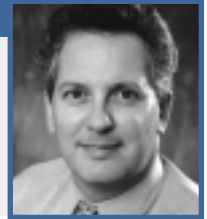


VIEWPOINT

FLEXIBLE INSIGHTS

At Pack Expo International, Flexible Packaging Technology Steals the Show

by *Dennis Calamusa, Alliedflex Technologies Inc.*



At the recent Pack Expo International 2002 held in Chicago, a packaging machinery and technology exhibition that highlighted “who’s who” in the global packaging arena, PMMI presented the latest and greatest in packaging. And during the exhibition, you could not help but notice that flexible packaging dominated the scene and stole the show!

Numerous examples of evolving flexible packaging technologies and machinery

pouches. The system automatically feeds, opens, fills, and seals pouch style packages ready for retort processing at 35 PPM. Pouches were supplied by KAPAK and Pyramid Packaging. Pyramid supplied its new patented Zip’n Store™ reclosable retort pouch.

CLP Packaging Solutions, specializing in pre-made retort pouches, presented its expertise in laser scoring technology for ease of opening, particularly important for heavier multi-ply laminations.

new side gusseted “QuadPak” with zipper or “slider” and the new “Smart SpoutPak” spouted standup pouch, which utilizes a proprietary dispensing/drinking spout system. The KAPAK exhibit also showed the visitor “what’s next” flexible packaging.

Robert’s Packaging illustrated the art of high-speed “continuous motion” standup Pouch form, fill, and seal technology. Producing equipment for f/f/s with zipper and “slider”, as well as shaped pre-made pouches. In addition, new quick

Our industry remains committed to the further evolution of technologies that will grow the market.

systems stood out from the crowd. Following are a few of the exhibited technology highlights:

Amplas introduced its latest TOTANI Pouch Making System with on-line die cutting. The system was demonstrated producing standup style pouches with intricate die-cut shapes at speeds in excess of 200 PPM. This type of pouchmaking technology is increasing in demand, particularly in the liquid and beverage pouch category.

Arpac Group debuted the new Model G10 series of fill/seal machinery for packaging a wide variety of pre-made standup/zipper and side gusset style bags. The moderate speed system appears ideally suited to companies wanting to enter the retail market with a standup style packaging approach.

Bosch Packaging introduced its new line of TERRA VFFS machines, providing not only a new economical pricing structure, but a broad range of capabilities producing both pillow and block bottom styles, suitable for a variety of product applications.

Chori America (TOYO JIDOKI), a specialist in liquid and retort packaging systems, demonstrated a fill/seal system for handling #10 can replacement size

GN Packaging Equipment unveiled its new 26-inch-wide single web standup pouch system that ran pouch material supplied by Printpack and Curwood and zipper supplied by ITW Minigrip and Presto Products. The new model utilizes 11 independent servos for optimizing a multitude of operations via an ELS (electronic line shaft). The system produces up to 200 PPM in single lane operation and is said to be ideal for a variety of pouch configurations including standup, three-sided seal, or retort pouch styles. A computer interface system is available to document and record seal pressures, temperatures, and production statistics, ideally suited for critical process controlled applications.

JMC/Weigh Right joined up to present a system for filling and sealing wicketed style polyethylene and laminated bags. The bags handled on wickets may be configured in a variety of styles and incorporate zipper or “slider” reclosure features. The system offers an economical “first step” to automating the fill/seal process. The compact design incorporates the filling and sealing system in a single module.

KAPAK Corp. featured a line of innovative pre-made pouches and bags, including the

changeover capabilities were reviewed as part of their new generation capabilities.

T.H.E.M., known for their innovative global flexible packaging solutions, introduced its latest “meal solution” featuring a self-venting microwave pouch-APV, in addition to the successful “stick pack” single-serve technology from SANKO of Japan.

The list goes on and on, illustrating the power of flexible packaging and our industry’s continued commitment toward the further evolution of the technologies that will help grow the market and provide the necessary tools to further meet the “challenges of change”. ■

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