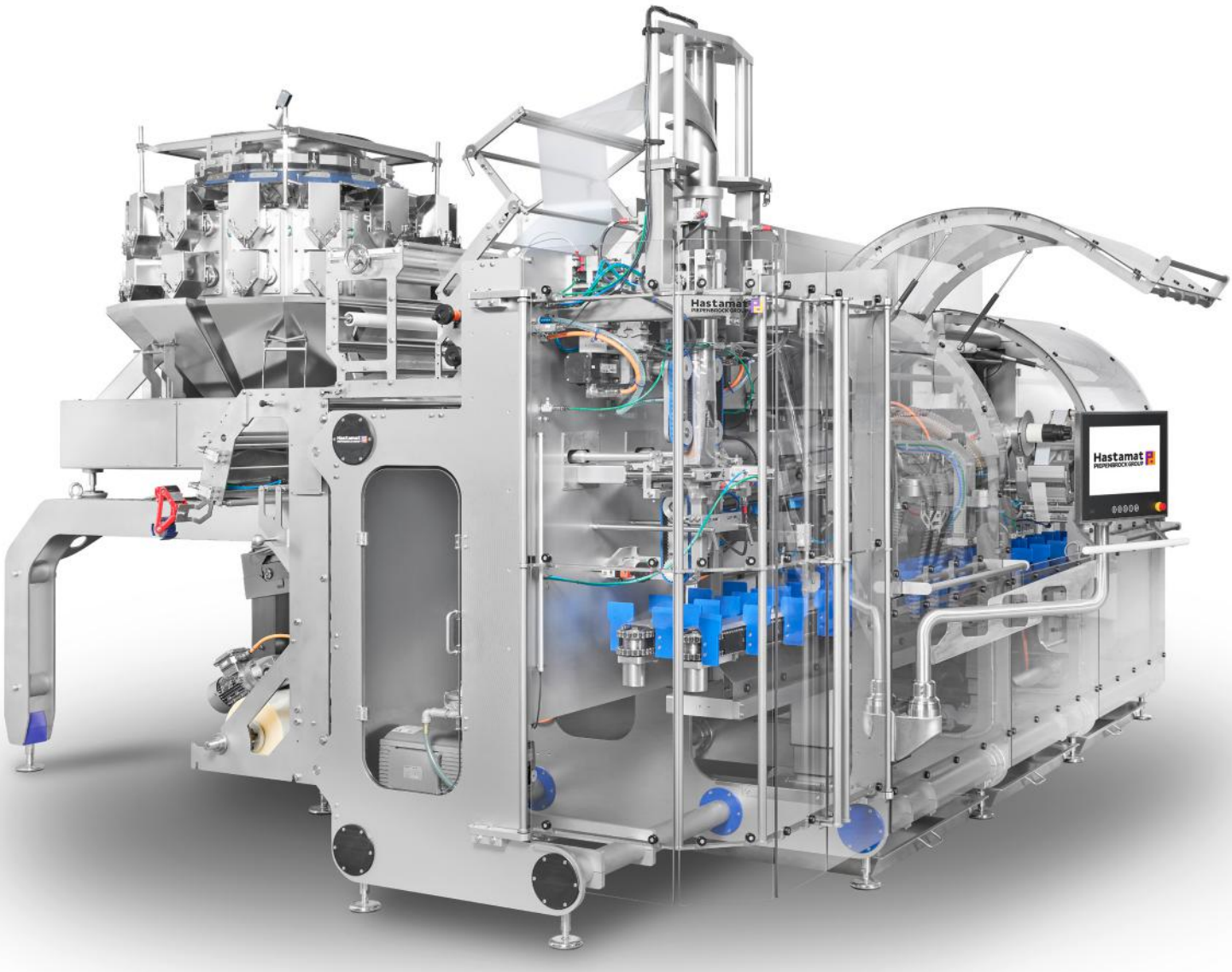
Maximum accessibility, and importantly: no disruptive struts in the format area.

The second point encompasses the hygienic concept, practicality in everyday use, and durability. We have implemented an optimised hygienic design with rounded frame components, opting for the benefits of paint-free, anodised aluminium and stainless steel components. This is not only the practical solution, but also robust, easy to clean and simply economical in the long term.

And thirdly: complexity in the control system. We work with standard control components and an IPC controller with a large touch screen – this makes operation, servicing and process integration significantly more simple.

Question 3: The KBM is described as more flexible, more economical and more accessible. How do you strike this balance – and what specific benefits does the customer enjoy?

Volker Dersch: *For us, "more flexible" means: filling volumes of up to 5 l per bag with maximum bag dimensions.*



"More economical" is not achieved by compromising on bag quality, but rather through intelligent engineering: standardisation of the control system, a clear modular construction and a machine which can be maintained efficiently during operation.

And "better" is ultimately measured by the results: the KBM delivers high-grade, stable bags which can often replace pre-made bags – this is a direct lever for cost reduction.

Question 4: What is the KBM technically capable of – where does the flexibility lie in terms of output, bag design and filling?

Volker Dersch: *Simplex and duplex versions of the KBM are available. With the Simplex version we are talking about up to 100 bags/min, with the Duplex version up to 160 bags/min – depending on the product, film and design.*

Flexibility when it comes to filling and the product is very important: we facilitate multiple filling positions so that you can adapt in the ideal manner to the product properties. For sensitive products, this is crucial because we achieve short drop distances – this ensures gentle product handling and stable processes, especially in combination with our dosing and feeding systems.

When it comes to bag designs, the KBM is extremely versatile: variable top seal configurations with options, such as opening slits, Euro slots, contour cuts or peel designs. Resealing with label or adhesive strip, clip or tin-tie. And different bag top shapes can be retrofitted – this is genuine future-proofing for new product lines.

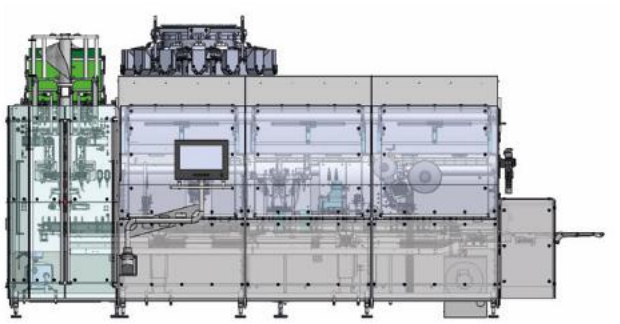
Question 5: Which "everyday details" make the difference for you – and in what direction are you further developing the KBM?

Volker Dersch: *For me, it comes down to three things: accessibility, hygiene and process stability. If a machine is built in such a way that you even like maintaining it and can clean it quickly, availability increases automatically. The hygienic design with its rounded components and aluminium/stainless steel which is completely paint-free, is a real benefit in this context.*

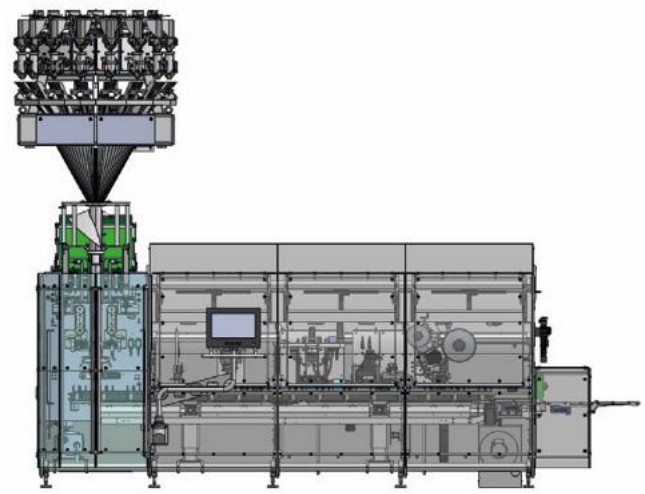
Secondly: process features which provide security during operation – for example, level/overfill detection, ionisation and, depending on the version, solutions for extracting or blowing away trimmings including a collection container. These are not "gimmicks", but rather the building blocks for stable production.

And thirdly: the overall package. On request, we supply the complete packaging line from a single source – the KBM machine plus our own dosing systems, e.g. our multihead weighers and other filling systems, and we can integrate different dosing systems. This reduces interfaces, coordination requirements and commissioning time.

Further development? But of course! Even faster retooling concepts, even more assistance for the operator – and further options for efficiently implementing new top seal styles and bag styles. The design is engineered for this purpose. We work together with our customers and take feedback seriously – this is the only way we can successfully look to the future.



Production of empty bags with filling in the horizontal section of the bag conveying system.



Filling of the bags using the vertical form, fill and seal machine

Come see our KBM in action or find out more at: www.hastamat.com

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Taking KeelClip™ Conveying to the next level

Apollo Group shows
Multi Trak Spiral Conveyor
at BrauBeviale

Scan me!

Developed for a real production challenge



Specialised spiral conveying for can multipacks

Apollo Spiral Conveyors need less floor space than conventional incline conveyors and are faster and more reliable than any elevator or lift. They are especially well suited for consumer-packaged goods companies and any warehousing operations.

Apollo's brand new **Multi Trak Spiral Conveyor** can vertically transport can multipacks secured with KeelClip™ paperboard packaging in multiple lanes.

- **Space-saving**
- **High, continuous throughput**
- **For 4-, 6-, 8-can multipacks**
- **Maintains product orientation**

> ***It is not simply about adding another lane.***
> *The concept has been developed as an easily-integrated vertical conveying system in which product flow, accessibility, and the practical requirements of continuous production are considered from the beginning."*

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Taking KeelClip™ conveying to the next level

Modern beverage production lines are becoming faster, more compact and increasingly automated. This creates a growing need to transport products vertically between different production levels without interrupting product flow.

For KeelClip™ multipacks, this requires a dedicated approach.

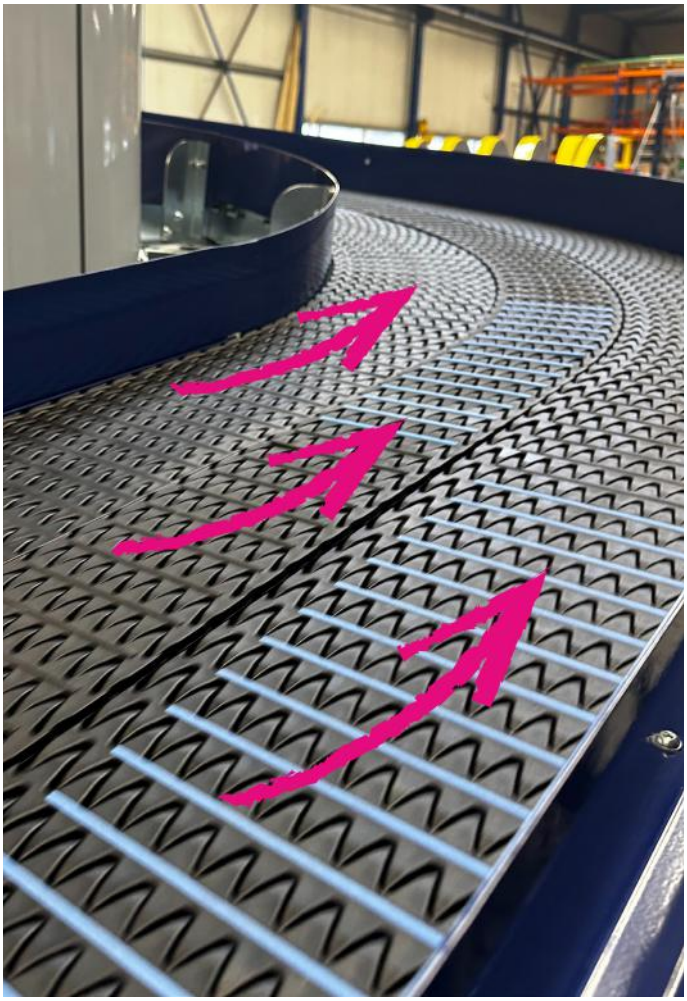
KeelClip ™packs, typically consisting of 4, 6 or 8 cans, are often transported in multiple parallel lanes at high production speeds. During vertical transport, the packs must remain stable, correctly oriented and properly aligned to ensure a reliable transfer into the next production process.

To meet these requirements, Royal Apollo Group developed a dedicated multi-lane vertical conveying solution for KeelClip™ multipacks.

The Apollo Multi Trak Spiral Conveyor allows several product lanes to be transported vertically within one compact conveyor. This enables different production levels to be connected while maintaining the existing lane structure and continuous product flow.

A key feature of the solution is maintaining product orientation throughout the vertical transport process. Depending on the production line layout, KeelClip™ multipacks can be conveyed long-side leading or short-side leading.

Special attention is also given to the infeed and outfeed transitions. These transitions are designed to provide a controlled transfer into and out of the spiral, reducing unwanted movement, rotation or misalignment.



By combining multiple lanes within one vertical conveying system, Apollo offers a compact solution for high-capacity beverage lines where floor space is limited.

Key benefits include:

- vertical transport of multiple KeelClip™ lanes in one system;
- suitable for 4-, 6- and 8-can multipacks;
- continuous product flow at high production speeds;
- controlled product orientation;
- long-side and short-side leading configurations;
- optimised infeed and outfeed transitions;
- compact footprint by utilising available height;
- easy integration into automated beverage production lines;
- supporting sustainability by tailoring a solution for this unique plastic-free packaging.

The Apollo Multi Trak Spiral provides breweries and beverage producers with a dedicated solution for vertical KeelClip™ transport, combining high throughput, controlled handling and efficient use of production space.

ROYAL APOLLO
Group

About Royal Apollo Group

Royal Apollo Group is the world's leading supplier of vertical conveying systems such as Spiral Conveyors and Bucket Elevators. Every machine is designed according to our proven reliable technology, while offering many features, benefits and flexibility. This technology makes the Apollo conveyors faster and more reliable than any other vertical transport solutions such as elevators or lifts, while saving the most of valuable floor space than incline conveyors within production and logistics facilities.

Renowned manufacturers such as M&M's, Coca-Cola, tires of Pirelli, and also parts of the Tesla car are all handled by the machines of Apollo VTS. We produce innovative and decent machines that help a lot of these products to move.

We have nearly 180 years of proud family tradition behind us, and we hold a Royal title granted by the King of the Netherlands. This distinction recognises our outstanding reputation and symbolises the King's respect, esteem, and trust. An impeccable reputation and financial stability are prerequisites for receiving this honour.

With 11 offices and service centres around the world, of which 3 are production facilities in the Netherlands, Thailand, and USA, this has resulted in a global market coverage with Royal Apollo machines operating in at least 176 countries. Wherever you are in the world, our local team will be there to service you!

Part of Interroll

Since this year, Royal Apollo Group has been part of Interroll. By joining forces, we combine Apollo's expertise in vertical conveying with Interroll's global network and broad material handling portfolio, creating even more value for customers worldwide.

w: apollobv.com
e: sales-vts@apollobv.com
t: +31 (0) 524 515 051



Wait or act? The packaging decisions PPWR is bringing forward

Europe's new packaging rules are in application. But much of the details will only be defined through secondary legislation. For the packaging industry, that creates a difficult balancing act: preparing for where regulation is heading while developing packaging that works in production, protects the product and meets the requirements as they take shape.

August 12, 2026, was a date Europe's packaging industry had been preparing for. The Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) began to apply across the European Union. Yet many of the decisions it requires are only in the making. Important methodologies, technical criteria and implementation measures will continue to take shape through secondary legislation. That creates an understandable temptation to wait. Why redesign packaging today when some of the rules governing tomorrow's packaging are still being defined?

The problem is that packaging cannot be changed overnight. A new structure needs to protect the product, provide the required barrier and sealing properties and perform reliably in production. Alternative materials may need to be developed, tested and qualified. Changes can affect machinery, processing parameters, shelf life or other specifications. Waiting until every regulatory detail is settled could leave too little time to get all of that right.

Start with what is already on the market

The practical starting point is therefore not a complete portfolio redesign. It is understanding the packaging already in use. Which structures could be affected by upcoming requirements? Which need closer examination? Where could Design for Recycling, recycled content, packaging minimisation, labelling or restrictions on certain substances require action? And which applications may have more time?

That last question is particularly important. PPWR does not come with one universal deadline for every packaging application.

Pharma shows why classification matters

Pharmaceutical packaging illustrates the complexity. Specific exemptions exist for certain packaging used for medicinal products, including exemptions from recyclability requirements that are due to be reviewed by 2035. However not all products associated with health care are medicines. Food supplements, for example, count as foods rather than medicinal products, making the regulatory picture different.

Even within one company, different products and packaging formats can therefore face different requirements and timelines. Understanding the items in your portfolio, and how each application is classified, becomes an essential first step.



Our 360 degrees approach

What works on paper has to work on the machine

Identifying a packaging structure that may need to change is one thing. Developing an alternative that works at industrial scale is another.

Packaging is a technical system. Material choice interacts with barrier performance, sealing, product protection and processing conditions. A structure developed according to Design for Recycling criteria still has to fulfil the technical requirements of its application. And then it has to run on the machinery.

This is one of the practical realities easily lost in discussions about regulation. Brand owners cannot afford to reach an applicable PPWR deadline and only then discover that an alternative structure requires further machine trials, qualification or adjustments to production processes. Starting earlier creates room and time for tests.

Packaging is science

There is another reason simple answers are difficult: packaging requirements vary enormously. A dry-food pouch has little in common with a yogurt lid. Retort applications impose different demands on packaging than many other ambient products. Pharmaceutical packaging adds another layer of technical and regulatory considerations. There is no single material answer to that complexity.

Constantia Flexibles has been working on Design for Recycling for more than a decade, developing structures that address changing requirements while maintaining the performance required for their specific applications. That work led to the Ecolutions portfolio, which today includes EcoLam mono PE laminates, EcoVer and PERPETUA mono PP structures, EcoPaper solutions and aluminium-based formats. Combined with expertise across aluminium, film and paper, this gives customers different material options to investigate depending on their products and packaging requirements.

The conversation can therefore start with the application rather than a predetermined material. Which function of packaging is required for the intended use of the product? Which PPWR requirements apply, and when? Can the existing structure continue to meet them, or should alternatives be investigated?

That is also the thinking behind Constantia Flexibles' positioning, "PPWR ready. From day one." Readiness does not mean having one answer for every packaging format. It means following the regulatory framework as it develops, understanding what it means for customers' packaging portfolios and having technical expertise and material options to explore where changes may be needed.

So, wait or act? The answer is to act, but not by changing everything at once. Start by understanding the portfolio, identifying where and when PPWR may require action, and investigating alternatives where necessary. Secondary legislation will define much of the detail, but packaging development takes time. Starting now creates the room to make informed decisions, test potential changes and have the right solutions ready when the relevant requirements apply.

www.cflex.com/ppwr

Flexible reusable packaging for transport and storage



Craemer's Euro L1® pallet, CC1 pallet collar and optional lid form a reusable packaging unit. The components can also be used separately. Photo: Craemer Group.

Craemer combines its Euro L1® plastic pallet and CC1 pallet collar to create a reusable packaging unit that protects goods, adapts to different load heights and takes up less space when empty.

For manufacturers, retailers and logistics operators, transport packaging needs to work throughout the handling cycle. It must protect goods, move smoothly through existing handling equipment and be easy to store and transport when empty. Craemer's Euro L1® pallet and CC1 pallet collar meet these requirements through robust construction, adjustable capacity and a folding design.

The two components can be used together, with an optional pallet lid, or separately. This gives users flexibility when selecting packaging for different goods and handling processes. Reuse can also reduce packaging waste and the associated disposal costs.

A pallet designed for existing systems

Measuring 1200 x 800 x 150 mm, the Euro L1® has the familiar Euro pallet footprint. Developed in Germany and injection-moulded in one piece from polyethylene, it provides a durable, splinter-free alternative to a wooden Euro pallet.

The pallet is designed for use in both existing and new automated systems. It is compatible with photoelectric sensors and other sensing equipment, conventional chain and roller conveyors, and standard storage and retrieval, palletising and depalletising equipment. Its design supports reliable handling throughout these systems.

When fitted with five reinforcement profiles, the Euro L1® offers a static load capacity of up to 7,500 kg. Its dynamic and racking load capacities are each up to 1,250 kg. Combined with the matching CC1 collar, it forms a reusable packaging unit suitable for use in automated high-bay warehouses.

Capacity that adjusts to the goods

The CC1 collar has external dimensions of 1220 x 815 mm and a height of 300 mm. It fits the Euro L1® as well as most wooden and plastic pallets with the corresponding footprint.

Each collar weighs 7.8 kg and provides a nominal capacity of 260 litres when erected. Up to three collars can be stacked on a single pallet, allowing the packaging height to be adjusted to suit the goods. Integrated handles, movable locking elements and a folding mechanism make the collar easy to handle in everyday use.

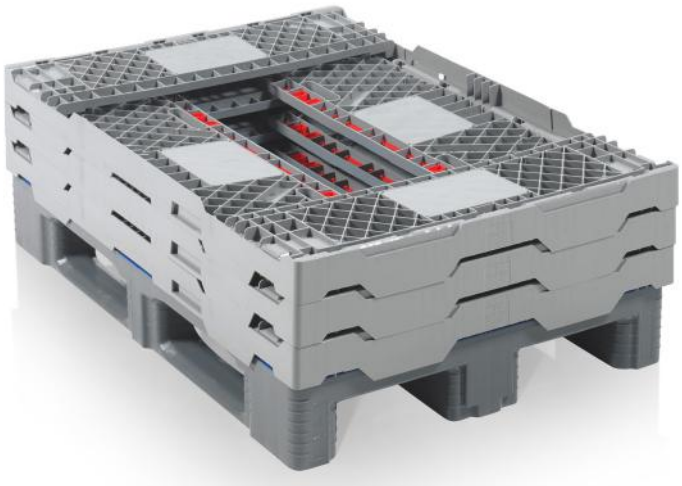
Users can choose between lattice and solid walls. The lattice version keeps goods visible, even when units are stacked, making it easier to identify contents during order picking. The solid-wall version has smooth surfaces that are easy to clean, making it suitable for transport applications where cleanliness and hygiene are priorities.

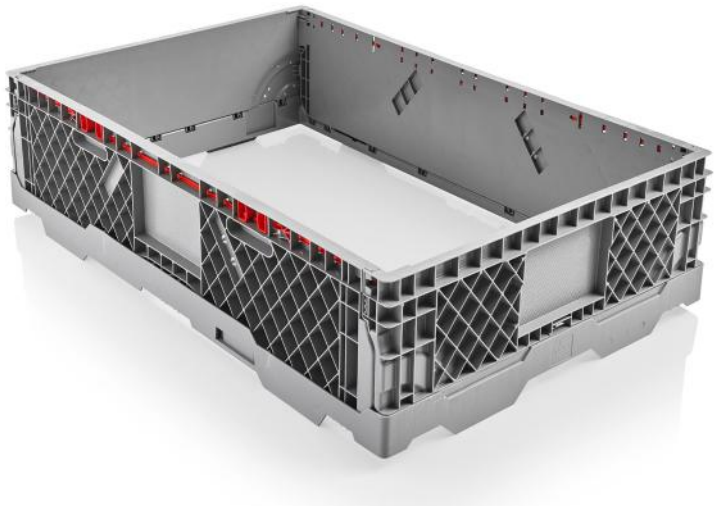
Less space on the return journey

Two pallets, each fitted with three CC1 collars, can be stacked to form a loading unit approximately 2.10 m high.

After unloading, the collars fold down for storage and return transport. Thirty folded CC1 collars can be stacked on a Euro pallet, achieving a volume reduction of 75%. This helps users make better use of warehouse space and vehicle capacity when returning empty packaging.

Folded CC1 pallet collars stack compactly on the Euro L1®. Thirty folded collars on a Euro pallet achieve a 75% volume reduction, saving space during storage and return transport. Photo: Craemer Group.





The CC1 pallet collar is also available with closed walls. Its smooth surfaces are easy to clean and suit applications where cleanliness and hygiene are priorities. Photo: Craemer Group.

Locating elements at the base help prevent the collar from slipping. When a single collar is used, optional external locating edges, 10 mm high, allow another pallet to be positioned securely on top. The version without these edges can be closed with a standard-sized pallet lid.

Grip and traceability

The Euro L1® is supplied as standard with wear-resistant Palgrip® strips firmly welded to its top deck. These help prevent loads from slipping, including in damp conditions and when the pallet is tilted.

Three runners with flat, closed undersides support smooth handling on conveyors. An optional Palgrip® coating on the runner undersides further promotes smooth running on roller and chain conveyors.

The pallet, collar and lid can also be fitted with RFID transponders for traceability. The components are designed for continuous use at temperatures from –30°C to +40°C and brief exposure to +90°C.

Craemer has more than 60 years of experience in plastics processing. Its portfolio includes plastic pallets and a broad range of transport, storage and waste containers. The Euro L1® and CC1 combination offers businesses a flexible reusable packaging solution that combines load protection and reliable handling with reduced space requirements for empty returns.

w: craemer.com/en
t: +49 5245 43-0
e: info@craemer.com

CRAEMER

TADBIK

Fresh thinking beyond the pack

From resealable convenience to recyclable retort and connected supply chains, Tadbik brings a wider perspective to food and beverage packaging.



A tray of sliced cheese opened for breakfast. A ready meal waiting in the cupboard for a busy evening. A chilled drink chosen in seconds from a crowded shelf. Each has a different packaging story, but the consumer expects the same effortless experience: food that is protected, packaging that works, and a product worth choosing again.

Three forces one packaging brief

Behind that simplicity sits a demanding brief. Manufacturers need reliable quality, supply and production performance. Consumers expect freshness, convenience and packaging with unmistakable shelf appeal. Regulation is reshaping how packaging is designed and managed after use.

The EU's Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR), applying in phases from August 2026, sharpens the focus on recyclability, material reduction and reuse. For brands, packaging decisions now connect shelf appeal and food protection with longer-term market requirements. Their choice of supplier matters.

Expertise across borders

Serving customers worldwide through four manufacturing sites in Israel and the United States, Tadbik brings more than four decades of experience to that decision.

Its capabilities span flexible packaging, LIDDING FILM, pre-cut lids, labels and sleeves, alongside automation and intelligent identification. Brands can address protection, decoration and production with a partner that understands how those decisions affect one another.

"We are dedicated to helping customers transition away from traditional packaging by offering a comprehensive range of sustainable alternatives."

- CEO Gili Drori in Inside Sustainability.

Make the next opening count

A pack of cheese rarely disappears in one sitting. Its closure needs to earn its place every time it returns to the refrigerator.

Tadbik's resealable LIDDING FILM opens and closes dozens of times while retaining adhesion, whether resealing to the tray rim or an underlying lid. It replaces a conventional rigid lid, helping reduce plastic use and packaging volume while creating opportunities for cost savings.

Digital printing supports small quantities, special editions and changing graphics; gravure printing serves large production runs. Rollstock and pre-cut formats provide flexibility for different packaging requirements.

FreshLid™ HB combines resealability with a transparent, high-barrier, mono-material PET structure. Its ALOx barrier helps protect against oxygen and moisture while keeping food clearly visible. A WorldStar Global Packaging Award winner in 2026, it brings consumer convenience and product presentation into the same design.

Recyclable retort without losing shelf appeal

For ready-to-eat foods, protection must also withstand high-temperature, high-pressure processing. Tadbik manufactures recyclable mono-material PP retort pouches that meet this demanding brief.

Three engineered PP-based layers replace conventional structures combining different materials. They provide high oxygen and moisture barriers, strong seals and the strength and rigidity needed through retort processing and an extended shelf life.

Designed in line with RecyClass design-for-recycling guidelines, the pouches preserve premium graphics and shelf presence. Compatibility with existing packaging equipment and thermal processes helps manufacturers transition while maintaining production requirements. Optional zippers add convenience for suitable applications.

The solution forms part of Tadbik's ECO LINE, which also includes material reduction and label and sleeve options designed to support recycling.



When packaging starts telling its story

Protecting food also means understanding its journey. Where is the shipment? Has its temperature changed? Where are the reusable crates?

Through its collaboration with Wiliot, Tadbik Advanced Technologies combines engineering, conversion and manufacturing expertise to produce battery-free Ambient IoT products, including ruggedised tags for reusable logistics assets. Tadbik has already produced and delivered millions of Wiliot IoT Pixels for supply-chain applications.

With connected infrastructure, these technologies provide visibility into movement and environmental conditions, including temperature monitoring for food distribution. That information can help businesses identify cold-chain issues, improve inventory decisions and reduce avoidable food loss. Tadbik's expertise extends from the material protecting the product to the data helping manage its journey.

More capability closer to customers

Tadbik USA is expanding local flexible packaging capabilities at its Clifton, New Jersey facility with a new Nordmeccanica laminator supporting solvent-based and solventless processes.

The investment enables process selection around packaging requirements, with solventless lamination reducing reliance on solvent-based adhesives where suitable. Local production supports responsiveness, shorter supply chains and closer collaboration with North American customers.

Your next packaging advantage

Tadbik's new website, tadbik.com, brings its products, markets and sustainability options together.

For a brand planning its next launch or rethinking an existing pack, that breadth creates room for a better conversation: how should the package protect, present, perform and connect? Tadbik brings the capabilities to turn those answers into a solution.

Explore tadbik.com and talk to the team about your next packaging challenge.

Tadbik. Your all-in-one packaging provider.

Advanced and assured palletising & depalletising for the F&B industry

Automated palletising and depalletising can play an important role in keeping food and beverage production moving efficiently, helping manufacturers manage product flow at the beginning and end of the packaging line while reducing the potential for bottlenecks.





Phoenix Handling Solutions Limited (PHS) supplies a range of palletising, depalletising and layer-forming systems manufactured by FIPAL in Italy. Designed to accommodate different production requirements, the equipment can handle a variety of products, containers and packaging formats, including bottles and cans.

Applications span soft drinks, beer, wines and spirits, tin cans, containers and bag-in-box formats, catering to food and beverage manufacturers with varying production volumes and line configurations.

The systems are designed with flexibility in mind, with modular configurations allowing equipment to be adapted or reconfigured as production requirements change. Open communication protocols simplify integration with established machinery, while Industry 4.0-ready capabilities support their use within increasingly connected packaging lines.

Advanced vision alignment provides automatic adjustment and precision during operation.

Data collection, remote monitoring and intuitive control panels also provide operators with access to machine information when required, helping support smooth operation and identify when maintenance may be needed.

Depalletising for different production demands

Within the FIPAL portfolio, the Stratus D range provides depalletising options for low-, mid- and high-demand production environments.

A layer sweep-off system removes complete product layers in a single movement, supporting safe and gentle transfer as products move from the pallet into the production process.

FIPAL's depalletisers and palletisers are manufactured from stainless steel for strength and hygiene, while energy-efficient motors are used to reduce energy consumption without compromising the required production performance. Their modular construction also provides scope for additions or reconfiguration as line requirements evolve.

Flexible end-of-line palletising

At the other end of the production line, FIPAL's Stratus P200 palletiser is designed to combine speed and flexibility while handling multiple container and packaging formats.

The system uses FIPAL's Dynamic Box and Easy Turn System to prepare product layers before palletising, helping to optimise pallet stability. The P200 can handle up to 250 layers per hour and offers product infeed from either above or below, providing greater flexibility when integrating the machine into different production layouts.

Additional modules can also be incorporated according to production requirements, including pallet magazines, pad dispensers, roller conveyors and pallet wrappers. This allows the palletising system to form part of a wider automated end-of-line configuration rather than operating as an isolated piece of equipment.

For manufacturers looking to increase automation, palletising and depalletising systems can also reduce the level of manual intervention required within production. This can save operator time while reducing the potential for human error in material handling.

PHS supports the FIPAL equipment with service and after-sales support, working with manufacturers to identify and integrate systems suited to their individual production requirements.

Extending automation to stretch wrapping

PHS can also support other areas of end-of-line automation through technologies including TOSA's Juracan stretch wrapper. Designed for demanding production lines, the rotating-ring system can handle up to 160 pallets per hour, with powered pre-stretch and strategic film placement helping to reduce film consumption while supporting load stability. The system can also be configured with automatic film roll changing, multiple wrapping programmes and data-gathering capabilities.

For food and beverage producers managing different products, packaging formats and production demands, PHS's portfolio provides options across front- and end-of-line handling, from depalletising and palletising through to load wrapping and associated automation.





Discover the right automation solution for your operation

With more than 30 years of industry experience, Phoenix Handling Solutions works with manufacturers to identify and integrate automation solutions tailored to their individual production requirements. From standalone machinery to complete integrated systems, speak to the PHS team to discuss the right solution for your operation.

Phoenix Handling Solutions Ltd.
Andrew Lawless
Sales Director
t: 0845 265 7570
e: sales@phs-uk.com
w: phoenixhandling.co.uk

TIPA®
Compostable Packaging

Beyond product protection: How tea, dry food, and nut brands can rethink packaging



For tea, dry food, and nut brands, packaging decisions are becoming more complex. Product protection remains non-negotiable, while regulation, sustainability goals, and growing attention to end-of-life are putting conventional flexible packaging under increasing scrutiny. TIPA's commercially available portfolio of certified home and industrial compostable films and laminates is designed to meet demanding packaging requirements while offering brands an alternative to conventional flexible plastic.

Packaging inspired by nature, developed for industry

Nature provides the most useful starting point. A nut shell or orange peel protects its contents and, under suitable conditions, breaks down after fulfilling its purpose. TIPA brings this principle to flexible packaging through proprietary, patented technology that combines premium packaging performance with certified compostability.

Turning that concept into commercially available packaging requires more than an environmental vision. Materials must deliver barrier performance, sealability, durability, and machinability. They must also fit the realities of existing supply chains.

TIPA's compostable films and laminates are designed to run on existing converting and packaging machinery. With proven technology and a commercially available portfolio, TIPA enables brands and converters to bring high-performance compostable packaging to market using existing machinery and equipment.

EPR is changing the packaging conversation

EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) laws shift responsibility for managing packaging waste toward producers, making end-of-life considerations increasingly relevant to packaging decisions.

California's SB 54 illustrates the scale of this change. The law requires single-use packaging and single-use plastic food service ware sold in the state to be recyclable or compostable by 2032, alongside targets for reducing plastic packaging and increasing recycling.

For food brands, this creates a reason to review their packaging structures and look for available alternatives. Performance remains essential, but disposal pathways are becoming part of the development brief.

Compostability must be considered within the requirements of each market. Certification, labelling, collection, and acceptance by composting facilities all matter. Selecting certified compostable packaging is one part of building a suitable end-of-life pathway.

Protecting the qualities that define tea

Tea packaging must preserve the qualities that make each blend distinctive. Exposure to moisture and oxygen, together with aroma loss, can affect the product experience long before the package is opened.

TIPA's premium, high-barrier compostable tea packaging is designed to preserve the aroma, taste, and quality that distinguish premium tea blends. Available formats include sachets, stand-up pouches, and side gusset pouches, supported by metallised and paper-based barrier structures.

This range allows tea brands to select packaging according to their blend, format, and presentation requirements. Flexographic and digital printing options support brand identity, while compatibility with existing production lines helps make adoption practical.

For brands whose positioning centres on carefully sourced ingredients and product quality, packaging provides another opportunity to express those same values through their choice of packaging materials.



Freshness and functionality for dry foods and nuts

Dry foods and nuts also require packaging selected around the product's specific protection needs. Moisture and oxygen barriers play an important role in maintaining freshness and shelf life.

TIPA offers a broad, ready-to-use portfolio of premium compostable films and laminates for nuts, granola, snacks, and other dry foods, combining high barrier performance with certified compostability. Formats include stand-up pouches,



side gusset bags, pillow bags, and bar wrappers, with transparent, metallised, and paper-based barrier laminates available.

Resealable options with fully compostable zippers add functionality for products consumed over several occasions. Different structures and formats give brands flexibility to balance protection, convenience, and shelf presentation.

The starting point is the product itself: its barrier requirements, intended shelf life, filling process, and distribution conditions. Compostable packaging development must address these requirements alongside the intended disposal route.

Moving from interest to implementation

The momentum for compostable packaging becomes meaningful when brands can translate it into products on the shelf. That requires commercially available materials, technical support, production trials, and clear disposal instructions.

Home and industrial compostability are distinct, and the appropriate route depends on the selected structure and its certification. Industrially compostable packaging also requires access to a collection program and a facility that accepts it.

For tea, dry food, and nut brands, the opportunity is to bring packaging performance and end-of-life planning into the same conversation. With proprietary, patented technology and a premium portfolio already available to the market, TIPA is equipped to support the next generation of compostable packaging for tea, dry foods, and nuts, and a wide range of other market segments.

w: tipa-corp.com



Smart moisture protection for PPWR: SUPER DRY supports compliance with new EU regulations

The EU's Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) is changing how businesses approach packaging. For brand owners and importers, the focus is shifting beyond simply protecting products towards using packaging materials more efficiently, while maintaining reliable protection throughout transportation and storage.

For moisture protection, this raises a practical question: *How can businesses choose the right type and amount of desiccant while meeting evolving packaging requirements?*

The right desiccant makes the difference

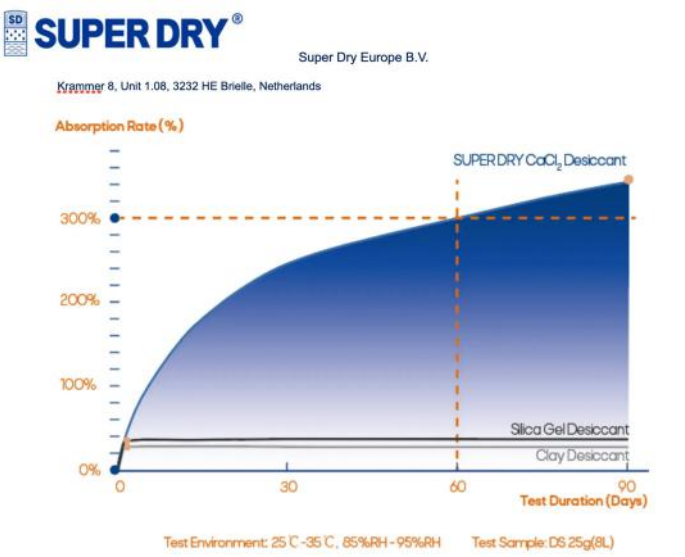
More desiccant does not necessarily mean better protection. Using an unsuitable solution can lead to unnecessary material consumption, while insufficient or inappropriate moisture protection can increase the risk of moisture damage.

For businesses, the better approach is to match the desiccant to the product, packaging and shipping conditions, with the goal of achieving reliable protection with the right amount of the right solution.

Different shipping conditions require different moisture protection strategies. For applications requiring higher absorption efficiency, calcium chloride can offer an advantage.

Under hot and humid conditions (≥30°C, ≥90% RH), SUPER DRY's calcium chloride desiccant delivers over 300% moisture absorption for around 90 days. In suitable applications, it can help customers achieve the required moisture protection with around 10% less material. This efficiency helps customers optimise material use and maintain protection in line with PPWR.

Calcium chloride also offers a significant dosage advantage over clay. The required dosage is largely reduced by over 90% under hot and humid conditions compared with clay. This enables customers to achieve ideal protection with substantially less desiccant material and costs. LCA results further verify calcium chloride's lower resource consumption and environmental impact, supporting its potential as a more resource-efficient choice.



How SUPER DRY helps customers navigate PPWR

Choosing the right desiccant requires more than comparing absorption capacity. Product characteristics, transportation routes, humidity exposure and protection requirements all influence the appropriate solution.

SUPER DRY's specialists assess these factors and recommend moisture protection solutions based on each customer's application. Whether calcium chloride or clay is the better choice, SUPER DRY aims to help customers achieve effective moisture control without unnecessary material use.



Beyond product selection, SUPER DRY provides material information and technical documentation for compliance verification and informed packaging decisions. SUPER DRY's calcium chloride desiccant is supported by technical files demonstrating compliance with applicable PPWR restricted-substance requirements and key EU chemical and environmental regulations.

Protection and efficiency, working together

PPWR is encouraging businesses to rethink how they use packaging materials efficiently.

For moisture protection, the answer is a balance of application-based selection, efficient moisture protection and practical technical support. Whether calcium chloride or clay is the better choice, the efficient solution depends on the goods being shipped and the conditions they will face.

To save more, protect better and prepare for PPWR with the right moisture protection, contact SUPER DRY's specialist to discuss the suitable solution for your products and packaging requirements:

Pär Svensson
Sales Director Super Dry Europe
par@superdryers.com

www.superdryers.com

Moisture protection in food and beverage supply chains

Moisture management is an important consideration when transporting and storing packaged food and beverage products, particularly across long-distance supply chains where temperature and humidity conditions can vary.

For businesses shipping moisture-sensitive goods, selecting appropriate desiccants can help protect products and secondary or transit packaging from humidity-related damage. As PPWR places greater emphasis on packaging efficiency, choosing the right moisture protection solution can also support efforts to minimise unnecessary packaging materials.

The appropriate approach will depend on the product, packaging format and conditions encountered during transportation and storage.

F&B packaging in the news...

The latest developments in food and beverage packaging from around the world.



From new packaging technologies and material innovations to industry developments and sustainability initiatives, explore a selection of the latest food and beverage packaging news featured on Packaging Suppliers Global.

P&B (Foods) boosts sauce production with 200-bottle-per-minute Autopack line

Leading independent integrator of packaging lines Autopack has installed a second, higher-speed sauce packaging line for P&B (Foods) Ltd, increasing capacity to up to 200 bottles per minute as the food manufacturer responds to growing demand.

The turnkey line combines an unscrambler, rotary net-weight filler, capper block and rotary wraparound labeller. It represents the latest milestone in a partnership that began in 2023 and has already delivered a series of automation and production upgrades across P&B (Foods)' sauce and edible-oil operations ...Read more.

Australian consumers call for greater action on supermarket plastic packaging

A new survey has found that 62% of Australians believe major supermarket chains Coles and Woolworths are not doing enough to tackle plastic pollution.

The YouGov poll, commissioned by Australian financial services organisation Future Super, surveyed 1,504 people about supermarket packaging, plastic reduction and consumer purchasing preferences ...Read more.

Hormel introduces portioned bacon packaging to reduce food waste

Hormel has introduced a new packaging format for its BLACK LABEL Original Bacon range, designed to allow consumers to separate and prepare smaller quantities while keeping the remaining product unopened.

The new HORMEL BLACK LABEL Portion Pack Bacon features three individually perforated sections, each containing four slices of bacon. The packaging allows consumers to separate the sections before opening, selecting the quantity required without opening the remaining portions ...Read more.

Truly Grass Fed updates packaging in response to consumer preferences

Truly Grass Fed has introduced a refreshed packaging design across its dairy product range, with a greater emphasis on its grass-fed credentials and third-party certifications.

The Irish dairy brand will begin rolling out the updated packaging over the coming months, covering its butter and cheese products. The new design aims to make key product information more visible to consumers, including the brand's use of dairy from cows fed on grass for 95% of their diet and its Non-GMO Project Verified status ...Read more.

Clean and dry, every time: How SUPER DRY helps protect premium egg quality

For high-quality egg suppliers, appearance matters. Even minor shell or quality defects can affect consumer perception, weaken brand confidence and lead to avoidable losses.

Mould speckles on fresh eggs had become a recurring challenge for one leading egg supplier in China. The key issue mainly results from moisture ...Read more.

Paper-based ice cream wrap moves towards commercial rollout

A paper-based wrapping solution designed specifically for ice cream products is undergoing validation ahead of a planned phased commercial rollout later this year.

Developed by Tetra Pak, the Ice Cream Wrap is made with up to 85% paper sourced from FSC-certified forests and other controlled sources. The company says the format has been designed to provide ice cream manufacturers with an additional packaging option while meeting the performance requirements associated with production and the cold chain ...Read more.

Pre-filled condiment pouch designed to simplify food service dispensing

Sealed Air has introduced ZeroPrep hand-dispensing pouches under its CRYOVAC brand, designed to provide food service operators with an alternative to refillable squeeze bottles and other rigid condiment containers.



The pre-filled pouches are intended for back-of-house dispensing of sauces and condiments and feature an easy-open seal and semi-rigid spout. The packaging can be operated with one hand by squeezing the pouch, while the spout is designed to reseal when not in use to help prevent dripping ...Read more.

Asia Coffee Shop Supply Chain Expo 2027 opens a new chapter for Asia's booming café industry

The Asia Coffee Shop Supply Chain Expo 2027, hosted by Guangdong Hongwei International Exhibition Group Co., Ltd., will be held from March 4 to 6, 2027, at the Canton Fair Complex in Guangzhou. It is the world's first B2B exhibition dedicated to the entire café supply chain ecosystem, bringing together global coffee professionals for cross-border trade, innovation, and trend exchange.

Asia's rapidly growing specialty coffee market generates significant demand for coffee beans, machines, beverage ingredients, sustainable packaging, and café operation solutions. Many buyers face challenges due to fragmented suppliers and high costs associated with overseas sourcing, which the expo aims to address ...Read more.

Corona Cero introduces seven-bottle pack inspired by days of the week

A new seven-bottle packaging format has been developed for Corona Cero, the alcohol-free beer brand from AB InBev, with the concept designed to offer one bottle for each day of the week.

Created in collaboration with packaging manufacturer Smurfit Westrock and design agency JKR, the '7 Days, 7 Moments' concept responds to growing consumer interest in alcohol-free beverages ...Read more.

Exchange for Change's Julian Hunt discusses preparations for UK DRS

The UK's Deposit Return Scheme is moving rapidly from policy debate to operational reality. With just one year until launch, Exchange for Change director Julian Hunt explains what has been achieved, where the biggest challenges remain and why the work for brands, retailers and packaging suppliers starts now.

October 2027 may still look distant on the calendar but for drinks producers, retailers and suppliers preparing for one of the biggest changes to the UK's packaging system in decades, the countdown is already well under way ...Read more.

Nespresso expands curbside aluminium capsule recycling in New York

Nespresso has announced an investment in recycling infrastructure in Westchester County, New York, enabling residents within the county's Refuse Disposal District to place used coffee capsules and other small non-ferrous aluminium items in kerbside recycling bins.

The programme is available immediately and is expected to provide an additional recycling route for more than 900,000 residents. Eligible aluminium items can be placed alongside other accepted materials including metal, glass, cartons and plastics ...Read more.

IMPEPACK strengthens premium tea packaging with TIPA compostable solutions

IMPEPACK has reinforced its position as a high-end packaging partner for tea and gourmet food brands.

Operating from Marrakech, the company adopted TIPA's metallized and transparent compostable films to deliver both functional performance and refined aesthetics required by premium tea and gourmet food brands. This transition reflects a long-term strategic effort to align packaging with evolving market expectations while maintaining strict quality standards. By combining advanced digital printing capabilities with certified compostable materials, IMPEPACK continues to expand its offering while meeting the technical and visual demands of premium brands ...Read more.

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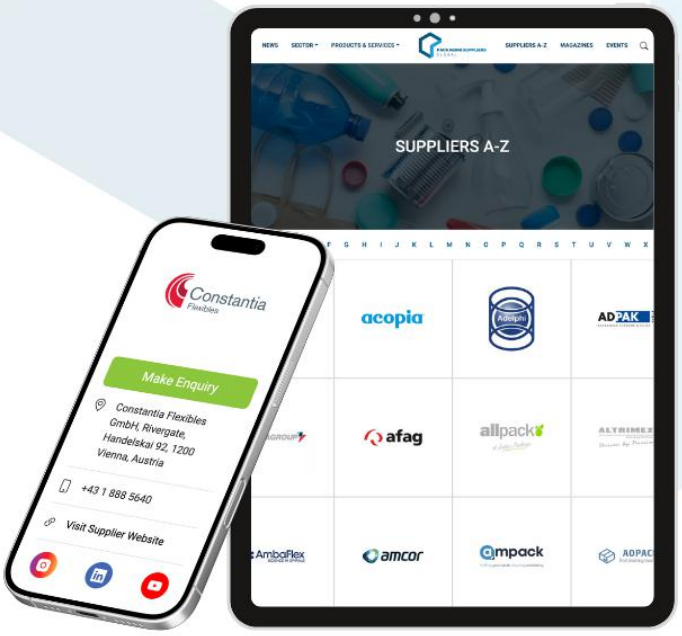
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Events & exhibitions

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Have an event to share? Get in touch to add it to our calendar.

Europe | United Kingdom | Asia | Americas

Nov 03-05
Gulfood Manufacturing 2026
Dubai, UAE

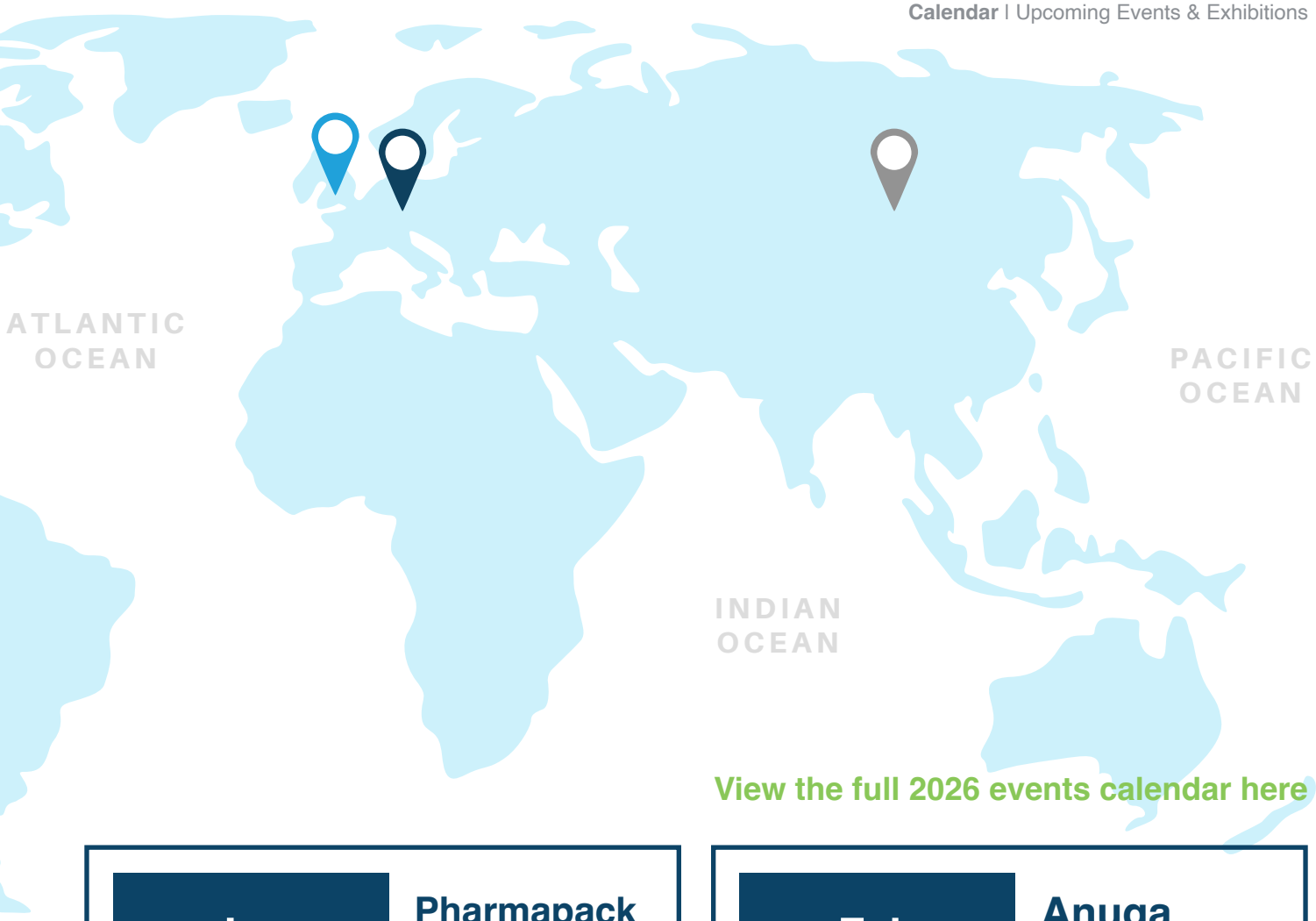
Nov 11-12
E-commerce Packaging & Labelling Expo
London, UK

Nov 10-11
UKPackaging Expo
Liverpool, UK

Nov 10-12
11th BioPharma Supply Chain & Logistics Nexus
The Netherlands

Nov 10-12
Sustainable Packaging Summit
Netherlands

Nov 16-18
interpack China
Shanghai, China



View the full 2026 events calendar here

Jan 27-28
Pharmapack 2027
Paris, France

Feb 23-26
Anuga FoodTec 2027
The Netherlands

Feb 03-04
Paris Packaging Week
Paris, France

Feb 24-25
Packaging Innovations & Empack
Birmingham, UK

Feb 09-10
Clinical Trial Supply Forum
Basel, Switzerland

March 04-06
Asia Coffee Shop Supply Chain Expo
Guangzhou, China

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THANK YOU

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

w: packagingsuppliersglobal.com

e: info@packagingsuppliersglobal.com

t: +44 (0)117 318 4321