

Visitors out in force despite economic woes

Against all economic odds thanks to the global credit crunch the PPMA Show 2008 (Birmingham NEC September 30 - October 2) was a rip roaring success.

Intelligent estimates put attendance to the show well above the registered visitor attendance of 6,296 in 2006.

"This is an incredible achievement given the publicity surrounding current economic woes," exclaimed a delighted Chris Buxton, CEO, PPMA.

High-level visitors from blue-chip companies were thick on the ground including ASDA, AstraZeneca, Birds Eye, Boddingtons, Cadbury, Coca-Cola, Crown Paints, Dairy Crest, Gillette, Heinz, Marks & Spencer,

Merck Sharpe & Dohme, Tesco Direct and Unilever.

The success of the show led to the organisers Reed Exhibitions and the PPMA reporting that almost 4,000m² of space was booked during the event for the PPMA Show 2009.

In a busy year for exhibitions the show could have been overshadowed by interpack, Pack Expo and Emballage, but UK manufacturing visitors proved that they were still hungry for a British show. Andrew Lilley, UK sales manager for Blue Print Automation praised the "number and quality of new and existing customers", adding that the decision to exhibit at the PPMA Show in an interpack year had been justified and the company would be back next year.

Sarah Ketchin, director, Fortress Technology (Europe) said, "This was the best show for three years our enquiry levels were high and importantly these came from the right people. Further about 90 per cent of visitors represented new business opportunities."

Tellingly she added, "We have come away from the show with a



Getting down to business

positive business outlook in both the medium and long term."

Visiting from the UK branch Spanish-owned SAICA Packaging, which earlier in the year spent £100m buying 19 of SCA's UK and Ireland corrugated packaging operations, engineering manager Jeff Hurst, said he was impressed by the amount of different equipment and markets covered by the show, adding that he had found two or three possible solutions during his visit.

The next PPMA Show will take place from September 29 - October 1 2009 at the NEC in Birmingham.

www.ppmashow.co.uk

EXHIBITOR QUOTES

- "This year's PPMA Show was the best UK exhibition we have attended in the last five years. It was not only busier, we also received an excellent level of enquiries. There is an increasing need for manufacturers to drive down costs by improving productivity. They are keen to invest in new automated equipment that delivers fast results."

Geoff Tandy
managing director
Multipond

- "Fantastic interest and a very good reception to our new products. We've got 64 leads to be followed up after the show and we had a constant stream of customers."

Chris Putman
sales director
Components 4 Machinery

- "We had good quality visitors and the size of the show enabled us to get to see and spend time with all of them."

Colin Barker
manager
Aetna Group UK

- "This is the first time WAM Engineering have taken part in an exhibition for some years. We can honestly say that interest has been phenomenal."

Mark Thomson
sales manager
WAM Engineering

- "PPMA 2008 was a huge success for us as we achieved a record number of sales leads and effectively boosted the profile of the Product Inspection division."

Robin Bodicoat
marketing officer
Mettler Toledo

PPMA 21st Anniversary honours

The 21st celebrations provided the PPMA with opportunity to honour a number of personalities. **Andrew Manly**, the PPMA's general secretary for the first 18 years of his life, was awarded for his work in launching the association.

Chris Buxton, who became CEO in 2005, said: "The PPMA could not have developed or evolved in the way that it did without Andrew's contribution." He helped to launch the association, the PPMA Show,



Andrew Manly receives his award from president Jeremy Marden

Machinery Update, and valuable resources now such as

the China offices. He continues to support the association as a contributor to *Machinery Update*.

Craig Chen, well-respected manager of the PPMA China Office for nine years, was rewarded for developing members' business interests in China.

Ian Jardine, company secretary. Buxton said: "His contribution to the PPMA has been crucial to both its success and its continued growth."

A BIT ON THE SIDE

■ **Domino Printing Sciences** gave a UK debut to its adjacent side coding system, the C6000AS plus, which has the ability to print on two or three sides of a case simultaneously.

The coder has a particularly strong appeal for the food sector says Domino's product director, Mike Hurst as "several different sets of coded information may be required for the various transactions in the supply chain. Until now these demands could only be met by complex installations involving multiple coding stations and turntables."

The new C6000AS plus can be retrofitted to existing lines as well as new installations, says the company.

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■ **Jenton International** showcased a Maklaus pre-stretch machine claimed to have a pre-stretch capability of 300 per cent, operating at speeds 50 per cent above conventional equipment to achieve 1,500 metres/minute.

The Italian-built machine can make a number of different products, including hand rolls and even smaller widths. Due to its improved PLC technology the machine uses 15 per cent less energy than equivalent equipment, says Maklaus.

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MACHINERY FINDER

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+44 (0) 20 8773 8111
www.ppma.co.uk

Encoded for accuracy

SICK UK launched the DFS60 incremental encoder for high positional accuracy of, for example, rotating shafts. A typical application is speed tracking for ink jet printers.

"Most encoders are fixed for one particular application but the DFS60 can be programmed by the customer for a particular requirement and reprogrammed later for another," said SICK's product manager Darren Pratt.

The use of new pick-up

technology enables the encoder to use a code disc made of nickel without the loss of accuracy normally associated with a glass disc. This makes it more robust as well as providing a greater temperature range of -20° - +100°.

Another design feature is the positioning of the bearings in the encoder, which are separated as widely as possible within the encoder body to achieve smoother and vibration

free running. The 'wobble' can be reduced by as much as three times compared with previous encoders, according to SICK.

It also launched 'Inspector' a powerful 2D vision sensor suitable for a wide range of packaging applications, including label presence and positioning as well as pack seal and level fill verification. (MU September/October 2008 page 49.)

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Robot ceiling mounted for speed

The TH450T is amongst the quickest SCARA robots of its size on the market and achieves cycle times of less than 0.3 seconds, according to TM Robotics.

Arm lengths of 450mm and a payload of 5kg complement the TH450's enhanced speed capability, while repeatability is ±0.01mm.

Linear and circular conveyor synchronisation capabilities are also offered, creating a powerful package when combined with an integrated vision system,



tracking function makes the system suitable for end of line packaging.

"Ceiling mount capabilities make the TH450 much more versatile," explained Nigel Smith, managing director of TM Robotics.

"The robot is already in use in a number of applications but its real potential lies in

packaging for industries such as pharmaceuticals, healthcare, food and cosmetics."

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says the company. During the show it was demonstrated using Cognex cameras and vision, supplied and integrated by PCS. The resulting conveyor

FreeSpace and Green space

The 'FreeSpace' table top bagger for low to mid-volume hand packaging applications was unveiled by Automated Packaging Systems (APS).

The PS125 which weighs in at 50kg has a footprint of 550x480mm and operates at speeds of up to 25 bags/minute.

It does not require compressed air to run making it suitable for non-industrial applications. It is also claimed that the lockable turntable

enables ergonomic handling and changeover of Autobag bags-on-a-roll in tight spaces.

An optional built-in imprinter features next-bag-out printing technology and is ideal for short-runs. FreeSpace connects to LAN making it possible to integrate office systems and print directly onto bags from remote locations.

Also on display was AirPouch, a desktop void-fill system, for which APS has launched a more

environmentally-sustainable material for void-filling applications. The reprocessed film, which contains at least 95 per cent reused material, is used to manufacture air-filled cushions for end-of-packaging at a rate of 15 metres/minute. APS says the system is particularly suited to components, spare parts, CDs, books, electronics and pharmaceuticals.

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Micro-purge a clear answer retailing demands

One of the biggest issues for users of large character marking (LCM) for secondary packaging applications is the sometimes excessive downtime needed to clean the print head, according to customer research from Linx.

The launch of the company's self-cleaning coders - the Linx IJ350 and IJ370 - ideal for outer case or secondary packaging is claimed to overcome the problem and answer retailer demands for high quality print for all applications.

The LCM coders feature a self-cleaning printhead with patented micro-purge system, which uses a small film of ink on the printhead to collect dirt and debris prior to printing. This is blasted with air to clean the ink from the printing plate after which the ink is collected and re-circulated, passing through a



high performance filter to maintain clean ink in the system. The ink recycling reduces the overall cost of ownership and eliminates the need to dispose of waste ink, says Linx.

"The need for legible and clear coding on secondary packaging is being driven by increasing requirements for traceability and brand identification, and LCM is emerging as one of the most cost-effective and versatile

means of achieving this accurately and efficiently," commented Dr Paul Doody, Product Manager, Linx.

Other highlights include ease of maintenance, consistent print quality, a simple user interface and flexible and easy installation, it is claimed. The compact IJ350 and IJ370 are fully enclosed and feature a detachable display unit featuring "at a glance" status indication and an intuitive, icon-based touch screen, says the company.

It can also be moved easily between lines with a long cable ensuring that the display can be detached up to a distance of 3m, while a single display can be used for multiple printers. The Linx IJ350 prints characters up to 50mm high and the J370 70mm. T: +44 (0)1480 302100 E: uksales@linx.co.uk

A BIT ON THE SIDE

- **Allen Coding** exhibited its latest, offline, intermittent carton coder, the ACF 400, for the first time in the UK.

The unit is able to handle cartons, sleeves, blister cards, leaflets and cut labels, as well as more complex packs, says the company.

Speed, index length and batch quantity can be changed via the touch screen, while changeover is facilitated by adjustable feeder and position indicators, according to Allen.

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- **Gainsborough Industrial Controls (GIC)** introduced the servo-driven high speed continuous motion VFB 8000 VFFS Bagmaker.

The servo motor drives are used for film unwind, film feed, crimp jaw opening/closing and crimp jaw vertical motion. The VFB 8000 can be integrated into a turnkey line or installed as a stand alone unit, says GIC.

Bag Styles include Pillow, Gusset, Block Bottom, Euroslot, Punch Hole, Zip and Quadpack.

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- A new corporate identity and website for **Endoline** was launched at the show.

The website reflects the company's five core products and the international scale of the business.

Online ordering is included for the first time. Three further languages are due to be added to the site. www.endoline.co.uk

Premier move into shrink sleeves

Heralding its move into the shrink sleeve market Premier Labellers launched the automatic P2000 for medium volume producers.

The labeller, which complements its range of self-adhesive labelling machinery, operates at speeds of up to 200 containers/minute, has a

maximum sleeve length of 190mm, is suitable for container sizes from 28mm – 125mm in diameter and virtually any shape imaginable, says Premier.

It can apply a complete range of full body and tamper evident shrink sleeves and has an optional perforation unit.

The P2000 is supplied

complete with feeder and a range of heat and steam tunnels to suit each application. It features integrated touch screen control and automatic height adjustment makes changeover possible in seconds rather than minutes, it is claimed.

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Exclusive partners get in the flow

Kenray Forming announced that it has signed an exclusive agreement with Armoloy UK to launch "K-Flow" - a high performance surface coating option for its range of formers for the food packaging industry.

K-Flow incorporates Armoloy's specialised surface

coating of thin dense chromium that is said not to crack, flake or peel. It permeates and bonds with the base metal to produce an integrated surface that is smooth, slippery, hard and resilient, says Kenray.

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Here are some exhibits to look out for at Emballage November 17-21, Paris-Nord Villepinte.

OYSTAR Erca-Formseal will be showcasing the EF400, which can deep-draw, fill, seal and label up to 46,000 cups/hour, which claims OYSTAR breaks all productivity records. A rotating in mould labelling system comprising four moulds in a 4 x 6 format operates at up to 32 cycles/minute.
www.oystar.erca-formseal.com

The global launch of **Domino Printing Sciences G-Series** of thermal ink jet printers (TIJ) takes place at Emballage. The printing solution will enable a broader use and application of TIJ products in specific market areas, such as the pharma sector, claims Domino.

The G-Series delivers 300/600 dpi resolution at speeds of up to 300 metres/minute. The high quality printing fulfils the track and trace needs of manufacturers by enabling 2D codes, including ECC 200, and other machine readable formats, says the company.
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First shown at interpack **Kliklok** will be exhibiting its latest carton closer - the VARI STRAIGHT. This straight-line closer for tri-seal cartons uses Kliklok's variable pitch technology.

To provide a controlled carton turn, without a change in direction, the turning bed features "pop-up" turning bars that capture the cartons, guide them through a 90° turn and into the flap closing section.

The patented "pop-up lug" technology fires lugs only when a carton is present, enabling lugged carton control, random infeed timing and a broad carton size range.
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ppma show review

Three first timers are sealed for entry

Thermoforming and tray sealing equipment supplier Mecaplastic launched three new products.

The table top S304 entry level tray sealer allows hermetic sealing of all types of heat sealable trays. Initially available with straight corner cutting, a contour, rounded-corner cutting model will soon be introduced, says Mecaplastic.

The S 3000DP in-line automatic tray sealer is claimed

to simplify format changes and reduce tooling costs. It comes with a new "partial tooling" equipment system which simplifies format changes and also reduces tooling costs, claims Mecaplastic.

Less than 5 minutes is needed between changeovers. Compatible with Mecaplastic's S range of sealing machines, the S3000 DP operates at up to 15 cycles/minute. It can be used

for shrink film, alufoil films, aluminium trays, cardboard trays and pre-cut lids.

Shown for the first time in the UK, the S 800 semi-automatic tray sealer is equipped with a 25m³ vacuum pump and motorised film drive. Like its bigger brother the S1000, tools are interchangeable with larger machines.

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Pressing news for tablets

Isopak demonstrated the new CPR-18 bench top rotary tablet press from Dott. Bonapace. The press comes in two models, the B-10 with 10 stations, handling punches up to 16mm diameter and the D-8 with eight stations for punches up to 22mm diameter.

Features include independent weight and hardness adjustments, speed adjustable from the control panel, easy access to the machine through eight doors and tool size changes



can be achieved in less than 30 minutes, says the company. All parts in contact with the product are made from stainless steel AISI 316 L.

The machine has been developed in response to requirements for an entry level machine for laboratory, R & D or medium production batches with a capacity between 2,000 - 18,000 tablets/hour (B-10) and 2,000 - 14,500 (D-8).
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Washer qualifies for DEFRA grant

Industrial Washing Machines (IWM) featured the latest version of its Edi13 ALTA utensil washer which, says the company, is the first machine of its type to appear on the Government's water technology list.

The stainless steel washer features an integrated recirculation system to minimise water usage while the electronic control optimises energy efficiency, claims IWM. The

inclusion on the water technology list means the equipment qualifies for the Enhanced Capital Allowances scheme operated by DEFRA, meaning 100 per cent of the capital cost can be offset against corporation tax.

The Edi utensil washers are designed to meet general washing requirements for bakery, ice cream, butchery, catering and food

manufacturing sectors.

Also on the stand was the company's Crusader T600 Twin Tank tray washer with a two stage cleaning process. The first provides continuous jetting with hot water and detergent and the second jetting with hot water only, followed by a cold water rinse. Blow-off or heat drying options are available.
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It's a RAP for Xact

Xact, the UK distributor for US-based inkjet print specialist Matthews Marking Products demonstrated the new the IP7000 high resolution inkjet printer featuring piezo electric

technology. The printer has a print height of 2 - 100mm at 200dpi and can produce up to 32 lines of text, says Xact.

Its re-circulating auto prime feature (RAP™) means that it consumes 35 per cent less

ink than similar machines, and eliminates the need for daily maintenance and the use of solvents, claims the company.

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Buckets at the double

Italian manufacturer PFM has announced a new range of multihead weighers equipped with memory buckets to provide high speeds, in excess of 200 weighings/minute.

Particularly suited to the snacks and confectionery market, the C3 features a second tier of buckets in addition to the usual one, which says the company almost double the weighing combinations.

The second tier of buckets accept product from any undischarged weighing buckets, holding the weight in memory for the controls to make up the next target weight.

Shown mounted to PFM's



Comet bagger, the C3 weigher featured twin butterfly flaps that separate lightweight snack products to ensure a secure seal on the bagger.

The C3 is available with 8-24 heads and can mix up to eight different products.

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