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Materials, Production and Converting



■ GERMANY

Increased outputs with retrofits

WINDMÖLLER & HÖLSCHER ■ Increased output and better quality at a reasonable price is a goal of every blown film manufacturer. The experience at *Windmüller & Hölscher* is that it's not always necessary to invest in a new line in order to achieve higher output levels. Often retrofitting an existing machine is all that's required. Experts in *W&H's* retrofits department specialise in modernising existing



equipment, for example retrofitting a blown film line with the latest air ring technology. Since the opening of the department in 2008, the com-

pany has performed more than 400 retrofits on a wide range of equipment.

Optimal cooling is crucial for increasing output on a blown film line. For this, the *Opticool* air ring retrofit is an ideal solution. Compared to standard dual air rings, the *Opticool* offers a significant increase in production and improves film tolerance and quality. This results in better smoothness for downstream processing as well as less scrap. Other advantages of retrofits include increased ease of handling and line flexibility. *W&H's* high performance air rings can also be retrofitted onto blown film lines from other manufacturers, however, depending upon the line's requirements, either the *Opticool* or *Multicool* retrofit packages would be applicable.

In addition to retrofits, the company can also upgrade existing *W&H* air rings with the »Multicool High Performance Package.«

In addition to air rings, a wide range of retrofit solutions that can help improve the performance of blown film lines, from extruder- and screw technology to new and improved die design are offered.

→ www.wuh-group.com

■ EUROPE

Joint approach towards an innovative sustainable solution

INNOVIA ■ The British film producer and *Sappi Fine Paper Europe* have joined forces to demonstrate potential laminate structures suitable for end-users in the food, confectionery and pharmaceutical industries. These laminates provide technical functionality in addition to being made from renewable resources and offering compostability – a focus which many packaging end-users are keen to pursue.

Both companies recognise that the best end-of-life options for flexible paper/film laminates are either industrial, home composting or ultimately anaerobic digestion which turns waste into a useful energy source, compared to current landfill

or incineration solutions.

Innovia Films with its *Nature-Flex* product range, brings its unique expertise in manufacturing renewable and compostable cellulose-based films with tailored moisture and barrier properties. *Sappi* adds its expertise in manufacturing flexible packaging papers and now offers coated and uncoated compostable paper options; *Algro Nature* is a unique compostable one side coated paper; *Leine Nature* is an uncoated equivalent, which is also compostable.

The *Sappi* and *Innovia* products have been independently tested and have received the »OK Compost Home« certification by *Vinçotte*,

and also the compostability DIN E13432 certification by *DIN Certco*.

→ www.innoviafilms.com
→ www.sappi.com

■ GREAT BRITAIN

Dynamic labels with unlimited potential

BRITISH PLASTICS FEDERATION ■ The science of conductive polymers and its application in active and communicative packaging was explored in a seminar hosted by the *BPF* in London in November 2011.

»An Introduction to Conductive Polymers« explained how a robust, thin, light-weight, mechanically flexible and pliable format can be a medium for memory, displays, sensors and power sources such as solar cells and batteries.

»Electronically enhanced plastics« can be processed at a low temperature and cost using a conventional roll-to-roll printing technique. Targeted applications include in retail packaging as a marketing tool and to supply information on product usage. The technology will also help save lives and reduce costly waste in healthcare provision, delegates heard.

Speaker *CATHY J CURLING*, CEO of *Curling Consulting/GB*, focused on intelligent packaging, active on-pack labels and dynamic shelf-edge labels. *LUIS ROCA*, of plastics technological institute *AIMPLAS/E*, reported that patent applications are growing with US producers being the most prolific. The North American market forecast is 240,000 tonnes by 2015, doubling the production in 2011 »despite the economic downturn of 2008–09« *ROCA* remarked.

Carbon nanotubes (CNT) in conductive polymer nanocomposites – fundamental to developments in packaging film technology – was discussed by Dr *EMILIANO BILOTTI*, of *Nanoforce/GB* based at *Queen Mary University*, London.

A full report on »An Introduction to Conductive Polymers« will be published in *NARROWEBTECH* 1-2012.

→ www.bpf.co.uk

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■ SWITZERLAND

Coex barrier for international markets

PETROPLASTVINORA ■ In the field of multilayer films the company offers 3-, 5- and 7-layer coextruded films, which are manufactured in a hygienic cell, to meet increasing quality demands. The competence of *PetroplastVinora Ltd* is in the custom manufacturing of order sizes from 1 tonne (2204.5 lbs).

Many years of production know-how, modern equipment and efficient production processes enables the company to offer competitive products in Europe.

Depending on the final application, multilayer films with specific properties will be laminated with another film – such as top lid films for the closing of prefabricated shells. Other applications for these hightech films are thermoforming and flow pack wrappers. In addition, they can be printed in highest flexo quality on the front or reverse with up to ten colours.

→ www.petroplastvinora.ch



■ GERMANY

Outstanding order situation

KUHNE ANLAGENBAU ■ Due to the great demand for Triple Bubble lines for the production of biaxial-oriented films, the company will start the year 2012 with almost fully booked production schedules.

→ www.kuhne-group.com

■ GERMANY

Synchronisation of live axles

POWERLINK ■ The growing number of electronically controlled drives and the