

# PPMA bid farewell to champion - Mr Export

The death has been announced of Robert 'Bob' King at the age of 79. Bob helped his father to found C.E. King Ltd shortly after the Second World War and became the third president of the PPMA. He died as Total, better known to him as Pakex, opened its doors.

C.E. King became famous worldwide for its range of filling, tablet counting, capping and labelling machines, largely due to the pioneering efforts of Bob, who travelled widely and set up a network of agents when few other companies were taking exporting seriously.

"He blazed the trail for many companies, particularly in the Eastern Bloc," commented long time colleague Chris Granger.

PPMA's founder president Derek Moore added, "Bob was one of the last owners of a well established British manufacturer of packaging machinery with a worldwide reputation. He was a

## OBITUARY



hugely important figure within PEMA the UK packaging machinery manufacturers group and the prime mover in merging it with PPMA."

Alan Yates, current PPMA president, added, "The industry had lost one of its champions. I spoke with many members, who knew Bob much better than I did, during the show and many remembered his affectionate nickname of Mr Export."

Andrew Manly, general secretary of the PPMA at the time, recalled, "Bob was a private person who shunned big crowds. I was privileged to get to know him well during his term of office as we often travelled together. He would regale me with fascinating stories about his early exploits trying to sell machines, particularly in the Communist Bloc.

"But perhaps one that is most memorable is his story about a King filling machine which was sunk by the Malaysian navy when the crate in which it was being shipped broke free and fell into a busy shipping lane. King's got the insurance and the client ordered a new machine. 'So I sold two machines' he said. That was Bob to a tee! He will be greatly missed."

He is survived by his wife Bridget and five children, two of whom work in the packaging machinery sector.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

The acquisition of **ROVEMA Verpackungsmaschinen**, which has been in administration since November 2009, has been announced. An offer has been accepted from an investor group headed by Dr Sepp Lachenmaier, Dr Winfried Ley and Thomas Becker, all with long experience in the packaging machinery industry. Dr. Jan Markus Plathner has managed the business on behalf of the creditors committee since the company filed for insolvency.

**Domino Printing Sciences** has announced record sales levels for its best selling laser coding solutions. In particular the next-generation D-Series plus range of industrial scribing lasers has surpassed forecasts by a significant margin, it says.

The results reflect a strong across-the-board performance from Domino during the first four months of its new financial year (November 09 – February 2010), according to the announcement. The Cambridge-based group saw overall sales revenues for new equipment up 31 per cent on the same period last year.

## TOTALy creditable event

There was a palpable sense of anticipation as the doors opened for Total Processing & Packaging 2010 at the Birmingham NEC.

Coming off the back of an improving economic climate and billed as the largest UK processing and packaging event with 500 national and international exhibitors, the show

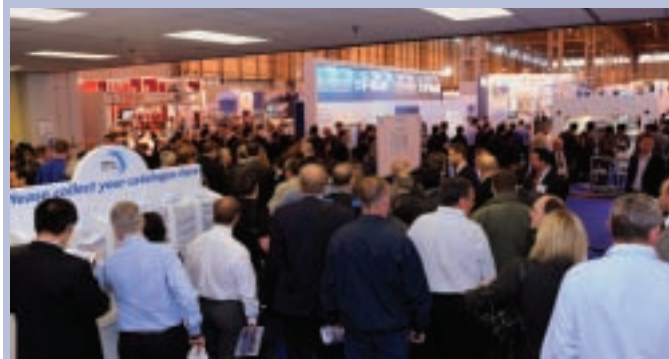
put in a creditable performance for organisers Reed Exhibitions in partnership with the PPMA.

Most exhibiting companies had reported a good first quarter trade in 2010, with those which export from the UK benefiting from a general global

recovery and a weak Sterling to boost orders. But troubles in the Euro zone and a General Election added a degree of uncertainty for the show, with most economic commentators saying that confidence was fragile.

In the end exhibitors reported a healthy footfall and a respectable, if not spectacular, level of serious enquiries.

**Full report page 18.**



## 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 Marriott Hotel, Northampton

T: +44 (0) 20 8773 8111  
E: christine.jordan@ppma.co.uk

**BUSINESS BRIEFS**

The assets of **Sessions of York**, which was placed into administration on April 21, have been acquired by Paragon Print and Packaging Group.

Sessions of York has expertise in self-adhesive products and equipment in pharmaceutical, healthcare, personal care and household markets.

Mark Lapping, managing director of Paragon, explained: "We have been looking for an opportunity to expand our business into these markets and as a strategic fit, Sessions is ideal."

Paragon manufactures self-adhesive labels, linerless labels, promotional labels, flexible films, sleeves and cartons.

**Enercon UK** has expanded its premises at its European headquarters in Aylesbury, Bucks. Conveniently situated next to their current offices additional space will be provided for the engineering and technical team to continue their research & development for faster, cost effective, environmentally friendly sealing technology for the food & beverage sectors.

The premises will also include a 'Centre of Excellence' to train customers, trial new products and a hub for spare parts.

EU regulation IEC 60034-30 requires all new three phase AC electric motors from 0.75kW upwards to meet efficiency level IE2 from June 2011. **Lenze** has developed a range of L-force geared motors that meet these efficiency levels.

The range covers helical, shaft mounted helical, bevel, helical bevel and helical worm design in powers up to 45kW.  
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# PPMA members' tops for food processing

PPMA members came up trumps in the recent Food Processing Awards, which recognise and reward cutting edge product development. **Bosch Rexroth** was the convincing winner of the Company of the Year Award following an online vote; **Loma Systems'** pioneering Variable Frequency technology across its range of IQ3 metal detectors took the Technical Development category; and **ABB's** robotics business walked away with the Robotics and Automation Award for the installation of two robotic lines at the Honeytop Speciality Food plant in Dunstable, Bedfordshire.

**Halo Support Services** was also a winner taking the Innovation in the Food Sector category for its On Demand Training (ODT) solution.

**Loma Systems'** Variable Frequency function is housed



*Halo's managing director John Craig (left) receives Innovation Award from Gary Wyles, managing director, Festo*

inside its metal detectors and allows automatic detection of contaminants within a wide frequency range (31KHz-882KHz). The system can be configured to automatically select the correct frequency for food products and packages during calibration, ensuring

detection sensitivity remains at a peak greatly reducing the possibility of operator error (*MU September 2009*). Loma was a finalist in the Innovation category for its CW3 Combination Checkweigher and Metal Detector.

Commenting on **ABB's** installation at Honeytop William Eid, director, Honeytop Speciality Foods, explained, "We work in an industry with very tight turn-round times and the robots have quickly enabled us to achieve this by absorbing a number of overheads, thanks to lower labour costs and improved productivity."

**Halo's** ODT training solution is an interactive e-learning tool using stimulating animation, video and audio commentary to provide training and reference material for manufacturing, processing and packaging.  
[www.fponthenet.net/awards.aspx](http://www.fponthenet.net/awards.aspx)

## New R & D hub for Ilapak

Ilapak is to open a new European manufacturing and R&D centre in Lugano, Switzerland. The 2,500sq metre facility will be dedicated to the design and manufacture of rotary-jaw horizontal, form, fill and seal (HFFS) machines and automated systems.

Located adjacent to Ilapak's existing factory, which specialises in HFFS machines for extended shelf life of fresh products, the complex covers nearly 8,000 sq metres.

Due to open in the summer of 2010, the new facility will allow Ilapak to consolidate production of its HFFS range of Delta and



Carrera flowrappers and significantly improve efficiency. The rotary horizontal and extended shelf life machine production facilities will remain separate and continue to be staffed and managed by specialist application teams.

Ilapak's state-of-the-art Product Centre will also be based at the facility; this will be

the hub of Ilapak's R&D programme for horizontal machines where engineers will focus on developing new ideas, applications, designs and technology. It will then be rolled out to the group's manufacturing facilities in Europe, China and the USA.  
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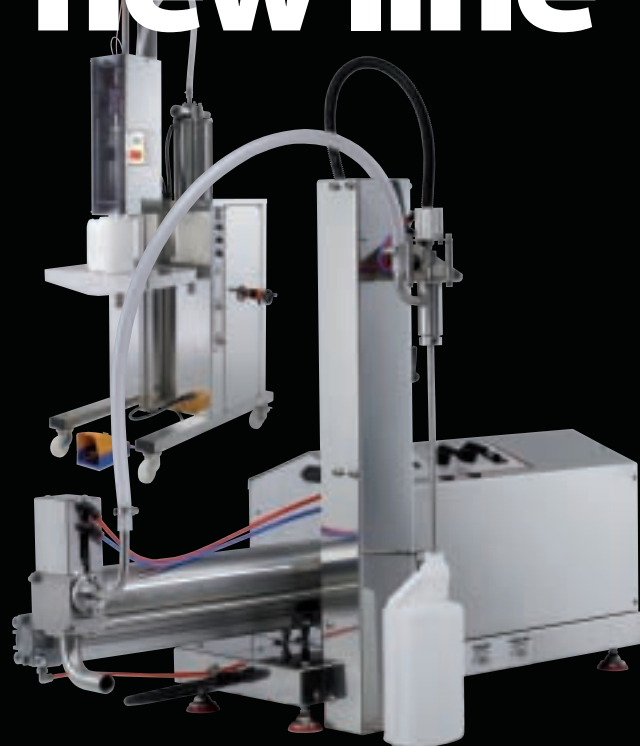


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# High on the crest of a Wave



The first commercial high pressure processor (HPP) has been installed in a UK food processing operation by Spanish manufacturer NC Hyperbaric, represented in the UK and Ireland by Interfood

Technology. HPP is used predominantly as a cold pasteurisation process for pre-packed cooked meats. However, it can be used in many other applications, from shucking oysters and lobsters to colour retention and shelf life extension of fresh products such as avocado.

HPP technical manager Rob Hapgood said, "Although interest has been around for some time in the UK it has taken some time to be adopted. "The cost savings made through the development of this new machine helps to bring the technology within the reach of medium sized processing operations," concluded Hapgood.

Hyperbaric also announced the extension of its range of machines following the launch of the new Wave 6000/120 machine at IFFA. Wave 6000/120 is the first HPP equipment to offer two integrated and independent high pressure intensifiers, states the company. It is designed for SMEs which require consistent production but want to minimise initial investment.

Wave 6000/120 has a smaller footprint and costs less than other machines in the range. Together with the Wave 6000/135, comprehensive solutions are now on offer for food processors with medium to high production requirements, explained Interfood.

"We are really excited about this technology, and the market opportunities the introduction of this new model brings. HPP will enable future development of a wide range of safer, tastier products with less additives at a time when the focus on such issues in food processing has never been greater," explained Hapgood.

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