

CODING AND MARKING

REPORTS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN PRINT-APPLY LABELLING, INK JET PRINTING, LASER MARKING AND SOFTWARE FOR CODING AND MARKING OPERATIONS.

INK JET PRINTING

Crowded ink jet market seeks greater simplicity

Suppliers of the different ink jet technologies have greater accessibility as their goal, both in the composition of their ranges and in ease of use for operators.

Imaje, for example, claims to have gone back to basics with its new 9000 series range, in terms of the relative simplicity of the system and in the way that it meets key customer concerns.

Imaje managing director Mike Hughes says: "Our customers will benefit greatly from the low cost of ownership. In fact, the 9000 series could save our customers up to 25 per cent in cost of ownership compared with our competitors."

Customer services manager Paul Ellison emphasises the simplicity of the system. "The operator interface is very intuitive and easy to use," he says, noting also that changing consumables is straightforward and clean. Ink and additives are supplied, and loaded on to the coder, in self-sealing containers. Operators can change consumables on the fly.

Mr Ellison also underlines the high coding speeds. Because of the multi-jet system used by Imaje, the 9030 can lay down two lines of text at speeds of up to 5.5 metres/sec. This makes it the world's fastest twin-line coder, he claims.

The two coders in the range, the 9020 and 9030, use the IC60 ink circuit. With its internal reservoir, this means that the system can continue coding for up to 60 minutes after the 'empty' signal first appears. This in itself would be around half an hour after the first low-level ink alarm, says Mr Ellison, meaning that the operator is given ample warning when it comes to replacing consumables.

It is impossible to load the containers for ink and additives into the wrong position.

Like other suppliers, Imaje has incorporated a system for automatically cleaning the nozzle and gutter at start-up and shut-down. The printhead, though one of the smallest on the market, is also one of the toughest in terms of withstanding vibration and impact, says Mr Ellison.

Now known as KBA-Metronic, after an acquisition by German printing press specialist Koenig & Bauer, Metronic has been protecting its coders in other ways. The company has expanded its range of ink jet printers with the Alphajet E, which is said to be tailored to the needs of the food and drink industry, and which is available in an IP 55 version. The coder boasts a 24-point matrix and will lay down up to four lines of text. Compared with the company's existing Alphajet C coder, the temperature range for operation has been extended, now spanning 5-45degC.

For the even more specific needs of sectors such as the wiring and cables industry, KBA-Metronic has developed a high-speed version of its Alphajet C. The Alphajet C-HS combines high speed with small text sizes and excellent definition, says the company. The printhead had to be adapted, it adds, in order to achieve its high speed capabilities with a 55-micron nozzle.

World-wide installations

Domino has been consolidating the success of its A-Series range of CIJ printers of which the company currently estimate there are 50,000 installed world-wide. The range includes the A300, which prints up to four lines of text, logos, bar and dot-matrix codes, automatic serial numbering, batch coding and a real-time clock.

In large-character ink-jet, Domino has the C-Series. This uses piezo-electric technology to print bar codes, text and graphics onto porous substrates.

Also in the large-character arena, Videojet has launched the Marsh 1100 and 3100 print-

ers. The manufacturer has concentrated its efforts on minimising maintenance and downtime, with special features that include a patented self-cleaning and self-maintenance system for the printheads. This virtually eliminates the presence of dust and other debris in the vital parts of the system, says Videojet.

New safeguards also avoid the problem of 'missing dots', caused by vibration and the depriving that can result. Damage to printheads is said to be dramatically reduced by the fact that the self-maintenance system is non-contact, unlike the more traditional types of periodic maintenance.

Wasted ink and downtime avoided

Another argument in favour of its new printhead system, says Videojet, is that it eliminates the wasted ink and downtime required by regular priming, purging and cleaning on other ink jet printers. Sealed, non-pressurised containers are used for ink, while all ink used during the maintenance process is recycled and filtered for re-use.

Playing its part in the battle to win over converts to direct outer case coding, Linx has launched a twin head version of its IJ600 coder. The two printheads are operated from a single control unit, offering what Linx claims is a greater number of options than competitor machines. These span different software configurations, conduit lengths, printhead heights and orientations.

The IJ600 will print small and large characters, graphics and bar codes up to 70mm high. The oil-based inks make it suitable for porous substrates such as cases and sacks.

Linx product manager Jonathan Dodd says: "The new twin head option is suitable for many manufacturers, especially those supplying the retail sector, which requires the same code to be printed on opposite sides of the case."

Only established in the UK over the past eight months or so, the Needham Group is making a name for itself as the supplier of ink jet coding



Simple to use: New Imaje 9000 series ink jet coder is loaded with cartridges of consumables



Coding both sides: Twin head version of the Linx IJ600 ink jet printer

equipment from Citronix. The Citronix range includes the Pixel Plus feature which, Needham claims, allows the printed drop size to be changed from 60 microns to 65 or 75. This capability, which Needham says is unique among ink jet coders currently on the market, means that print sizes can range from 1.5mm to over 20mm, avoiding the need for dedicated coders for different requirements.

For applications needing highly legible and

attractive codes, Needham has launched the ci1000 micro ink jet printer. Said to be ideal for high quality coding in the pharmaceutical, electronics and cosmetics industries, the ci1000 micro can generate codes as small as 0.6mm at speeds up to 366 metres a minute.

Other current developments in the ink jet industry include the UK launch of the Hitachi PX-P pigmented-ink based CIJ system by Euromark Coding & Marking. The system is said to provide

good clarity and adhesion on all types of dark surface. It incorporates a stirring system to ensure even distribution of pigment in the ink, and the pump has been designed for a long service life, even when handling pigmented inks. Similarly, maintenance is said to be just as easy as on the standard models in the range.

The new coder complements the existing PX and PB ranges, capable of producing up to four lines of print. Newly available upgrades here are said to include scanner and interface options and Ethernet connections.

For ATD InkJet Systems, the emphasis has been on extending the range of equipment to cover all the main types of industrial coding. With the new LC2 coder, low cost is the main selling point. Four lines of text can be generated between 4mm and 48mm print height. The IP7000, on the other hand, stretches the lower and upper print height limits to 2mm and 100mm, and will cope with line speeds of over 1.4metres/sec. Finally, for high-definition coding, ATD has the SolidJet hot wax ink coder.

LASER CODING

New names light up the laser coding sector

The laser coding industry in the UK continues to broaden its base, with new names being added to the list of suppliers, and new equipment from those already in the market.

Domino is focusing on its overall offering for the principal industry sectors, emphasising how different ink jet and laser technologies can offer optimum solutions at different stages in the line, or with different materials, but also tailoring equipment for each of those sectors.

Pursuing this logic, the DSL1 Pharma scribing laser has been launched, allowing those in the pharmaceutical and medical device industries to comply with Good Automated Manufac-



Ready for validation: Domino TSL1 Pharma scribing laser for the pharmaceutical industry

turing Practice (GAMP4) and other industry-specific regulations. Installation can be streamlined, says Domino, because the laser can be supplied with comprehensive validation documentation.

As well as GAMP4, the laser complies with 21 CFR part 11 regulations, which seek to minimise the manipulation and data at all stages of pharmaceutical manufacture. The software, which ensures that control is only via a secure system of electronic signatures, has become a unique selling point, says Domino. Each potential user is only given pre-determined access to specific functions.

Lee Metters, pharmaceutical sector development director at Domino, says: "Given that the product's usage is strictly controlled through user name and password protection measures, the DSL1 Pharma virtually eradicates problems associated with mis-coding or incorrect labelling of products in the pharmaceutical plant."

Scribing CO₂ lasers

The backbone of Domino's laser portfolio, however, continues to be the S-Series, which includes the S100, S200 and S300 scribing CO₂ laser coders. At Interpack, the company demonstrated the ability of the S300 to code onto confectionery cartons, while the S200B was shown coding PET water bottles.

Highlighting the ability of laser coding to replace labelling in many applications, Linx reports that two coders installed at Soapworks, Glasgow, have proved a great success. The two Xymark 300SL small spot size lasers apply traceability codes to the heel of glass bottles of Home Fragrance oils, supplied to The Body Shop. Previously, the codes were carried on blind-embossed polypropylene labels.

A typical code for the 300SL lasers consists of five 1.5mm x 1.3mm alphanumeric characters, applied at speeds up to 2400 bottles an hour. The 300SL scribing laser is a mid-powered system, but the higher energy density achieved with the small spot size option makes it suitable for more resistant materials such as glass.

Building on its acquisitions in laser, as in other coding technologies, Videojet used this year's Interpack to show its full range of systems developed in conjunction with Alltec. These include the Allprint CS, Allprint Smart, Allprint Smart S and Focus S. Videojet stresses its ability to provide laser solutions across a broad spectrum of applications. Speeds have also been improved, it claims, with the Allprint Smart S now able to code labels with 15 characters, or two lines, at speeds of over 70,000 an hour.

Having established its name in other forms of coding, KBA-Metronic has built itself a significant base in laser coding, with two ranges now available, for both entry level and more advanced applications.

Designed for simple operation

Among the more standard CO₂ systems, the Macsa F-1010 SP and F-1030 SP are designed for simple operation, says KBA-Metronic. In both cases, more advanced models are available with an Ethernet interface and high-speed marking head. The marking area can be extended to 250x 250mm by changing the lens.

Like Domino, KBA-Metronic singles out pharmaceutical standard 21 CFR Part 11 as one of the more difficult sets of regulations which can be complied with using these more advanced coders. In YAG laser coding, KBA-Metronic offers the Macsa L-5005 CP and L-5010 CP.

Weber Marking Systems reports growing interest in its recently-introduced laser range, the SolarJet HD, which uses sealed CO₂ technology, and can produce text as small as 0.5mm high. The system is designed for high speed operations such as those in food, beverages, pharmaceuticals and personal care.

Demonstrating that all of the coding technologies are receiving the R&D attention they merit, Imaje has announced that it will be launching a new and "very innovative" system in September. Customer services manager Paul Ellison would only say that the coder will use "similar technology" to the steered beam Lightjet Vector which Imaje currently supplies.

Meanwhile, new names in the laser coding field include The Needham Group. Like KBA-



CO₂ lasers: Two of the Macsa F series units supplied by KBA-Metronic

Metronic, Needham is now supplying Macsa laser coders in the UK. With both CO₂ and YAG lasers in its portfolio, Macsa has supplied customers including Nestlé, Roche, Lee Cooper and Coty. In the past five years, says Needham, Macsa has installed over 1200 systems world-wide.

Like the more traditional coding and labelling technologies, laser is now increasingly being integrated into other types of processing and packaging equipment. For example, the Mettler Toledo Garvens S2 checkweigher now incorporates a Sator DynaMark vector coder, with various power options available for different types of product and packaging. Access is password-protected, and the system is operated via a touch-screen.

PRINT-APPLY LABELLING

Print-apply polishes tailored solutions

There is no shortage of developments illustrating the endless adaptability of print-apply to the needs of different industries and products.

For example, a front-of-pack print-apply labeller that avoids the mechanical stress imposed on traditional machines by head-on physical contact with the pack, and can run at speeds up to 80 a minute, was among new equipment introduced at Interpack by Logopak.

Aimed at applications in which no line space is available to turn a pack 90deg for labelling its face from the side, the new Logopak 906F labeller employs a blow-on label applicator carried on a high speed rotary air cylinder. This allows the applicator to be brought in and out of position much faster than the linear air cylinders traditionally employed which, coupled to the use of a blow-on applicator controlled by proximity sensors, avoids all contact with the pack.

“Up to now, front-of-pack labelling has imposed considerable mechanical strains on equipment, and even the best machines have required extra maintenance as a result of the constant battering,” explains Logopak UK general manager Wilson Clark. “Not only does the new Logopak 906F avoid the problem, but it also gives speeds up to 80 a minute where, before, 40 to 50 a minute was the maximum.”

BBK-Labelling has just announced a print-apply system that employs a robot arm to place the label at virtually any position on virtually

any shape product. The HLDS 110-170 RVXA can be equipped with all available print engines and runs at speeds of 25-40 labels a minute depending on the application.

Application Developments (ADL) reports particular success with its Range machine in the entertainment industry. Here, the system reads bar codes from received stock, and automatically generates and applies labels for specific batches of DVDs, CDs and videos. These have included routing and promotional labels, as well as security tags.

Data collected from bar codes

Importantly, the data collected from the bar codes can easily be uploaded onto existing company software, says ADL, allowing the ‘goods received’ process to be fully automated. When used for retail applications, the Range will cross-refer to product records and print a store-specific label. The system will detect a faulty bar code or mis-match between product and bar code, rejecting the item without interrupting the labelling process.

Other examples of print-apply providing tailored solutions include an application from Sessions of York, where labels are placed, with great accuracy, on the two sides of a header card. As well as accuracy, speed was a requirement for this large retail customer, and the final version of the Double Magnum machine can label up to 160 cards a minute.

The Double Magnum is based on the SPA 924 print-apply labeller. As well as features such as

twin transport conveyors and an intermittent feeder unit, Sessions provided a system whereby product details and label layout can be recalled and selected easily. Placement accuracy on the twin top-and-bottom labelling stations is said to be to within 0.5mm.

A further development with the SPA 924 was introduced with the needs of the pharmaceutical industry in mind. An intelligent camera system has been incorporated into the unit to ensure the complete accuracy of printed data. The camera will also recognise whether the label has been applied to the correct item. In either case, a fail will trigger a machine shutdown.

The SPA 924 is available in direct thermal and thermal transfer versions, with print widths of 4, 5 and 6in.

One specific need which crosses industry sectors is the growing requirement for radio frequency identification (RFID) capabilities in labelling.

Reducing the cost of RFID

A means of reducing the cost of print-apply RFID labelling in applications where more than one bar code label is required, such as adjacent side identification of pallets and cases, or where only packs for some customers require RF tags, was introduced at Interpack by Logopak

Operating on a ‘tag-on-demand’ basis, the Logomatic 920 RFID print-apply labeller is fed with separate reels of RF tags and labels and can write and apply a single RF tag, which is then verified in place and covered by one of the



Non-contact: Logopak introduced the 906F front-of-pack print-apply labeller at Interpack

CODING AND MARKING

pack's bar code labels. Alternatively the machine can apply no tag at all.

"This saves cost but also time, since the failure rate of RF tags is still quite high," explains UK general manager Wilson Clark.

Logopak also used Interpack to launch its new Control Centre service, which allows users of Logopak labellers to communicate remotely with the machines using standard networks and the internet.

Messages triggered automatically

It means that messages such as a fault condition, service due or labels running out can be triggered automatically for immediate attention via e-mail or mobile phone and that new software, label layouts or logos can be easily downloaded. Each machine connected to the Control Centre is able to download its operating history, its files and software versions allowing rapid remote diagnostics by Logopak.

There is also an integrated web camera interface that allows machines to be monitored remotely in real time, either by the user or by Logopak as a further aid to diagnostics.

Another supplier which is focusing on RFID needs is Barry-Wehmiller company Accraply. The Canadian manufacturer says it is providing a top-100 consumer packaged goods supplier with RFID print-apply systems, guaranteeing compliance with a requirement for 'smart labels' on shipped cases and pallets. In this case, the RFID tag technology used is Alien 12. Accraply claims it is the only company with a proven ability to read, write, programme and verify these tags.

With the launch last year of its 2000 print-apply series, Imaje built on the Markpoint inheritance to introduce convertible print-head configurations, in terms of both label width and resolution. The same versatility is available in the applicator module, which uses a universal mounting bar.

Steve Ellison, sales manager at Imaje UK,



Entry level print-apply: Weber 2600 can operate on a standalone or networked basis

argues that customers are increasingly favouring print-apply from suppliers that make both the print engine and the application system, even in preference to those machines incorporating the 'big names' in thermal printing. This alleged switch in market perceptions has led some major international customers to buy print-apply systems from Imaje for the first time, says Mr Ellison. Unilever has taken 90 systems for its French operation, for example, and recently placed its first order for Imaje print-apply equipment in the UK.

Choice of reel diameter

Other new print-apply introductions from the larger coding and marking suppliers include the LPA P3400 from Videojet. Customers have the choice of the standard 350mm reel or optional 400mm for fewer label changeovers. There is a low-label sensor, and the printer features 'one-screen setup' for ease of use. Ethernet connectivity to a host PC also allows the print-apply system to be set up and controlled remotely through an HTML web page interface. Videojet says the system is compatible with a number of thermal transfer and RFID print engines, including Zebra and Sato.

For Weyfringe, development has centred on the need for high-volume print-apply needs with few consumables changes. The Real Time Labeller (RTL) is said to be capable of applying

over 11,000 labels before needing replacement rolls or ribbons. The machine has been tested at speeds up to 55 applications a minute.

The RTL, which can run with or without a computer link, is said to be especially well-suited to items with variable dimensions such as produce or fruit. The application module automatically compensates for pack height variations, explains Weyfringe, and a tamp-blow non-contact version can be specified for handling products such as fruit.

Responding to very different needs, one recent installation carried out by Codeway involved a line for the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB). This is designed to handle the 10,000 CDs sent out every day as part of the RNIB's Talking Book service. Since each package on the line is destined for a different customer, the print-apply system had to handle constantly-varying data quickly and accurately.

As well as the printer-applicator itself, the line includes a fixed bar code scanner and PC-based software networked to the RNIB's order-processing system. Automated controls ensure that there are no damaged or unrequested items.

At the entry level end of the market, Weber Marking Systems has introduced the 2600 Series print-apply machine. Built around Zebra and Sato print engines, the 2600 can operate in standalone mode, or be integrated into other equipment such as a cartoning machine, says Weber.

Options include 203 or 300dpi print, labels up to 4.5in wide and 6in long, with printing speeds up to 12in/sec. Sales and marketing manager Richard Castle-Smith says: "The new Model 2600 Series combines true economy with the functionality often associated with heavier-duty labelling equipment."

Bar code verification

Finally, for in-line verification of bar codes generated by print-apply or other coding systems, Cobalt IS has introduced the Cobalt Sentinel. In fact, Cobalt claims the system goes well beyond simple verification, offering a range of bar code audit and data acquisition functions, and thereby becoming an effective line management tool.

The system reads, grades and records bar codes in real time, says Cobalt, preventing below-standard codes from progressing on the line. Operators can see a display of current and average bar code read quality, while the system itself is able to detect early signs of degradation from a pre-set standard.

Contact ink marking offers simplicity

Contact ink marking may not be hi-tech, but it is certainly well proven and cost-effective.

If the application is to print a batch number, a date or a price, then the simplicity of Cap Coder's CC100 reciprocating coder can be particularly attractive.

This "gentle touch" coder is said to be clean to use and does not distort the type image.





High speed thermal transfer: Markem SmartDate 5 with portable SmartTouch screen

THERMAL TRANSFER PRINTING

Thermal makes new inroads in tailored systems

Just as with print-apply, suppliers of direct thermal and thermal transfer coding are proving its value to customers by tailoring the technology to very specific challenges.

For offline applications where tough industrial conditions apply, Sessions of York has introduced its PLX Printer Laminator, which incorporates a laminating station in a single unit with a thermal printer. The laminate is applied and guillotine cut to leave an overhang on the self-adhesive label. Label materials can also be supplied, says Sessions, to withstand extreme temperatures.

For the even more specific needs of those industries where spray painting is used, Sessions can supply a two-layer laminate for use on the PLX. Once the label has been applied, and the painting completed, the top layer can be peeled away to reveal the label complete with the final scuff-resistant laminate.

For many on-line thermal transfer applications, however, speed remains the key priority. At this year's Interpack, Markem Systems introduced the latest generation of SmartDate coders, available with either a standard graphic interface or the portable SmartTouch full-colour

touch-screen. Given the faster processing power of the SmartDate 5, it can also transfer data more quickly than the previous generation of coders, says Markem. This means that random weight coding and even addressing functions can be carried out at production line speeds.

The standard SmartDate 5 can be used in either continuous or intermittent mode, says Markem. But for the fastest continuous applications, customers can specify the SmartDate 5S. This uses 'shuttle' technology to reach speeds which, it claims, "other coders can only aspire to". Importantly, the SmartDate 5 can be upgraded to the 5S option without major capital expenditure, Markem adds.

Steve Ellison, sales manager at Imaje UK, unashamedly calls its principal thermal transfer printer – the Imaje 5000 – "a me-too product with all the best features of our competitors". The coders, manufactured by Imaje, Spain, have been available in the UK for just over a year.

A significant growth area for Imaje is in traversing systems for food and pharmaceuticals,

giving multi-lane print across the web. In most cases, the end user is looking for code quality improvements which cannot be achieved with ink jet, says Imaje.

When it comes to desktop thermal printing, Imaje still supplies the Compact and Nova systems. Imaje is owned by the Dover Group, which a few months ago bought Datamaxx – another thermal coding supplier.

As Mr Ellison explains, there are no plans for cross-selling between the two companies. "The Imaje printers are very much a niche product for warehouses and, in particular, fork-lift trucks," he adds. "But behind the scenes, we can share synergies."

Tough warehouse conditions

Imaje coders are built to withstand the tough warehouse environment, says Mr Ellison. He is dismissive of the new generation of hand-held, print-on-demand units, most of them equipped with wireless communication such as Bluetooth, and often housed in a plastic casing rather than anything more robust. "They are great in concept, but there is generally a short media life – and a short life for the systems themselves."

Rather than deal directly with multiple resellers, Imaje has designated Maxa Technologies its prime reseller in the UK.

Other distributors of thermal transfer coding

equipment include Codeway which supplies the international big names, including Avery Dennison, Intermec and Zebra.

It draws particular attention to Avery Dennison's 64-bit series, with a ribbon-saving feature said to offer reductions in thermal transfer ribbon



Continuous motion: Communicator from On-Line Coding

costs of up to 75 per cent, depending on the label design.

On-Line Coding, for its part, claims that the ribbon-saving features available for the Easyprint thermal transfer printers that it supplies can reduce ribbon usage by up to 80 per cent. The print units from the Danish manufacturer can be used in intermittent, continuous and multi-lane (traversing) applications.

One recent success for On-Line has been the integration of the continuous-motion Easyprint

Communicator into an intermittent-motion labelling line, which has solved the problem of print dwell time when using intermittent coders, On-Line claims. By printing while labels are being dispensed, the Communicator can operate at high application speeds up to 40 metres a minute, even when packs are very close together.

Other systems include the Easyprint Unicontrol, also available in a harsh environment specification, which boasts a 64Mb internal memory. All units feature a touch screen, full on-board print format generation, a Qwerty keyboard and Ethernet connections.

CODING SOFTWARE

Software seeks to eliminate hidden costs

The costs associated with withdrawals of wrongly coded product are increasingly well-documented. This is one of the prime reasons why the larger suppliers of coding equipment are seeing a clear need to invest in software and management systems alongside the line equipment itself.

But Claricom has recently highlighted other, better-hidden costs resulting from inaccurate codes. Quisine Foods, pizza supplier to Tesco and other retailers, has installed a Claricom Package Coding Management (PCM) system, monitoring date and lot coding, as well as primary product labelling.

Dean Underwood, technical manager at the

Glasgow factory, explains: "The cost of errors detected within the business – the 'near misses' – are often hidden or unquantified. By removing human error, the Claricom PCM system increases efficiency, reduces waste and helps the business to achieve on-target delivery to our retail customers."

Claricom's PCM software is used to control ICE Zodiac online thermal transfer coders and bar code validation scanners, with other modules used for message design and parameters, and for automatic line setup.

In a separate development, Claricom has set up a coding management advisory division. It brings together specialists in areas including finance, retail consultancy, artwork management and brand protection, as well as Claricom's more technical areas of expertise.

Imaje is one of those coding technology companies which have been establishing a significant base in software and management systems over recent years. Systems and applications sales manager Carsten Soerensen explains how the situation has evolved over that period:

"The original justification for our AutoCoding software was in avoiding compensation claims from retailers. Now it's maturing into a production line setup and management system."

Single control package

The concept sees key quality control and other auxiliary equipment, together with the range of coding equipment from primary packs to pallet labels, linked on a single control and management package.

Mr Soerensen explains: "All the settings can

be controlled from the coding software. It can monitor the production line to obtain key performance indicators, fault management, including uptime and downtime figures, and a complete audit log."

Direct link to ERP

Given the amount of control and networking expertise currently in the marketplace, why should coding play this central management role? "We're the only device in the production line with such a direct link to the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system," says Mr Soerensen. "Once you have that architecture in place, all the other functionalities are easy to add in. You can expand it across an entire line or factory, and because the system is modular, expansion does not involve huge overheads."

Unlike its competitors, says Imaje, the software control system, and therefore production, is not affected by network or server failures. Individual line terminals ensure that production continues, with an audit log returned to the central database once services resume.

In the food and drink industries, Imaje AutoCoding software has been installed in two major sectors: soft drinks and ready meals. Gerber Foods Soft Drinks has applied the system to its aseptic juice cartoning line, while Young's in Grimsby chose the software largely to address the issue of faulty codes. Meanwhile, the technology is being used by some of the UK's larger aerospace companies. Here, the primary aim is to link the ERP system to the factory floor, and to see increased speed and accuracy as a result, says Mr Soerensen. ■

For further information:

Application Developments
T: 01189 732525
E: sales@adl.uk.com

Cobalt IS
T: 01606 42500
E: sales@cobaltis.co.uk

Linx Printing Technologies
T: 01480 302100
E: uksales@linx.co.uk

Sessions of York
T: 01904 659224
E: machine.info@sessionsoforyork.co.uk

ATD Inkjet Systems
T: 01858 461014
E: mail@atduk.com

Codeway
T: 01206 751300
E: identify@codeway.com

Logopak International
T: 01904 692333
E: info@logopak.net

Videojet
T: 0870 240 5543
E: uksales@videojet.com

Barry Wehmiller Europe
T: 01727 836101
E: info@bw-europe.co.uk

Domino UK
T: 01954 782551
E: enquiries@domino-uk.com

Markem Systems
T: 0161 333 8400
E: salesuk@markem.com

Weber Marking Systems
T: 01875 611111
E: sales@weber.co.uk

BBK-Labelling
T: 01628 473670
E: sales@bbk-labelling.co.uk

Euromark Coding & Marking
T: 01942 228882
E: info@euromark-coding.co.uk

Mettler Toledo
T: 0116 234 5005
E: enquire1.mtuk@mt.com

Weyfringe Labelling Systems
T: 01642 490121
E: sales@weyfringe.co.uk

Cap Coder
T: 01865 891466
E: capping@capcoder.co.uk

Imaje UK
T: 01928 599420
E: kgibson@uk.imaje.com

Needham Group
T: 01948 662629
E: inkjet@rnsl.co.uk

For full details of all PPMA members able to supply coding and marking equipment, consult the PPMA machinery finder service, tel: 020 8773 8111, or visit www.ppma.co.uk

Claricom
T: 01115 955 5153
E: info@claricom.com

KBA-Metronic
T: 01494 769332
E: info@metronic.co.uk

On-Line Coding
T: 0118 940 0000
E: info@on-linecoding.com