PACKAGING SUPPLIERS
GLOBAL

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Showcase Edition

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Leading digital content hub for the international packaging industry

INSIDE

Packaging technology & innovative materials

— featuring suppliers exhibiting at interpack 2026

- interpack 2026: The global packaging industry meets in Düsseldorf
- Packaging technology and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
- PPWR 2026: A practical roadmap for packaging compliance

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The new R-201 ND flow wrapper for noodle packaging has limitless potential.

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R-201 ND: infinitely flexible. Easy to operate, easy to clean, easy to evolve.

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& features

Welcome to our second issue of the year — and a special one for us as our first ever printed edition of Packaging Suppliers Global. As cooperating media for interpack 2026, this showcase issue is dedicated to the technologies and materials shaping the global packaging industry.

We are also pleased to feature our guest column, *Ton's Take*, where Ton reflects on nearly four decades of attending interpack and shares his perspective on how the event has evolved over the years. Alongside this, we touch on key regulatory themes including EPR and PPWR, both of which continue to influence packaging strategies across Europe and beyond.

Throughout this issue, you will also find a range of suppliers showcasing the innovations, technologies and expertise they will be bringing to the exhibition floor in Düsseldorf.

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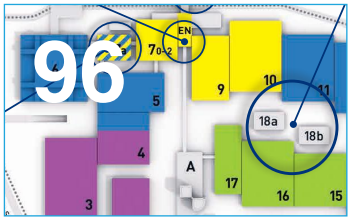

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interpack 2026: The global packaging industry meets in Düsseldorf

Photo: Messe Düsseldorf / Constanze Tillmann.

Dear Packaging Suppliers Global reader,

For 1 week every 3 years, Düsseldorf becomes the centre of the global packaging universe. From 7 to 13 May 2026, interpack will once again transform the entire Messe Düsseldorf exhibition centre into the largest gathering of packaging professionals anywhere in the world.


Ton Knipscheer, Packaging Consultant and Executive Director, European Co-Packers Association.

Few exhibitions in any industry have the scale or global reach of interpack. Spanning the entire fairground and covering more than 300,000 m² of exhibition space, the event attracts thousands of exhibitors and visitors from virtually every corner of the globe.

For 7 intensive days, machinery manufacturers, packaging material suppliers, technology companies, brand owners and contract manufacturers meet to showcase innovations, exchange ideas and explore where the industry is heading next.

What makes interpack unique is not only its size but also the diversity of industries it brings together. Packaging is used in almost every sector of modern manufacturing. As a result, the exhibition attracts not only packaging specialists but also the companies that rely on packaging as a critical part of their value chain — from food and beverage producers to pharmaceutical companies, cosmetics brands, logistics providers and global brand owners.

This combination makes interpack far more than just another packaging exhibition. It is the global platform where the entire ecosystem that designs, produces and uses packaging comes together.

A show unlike any other

For many in the industry, interpack is the benchmark against which all other packaging events are measured.

The scale alone is remarkable. The exhibition halls are filled with live machinery demonstrations, new packaging materials, digitalisation solutions, robotics and automation technologies. Walking through the halls often feels like taking a glimpse into the future of the packaging industry.

But perhaps the most important aspect of interpack is its truly global character. Visitors travel to Düsseldorf from every continent to see the latest developments and to meet partners, customers and suppliers.

At a time when supply chains are being reshaped by geopolitical developments, regulatory pressure and changing consumer expectations, this global exchange of ideas has become more important than ever.

A personal perspective: 4 decades of interpack

Having attended interpack since the 1980s, I have seen the exhibition evolve from a machinery-dominated event into the global platform where the entire packaging value chain meets.

For me personally, interpack has been a constant throughout my professional career. My first visit dates back to the end of the 1980s and over the decades it has become something of a professional milestone every 3 years. I don't believe I have missed a single edition since.

Looking back over those decades also highlights how dramatically the industry has changed. In the early years, packaging exhibitions were mainly about machines and materials. Today the discussions have broadened significantly. Sustainability, supply chain resilience, digitalisation and flexible production are now at the centre of the debate.

interpack reflects these developments perfectly. Each edition provides a snapshot of the industry at that moment in time — and often gives a strong indication of where it is heading next.

The growing importance of co-packing

One of the most interesting structural developments in the packaging value chain in recent years has been the growing role of co-packers and contract manufacturers.

Brand owners today face increasing complexity. Product life cycles are becoming shorter, the number of SKUs continues to grow, regulatory requirements are expanding and global supply chains are becoming more fragmented due to geopolitical developments and tariffs.

At the same time, many companies are reluctant to invest heavily in new production capacity. As a result, more production and packaging activities are being outsourced to specialised partners. This has led to rapid growth in the co-packing and contract manufacturing sector, which in many markets is expanding at compound annual growth rates exceeding 10 percent.

Co-packers offer brand owners flexibility, speed to market and the ability to scale production without major capital investments. They also play an increasingly important role in implementing new packaging formats and managing complex product portfolios.

Co-Packing at interpack 2026

The growing importance of contract packaging will also be visible at interpack 2026.

The European Co-Packers Association (ECPA) will once again organise a Co-Pack Pavilion, bringing together several contract packaging companies under one shared platform.

The 2026 edition will feature 7 participating members in Hall 7a, stand B09, making it the largest presence so far for this initiative.

The pavilion reflects the increasing visibility of the co-packing sector within the broader packaging ecosystem and offers visitors an opportunity to explore how contract manufacturing partners support modern supply chains.

Looking ahead

For newcomers, interpack can feel overwhelming. My advice, after nearly 4 decades of attending, is simple: arrive with a plan. Identify the trends you want to explore, schedule meetings in advance and leave enough time to walk the halls.

Because some of the most interesting insights at interpack often come from unexpected encounters.

What makes interpack special is not only the technology on display but also the people who gather there. For 1 week every 3 years, the global packaging community meets in Düsseldorf to exchange ideas, launch innovations and shape the future of the industry.

And that is exactly why interpack remains — quite simply — the most important packaging event in the world.

If you have any thoughts or comments on this topic, feel free to reach out to me via LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/tonknipscheer/

IMA FLX Hub to showcase advanced flexible packaging solutions at interpack 2026

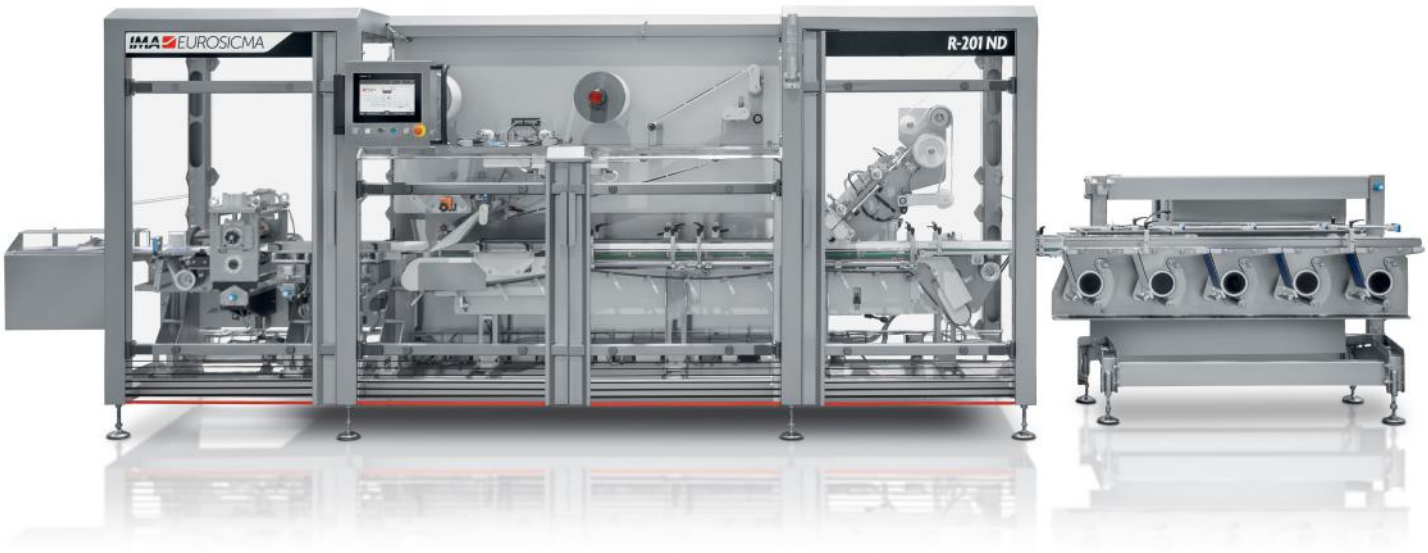
The IMA FLX Hub, the centre of excellence for flexible packaging technologies within IMA Group, will present a range of innovative machines and integrated packaging lines at interpack 2026. Visitors will be able to discover the latest developments in flexible packaging technology at the IMA stand in Hall 17, where multiple solutions for confectionery, bakery, instant noodles, IQF products, fresh produce, cheese, snacks, pet food and other food applications will be on display.

Designed to meet the evolving needs of food manufacturers, the solutions on display combine advanced automation with AI-enabled features, smart connectivity and compatibility with recyclable packaging materials, helping producers improve operational efficiency while supporting sustainability goals.

Turn-key confectionery packaging line

A key highlight of the stand will be a turn-key packaging solution for confectionery products, combining robotics, flow wrapping, multi-head weighing, stand-up pouching and case packing in a fully integrated system. The line features the IMA Eurosicma EURO 88 PP flow wrapper with advanced robotic units for precise picking and placing of products arriving both aligned and randomly. Secondary packaging is handled by the IMA Ilapak DOYTRONIC 120 Stand-Up Pouch FFS machine paired with the IMA Ilapak WA 16-10 Slim hygienic multi-head weigher, ensuring accurate dosing of the flow-wrapped products into each pouch. The line is completed by the IMA Mespic AIO G, a compact case packer designed to form cases from flat blanks, load products and close boxes within a space-efficient end-of-line solution.

The new R-201 ND flow wrapper for noodle packaging has limitless potential.



New flow wrapping solution for instant noodles

IMA will also introduce the IMA Eurosicma R-201 ND, a brand-new medium-speed flow wrapper designed for instant noodle applications. The machine features a modular and highly flexible architecture that allows manufacturers to expand the base configuration through plug-in modules, enabling multiple packaging formats ranging from single packs with sachets to double and multi-pack configurations.

Integrated bakery feeding and flow wrapping system

For bakery applications, the stand will feature an integrated feeding and flow wrapping solution combining the IMA Record FLOWPOCKET with the IMA Ilapak DELTA 3000 horizontal flow wrapping machine. The FLOWPOCKET groups or stacks products arriving from the process line and arranges them into the desired pack format before feeding them into the flow wrapper. The DELTA 3000 ensures high-quality hermetic sealing and supports Modified Atmosphere Packaging (MAP), delivering excellent performance across a wide range of recyclable packaging materials.

High-speed VFFS machine for zipper bag formats

Visitors will also discover the new IMA Ilapak VEGATRONIC 6400 DZ, an open-frame continuous motion VFFS machine designed for large Doy-Shark zipper bags. Equipped with 400 mm sealing jaws and a high-speed zipper applicator, the machine can reach mechanical speeds of up to 120 packs per minute and supports multiple pack styles including pillow, Block Bottom, Quad Seal, 3SS and Doy-Shark with zipper. At the show, the machine will be coupled with a multi-head weigher and will run stock cubes.

Continuous motion vertical bagger for larger pack formats

Completing the portfolio on display is the IMA Ilapak VEGATRONIC 6400 ML, a new continuous motion VFFS vertical bagger designed for medium to large bag formats. Its hygienic open-frame design ensures easy cleaning and full accessibility while supporting a wide range of materials and bag styles for applications including fresh produce, IQF and dairy products.

Integrated and sustainable flexible packaging technologies

Through these solutions, the IMA FLX Hub demonstrates its ability to deliver highly integrated, flexible and efficient packaging technologies, combining digital connectivity, AI-driven capabilities and sustainable packaging compatibility to help food manufacturers worldwide improve productivity, product protection and packaging versatility.

See it all at interpack in Hall 17

For more info: www.imagroup.com/brands/flexible-packaging-hub/

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The new CanPal – the robust pallet that can handle cans

Craemer presents durable logistics solution for beverage metal packaging at interpack 2026

Reliable load carriers are essential for producing, filling, storing and transporting beverage cans. The industry predominantly relies on pallets with special dimensions that are precisely tailored to its requirements – whether for can manufacturing, beverage production, logistics centres or export. These industry-specific solutions are precisely adapted to the stacking dimensions, conveyor lines and lorry loading patterns of the beverage industry and play a central role along the entire process chain. The Craemer Group, a leading global manufacturer of durable logistics solutions, is launching the new "CanPal German" plastic pallet. This innovative, patented product offers an exceptionally robust pallet block design for the safe and sustainable transport of cans.
This traditional, family-run company specialises in metal forming, plastics processing and tool making. Based in Herzebrock-Clarholz, Germany, it will be presenting its new CanPal German pallet for the first time at the interpack 2026 trade fair.

The Craemer Group has almost 70 years of experience in manufacturing plastic products. As early as 1958, the company added plastics processing to its metal forming business. Initially, Craemer manufactured large plastic injection-mould containers. In 1967, the company developed the world's first one-piece injection-moulded plastic pallet. Today, the portfolio comprises plastic pallets for various requirements and a wide range of transport and storage containers – from stacking boxes, round containers and tubs to pallet boxes. All Craemer plastic products are made from high-quality, durable, recyclable plastics to ensure maximum stability and a long service life.

In addition to the modern production facilities, an in-house technology centre unites research & development and toolmaking under one roof, ensuring consistently high quality. Thanks to their sophisticated design, Craemer plastic pallets are highly functional and ideal for intensive use. Craemer can also provide customised solutions to meet individual requirements.

Technically sophisticated in every detail

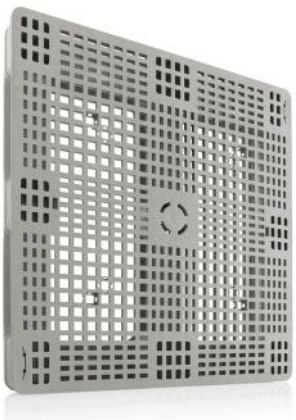
The base body of the Craemer CanPal has external dimensions of 1250 x 1180 x 133 mm – with optional spacers, its dimensions are 1265 x 1180 mm. To provide even greater protection and stability when securing loads — particularly when using strapping tapes — Craemer has specially reinforced the lower edge of the upper deck above the entry openings with ribbing. The pallet is made from robust polypropylene (PP), ensuring extra robustness: this material is durable and resistant, has a tare weight of only 22.5 kilograms and is 100 % recyclable. The new Craemer can pallet has a load capacity of up to 10000 kg for static loads and up to 1250 kg for dynamic loads.

Optimised design for maximum stability

The Craemer CanPal is the result of extensive research and development. Although the new pallet is designed as a multi-part system in line with industry standards, it has significant advantages over conventional models. Rather than using a single-piece injection-moulding process, it is deliberately made up of two parts – an upper part and a lower part – that are firmly connected to each other. The Craemer experts have specifically optimised the known weak points of multi-part pallets. For example, the connection between the upper and lower decks in the area of the blocks is usually highly susceptible to breakage when falling from a great height or colliding with forklift tines, but this has been specifically counteracted. Despite its multi-part construction, the design ensures an extremely stable unit that is by no means inferior to a single-piece solution.

Sophisticated design thanks to simulation

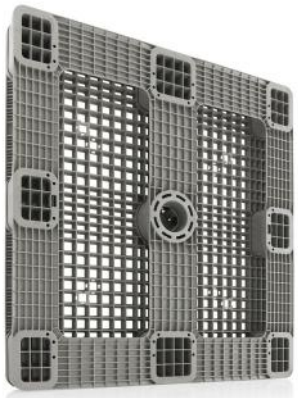
The design of the new pallet for all types of cans is based on a sophisticated investigatory process. Craemer's designers used cutting-edge simulation methods to analyse and optimise the geometry of the runners and deck. Finite element modelling (FEM) is a virtual method of analysing strength and deformation. FEM allows to simulate physical reality without the effort, time or risk involved in creating real prototypes. The result is a pallet that strikes the perfect balance between functionality – with robust and rigid runners and a matching deck – and carefully thought-out design.



Patented manufacturing process

The design of the CanPal is based on Craemer's patented manufacturing process, which involves inseparably connecting the upper deck and runners.

The result is an extremely robust construction which is as stable as a one-piece pallet, and which far surpasses conventional multi-piece systems. The pallet blocks retain their shape and function even under high loads, impact or deformation. The result is significantly increased break resistance and a long service life, which are both essential factors for cost-effectiveness and sustainability in everyday use.



Flexible equipment as required

Optional spacers on the lower edge of the outer blocks on the long sides of the pallets prevent them from touching each other when stacked and held together by protruding pallet collars or interlayers. To improve slip resistance of picked up pallets or while the load is lifted by forklift tines, four Palgrip® anti-slip clips can be retrofitted to each of the CanPal's upper and lower decks. Retrofitting with transponders is also optional: To this end, there are two diagonally opposite slots in the upper deck, above the outer right blocks on the long sides, that can hold Smartrac Dogbone RFID inlays. Moreover, the outer blocks on the long sides provide space for hot stamping of lettering or logos. The CanPal German pallet is available in the standard colour of light grey (other colours available on request). It also impresses with its high temperature resistance, which ranges from –30 °C to +40 °C, and even up to +90 °C for short periods.

Craemer Group at the interpack 2026 fair

The CanPal German Pallet is set to make its debut at interpack 2026, an international trade fair showcasing the latest innovations in the packaging and related process industries. From 7 to 13 May 2026, the Craemer Group will present its innovative can pallet to a broad specialist audience for the first time in Düsseldorf.

The Germany-based Craemer Group is an international family-run company specializing in the core businesses of metal forming, plastics processing and tool making. Craemer GmbH was founded in Herzebrock-Clarholz in 1912. The Craemer Group has three additional production sites in Europe and a global network of its own sales offices and partners. In 2024, Craemer generated a total operating performance of approx. 360 million euros with around 1,100 employees in all three business fields.

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Packaging technology and EPR: Engineering the next generation of cost-efficient sustainable packaging

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation is rapidly reshaping how packaging is designed, manufactured, and evaluated across North America and Europe. As regulatory frameworks shift the economic responsibility for recycling and waste management onto producers, packaging engineers need to rethink traditional packaging formats and material use. For high-volume products, EPR can shift packaging costs by 20–50%, translating to millions in annual margin impact depending on format selection. The result is a new wave of packaging innovation in which design, sustainability, cost optimisation, and operational feasibility must coexist from the inception.

How EPR is changing the economics of packaging materials

At its core, EPR changes the economic equation of packaging design. Instead of considering only resin cost, logistics efficiency, and performance requirements, companies must now account for fees tied directly to the material type and weight of packaging placed on the market. Under typical fee structures, rigid plastics may be assessed at around $0.24 per kilogram, flexible plastics at around $0.34 per kilogram, and paper or fibre-based materials at roughly $0.06 per kilogram. These differences materially influence format selection, lifecycle modelling, and end-of-life

recovery economics, requiring packaging to be engineered as a full system rather than a discrete component.

Engineering case study: Evaluating packaging formats

For many consumer and industrial products, rigid containers have historically dominated due to their durability, consumer familiarity, and compatibility with existing filling infrastructure. However, EPR economics are pushing manufacturers to analyse the full system cost of these formats. A recent engineering case study comparing multiple packaging formats for a one-gallon lubricant product illustrates how minor changes in packaging design can have measurable cost implications.

The analysis evaluated four packaging systems: the current one-gallon rigid HDPE bottle, a lightweight optimised bottle, a flexible spouted pouch, and a bag-in-box (BIB) configuration. Each choice carries a different material footprint and EPR liability. The traditional bottle design requires approximately 135 grams of plastic per gallon plus 60 grams of corrugated packaging. In contrast, a redesigned lightweight bottle reduces plastic consumption to roughly 110 grams per gallon while keeping the same secondary packaging.

Even this modest design optimisation produced meaningful results. The lightweight bottle reduced estimated EPR costs by roughly 16.7 percent compared with the baseline design. More significant reductions using alternative formats like bag-in-box systems, which reduced plastic usage to approximately 60 grams per gallon and lowered EPR fees by nearly 30 percent.

Balancing material reduction with operational realities

However, packaging innovation rarely occurs in isolation. While formats like pouches or BIB can provide significant material savings, they also bring new technical and operational challenges. Flexible packaging often requires new equipment platforms—such as vertical form-fill-seal systems or dedicated pouch filling lines—that can insert fitments and create high-quality seals for viscous products. Although material reduction led to direct EPR savings, a system-level analysis also uncovered secondary impacts like improved pallet density, lower freight costs per unit, and potential changes in line efficiency—factors that can either enhance or offset the apparent material savings. These modified packaging systems must ensure engineering adaptability and product safety, while satisfying distribution, retail, and consumer requirements.

Packaging format transitions and production considerations

Bag-in-box formats similarly require new filling technologies capable of forming, filling, and sealing multilayer bags with taps or dispensing fitments. For manufacturers accustomed to rigid container lines, transitioning to these systems represents a foundational change in production flow. Capital investment for new equipment can range from $60,000 to $250,000, depending on the level of automation, throughput targets, and integration complexity.

Secondary packaging and retail presentation also play critical roles in adoption. Flexible pouches and BIB systems require redesigned corrugated packaging to maintain stacking strength and shipping stability. Additionally, consumer expectations must be addressed, particularly in product categories where rigid bottles have long been the standard.

Design strategies for navigating EPR

Because of these constraints, companies are pursuing a hybrid strategy: incremental improvements to existing rigid packaging combined with selective exploration of alternative formats. Lightweighting bottles, optimising top-load performance, and increasing product volume per container are all strategies that can deliver EPR savings without major disruptions to manufacturing infrastructure.

Another emerging pathway involves semi-rigid bottle-in-box configurations or larger multi-gallon containers. These formats reduce the plastic required per unit of product while maintaining compatibility with familiar packaging technologies.

A new era for packaging engineering

Ultimately, EPR is accelerating the evolution of packaging engineering from a purely functional discipline into a strategic business necessity. Engineers must now evaluate packaging through a multi-dimensional lens that includes regulatory compliance, material science, manufacturing economics, and consumer acceptance. Delayed assessment and reporting under current EPR legislation introduces measurable financial and compliance risk, including retroactive fee reconciliation, penalties, and loss of favourable fee modulation status tied to recyclability claims. In several jurisdictions, late or inaccurate reporting can also trigger audits and reclassification of materials, resulting in higher fee tiers and unplanned cost exposure.

The companies that succeed will be those that integrate sustainability metrics into early-stage packaging design and leverage digital engineering, lifecycle modelling, and system-level optimisation. By treating packaging as a complete system rather than a single component, organisations can reduce environmental impact while simultaneously lowering costs. Alternative formats introduce interconnected system changes across filling, sealing, distribution, and retail presentation, requiring coordinated redesign rather than isolated material substitution.

As EPR regulations expand globally, the message for the packaging industry is clear: the future belongs to designs that are lighter, smarter, and engineered with the entire lifecycle in mind. EPR is no longer a compliance exercise—it is a margin lever. Organisations that integrate packaging engineering, financial modelling, and lifecycle strategy at the design stage will unlock cost advantages that competitors cannot retrofit later.

This article was contributed by The Packaging Cooperative, a specialist consultancy focused on packaging engineering and innovation. Learn more at: www.pkgco-op.com

TPC | The Packaging Cooperative

Pre-assembled packaging for faster availability of medicines

Better planning for product launches with Faller Packaging's tailor-made PrePackaging Service

Pharmaceutical packaging must meet the highest standards, even for approval. Flexible solutions from Faller Packaging support manufacturers from the outset.

With its PrePackaging Service, Faller Packaging supports pharmaceutical manufacturers throughout the entire product lifecycle – from the late clinical trial phase to series production. This makes it easier to plan product launches and make medicines available more quickly. The packaging specialist has now strategically expanded its product portfolio: in addition to its pre-assembled packaging solutions, the company now offers a wide range of services related to secondary packaging. The service has therefore evolved from supplying ready-to-use packaging materials to offering a comprehensive range of services covering the entire packaging process.

Packaging must meet all regulatory requirements from the early stages of a product's development. At this stage, however, sales volumes are difficult to predict. When entering the market, every day counts, because the speed at which new medicines become available determines how quickly patients can benefit from them and how quickly development costs can be recouped. Pharmaceutical companies are therefore faced with the challenge of producing flexibly without having to invest heavily in machinery and infrastructure at an early stage.

Keeping pace with new requirements

"With new medications, it's often not clear how high the actual demand will be," explains Michael Nemeth, PrePackaging Director at Faller Packaging. *"Our PrePackaging Service delivers the final packaging products. All customers have to do is insert their medications. This saves time and costs at launch and creates flexibility."*

The company supports pharmaceutical manufacturers from Clinical Trial Phase 3 onwards, providing them with customised, machine-ready carton packaging for parenterals and various dosage forms, including vials, syringes, pens,

medical devices, and combination products. As a specialist in folding cartons, leaflets, labels and combination products, Faller Packaging develops solutions that meet both regulatory requirements and product-specific characteristics.

The pre-assembled packaging solutions are designed to be used throughout the entire product lifecycle. They are ideally suited to small-scale production for market launches and to increasing production volumes during series production, with no need for fundamental design changes. Depending on the requirements, the packaging is manufactured manually, semi-automatically, or fully automatically. As production volumes increase, the pharmaceutical manufacturer can gradually adapt and scale the processes. This creates planning certainty and reduces investment risks.

"A switch to semi-automated processes typically occurs when there's a regular demand," explains Nemeth. *"Investing in fully-automated production can be economically viable from a volume of around 300,000 units per year."*

Customised services for complex requirements

The PrePackaging Service is made even more flexible by additional secondary packaging services, which range from combining individual components – such as folding cartons with leaflets or labels – to special bonding for small and medium batches. Faller Packaging also handles bundling of two or more leaflets, assembling cartons and many other customer-specific work steps, including weighing and coding, labelling and banding, as well as manual assembly work and assembly of displays. In addition, Faller Packaging offers logistics services and serialisation. This allows individual process steps to be outsourced or entire packaging processes to be taken over.

What this means for customers: not only do they receive packaging materials that are ready for use, but also, if required, a ready-to-use product that is almost completely assembled. This relieves internal

Michael Nemeth, Director PrePackaging: *"With the expanded service, pharmaceutical manufacturers can bridge bottlenecks and simply insert their medications into the packaging."*

Everything from a single source, from the pre-assembled folding carton to the ready-to-use product: Faller Packaging supports pharmaceutical manufacturers with its PrePackaging Service.

resources, simplifies processes and shortens the time-to-market. Production remains flexible and easy to scale – especially during phases where capacities are still being built up or expanded.

Fast and reliable service along the supply chain

The PrePackaging Service and the extended service portfolio are seamlessly integrated into the customers' value chain. Faller Packaging acts as a reliable backup in the event of capacity bottlenecks, when machines break down, for example, as well as in situations where there is a lack of qualified personnel, specific know-how or suitable equipment. Close coordination with pharmaceutical manufacturers ensures that even short-term requirements can be reliably met.

Typical use cases include product launches, clinical trials, or periods of high utilisation. The service also supports projects aimed at making supply chains more sustainable and efficient – by bundling packaging and logistics processes with a single partner, for instance. The combination of pre-assembled packaging solutions and complementary services creates additional flexibility and increases responsiveness along the entire supply chain.

The portfolio is further complemented by another service: Faller Packaging collaborates with the machine manufacturer Schubert-Pharma for its SeamlessPackaging Service, implementing packaging processes that range from manual to fully automated. The solutions are tailored to the requirements of the respective product, scalable and designed for long-term production reliability. This creates a consistent concept – from the first pre-assembled packaging to fully-automated series production.

More about the PrePackaging Service at:
www.faller-packaging.com/en/services/prepackaging-service

PrePackaging Service

Designed for the transition from manual processes to automated packaging

Pre-assembled packaging for faster market entry

Pharmaceutical manufacturers must meet strict regulatory requirements even during early product development, when demand is still uncertain. With its PrePackaging Service, Faller Packaging provides pre-assembled packaging solutions tailored to specific product requirements and ready for immediate use.

Key Benefits

- **Scalable for automation**
  Packaging is developed so that it can later be automated without any design changes.
- **Focus on core business**
  We take care of pre-assembled packaging steps as required.
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Faller PACKAGING

interpack 2026 showcases processing & packaging for the pharmaceutical industry

Photo: Messe Düsseldorf / Constanze Tillmann.

New therapies, increasing regulatory requirements and economic pressure are palpably changing the pharmaceutical industry. Production processes are becoming more complex, more interlinked and more demanding. To meet these requirements, interpack 2026 will consolidate the range in three halls.

interpack can do two things: it maps the entire processing and packaging value chain – and at the same time creates specific areas for individual user industries. The result for the pharmaceutical industry is a consolidated environment, in which solutions, materials and processes can be seen in direct connection.

In Halls 15 to 17, companies such as IMA, Fette Compacting, Bausch & Ströbel, Uhlmann Pac-Systeme, Groninger, MULTIVAC Health Packaging, Körber Pharma, Romaco, OPTIMA, Harro Höfliger Verpackungsmaschinen, CAM and the Marchesini Group will be exhibiting their approaches to production and packaging in the pharmaceutical sector on around 40,000 square metres. Pooling space with the cosmetics industry is an obvious choice: both sectors place high demands on precision, hygiene and process reliability and, in many areas, utilise comparable technologies.

New therapies, new requirements, great opportunities

The outlook for the pharmaceutical industry remains positive. Pharmaceutical products worth around 1.9 trillion euros were manufactured worldwide in 2024 (VDMA/Euromonitor). Experts are anticipating 24 per cent growth by 2029. The main growth drivers are populous and economically ascendant markets

such as China, India and Brazil, along with regions in South East Asia, North Africa and the Middle East.

Overall, the requirements for production and packaging are changing significantly. New therapies and highly effective active ingredients require flexible and networked production systems. Alongside this, processing and packaging requirements are on the increase. Added concerns are rising costs, volatile supply chains and the need for more efficient processes. Companies that will be represented in the pharmaceutical sector at interpack 2026 illustrate just how great the challenges are.

Thomas Fricke, Commercial Director at IMA, describes the situation as follows: *"The pharma industry is undergoing major pressure due to the rise of biologics, Cell & Gene therapies and highly potent compounds, all of which require more advanced, flexible and connected technologies. Regulatory expectations for quality, sterility and real-time traceability continue to intensify. Economically, manufacturers face rising production costs, supply chain volatility and the need for faster, more efficient processes."*

Joachim Dittrich, CEO of Fette Compacting, shares these estimations: *"Rising regulatory requirements, high cost and price pressure, and expiring patents are forcing shorter time-to-market cycles. At the same time, highly active ingredients and individualised therapies are changing the demands on production and containment. Today, instead of optimising in isolation, companies need to interlink development, technology transfer and production based on data – it is the only way to make processes efficient, secure and scalable."*


Thomas Fricke, Commercial Director at IMA

This will give rise to new conflicts of interest: *"Increasing demands for automation, data security and sustainability in particular are driving the pressure to transform. This pressure is heightened by regulatory requirements such as the PPWR. The outcome is a conflict of objectives between product protection, reduced packaging volume and cost-effectiveness,"* says Michael Mrachacz, CSO & Managing Director of Uhlmann Pac-Systeme, describing the situation.

Automation and sustainability go hand-in-hand

The decisive question is no longer automation or sustainability. In practice, both topics are developing in parallel and are becoming increasingly integrated.

"This is the big challenge for Pharma, because they cannot focus on one of them and give the others a lower priority," explains Thomas Fricke (IMA). *"Pharmaceutical manufacturers are therefore strongly investing in automation, AI-enabled intelligence and end-to end-data connectivity to enhance process control, reliability and throughput. Parallel to that, sustainability is becoming an increasingly important, separate strategic priority."*

The Marchesini Group also focuses on this interaction: *"In recent years, we have established a cross-functional team that focuses in particular on analysing new packaging materials and their machinability, in order to turn the PPWR regulation into an opportunity. We are driving the replacement of PVC with recyclable mono-material solutions – particularly for blisters and trays – using materials such as R-PET, PP and PVC-free aluminium,"* says Valerio Soli, CEO of the Marchesini Group.

Efficiency and sustainability go hand-in-hand today and can only become a real success factor through integrated process expertise, says Joachim Dittrich (Fette), describing the situation.

"The biggest investments are currently being made in automation, data-based process solutions and AI. Those who control their processes based on data are able to measurably optimise the use of materials and energy."


Michael Mrachacz, CSO & Managing Director of Uhlmann Pac-Systeme

"A holistic approach is crucial," adds Michael Mrachacz (Uhlmann): *"Sustainability must be compatible with machinability and efficiency – and we support our customers with our consulting services along the entire value chain."*

interpack 2026 showcases concrete solutions for the pharmaceutical industry

What is coming to fruition in the investment strategies will be brought to light at interpack 2026. Here, pharmaceutical companies will find solutions for automation, data integration and sustainability.

Marchesini, for example, will be exhibiting machines and lines for the pharmaceutical and cosmetics industries in Hall 15. The focus is on sustainability, innovation – such as AI, robotics and digital solutions – and aseptic technologies.

"Marchesini Group will present several innovative solutions in the field of robotics at interpack, increasingly integrated with artificial intelligence. The pharmaceutical industry requires production lines that are more and more sophisticated, safe and connected, in order to ensure products of the highest quality and safety," says CEO Valerio Soli of the trade fair appearance.

Uhlmann will also be situated in Hall 15. *"At interpack, we will be presenting, in digital form, the PTC 200 for parenterals in carton mono-packaging and the BEC 500 as an integrated blister and cartoning solution. The focus will be on material-efficient, recyclable solutions as well as software solutions and digital and analogue services for the optimal combination of sustainability, process reliability and cost-effectiveness,"* says Michael Mrachacz (Uhlmann).

IMA will be showcasing advances in sterile processing on an area of over 4,500 square metres in Hall 17. These include *"magnetic levitation technologies that enable fully gloveless filling lines for Cell Therapy products – a breakthrough in contamination control and process reliability – along with a new lab scale version offering greater flexibility for R&D teams,"* says Thomas Fricke (IMA).

Additional highlights include a new generation of tablet presses, sustainable blistering platforms, automated cartoning delivering 70 per cent faster changeovers, modular auto-injector assembly and end-of-line solutions. These innovations are complemented by AI-driven digital support tools that enhance monitoring and predictive maintenance.

In Hall 16, visitors will be able to meet Fette Compacting, among others: *"At our stand, we will be showcasing continuous manufacturing with the FE CPS, the latest containment solutions, emulators and lab services. The added value lies in shorter development cycles, greater product safety, reduced material consumption and a flexible production infrastructure that adapts seamlessly to new products and regulatory requirements,"* says Joachim Dittrich (Fette).

Further details on all participating companies and their solutions can be found in the exhibitor and product database: www.interpack.com/1410

This article was originally published by interpack.


Valerio Soli, CEO of the Marchesini Group

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SynTiso: successfully eliminating human intervention

A future-proof approach to commercial-scale aseptic filling

By Markus Heinz, Strategy and Product Management Innovation at Syntegon Technology

What if aseptic production, higher OEE, and sustainability were all achievable? What if there was no more human interaction and automated equipment took over responsibility for patient care? And what if every drop of valuable drugs finds its way to patients thanks to innovative filling technologies? What sounds like a bold vision for future liquid pharmaceutical filling operations is already the new reality.

Since the revision of EU GMP Annex 1, which came into effect in August 2023, the focus of liquid pharmaceutical manufacturers has turned even more towards full automation. One rationale of Annex 1 is the separation of the aseptic process area from the operator environment. For the first time, the document clearly recommends the use of barrier technologies like isolator or restricted access barrier systems (RABS).

In the second chapter, automation and robotic systems are highlighted under the heading “Appropriate technologies” to reduce or even eliminate gloves and human intervention. However, the “First Air” principle poses new challenges. Establishing an uninterrupted flow of filtered air is not an easy task. By increasing automation and additionally positioning the robots as far away from the process as possible, the air can circulate freely and particles in the aseptic area are minimised.

Improving sustainability and quality

Another important challenge is the demand for more sustainable production equipment. This can be solved by reducing the amount of cleanroom space required for fill-finish operations and using smaller barrier systems such as isolators with integrated air handling. Machines or lines

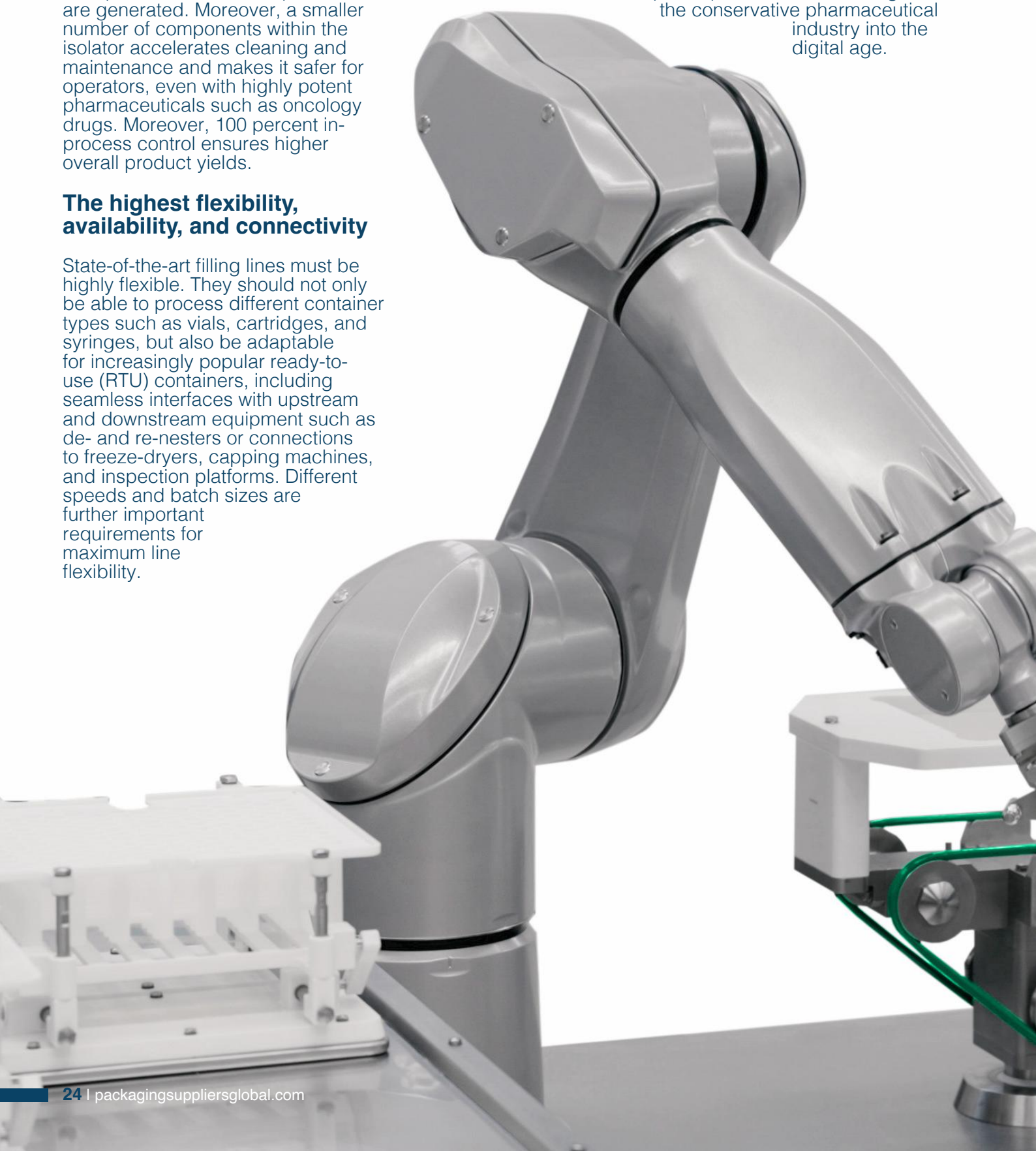
with reduced energy consumption significantly contribute to improved sustainability, above all by reducing the footprint of the entire system and the number of format parts required for operation.

Although energy-intensive, automation is a good method to reduce the overall CO2 footprint, as it allows for less human intervention and a smaller space. For example, contactless and suspended transport ensures that no particles are generated. Moreover, a smaller number of components within the isolator accelerates cleaning and maintenance and makes it safer for operators, even with highly potent pharmaceuticals such as oncology drugs. Moreover, 100 percent in-process control ensures higher overall product yields.

The highest flexibility, availability, and connectivity

State-of-the-art filling lines must be highly flexible. They should not only be able to process different container types such as vials, cartridges, and syringes, but also be adaptable for increasingly popular ready-to-use (RTU) containers, including seamless interfaces with upstream and downstream equipment such as de- and re-nesters or connections to freeze-dryers, capping machines, and inspection platforms. Different speeds and batch sizes are further important requirements for maximum line flexibility.

Finally, digitalisation and connectivity are becoming increasingly important in pharmaceutical filling operations. Data integration will play a crucial role in the future, as will the connection to entire production and factory ecosystems. For example, real-time monitoring provides important analyses of the equipment's state of health and can support with faster batch releases. Artificial Intelligence (AI) as well as digital twin offerings will further open up new possibilities and bring even the conservative pharmaceutical industry into the digital age.



SynTiso: revolutionising liquid filling

The scenario described above is already a reality, as Syntegon demonstrated with the launch of its new SynTiso platform. SynTiso was co-created with two multinational partners from the industry and addresses all the current challenges of pharmaceutical manufacturers. It answers the needs for regulatory compliance, sustainability, quality, flexibility, availability, and connectivity, as well as seamless integration of new technologies into existing production facilities.

Thanks to the gloveless isolator, processes are automated, and human intervention is minimised. But SynTiso goes one step further: The robots are only used for the aseptic setup as needed, providing an Annex 1-compliant solution including First Air compliance. The new contactless, suspended transport system ensures faster aseptic transport and up to 50 percent shorter batch changeovers in a smaller space. With 100 percent IPC and flexible re-dosing, SynTiso can process up to 600 syringes – a speed never seen before on the market and particularly important for vaccine production.

Heading towards the pharmaceutical future

The transformation of aseptic liquid filling is driven by simultaneous challenges: stricter regulatory requirements, a growing demand for more sustainable manufacturing, and the need for uncompromising product quality. The implementation of EU GMP Annex 1 underscores the industry's shift to barrier technologies and

increased automation to reduce contamination risks. Isolators, robotic handling systems, and optimised airflows are emerging as key elements to secure sterility while allowing for efficient, reproducible processes.

While pharmaceutical manufacturers are bringing novel drugs to the market, their suppliers are working on innovative technologies to move closer towards a future of fully automated fill-finish processes with a virtually empty, gloveless, and partly autonomous isolator. In strategic cooperations, the best of both worlds is being united to enable the necessary shift from human-centred to fully automated production.

www.syntegon.com

Materials, packaging materials and packaging aids: The full variety for all applications at interpack

Photo: Messe Düsseldorf / Constanze Tillmann.

Innovative materials is one of the hot topics at interpack 2026 and the packaging materials area of the trade fair brings together the packaging industry's concentrated expertise – with over 1,000 exhibitors and a globally unique variety of packaging solutions, packaging materials and packaging aids.

New material technologies are shaping the packaging of tomorrow: highly developed plastics, fibre-based materials and smart coatings are optimising shelf life, protection and recyclability. From 7 to 13 May, the packaging area at interpack 2026 will showcase tried-and-tested solutions in new applications along with the latest developments and innovations. It will be bringing together more than 1,000 manufacturers of packaging solutions, packaging materials and packaging aids from all over the world in seven halls and floors, including many premieres by first-time exhibitors. In total, 2,800 exhibitors are expected at interpack.

"The variety of materials and their applications at interpack is unique anywhere in the world," says Thomas Dohse, Director of interpack. *"By making Innovative Materials our hot topic, we are consciously placing the packaging materials sector at the strategic focus this year and consolidating developments from international markets."*

Plastic-based packaging solutions and flexible packaging

Looking at the global market situation, flexible and rigid plastic packaging types occupy the largest market share in consumer goods packaging, at a total of 65 per cent (2024, VDMA/Euromonitor). At interpack, exhibitors will be showcasing numerous plastic solutions too – containers and flexible packaging, including bio-based films with a clear focus on sustainability. Drawing the crowds in Hall 9 will be Sonoco, Taghleef Industries, groku Kunststoffe, Jokey, Aries Packaging and Nurel,

among others, while Schütz, Greif Packaging, Werit Kunststoffwerke, the Armando Alvarez Group, Irplast, Hipac and the SIT Group will be exhibiting in Hall 10. The caps and closures segment will be covered by companies such as United Caps and Bericap.

Taghleef Industries, which will be exhibiting in Hall 9, will be showing a wide range of films. *"This includes bio-based and recycled solutions for flexible packaging and labels. Monomaterial PP films and material-reduced variants emphasise our focus on recyclability and reduced material usage,"* says Ambra Stocco, European Marcom Manager & Label Lead at Taghleef Industries, describing the company's portfolio.

Schütz is among the exhibitors with a particularly extensive presence in the packaging sector and will be represented in Hall 10. Here, visitors can look forward to plastics solutions for industry and logistics. *"Our interpack presence in 2026 will focus on smart packaging concepts that optimally combine economic efficiency with ecological sustainability. With our product and service innovations, we provide customers across the world with pioneering solutions to make their logistics processes even safer and more resource-efficient,"* says Veit Enders, Member of the Board at Schütz.

There will also be a wide range of packaging aids such as adhesives and adhesive tapes in Halls 7 and 10. Suppliers such as Henkel, Jowat, Selig Group, H.B. Fuller, Tesa and Sicad will be exhibiting solutions for different applications and material combinations.

Paper-based packaging solutions, cardboard and packaging printing

Paper and cardboard-based packaging occupies a global market share of around 16 per cent for consumer goods. Further growth of around eight per cent is expected for this segment by 2029. At interpack, the area for paper, cardboard, corrugated cardboard and packaging printing can be found in Hall 8a. Among others, Metsä Board, Stora Enso, Sappi, Koehler, Starkraft and Printcity will be presenting their portfolios there. Labelling and coating solutions from CCL Label, Actega, Michelman and Stahl Packaging will be some of the products on show, likewise in Hall 8a.

Metal and glass packaging

Metal packaging, in particular cans and can seaming systems, will be featured in Hall 7a. The companies represented will include Soudronic, Lanico, the IPA (International Packaging Association), Emballator, Umar Makina and SPL Industries. *"The demand for complete canning lines is increasing, especially in the pet food sector,"* says Ruedi Umbricht, COO of Soudronic AG. *"The drivers of this demand are sustainability requirements and the CO_2 footprint of packaging, or strategic considerations for expanding the value chain. In terms of sustainability and CO_2-balance, the steel can offers distinct advantages. Soudronic, as a manufacturer of turnkey can production lines, will be presenting visitors to interpack with a whole variety of options for producing metal packaging."* According to industry figures, the share of metal packaging is currently 12 per cent, with forecast growth of 13 per cent in the coming years.

Glass packaging, a classic among packaging solutions, will also be represented at interpack. In Hall 10, the Federal Association of the German Glass Industry (BV Glas) will be a central point of contact, providing information on current developments and trends. Glass accounted for eight per cent of retail sales of consumer goods packaging in 2024 and is expected to grow by a further six per cent by 2029.

Alternative and bio-based materials

Alternative and new materials, especially in Hall 9, will provide an additional flourish with exhibitors such as Jonatura, Plantera, Innovia Films, Natureworks and Pacovis. Here, the focus will be on innovations in the field of bio-based plastics, while fibre-based materials will be on show in Hall 8a. Metsä Board and Stora Enso, for example, will be two of the must-visit stands.

Hot Topic 2026: "Innovative Materials"

With "Innovative Materials", interpack is once again placing its special focus on the topic of materials. These have always been of central importance to the packaging industry. At the same time, requirements are constantly increasing: new regulatory provisions, higher expectations of sustainability and recyclability, plus additional functional requirements are the characteristics of material development. Therefore, under the hot topic "Innovative Materials", the focus will be on materials, material concepts and design approaches that combine functionality, resource efficiency and recyclability.

Save the date: Tuesday at interpack in the Spotlight Forum

Visitors with a particular interest in material solutions can also make a note of 12 May: that is when "Innovative Materials" is set to take centre stage at the interpack Spotlight Forum.

This article was originally published by interpack.

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Paper solutions

Labels

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Labels, sachets, paper and what to expect from TIPA at interpack 2026

Growing volumes of plastic waste, evolving regulations, and increasing consumer expectations are pushing packaging to the centre of global attention. Across markets, the challenge is no longer only about reducing plastic, but about finding alternatives that can deliver the same performance while offering a clear and responsible end-of-life.

TIPA is a provider of compostable flexible packaging and paper-based recyclable solutions, developed to meet the functional demands of modern supply chains while aligning with emerging regulatory frameworks such as PPWR. Founded in 2010, the company focuses on materials designed to perform like conventional plastic during use, while offering alternative end-of-life pathways through composting or recycling, depending on the application.

Addressing one of the toughest challenges: small-format packaging

Among the most difficult packaging segments to address when talking recyclability are small-format packaging solutions, including sachets, stick packs, and single-serve formats. These applications are widely used for dry products such as condiments, supplements, and powdered beverages, yet are rarely recyclable due to their size, structure, and material complexity.

As demand for convenience packaging continues to grow, so does the need for solutions that can preserve product quality without contributing to long-term waste. TIPA has developed compostable laminates designed for these applications, providing the barrier properties required to protect against moisture, oxygen, and aroma loss, while

remaining compatible with existing high-speed converting and filling lines.

The company already offers commercially available solutions for dry applications, while ongoing development is focused on more complex use cases such as wet condiments. By targeting small formats, TIPA is addressing one of the most challenging and least recyclable areas of flexible packaging.

Expanding into paper-based solutions

Alongside compostable materials, paper-based packaging is becoming an increasingly important part of the solution landscape, particularly in applications where recyclability is preferred or required.

TIPA has expanded its portfolio to include paper laminates designed to combine the look and feel of paper with the functional requirements of flexible packaging, including sealability and barrier performance. These solutions are suitable for formats such as stand-up pouches, flow-wrap, and other applications where both presentation and protection are essential.

TIPA's packaging solutions are engineered to run on existing converting and packing equipment, allowing manufacturers to integrate paper-based structures into current production lines without major operational changes. This approach enables brands to adopt paper solutions while maintaining efficiency and product performance.

Strengthening this offering, TIPA recently acquired SEALPAP, a company specialising in high-performance coated recyclable paper materials. SEALPAP's solutions are designed for applications that require strength, sealability, and barrier properties while remaining compatible with recycling streams. They are used across a range of formats, including sachets, sticks, food packaging, and retail applications where paper offers a viable alternative to plastic laminates.

Together, these capabilities reflect a broader industry shift toward using different material solutions based on application requirements, rather than relying on a single packaging approach.

Compostable labels responding to regulatory change

Another area where regulation is driving rapid change is fresh produce labelling. Conventional fruit and vegetable labels are typically made from plastic films and adhesives that do not break down in composting systems, leading to contamination in organic waste streams.

In Europe, this issue is increasingly addressed through regulation, with compostable labels becoming a requirement to support efficient organic waste collection. The goal is to allow produce to be disposed of together with organic waste, without the need to remove labels, improving composting efficiency and reducing contamination.

TIPA has developed certified compostable labels designed to meet these requirements while maintaining strong adhesion across a wide range of produce surfaces. The labels are engineered to perform under cold, humid, and refrigerated conditions and to run on standard labelling equipment, ensuring compatibility with existing supply chains.

As regulatory pressure increases, compostable labels are becoming a clear example of how targeted material innovation can solve specific waste challenges without compromising functionality.

Looking ahead to interpack 2026

At interpack 2026, TIPA will present its latest developments across compostable flexible packaging and paper-based recyclable solutions. Visitors will be able to explore materials designed for small formats, paper applications, fresh produce labelling, and much more, all developed to balance performance with a defined end-of-life.

The TIPA, Bio4Pack, and SEALPAP teams will be available in **Hall 9, Booth F01A** to discuss how these solutions can be integrated into any existing packaging operations across food, fashion, and other consumer goods applications. We hope to see you there!

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Expanding the future of sustainable packaging: Hugo Beck's evolving paper packaging portfolio

Innovation and evolution have always been central to the packaging industry. As new materials and machinery technologies have developed, so too have consumer expectations and delivery methods. These factors are in constant conversation, each innovation driving fresh thinking in other areas of the value chain – for example, how the rise of e-commerce has demanded supply chain optimisation and more robust, reliable packaging.

Equally, external pressures and market drivers play their part – none more so in the today's packaging landscape than sustainability. Whether it is legislative change such as EU packaging regulations, retailer plastic reduction targets or consumer demand for recyclability, brands are putting environmental concerns at the heart of their decisions.

The selection of a packaging machine is therefore a multi-layered decision, in which various considerations must be weighed up and balanced. Even before sustainability enters the conversation, an organisation must think about a considerable shopping list. This includes throughput speeds, ease of use, product protection, consistency of output, reliability, pack aesthetics, changeover flexibility, future material compatibility, total cost of ownership, and many other factors.

For more than 70 years, Hugo Beck has provided customers with solutions tailored to their needs. We have always adapted to new trends, listened to customer challenges, and innovated to match – and exceed – market expectations. When it comes to sustainability, the primary means of achieving this has been through the growth of our portfolio in paper packaging machines.

From film specialist to material flexibility

Our company heritage is in high-performance film packaging, and we continue to produce state-of-the-art machines for flowpack, form-film-seal and sleeve wrapping applications.

This expertise also provides the technological foundation for reliable paper processing. As mentioned above, the fundamentals for successful packaging do not change with the choice of material. Whatever the packaging type, the goal is to maintain performance levels, ensure precision in material handling and, most importantly, to protect the product through seal integrity or reduced damaging during transit.

The capability to offer paper packaging machinery has not happened overnight. Indeed, Hugo Beck's first paper machines were launched in 1989, including a tight banderoling machine for banding of cigarette blanks in stacks with PE-coated craft paper. This early development demonstrated our ability to engineer reliable solutions using alternative packaging materials long before sustainability became a central industry focus.

Nonetheless, investment in paper packaging technology has become more rapid in the face of changing customer preferences, both in terms of accelerated sustainability demands and the rapid growth of e-commerce, itself fuelled further by the pandemic. Since 2019, we have created a new generation of solutions for paper packaging, starting with flexible form, fill and seal machines.

Core capability: Running paper efficiently on high-performance machinery

Paper offers very different technical challenges to film packaging – amongst these are material stiffness, tear resistance, folding accuracy and sealing characteristics. Our R&D specialists have spent years perfecting technology that enables precise machine control, with reliable feeding and product handling.

More remarkably, this capability is also engineered into machines that can handle film packaging as well. Such hybrid machines are perfect for customers who want to maintain flexibility and choice in packaging types, and to switch materials without replacing entire packaging lines, but also represents a high water-mark in terms of machine innovation.

The Hugo Beck range of paper-only or hybrid film/paper machines is now used across various industries such as e-commerce, print, multimedia, wood and long parts, not to mention the wider logistics and fulfilment industry.

Sustainability & efficiency: The dual advantage

Of course, while basing a machine purchase on sustainability factors is an important strategic choice, it should not come at the expense of business performance. That's why our machine innovation focusses on dual advantage, aligning sustainability to long-term efficiency and cost-savings.

Our machine solutions are engineered for lower material consumption and optimisation of packaging sizes – a tight fit helps with product protection by reducing void space, as well as lowering material (and potentially shipping) costs per item.

A growing portfolio

This commitment to material flexibility is reflected in our growing portfolio of dedicated paper and hybrid packaging solutions

The paper X hybrid was launched as a flexible and efficient Form Fill and Seal machine for packaging goods in paper or film. Hugo Beck's resource-saving machine technology now allows customers to select whether a product is packaged in film, enabling savings in material of 15-70%, or alternatively in recyclable uncoated and coated paper.

A simple changeover enables users to be ready for the new product and packaging material.

Meanwhile, the paper e-com fit packaging machine is ideal for e-commerce and mail order applications requiring minimal material to package goods. The machine is suitable for the direct dispatch of individual goods, packaging groups of products, or meeting the complex requirements of returned goods packaging.

Both uncoated and coated recyclable papers can be used for producing precisely fitting paper bags with two sewn sides plus a top overlap. Each bag size is automatically adapted to the varying product dimensions in length and width during production, enabling efficient packaging of different product sizes in a mixed batch – and because the paper e-com fit stores paper rolls of two different widths, it minimises paper consumption. After the product scan, the machine then decides how wide the paper web must be and selects one of the two paper rolls.

The flowpack X is a further hybrid solution for air-tight film packaging and paper packaging. Easily adjusted to process varying packaging materials with a short changeover, and capable of coping with the most diverse heat and cold-sealable paper-based packaging materials and films with different thickness, the flowpack X enables optimum functionality for manufacturers seeking sustainable packaging materials. Offering air-tight film packaging, it is perfect for pharmaceutical or medical technology, but the flowpack X provides customers across multiple industries with ultimate flexibility and security when working with a variety of packaging materials.

Introducing the paper S

The current generation of machines has been added to throughout this decade and – in 2026 – we are excited to launch our latest solution, which will expand our paper packaging capabilities and complete our portfolio of sustainable packaging technologies.

As the packaging industry continues to seek practical alternatives to plastic shrink film and excessive cardboard, the new paper S enables a tight kraft paper wrap with or without tray, providing a secure and resource-conscious transport packaging solution across a range of industries, including FMCG producers and retail-ready packaging operations.

The paper S has been developed as a compact operator and maintenance friendly sleeve wrapping system that can be installed inline within existing production lines or operated as a standalone solution. Its space-saving design makes it suitable for facilities with limited floor space.

The machine wraps products in or without a tray in kraft paper with overlap and optimised hot-melt gluing to ensure a tight and stable pack. This creates bundles for secure transport and handling, helping manufacturers transition away from shrink film or cardboard systems while maintaining product stability throughout the supply chain.

In addition to cost savings on material, the paper S enables energy savings compared to heat-based shrink wrapping processes. Optional add-ons such as digital printing units, labelling systems or additional automation components can be integrated to tailor the machine to specific customer requirements.

The future is flexible

As packaging materials continue to evolve, machinery must evolve with them. Hugo Beck's expanding portfolio ensures customers are equipped for the future of sustainable packaging.

While paper has become a key focus for many organisations seeking to reduce plastic usage, the broader trend is towards greater material diversity, including mono-material films, recycled content films, bioplastics or extremely thin packaging films starting at 7 µm. For manufacturers, this means packaging systems must offer the flexibility to adapt as materials and requirements continue to develop.

In response, packaging machinery must be capable of supporting multiple materials and formats without requiring major changes to existing production lines. Flexible systems that allow operators to transition between film and paper packaging help businesses respond to changing sustainability goals while protecting long-term investment and maintaining operational efficiency. Hugo Beck continues to support this shift through ongoing innovation and a steadily expanding portfolio of paper and hybrid packaging technologies.

Visit us at interpack in hall 11 at stand A74

www.hugobeck.com

How a simple paper band elevated tomato branding and sustainability

Looye Kwekers is a long-established tomato grower known for producing premium varieties with a strong focus on flavour and quality. Its JOYN tomatoes, recognised for their vibrant colour and taste, reflect the company's emphasis on careful cultivation and product presentation. As with many fresh produce brands, packaging plays an important role in how the product is communicated to consumers.

Reimagining packaging with a purpose

When the Looye team began reviewing how their tomatoes were presented in store, the objective was clear: reduce packaging while maintaining both product protection and a premium appearance.

The company wanted a solution that reflected its sustainability ambitions while still standing out on the shelf.

The project provided an opportunity to align the brand's external presentation more closely with its internal values.

The solution was a printed paper band. Simple in design yet visually distinctive, the band replaced the previous plastic film band while helping to give the JOYN tomatoes a more refined appearance.

> *"We asked ourselves how we could keep things light, sustainable and visually appealing.*
>
> **– Looye's Marketing Manager**

From plastic to paper

The move to paper also supported Looye's wider sustainability goals. By switching to a paper band, the company was able to reconsider the design of the tub used to hold the tomatoes, resulting in a lighter and more compact overall pack.

Reducing material usage helped lower the packaging footprint without compromising the protection of the product. Working with banding specialist Bandall, Looye developed a banding solution that secures the tomatoes while allowing the product itself to remain visible.

Packaging as a communication tool

Beyond its functional role, the paper band also created new opportunities for communication. Branding printed on the outside of the band is complemented by recipe inspiration and product information printed on the inside. This allows the packaging to provide additional value to consumers while maintaining a minimal material footprint.

The concept was expanded further during a promotional campaign for JOYN tomatoes. Looye introduced a specially designed double-sided printed band. The exterior carried branding and campaign messaging, while the inside revealed further information once the band was removed, effectively allowing one strip of paper to convey two separate messages.

Bandall was involved early in the design process to ensure the banding solution worked technically as well as visually. This collaboration helped ensure the band met both operational requirements and brand presentation goals.

Operational benefits

The change also delivered practical advantages in production. The banding system does not require glue or sealing materials, helping to simplify the packing process. It also adapts easily to different tomato sizes, which provides additional flexibility on the packing line.

Because the band leaves part of the product visible, consumers can clearly see the tomatoes inside the pack.

This visibility can help reinforce perceptions of freshness and quality at the point of sale.

A small change with wider impact

Although the packaging adjustment is relatively simple, it allowed Looye to address several objectives at once. The paper band communicates the brand's sustainability ambitions, supports product visibility, and provides additional space for storytelling and promotional messaging.


© Looye

In a competitive fresh produce market, the example demonstrates how small packaging changes can support both brand presentation and material reduction while maintaining operational efficiency.

Bandall at interpack 2026

Visitors to interpack will be able to explore Bandall's latest banding technologies and applications at Hall 5 / C42.

At the exhibition, the company plans to demonstrate how paper and film banding can be integrated into packaging lines to bundle products, apply branding and replace more material-intensive packaging formats. This technology is increasingly used as an alternative to fully wrapped labels, shrink wrap, and other packaging solutions.

Bandall representatives will also be available to discuss specific packaging challenges and explore how banding solutions may be adapted to different products or production environments.

To learn more, visit www.bandall.com or meet the team at **interpack 2026, Hall 5 / C42**.

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Innovative plastic container for demanding products

The Scandinavian paint and varnish manufacturer Gjøco has opted for SAIER's pioneering S-LINER BARRIER packaging solution.

Finn Andersen (left) and Rolf Gjøen (Gjøco)

SAIER Verpackungstechnik has developed the S-LINER BARRIER as a sustainable and economical alternative to metal buckets for the paint and varnish sector. The Norwegian paint and varnish manufacturer Gjøco approached SAIER with a special requirement. They wanted to replace their metal containers with plastic ones, but tests with other bucket manufacturers failed due to Gjøco's solvent-containing products: The perfect challenge for packaging specialist SAIER!

Functionality, efficiency, economy and sustainability... Professional packaging must always combine several factors. Safety is also a top priority, especially when handling aggressive or hazardous products. As an experienced professional, SAIER has stood for high-performance packaging solutions for decades. Gjøco's specific requirement for a plastic container that reliably withstands solvent-based paints and varnishes provided the impetus for a pioneering product development: The S-LINER BARRIER.

In terms of innovation, the SAIER development team focused on the "inner workings" of the bucket, where the packaging comes into direct contact with the contents. Various barrier properties of the inner film were tested under live conditions in demanding long-term tests. An internal and welded barrier film ultimately proved to offer effective 360° protection. Following the development phase, SAIER was able to hand over the first test samples to Gjøco.

The integrated barrier film protects the plastic polymer from changes caused, for example, by solvent-based ingredients and their permeation from the inside to the outside. This preserves

the product properties of the filling material and the stability of the bucket. At the same time, the product is also protected against external influences that could affect the product. Possible changes to the product properties of the contents due to oxygen or UV radiation, for example, are thus effectively avoided thanks to SAIER's innovative solution.

The result is a success across the board. As a result of the successful test run, Gjøco is now switching its product packaging completely from metal containers to the S-LINER BARRIER plastic bucket from SAIER. The improved nestability of empty containers also guarantees efficient and sustainable outbound and inbound logistics. The plastic bucket takes up to 80 % less floor space and the packaging weight is reduced by up to 45 % for the same filling quantity. The S-LINER BARRIER retains its shape without denting, and does not rust or require additional internal coating for water-soluble products. Thanks to the embedded opening flap with an integrated sealing function, it can be opened easily and without tools. The innovative solution from the Black Forest-based packaging specialist is also highly impressive in terms of sustainability: CO2 emissions are reduced by up to 70 % in producing the plastic container compared to the metal bucket – which is good news for the environment.

The S-LINER BARRIER from SAIER can be customised to meet different requirements using foil technology. Whether round, oval or square buckets, the S-LINER BARRIER inner liner technology can be adapted to suit all container shapes and sizes. The multiple barrier layers of the inner film are only a few micrometres thick and therefore only a fraction of the usual bucket container wall thickness. Therefore, depending on the barrier requirement and the chosen barrier layer, the bucket container is still up to 100 % recyclable.

Naturally, the BARRIER bucket can also be adapted for food packaging. With the S-LINER BARRIER FOOD, the integrated barrier film protects the plastic polymer from changes caused, for example, by ingredients such as essential oils in spices or marinades and their permeation from the inside out. The product properties of the contents, as well as the stability of the bucket, are thus preserved. Similarly, the contents are also protected from external influences that could affect them. Potential changes to the product properties of the contents caused by factors such as oxygen or UV rays are thus effectively prevented by SAIER's innovative solution.

Are you looking for innovative new ways to package your products? SAIER will be happy to support you.

For more information on the S-LINER BARRIER and the company, please visit www.saier-verpackungstechnik.de.

SAIER GROUP

BARRIER FOOD S-LINER

interpack 2026 brings together solutions for the confectionery and bakery industry

Photo: Messe Düsseldorf / Constanze Tillmann.

The confectionery and bakery industry is growing – yet at the same time faces significant pressure to transform. Remaining competitive requires investment. To this end, interpack 2026 will bring together the industry's technological offerings across three halls covering around 40,000 square metres.

interpack 2026 once again offers its visitors dedicated zones for their respective sectors. The confectionery and bakery zone spans Halls 1, 3 and 4, directly at the South Entrance of the Düsseldorf Exhibition Centre. Manufacturers will find solutions there covering the entire value chain – from raw material processing through shaping and coating to primary and secondary packaging. Exhibitors here include Aasted, Sollich, Theegarten-Pactec, SACMI Packaging & Chocolate, Bühler and Coperion. This means the technological core of the industry is represented on site. This is complemented by the world's largest selection of packaging materials and supplies in Halls 7–10. In total, over 2,800 exhibitors from around the world are expected at interpack from 7 to 13 May.

Stable industry environment with clear growth momentum.

The outlook is positive despite numerous challenges. The global market for baked goods stood at 177 million tonnes in 2024. Growth of 9.6 per cent is expected by 2029. Markets in the Middle East and Africa are developing particularly dynamically. The global confectionery market is also set to grow by 4.5 per cent by 2029. Latin America, the Middle East and Africa are showing double-digit growth rates, whilst North America is experiencing a slight decline (source: Euromonitor International/ VDMA). The market environment is therefore stable. At the same time, sales regions, cost structures and regulatory frameworks are shifting.

Exhibitors clearly identify the need for action

The scale of the challenges is highlighted by companies exhibiting in the confectionery and bakery sector at interpack 2026. One of these is Bühler, which can be found in Hall 3 at interpack. Thomas Isom, Global Head of Business Development Consumer Foods at Bühler, explains, for example: *"The greatest pressure for transformation stems from the combined impact of raw material crises, sustainability requirements, health regulations and rising costs. The key levers for companies therefore lie in three areas: resilient and sustainable raw material and supply chains, recipe and product innovation (particularly sugar reduction and alternative ingredients), and increased efficiency and flexible production."*

These structural requirements are compounded by a tight cost situation. *"The confectionery industry, and the chocolate industry in particular, is currently under massive cost pressure, primarily due to sharply rising raw material prices. This is increasing the demand for highly efficient and durable production facilities. At the same time, rising energy costs are forcing investment in modern technologies that significantly reduce energy consumption,"* says Klaus-Dietrich Franzmeier, Director of Sales & Marketing at Sollich. The company is exhibiting across more than 1,000 square metres in Hall 3, making it one of the largest exhibitors at interpack.

Against a backdrop of fluctuating raw material costs, staff shortages and growing uncertainties regarding trade and tariffs, Chris Isom, General Manager Food, Coperion Food, Health & Nutrition Division, emphasises the urgency of ensuring throughput and quality with fewer staff: *"This requires stricter process control, faster changeovers, and more hygienic and consistent operations. Those companies that modernise intelligently will be successful, by utilising automation and integrated system improvements to increase product consistency, enhance flexibility and reduce total cost of ownership."* Coperion can be found in Hall 4.

Strategic direction-setting in the spotlight at interpack

The question is therefore no longer whether modernisation is necessary, but how comprehensive it should be. Klaus-Dietrich Franzmeier of Sollich puts it plainly: *"To remain competitive by 2030, companies must consistently rely on modern technologies. The use of artificial intelligence – both in development and in service – will be a decisive factor for success."*

Matt Craig, Coperion Food, Health & Nutrition Division, also sees strategic investment as key: "*Make investment decisions in line with the areas in which the industry is actually investing: modernisation and upgrades rather than solely the construction of entirely new production sites. Bakeries are prioritising packaging, software/IT/AI, robotics and automation, as well as key process steps such as mixing and material handling – because these investments deliver measurable improvements in quality, efficiency and plant availability."*

Companies that want to be successful by 2030 must align their strategy along three core axes, says Thomas Bischof (Bühler): *"1. Resilient and sustainable raw material and supply chains, 2. Healthier and differentiated product innovations, 3. Digital, efficient and flexible production. "Those who consistently combine these three dimensions can address costs, sustainability and consumer expectations simultaneously."*

interpack 2026: A decision-making platform for investments

Bühler will also be showcasing these strategic approaches at interpack 2026. In the "Minimarket" and the "Food Sensation Lab", producers will find inspiration and ideas for new products. Bühler will also demonstrate how manufacturers can optimise their production processes and prepare for the challenges of a fluctuating market environment. The focus here is on digitalisation and flexibility. In addition, innovations in the areas of chocolate mass and chocolate moulding, biscuit and wafer production, as well as cereals and extrusion technology, will be presented.

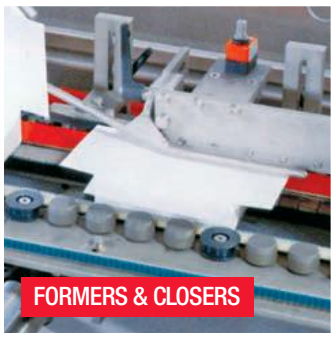
Sollich is also showcasing specific developments for confectionery production. The company will present a new generation of enroaching machines at interpack 2026. Furthermore, in collaboration with SweetConnect GmbH, machine learning functionalities are being further developed to provide plant operators with more targeted support for efficient and stable process control.

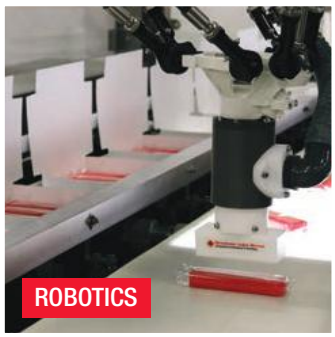
Coperion is focusing on integration. Equipment, control systems and automation are linked in such a way that modernisation projects deliver tangible results – such as greater product consistency, faster changeovers, improved hygiene and a robust data foundation.

At interpack 2026, the company will showcase solutions for modernising existing production lines. These include hygienic mixing technologies such as the DIOSNA spiral mixer, application technologies such as Bakon Disc Spraying, and flexible depositing solutions featuring the Unifiller MultiStation. The SBX platform will also be presented for extrusion applications.

This article was originally published by interpack.

FROM PROCESS TO PALLET





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PROCESSING & PACKAGING
7 TO 13 MAY 2026
DÜSSELDORF

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Hall 5 / Stand C22

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THE QUEEN'S AWARDS FOR ENTERPRISE: INTERNATIONAL TRADE 2022

Bradman Lake Group unveils breakthrough packaging technologies at interpack 2026

Featuring the world debut of the FT-iFLEX Flow Wrapper in a fully integrated, space-efficient packaging line

Bradman Lake, a global leader in advanced packaging machinery and automation, is gearing up for a stand-out presence at interpack 2026, the world's premier processing and packaging exhibition. From 7 to 13 May 2026, visitors are invited to Hall 5, Stand C22 to experience a powerful line-up of smart, efficient and sustainability-focused packaging solutions - from flow wrapping to fully automated cartoning and end-of-line case packing.

Global launch: The new FT-iFLEX Flow Wrapper

Taking centre stage at interpack 2026 is the FT-iFLEX Flow Wrapper, Bradman Lake's newest innovation designed for today's demanding manufacturing environments. Engineered for precision, agility and uptime, the FT-iFLEX brings a new level of control and flexibility to flow wrapping.

It retains the advantages of our modular approach and features backward-compatible modules, including a range of end-seal units that can be adapted to run packaging materials required for specific application.

Powered by Rockwell Automation's small frame iTRAK® intelligent track technology, the FT-iFLEX positions the product at the infeed with zero-pressure and offers independent product movement, along with a variable pitch infeed that automatically adapts to product length without mechanical adjustments.

Due to removal of the pitch restriction found on conventional flow wrappers, the required pitch can be automatically matched to the material length enabling perfect transition between the infeed and the wrapping material, which ensures accurate product placement time after time.

The result:

- Consistent, high-quality seals and accurate product placement in the wrap
- Superior registration accuracy
- Immediate responsiveness to upstream fluctuations
- Minimal changeover / parts
- High-mix production with minimal downtime
- Low wear and low maintenance

Ideal for food, medical, pharmaceutical, and multi-pack operations, the FT-iFLEX is designed to keep production lines running smarter and more efficiently than ever with push-button automatic size change.

Its modular, open-frame design ensures clear access beneath the product line, minimising product debris and supporting stringent hygiene requirements.

Key machine capabilities and performance

- Designed for high mix manufacturing environments.
- Variable pitch technology enabling multiple SKUs while reducing the need for change parts.
- Integrated feeder significantly reduces the machine footprint.
- High integrity sealing, including enhanced modules for recyclable films.
- Increased tolerance to product spacing, improving overall efficiency.
- Seamless integration with automated production lines.

Benefits

- Developed to run recyclable films, enabling the end user to deliver more sustainable packaging.
- Shared power architecture between iTRAK® and ArmorKinetix drives improves overall energy efficiency.
- Rapid, tool-less changeovers to maximise machine uptime.
- Sealing module specifically engineered to handle sustainable packaging materials.
- Rockwell's integrated architecture simplifies fault finding and maintenance.
- Optix platform provides both machine visualisation and remote connectivity.

Innovations & features

- 5730 small frame iTRAK® intelligent track system for precise carrier motion control.
- Compact, ergonomic footprint with safe and easy access guarding.
- Unified control architecture across both feeder and wrapper.
- Advanced features including automatic web tracking, reel to reel splicing, Soft Jaw protection, and no product/no bag functionality.
- ArmorKinetix Distributed Servo Drives, combining motors and drives to reduce cabinet space.

HS Mini Tray Former feeding the FT-iFLEX

Enhancing the front end of the flow wrapping line is the HS Mini Tray Former, delivering high performance in an impressively compact footprint - perfect for manufacturers with tight floor layouts.

Despite of its small size, the HS Mini delivers big benefits, including:

- Replaces need for plastic trays
- Up to 60 trays per minute
- Fast, repeatable changeovers
- Allen-Bradley controls
- With modular tooling, it can handle a wide range of carton and tray formats

At interpack, the HS Mini will be configured for lock-erect trays to transport the product to the FT-iFLEX for a seamless wrapping demonstration.

Intelligent Motion Loader linked with SL903 End Load Cartoner

Following wrapping, products transition effortlessly into the cartoning system via Bradman Lake's advanced Intelligent Motion Loader (IML), powered by a medium size iTRAK®.

The IML:

- Accepts randomly fed products
- Automatically synchronises and collates them
- Delivers precise, continuous loading into the cartoner's infeed
- Minimal or no change parts
- Low wear and low maintenance

Featuring independently controlled movers, electromagnet-driven motion and advanced tracking technology, the IML ensures smooth, accurate and reliable product handling - even at high speeds.

Industry-trusted End-Load Cartoning with the SL903

Completing the integrated demonstration line is the renowned SL903 fully automatic end-load cartoner - a favourite among global food and consumer goods manufacturers.

Known for its durability and versatility, the SL903 handles a wide range of carton board materials, including lower-grade and fully recyclable options, supporting today's sustainability goals. Fast changeovers and easy machine access keep productivity high and operations simple for busy production teams.

All equipment is powered using Allen-Bradley's RSLogix 5000 software, ensuring seamless connection between all control components.

All core machines are integrated into the safety circuit.

Sustainability in action

The HS Mini Tray Former, FT-iFLEX Flow Wrapper and SL903 End Load Cartoner will be running sustainable recyclable packaging materials, underscoring Bradman Lake's commitment to environmentally responsible solutions without compromising performance.

WR5 Robotic Wraparound Case Packer

In addition to the flow wrapping and cartoning line, Bradman Lake will feature one of the many versions of the WR5 Robotic Wraparound Case Packer. The WR5 combines single (SRT), double (DRT) and triple (TRT) Race Track Systems for high-speed robotic collation, all powered by Rockwell Automation control, with efficient wraparound case packing.

For maximum flexibility, the WR5 Robotic Wraparound Case Packer can handle several formats – including single, double and triple-facing packs. Quick size changeover is achieved with minimal change parts.

Immersive technology showcase

Attendees can explore a variety of video case studies and installation footage illustrating Bradman Lake Group's solutions in real-world environments - across flow wrapping, cartoning, sleeving, shrink wrapping, tray packing, case packing and palletising.

See it all at interpack 2026

interpack 2026 is the ideal opportunity to discover how Bradman Lake Group's fully integrated packaging systems and automation drive productivity, adaptability and long-term operational value.

Visit Hall 5, Stand C22 to see:

- The FT-iFLEX Flow Wrapper
- The compact HS Mini Tray Former
- The IML Intelligent Motion Loader
- The SL903 End-Load Cartoner
- The WR5 Robotic Wraparound Case Packer

Experience the next generation of intelligent packaging automation - live at interpack 2026.

www.bradmanlake.com

Jenton Group to showcase packaging technologies at interpack 2026

The Jenton Group is very pleased to be exhibiting at interpack 2026 in Dusseldorf (Hall 11/D74-09) and products from four companies in the group will be on display:

Heat sealing solutions for trays, blisters and folded packaging

Soken Engineering will be showing heat sealers for trays, blisters and sandwich / wrap packs. Soken equipment varies from bench top to conveyorised heat sealing systems for card-based packaging for food and non-food folded and lidded packs and blisters. In addition, trays and pots can be sealed with lidding films and profile cut is possible. Full control over time, temperature and pressure delivers consistency of seal.

High-speed conveying, stacking and MAP seal testing automation

Jenton Ariana will be showing converging (in-liner) conveyors, stackers, MAP seal testing and pad placing automation. Ariana equipment works in line, at high speed, with rollstock thermoformers and tray top sealers. 2/3 and 2/3/4 lane switchable converges are available. Random infeed and wet products can be accommodated. Stackers can stack for banding or batching. Ariana understands that line length = cost. Systems are compact and easy to look after.

Label and data verification systems for packaging accuracy

Jenton Dimaco will be showing label and data verification systems and vision-based seal inspection. These products help prevent food waste and recalls by checking 100% of the data on 100% of the labels – or checking seals on 100% of packs. Systems can be on or off line or fitted to existing production equipment or OEM systems. Dimaco are experts on GS1-DL and all UK specifications for food labelling *– It's all about the Data!*

UV disinfection systems for packaging, air and conveyor surfaces

JenAct will be showing UV disinfection solutions for air and surfaces including conveyors. JenAct are experts in UV generation with conventional and LED sources. UVC can be used to disinfect air ducts, HVAC systems and then conveyor surfaces or the products themselves. Packaging is disinfected it progresses from low-care to high-care and within the processing area. In addition, UVB systems are manufactured for vitamin D enhancement.

All the above products are designed and manufactured both to meet sustainability and waste reduction targets and to be economically sensible choices – easy to use, easy to fix, long lasting, reliable and good value.

Seeking global partners and distributors

The Jenton Group's purpose at Interpack is to develop our market outside the UK. Jenton has been designing, supporting and supplying packaging equipment in the UK since 1973. Now it is time to improve our contacts over the sea! *Group companies are actively interested in working with resellers, distributors and OEMs who can sell and support this varied range of products.* Own branding is possible also.

In addition, *Jenton is interested in reciprocal distribution opportunities for products that can enhance our range of products in the UK market.* The Group has developed good connections within the UK packaging industry over the last 53 years!

Jenton Group systems and equipment are designed and manufactured in Whitchurch and Bedford, UK. All software, electrical and control systems are designed and made within the company and service support and training is available.

Contact us to discuss your packaging and automation needs:

t: +44 (0) 1256 892 194
e: sales@jenton.co.uk
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MOLL

Flexcut 760

Digital Rotary Die Cutter System

Stop by our booth at HALL16 A77

Do all your die cutting, stripping, folding, and gluing in one process… all in-house with MOLL!

The MOLL die cutter, folder gluer creates a distinct position in the Label, Mail, Printing and Packaging Markets for sheet-fed applications. It will also kiss cut and cut-score products in an infinite number of shapes and sizes including substrate thicknesses up to 24pt paperboard. It's ideal for finishing boxes, cartons, labels, pocket folders and other types of packaging.

Features

- Touch screen controls
- Top air suction feed w/ adjustable sucker heads with adjustable front air separation blower
- Servo driver pre-registration
- Positive side register on the operator side
- Sheet count and batch control monitors
- Off-site maintenance trouble shooting capabilities
- Mechanical double-sheet detector
- Digital Print to cut registration and lead edge cut registration
- Servo driven registration – Gripper – less
- One servo driven infeed nip to drive and register sheets into the die cutter
- Dual magnetic cylinders which houses magnetic flexible die
- Micro Gap die control in 0.0001 increments
- Spherical roller bearings class 3 - Sealed for life
- Direct vertical cylinder loading – the sheets of paper stay flat while traveling through machine
- Run speeds up to 7,000 sheets per hour w/ variable speed adjustment
- One no-sheet detector after die nip, which will shut down machine if sheet, is missing after going through die nip
- Stripping section that deflects the matrix waste down
- Jam detector at the matrix diverter

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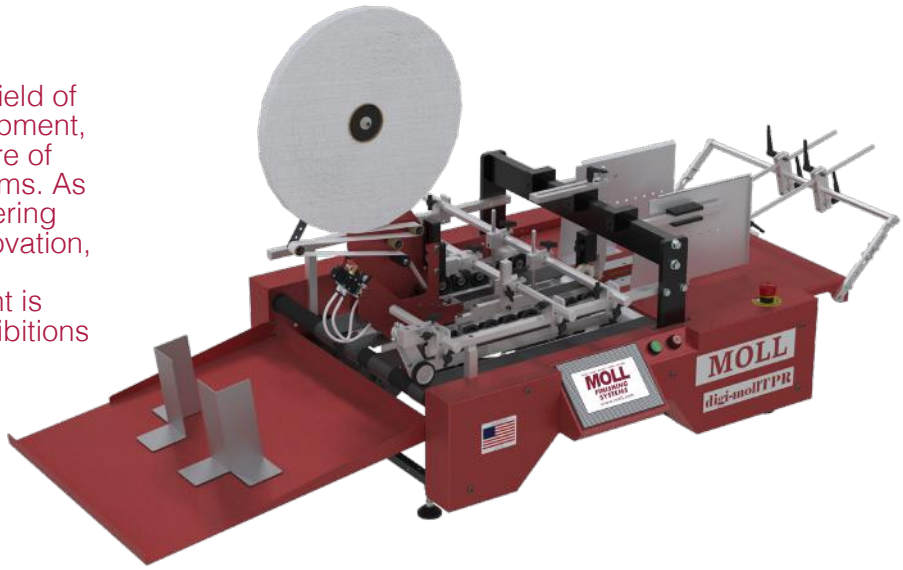
B&R Moll International to unveil new Die Cutter at interpack

The launch highlights integrated die cutting, folding and gluing systems designed to improve efficiency, automation and production flexibility in modern packaging production.

B&R Moll International has long been recognised as a key innovator in the field of post-press and packaging finishing equipment, particularly in the design and manufacture of folder-gluers and rotary die cutting systems. As a company rooted in decades of engineering development and customer-focused innovation, its presence at major international trade fairs is always significant. One such event is interpack, one of the world's leading exhibitions for processing and packaging technologies. At this global stage, the unveiling of a brand-new Die Cutter machine represents not only a product launch but also a statement about the future direction of packaging automation and efficiency.



Company background and core philosophy

B&R Moll International, part of the wider B&R Moll group headquartered in Pennsylvania, has built its reputation on delivering specialised finishing solutions for commercial print and packaging industries. The company has consistently focused on integrating multiple processes—such as die cutting, folding, and gluing—into streamlined systems that improve productivity and reduce labour costs. This philosophy underpins the development of its latest Die Cutter machine, which will be showcased at interpack as a next-generation solution for modern production demands.

Strategic importance of launching at interpack

The introduction of a new Die Cutter machine at such a prestigious exhibition highlights the growing importance of automation and flexibility in the packaging sector. interpack attracts industry professionals from around the world, including manufacturers, suppliers, and decision-makers seeking cutting-edge solutions. By choosing this platform, B&R Moll International positions itself at the forefront of technological advancement, demonstrating its commitment to innovation and global market engagement.

Responding to demand for customisation and efficiency

The new Die Cutter machine reflects several key trends shaping the packaging industry. First, there is an increasing demand for short-run, customised packaging solutions driven by e-commerce and brand differentiation. Traditional finishing processes, which often require multiple machines and manual handling, are no longer efficient enough to meet these needs. B&R Moll's integrated approach addresses this challenge by combining multiple functions into a single system, allowing operators to complete complex tasks in one continuous process. This reduces setup time, minimises waste, and significantly improves throughput.

Digital compatibility and versatility

Secondly, the machine embodies advancements in digital compatibility. Modern printing environments are increasingly digital, requiring finishing equipment that can keep pace with high-speed, variable data production. B&R Moll has responded by designing systems capable of handling a wide range of substrates and formats, ensuring versatility across different applications. From packaging cartons to promotional materials, the new Die Cutter is engineered to deliver precision and consistency at scale.

Integrated workflow and cost efficiency

Another important feature of the Die Cutter machine is its emphasis on efficiency and cost-effectiveness. By integrating die cutting, stripping, folding, and gluing into a single workflow, the machine effectively transforms what was once a multi-step process into a streamlined operation. This not only reduces labour requirements but also lowers production costs and increases profitability for businesses. As noted in previous B&R Moll systems, such integration can turn a "four-step process into a one-step process," highlighting the tangible benefits of this technology.

Ease of use and operational flexibility

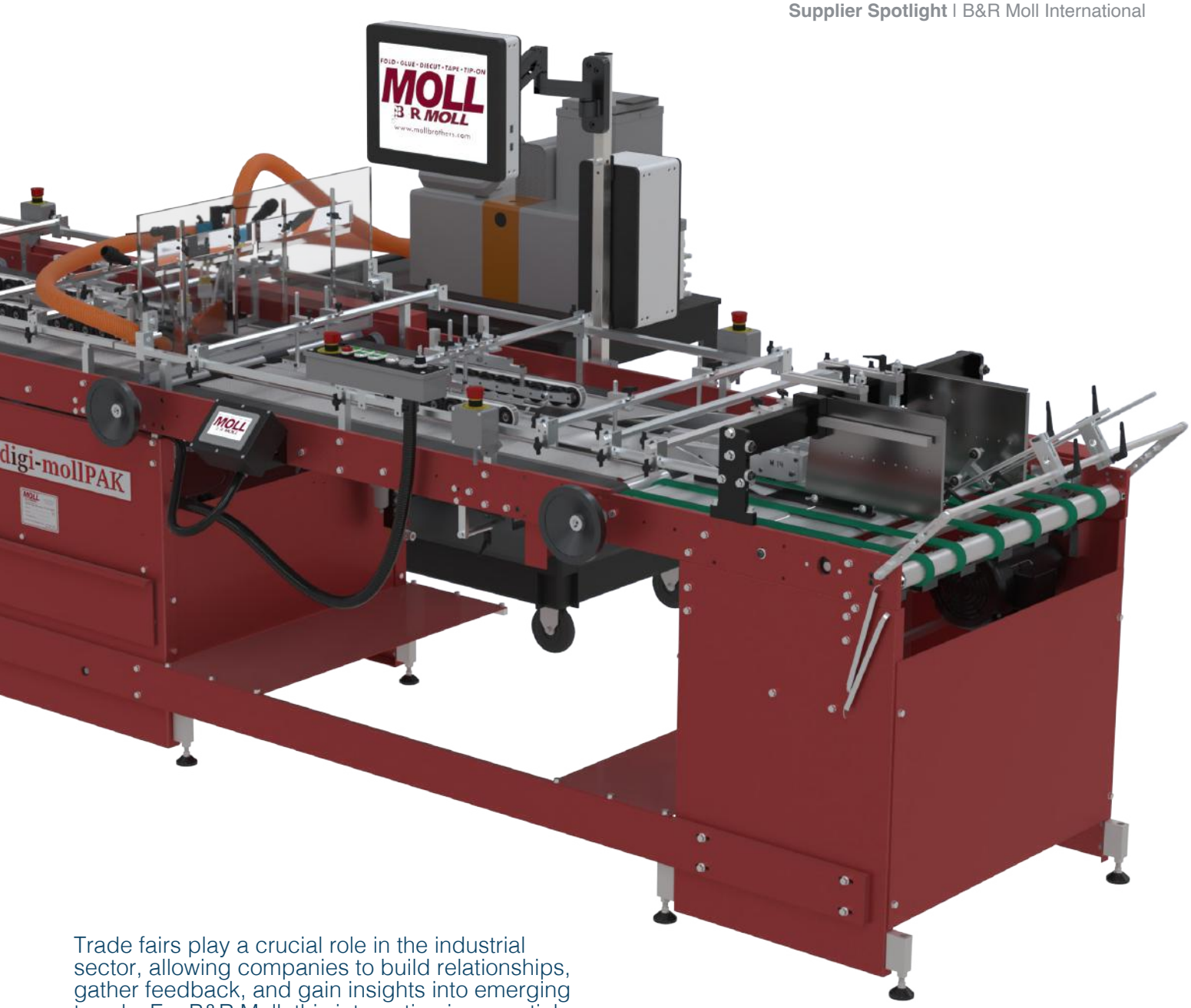
The machine's design also prioritises ease of use and rapid changeover, which are crucial in today's fast-paced production environments. Packaging companies often need to switch between different job types quickly, and downtime can be costly. B&R Moll's engineering solutions, such as open-format layouts and advanced feeding mechanisms, enable operators to transition between jobs with minimal disruption. This flexibility is particularly valuable for companies handling diverse product lines or operating in competitive markets.

Global presence and market connectivity

In addition to technical innovation, the launch of the new Die Cutter at interpack underscores the importance of global collaboration and market presence. B&R Moll International, with its European base in the UK, serves as a vital link between the company's American manufacturing operations and its international customers. This global network allows the company to respond effectively to regional demands while maintaining consistent quality and service standards.

Role of trade fairs in industry engagement

Showcasing the machine at interpack provides an opportunity for live demonstrations and direct engagement with potential clients.



Trade fairs play a crucial role in the industrial sector, allowing companies to build relationships, gather feedback, and gain insights into emerging trends. For B&R Moll, this interaction is essential for refining its products and ensuring they meet the evolving needs of the market.

Innovation and future industry impact

The presentation of a brand-new Die Cutter machine by B&R Moll International at interpack represents a significant milestone in the company's ongoing commitment to innovation and excellence. By combining advanced engineering with practical efficiency, the machine addresses key challenges facing the packaging industry, including the need for speed, flexibility, and cost reduction. At the same time, its debut at a global stage such as interpack highlights the company's strategic focus on international growth and industry leadership. As packaging demands continue to evolve, B&R Moll's latest offering demonstrates how technology can drive progress and redefine the standards of modern production.

Lantech to showcase full range of end-of-line packaging machines at interpack

A global leader in secondary packaging equipment, Lantech will be presenting all three of its product groups — case handling, stretch wrapping and tray and lid handling — at interpack in Hall 13, Stand C47, from 7 to 13 May in Düsseldorf, Germany. The company will showcase cutting-edge stretch wrapping and case handling technologies designed to enhance efficiency, smart factory integration capability and uptime, with live machine demonstrations throughout.

C1000 Case Erector © Lantech

SL Automatic Stretch Wrapper

At interpack, Lantech will continue its European introduction of the revolutionary SL Automatic Stretch Wrapper with Automatic Roll Change. The SL Automatic Stretch Wrapper can wrap up to 110 loads per hour more efficiently and optimally, using less film to secure the load on the pallet. Automatic Roll Change enables the Stretch Wrapper to change film rolls automatically, maximising productivity and performance.

SLA Automatic Stretch Wrapper © Lantech

Efficiency with square cases in a large range

The C1000 Case Erector is renowned for its efficiency and square cases. Lantech's Total Control System ensures square cases, prevents jamming and makes loading, stacking and palletising easier. The case erector produces 90-degree angles regardless of the type of corrugated board, changing temperatures or humidity and varying plano dimensions. The full range of sizes and sealing options can be seen on display in the booth.

Time-saving stretch film solutions

For professional securing of loads on pallets, Lantech offers an efficient packaging solution with the QL400XT Semi-Automatic Pallet Wrapper. This machine reduces each wrapping process by two minutes per cycle by automatically attaching the film to the pallet and

cutting it after wrapping with the patented 'XT Cut and Clamp', which is purely mechanical and requires no compressed air or electricity.

Another advantage is the intelligent 'Load Guardian' control system. The system creates special profiles for common loads, saving time and preventing errors. The QL400XT Stretch Wrapper can process up to 35 pallet loads per hour, with a maximum diagonal of 1830 mm and a maximum height of 2030 mm. The processed film can be pre-stretched up to 300%.

Parcel Pack system with return shipment option

The Parcel Pack compact packaging solution produces letterbox-sized trays. The TE Parcel Tray Erector and LA Parcel Lid Applicator can produce up to 1,000 perfectly square cardboard letterbox parcels per hour. The LA Parcel now offers the option of gluing the lid in a different way so that it remains attached on one side, allowing any return shipment to be sent in the same packaging. Other Tray and Lid options will be on display.

Smart factory integration capability

At interpack, Lantech will showcase the capability of its machines to integrate seamlessly into smart factories via AMR integration, case erector magazine autoloading, and LINC®, Lantech's operational intelligence platform.

Key equipment on display featuring live demonstrations will include: SL Automatic Stretch Wrapper with Automatic Roll Change, C1000 Case Erector, QL400XT Semi-Automatic Stretch Wrapper, as well as the Parcel Pack Tray and Lid combination.

QL400XT Stretch Wrapper
© Lantech

Visit Lantech at interpack in Düsseldorf, Germany. From 7–13 May, Hall 13, Stand C47 for hands-on demonstrations and in-depth discussions with packaging experts.

For more information visit:
www.lantech.com/r2/interpack-2026/

Parcelpack
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Moving packaging *forward*

Reliable elevation. Continuous flow.

- Gentle product handling
- High capacity vertical transport
- Trusted in the packaging industry

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Stand 13D64

interpack
PROCESSING & PACKAGING

Always moving forward

Efficient vertical transport for the packaging industry

In today's fast-moving packaging industry, efficiency, safe product handling and reliability are essential. As production volumes increase and factory footprints become more compact, manufacturers are looking for smarter ways to move products through their facilities. One of the most effective ways to optimise space and streamline production is through vertical transport.

Apollo has been helping packaging manufacturers around the world achieve exactly that. With decades of experience in vertical conveying technology, Apollo designs and manufactures innovative Spiral Conveyors and Bucket Elevators that keep production lines running smoothly while maximising available floor space.

At interpack, Apollo will showcase how these systems help packaging companies move products more efficiently: Always moving forward.

Maximising floor space with vertical transport

Production environments are becoming increasingly complex. Manufacturers often need to move products between multiple processing, packaging, and palletising levels within a facility. Expanding horizontally is not always possible, which makes vertical transport a key component of modern packaging lines.

Apollo's vertical conveying solutions are specifically designed to solve this challenge.

By transporting products upward or downward in a compact footprint, manufacturers can:

- Optimise production layouts
- Reduce congestion on the factory floor

- Improve process flow between machines
- Increase overall production efficiency

Whether transporting packaged goods, containers, cartons, or bulk materials, Apollo's systems integrate seamlessly into existing production lines.

Spiral Conveyors: compact, continuous product flow

Apollo's Spiral Conveyor is one of the most recognised vertical conveying solutions in the packaging industry. Designed for continuous product flow, Spiral Conveyors allow manufacturers to move packaged goods between levels quickly and efficiently.

Unlike traditional elevators or lifts, spiral conveyors provide non-stop transport, eliminating waiting times and improving line throughput.

In packaging facilities, spiral conveyors are commonly used to move:

- Boxes and cartons
- Trays and containers
- Flow-wrapped products
- Bottles and packaged goods

Because the system operates continuously, it ensures smooth transitions between different stages of production, such as:

- Filling
- Packaging
- Labelling
- Palletising

The compact design also allows manufacturers to save valuable floor space while maintaining high production speeds.

Apollo's Spiral Conveyors are engineered with durability and reliability in mind. With robust construction and low maintenance requirements, they are built to perform in demanding industrial environments.

Learn more about the Apollo Spiral Conveyor: www.apollobv.com/spiral-conveyors

Bucket Elevators: reliable vertical transport for bulk materials

While Spiral Conveyors are ideal for packaged products, Bucket Elevators play a crucial role in transporting bulk materials within packaging operations.

In many packaging processes (particularly in food, pet food, powders, and granular product

packaging) materials must be transported vertically before they are portioned, filled, or packaged.

Apollo's bucket elevators provide a reliable solution for moving materials such as:

- Powders
- Granules
- Seeds and grains
- Pet food
- Snack products

The enclosed design ensures hygienic handling while minimising product loss or contamination. This makes bucket elevators particularly suitable for industries where hygiene and product integrity are critical.

Thanks to their modular construction, Apollo bucket elevators can easily be adapted to different production layouts and capacities.

More information about Apollo Bucket Elevators:
www.apollobv.com/bucket-elevators

Designed for modern packaging facilities

Packaging environments demand equipment that is not only efficient but also easy to integrate, operate, and maintain.

Apollo's vertical conveying systems are designed with these requirements in mind. Key advantages include:

Space efficiency
Vertical transport reduces the footprint of production lines.

Continuous operation
Spiral conveyors ensure uninterrupted product flow.

Product integrity
Careful handling minimises product damage during transport.

Hygienic design
Ideal for food and sensitive packaging applications.

Flexible integration
Systems can be integrated into both new and existing production lines.

This flexibility allows packaging manufacturers to adapt their production facilities as demand grows.

Supporting packaging innovation

As the packaging industry continues to evolve, automation and smart factory design are becoming increasingly important. Efficient material flow plays a central role in this transformation.

Apollo works closely with system integrators, OEMs, and packaging manufacturers to design conveying solutions that support modern automated production environments.

Whether handling bulk materials or packaged goods, Apollo's vertical transport solutions help manufacturers create smarter, more efficient factories.

Follow Apollo for industry updates:
www.linkedin.com/company/apollo-group-europe

Meet Apollo at interpack

At interpack, visitors can discover how Apollo's Spiral Conveyors and Bucket Elevators help packaging manufacturers improve efficiency, optimise factory layouts, and support future growth.

With innovative engineering, reliable technology, and decades of experience, Apollo continues to help the packaging industry keep production moving.

Always moving forward.

Discover more at:
www.apollobv.com

ROYAL APOLLO
Group

LoeschPack and Hastamat demonstrate integrated packaging solution at interpack 2026

When packaging machines interact perfectly

Joint packaging line LoeschPack and Hastamat
© Loesch Verpackungstechnik GmbH + Co. KG & Hastamat Verpackungstechnik GmbH + Co. KG

From 7 to 13 May 2026, LoeschPack and Hastamat will be showing efficient and sustainable packaging solutions for the food sector at the world-leading interpack trade fair in Düsseldorf. On the joint stand in hall 14, C22, the German packaging machine manufacturers will be showing a fully integrated packaging line and further new items from their range for the first time. The focus is on continuous packaging processes from a single source – from primary packaging to the supermarket shelf.

The joint packaging line from Hastamat and LoeschPack will be premiered at interpack 2026. Multiple machines perfectly integrated to each other will demonstrate live how rectangular products are packaged efficiently, precisely and in a manner which is gentle on the product and material – from feeding to packaging tubular bags, weighing, dosing and packaging in the sustainable block bottom bag. In addition, both companies will be showing a wide range of machines and complete packaging line systems for different packaging steps and sectors.

"We provide our international customers with specific packaging solutions which are tailored specifically to their products and requirements. True to our company pledge 'Packaging your ideas…', we realise the ideas of our clients – from the individual machine to the complete packaging line", says Olaf Piepenbrock, Executive Partner of Hastamat, LoeschPack and the Piepenbrock business group.

Tailor-made packaging lines from a single source

The combined Line of the LOMATIC feed and distribution system and LoeschPack's FHW-S optimised horizontal flow-wrap system with the CP14 multi-head weigher and Hastamat's new KBM block bottom bag machine. All the packaging

materials used are recyclable and support sustainable packaging concepts. LoeschPack's and Hastamat's close cooperation pursues a clear goal: that of providing food manufacturers with individually engineered packaging systems from a single source. By pooling their technological expertise, the sister companies develop tailor-made solutions which are designed for the exact product, process and production environment.

"Instead of standardised concepts, we produce integrated lines with which we provide complete solutions for the individual challenges our customers face. In the process, our common guiding principle 'Packaging your ideas...' stands for maximum customer partnership – from the first idea to the completed packaging line", says Dr. Ferdinand Schwarzfischer, Chief Technology Officer at LoeschPack.

Feeding and distributing products efficiently

The LOMATIC, with its modular construction, feeds downstream machines in all output ranges, and achieves up to 190 rows per minute in the process. At interpack, alongside rectangular products, it will also be distributing chocolate, biscuits, waffles and cereal bars. The hygienic design facilitates simple cleaning and fast format changes while maintaining a compact footprint – a clear advantage for flexible production environments.

Optimised flow-wrap packaging

With the new FHW-S machine generation, LoeschPack will be introducing a particularly compact, maintenance-friendly and easily accessible flow-wrap machine. The horizontal machine for cold and hot sealing applications runs without external compressed air, thus reducing energy and operating costs notably. Simplified operation, the optimised film web control and reliable and fast format changes increase the production reliability and reduce downtimes. In combination with a high-performance infeed specific to the respective project, the FHW-S packages up to 2,100 products at a film speed of up to 205 metres per minute – even with alternative, paper-based packaging materials. Additionally, modern 3D product checks make for constantly high product and packaging quality.

Weighing technology for the highest precision

After primary packaging, Hastamat takes on the pre-packaged products and feeds them to the CP14 multi-head weigher. The fully automatic combination weigher facilitates precise, reliable weighing and counting. Both bulk and stick-shaped products can be dosed on the same machine, depending on the design. With up to 140 weighments per minute, it provides the perfect combination of efficiency and high flexibility, short changeover times and maximum dosing accuracy for the widest range of applications.

New block bottom bag solution for varied products

Hastamat is reviving its KBM series again with the new block bottom bag machine. The particularly versatile packaging system produces square sealed bags with exactly formed bases. The empty bags which are pre-fabricated on the vertical form-fill-seal machine, are filled and sealed on a horizontal conveyor belt. At the same time, the KBM processes different bag head shapes on a single machine – for example, as an upright header with clip or folded over once or multiple times and secured with a label or adhesive strip.

"Our new, improved machine can be used flexibly for many products, it fits in seamlessly in complete packaging lines and can be controlled jointly with our multi-head weigher. The short drop distances of this machine are perfectly suited to our weighers as a packaging combination for sensitive products. The modular construction with the individual processing stations of the new machine facilitates optimum adaptation to bag shapes and outputs. We will be demonstrating just how this all works in practice at interpack where the KBM will be packaging the products counted on the multi-head weigher, the top edges of which are folded and secured with an adhesive label", explains Thomas Bornemann, Director Sales & Marketing at Hastamat.

Find out more about LoeschPack and Hastamat:

w: loeschpack.com
w: hastamat.com

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www.hastamat.com **www.loeschpack.com**

PPWR 2026: A practical roadmap for packaging compliance

As the EU's Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) takes effect, businesses placing goods on the EU market are entering a more structured and demanding compliance environment.

For many non-EU companies, partnering with an authorised representative remains one of the most efficient ways to manage documentation, reporting, and cross-border obligations.

The two infographics on the following pages summarise what matters most right now: the immediate steps required for 2026 compliance, and the longer-term timeline shaping packaging strategy through to 2040.

What you need to do now

There are five priority actions businesses should already be implementing to align with PPWR requirements and reduce exposure to delays or penalties. These include:

1. **Conducting a chemical audit:** Review all packaging materials to ensure food-contact items are PFAS-free and total heavy metals remain below 100 mg/kg by August 2026
2. **Preparing for new labelling requirements:** Update packaging to meet harmonised EU standards, including material composition disclosure, reuse tracking systems, digital marking for substances of concern.

3. **Fulfilling importer obligations:** Importers must verify manufacturer compliance, retain the declaration of conformity, and maintain technical documentation for 5 to 10 years.
4. **Planning EPR registration:** Register and report packaging data in each EU country of sale using the new harmonised format introduced in 2026.
5. **Establishing conformity assessment procedures:** Build internal systems to evaluate compliance and prepare documentation before products reach the market.

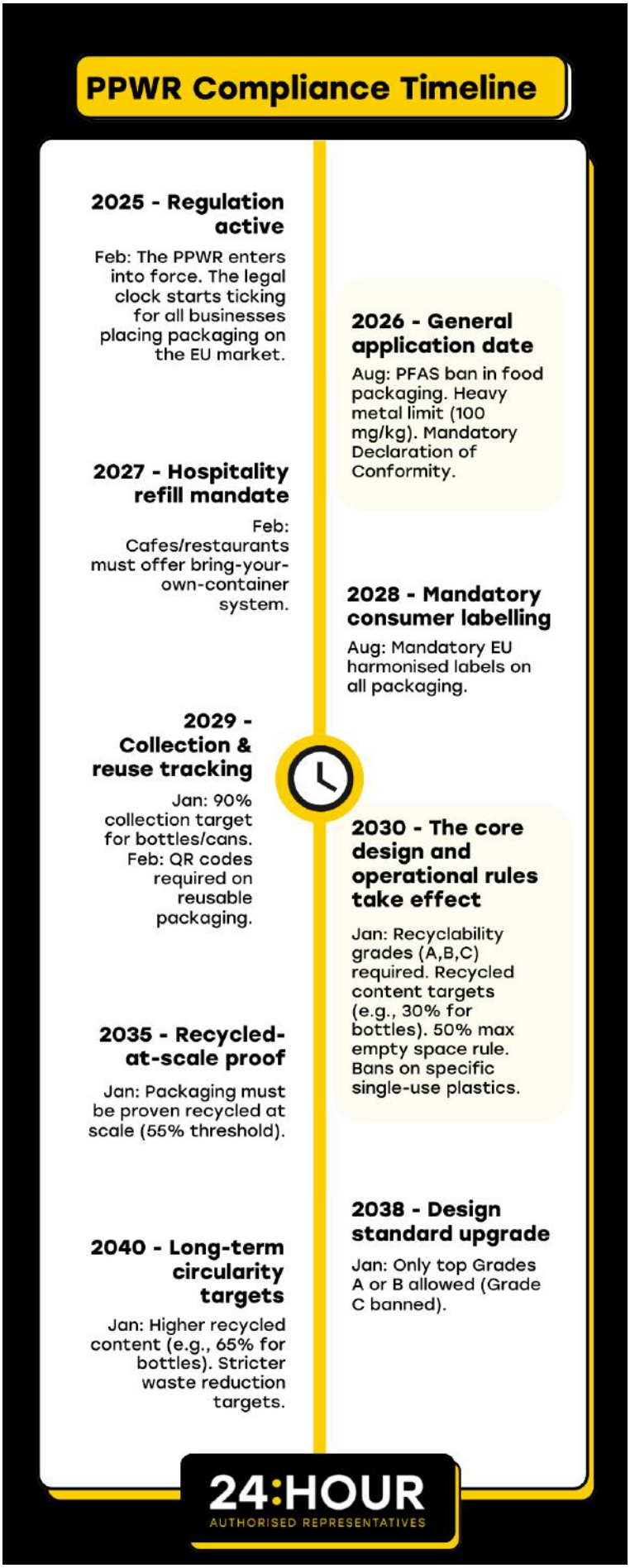
Taking these steps early helps businesses avoid costly redesigns, shipment rejections, and last-minute compliance gaps, particularly as scrutiny around packaging waste intensifies across EU markets.

The bigger picture: PPWR timeline to 2040

PPWR is not a one-off deadline but a phased transformation of packaging sustainability requirements. The infographic opposite places 2026 in context and looks ahead to 2040.

Key milestones to plan for:

- **2026:** Introduction of the PFAS ban for food-contact packaging, enforcement of the 100 mg/kg heavy metal limit for all packaging, and mandatory documentation requirements.
- **2027:** The hospitality sector must provide systems that allow consumers to use reusable containers.
- **2028:** Standardised EU labelling requirements become mandatory across all packaging.
- **2029:** A 90% collection target for bottles and cans comes into force, alongside QR-based tracking requirements for reusable packaging.
- **2030:** Core design rules take effect, including recyclability grading (A–C), minimum recycled content targets (including increased use of PCR plastic), limits on empty space, and bans on certain single-use formats.
- **2035:** Packaging must be proven recyclable at scale within real EU infrastructure systems.



- **2038:** Only packaging achieving the highest recyclability grades (A or B) can be placed on the market.
- **2040:** Higher recycled content thresholds apply, alongside more ambitious waste reduction targets.

Why a phased approach matters

PPWR is designed to reshape how packaging is produced, used, and recovered over time. Businesses that act early can:

- Spread investment across multiple years
- Align product design with future requirements
- Streamline multi-country reporting
- Strengthen credibility in sustainability-focused markets

Delaying action, on the other hand, increases the risk of disruption as each milestone tightens requirements around materials, labelling, and package waste management.

Final thought

PPWR is already in force, and the 2026 requirements are only the starting point. Companies that take a structured approach now by auditing materials, updating processes, and planning for future milestones will be far better positioned to navigate the evolving regulatory landscape with confidence.

This article was contributed by 24hour-AR, an Authorised Representative supporting companies selling products to the European market.

For more information visit:
www.24hour-ar.com/eu-ppwr

24:HOUR
AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVES

AmbaFlex showcases cutting-edge conveying solutions at interpack

Innovation on display: experience AmbaFlex in action

At interpack, innovation takes centre stage, and this year AmbaFlex is demonstrating exactly why it remains a global leader in material-handling, accumulation and spiral conveying technology. With a strong focus on efficiency, flexibility, speed and smart use of space, the company is presenting a wide range of its most advanced solutions. Visitors who want to see equipment in action, compare performance, or explore options for their own packaging line will find the AmbaFlex booth an essential stop.

A major highlight is the well-known AccuVeyor, shown in combination with a portal system and the versatile AmbaVeyor conveyor. This setup gives visitors a complete view of how the different AmbaFlex systems work together. It also shows how easily these solutions can be integrated into existing packaging environments without complicated modifications. Whether customers aim to increase dynamic buffer capacity, regulate product flow, or reduce bottlenecks, the AccuVeyor demonstrates how controlled accumulation and release can improve overall line efficiency. The result is a live, practical example of what modern conveying can deliver when flexibility and performance go hand in hand.

Designed for easy integration and optimised floorspace

One of the most important strengths of AmbaFlex systems is their ability to integrate smoothly

into almost any production layout. The company designs its equipment to adapt to different floorplans, product types, and line speeds, allowing manufacturers to upgrade performance without major disruptions. This ease of integration is a key reason many companies rely on AmbaFlex when expanding or optimising their production lines.

With space at a premium in many facilities, the ability to make more efficient use of both floorspace and vertical space is becoming increasingly critical. AmbaFlex solutions help manufacturers achieve smooth product flow while reducing the footprint of their conveying setup. This combination of compact design and high functionality allows operations to scale output without the need for expensive building modifications. As production volumes rise and speeds increase, these spatial advantages translate into real operational value for customers across various industries.

Introducing high-speed spirals and accessible new products

In addition to proven systems, AmbaFlex is presenting several important product innovations at interpack. One of the most anticipated updates is the next generation of the high-speed SpiralVeyor (SVs). This new design maintains the reliability the industry has trusted for years, while offering significantly higher speeds and an even smaller footprint. For packaging lines where products move faster every year and where every square meter counts, the new SVs offers enhanced vertical conveying power that keeps operations ahead of growing throughput demands.

Another key introduction is the SV L series (also known as the Lean versions). This streamlined, cost-effective solution is designed for straightforward vertical conveying tasks. It can be ordered quickly, installed without extensive configuration, and provides dependable performance from day one. With the SV L, AmbaFlex offers a smart option for customers who need reliable vertical movement without the complexity or customisation required for more advanced systems. It is a simple, ready-to-order solution that still carries the engineering quality and durability the company is known for.

A partner in complete conveying solutions

What truly sets AmbaFlex apart goes beyond its product portfolio. The company approaches every project as a complete conveying solution rather than a collection of individual machines. Its systems are engineered to optimise space, reduce downtime, and adapt to the unique requirements of each customer. This solutions-based mindset ensures that every installation helps manufacturers improve performance and prepare for future demands.

Supporting this approach is a global team of service experts who are available around the clock. With global 24/7 assistance, AmbaFlex ensures customers receive help whenever needed, regardless of location. The company is committed to building long-term partnerships based on communication, innovation, and continuous improvement.

By listening closely to customer feedback and investing in ongoing research and development, AmbaFlex continues to push the boundaries of modern conveying technology.

Visit AmbaFlex at Booth 13A63 to see these innovations in action and discover how they can elevate your production performance. The team looks forward to meeting you and discussing future possibilities.

AmbaFlex
SCIENCE IN SPIRALS

Let's get in contact!

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Reusable wooden packaging that optimises logistics and sustainability

In modern supply chains, packaging decisions directly affect cost-to-serve, warehouse efficiency, compliance, and ESG performance. KRONUS positions wooden packaging as a long-term logistics asset - designed to be reused, repaired, and kept in circulation - helping manufacturers and logistics operators reduce waste while improving operational performance.

Founded in 1995, KRONUS has grown from a local production facility into a large-scale European manufacturer supplying 1000+ customers in more than 60 countries. Their approach combines industrial-scale production, automation, and certified management systems to deliver consistent, repeatable packaging performance across international networks.

A complete wooden packaging "ecosystem" - products built to work together

KRONUS manufactures complete wooden packaging solutions - most commonly combining pallet collars, wooden pallets, lids, and other accessories into robust pallet-box systems for transport and storage. Key product areas include:

- Pallet collars (foldable wooden collars)
- Wooden pallets (including EPAL, one-way, and customised solutions)
- Lids produced according to customer requirements

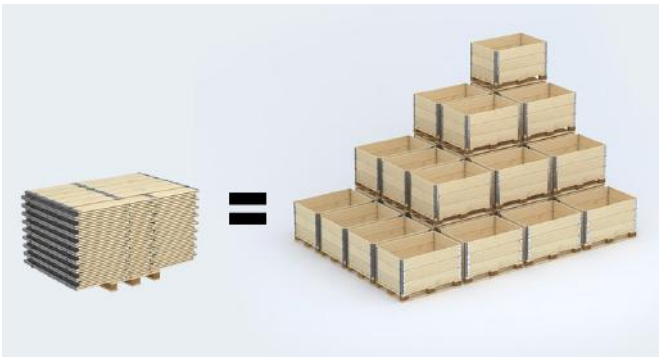
- Accessories that extend functionality and cargo protection in transit and storage

Beyond core logistics packaging, KRONUS also highlights industry-ready wooden packaging formats such as fruit & vegetable boxes, NL standard boxes, CA/ULO storage boxes, and custom wooden packaging solutions.

Pallet Collars: adjustable, foldable, space-saving industrial packaging

Pallet collars are a versatile way to transform a standard pallet into a stable container of the required height. KRONUS describes pallet collars as softwood boards with hinged corners that help protect and secure cargo, while allowing customers to adjust height by stacking collars to match product dimensions and reduce wasted space.

A major operational advantage is return-and-storage efficiency: KRONUS notes that the collapsible design enables up to 87% space savings when not in use, improving backhaul economics and reducing warehouse footprint for empty packaging. For safety and durability, KRONUS states that its pallet collars are designed for fragile, heavy, and loose goods and are TÜV tested and certified.



Pallets, lids, and accessories: engineered packaging systems, not standalone items

For many shippers, product protection depends on how well packaging components integrate as a system. KRONUS offers pallets - including EPAL, one-way, and customised designs - while emphasising consistent quality and standard or tailored sizes.

Lids are manufactured to customer requirements and used with pallet collars and pallets to protect goods; KRONUS notes that lids can be supplied in different materials to match operational needs better. To extend performance further, KRONUS supplies compatible accessories intended to improve packaging functionality and cargo stability during transport and storage.

Custom wooden packaging solutions and wooden boxes for different industries

Beyond standard pallet collars and pallets, KRONUS develops custom wooden packaging solutions tailored to specific cargo risks, handling methods, and industry requirements. The company designs pallets, collars, and lids according to customer specifications to provide additional protection for high-value or sensitive goods, especially in complex export and multi-stage logistics.

For specialised applications, KRONUS offers modular packaging systems with accessories such as dividers, corner protection, lids, and internal supports to match product geometry and weight. These solutions are widely used in industries like machinery and metalworking to prevent movement, scratches, and corrosion during transport. KRONUS also manufactures wooden boxes for food and agriculture, including NL standard boxes, fruit and vegetable boxes, and CA/ULO storage boxes designed for ventilation, safe stacking, and long-term storage, with customisable dimensions and branding options available.

Sustainability: built into the packaging

KRONUS reusable wooden packaging is a practical response to supply chain disruption and rising sustainability expectations. In its sustainability messaging, the company emphasises that wooden packaging can reduce the need to purchase new packaging for every shipment, while lowering environmental impact and cost.

A key theme is longevity: KRONUS highlights the possibility of using one set of wooden packaging (pallet collars, pallets, lids, and accessories) for up to 10 years across supply chain stages. They also stress end-of-life circularity: wooden packaging is reusable and recyclable, and can be repurposed (for example, into wood shavings for heating), supporting a zero-waste logic when managed properly.

KRONUS
CARRYING YOUR BUSINESS

Take the next step with KRONUS

If your goal is to cut total packaging costs, streamline warehouse handling, and strengthen ESG performance without sacrificing protection in transit, the next logical move is to work with a supplier that delivers not just products - but a complete, reusable wooden packaging system. With pallet collars, pallets, lids, accessories, and industry-focused wooden boxes, KRONUS helps companies turn packaging into a controllable logistics asset: modular, repairable, space-efficient, and designed for long-term circulation in demanding supply chains.

To explore the best-fit solution for your cargo, routes, and compliance requirements, contact KRONUS for a quote or an expert consultation:

w: kronus.eu
t: +371 6751 5952
e: request@kronus.eu

These are the start-ups at interpack 2026

Photo: Messe Düsseldorf / Constanze Tillmann.

Every year, young companies bring fresh ideas to the processing and packaging industry. Twenty-two of them will be showcasing their work in the Start-up Zone at interpack 2026. The exhibition space has more than doubled compared to the previous event.

From sustainability and digitalisation to new business models: 22 start-ups from eight countries will be presenting their solutions for the processing and packaging industry in Hall 7a at interpack, covering key areas of transformation within the sector. interpack will take place in Düsseldorf from 7 to 13 May, featuring a total of 2,800 exhibitors from 67 countries.

Start-ups from Germany, Sweden, India, Portugal, South Korea, Austria, Estonia and the UK are represented. Their offerings range from bio-based and recyclable materials, through reusable systems and healthcare shipping packaging, to software platforms for ESG reporting, PPWR compliance, serialisation and AI-supported operations management. New approaches in process technology are also represented, for example in mixing technology or in intelligent platform solutions for packaging processes.

Food quality and extended shelf life

One of the start-ups is Innoscentia from Sweden. The company helps the food industry manage best-before dates more precisely. *"Conservative best before date marking confuses consumers and reduces the sales window for retailers adding to the massive global food waste problem,"* says Henrik Nilsson, CEO of Innoscentia.

"Our sensor technology enables cost-effective quality control for every single package. By displaying the actual quality in real time, shelf life is extended and consumers can make purchasing decisions based on facts. Stricter legislation and

binding targets set by the European Union for 2030, which aim to reduce food waste by 10 per cent at the producer level and by 30 per cent in the retail sector and among consumers, require new solutions so that the industry can better respond to the new, stricter legal requirements."

The Portuguese company Nanox has developed Pack Smart, a method for extending the shelf life of food. Functional additives inhibit microbial growth and regulate the exchange of quality-relevant gases. *"Our solutions are developed in compliance with international food-contact regulations and quality standards, enabling safe and scalable adoption across global markets,"* says Gustavo Pagotto, CEO and co-founder.

"By combining material science, regulatory readiness, and industrial feasibility, we help reduce food waste throughout the value chain. Interpack is the ideal platform to connect our innovation with global industry leaders driving sustainability, PPWR adaptation, and next-generation packaging technologies."

Product protection under regulatory pressure

Licopharm develops insulated packaging for the temperature-controlled transport of products in the pharmaceutical and life sciences sectors. *"In doing so we are addressing the challenge of transporting sensitive goods safely while reducing the use of plastic and EPS packaging,"* explains Mirko Cyron, Licopharm's Sales Manager.

"Our approach combines high-performance, paper-based insulation materials with tailor-made system solutions that ensure stable temperature conditions and are fully recyclable." The current drivers of the business are rising sustainability requirements, stricter regulatory requirements in pharmaceutical logistics and the growing need for secure cold chains for temperature-sensitive products.

EVOPACK focuses on bag-in-box solutions for water-based and perishable products. The aim is to reduce product losses along the value chain, thereby improving cost-effectiveness and resource conservation. *"In light of the PPWR and the tightened Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR), the reduction of preservatives is increasingly becoming a competitive factor. We offer manufacturers a future-proof, regulatory-compliant packaging solution that reliably ensures product safety even with reduced or minimal use of preservatives,"* says Florian Ebinger, co-founder of EVOPACK.

Material innovation for recyclable packaging

Cell2Green has developed a recyclable, biodegradable cellulose film made from renewable raw materials as an alternative to plastic films. It is manufactured without toxic chemicals using cellulose from wood or waste materials from the paper industry. *"Our solution is both recyclable and suitable for sensitive applications where films frequently end up in the environment – such as in agriculture, with bio-waste or in consumer-facing packaging. At the same time, the film meets industrial requirements such as moisture resistance, sealability and reliable processing – entirely without additives,"* explains Dirk Hollmann, CEO & co-founder of Cell2Green.

The Start-up Zone complements interpack's offering with new technological approaches and business models. It creates a space for exchange between young companies and international decision-makers in the industry. Additional pitches are planned in the interpack Spotlight Forum.

This article was originally published by interpack.

The start-ups at interpack 2026:

- Alphacath
- Cell2Green
- easy2cool
- Evopack
- hs-tumbler
- Innoscentia
- JOOYEONG P&S
- KIUD Technologies
- Konnect Packaging International
- Licopharm
- MEADOW
- NANOX NNX-TECH
- OMMM Operations Management Solutions
- Packaging Cockpit
- PackIntelX
- PAL PLASTIK AMBALAJSAN. VE TIC. A.Ş
- Peerox
- R-Cycle
- Recyda
- Reused Remade
- SeriSoft
- Sykell

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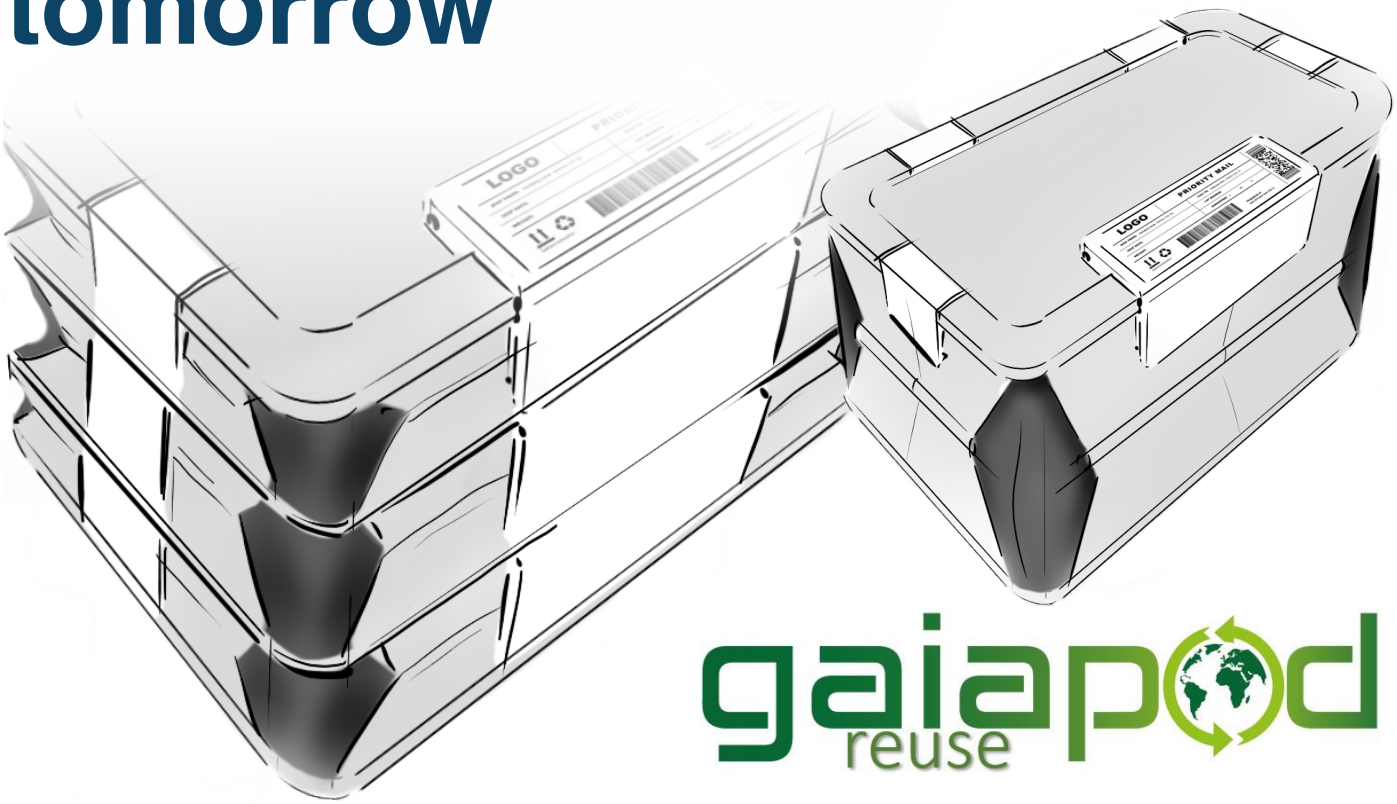

gaiapod reuse

Alphacath Ltd. (interpack Start-up Zone Hall 7a / C10) is an English technology start-up that has developed, patented and tested GaiaPod™ circular packaging, claiming 100% reusability and 0% need for recycling or wastage.

GaiaPod™ transit packaging is the result of an imaginative redesign of traditional packaging components, enhanced through the integration of digital technology. The carton or box, dunnage, sealing system and electronic shipping label are all integrated into a durable, reusable packaging solution with on-board electronics providing digital interoperability with supply chains.

The product line-up covers a wide range of use-case scenarios, and Alphacath is now looking to move from field tests to early adopters and partnerships. The system has been designed to minimise change management and allow easy integration into existing workflows with minimal staff training.

But why change packaging systems at all?

Rethinking the environmental impact of packaging

The substantial carbon footprint of modern commerce is significantly influenced by packaging and labelling.

The Alphacath team has set out clear and ambitious objectives: to reduce costs for businesses today, reduce the carbon footprint for a better tomorrow, and add transformative value through digitalisation by modernising packaging and labelling.

While recycling rates have improved, recyclability does not always translate into a painless or fully sustainable solution in practice.

Recycling carries costs in terms of revenue, environmental impact and reputation. Increasingly, these costs are being transferred from the public sector to businesses through Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes, and their impact is expected to grow as governments refine these policies.

Recent data illustrates the scale of the challenge. In 2023, EU-27 countries failed to recycle nearly a third of their packaging waste — approximately 25.9 million tonnes, or 57.8 kg per person. Differences in material recovery rates, landfill use and incineration practices reveal a complex and often troubling picture.

At the same time, global forecasts indicate continued growth in packaging consumption. Policymakers have increasingly recognised that waste reduction through recycling alone may not deliver environmental improvements quickly enough.

Against this backdrop, reusable packaging systems are gaining attention as a potential alternative approach.

(Gaia = personification of the Earth, mother of all life in Greek mythology; Pod = protective casing.)

GaiaPod™ packaging – 100% reuse, 0% landfill

GaiaPod™ Reuse™ is a patented and tested technology designed to reduce costs and carbon footprint through four distinct product lines. Each integrates the box, sealing mechanism, adhesive labels and dunnage into a single reusable product. The GaiaPod™ range includes:

- Rigid and collapsible shipping boxes
- User-reprogrammable transit boxes
- Carriers for biological specimens
- Carriers for high-value industrial and medical goods

Shipping boxes: rigid and collapsible

GaiaPod™ boxes are available in both rigid and collapsible formats.

Collapsible boxes are delivered to consumers in their expanded state with contents inside and returned empty in collapsed form for reuse.

The boxes use hinged sides that fold inward to reduce volume during return transport.

Traditional hard-to-recycle dunnage is replaced by integrated patented airbags and a valve system that can be reinflated during each use cycle. This system helps secure and protect contents during transit while maintaining ease of handling. The boxes can be stacked when full or empty.

Electronics that make a difference

Shipping labels are displayed using e-paper technology, refreshed through wireless communication. These electronics provide potential for edge computing capabilities, helping reduce labour and equipment requirements within supply chains. Example use cases include:

- Returnable transit packaging
- Hub locker or self-service kiosk deliveries
- General e-commerce transit packaging
- Sales packaging

User-reprogrammable transit boxes

User-reprogrammable GaiaPod™ boxes allow products to be delivered to consumers and returned with the same or different contents.

This returnable transit packaging is particularly suited to situations where backhaul logistics are likely or guaranteed.

Example use cases include sending a new laptop to an employee and returning the old device for secure WEEE recycling, or clothing subscription and “try-before-you-buy” models.

Because products are returned within the same packaging, these systems can provide additional environmental benefits by supporting reverse logistics and circular product flows.

Carriers for biological specimens

The carbon footprint associated with biological specimen transport has increased since the COVID-19 pandemic and is expected to remain significant.

GaiaPod™ carriers for biological specimens incorporate tamper-evident packaging along with digital traceability features.

The integrated digital components provide traceability and provenance information, which can also be valuable in other sectors such as food supply chains.

Carriers for high-value goods

GaiaPod™ packaging solutions are also designed for high-value industrial and medical goods, including aeronautical components and medical devices.

Digital components within the packaging allow continuous traceability and inventory management, supporting logistics processes for valuable or sensitive items.

An opportunity and a challenge

Concerns about climate change and the carbon footprint of modern industry have moved from academic debate into mainstream policy and business strategy.

Environmental sustainability is increasingly shaping political decisions, corporate governance and industrial development.

Changes in attitudes, culture, business practices and regulation are accelerating efforts to reduce the carbon footprint of modern societies. Technology can play an important role in supporting this transition.

Alphacath’s goal is to deliver societal benefits while building a profitable business through its patented packaging technology.

The GaiaPod™ range aims to provide cost-neutral or cost-saving solutions, while transforming simple packaging components such as boxes and labels into digitally enabled supply chain assets.

Visitors can discover GaiaPod™ circular packaging at Alphacath Ltd., interpack Start-up Zone Hall 7a / C10.

For enquiries: srv@alphacath.com

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The SAIER Verpackungstechnik is your specialist for buckets, bowls, and tubs in all shapes and volumes from 1 to 30 liters. Our buckets stand out in terms of sustainability, offering recycling and circularity, lightweight design with maximum stability, and, upon customer request, also made from PCR recycled material.

Our S-Range also delivers added value such as integrated barrier and peel-film layers or integrated inner buckets made from lightweight film material. Contact us for your ideal solution.

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Irregular Shape Cutting

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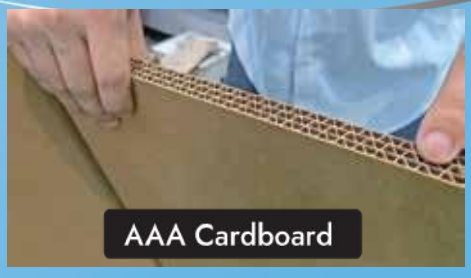
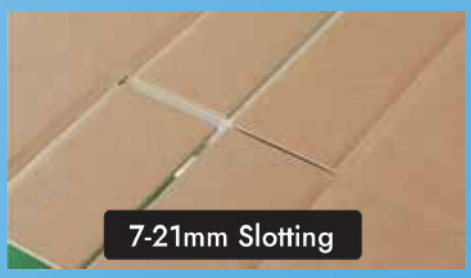

AAA Cardboard


Glue Flap Crushing


Vibrating Knife Cutting


7-21mm Slotting


Super Thin Box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BM3000-HD heavy duty box making machine expands possibilities for short-run corrugated packaging

As global demand for customised packaging continues to grow, manufacturers are increasingly looking for production solutions that combine flexibility, strength and efficiency. Short-run box production, in particular, requires equipment capable of handling a wide variety of box styles and materials while maintaining fast changeover times.

The Aopack BM3000-HD heavy duty box making machine has been developed to meet these evolving needs. Designed for modern corrugated box plants, the machine enables manufacturers to produce a wide range of box styles, including heavy-duty and irregular-shaped packaging, without the limitations of traditional die-cutting equipment.

Today, packaging companies across Europe are using the BM3000-HD to enhance production efficiency, reduce setup costs and respond faster to custom packaging orders.

Supporting the growth of custom box production

One example is PH Flexible Packaging Ltd, a UK-based manufacturer specialising in custom packaging solutions for industries such as e-commerce, automotive and industrial products.

As customer demand increased, the company faced several production challenges. Traditional die-cutting systems required physical moulds, which significantly increased costs and lead times for small batch orders. At the same time, more customers were requesting heavy-duty packaging made from thicker corrugated materials such as AAA flute boards.

To expand their production capabilities while maintaining flexibility, PH Flexible Packaging installed the Aopack BM3000-HD heavy duty corrugated box maker through Aopack's UK partner, GTS Europe Ltd.

The machine introduced a number of advantages to their production workflow. One of the most important features is the vibrating knife cutting system, which allows the machine to produce complex shapes including arcs, circles and irregular geometries without the need for traditional cutting dies. This dramatically reduces tooling costs and makes short-run production far more economical.

The BM3000-HD is also designed to process a wide range of corrugated materials. From lightweight E flute boards to AAA flute heavy-duty corrugated, the machine can handle materials up to 16 mm thick, enabling manufacturers to produce packaging for demanding applications such as industrial equipment, automotive components and heavy goods transport.

Fast changeovers and flexible production

For short-run box production, flexibility is essential. The BM3000-HD supports more than 150 box styles and features an intelligent control system that enables changeover times as fast as 1–6 seconds. Operators can quickly switch between different box designs, allowing manufacturers to handle multiple small orders efficiently within a single shift.

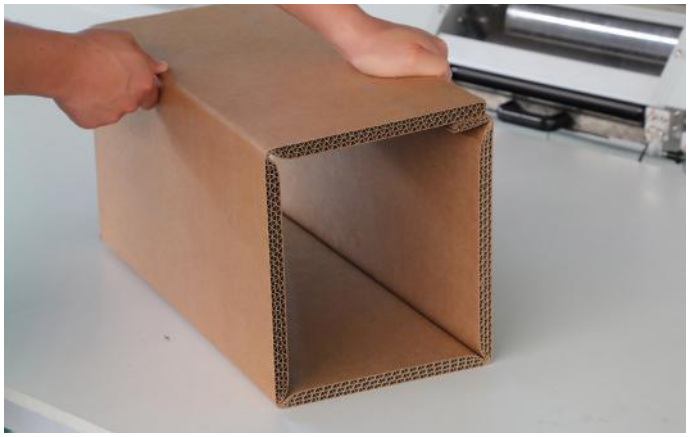
To further improve production accuracy and reliability, the machine incorporates an advanced creasing system. The upgraded configuration includes double-sided male-female creasing wheels combined with pre-creasing units, ensuring precise fold lines even on heavy multi-layer corrugated board. This helps prevent cracking during folding and improves the structural integrity of finished cartons.

The machine also features an upgraded feeding system with an expanded lead-edge suction area, allowing stable feeding of wider corrugated sheets while simplifying operation and maintenance.

Digital workflow and smart production

Modern packaging production increasingly relies on digital workflows, and the BM3000-HD is designed with this in mind.

The machine can integrate with digital order management systems, allowing operators to input box dimensions directly through a touchscreen interface or retrieve stored production parameters instantly. For repeat orders, production files can be recalled in seconds, reducing preparation time and improving consistency.



For packaging companies handling frequent design variations, the system's free-style design capability allows engineers to quickly create and produce custom box geometries without additional tooling.

Proven results in European box plants

Following installation, PH Flexible Packaging quickly experienced measurable improvements in production performance. The elimination of cutting dies significantly reduced tooling costs, while the rapid changeover capability accelerated order turnaround times for custom packaging projects. The ability to process heavier corrugated materials also enabled the company to expand into new markets requiring stronger packaging solutions.

Similar results have been achieved by other Aopack users across Europe, where manufacturers are increasingly adopting flexible box-making technologies to adapt to the growing demand for customised and short-run packaging.

Expanding the future of corrugated box manufacturing

With its combination of heavy-duty material capability, mould-free cutting technology and fast production changeovers, the Aopack BM3000-HD heavy duty box maker provides packaging manufacturers with a powerful platform for modern box production.

As the packaging industry continues to evolve toward more customised, small-batch and on-demand manufacturing, equipment that combines versatility, automation and efficiency will play an increasingly important role in helping box plants remain competitive.

For more information contact AOPACK LTD.
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Viscose Closures – Shrink sleeves for premium brands

What are shrink sleeves?

Shrink sleeves, also known as full-body sleeves, shrink bands, or shrink sleeve labels, are made from thermo-film materials that shrink tightly around containers when heat is applied.

Their flexibility allows them to conform to uniquely shaped bottles, cans, and containers, creating a seamless, high-quality finish that can cover part or all of the container. This provides brands with the opportunity to maximise shelf impact and deliver bold, eye-catching packaging.

Shrink sleeves are available in a range of materials, including sustainable options such as PET and rPET. They enable full 360° branding, allowing for vibrant colours, detailed information, and striking graphics. Viscose uses durable flexographic printing that resists scuffing and wear, ensuring a premium look and feel throughout the product lifecycle.

Challenges faced by brands

Shelf competition – A crowded market with many similar products makes it difficult to stand out.

Branding limitations – Traditional labels can wrinkle or bubble on contoured bottles, while direct printing on containers can be expensive, less flexible for design changes, and prone to fading or scratching.

Choosing the right packaging solution is therefore critical to creating a strong shelf presence and maintaining brand quality.

Advantages of using shrink sleeves

Shrink sleeves offer a versatile and innovative packaging solution that addresses these challenges. As full-body sleeves that conform precisely to container shapes, they combine visual impact with practical functionality.

Full-body branding – Provides complete 360° coverage, giving brands the freedom to create bold, eye-catching designs.

Versatility across bottle shapes and sizes – Shrink sleeves conform perfectly to slim, curved, or uniquely shaped containers, eliminating the wrinkles and bubbles often associated with traditional labels.

Durability – Sleeves maintain their appearance and readability even when exposed to moisture, handling, and refrigeration.

Sustainability considerations – Shrink sleeves can be designed with recycling in mind. Features such as perforations for easy removal, recyclable or recycling-compatible films, and floatable materials that separate during the recycling process can help support recycling systems and reduce packaging waste.

Cost-effective customisation – Graphics, QR codes, nutritional information, and branding can all be incorporated into a single application, reducing additional labelling steps.

Ideal for short runs and limited editions – Pre-printed cans for example often require very large minimum order quantities and long commitments. Shrink sleeves enable smaller, more flexible production runs, making them ideal for craft beverages, seasonal releases, promotional products, and limited editions.

How Viscose can help

Flexographic printed shrink sleeves – better quality, faster turnarounds

Viscose has recently invested in a state-of-the-art flexographic printing press to enhance its shrink sleeve production capabilities.

The new Mark Andy Evolution Series E5 flexo press at the Swansea facility significantly improves print quality, efficiency, sustainability, and production speed. This allows Viscose to deliver high-quality sleeves with faster turnaround times while maintaining exceptional consistency and detail. A range of premium finishes is also available, including matte, gloss, and matte varnish.

Contract sleeving service

To simplify the process further, Viscose also offers a complete contract sleeving service. Sleeves can be manufactured and applied directly to your products, providing a convenient end-to-end sleeving solution.

What this means for you

These enhancements allow Viscose to deliver premium shrink sleeves that are visually striking and faster to market. Whether you are launching a new drink, refreshing your brand, running a limited edition, or testing a new concept, shrink sleeves offer a practical and impactful alternative to traditional can decoration.

By combining advanced printing technology with contract sleeving services, Viscose provides a complete, high-quality, and agile packaging solution for modern brands.

If you would like to find out more about Viscose and their shrink sleeves, please contact them at **+44(0)1792 796 393** or sales@viscose.co.uk.

viscose

PROTECTING YOUR PRODUCT, ENHANCING YOUR BRAND

From prototype to production: Smarter digital workflows for packaging

In today's fast-moving packaging industry, speed, flexibility, and precision are more important than ever. Brands are launching products faster, experimenting with new designs, and demanding shorter turnaround times. For packaging producers, the ability to quickly create accurate prototypes while maintaining reliable production workflows has become a key competitive advantage.

At Revolution Digital, we work with packaging companies across the UK to help them transform the way they prototype, proof, and produce packaging. By combining advanced print technology with expert support, colour management, and finishing solutions, we help businesses move from concept to production faster than ever before.

Bringing packaging concepts to life

Packaging prototyping has become essential to product development. Designers and brands want to see exactly how their packaging will look and feel before committing to full production runs.

Digital printing allows businesses to produce high-quality prototypes on demand, removing the need for traditional plates, long setup times, and costly trial runs. Short-run mock-ups, sample packaging, and realistic prototypes can be created quickly, speeding approvals and enabling design teams to make informed decisions earlier in the process.

These prototypes can cover a wide range of applications, from food and beverage cartons to

cosmetic packaging, consumer electronics boxes, and specialty products.

Producing realistic samples in-house allows teams to experiment with finishes, test structural designs, and make adjustments quickly - all while ensuring consistent colour accuracy and quality across every run.

MG-300: Compact power for packaging innovation

One solution helping businesses bring prototyping in-house is the Roland MG-300 UV flatbed printer. Compact yet versatile, the MG-300 prints directly onto cardboard, plastics, semi-rigid boards, and flexible films, making it ideal for realistic packaging samples and mock-ups.

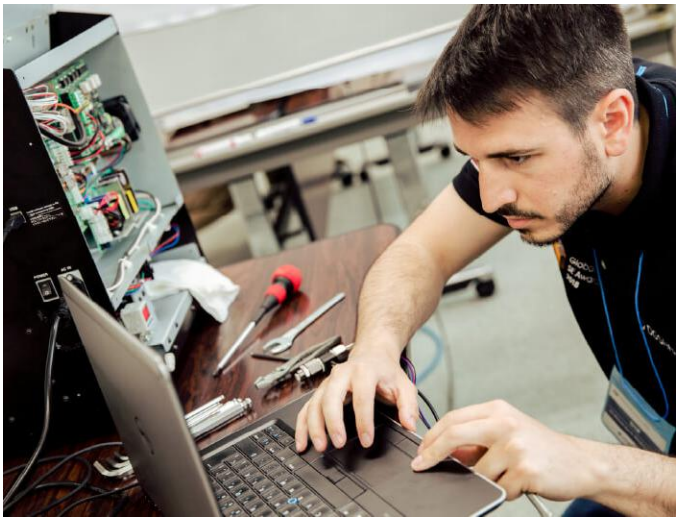
Optional features such as an extension table for boxboard and high-opacity white ink allow designers to replicate the look and feel of finished cartons. Gloss, texture, and spot UV effects give brands the flexibility to experiment with premium finishes that stand out on shelf.

Revolution Digital will be demonstrating the MG-300 at London Packaging Week at Excel London from 16-17 September 2026. The team will be at stand B36, alongside Roland DG, giving visitors a chance to see how compact UV flatbed printing can transform packaging prototyping workflows.

More than equipment: A complete print partnership

Successful packaging workflows require more than hardware. At Revolution Digital, we provide a complete print ecosystem combining printing, cutting, colour management, finishing, and ongoing support.

Our portfolio includes Roland printers, precision cutting systems from Aristo and Graphtec, and



tailored finishing solutions - helping teams produce fully finished prototypes quickly and efficiently. Colour management and profiling ensure brand colours remain consistent across every prototype and production run, reducing reprints and accelerating approvals.

We work with customers from installation to ongoing support, providing on-site team training, proactive maintenance, remote troubleshooting, and a full stock of inks, parts, and consumables for fast dispatch. Whether it's a last-minute prototype or a short-run production job, our engineers ensure machines are optimised for reliable performance.

By integrating equipment, workflow expertise, and consumables, we help companies maintain consistent quality, reduce downtime, and respond rapidly to client demands - giving them a competitive edge in a fast-paced market.

Your digital print partner

At Revolution Digital, our goal is simple: to help businesses print smarter.

From Roland printers and precision cutters to colour management, servicing, and consumables, we deliver everything packaging companies need to produce high-quality results with confidence.

Because when your print workflow works seamlessly, every prototype, every proof, and every finished package becomes an opportunity to impress.

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‘The bags are getting scarce’

A sentence that was long considered impossible.

Did you know that in 2021 and 2022 there was an enormous shortage of pre-opened bags on roll for automatic and semi-automatic packaging systems?

The shortage was so severe that the bags were even stolen from the PEKU Folien GmbH exhibition stand at one point.

> *“At that time, there were actually enough systems for the production of bags on roll in the logistics and production departments. However, the real challenge lay in the manufacturing expertise required to produce these bags.*
>
> **– Christian Lehner, Sales Manager, PEKU Folien GmbH**

From infancy to perfection

To date, there are only two manufacturers in Germany. **One of them is PEKU Folien:**

However, we also had to learn the hard way when it came to manufacturing the bags, especially in the first few months after the product launch.

We benefited greatly from the support of strong partners who accompanied us throughout this process.

Together, we were able to overcome all obstacles and acquire a high level of expertise in bags on roll for our customers, while continuously improving our products:

After delivery of the first bag-making machine, we learned how to manufacture bags on roll in large quantities directly from film rolls.

Intelligent material and production concept

The bags on roll are produced by co-extrusion from LDPE monomaterial. The three-layer structure combines virgin material in the outer layers with a PCR middle layer. The material produced meets the criteria of recycling class 4 and, at the same time, fulfils all technical requirements for automated applications.

Sustainable and innovative

PEKU bags on roll are fully machine-compatible and can be used on existing equipment without any optimisation. The packaging machines run smoothly, ensuring consistent process stability and performance.

Extrusion, printing and bag making all take place at our site in Neumarkt.

Since the product launch, we have already successfully manufactured several hundred million bags and are constantly developing the product.

PEKU Folien bags on roll – already PPWR compliant

From 2030, all packaging must be recyclable and contain a minimum proportion of PCR material (post-consumer recycled material). In a nutshell, this is the core of the PPWR regulation introduced by the European Union. For companies that manufacture, import or distribute packaging, this means significantly higher increased requirements for materials and processes.

60% PCR content without compromise

PEKU bags on roll already meet the requirements of the PPWR regulation. While the EU stipulates a minimum PCR content of 35%, the standardised PCR content of PEKU bags on roll is already over 60% without compromising quality or process reliability.

Monomaterial reduces disposal costs

The LDPE monomaterial enables efficient recycling and reduces disposal costs. At the same time, the low material weight reduces transportation and handling costs.

- Order picking
- Automatic filling
- Fulfilment and e-commerce processes

Due to its high PCR content, the solution also meets international requirements, for example in markets outside the PPWR such as the United Kingdom.

Behind the scenes: PEKU Folien GmbH

PEKU Folien GmbH is a German, medium-sized, owner-managed family business based in Neumarkt in der Oberpfalz, in the Upper Palatinate region.

The focus is on the sustainable production of mono- and co-extruded PE films and PE bags, which are up to 100% recyclable.

With over 60 years of experience, PEKU develops and produces customised packaging films and bags for a wide range of industries:

- Food
- Hygiene
- Medicine
- Pharmaceuticals
- Industry
- Gardening
- Pets

Extensive portfolio for the most demanding requirements

The product portfolio includes tubular films, semi-tubular films and flat films for automatic and manual packaging processes. In addition, we produce an extensive range of bags.

- Drawstring bags
- Pressure seal and zipper bags
- Euro hole bags and bags on roll
- Pre-opened bags, bags-on-roll and custom-made products

Clean room solutions for sensitive industries

With the PEKU White product line from the clean room commissioned in 2023, PEKU Folien is a reliable partner for the pharmaceutical industry.

In the clean room, PEKU manufactures in accordance with ISO 14644-1, class 5 at rest/ class 7 in operation, as well as GMP guidelines.

In addition to the production of clean room packaging, PEKU also offers co-packing services in the clean room.

Sustainable product lines

PEKU is consistently committed to environmental responsibility – among other things through:

- Internal recycling cycles
- Use of PCR and PIR recyclates
- Development of the sustainable PEKUGreen line, based on renewable raw materials

High-quality flexographic printing

PEKU finishes films and bags individually according to customer requirements using flexographic printing with up to 10 colours in full HD quality.

Further information about Peku's bags on roll can be found at: www.peku.com/en/films-and-bags/pe-bags/bags-on-roll/

You can get a whitepaper about the bags on roll here: www.peku.com/en/downloads/

PEKUFolien
Your Packaging. Our Passion.

From PPWR to AI: What visitors can expect at the interpack Spotlight Forum 2026

Photo: Messe Düsseldorf / Constanze Tillmann.

Around 75 presentations, sessions and panel discussions: The Spotlight Forum at interpack 2026 brings together key debates on regulation, resource efficiency, automation and securing skilled labour. International experts from industry, politics, associations, start-ups and institutions will shape the programme from 7 to 13 May in Düsseldorf.

Under the motto '7 Days, 7 Topics', the interpack Spotlight Forum is entering its second round and positioning itself as the trade fair's central exchange platform. It is jointly organised by interpack, dfv Conference Group and PackReport.

7 May – PPWR: Opportunities and risks powered by REA

Between efficiency and responsibility: The first day of the trade fair will be dominated by the European Packaging Regulation PPWR. The practical implications for the use of recycled materials, reusable quotas, recycling rates and hygiene requirements will be discussed. Tânia Dias da Costa (pacoon Sustainability Concepts), for example, will highlight the steps required for regulatory implementation in companies. Frank Debusmann (REA Elektronik) will show how intelligent labelling systems can contribute to PPWR-compliant recycling, and Patricia Torres Mateus (OMRON Electronics) will talk about the role of automation in data collection, transparency and traceability along the production line. A panel discussion with industry representatives and the European Commission will focus on competitiveness, location issues and the impact of the regulation on companies, customers and consumers.

8 May – Resource efficiency powered by Aasted

On interpack Friday, there will be an extensive programme on resource efficiency. One example is the presentation by Pierre Michaels and Thomas

Goetzl (TTE Strategy GmbH). They will show how organisational structures, cross-location benchmarking and data-based dialogue between plants can tap into unused capacities. Aasted, in turn, will highlight the optimisation of chocolate processes and the efficient use of resources. In a panel discussion, moderator Ton Knipscheer (European Co-Packers Association) will talk to industry representatives about how geopolitical uncertainties, tariffs and regulatory pressure are changing supply chains and what innovation impulses this is generating for the packaging industry.

9 May – Smart packaging powered by Domino

Digital identification, networked systems and data-based business models will be the focus on Saturday. Craig Stobie (Domino Germany), for example, will explain the potential of introducing 2D codes. Simon Hill and Ian Richards (TNA Northern Europe B.V.) will use practical examples to show how integrated packaging lines can increase efficiency while meeting safety, sustainability and quality requirements. Jürgen Lochner (Mosca) will demonstrate how machine manufacturers are developing digital services and data-based business models to provide strategic support to their customers. Dr Tobias Jochum (Fraunhofer IAP) will talk about digital product passports, brand protection and end-to-end traceability along the supply chain.

10 May – Intelligent systems and AI powered by Syntegon

On Sunday, the focus will be on automation and data-based production models. Thomas Peter and Stephan Schuele (Syntegon Technology) will show how digital innovation, end-to-end processes and contactless automation can pave the way to the 'Factory of the Future'. Marco Facchin (BIOMETiC srl) will demonstrate in his presentation how 3D computed tomography and explainable AI make food inspection more precise. Jan De Roeck (Esko-Graphics) will highlight how AI-supported workflows bring together regulatory requirements, sustainability goals and market launch cycles. Christian Keßler (SEW Eurodrive) outlines the transition to the software-defined factory. These contributions are examples of the broad programme on intelligent systems and AI on 10 May.

11 May – Circular economy powered by Metsä

Monday is dedicated to circular value creation models. Kaisa Munukka (Metsä Board) explains how data-based life cycle analyses, renewable raw materials and fossil-free energy sources can contribute to reducing the carbon footprint. Thomas Krämer (Wipotec) shows how product labelling and digital transparency enable traceability and thus support the circular economy. Based on strategic futurology, Gillian Garside Wright (Aura Consultants) outlines key trends up to 2050 and their influence on circularity, brand trust and innovation strategies. Carsten Bertram, Head of Packaging Sustainability at Henkel Consumer Brands, also brings the perspective of an international brand company to the stage. He will show how the requirements of the PPWR are being translated into concrete packaging strategies and which practical implementations are already taking place. Many other exciting presentations on this day will delve deeper into current trends and developments relating to the circular economy.

12 May – Innovative materials powered by tesa

On Tuesday, the question of how innovative materials and design approaches combine sustainability requirements and industrial performance will be explored. tesa SE, for example, will highlight the shift towards circular packaging solutions and show how recycling-friendly designs, mono-material concepts and advanced adhesive systems can contribute to resource efficiency. Rosa González (AIMPLAS) will present sustainable polymer formulations for packaging applications. Lynsey Maddison (ProAmpac) will discuss material solutions that are consistently geared towards 'design for recycling', including mono and fibre products for different markets. Finally, Dr Jörg Zacharias (KRONES AG) will focus on the vision of fibre-based beverage bottles and highlight the opportunities, limitations and industrialisation potential of bio-based, recyclable solutions.

13 May 2026 – Young Talents

The last day of interpack 2026 is dedicated entirely to young professionals. The Spotlight Forum is at the heart of the programme – both for young talents and for companies in the packaging industry that want to become more attractive employers and recruit qualified employees.

In an open discussion round, industry associations such as the VDMA and the Industrial Association for Plastic Packaging (IK) will exchange ideas on effective measures for recruiting young talent. Topics will include cooperation with universities, new qualification profiles and strategies for retaining young talent in the long term. Representatives from leading companies will also discuss how they promote young talent, develop them in a targeted manner and prepare them for key positions. Formats such as 'NextGen Plastics', powered by IK, provide additional impetus and highlight prospects for the next generation in the packaging industry.

This article was originally published by interpack.

interpack 2026: Women in Packaging unites strong voices from all over the world

Photo: Messe Düsseldorf / Constanze Tillmann

With an inspiring keynote from Tetra Pak to kick things off, a high-calibre panel discussion and interactive networking sessions, Women in Packaging is entering its next round at interpack 2026 – and is more powerful, connected and inspiring than ever before.

With "Women in Packaging", interpack 2026 is once again sending a strong signal for female empowerment, diversity and the future of women's careers in the industry. The format is aimed specifically at women of all career levels – from ambitious career starters to experienced experts, managers and founders. The focus is on inspiration, eye-level dialogue and specific impetus for the individual career path.

On 11 May 2026, participants can look forward to a programme at the Congress Center Düsseldorf that connects and sets things in motion: a keynote speech will provide strong content-related impetus, an international panel discussion will highlight different career paths and perspectives, and topic-driven networking rounds will create space for genuine exchange, new contacts and mutual support.

Thomas Dohse, Director of interpack, says: *"Women in Packaging was still an exception when it premiered in 2023 – today, dialogue on these topics is an integral part of the industry. This exchange is becoming increasingly important, especially in the context of qualified personnel and future skills. interpack introduces a particular international dimension in this respect: participants from all over the world meet speakers from Europe, the USA, South America and Australia and combine different perspectives."*

Keynote: impetus for sustainability and diversity

This is also the vision of Caroline Babendererde, Head of Sustainability Mid Europe at Tetra Pak®. With around 30 years of experience in environmental and sustainability management, including more than two decades in the packaging industry, she is one of the major proponents of sustainable packaging solutions in Europe. In addition to her professional activities, she is a guest lecturer on sustainable packaging and cross-discipline sustainability topics at universities. Her perspective demonstrates how closely linked topics such as sustainability, recruiting young talent and the visibility of career paths are.

"Packaging is a crucial component of food safety," says Caroline Babendererde. *"We need to demonstrate much more clearly that it protects products, ensures quality and prevents food losses. In doing so, we will be making a direct contribution to security of supply and climate protection. We want to actively strengthen this awareness – among young people, career starters and, of course, not only among women, because those who recognise our industry's responsibility and innovative strength also see its strong future opportunities."*

Panel: perspectives on careers, change and the future of the industry

The panel will bring together representatives from industry, international organisations and science, thus uniting different perspectives on the development of the processing and packaging industry – shaped by participants' personal experiences, international career paths and individual focuses.

Jill Evanko, CEO of Duravant, will provide insights from the viewpoint of a top manager who has led international industrial companies through transformation and growth.

Dr Kerstin van Wijk, Global Head of Innovation Packaging Adhesives at Henkel, represents industrial practice, combining technological innovation with concrete applications along the value chain.

Luciana Pellegrino, President of the World Packaging Organisation, has enjoyed an exemplary international career in the packaging industry. As the first woman to head the global industry association, she brings along many years of experience in global cooperation between organisations.

Prof. Dr Julia Hartmann from EBS University combines experience from research, consulting and supervisory bodies and will highlight how sustainable transformation can be strategically anchored in companies.

The panel will be moderated by Nerida Kelton, Vice President Sustainability & Save Food at the World Packaging Organisation and Executive Director, AIP: *"The first Women in Packaging event at interpack 2023 showed us that events like this are desired by the global industry. What makes it so special are the open discussions, the networking, the opportunity to be inspired by women who have already travelled this path, and the occasion for participants to ask questions, discuss challenges and learn from one another. For me, it's about meeting new people, hearing their stories and strengthening my own global network of inspiring women in the packaging industry that I can draw on in the future."*

Topic Hubs: exchange that makes connections

New at Women in Packaging are the "Topic Hubs", topic-driven networking rounds on Career Pathways & Mentorship, Community Building & Peer Networks, Personal Branding & Visibility, Balancing Work & Life and Future Generation & Skills. They will be accompanied by Topic Ambassadors who will structure and deepen the dialogue.

Shannon Doherty-Andall from the Australian Beverages Council is representative of the interface between sustainability, regulation and industrial implementation. Dr Afsaneh Nabifar from BASF combines scientific expertise with international transformation work along the value chain.

Dr Kathrin Gimpel, CHRO at the renowned brand manufacturer Teekanne, will introduce the perspective of leadership, organisation and corporate culture.

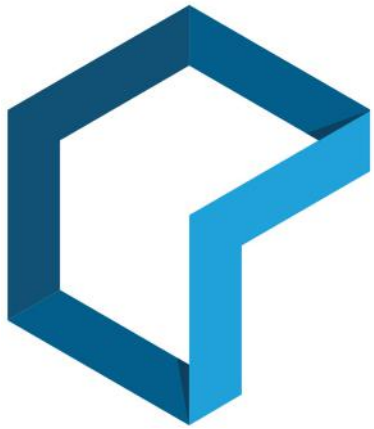
Monica Battistella, Sustainability Manager at Taghleef Industries, contributes her experience in circular economy and regulatory topics as well as her work in international initiatives.

And Kaie Kaas-Ojavere, CEO and co-founder of the start-up KIUD, represents the topic of entrepreneurial innovation and new approaches in the field of circular packaging solutions.

The Topic Hubs create a practical framework in which experiences can be shared, challenges discussed and new contacts forged.

Event details:
Date: Monday, 11 May 2026
Time: 10:30 am
Location: Congress Centre Düsseldorf, 2nd Floor, Room 26, 27, 28

The programme will be hosted by Emily Whigham, journalist and presenter.



Events & exhibitions

Stay ahead with our global round-up of packaging events and exhibitions, conveniently colour-coded by location.

Europe | United Kingdom | Asia | Americas

May 07-13
interpack 2026
Düsseldorf, Germany

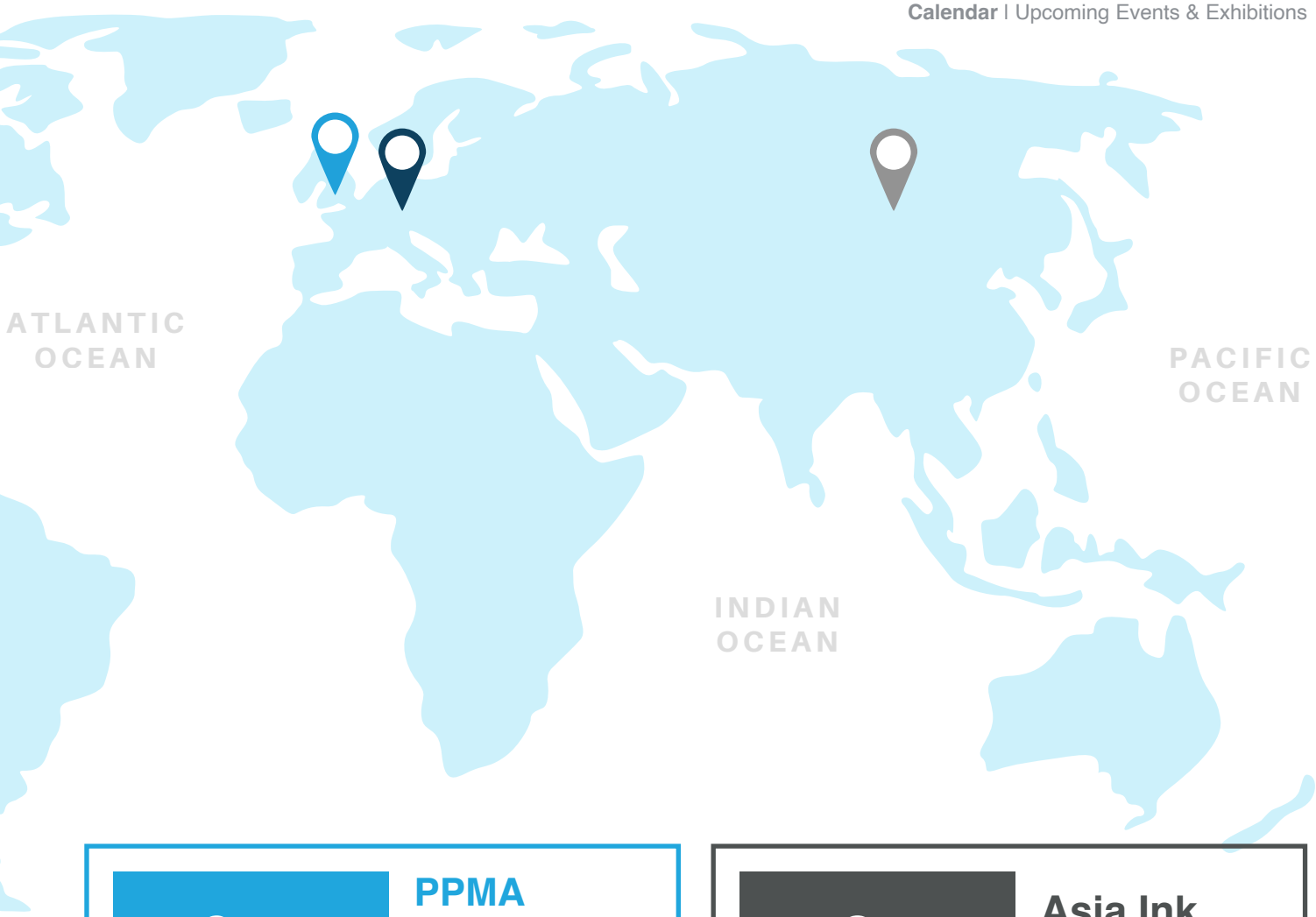
June/July 30-31
SPECIAL EDITION by Luxe Pack
Paris, France

May 20-21
PSIP (Europe) 2026
Basel, Switzerland

July 13-15
Cosmopack North America
Las Vegas, USA

May 20-21
PPL (Europe) 2026
Basel, Switzerland

Sept 16-17
London Packaging Week
London, UK



Sept 22-24
PPMA Show® 2026
Birmingham, UK

Oct 15-17
Asia Ink Expo 2026
Guangzhou, China

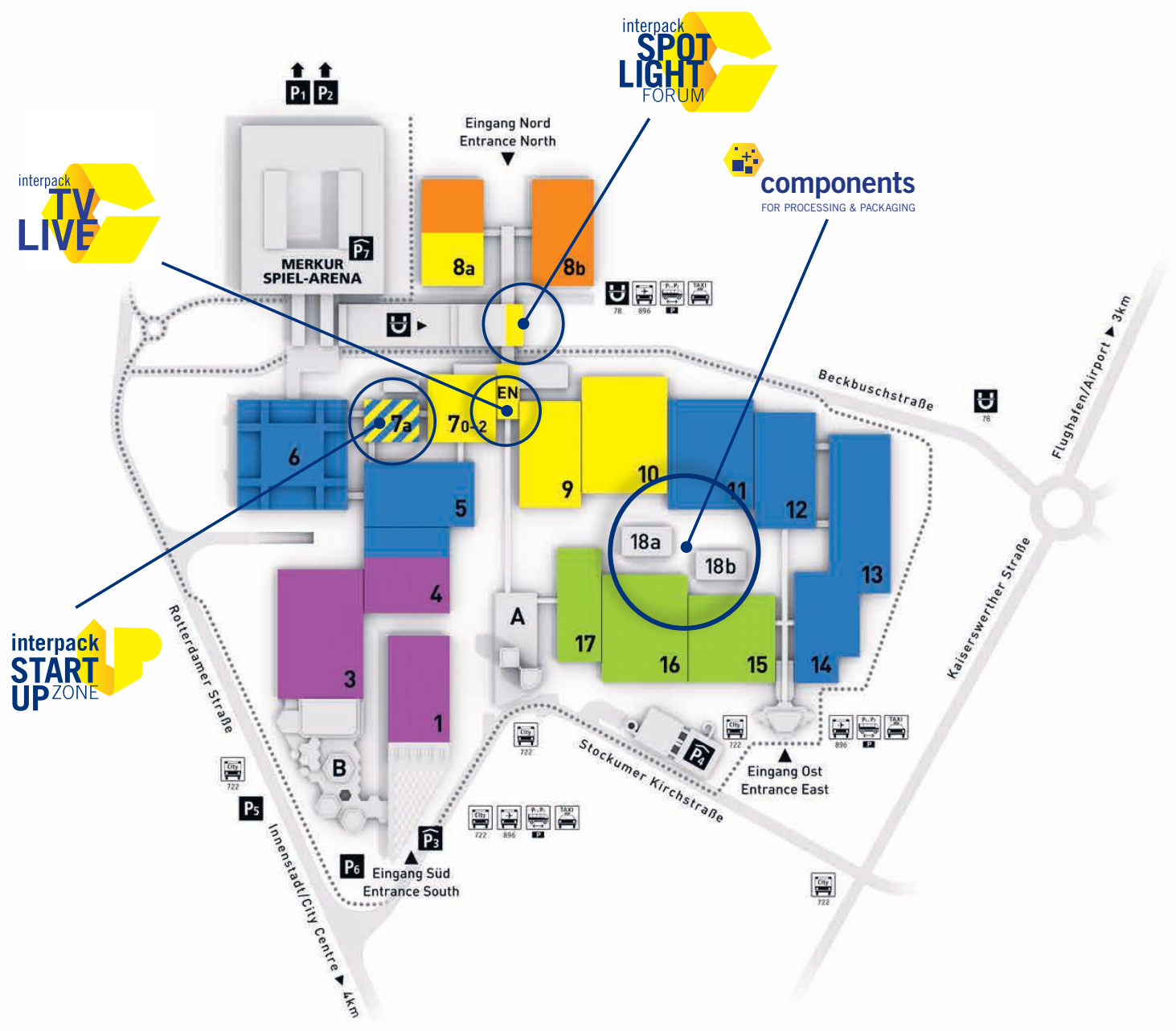
Sept/Oct 29-01
LUXE PACK Monaco
Monaco, France

Oct 18-21
PACK EXPO Int. 2026
Chicago, USA

Oct 06-07
Clinical Trial Supply Forum
California, USA

Nov 10-11
UK-Packaging Expo
Liverpool, UK

interpack
PROCESSING & PACKAGING
7 TO 13 MAY 2026



- Prozess- und Verpackungstechnik für Nahrungsmittel/Getränke/Konsumgüter/Industriegüter
  processing and packaging technology for food/beverages/consumer goods/industrial goods
- Prozess- und Verpackungstechnik für Süß- und Backwaren
  processing and packaging technology for confectionery and bakery
- Prozess- und Verpackungstechnik für Pharmazeutika und Kosmetika
  processing and packaging technology for pharmaceuticals and cosmetics
- Maschinen für Etikettier- und Kennzeichnungstechnik/Packmittelproduktion/Integrierter Verpackungsdruck
  Machinery for labelling and marking technology/packaging production/integrated packaging printing
- Packstoffe, Packmittel und Packhilfsmittel
  Packaging materials, packaging means and auxiliary packaging means
- components

A	Messe-Center Trade Fair Centre
B	CCD Congress Center Düsseldorf
•••••••••	Pendelbusspur Shuttle Bus
U	U-Bahnhof Train Station *MERKUR SPIEL-ARENA/Messe Nord*

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Interpack
Düsseldorf, 7-13 May 2026
Stand: 5C42

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