

# MACHINERY *update*

The "machinery only" journal for processing and packaging

## FEATURES LIST 2012



**inside**

**MACHINERY update**

Robotics, automation a victim - a marriage of technologies

FREE: Total Processing & Packaging 2012 Preview

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**PLUS IN-DEPTH FEATURES ON ALL END USER MARKETS**



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### JANUARY/FEBRUARY

#### DRINKS AND OTHER LIQUIDS

MU last looked at the drinks market in 2010 and at the time, the on-trade had been dealt a hammer blow by the consumer downturn, sending thousands of pubs and restaurants to the wall. Some of the lost business had drifted into the off-trade, but much of it had simply vanished. Soft drinks were experiencing modest growth, as were spirits but the sector continued to face tough challenges. This feature will therefore look at how the sector is faring in 2012 while also looking at recent investments by drinks producers as well as new developments by machinery manufacturers to fill and process other liquids such as household chemicals etc.

**DEADLINE: DECEMBER 12, 2011**

#### FOODEX PREVIEW

March 25-27 NEC Birmingham

Exhibitors should send in news of their latest developments and information on the products they will be showing.

**DEADLINE: JANUARY 6, 2012**

### MARCH/APRIL

#### CONFECTIONERY, SNACKS AND BAKED GOODS

With chocolate continuing to be the star performer among confectionery products it seems it is a small, affordable indulgence for shoppers who are cutting back on spending elsewhere. There has also been a plethora of new, specialist chocolate makers bringing products to the market in recent years which have also bucked the recessionary trend. Bakers of premium cookies, biscuits and crackers have all been busy with recipe development as have crisp manufacturers, both large and small.

MU will talk to end users about where the market is heading, including the health debate and the so-called fat tax, as well as equipment suppliers that specialise in these areas.

**DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 6, 2012**

### MAY/JUNE

#### PREPARED FOODS AND READY MEALS

The market for ready meals has moved on with luxury meal kits and stir fry kits being added to the mix in the last few years, but one of the main drivers in the sector is quality. Even as consumers demand more adventurous recipes, the taste for more traditional fare must not be compromised and a lot of reformulation and brand development has taken place in these areas in recent times.

Manufacturers are investing in new equipment in an ever increasing mission to drive out cost while at the same time driving up quality. MU will examine the latest developments that are achieving these goals for food manufacturers.

**DEADLINE: MARCH 26, 2012**

### JULY/AUGUST

#### ROBOTICS, AUTOMATION AND VISION

Automation is a key issue in ensuring competitiveness from UK manufacturing industries in response to threats posed by low labour costs in other parts of the world while vision systems are now considered to be an essential part of many industrial processes because they can offer fast, accurate and reproducible inspection capabilities at a highly competitive cost. Also, the increased use of vision systems and robotics solutions, either independently or in combination with each other, will be instrumental in maximising this competitiveness.

MU will report on how this constantly evolving market, with increasing capabilities and decreasing costs, is continuing to expand with examples of end user take up and the benefits that this technology brings.

**DEADLINE: MAY 21, 2012**

### SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

#### SUSTAINABILITY AND THE MACHINERY SECTOR

There is no doubt that sustainability is gaining importance with consumers, even during tough economic times, and many want ethically and ecologically sourced products packed in a resource-conserving manner. Although fast moving consumer goods manufacturers have corporate responsibility and sustainability as part of their DNA, machinery manufacturers have been slower to react. Of course, using less material, less energy and less water is not only an environmental goal; it just makes plain good business sense.

MU will report on how much has changed in the machinery sector in the last year.

**DEADLINE: JULY 2, 2012**

#### PPMA SHOW PREVIEW



September 25-27 NEC Birmingham

This will be the only in depth guide to the UK's most important showcase for packaging and processing machinery and technologies. Exhibitors should send in news of latest products on show.

**DEADLINE: AUGUST 6, 2012**

### NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

#### PHARMACEUTICALS AND HEALTHCARE

Pharmaceutical manufacturers spend their lives jumping through regulatory hoops and this is often why any new product developments can take an age to reach the market. It is, by its very nature, a conservative industry but companies still have to come up with new ways to market their products, especially in OTC medicines, and to meet the needs for compliance. Patient compliance is a key issue in pharmaceuticals as well as product differentiation.

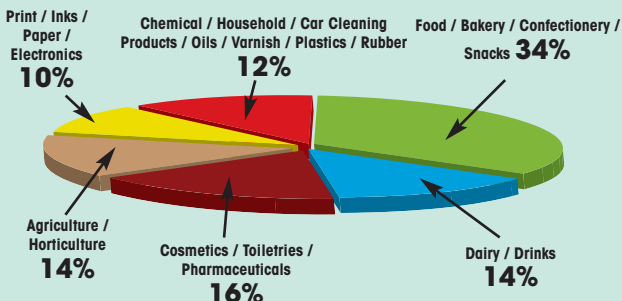
This feature will look at how new pack formats are helping manufacturers to meet these two needs and the machinery required to bring it to market successfully.

We will be looking for case studies that demonstrate new or different ways of marketing pharma products.

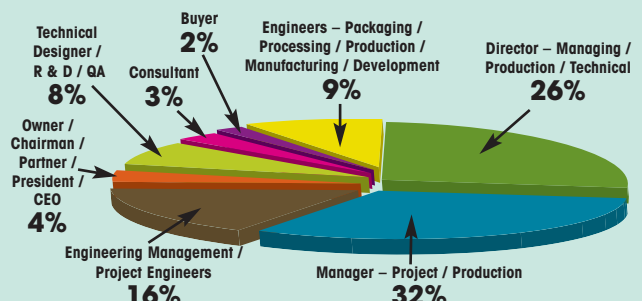
**DEADLINE: OCTOBER 8, 2012**

## Read by those who need to know!

#### CIRCULATION BY INDUSTRY



#### CIRCULATION BY JOB FUNCTION



PPMA reserves the right to make changes to the Features List 2012. **The Features List is a guide only and does not constitute a guarantee to publish.**

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