

# Sustainable innovation must be the way forward

“Machinery manufacturers should look to innovate where they can with sustainability in mind, so they don’t lose out,” says Dave Turvey, operations director at The Kerrygold Company. “When sourcing new machinery, sustainability and our impact on the environment is a key part of our decision-making process,” he says.

Turvey reckons that sustainability isn’t going to go away; in fact he believes green and ethical credentials are becoming the rule rather than the exception. “Manufacturing is a key part of the supply chain that can have a positive impact on a product’s sustainability credentials,” he says.

Turvey was talking exclusively to *Machinery Update* about how Kerrygold’s factory in Leek, Staffordshire



*Dave Turvey, operations director at The Kerrygold Company*

had performed in the last twelve months. Last May, the company opened its new £30 million cheese packing plant which was billed as one of Europe’s most environmentally friendly dairy facilities.

As part of this, Turvey says Kerrygold “is working to make

sustainability part of our culture to ensure across all of our business practices we interrogate our impact on the environment, respond to customer needs and innovate accordingly.

“A year ago the industry pondered the impact of the recession on the green push, but it has been plain to see that sustainability makes commercial as well as environmental sense,” he continues. “As a customer focused business, packing over three million packs of cheese per week for retailers’ own label, we recognise the importance of anticipating their needs of which sustainability and our impact on the environment are key.”

See The Kerrygold Company story on pages 30-31.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

Italian group **IMA** and Forum has signed an investment agreement for IMA to buy a majority stake in struggling Bologna-based packaging company **GIMA**.

IMA is looking for positive trading from 2011 once the company has been integrated into the Group.

“Considering our strong interest in certain projects that are being developed by GIMA, our agreement with Forum will allow us to expand IMA’s presence in niche markets of the food sector,” says Alberto Vacchi, IMA’s chairman and managing director.

Automated packaging equipment supplier **Linkx Systems** has signed distribution and support agreements with two Italian machine manufacturers – Siat and Pactor – and will market their F344 range of automatic case erectors and Lady Pack 40L L sealers.

“While we have the expertise and facilities to design and manufacture almost any type of machine in-house there are occasions when an off-the-shelf unit is the best way of meeting customer requirements,” says managing director of Linkx, David Hayward. “We can now offer these Italian machines.”

# Bosch profits from Asian growth

Bosch Packaging Technology says it has been able to stand its ground in the global market place despite the economic downturn and is profiting from the dynamic developments in the emerging markets.

At Bosch’s Chinese location in Hangzhou, the company has doubled its production capacity and extended the production area to 9,000sq m. From this location, the company primarily serves the demand for cost

effective products which are developed and manufactured locally. However, there is also a rising demand for complex, high performance installations which are produced with the support of its European plants.

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## SHOW NEWS

The Processing Zone at **Pack Expo International 2010** (October 31 – November 3, McCormick Place, Chicago, USA) has sold out. Show organiser PMMI says that this special exhibitor area in Lakeside Centre will include more than 150 companies exhibiting in more than 70,000sq ft.

"The sold-out status of The Processing Zone is a clear indicator of the processing industry's support for Pack Expo's integrated, total systems approach," says Jim Pittas, vice president, tradeshow at PMMI. "With processing solutions integrated directly into the show, visitors have the entire packaging supply chain at their fingertips and exhibitors can provide the collaborative approach their customers want and need.

"We expanded the Pack Expo shows because visitors told us it is what they need and the industry obviously agrees," he said.  
T: 00 1 703 243 8555  
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**FachPack 2010** takes place from 28-30 September in Nuremberg, Germany and brings together the entire supply chain for packaging, processing and logistics under one roof. More than 1,300 exhibitors involved in packaging materials, supplies, and packaging equipment will greet visitors.  
www.fachpack.de

# Warnings issued on out-of-date standards

Many machine manufacturers may be inadvertently relying on out-of-date standards to demonstrate compliance with the Machinery Directive, warn compliance consultants Laidler Associates.

Only standards harmonised with the current Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC, which came into force at the end of December 2009, can now be used to demonstrate compliance. Many companies, however, are continuing to reference superseded standards that were harmonised with the previous, and now obsolete, Machinery Directive.

"In some cases, the changes made to standards to bring them into line with the new Directive are minor," says Paul Laidler, managing director of Laidler Associates, "but in other cases, much more extensive and significant changes have been made. This applies, for example, to EN ISO 12100-1 and EN ISO 12001-2, two very important Type A standards governing the design of all machines.

"Irrespective of how much a

## New Machinery Directive Seminar

*Are you ready for the changeovers that the New Machinery Directive will require?*

Due to popular demand the PPMA has added an additional date for this popular and critically important seminar series.

It will take place on Thursday  
September 16 2010 at the  
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standard has changed, however, it is essential to reference the appropriate version, otherwise it is impossible to be certain that the requirements of the Directive have been met," points out Laidler. "This means that no Declaration of Conformity can be issued and no CE marking can be applied to the machine in question, and in these

circumstances, the machine cannot legally be sold or traded in the EU."

The situation is further complicated because some important standards have not yet been harmonised with the current Machinery Directive. One example is EN 60204-1, which covers safety requirements for electrical equipment of machines. Where no harmonised standard is available, machine builders must make their own judgement about whether the existing standard can be relied upon to show compliance with the Directive, or whether some alternative method must be used.

"The situation relating to standards and the Machinery Directive is far from ideal as it's complicated, it's confusing and it's changing all the time," says Laidler. "Machine suppliers that want to be sure of their ground and confident in applying the CE marking will therefore benefit greatly by seeking expert advice."

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www.laidler.co.uk

## New editor for Machinery Update

The Processing & Packaging Machinery Association (PPMA) has appointed experienced packaging journalist Gail Hunt as editor of Machinery Update. She was formerly editor of Packaging News and has been freelancing across several trade titles, including Machinery Update, for the last ten or so years.

Hunt takes on the role this issue from Mary Murphy who has developed the editorial content over the last few years

to measure up to readers' expectations for information that covers all things machinery with an intelligent twist.

"Some readers might remember me as Gail Underwood from my days on Packaging News where I was trained by Machinery Update's founding editor Mike Maddox," says Hunt. "I look forward to re-establishing contacts that I first met during this time and also learn more about the latest

technologies in the machinery sector," she says.

The PPMA's ceo Christopher Buxton believes that Hunt can build further on the considerable achievements of Murphy. "Gail will bring a new perspective and a fresh approach to the issues facing machinery professionals today," he says. "We are sure she will maintain the authoritative content of our machinery only journal for processing and packaging."



Gail Hunt is the new editor

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## News from the leaders in Product ID

### Telford Extrusions chooses Markem-Imaje 9020 Inkjets

The 9020 inkjet printer from Markem-Imaje is one of the most flexible small character inkjet coders on the market. Its state of the art design incorporates an intuitive user interface and advanced printhead that requires minimal attention for up to 4 lines of variable alphanumeric text, logos and barcodes. It also features a patented automatic nozzle rinsing system to ensure hassle free start-ups and replenishment of consumables is quick without interruption to production.



22 BS EN 12608-2003 H 11 C 70050 15 0300919

Telford Extrusions required inkjet coding to add traceability data to plastic extruded products including a British Standards number, time/date of manufacture and a line number. After exhaustive trials, the 9020 machines were deemed to be the most cost efficient solution.

Richard Emms, Engineering Manager at Telford Extrusions, commented "We are delighted with our 9020 printers and the service from Markem-Imaje. We now use less ink and our operators can easily change the ink and additive cartridges; the printers even run up to an hour after the printer indicates empty so we rarely suffer from downtime. The "I" key, which provides our operators with intuitive text to explain any warnings also minimises downtime and, as the 9020 is compact and wall mountable it takes up little space on the factory floor. So we now have a state of the art factory with state of the art inkjet coding technology."

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Markem-Imaje provides market-leading coding solutions including: small and large character inkjet systems, thermal transfer coders, lasers, print and apply systems for case and pallet labelling plus all the software required for code design and coder networking.

# Food and drink weathers downturn

There's plenty of good news for machinery suppliers tucked away in an upbeat new report about the economic importance of the UK's food and drink industry.

The report, which was

produced by the Institute for Manufacturing at the University of Cambridge for the Food and Drink Federation (FDF), confirms that the sector is the country's biggest and most resilient manufacturing industry,

having weathered the recession better than any other sector.

As part of its research, the Institute for Manufacturing conducted a survey among FDF members and found that two-thirds had more than 75% of

their production based in the UK and that similar numbers planned to increase their investment in production in this country (using either in house or outsourced facilities) over the next three to five years.

That confidence is backed up by government data showing that while manufacturing business expenditure dropped by almost 25% in the past year, investment by food and drink manufacturers actually rose by 7.2% over the same period.



Melanie Leech of the FDF

The new report also highlights the high levels of investment in research undertaken by the food and drink sector – some £1.1bn a year, a comparable level to the automotive sector – as well as high levels of new product development, even during the recession (with some 1,500 new products launched each quarter since the beginning of 2008). Melanie Leech, FDF's director general, said: "As government builds the strategy for economic recovery, this report provides a timely reminder of the important financial, strategic and social contribution of the UK's biggest manufacturing sector.

"Our confidence in the future prospects for our industry is also good news for suppliers to the food and drink sector – from the farmers growing our key ingredients to those who make the equipment we use in our factories," she says.

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# Spectacular robot sales

This year's first quarter sales figures for robots has seen growth for the first time in five years. And growth not only continued, but accelerated into the second quarter where the half year total was 55% higher than in 2009.

These spectacular figures come from quarterly sales stats compiled by the British Automation and Robot Association (BARA) and are better than all previous years back to 2006. "The UK has traditionally been slow to automate which has been reflected in the declining sales figures over the past four years," says BARA president Mike Wilson. "But total sales in the first half of 2010 were



Mike Wilson is president of BARA

almost the same as the first half of 2006 which is encouraging going forward."

The figures reveal major changes in the sectors buying robots and the applications for which they are being used. Comparing 2006 and 2010 stats shows there has been a huge

fall in arc welding sales which is reflected in significantly reduced sales (66%) to automotive component suppliers. The largest growth areas are food and drink – with 172% growth since 2006 - and pharmaceutical, medical and healthcare which registered nearly 200% growth in the same period.

As Wilson says, these are now major sectors for robot applications in the UK and it will be interesting to see if this trend continues throughout the rest of this year and beyond.

Tempering the excitement over these sales figures is that the UK still lags well behind most of its major competitors in this area of automation.

## IN BRIEF

Chamber of Commerce UK Trade & Investment has helped RNA Automation double its sales to the US. The company joined UKTI's Overseas Introduction Service which gives planning and ongoing support to succeed overseas, including a bespoke report. This report was invaluable to the company which has just taken on three trainee engineers to deal with the resulting increase in demand.

A top loading case packer with integrating vision-based tracking and a 6-axis delta robot to load standup pouches will be launched at Emballage in Paris (November 22-25) by Cermex. The company says this new development is in line with the booming market for stand-up pouches across the world.

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The Accraply division of US-based Barry-Wehmiller has acquired labelling and shrink sleeve application providers Graham Engineering (Essex) and Graham Spares and Services in a move to strengthen its business in this field, as well as further expanding its European interests.

Widely known as Graham Labelling & Sleeving, the company offers a range of standard and custom designed systems. Co-founder Graham McKowen is "delighted to see the company move forward".

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# Proving carbon emission reduction just got easier

Organisations participating in the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme now have more ways to showcase their commitment to cutting carbon emissions.

UK administrator of the CRC, The Environment Agency has approved the Certified Emissions Measurement And Reduction Scheme (CEMARS) as counting towards the CRC Early Action Metric.

Previously only the Carbon Trust Standard was recognised as counting towards the metric, which rewards organisations who voluntarily take steps to

better manage their energy use before joining CRC.

The decision to approve CEMARS follows consultation with businesses, the public sector and a wide range of environmental groups and means CRC participants now have a choice of scheme and an alternative route for gaining credit for any earlier efforts to cut carbon.

CEMARS is the first Carbon Trust Equivalent Scheme to be approved by the Environment Agency, but others are currently being considered.

All equivalent schemes will be rigorously assessed and must meet a range of requirements, including demonstrating annual carbon savings.

Andrew Hitchings, CRC project executive at the Environment Agency, says:

"CRC is a great opportunity for businesses and organisations to show what they have already achieved in reducing carbon emissions. Expanding the early action matrix will make it simpler for participants."

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

## Million pound ink investment

Linx Printing Technologies has completed the development and installation of a £1 million ink manufacturing plant at its St Ives HQ to allow integrated manufacture and despatch of its inks and solvents.

The development of the ink plant follows the partial damage to the existing facility after a fire in June last year and incorporates advanced safety features to avoid any potential future incidents.



Linx can now produce made-to-order inks at its St Ives HQ