

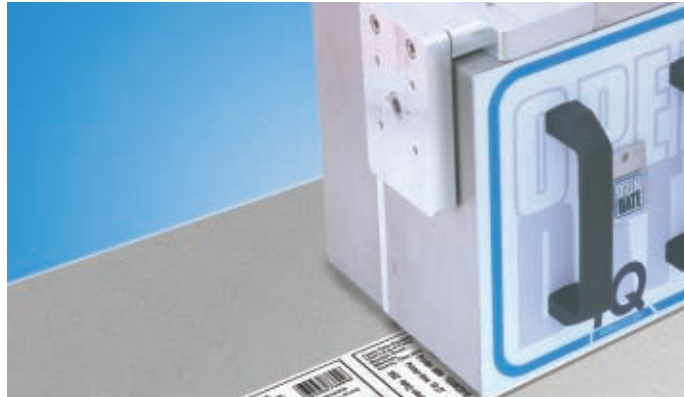
# Thermal transfer printer meets accuracy demands

What is described as “a breakthrough in print quality, plus a high level of sustainable performance” is offered by the new Thermocode iQ thermal transfer printer engineered and built in the UK by Open Date Equipment.

Speaking at the launch in September, Open Date’s UK chief executive Gary Cowlard said: “The iQ has advantages in both print accuracy and reduced operating costs compared with other machines, while maintaining the speed and precision associated with more expensive models.”

The new machine offers all these features for the industry standard cost of about £5,000, and for this price the iQ is ready to run as it is supplied with a reel of ribbon and the software package. “This price makes this machine truly competitive as you’re getting a lot for your money in terms of functionality,” says Cowlard.

The iQ is designed to operate with all intermittent labelling and packaging machinery and will be available in December.



The Thermocode iQ thermal transfer printer is available from December

“Our high specification iQ uses no compressed air to operate the print head, which is instead electronically driven by 3 stepper motors,” says Cowlard. “These motors can be very accurately controlled, which in turn allows more print cycles per minute (currently up to 800) as well as better quality and consistency.”

In addition, the gentler handling of the motor means the life expectancy of a print head is twice that of air operated printers. “Running costs are also significantly reduced and maintenance intervals are longer than for

traditional machines,” asserts Cowlard.

A print speed of 600mm per second and a maximum print area of 53 x 110mm makes the iQ both versatile and user friendly. Operation is controlled via a 7 inch touch screen from which stored print images can be edited and print settings adjusted during use.

The iQ will print text, graphics, dates, barcodes and 2D codes on to a range of flexible materials such as labels, film, foil, cartons and cards.

020 8655 4999  
www.opendate.co.uk

## IN BRIEF

The Processing & Packaging Machinery Association (PPMA) and the UK Polymer Machinery Manufacturers and Distributors Association (PMMDA) have pooled resources and will now utilise the same ceo and executive team.

The move represents the latest step in capitalising upon the strengths of both organisations while retaining the integrity of each association. Last year saw the British Automation & Robotics Association and the UK Industrial Vision Association join with the PPMA under a similar agreement.

Like BARA and UKIVA, the PMMDA will operate within the PPMA fold and will enjoy the range of benefits currently available to the existing members while maintaining its integrity and enhancing its existing service offering.  
www.ppma.co.uk

The UK Industrial Vision Association (UKIVA) is organising a series of free seminars at the Photonex Exhibition at the International Centre, Telford from 3-4 November. Called Aspects of Imaging, the seminars will cover a range of topics.  
www.ukiva.org

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## The need to listen more

“Getting key messages through to our machinery suppliers is more challenging than talking to our American parent company,” says Steve Kemp, business development director of specialist contract packer Brecon Pharmaceuticals.



Steve Kemp from Brecon Pharmaceuticals

“Even the larger machinery companies could listen more,” he tells *Machinery Update*. “In the market space they’re in, serving the pharma industry, they need to understand Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) and what it is their customers are looking for.”

The elimination of traps where product can accumulate and potentially contaminate subsequent runs is a particular headache, he says. “When our own customers audit us, they ask what we are going to do about it.”

He adds: “We deal with some excellent companies but then we often find ourselves having to modify the machines ourselves to make them more GMP-compliant.”

Read more from this interview with Brecon on pages 30-31 which forms part of the nine page feature on pharmaceuticals which starts on page 29.

# Seminar programme for PACK EXPO 2010

Sponsor and producer of Pack Expo PMMI is collaborating with several industry groups to bring an education programme to the show. More than 35 sessions from five associations will give packaging and processing professionals information on trends, strategies and innovations from across the production supply chain.

“From day one, our goal has been to make Pack Expo a resource that can help brand owners conduct business better, smarter and more efficiently,” says Charles D Yuska, president and ceo of PMMI.

Attendees interested in registering for any of the education sessions must first register as a Pack Expo attendee. During the registration process, attendees can select the conference sessions they would like to participate in.

**What:**  
PACK EXPO International 2010  
**Where:**  
McCormick Place, Chicago, US  
**When:**  
October 31 – November 3  
**Who:**  
1600 exhibitors covering over a million sq ft of exhibition space  
**Contact:**  
00 1 703 243 8555  
[www.packexpo.com](http://www.packexpo.com)

The Flexographic Technical Association is working with the co-located CPP Expo to create conference programming that offers attendees insight into improving operations, increasing efficiency and maintaining equipment.

The Grocery Manufacturers Association is co-locating its first-ever Manufacturing Excellence Conference at Pack Expo and

will feature three general session speakers covering leadership, food safety and modelling the factory of the future, and three concurrent tracks - product safety, sustainability and operational reliability.

The Institute of Packaging Professionals will host the Packaging Learning Center, a series of seminars led by a mix of end users, industry consultants and suppliers.

PAC – The Packaging Association is bringing the interactive PAC Green Den programme to Pack Expo.

The Reusable Packaging Association will host a special workshop tentatively titled “Reusable Packaging 101,” the session will help attendees navigate the preliminary steps required to adopt a reusable packaging solution.  
[www.packexpo.com](http://www.packexpo.com)

## Prize winning mixer challenge

Bucking the trend of the throwaway society, The Winkworth Group is running a prize-winning challenge to discover its oldest mixer in the UK.

The mixer must still be functioning and in everyday use to be eligible for The 2010 Always Mixing All Ways Award, and the overall winner will take away a luxury weekend for two. The company says its name is synonymous with long life and

Chris Buxton, ceo of The PPMA and managing director of The Winkworth Group Grant Jamieson at the competition launch



low whole life cost of ownership with all mixers built to last.

Officially unveiled at Total Processing & Packaging 2010,

the closing date for entries is 15 December, 2010.

0118 988 3551  
[www.winkworthgroup.com](http://www.winkworthgroup.com)

## Manufacturing recovery continues apace

Britain’s manufacturers are continuing to report buoyant trading conditions on the back of rising demand in overseas markets, pointing to good prospects for growth in the rest

of 2010, according to a survey published by EEF, the manufacturers’ organisation and the Dutch accountancy group BDO LLP.

The third quarter of its

‘Manufacturing Outlook’ report reveals that recovery, which began at the end of last year, has been sustained with output and order balances reaching record levels for the second

quarter in succession.

However, the short term optimism highlighted by this survey is shaded with a degree of caution about the risks to growth in 2011.

## US company is European

US-based Arpac Group has formed Arpac Europe to build a Europe-wide business for its range of packaging machines including shrinkwrap, tray pack, case pack and pallet wrapping machines.



Tony Hacker is the general manager of Arpac Europe

Based in the UK, the European business will be headed by general manager Tony Hacker who has 25 years' experience in capital equipment, much of which was spent with Endline Machinery.

Arpac manufactures heavy duty secondary packaging equipment that includes a full complement of end of line machinery. It also specialises in line integration of its product range with other OEM systems. 07715 581188 [www.arpac-europe.com](http://www.arpac-europe.com)

# Lean manufacturing learning opportunity

October is the next opportunity to learn the theory of lean tools and techniques while observing and examining in detail the operation of a real lean manufacturing cell offered by The Lean Factory Group UK, a consortium of seven suppliers.

The next event will be run in Bradford from 19-21 October and further opportunities will be available in February at Andover and then at St Neots in April. All seminars are free of charge and open to all interested parties.

To promote the benefits of lean manufacturing to UK companies, the group has set up a demonstration production cell adjacent to the Bosch Rexroth facility in Cirencester, Gloucestershire. The group is using the cell to host half-day seminars that explain and demonstrate how lean manufacturing, once implemented, can help companies to streamline operations resulting in improved productivity and profitability. The cell embodies the latest



The next lean manufacturing sessions will be run in Bradford

developments in lean manufacturing technology and manufactures real products. These are metal dollies produced in a wide range of variants to show how effectively lean manufacturing handles the present-day requirement for high-mix production.

Seminars are presented by experts in lean manufacturing techniques from each organisation in the group and comprise presentations, complemented by practical


sessions in the production cell. All attendees get to discuss their individual manufacturing set-ups, problems to overcome and specific requirements with each of the presenters.

The seven organisations of The Lean Factory Group are: Bosch Rexroth, Bosch Power Tools, The Leonardo Group, K Hartwall, ADM Automation, Sick and SSI Schaefer. 01285 863061 [www.lean-factory.co.uk](http://www.lean-factory.co.uk)


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# Reducing water targets

Machinery suppliers to the food and drink sector will play an increasingly important role in helping manufacturers meet their ambitions to reduce water usage by 20% by 2020, according to the Food and Drink Federation (FDF).

The trade association launched the Federation House Commitment in 2008 with government best practice body Envirowise (now part of WRAP) as a way of encouraging water efficiency across the sector.

More than 40 companies have now signed the commitment – 29 of them members of FDF – and the latest progress report issued by WRAP shows these businesses have saved the equivalent of two million cubic metres of



*Food manufacturers have ambitions to reduce water usage by 20% by 2020*

water since 2007.

Cleaning procedures can account for up to 70% of water usage in a food factory, so a priority for signatory companies is embedding new techniques into their operations such as cleaning in place, pigging (product recovery)

and dry cleaning.

Other process-related actions coming under the spotlight include equipment efficiencies such as the optimisation of spray bar functions; the replacement of faulty solenoid valves; and the balancing of water circulation systems.

“Improving water efficiency is a key pillar of the food industry’s commitment to minimise its environmental impact,” says FDF’s Melanie Leech, “Machinery and equipment suppliers will play an increasingly important role in helping our members, and other Federation House signatories, to achieve their ambitious plans on water efficiency.”

020 7836 2460  
www.fdf.org.uk

# Robotics unit restructures

The Centre for Food Robotics and Automation (CenFRA) is dividing itself up into five divisions to provide a more focused service for food and drink manufacturers.

The centre, which recently secured additional cash from regional development agency (RDA) Yorkshire Forward designed to tide it over until next spring, is hoping the restructuring will

help it to achieve financial self sufficiency by next autumn. CenFRA helps manufacturers explore the benefits of increased automation.

The organisation has been supported by Yorkshire Forward since its formation in 2007, but questions were raised about its future this summer after it emerged that a three year contract with the RDA

was not going to be renewed.

To support the new divisions and to complement the company’s existing range of services, CenFRA will now be recruiting engineers with the skills to help the company diversify into new markets and to provide improved support for existing clients.

01302 765680  
www.cenfra.co.uk

# Automation firm offers free guide to robot payback

A free guide to obtaining payback on a robot installation has been produced by TM Robotics, the European sales partner of industrial robot manufacturer Toshiba Machine. The company

hopes the guide will act as a useful tool for experienced engineers and a reassuring introduction to those who are new to industrial automation.

01707 290370  
www.tmrobotics.co.uk



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