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DIGITAL MAGAZINE

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F&B SPECIAL ISSUE

Gulfood Manufacturing 2025: *The destination for industry-defining innovation*

Sustainable luxury: *How drinks packaging is redefining premium appeal*

Smart Packaging: *Bringing real-time insight to food safety and quality*

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CONTENTS

Welcome to our October issue – our final edition of the year and a celebration of packaging across the food and beverage sector.

As the industry prepares for Gulfood Manufacturing 2025, this issue explores the trends and technologies shaping the next generation of F&B packaging. From sustainable luxury and how drinks brands are redefining premium appeal, to smart packaging that brings real-time insight to food safety and quality, we uncover how design and technology are working together to add value at every stage of the supply chain.

We also examine how mono-material flexibles are helping brands meet sustainability goals without compromising performance.

Packed with innovation, ideas, and global perspectives, our final issue of the year looks ahead to a smarter, more connected and sustainable future for food and beverage packaging.

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Gulfood Manufacturing 2025 witnesses double-digit growth as Middle East becomes a magnet for investment, talent and technology

Industry Leaders such as Cargill, GEA Middle East, Givaudan Suisse SA, Novonesis and Tetra Pak Converge in Dubai as Increasing Number of Companies Shift Supply Chains to Free-Trade Ecosystem

The Middle East has become a magnet for investment, talent and technology as it redefines the geography of global food production. As supply chains recalibrate in the wake of geopolitical and economic shifts, manufacturers are moving operations closer to the UAE and wider GCC, drawn by its unmatched logistics infrastructure, open trade routes and advanced industrial policies.

With Dubai ranked the world's number 1 destination for global foreign investment projects, Gulfood Manufacturing stands at the crossroads of this economic shift, catalysing the next wave of food manufacturing growth across MENA, South Asia and Africa. Fuelling this transformation is the region's leadership in artificial intelligence adoption, growing at an impressive rate of 43.65% CAGR through 2033, MENA is fast becoming the engine room of AI-driven industrialisation.

With record-breaking 32% show growth from 2024, Gulfood Manufacturing 2025 returns to the Dubai World Trade Centre from 4–6 November, marking its largest and most globally diverse edition to date. Driven by surging international demand and the rapid evolution of manufacturing technologies, the event unites 2,500 exhibitors from 79 countries across 21 halls, encompassing the full spectrum of the production value chain — Ingredients, Processing, Packaging, Supply Chain Solutions and Control & Automation.

Anchored by 90% participation from the world's leading food manufacturing brands including Chocolake, IMCD, Multivac Middle East FZE and SIG and complemented by a wave of bold new innovators, the

show embodies Dubai's rise as the global epicentre of food innovation, investment and industrial transformation. This rapid expansion mirrors the region's investment momentum: across the GCC, governments have pledged over $3.8 billion into food technology and agri-innovation to fortify local processing and food security, while the global food processing machinery market is set to grow by $21.69 billion by 2029, driven by AI-powered automation and APAC investment flows.

Commenting on the show's significance, Mark Napier, Vice President Exhibitions Department, Dubai World Trade Centre said: *"Dubai stands at the perfect inflection point for global industrial transformation. Under Operation 300bn and the UAE leading AI adoption in manufacturing, the nation is powering a new wave of advanced, intelligent production. As the world's industries realign toward technology-driven efficiency and sustainability, Dubai's strategic position, infrastructure and policy vision make it the natural focal point for change. Gulfood Manufacturing sits at the heart of this evolution, its exponential growth reflects the region's role as the hub of AI-driven industrialisation."*

The destination for industry-defining innovation

Global industry leaders consistently choose Gulfood Manufacturing as the stage to unveil their most significant, industry-defining innovations, a testament to the show's scale and influence.

In the ingredients sector, powerhouse names including ADM International, Brenntag, dsm-firmenich, FSL, Ingredion, Kerry MENAT DMCC, Robertet Middle East, Symrise and Tate & Lyle are propelling exponential growth at Gulfood Manufacturing 2025. The 11th edition will unveil

a treasure trove of trends such as, breakthroughs in biotech-derived actives, precision fermentation, AI-powered flavour mapping and next-generation stabiliser systems, marking the global shift toward health-conscious, sustainable consumption.

Across processing and packaging, pioneers such as Heat & Control, Husky, Ishida, KHS, Krones AG, Middleby Middle East FZE, Rieckermann GmbH, Sidel and TNA Solutions are redefining smart manufacturing. Expect breakthroughs in IoT-enabled sensors, AI vision systems reducing waste by up to 25%, modular machinery, and eco-engineered packaging solutions that bring efficiency, intelligence, and sustainability to every layer of production.

Sean Sims, Global Vice President, Automation and Solutions, Tetra Pak said: *"Gulfood Manufacturing is a cornerstone event for us — it's where we connect with the industry's most forward-thinking partners and showcase how Tetra Pak is shaping the future of food manufacturing. This year, we're proud to launch our new global portfolio of advanced automation and digital solutions that accelerate AI readiness in smart factories. These innovations will help producers across the Middle East and beyond digitalise operations, optimise resources, and drive sustainable growth."*

The FoodTech Summit: The ultimate global think tank

At the heart of this year's agenda, the FoodTech Summit will host a 50% increase in new speakers including Mars, Titan Capital, Unilever and Hive Capital, alongside other visionary futurists, technologists, policymakers, and innovators exploring the next frontier of industrial food. Discussions will span tech for cold chain integrity in emerging markets, the future of food-tech funding, and whether alternate proteins truly represent the next evolution in global nutrition.

Renowned digital futurist, Mark Minevich, will explore how intelligent, self-adapting systems are transforming production including living supply chains, superhuman safety, zero-waste efficiency and AI-driven food sovereignty. Together, these sessions cement the Summit's position as the ultimate global think tank, combining connections and knowledge to pave the way for the next wave of industrial revolution.

For more information on Gulfood Manufacturing 2025, and to register, please visit: **gulfoodmanufacturing.com**

For every challenge, there's Ishida.

Want to cut food and packaging waste, and reduce costs? Find minute foreign objects and big performance gains? Discover smarter ways to significantly reduce product giveaway? For every challenge, there's Ishida. We've been turning questions into answers for 130 years, which means we have all the product solutions, sector expertise and proven know-how you need.

Get in touch to challenge us today.

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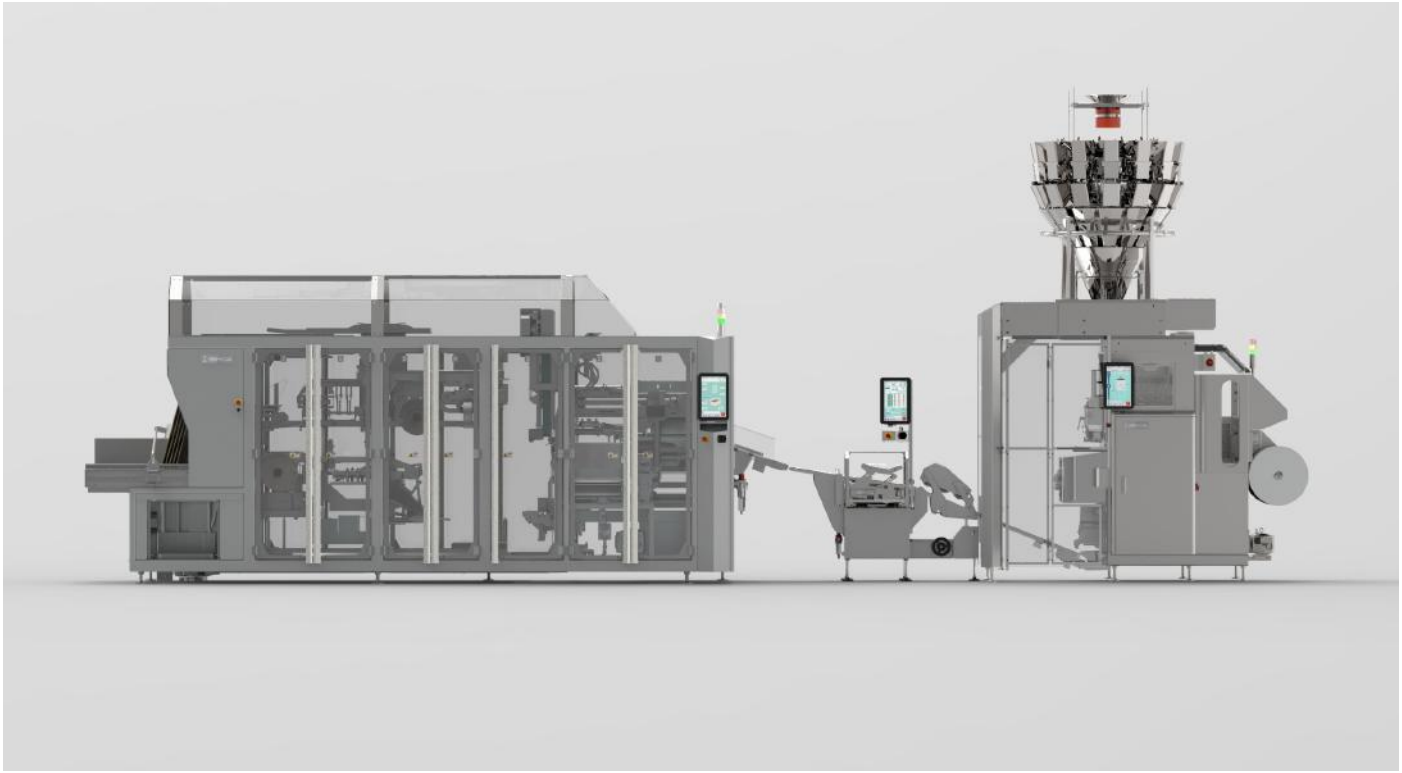
ISHIDA

Ishida showcases key solutions at Gulfood Manufacturing 2025



Driving innovation across ingredients, processing, packaging, control and automation, and supply chain solutions.

Ishida is proud to announce its participation at Gulfood Manufacturing 2025, where the company will showcase a selection of its most advanced and relevant solutions designed to meet the evolving needs of the global food industry. Visitors can discover how Ishida's technologies continue to deliver speed, precision, and reliability across every stage of the production process.

As part of its ongoing brand campaign, For Every Challenge, There's Ishida, the company's exhibition will focus on demonstrating how its integrated systems and intelligent automation help food producers overcome diverse challenges — from increasing efficiency and ensuring product quality to achieving sustainability and compliance targets.

Innovating for every sector

Ishida's solutions cater to a broad range of industries including snacks, confectionery, bakery, frozen foods, protein, and ready meals. By combining cutting-edge inspection, weighing, and packing technology with smart software, Ishida enables manufacturers to enhance productivity while maintaining the highest standards of quality and food safety.

A glance at solutions on show

ACP-700 Snacks Case Packer

For the first time in the Middle East region Ishida will be exhibiting its ACP-700 Series

Case Packer at Gulfood Manufacturing 2025, offering a highly efficient solution for snack producers facing manual labour challenges.

"Case packing in the Middle East presents its own unique challenges," says Jim McGregor, Product specialist at Ishida Europe.

> *"Traditionally a manual task, case packing is now impacted by widespread labour shortages and the risk of human error — especially in accurate pack counting over long shifts. With manufacturing investment on the rise, it's essential for food producers to adapt to automation strategies that deliver speed, consistency, and retail-ready quality."*

Engineered to support high-speed packaging for snack applications, Ishida's case packer offers flexible configuration, fast changeovers, and reliable handling of diverse pack formats. The system is designed to integrate effortlessly into existing production lines, maximising efficiency and minimising downtime.

INSPIRA Bagmakers

Also featured at Gulfood Manufacturing 2025 will be Ishida's Rotary bagmaker from the INSPIRA series, engineered for high-speed vertical form fill seal (VFFS) snack applications.

Designed to deliver exceptional film control, splice automation, and consistent seal integrity, INSPIRA systems help manufacturers reduce downtime, improve pack quality, and maximise throughput. With advanced servo technology and seamless integration with

Ishida weighers and inspection systems, INSPIRA represents the next generation of intelligent packaging automation.

CCW-AS Multihead Weigher

Renowned for its exceptional accuracy and performance, the CCW-AS series combines

high-speed weighing with robust design and simplified maintenance. Its advanced control system and smart sensors optimise performance across a variety of applications — from snacks and confectionery to proteins and frozen foods. The result is faster throughput, reduced product giveaway, and consistent quality.

IX-PD X-ray Inspection System

X-ray inspection systems offer an important layer of protection that goes much further than just metal detection. They can recognise bone, rubber, glass and high-density plastics, otherwise impossible to detect with metal detection alone. This is especially critical for producers handling loose bulk items such as nuts and pulses, unpackaged food like chicken breast, or irregular and overlapping pack formats common in confectionery and frozen food.

Delivering superior contaminant detection through Ishida's pioneering dual-energy technology, the IX-PD ensures precision and reliability even in challenging applications. The system's ability to differentiate between product and packaging density makes it ideal for complex items, ensuring maximum product safety without compromising production speed.

Sentinel 5.0 – Award-winning production monitoring

Taking digital inspection to the next level, Sentinel 5.0 leverages advanced analytics and AI-driven monitoring to deliver real-time insights across the production line. The award-winning AI-driven remote production monitoring software showcases the future of intelligent food manufacturing.

A key innovation of the platform is its capacity for machine learning. It can learn how the food production line is operating and can then offer data-driven performance enhancement notifications for operators, ensuring speed and efficiency.

By integrating seamlessly with both Ishida and non-Ishida systems, it empowers operators with predictive maintenance capabilities.

For every challenge, there's Ishida

For more than a century, Ishida has been a trusted partner to the global food industry. Its holistic approach — combining world-class equipment with dedicated customer support and after-sales service — ensures manufacturers can achieve operational excellence at every stage.

Discover more

Visitors to the Ishida stand (Hall 3, stand number C3-4) will be invited to explore live demonstrations, technical presentations, and video showcases highlighting the company's latest innovations. Technical experts will be on hand to discuss specific challenges and offer tailored solutions that improve line performance, reduce waste, and enhance overall efficiency.

For more information, please visit: **www.ishidaeurope.com**

"At Gulfood Manufacturing 2025, we're not just exhibiting machines; we're showcasing solutions that empower manufacturers to respond to every challenge with confidence. From inspection to automation, our goal is to deliver technologies that enable growth, sustainability, and long-term success."

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Durable plastic pallets made by Craemer

Tested strength: The Fraunhofer Institute in Dortmund confirms that the EURO H1 pallet from Craemer has a service life of more than twelve years. © Craemer Group

Durability, sustainability, environmental friendliness: new standards apply to (intra-) logistics processes relating to production, transport and storage – including load carriers. High quality, durable, hard-wearing, versatile, maintenance-free and recyclable: These are the features of pallets and containers that ensure sustainable and economical (warehouse) logistics. As one of the world's leading manufacturers of durable logistics solutions with more than 60 years of experience in plastics processing, the **Craemer Group** develops and produces high-quality reusable load carriers with exactly these characteristics.

A prime example is the EURO L1® plastic pallet – made of plastic instead of wood. In the production of its plastic products, the Group is increasingly focusing on self-made recycled materials and on renewable energies.

In 1967, Craemer revolutionised the world market with the very first plastic one-piece injection-moulded plastic pallet. To this day, the group offers load carriers made from high-quality polyethylene (PE) in one shot (including runners) and thus logistic solutions with significant added value.

"We also have the latest tooling and production technologies at our disposal, which are the result of our many years of expertise in plastics processing and tool and mould making," explains Daniel Roer, Head of Sales Materials Handling and authorised officer of Craemer GmbH.

> *"The exclusive use of high-quality materials, the sophisticated design and robust construction of our pallets and pallet boxes, as well as the production method, also improve their longevity."*

Tested resilience and longevity

The extremely durable plastic load carriers from Craemer

are durable, economical, and recyclable, making them ideal for sustainable intralogistics and efficient warehousing. In 2007, the Fraunhofer Institute in Dortmund, Germany, certified that the EURO H1 pallet from Craemer is extremely resilient and has a service life of more than twelve years. The EURO H1, standard in the meat and food industry since its introduction in 1993, stands for the implementation of international standards with the GS1 quality seal and can be exchanged throughout Europe in the open pool. In 2022, the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (USA) certified that the Craemer CR4-5 inch-size pallet completed more than 500 trip rates – far more than any competing pallet. These two pallets are exemplary for all Craemer plastic products and impressive proof of the special focus that the Germany-based Group has been placing on longevity for decades.

Euro pallet L1 made from plastic instead of wood

"The intralogistics systems of many European companies in production, trade and logistics are adapted to the dimensions of the wooden Euro pallet," says Daniel Roer.

> *"The EURO L1® developed by Craemer is a real 'game changer' because it is the first plastic pallet that is 100 per cent recognised by all systems. Contour or base-plate control systems often reject incompatible pallets, which costs time and can lead to expensive repackaging of the load, whereas the L1 offers great customer benefits."*

This solution is therefore a practical alternative to traditional wooden pallets. Unlike wood, which can wear out and splinter in everyday use, the L1 has proven to be extremely robust and durable as it is injection-moulded in one piece from PE. Its robustness and durability make it sustainable and versatile. Palgrip® anti-slip elements in the form of anti-slip strips on the upper deck also contribute to this. These strips ensure that the load is held securely, even in inclined positions and in damp environments. The three evenly closed runners are optionally available as welded Palgrip anti-slip runners for optimum running smoothness on roller conveyors or chain conveyors.

Pallets and pallet boxes with a long service life

To optimise sustainable storage and transport logistics, Craemer offers plastic pallets for a wide range of requirements. The portfolio ranges from half, Euro and industrial formats

Durable products: One-piece injection-moulded Craemer plastic pallets, pallet boxes and containers stand for high quality. This makes them durable, hard-wearing, maintenance-free and recyclable. © Craemer Group

to pallets with inch sized dimensions, from heavy-duty to hygienic applications. There are conductive models, equipment options such as steel reinforcement, pallet collars or lids, completely closed models or customised designs and sizes. Also part of the Craemer portfolio: durable large load carriers made of high-quality PE in various designs and sizes for different applications and industries. The portfolio ranges from hygienic boxes and UN-certified pallet boxes, models in Euro or industrial sizes, boxes with extra-large capacities or in metal grid format for parallel or alternative applications. Thanks to their seamless design, Craemer pallet boxes are robust, durable, and maintenance-free. The smooth interior walls allow easy emptying and fast cleaning. This protects the environment and speeds up logistical processes in daily handling.

Craemer plastic pallets and pallet boxes can also be fitted with RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) transponders, making them traceable, "smart" information carriers. Other quality features include temperature-resistance from minus 30 degrees to plus 40 degrees Celsius, and up to 90 degrees for short periods. The various reusable load carriers are characterised by their consistent quality, zero maintenance and long service life, even with a high number of trip rates.

> *"Many pooling providers have relied on the high quality of Craemer plastic pallets for decades,they value the reliability of our robust load carriers in long-term use."*

Circular economy and renewable energies

In pooling, the Craemer pallet benefits from its durability and from the localisation and tracking of each individual pallet thanks to RFID. Another advantage in terms of sustainability: *"Craemer products made of PE are one hundred percent recyclable,"* says Roer. *"We take back used plastic products from our own production and transform them into quality raw materials thanks to decades of experience and our own extruder machinery,"* he explains, *"from which we then produce new, high-quality plastic pallets, pallet boxes and containers in our plastic injection moulding plants."* This way, the material and the product remain an essential part of the circular economy, while the waste of valuable resources – including water and energy – is minimised. Conclusion: Pallets and pallet boxes from Craemer are sustainable and economical solutions for efficient intralogistics processes.

Plastics instead of wood: The design of the splinter-free EURO L1® plastic pallet from Craemer (l x w x h: 1200 x 800 x 150 mm) corresponds to that of wooden Euro pallet. © Craemer Group

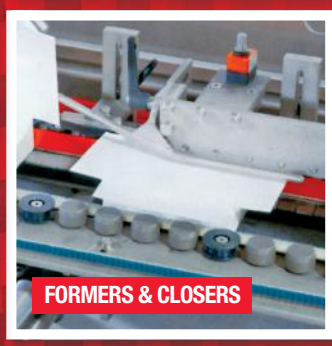
As part of its commitment to sustainability, the Group is also increasingly focusing on renewable energy. In 2022, Craemer put a new injection moulding plant into operation to expand its headquarters in Germany. In addition to a wind turbine with an annual output of 16.5 million kilowatt hours of electricity, photovoltaic systems are planned for the roof of the building and outdoor areas. The new factory building complies with the KfW 55 standard of the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (German reconstruction loan corporation) for energy-efficient buildings and does not require any gas supply at all.

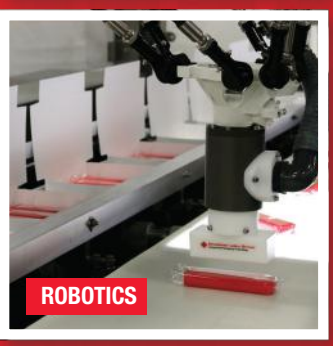
Craemer will be presenting its range of products and services at **Gulfood Manufacturing** in Dubai World Trade Centre, **Shk Saeed Hall 1, Stand S1-D4**

w: craemer.com

CRAEMER

FROM PROCESS TO PALLET





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THE QUEEN'S AWARDS FOR ENTERPRISE: INTERNATIONAL TRADE 2022

Bradman Lake: A compact design carton former and tray erector at Gulfood

With a compact footprint nearly half the size of traditional carton formers, the HS Mini retains the advanced features of the **Bradman Lake** HS Former, including forming rates of up to 60 strokes per minute, quick changeovers, and an Allen-Bradley control platform.

Each machine is ready for production, whether used as a stand-alone unit or as part of an integrated Bradman Lake packaging system, which can include a flow wrapper, carton loader, carton closer, case packer or a palletiser—making Bradman Lake the ideal one-stop shop.

The machine's core strength lies in its seamless future integration with Bradman Lake's innovative loading and closing equipment, allowing full automation whilst preserving the benefits of the initial capital investment.

Tooling flexibility

The ergonomic, modular design offers ultimate flexibility, handling a wide range of carton formats and sizes. It can be quickly adapted to meet evolving customer demands, ensuring our clients are ready to respond to fast-changing market conditions.

The HS Mini can be tooled to erect various styles of lock and glue-form cartons and trays, including standard three-flap or front-flap cartons, turn-over-end cartons, hooded lid cartons, and shelf-ready display cartons.

At the show, the carton former on display will be set up to lock-erect three-flap cartons.

Our packaging equipment specialists are available to offer expert advice on selecting the right machine to meet the specific handling characteristics of your products and required packaging formats.

We look forward to seeing you at the show!

w: bradmanlake.com

HS Mini Carton Former and Tray Erector © Bradman Lake

Join us at the **Gulfood Manufacturing Show** in Dubai, UAE, from 4-6 November 2025, on **stand #S-K31**, and experience live demonstrations of the **HS Mini Carton Former and Tray Erector**, perfect for installations with limited floor space.

PPWR and packaging readiness: How IMA Ilapak is supporting industry compliance

With the publication of Regulation (EU) 2025/40 on February 11th, 2025 — the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) — a new chapter has begun for packaging management across the European Union. The regulation's cornerstone is clear: packaging must be designed for recycling and be recyclable at scale.

Although the official guidelines defining recyclability and industrial recycling parameters will be released by the EU within 2028, companies of all sizes are already moving proactively to align with the regulation, which becomes mandatory in 2030. Many have turned to IMA — and specifically to OpenLab — to understand how to future-proof their packaging lines.

What is OpenLab?

OpenLab is **IMA** Group's network of technological laboratories and testing areas, dedicated to the research of sustainable materials, packaging technologies, and production optimisation. It acts as a bridge between innovation and implementation, helping companies identify the packaging solutions best suited to their objectives.

For producers in the food and personal care sectors, the transition to recyclable packaging means rethinking their entire supply chain. It implies major investments in new or upgraded packaging machinery, a reassessment of packaging materials, and careful analysis of how these changes affect product cost and performance.

In recent months, we've seen a strong increase in demand from both multinational corporations and SMEs to start collaborations with IMA OpenLab. The goal? To investigate how to switch from multilayer multi-material plastic to mono-material PP or PE films, or paper-based films with a high cellulose content, while maintaining excellent packaging performance.

The challenge is simple yet critical: manufacturers cannot afford to shut down production lines for extended material testing, nor do they always have the in-house expertise to assess new materials or optimise their wrapping lines accordingly. This is precisely where IMA steps in. With almost 10 years of OpenLab experience and more than 6,000 films analysed and tested on our packaging machines, we offer tailored consultancy and hands-on technical support to help companies move toward full PPWR compliance.

This is precisely where IMA steps in. With almost 10

years of OpenLab experience and more than 6,000 films analysed and tested on our packaging machines, we offer tailored consultancy and hands-on technical support to help companies move toward full PPWR compliance.

Our process begins with laboratory analysis of the customer's "future-ready" materials. These are then tested on **IMA Ilapak** flow wrapping machines in our dedicated test area. We conduct real-time testing with expert technicians and machine testers who can adapt configurations and implement patented technical solutions.

At IMA OpenLab, we conduct mechanical, thermal, sealing strength, hermeticity, shelf-life, visual, and comparative tests — covering all aspects that matter for recyclability, packaging performance, and consumer appeal.

A few real examples:

- For a leading snack producer, we developed a solution to package at 300 ppm using a 95% cellulose paper film — selected through multiple lab screenings — achieving strong sealing via hot seal. This even outperformed traditional cold seal plastic films.
- For a wet wipes manufacturer, we successfully implemented a technical solution to run recyclable mono-material PE film at 140 ppm (260 mm cut length at 35 linear metres/min) with excellent gas-tight sealing — delivering performance equal or superior to traditional solutions.

This is what we mean by a consultative, results-driven approach. All solutions are tested and validated on real machines — with real outcomes — ensuring that our partners are not only compliant with future regulations but also maintain their performance and competitiveness.

IMA ILAPAK
Flexible Packaging Solutions

Are you facing similar challenges?

Get in touch and test your recycle ready packaging with us. Work side by side with our experts and explore end-to-end solutions — backed by solid data and proven machine compatibility.

AT THE CENTRE OF YOUR NEXT COMPLETE FLEXIBLE PACKAGING LINE

HANDLING | PORTIONING AND FEEDING | WEIGHING AND COUNTING | HFFS PACKAGING | VFFS PACKAGING | SECONDARY PACKAGING | END OF LINE SOLUTIONS

INFINITE SOLUTIONS
JUST ONE HUB

Let us answer your demands with an infinity of targeted technologies developed through the synergies within the **IMA FLX HUB**.

Our primary, secondary and end-of-line packaging solutions combine with each other to form tailored turnkey lines able to handle the broadest variety of flexible pack styles. Machines can be configured to process recyclable and sustainable materials, while digital features and connectivity maximise line efficiency.

For Food, Pharma, Wet Wipes and **Pet markets, IMA FLX HUB** will place you at the centre of a neverending partnership.

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Shk Saeed Hall 3 - Booth S3-D52

ima.it/flexible-packaging-hub

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Innovative packaging and process technologies drive new value in poultry production

Innovative packaging plays an increasingly important role in the evolution of poultry processing. A Danish specialist, as part of a European technology alliance, demonstrates how advanced waxed liner systems enable the transition from raw material to standardised frozen blocks—laying the foundation for fully integrated, value-added production.

European technology alliance redefines value creation in poultry processing

In expanding global markets, particularly in regions such as the Middle East, demand for high-quality, convenience-oriented poultry products continues to accelerate. Producers face increasing pressure to optimize output, enhance product diversity, and improve resource efficiency. To meet these evolving requirements, a strategic alliance of three leading European manufacturers now offers a unified approach—delivering comprehensive, technology-driven solutions designed to transform raw poultry materials into standardized, high-value, profitable, market-ready consumer products.

From raw material to market-ready products

Modern poultry processing no longer focuses solely on primary cuts. Secondary cuts and trimmings have become valuable resources when processed with precision technologies. Through integrated systems, producers can convert raw or marinated poultry pieces into standardized frozen blocks, later shaped into popular formats such as Mosahabs, poultry fingers, filet nuggets, or chicken cubes—supporting profitability and product innovation.

The process typically begins with customer-specific marinated muscle pieces loaded into

specialized waxed liners. These liners enable structured filling, hygienic handling, and consistent block formation. Following preparation, the material undergoes rapid freezing in horizontal plate freezers, reaching fast a core temperature of -18°C. This method ensures product stability, energy efficiency, and production planning flexibility.

Once frozen, the blocks can be manually or automatically released for downstream processing. Advanced sawing and portioning systems then shape the material into uniform planks or custom formats. Through innovative shaping technologies, producers can respond quickly to market trends and prepare products ready for battering, breading, or direct distribution. Each stage is engineered to reduce waste, maintain quality, and secure repeatable results.

Three technology specialists – one integrated value chain

The integrated offering is driven by three long-established European companies, each contributing unique expertise within the processing chain:

Beck Pack Systems (Denmark)

For over five decades, Beck Pack Systems has specialized in waxed liners and freezing frames, essential for the creation of standardized frozen blocks. These elements form the foundation of an efficient and hygienic value-added process.

w: beck-liner.dk
e: info@beck-liner.com

DSI Dantech (Denmark)

With more than 7,000 installations worldwide, DSI Dantech is recognized as a global leader in plate freezing technology. The company delivers high-performance freezing solutions for poultry, seafood, liquids, and ready meals, combining speed with energy-conscious innovation.

w: dsidantech.com
e: info@dsidantech.com

Nienstedt GmbH (Germany)

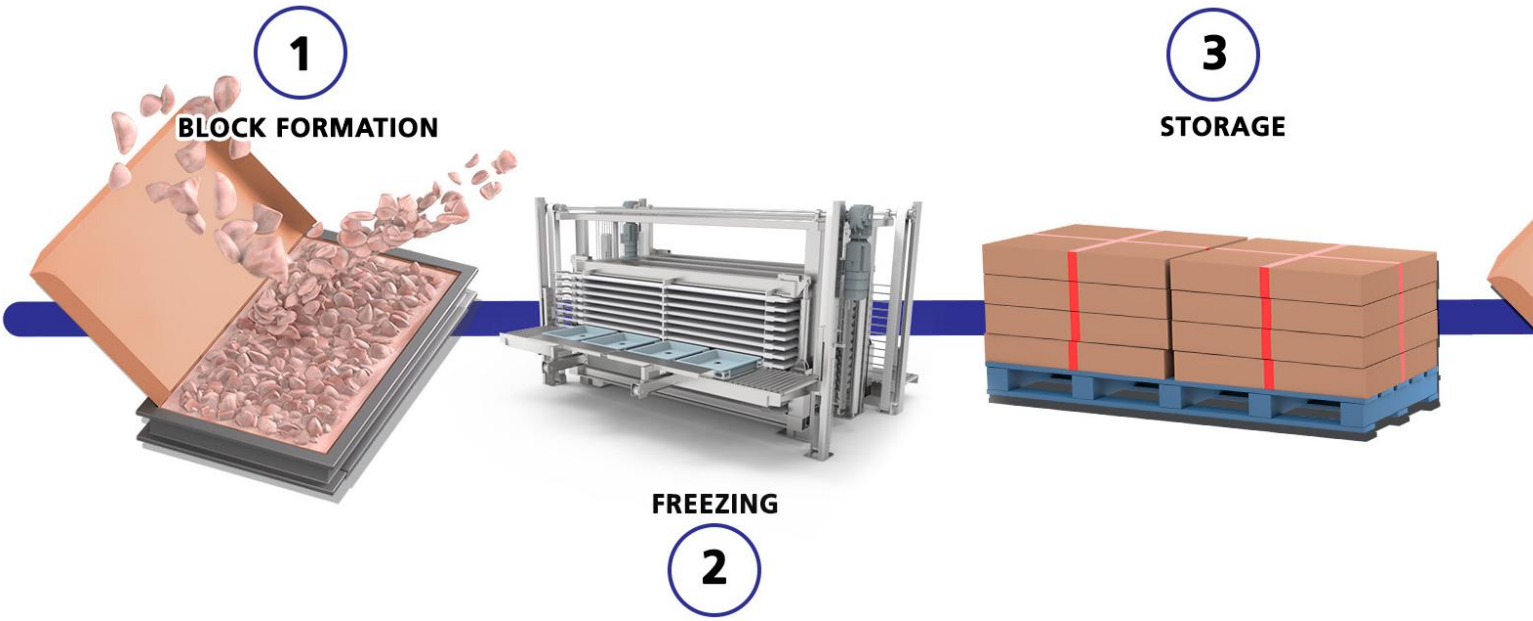
Drawing on more than 75 years of engineering experience, Nienstedt GmbH manufactures advanced machinery for cutting, portioning, and shaping frozen products. Its systems enable production solutions ranging from manual workflow to fully automated high-capacity lines.

w: nienstedt.de
e: sales@nienstedt.de

Together, these manufacturers deliver a fusion of technological innovation, market expertise, ensuring manufactures to receive most effective and efficient solutions available in the food processing industry.

Tailored solutions for every production scale

Poultry processors operate in diverse environments, from regional producers to multinational facilities. To meet these wide-ranging requirements, the partnership offers scalable systems and consulting services, ensuring alignment with individual production goals.



- **Process consulting:** Expert evaluation of production objectives and operational constraints.
- **Modular system design:** Options spanning entry-level installations to fully automated lines.
- **Integration capabilities:** Compatibility with existing factory infrastructure to minimize disruption.
- **Lifecycle support:** Installation, operator training, maintenance, and performance updates.

This holistic approach enables producers to increase throughput, maintain consistency, and expand product portfolios without compromising food safety or operational reliability.

Efficiency, sustainability, and market readiness

Rising energy costs and environmental expectations demand responsible industrial practices. Plate freezing technology, precision cutting, and block-based production frameworks reduce waste, optimise yield, and enable accurate portion control. By transforming by-products into

sellable SKUs, processors gain both economic and sustainability advantages.

Furthermore, product standardisation through frozen block technology improves storage, logistics, and export capabilities—an essential factor for suppliers operating in demanding markets.

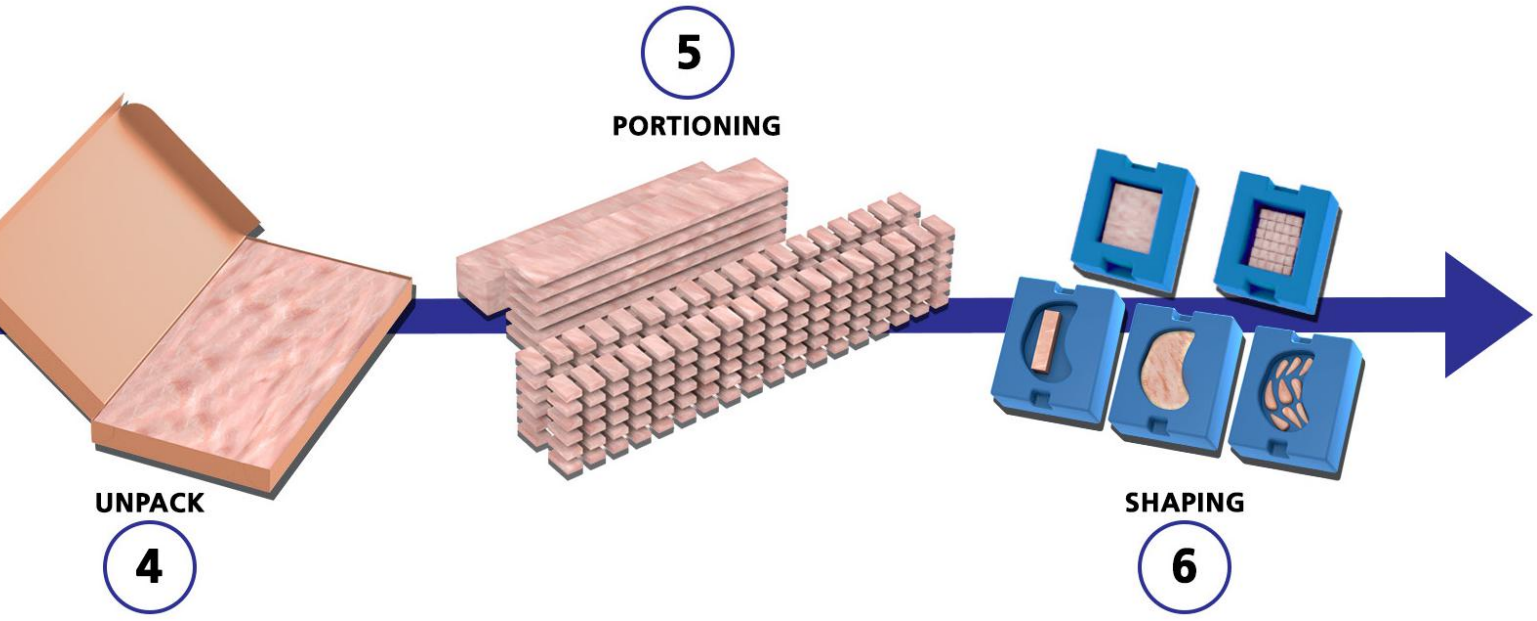
Positioned for the future of poultry processing

The value-added poultry segment is expected to continue its strong growth trajectory. Producers equipped with integrated, precision-driven technologies are best positioned to respond to shifting market preferences, retail requirements, and growing competition. With a consolidated European technology platform, poultry manufacturers can accelerate innovation while safeguarding process reliability.

Invitation to industry innovators

Forward-looking poultry processors are invited to explore this advanced European technology alliance. By adopting harmonised systems across freezing, forming, and finishing processes, producers can secure a decisive advantage in both established and emerging markets.

Innovation, efficiency, and product excellence are so within reach—is the time to shape the future of poultry processing.



Rethinking Pulp: From produce crates to premium plates

When most people think of molded pulp in food packaging, they picture egg cartons or takeout trays, the quiet workhorses of the supply chain. But what if molded pulp could be more than just functional? What if it could feel beautiful in the hand, tell a brand story, and still return to the earth when its job is done?

The future of food and beverage packaging isn't just about removing plastic; it's about reimagining what sustainable materials can be.

A material ready for reinvention

Molded pulp has always had the right ingredients: renewable, biodegradable, and recyclable. What it lacked was the right momentum.

Today's forming technologies have changed that. Refined tooling, tighter tolerances, and smoother finishes now make fiber capable of a level of precision once reserved for plastics. A smooth, satin wet-press surface can suggest luxury, while a raw dry-press texture speaks to authenticity and craft. The palette is wide and the message is powerful; sustainability can look sophisticated.

At the same time, new barrier coatings, aqueous-based waterproofing agents are expanding pulp's capabilities for hot, cold, and oily foods. What was once a lowly material limited to egg cartons is now finding its way into bakery lines, beverage

sleeves, and ready-meal trays that withstand microwaves and refrigeration without compromise.

A new kind of appetite

Sustainability used to mean compromise: dull colors, rough textures, utilitarian forms. But the appetite has changed. Consumers now expect eco-conscious packaging that feels indulgent, packaging that elevates the meal, not apologizes for it.

Food brands are responding with fiber trays that rival ceramic in elegance, bakery boxes that open like gift sets, and beverage carriers that double as display pieces. Molded pulp has moved from behind the counter to the center of the experience. Tactile, sculptural, and proudly plastic-free.

This shift isn't just aesthetic. Governments around the world are introducing plastic bans and extended producer responsibility policies, accelerating the transition toward materials that balance sustainability and scalability. Molded pulp answers both, with infrastructure already in place for recycling, composting, and global logistics.

Design as experience

The best packaging isn't just seen; it's *felt*. In molded pulp, form and emotion can finally meet. The familiar texture of paper, the weight of a lid, the precision of each fold. Each detail contributes to how a product is perceived before it's even opened.

That sensory storytelling is what turns a sustainable choice into a premium one. Brands that treat pulp as a design medium rather than a constraint are defining the new visual language of eco-luxury, honest, tactile, and refreshingly modern.

Beyond the Shelf

Molded pulp's potential extends far beyond the checkout counter. In agriculture, it protects delicate produce and seedlings without adding waste. In food service, it provides heat resistance and stackability for ready meals without plastic linings. In retail, it reduces breakage in transport while remaining lightweight and curbside recyclable.

It's also increasingly part of premium presentation: tea gift sets, wine carriers, or confectionery inserts that replace foam and PET while maintaining a refined finish. This convergence of performance and presentation is what makes pulp so versatile. Molded pulp is not just one solution, but a system of possibilities built on a single renewable foundation.

Molding a new standard

Fenix Industries sits at the forefront of this evolution, designing beautiful packaging in the U.S. and producing for global food and beverage brands from facilities in the Philippines, Vietnam, and China.

For Fenix, sustainability isn't the end goal, it's the starting point for better design. By combining engineering precision with creative freedom, molded pulp becomes more than packaging. It becomes a statement of responsibility, refinement, and possibility.

The next chapter of food and beverage packaging will be defined not by what we eliminate, but by what we *elevate*. Molded pulp is proving that environmental design can be both ethical and elegant. The materials of the future are already in our hands.

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Sustainable luxury: How drinks packaging is redefining premium appeal

Sustainability is no longer just a regulatory or ethical consideration in the drinks industry — it has become a defining element of brand identity. Today's consumers expect beverages to look good and do good, prompting brands to combine eco-conscious materials with premium design and tactile appeal. The result is a new era of drinks packaging that balances luxury aesthetics with environmental performance.

The rise of premium sustainable design

Across global beverage categories, from craft spirits to soft drinks, packaging design is being reimagined to convey authenticity, quality, and responsibility.Glass, aluminium and paperboard remain the dominant substrates, but brands are increasingly focusing on lightweighting, recycled content, and refined, minimal branding that signals sustainability without sacrificing shelf presence.

According to BeverageDaily, minimalist forms, natural textures, and subdued colour palettes are replacing traditional glossy finishes.

This visual restraint aligns with broader consumer trends towards transparency and authenticity — hallmarks of both premium and sustainable design.

© Diageo

Material innovation meets craftsmanship

Packaging suppliers are introducing new ways to reduce impact while maintaining a luxury feel. For instance:

Diageo has been trialling paper-based bottles for its whisky and vodka brands, produced by Pulpex — a wood-fibre container designed to be fully recyclable in standard paper waste streams.

Absolut recently unveiled a paper bottle prototype developed in partnership with Paboco (The Paper Bottle Company). The structure combines a recyclable paper outer shell with a thin, plant-based barrier layer that protects the liquid while remaining compatible with recycling systems.

Pernod Ricard has introduced a lightweight glass initiative, cutting bottle weights by up to 15 % across several premium spirits lines while retaining the brand's signature embossed detail.

In the non-alcoholic space, **Coca-Cola's** "World Without Waste" strategy includes the rollout of clearer, label-free PET bottles made from 100 % recycled plastic in selected markets — a step towards improving recyclability while giving the brand a pared-back, modern aesthetic.

These examples illustrate how material science and design craftsmanship are converging to create packaging that reflects both premium value and planet-friendly intent.

Balancing form, function, and footprint

Luxury drinks brands, in particular, face the challenge of retaining a sense of exclusivity while reducing environmental impact. Heavy glass, metallic foils, and elaborate closures have long signified quality, but these elements are now being reassessed in the light of carbon reduction targets and changing consumer expectations.

Manufacturers are exploring alternatives such as embossing, laser etching, and water-based coatings to achieve sophisticated finishes without non-recyclable laminates or inks. Meanwhile, aluminium packaging — long valued for its recyclability and protection — is being reintroduced in more refined formats, such as matte-finish cans for premium mixers or slimline bottles for ready-to-drink cocktails.

A growing number of beverage start-ups are also embracing "design simplicity as luxury", using uncoated kraft papers, soft-touch varnishes, and clean typography to convey purity and sustainability.

Consumer perception and market differentiation

Research from Innova Market Insights indicates that consumers increasingly associate environmental responsibility with brand quality. In the drinks sector, this translates into packaging that looks crafted yet minimal — a physical expression of the brand's sustainability narrative.

By merging eco-material innovation with refined visual design, beverage producers are reshaping the concept of luxury: no longer about excess, but about integrity, restraint, and circular value.

Looking ahead

As materials technology advances, expect to see even greater cross-pollination between sustainability and high-end design. Digital tools like 3D printing, augmented reality (AR) labels, and custom embossing will allow brands to tell sustainability stories in new, interactive ways — all while reducing waste.

Ultimately, the future of premium drinks packaging lies not in extravagance, but in elevated simplicity: design that respects resources as much as it delights the senses.

© Absolut Vodka

Drinks packaging in the news

PATRÓN Tequila unveils refined bottle and packaging design

PATRÓN Tequila has revealed a refreshed visual identity — its first major packaging update since launching in 1989. The redesigned bottle places greater emphasis on the brand's agave roots, featuring elegant details inspired by the agave piña and a renewed focus on its signature bee motif. Alongside the aesthetic updates, the new design also supports PATRÓN's sustainability goals, reducing the average bottle weight by around 8% across all formats to help lower the brand's carbon footprint.

Jameson refreshes iconic bottle design

Irish whiskey brand Jameson has unveiled a contemporary update to its signature green bottle — the first significant design evolution in decades. The refreshed look introduces brighter tones, refined embossing and an updated logo, while retaining the familiar silhouette that has defined the brand since 1968. A new inscription, "Crafted for Smoothness at the Midleton Distillery," pays tribute to Jameson's heritage and craftsmanship, combining modern appeal with a continued celebration of its Irish roots.

Lyte Packaging: A bottle box with a reveal for West Midlands Distillery

Lyte Packaging has developed a bespoke rigid fan-opening bottle box for West Midlands Distillery's debut whisky release. Combining black and white papers with litho printing, foiling and spot UV detailing, the design offers a dramatic reveal and a subtle nod to the region's heritage through fan patterns printed with maps of the West Midlands. Each of the five whiskies features its own hand-painted sleeve, reflecting the craftsmanship of the distillery's bottles and creating packaging designed to be both elegant and collectible.

Croxsons launches exclusive premium spirits bottle range to the UK market

Leading glass packaging supplier Croxsons has announced the launch of an exclusive new range of premium spirits bottles, now available to producers across the UK. Developed through a strategic partnership with a trusted international manufacturer, the new collection responds to growing demand for distinctive, high-quality packaging within the country's vibrant spirits sector.

Absolut trials 'industry-first' paper cap and bottle combo Absolut has taken another step

in its sustainable packaging journey by trialling an industry-first paper-based cap designed to complement its fibre-based bottle. The initiative supports the brand's wider ambition to develop a fully biobased packaging solution.

More beverage news can be found **here**.

Aetna Group at Gulfood Manufacturing 2025 with a smart and efficient end-of-line solution by Robopac

TechLab © Aetna Group

Aetna Group is among the featured exhibitors at **Gulfood Manufacturing 2025**, and will showcase its products in **Sheikh Saeed Hall, stand S2-C50**, with three end-of-line solutions from Robopac: the self-propelled stretch wrapping machine Robot S7, the semi-automatic Masterplat wrapping machine, and the compact Ecoplat Plus.

Aetna Group, increasingly present in expanding markets with a complete range dedicated to end-of-line processes, focuses on efficiency, ease of use, and sustainability. This exhibition, a strategic showcase for the food industry, offers the opportunity to highlight the versatility of Robopac technologies: this is even in the most dynamic and diverse production environments.

Technologies on display at Gulfood Manufacturing

The iconic Robot S7 is one of the most advanced self-propelled wrapping machines on the market. Designed to wrap and stabilise palletised loads of any shape, size, and weight, it uses stretch film. Furthermore, it integrates the patented Power Drive system with brushless motorisation, for precise control of pre-stretch and significant optimisation of material consumption. Operational ergonomics is ensured by the ILS (Insertion Lift System), which allows quick and intuitive film insertion. The machine delivers high performance even in limited spaces or under complex logistics conditions, always maintaining high reliability.

Robot S7 by Robopac © Aetna Group

In addition to the Robot S7, the Masterplat Plus PGS will also be on display. This is a semi-automatic turntable wrapping machine with a built-in pre-stretch system. Thanks to the loading ramp and a 30 mm base, the Masterplat is a benchmark for ease of access, safety, and versatility. The control panel allows simple and intuitive programming, making this machine ideal for companies seeking high performance while maintaining ease of operation. Operational efficiency is complemented by optimised film consumption management, thereby making the production process more sustainable.

With its presence at Gulfood Manufacturing 2025, Aetna Group confirms its commitment to supporting food & beverage companies with practical, high-performing, and scalable solutions. These systems provide a solution to diverse needs with user-friendly and robust technologies ready for process digitalisation.

ROBOPAC

AETNAGROUP

An international **leader in the end-of-line packaging sector**, in over 40 years of history **Aetna Group** has established itself worldwide for technology, quality, expertise, innovation and entrepreneurial vision. With a production that ranges from semi-automatic wrapping machines with smart technology to the latest generation of automatic machines, from shrinkwrappers to industrial packers and case packers, from palletisers to AGV & LGV shuttles and machines dedicated to recycling raw materials, Aetna Group produces and markets a **wide range of solutions** capable of responding to equally vast production needs, with **high tailor-made packaging capacity and 24/7 assistance service**.

The Group counts **13 subsidiaries, 5 foreign production companies** (2 in China and 1 each in Brazil, USA and Germany) and another **7 in Italy**, all in the **Packaging Valley** of Emilia-Romagna Region (Italy). The reference brands are **Robopac**, **OCME**, **Meypack**, **TopTier** and **Sotemapack**.

The Italian leader is distinguished by a unique peculiarity: the **TechLab**, the most advanced research laboratory system in the packaging industry, dedicated to continuous product and process development. With **the aim of reducing energy and material consumption**, TechLab guarantees **maximum packaging safety** (product damage reduced up to 85% during transportation) and packing **material savings of up to 60%**. Results obtained scientifically, through unique machinery, simulations of various worst cases and strict accredited tests.

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Helix 4/2 Evo by Robopac © Aetna Group

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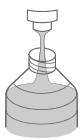
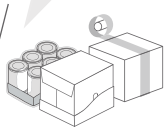
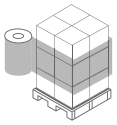
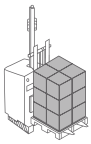

FILLING FOR VISCOUS LIQUIDS


SECONDARY PACKAGING


PALLETIZING AND DEPALLETIZING


STRETCH WRAPPING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Smart Packaging: Bringing real-time insight to food safety and quality

As pressure mounts on food manufacturers to deliver fresher, safer, more sustainable products, smart packaging is emerging as a vital tool in the food & beverage arsenal. By embedding sensors, indicators, and communication elements directly into pack formats, intelligent packaging systems promise to monitor product conditions in real time, alert stakeholders to potential spoilage, and even enable data-driven supply chain optimisation.

What is smart / intelligent packaging?

Smart packaging refers broadly to packaging systems that sense, monitor, and communicate information about the packaged product or its environment. While active packaging interacts with the food (e.g. oxygen scavengers or antimicrobial agents), intelligent packaging is more about observation and feedback — tracking temperature, humidity, gas composition, or microbial activity, and conveying this to users or automated systems.

These systems typically consist of:

- Sensors / indicators (which might change colour, emit signals, or interface with other electronics)
- Data carriers / tags (like RFID, NFC, QR codes)
- Communication or logic modules that interpret data or trigger alerts.

In food packaging, such systems can help detect spoilage, quality deterioration, or deviations in storage conditions, giving manufacturers and retailers better visibility over the product's journey.

Notable innovations & real-world applications

Printed oxygen sensor ink directly on packaging

Irish deep-tech firm Senoptica Technologies has developed a food-safe ink that can be printed onto the interior surface of food packaging. This ink acts as a sensor, monitoring oxygen levels in modified atmosphere packs (MAP) in real time. It alerts whether the internal atmosphere is intact or compromised, helping prevent unnecessary waste of still-edible product.

Time–temperature indicators (TTIs) and shelf-life labels

Companies like Keep-it Technologies offer self-adhesive time-and-temperature indicators which visibly track how long a product has been exposed to varying thermal conditions. The indicator changes in response to real cumulative temperature exposure, providing a more accurate reflection of remaining shelf life than a static "best before" date.

Battery-free autonomous smart packaging

Recent research has demonstrated battery-less smart packaging capable of both real-time sensing and active compound release. In one prototype, a gas sensor, NFC antenna, and controlled-release mechanism were integrated into a single system. In tests, this system extended the shelf life of fish by up to 14 days by releasing antimicrobial/antioxidant compounds only when needed.

Nanomaterial-enabled sensors and antimicrobial packaging

Nanotechnology is playing a dual role in smart packaging: sensors at the nanoscale and antimicrobial agents built into packaging materials. For instance, nanomaterials can detect spoilage gases (e.g. CO_2, amines) and trigger visual or digital signals.

Simultaneously, nanoparticle-embedded films—such as zinc oxide in starch-based biofilms—can inhibit microbial growth,

Hellmann's developed the 'Smart Jar' which changes to indicate when your fridge is at the perfect temperature © Hellmann's/Unilever

effectively combining sensing and protection.

Benefits in the F&B context

Improved safety and quality assurance

Smart packaging helps to detect deviations (e.g. temperature abuse, oxygen ingress) before they cross threshold levels, reducing the risk of foodborne illness or spoilage.

Extended shelf life and waste reduction

By enabling just-in-time intervention or early removal of compromised product, these systems help reduce waste and optimise stock rotation.

Traceability and recall capability

Sensors and tags can feed into digital traceability systems, making it easier to pinpoint batches at risk, support targeted recalls, or trace supply chain conditions.

Consumer trust and transparency

Interactive labels, QR/NFC-enabled systems, or freshness indicators can provide end consumers with real-time insight into the quality or history of the product.

Challenges and considerations

Cost and scalability

Adding sensors, electronics, or logic layers increases packaging cost, which can be difficult to justify for lower-margin items.

Regulatory and safety compliance

Materials used in contact with food (inks, electronics, nanoparticles) must meet

stringent regulatory approval, especially in sensitive markets.

Integration and compatibility

Any smart system must adapt to existing packaging machinery, shelf-life workflows, and supply chains without introducing complexity or reliability risk.

Data management

Collecting, processing, and securing the sensor data stream requires infrastructure and capability that many brands and retailers may not yet possess.

Waste & recyclability

Introducing electronics or specialized sensors can complicate recycling. Sustainable design must ensure that smart elements do not compromise circularity.

Outlook and path forward

The momentum behind smart packaging in food & beverage continues to build. Market reports suggest the smart food packaging segment will see robust growth, driven by consumer demand, stricter regulatory environments, and supply chain digitisation.

For brands and packaging suppliers, a cautious but forward-looking approach is advisable: pilot projects, selective deployment in high-value SKUs, and close collaboration with materials and electronics specialists will help manage risk. Over time, cost declines and standardisation may make sensor-enabled packaging more accessible even for mainstream products.

When aligned well, smart packaging offers the F&B sector a powerful tool: not just passive protection, but an active, data-informed partner in preserving food quality, safety, and brand reputation from farm to fork.

© Cadbury

Smart packaging in the news

Cadbury unveils temperature-activated packaging for summer bars

Cadbury unveiled a new range of Dairy Milk chocolate bars featuring innovative colour-changing packaging. The limited-edition Summer Edition bars incorporate thermochromic technology that reveals vibrant designs when chilled. When the bars are cooled, the packaging transforms, unveiling bright blue hues that enhance the seasonal appeal. This feature is intended to encourage consumers to refrigerate their chocolate.

Lyte Packaging: Smart Packaging launches at exhibitions across Europe

Lyte Packaging threw its new feature, 'Smart Packaging', into the spotlight a various 2025 exhibitions. This smart packaging can be built into a removable sticker, allowing easy removal before recycling, ensuring sustainability while delivering cutting-edge, interactive packaging solutions for your products. By simply holding your phone to the packaging, the content appears without the need to open a camera as with QR codes.

Kroger introduces RFID labels for fresher groceries and smarter inventory

Kroger has partnered with Avery Dennison to implement RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) technology as part of its strategy to enhance inventory management and improve customer and associate experiences. This initiative aims to introduce item-level digital identification, allowing for more accurate and frequent inventory tracking, which in turn maximises product freshness and reduces waste.

Industry confidence in connected packaging soars to 88.8% in latest survey

Global leader in connected packaging, Appetite Creative, in partnership with Polytag and Digimarc, today released results from its fourth annual Global Connected Packaging Survey 2025. The research reveals a transformative year for the industry, with 88.8% surveyed stating that connected packaging will be increasingly important to the packaging industry in the next 12 months and beyond.

More food packaging news can be found **here**.

LoeschPack and Hastamat present ground-breaking packaging solutions

Gulfood Manufacturing in Dubai is the world's premier event for food and beverage manufacturers, supply chain innovators, and technology leaders. From November 4 to 6, 2025, German manufacturers **LoeschPack** and **Hastamat** will be showcasing their innovative packaging systems in **Sheikh Saeed Hall 1, booth S1-D70**.

At their joint booth, the packaging machine manufacturers from Germany will unveil their innovative and compact system solutions to trade visitors.

LoeschPack will be exhibiting its LTM-DUO combination line for packaging chocolate bars for the first time in the United Arab Emirates. Hastamat will present the RM-270 vertical flow wrapping machine, featuring a hygienic design for flat bags with a zip closure.

"Whether you need a single machine or a comprehensive solution for packaging food or non-food products, the packaging systems from LoeschPack and Hastamat are flexible, efficient, and space-saving – ideal for meeting the unique requirements of our international customers," says Olaf Piepenbrock, Managing Partner of Hastamat, LoeschPack, and the parent company Piepenbrock.

Combination line instead of stand-alone machines

The LTM-DUO combination line from LoeschPack integrates two-stage fold wrapping and chocolate bar cartoning within a single compact platform.

It stands out due to its high degree of automation, low staffing requirements, and small footprint. Its compact design takes up significantly less space than comparable layouts.

"The combination line is an economical and space-efficient alternative to a configuration with two stand-alone machines. The line features a hot melt unit and central control system and can be operated by just one person," explains Dr. Ferdinand Schwarzfischer, Chief Technology Officer (CTO) at LoeschPack.

In the first step, the LTM-DUO fold wrapping machine packs more than 200 chocolate bars per minute in a tightly sealed primary wrap. The outer wrap can be designed as a paper envelope from a stack or reel, or as a cardboard envelope. The CMW cartoning module then fills around 30 display cartons per minute. An integrated buffer reduces waste.

More information on the LTM-DUO can be found **here**.

Flexible product packaging with flow packs

The Hastamat RM-270 serves as a versatile solution among vertical flow wrapping machines. In addition to fresh and frozen foods, the machine also packs stick-shaped products, snacks, crackers, cookies, and confectionery.

With its modular stainless steel design, it meets the stringent requirements of the food industry. Water and dust protection can be incorporated into the hygienic design.

The machine not only features versatility but also delivers outstanding high-speed performance, according to Thomas Bornemann, Director of Sales & Marketing at Hastamat:

"The RM-270 is capable of processing up to 250 bags per minute across all format ranges. It accommodates all bag shapes, including recyclable wrapping materials. Users can also incorporate various dosing units and specialized applications."

Find out more about the Hastamnat RM-270 **here**.

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Q&A: Simon and Jonas Beck on 70 years of Hugo Beck, innovation and a vision for the future

From left, Jonas and Simon Beck.

For this special Q&A, we speak with Simon Beck and Jonas Beck, the newly appointed Managing Directors of **Hugo Beck**. Taking the helm in the company's 70th anniversary year, they share their perspectives on the milestones that have shaped the business, its key innovations and their vision for the future of sustainable packaging technology.

1. This year marks 70 years since Hugo Beck was founded. How significant is that anniversary for the company and the people behind it?

Simon Beck: It's a major moment for all of us. Seventy years of business isn't just a number, it's a testament to the people behind Hugo Beck, past and present, who have helped shape our identity. We're proud of how far we've come, from a small mechanical workshop in the 1950s to an international specialist in horizontal packaging machines. This anniversary is a chance to celebrate that legacy and look ahead.

Jonas Beck: It also represents continuity. We're the third generation of family leadership, and that heritage means a lot to us. But we're equally focused on building something future-ready, in terms of sustainability, digitalisation and customer support.

2. What are some of the most important milestones in Hugo Beck's history?

Simon Beck: The launch of our first film packaging machines in the early 1960s was a big step. In the 1970s, we introduced automated horizontal polybag machines – a real breakthrough. Another highlight was the implementation of servo drive technology in the 1990s, which opened the door to greater precision and positioned us as a technology leader. In 2015, robotic systems were added to our automation solutions.

Today our clients get their packaging solution either as a stand-alone system or as a highly automated complete solution.

Jonas Beck: We've always adapted. Whether it's tight bag packaging for film-saving efficiency, hybrid machines for film and paper, or right-sized e-commerce packaging, each innovation has been driven by customer needs and industry shifts.

3. How has Hugo Beck responded to changing demands around sustainability in packaging?

Jonas Beck: Sustainability is core to our machine development.

"We've invested heavily in technologies that minimise packaging materials without sacrificing performance. Our machines use just as much film or paper as needed. We've expanded our paper packaging portfolio. Solutions like the paper e-com fit or paper X series let customers switch from film to paper while maintaining speed and flexibility.

Our machines keep pace with developments in sustainable materials - from mono-material films and recycled content to bioplastics and ultra-thin films.

Simon Beck: Sustainability also means energy use, machine efficiency and lifecycle service. That's why we offer tailored service packages to minimise repair needs and extend machine availability. Many Hugo Beck machines are still in use after 20 or even 30 years.

4. Tell us about the recent management changes. What do they represent for the future of the company?

Simon Beck: In July 2025, Jonas and I officially became Managing Directors, following Timo Kollmann's departure after 20 years. We're grateful for his contribution to our international growth. Curt-Jürgen Raiser will remain as interim MD until his retirement at the end of October, to ensure a smooth transition.

Jonas Beck: This leadership change represents a generational shift and a renewed focus on agility and long-term innovation. We're focused on developing flexible, high-performance packaging solutions for fast-changing markets.

5. With so many industries facing rapid change, how do you ensure Hugo Beck's solutions continue to meet real-world production challenges?

Jonas Beck: Our focus is always on solving problems - reducing packaging waste, speeding up production, or switching materials mid-run. We work closely with customers to understand their challenges and adapt our technology.

Simon Beck: Flexibility is built into everything we do. Many of our machines are modular or hybrid, allowing users to switch between paper and film or run different formats on the same line.

6. What's next for Hugo Beck as you enter your eighth decade?

Jonas Beck: We want to expand internationally while staying true to what makes us different: machine design quality, customer focus and tailored solutions. We're committed to developing automation, digitalisation and paper packaging.

Simon Beck: The demand for smarter, more sustainable packaging will only grow. Whether it's right-sizing, hybrid machines or fully automated lines, we want Hugo Beck to remain the partner of choice.

7. Finally, what message would you like to share with your customers and partners as you celebrate this 70-year milestone?

Simon Beck: Thank you for your trust and support. Many of our customer relationships go back decades, and that means everything to us.

Jonas Beck: Whether you've worked with us for years or are just getting to know Hugo Beck, we're ready to help you find the perfect fit for your packaging needs.

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- Maximum machine uptime
- High packaging speeds of up to 18,000 cycles/h
- Wide range of packaging types and films processed


Improving quality, efficiency, and safety with original parts

How counterfeit spare parts threaten food safety – and how Syntegon ensures quality with original components.

Syntegon's experts support food manufacturers in seamlessly switching to sustainable, PPWR-compliant packaging solutions. © Syntegon

Product piracy is not only widespread in the world of media and fashion. In mechanical and plant engineering, counterfeit products have also become a common, high-risk practice. However, cheap copies of critical spare and format parts rarely lead to the desired cost savings. Only original quality components – whether for new machines or retrofits – can keep maintenance and production costs low and ensure consumer safety.

The continued high demand for counterfeit machine parts stems from a fundamental fallacy that companies often succumb to. If, for example, a format part of a packaging machine is defective, some manufacturers fall back on a cheaper copy instead of sourcing the original quality component. However, this decision only leads to short-term financial benefits. In the long term, the opposite occurs: The counterfeit format part often significantly increases the likelihood of damage and production errors, while leading to lengthy machine downtimes and high costs.

Product contamination due to counterfeit format parts

One particularly dangerous effect is the increased risk of contamination, as this directly endangers the health of consumers. Counterfeit components are often made from inferior materials and can cause contamination, especially in sectors with high hygiene requirements such as the food industry. Particles can detach from the surface of the component and contaminate the product.

Original quality components such as product-contact format parts reduce the risk of contamination. © Syntegon

This is particularly the case with critical product-contact format parts, such as sealing jaws, dosing screws, mouthpieces, or conveyor belts. In addition, the inferior material may not be compatible with the cleaning agent, preventing proper cleaning. If the contaminated products reach the market, companies risk global recalls that not only result in serious financial losses, but also cause lasting damage to the customers' trust in the brand.

Product counterfeiting as cause of defects and faulty production

Deviating geometries of counterfeit spare and format parts can also cause expensive damage. When manufacturers decide to save on a supposedly non-critical component – for example, the individual gears of the conveyor belt in a packaging line – they run the risk of the counterfeit part getting caught in the drive shaft of the conveyor belt or not being able to withstand the mechanical stresses during production and becoming deformed or breaking off.

The result: the entire conveyor belt is damaged and has to be replaced, causing unforeseen machine downtime. The manufacturer incurs repair costs that far exceed the purchase price of the counterfeit format part. Faulty production may also result in higher costs down the line. Faulty counterfeit parts can lead to overdosing, poor sealing quality, or incorrect packaging elements – and therefore to products that do not meet the required specifications.

Warranty exclusion and long-term system availability

Food manufacturers must bear these additional costs themselves, as manufacturers of counterfeit products accept

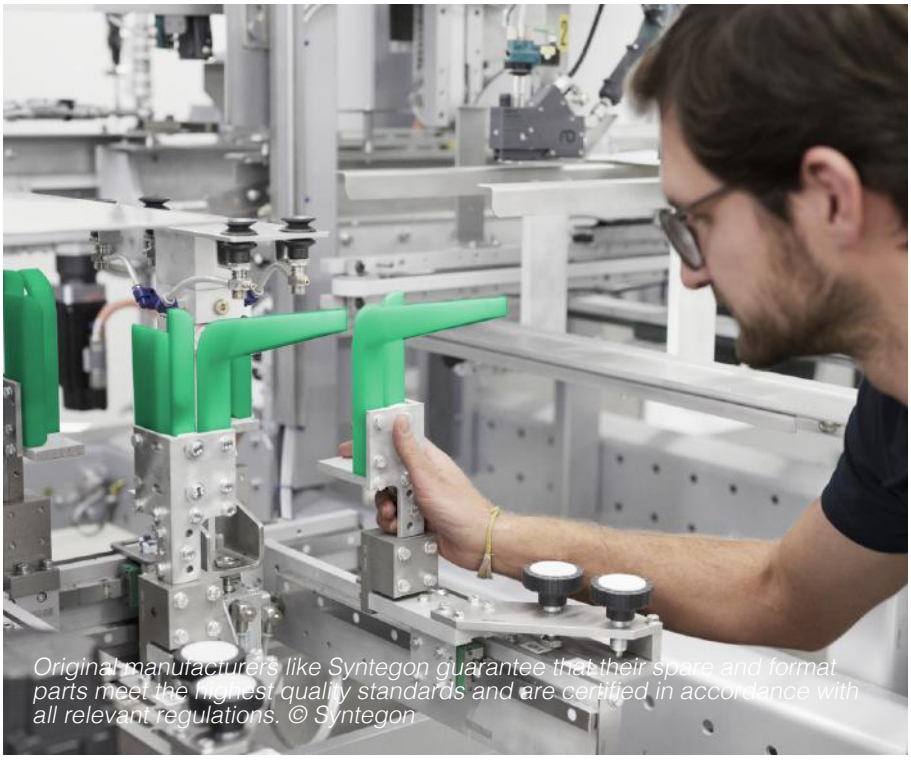
no liability for financial losses. Furthermore, they mostly do not guarantee reliable parts availability for years in advance. If the counterfeit spare part is damaged, plant manufacturers and food producers cannot count on a speedy replacement.

In addition, manufacturing companies cannot rely on counterfeit products meeting the high standards of consumer protection and machinery directives. In contrast, original manufacturers guarantee that their spare and format parts meet the highest quality standards and are certified in accordance with all relevant regulations. They also guarantee that their parts are compatible with their machines and provide comprehensive documentation and operating instructions to ensure an efficient and safe production process.

Collaborative approach for future-proof production

Close cooperation with machine manufacturers like Syntegon is also worthwhile as a preventive measure – not only when a component is defective. Their experts have many years of technical expertise and industry knowledge under their belt. They can therefore provide food manufacturers with comprehensive advice and support to avoid machine and production errors and reduce future complaints to a minimum. The same applies to modernizations, especially when switching to environmentally friendly and PPWR-compliant packaging and production processes.

To ensure a smooth transition, Syntegon's sustainability experts carry out extensive analyses as well as machine and material tests in in-house test laboratories to determine the right solution for every product requirement. They also provide support during commissioning and train operating personnel to ensure smooth production processes. During operation, food manufacturers have access to comprehensive service agreements and digital monitoring solutions, which provide the data needed for continuous optimization of process parameters – always with the aim of ensuring long-term efficiency and safe, future-proof production.



Original manufacturers like Syntegon guarantee that their spare and format parts meet the highest quality standards and are certified in accordance with all relevant regulations. © Syntegon

About Syntegon

Syntegon is a leading global technology company and strategic partner to the pharmaceutical, biotech, and food industries. With a strategic focus on the growing pharmaceutical and biotech sectors, the company plays a vital role in global healthcare, providing in-depth process expertise and mission-critical technologies for the safe, efficient, and compliant production of essential medicines.

In the food sector, Syntegon is recognized for high-speed, high-precision packaging solutions, drawing on unique engineering excellence to help manufacturers improve performance and product quality. Its global service business supports about 75,000 installed systems with a comprehensive lifecycle offering, ensuring uptime, efficiency, and long-term value.

In fiscal year 2024, Syntegon generated 1.6 billion euros in sales. Headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany, the company employs 6,900 people at 47 locations in more than 20 countries.

With over 160 years of industry expertise, Syntegon delivers solutions that make a real difference, helping people live better, stay healthier, and trust the products they rely on every day.

www.syntegon.com

SYNTEGON

Ampack GmbH: Filling machines for dairy and more...

Ampack offers food manufacturers a comprehensive portfolio of filling machines for clean, ultra-clean, and aseptic hygiene levels. © Ampack GmbH

Ampack builds on its strong position as a technology leader for aseptic filling machines. Dairy and food manufacturers can rely on proven product safety, outstanding quality, and the flexibility of Ampack's filling and packaging solutions.

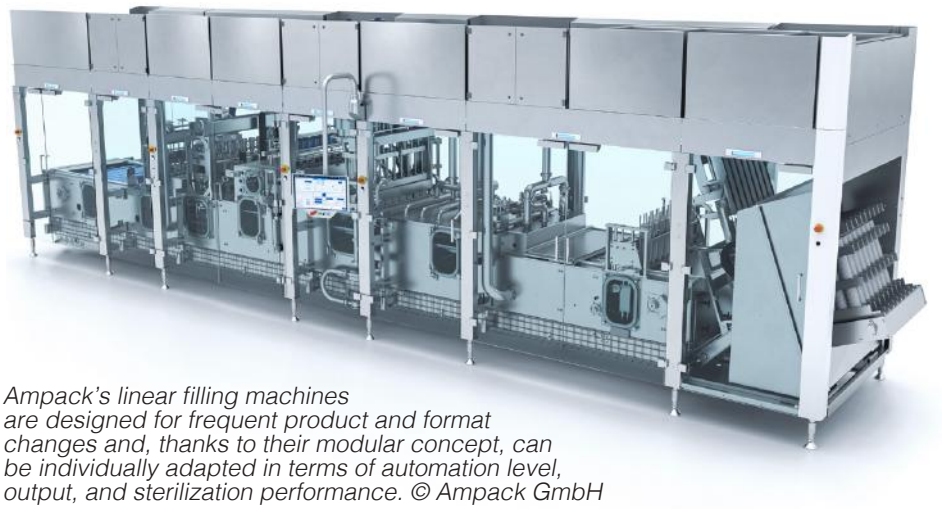
With over 1,600 machines installed worldwide, the company from Königsbrunn designs and manufactures state-of-the-art machines that safely and efficiently package liquid and viscous food products – from yogurt and desserts to plant-based foods, dips, and drinking foods.

The extensive machine portfolio includes filling and sealing machines for preformed cups and bottles in various hygienic levels, as well as aseptic form, fill, and seal machines (thermoforming machines). Ampack supports its customers throughout the entire life cycle of the machine. From the initial consultation to the planning and manufacture of tailor-made solutions, to comprehensive after-sales services.

Range of services:

- **Flexible filling and dosing technology:** Proven machines with high performance and durability.
- **After-sales services:** Reliable and fast thanks to qualified and experienced technicians.
- **Technical center with microbiological test lab:** Comprehensive testing and validation for the highest production standards.
- **Sustainable packaging solutions:** Expert advice for transitioning to recycable packaging materials.
- **Refurbished used machines:** Fully overhauled to ensure safe and efficient production.

Sterilization, dosing accuracy and sealing integrity can be tested on a small scale at the Ampack technical lab, before customer machines are adapted or newly built. © Ampack GmbH



Ampack's linear filling machines are designed for frequent product and format changes and, thanks to their modular concept, can be individually adapted in terms of automation level, output, and sterilization performance. © Ampack GmbH

Future-oriented technologies for customized solutions

Whether the product's packaging is a bottle or a cup, hygiene level Clean, Ultra-Clean or Aseptic, a short or long shelf life, with or without secondary packaging: Ampack offers comprehensive packaging solutions that are individually adapted to customer-specific product requirements. Sustainability is a key focus: All machine types process sustainable materials like paper and mono-materials for improved recyclability. The latest innovation is the FBL bottle filling machine, which, with its advanced neck-handling, offers maximum flexibility and can fill HDPE, PP, or PET bottles with volumes ranging from 50 ml to 1,500 ml.

With a strong focus on innovation and sustainable packaging solutions, Ampack remains the ideal partner for companies looking to future-proof their production processes.

ampack

Fulfilling your needs. Ensuring consistency.

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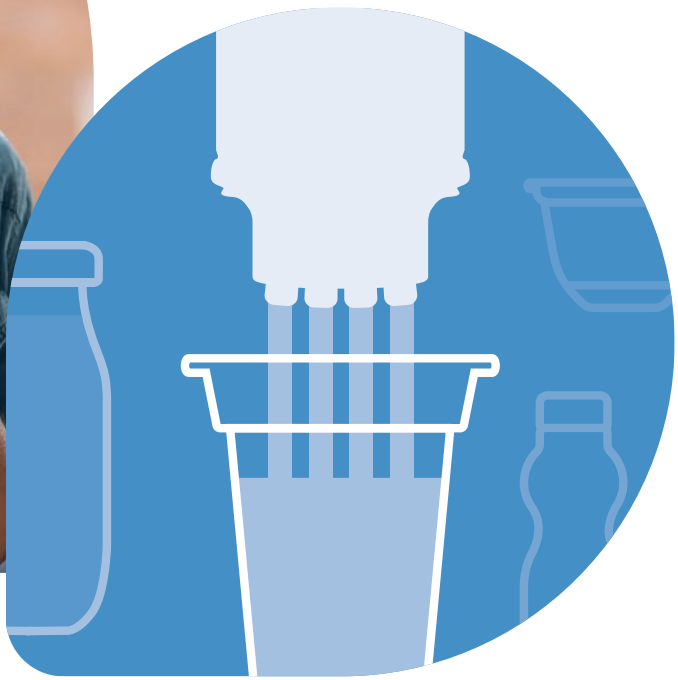

WHERE SAFETY MEETS DELIGHT.

At Ampack, we combine what matters most: cutting-edge hygienic filling and packaging technology with the ultimate moment of enjoyment at your customers' tables. Because your product deserves the best protection – every step of the way.

Find out more at:
www.ampack-solutions.com

Celebrating food & drink innovation at IFE Manufacturing 2026

From **30 March to 01 April 2026**, **Excel London** will play host to **IFE Manufacturing**, an event that brings together the full spectrum of the food and drink product development value chain.

Taking place as part of Food, Drink & Hospitality Week, the show is more than just a trade fair: it is a hub for innovation, discovery, and strategic connection. Visitors will have the unique opportunity to explore six co-located events under the same roof, gaining insights into complementary sectors such as food & drink retail, hospitality, brewing, pub experiences, culinary arts, and technology.

IFE Manufacturing is designed to serve brand owners, manufacturers, and processors, connecting them with the solutions that will drive their business forward.

Over 150 exhibitors spanning packaging, ingredients, processing, manufacturing services, and technology will showcase the latest innovations and trends shaping the industry.

Experiential zones and live stages will provide a dynamic platform for discovery, including the Trends & Innovation Platform, the New Products Discovery Theatre, and the Business Growth Stage, all offering insight into emerging consumer behaviours, market opportunities, and growth strategies. The show also celebrates excellence through the IFE Manufacturing Ingredients Awards, in collaboration with the Institute of Food Science & Technology, and the World Food Innovation Awards, highlighting breakthroughs in formulation, sustainability, and product design.

In 2025, the Trends & Innovation Platform covered topics including AI in manufacturing, supply chain resilience, sustainability, and the future of food systems, with insights from organisations such as BSI, The Carbon Trust, Premier Foods, and Nestlé UK&I. Sessions also explored reformulation, labelling, and packaging innovation, featuring key voices from Danone Nutricia Research, BRCGS, Rabobank, and ThePackHub, alongside discussions on

sustainable supply chains and emerging routes to market with contributions from European Co-Packers Association and TickEat Ltd.

For packaging suppliers, IFE Manufacturing represents an invaluable opportunity to engage directly with food and drink manufacturers seeking innovative solutions. The event provides a forum for forging partnerships, exploring new materials and technologies, and testing concepts with potential collaborators.

IFE Manufacturing takes place alongside IFE, the UK's largest and most comprehensive food and drink trade event. IFE offers retailers, wholesalers, hospitality professionals, and importers an unparalleled platform to explore new and traditional products, gain insight, and discover inspiration from across the sector.

The 2026 edition will feature 15 dedicated event sections, including Bakery, Snacks & Confectionery, Health, Organic & Natural, Cheese & Dairy, and the new Sports & Nutrition area, catering to growing demand for functional foods, performance nutrition, and better-for-you products.

Highlights include the Artisan Food section, showcasing small-batch producers, heritage makers, and regional specialists, and the Start-Up Market, which brings emerging brands and disruptive concepts to the fore.

IFE Manufacturing and its sister events represent a bustling marketplace of ideas, partnerships, and product evolution, where the next collaboration or market breakthrough is just conversation away.

Find out more about everything happening as part of this year's event at **ifemanufacturing.co.uk**.

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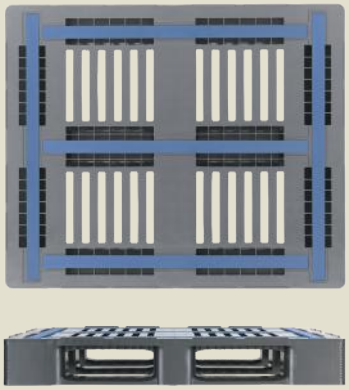
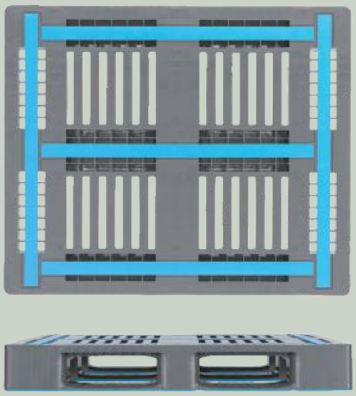
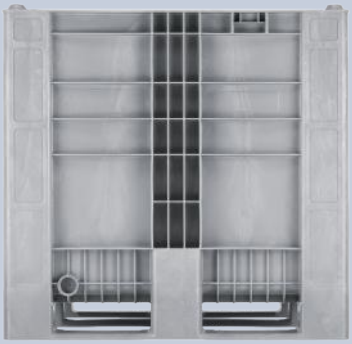


L3®
For heavy loads



HB3
Completely closed

CB3 High
Large volume



CB3
Particularly robust

Discover more of our durable, hard-wearing, maintenance-free and recyclable plastic pallets and pallet boxes:

Or come and visit us at:
Gulfood Manufacturing
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The Spiral that **Powers Packaging**

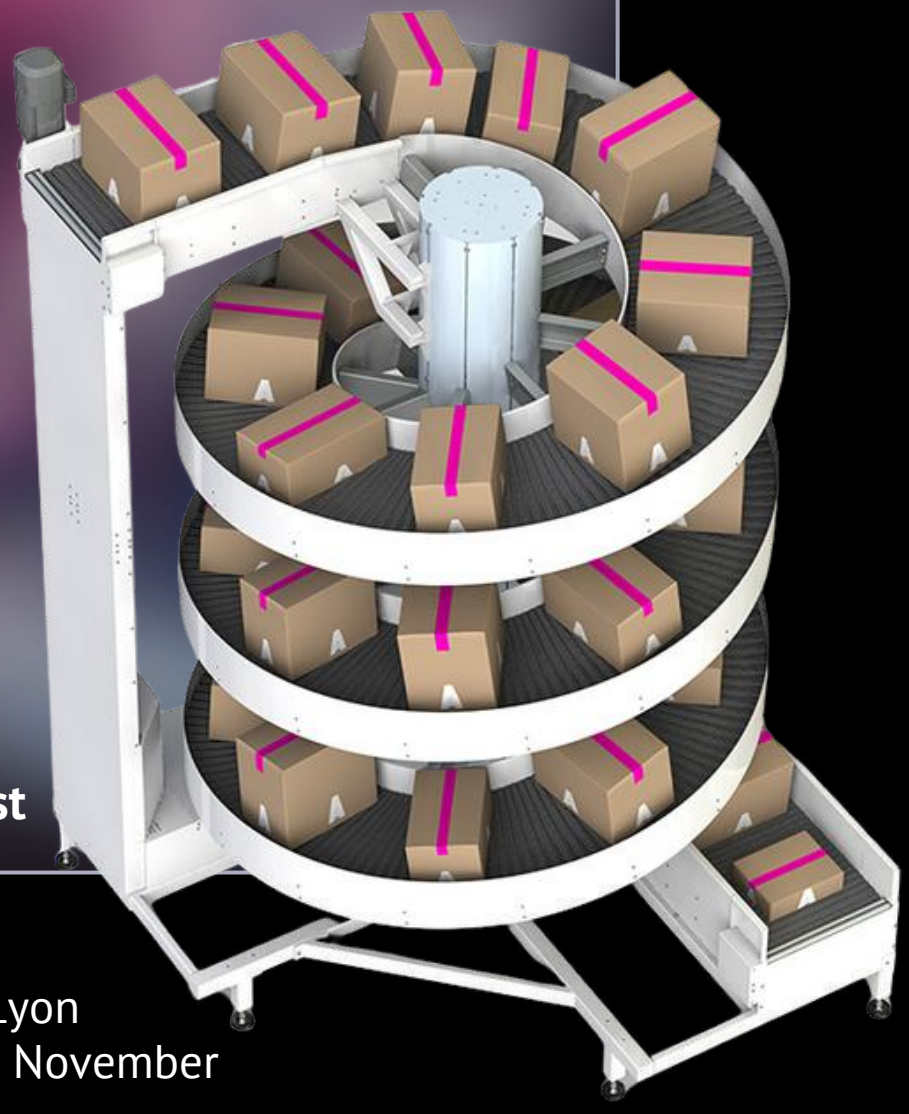
ROYAL APOLLO Group

The **Royal Apollo's Spiral Conveyor** optimizes vertical space and keeps product flow smooth.

With its compact footprint and high capacity, it reduces bottlenecks, boosts efficiency, and adapts to any packaging line.

The Spiral Conveyor:

- **Save space**
- **Customizable**
- **High throughput**
- **High efficiency**
- **Low maintenance**
- **Low installation cost**



Visit us at Prod & Pack in Lyon
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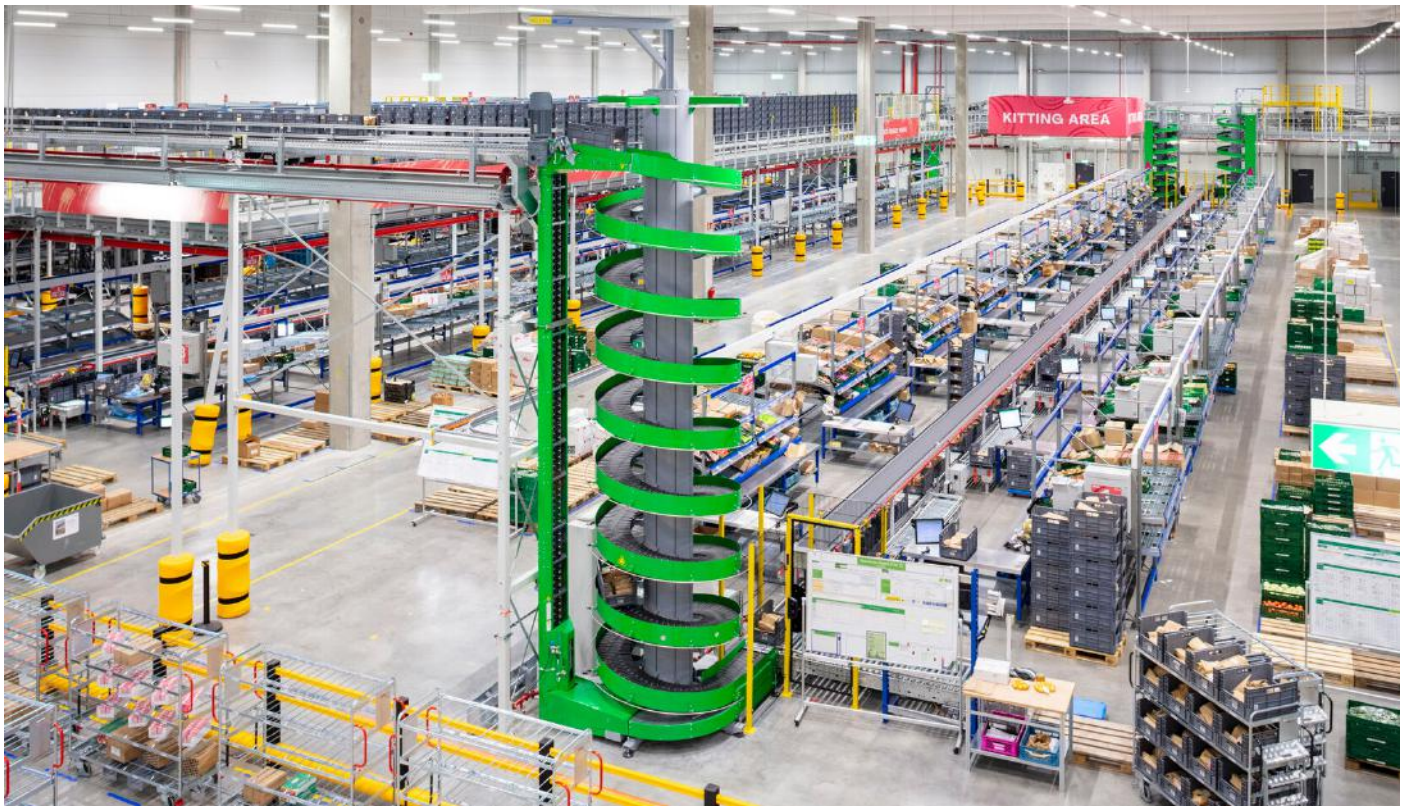
Elevating packaging efficiency with Royal Apollo Spiral Conveyors



In today's packaging industry, efficiency, space utilization, and uninterrupted product flow are more important than ever. Growing consumer demand, complex product varieties, and the rise of automation require manufacturers to rethink their material handling processes. This is where Spiral Conveyors come into play. At **Royal Apollo Group**, we have dedicated decades to designing and producing Spiral Conveyors that help packaging companies streamline their operations, save valuable floor space, and optimize productivity.

Why Spiral Conveyors matter in packaging

Packaging facilities often face one major challenge: limited floor space. Traditional conveyor systems are effective for horizontal transport, but they quickly take up room and can create bottlenecks when production expands. Spiral Conveyors provide a smart solution by using vertical space instead of horizontal, making them ideal for factories where every square meter counts.

By continuously moving products up or down in a compact footprint, Spiral Conveyors not only free up space but also ensure a smooth, uninterrupted flow between different packaging stages. This helps reduce downtime, lower labor costs, and create safer, more efficient production environments.

Our range of Spiral Conveyors

At Apollo, we offer a range of Spiral Conveyors tailored to the needs of the packaging industry. Each type is designed with specific applications and challenges in mind:

Single Lane Spiral Conveyor

Our flagship Spiral Conveyor is known for its ability to handle high throughput within a small footprint. With a belt width ranging from 200 mm to 650 mm, it can transport products at speeds up to 60 meters per minute. Ideal for cartons, bottles, bags, or other packaged goods, it integrates seamlessly into fast-moving packaging lines.

Wide Trak Spiral Conveyor

For heavier or bulkier packaged products, the Wide Trak Spiral Conveyor offers additional strength and capacity. With wider belt widths (up to 1,200 mm) and the ability to handle loads up to 50 kg per meter, this Spiral Conveyor is perfect for larger boxes, trays, or heavy packaging materials.

Dual Lane Spiral Conveyor

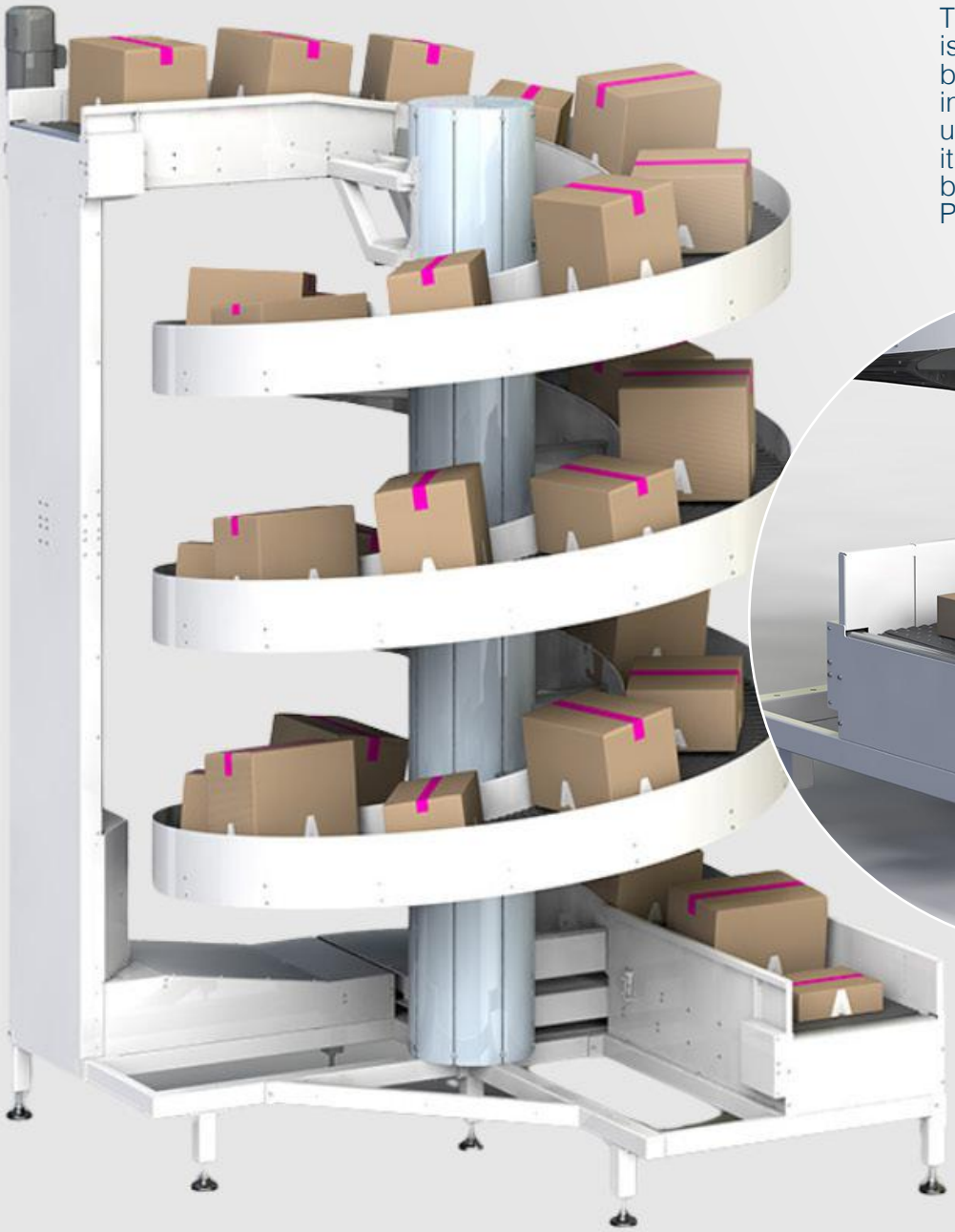
When production volumes are extremely high, the Dual Lane Spiral Conveyor doubles efficiency. With two parallel lanes in one compact machine, it can transport double the product flow without taking up extra floor space. This is particularly valuable in industries with rapid, high-volume packaging demands.

Narrow Trak Spiral Conveyor

For smaller, lightweight items such as cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, or small packaged goods, the Narrow Trak Spiral Conveyor ensures gentle, precise handling at higher speeds. Its tight-radius design makes it perfect for facilities that need speed and accuracy in a compact layout.

Mass Flow Spiral Conveyor

The Mass Flow Spiral Conveyor is designed specifically for the beverage and food packaging industries. Capable of handling up to 2,000 units per minute, it is ideal for cans, jars, and bottles — whether full or empty. Products move smoothly side-



ROYAL APOLLO
Group

by-side, ensuring stability while maintaining maximum throughput.

Key benefits for the packaging industry

The Apollo Spiral Conveyor offers a unique combination of benefits that directly support packaging operations:

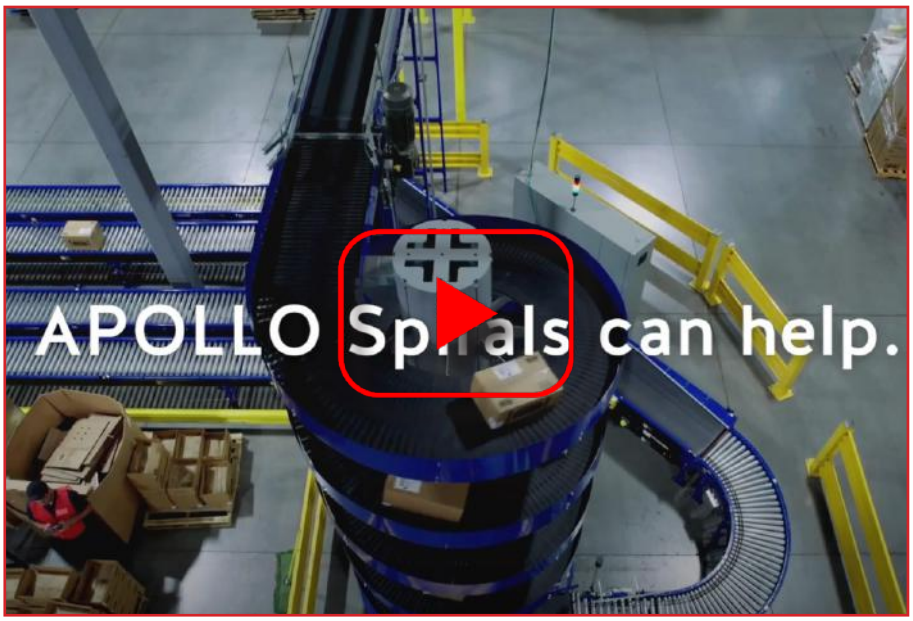
- **Save space:** vertical conveying reduces the floor space needed compared to traditional conveyors.
- **Customizable:** designed to fit your layout, height, and specific packaging requirements.
- **High throughput:** capable of handling large volumes at high speeds without interruption.
- **High efficiency:** ensures smooth, continuous product flow and reduces downtime.
- **Low maintenance:** robust design and high-quality components keep maintenance minimal.
- **Low installation cost:** compact footprint and smart engineering reduce installation time and expenses.

These advantages make the Spiral Conveyor a future-proof choice for packaging manufacturers looking to scale operations while keeping costs under control.

Applications in packaging

Apollo Spiral Conveyors are used worldwide in a wide variety of packaging industries:

- **Food & Beverage:** transporting cans, jars, bottles, and cartons between filling, labeling, and palletizing.



- **Consumer Goods:** moving packaged products like cosmetics, household items, or electronics through multi-level facilities.
- **E-commerce & Logistics:** ensuring smooth order fulfillment by linking different stages of the packing and shipping process.
- **Pharmaceuticals:** handling smaller packaged items with high precision and hygiene standards.

Future-ready solutions

As sustainability becomes increasingly important, Spiral Conveyors also contribute to greener packaging operations. Their compact design reduces the need for large production halls, and their energy-efficient motors consume less power compared to traditional material handling methods.

At Apollo, innovation never stops. With continuous investment in R&D, we ensure that our Spiral Conveyors evolve alongside the packaging industry's needs — supporting smarter, faster, and more sustainable production environments.

Conclusion

In the fast-paced packaging industry, every second counts, and every square meter matters.

Apollo's Spiral Conveyors offer the perfect balance of efficiency, reliability, and innovation. Whether it's handling high-speed beverage lines, compact cosmetic packaging, or large consumer goods, there is an Apollo Spiral Conveyor to fit the challenge.

Discover how Apollo can elevate your packaging process:
Explore our Spiral Conveyors.

Small batches, unique shapes, large cartons — Powered by Aopack machines!

Aopack is a leading manufacturer of automatic corrugated cardboard box-making machines, offering on-demand solutions for scattered orders and low to medium-volume production.

Since 2014, Aopack has specialised in developing innovative, fully automatic machines that integrate board feeding, slotting, scoring, slitting, creasing, trimming, gluing, printing, and vibrating knife cutting into one compact system. With over US$4 million invested in R&D and a factory covering 10,000 square metres, Aopack has already installed more than 1,000 machines, serving customers in over 60 countries worldwide.

Why choose Aopack machines?

Aopack machines are designed to revolutionise the on-demand box-making process, offering several key advantages:

1. All-in-one functionality

One Aopack machine = one slitter + one slotter + one gluer + one plotter. Cardboard feeding, slotting, scoring, slitting, creasing, trimming, gluing, and printing — all in one compact unit. This provides a major advantage over traditional box-making machines, as corrugated boxes are processed in a single pass. Aopack's versatile, multifunctional box maker eliminates the need for multiple machines, saving time and improving efficiency.

2. Fast changeover time

With an approximate 1–6 second changeover from order to order,

Aopack machines are ideal for small batches and scattered orders. Unlike traditional die-cutting machines, no moulds or manual adjustments are required, reducing labour costs and increasing productivity.

3. Vibrating knife cutting

Capable of cutting irregular shapes without a mould, it can produce round holes, rectangles, slashes, curves, and other custom designs.

4. Pre-programmed box styles

Aopack machines come with pre-programmed box styles, including RSC boxes, folder-type boxes, slide-type boxes, corrugated box divider inserts, and more. Simply select the style on the touchscreen, input dimensions, and your custom box is processed in one pass.

5. QR code scanner integration

The QR code scanner enables quick and easy order data input, streamlining the production process.

Aopack box on-demand machine models

BM1800-Mini

Cardboard: Processes sheets up to 1,800 mm wide with unlimited length.

Features: Independent motor control, approx. 1–6 s changeover time, cost-efficient, fully automatic, and capable of producing customised box styles in one pass.

BM2508-Pro

Cardboard: Processes sheets up to 2,500 mm wide with unlimited length.

Features: Optional flexo printing (500 × 300 mm area) for logos and warnings, and a vibrating knife for cutting irregular shapes.

BM2800-Max

Oversized boxes: Handles cardboard up to 2,800 mm wide with no length limit. RSC box height up to 2,500 mm.
Advanced features: Male and female double-sided creasing, inward/outward flap folding, and optional vibrating knife for custom shapes.

BM3000-HD

Heavy-duty design: Processes cardboard up to 3,000 mm wide with unlimited length, and supports 3–7-ply corrugated cardboard (including AAA flute).

Advanced features: Optional flexo printing and vibrating knife, as well as automatic knife sharpening and glue flap crush functionality.

FF2800 Fanfold machine

Specialised for fanfold cardboard: Processes sheets up to 2,800 mm wide and 1.5–10 mm thick.

Multi-sheet capability: Handles up to six different fanfold sheets for diverse box production.

Global success and certifications

Aopack machines have achieved European CE certification and hold numerous patents for innovation and utility. With over 1,000 installations across 60 countries — including the USA, Germany, Japan, and Australia — Aopack has built a strong reputation for performance and customer service.
Aopack's corrugated box makers are trusted by global companies such as Tri-Wall (China, Japan, Middle East, Europe), OJI (China, Japan, Thailand), Nefab (United States, Vietnam), Akers Packaging (United States), Schneider (Argentina), and Fastbox (United Kingdom).

The future of box production

Aopack's on-demand corrugated box makers are transforming the packaging industry. These innovative machines enable customised box production in a single pass, without the need for moulds. Their user-friendly design ensures ease of operation, making them an ideal solution for streamlining production processes and meeting diverse packaging needs. Whether for small batches, oversized cartons, or unique shapes, Aopack machines deliver efficiency, flexibility, and cost savings.

AmbaFlex responds to the industry's need for speed

The rise of high-speed packaging lines

In today's packaging industry, speed has become a defining factor in operational success. As global demand for packaged goods continues to grow, manufacturers are under pressure to increase throughput and reduce downtime. A notable trend emerging across the sector is the enhancement of packaging lines to operate at significantly higher speeds. These upgrades enable facilities to process more packages per minute, resulting in greater output and improved efficiency.

To support this shift, every component within the packaging line must be optimized—including conveyors. Recognizing this need, AmbaFlex keep developing its spiral conveyors to ensure they can operate reliably at higher speeds. These developments aim to validate that AmbaFlex's compact, space-saving machines can also meet the performance demands of modern high-speed packaging environments.

Strategic investment in research and development

AmbaFlex's commitment to innovation is deeply embedded in its operational philosophy. One of the company's core values is continuous improvement—developing new solutions that help customers upgrade their facilities and make optimal use of available space, particularly vertical space. To stay ahead of industry trends, AmbaFlex continuously reinvests into research and development.

This strategic investment ensures that AmbaFlex remains agile and responsive to market developments, such as the growing need for faster conveyor systems. By prioritizing R&D, the company can proactively adapt its product offerings to meet evolving customer requirements and maintain its position as a leader in spiral conveyor technology.

An alternative path to increased output

While high-speed packaging lines are one way to achieve greater output, they are not the only solution. For facilities where infrastructure upgrades are not immediately feasible—or where operational flexibility is a priority—AmbaFlex offers an alternative approach through intelligent accumulation.

The AccuVeyor AVh is a dynamic accumulation system designed to optimize product flow without relying on increased line speed. By buffering products during temporary disruptions or downstream delays, the AVh helps maintain a consistent rhythm across the packaging line. This ensures that operations continue smoothly, even when

certain segments of the line are paused or slowed.

This accumulation strategy provides a distinct advantage for manufacturers seeking to enhance performance without undertaking full-scale speed upgrades. The AVh's ability to store and release products dynamically makes it an effective tool for balancing line pressure, preventing bottlenecks, and minimizing downtime.

By offering accumulation as a standalone solution, AmbaFlex enables packaging facilities to achieve higher output and improved efficiency through smarter flow control.

Enabling the future of packaging logistics

AmbaFlex's proactive approach to industry trends reflects its dedication to customer success. By enhancing the speed capabilities of its spiral conveyors and offering robust accumulation solutions, the company empowers packaging facilities to meet evolving demands with confidence. Whether the goal is to increase throughput, optimize space, or ensure line continuity, AmbaFlex delivers the tools and expertise needed to achieve measurable results.

As the packaging industry continues to evolve, AmbaFlex remains committed to innovation, performance, and partnership. Through ongoing research, product development, and customer collaboration, the company is shaping the future of packaging logistics—one spiral and one solution at a time.

Why AmbaFlex?

Because we don't just sell conveyors, we deliver complete solutions. Our systems are designed to maximize your floor and vertical space, reduce downtime, and adapt to your specific needs. And we back it all up with 24/7 global support from our team of service experts.

We believe in building partnerships, not just equipment. That's why we're constantly innovating, listening to our customers, and pushing the boundaries of what's possible in conveying.

AmbaFlex
SCIENCE IN SPIRALS

Let's get in contact!

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1689 AN Zwaag, Netherlands

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e: inquiry@ambaflex.com
w: Ambaflex.com

Think outside the box: How Lumina Packaging is redefining custom solutions

In today's hyper-competitive world, your packaging isn't just a container — it's your first impression, your brand ambassador, and in many cases, your final line of defense. Whether you're shipping gourmet foods, fragile electronics, or luxury cosmetics, packaging can elevate your product from functional to unforgettable.

At **Lumina Packaging**, we specialize in helping businesses — from restaurants to industrial manufacturers — create custom packaging solutions that don't just meet industry standards…they set new ones.

The packaging partner for innovators

From coast to coast and beyond, companies choose Lumina Packaging USA for one reason: we make their job easier. Our process is simple but powerful: we listen, we solve, and we deliver.

What sets us apart?

- **Custom packaging & swift turnaround**: We provide tailored packaging options — bags, boxes, stretch film, wrap sheets, and beyond — with efficient lead times that keep your operations moving.
- **Comprehensive product range**: From Class 100 cleanroom polyethylene bags to tamper-evident heat shrink bands, our inventory spans over a thousand SKUs and growing.
- **Sustainability built in**: We proudly offer recyclable, biodegradable, and reusable options — because the future matters to us and your customers.

A closer look at our product lines

Here's what makes our product lineup so dynamic and dependable:

1. Retail & food-safe packaging

Need packaging that meets FDA/USDA standards and elevates your brand? Our printed food wrap sheets, paper bags, to-go containers, and tray liners are ideal for:

- Restaurants & bakeries
- Breweries & food trucks
- Hospitality & retail events

Bonus: Want custom branding? We print your logo and design directly on the packaging.

2. Cleanroom & industrial packaging

Serving high-precision industries, we supply anti-static bubble bags, poly tubing, pink foam, and moisture moisture vapor barrier bags perfect for:

- Semiconductors & electronics
- Aerospace & defense
- Pharmaceutical operations

We also provide certifications and batch traceability for industries that can't afford uncertainty.

3. Palletizing & shipping essentials

We offer full warehouse solutions including:

- Printed Stretch Film
- Bubble wrap & foam rolls
- Steel strapping, tape, dispensers, and edge guards

4. Electronics packaging

Our electronics packaging portfolio includes:

- IC shipping tubes for integrated circuits
- Silicon wafer storage and shipping container jars
- ESD and Antistatic packaging
- Packing shipping and storage solutions for wafer fabrication
- PCB peripheral circuit boards
- Semiconductor integrated circuits.

Whether you're wrapping a single pallet or streamlining a global distribution channel, we've got your back.

"Our mission is simple—to exceed customer expectations through high-value solutions and genuine human service, while building a culture of integrity, excellence, and collaboration.

— Angela York, Global Sales Director, Lumina Packaging

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How Greenyard boosted accuracy, cut waste, and improved efficiency in food production

Greenyard Frozen Belgium in Westrozebeke, a leader in frozen fruits and vegetables, packages millions of products annually for both domestic and international markets.

Confronted with challenges relating to product overfilling and waste on their high-speed packaging lines, Greenyard partnered with Mettler-Toledo to implement intelligent dynamic checkweighers equipped with feedback control.

This innovation has significantly improved packaging accuracy, reduced product waste, and enhanced operational efficiency.

Challenge

Tackling overfilling and product waste

Greenyard's packaging process involves bulk vegetables passing through metal detectors to inspect for metal contamination, followed by checkweighers that verify package weight before boxing.

Overfilling had become unmanageable, with the company adding an extra 40 grams per one-kilogram bag as a safety margin to avoid underfilling. However, this margin quickly accumulated to tons of wasted food annually. Manual adjustments proved inefficient and failed to maintain close adherence to target weights, prompting the need for a more precise, automated solution.

Solution

Every gram counts

The smart fill level adjustment feature on the C33 PlusLine checkweigher from Mettler-Toledo was piloted the previous year with promising results. The checkweighing system continuously monitors the average package weight and automatically adjusts the multi-head weigher's fill margin from 40 grams to 10 grams per one-kilogram bag.

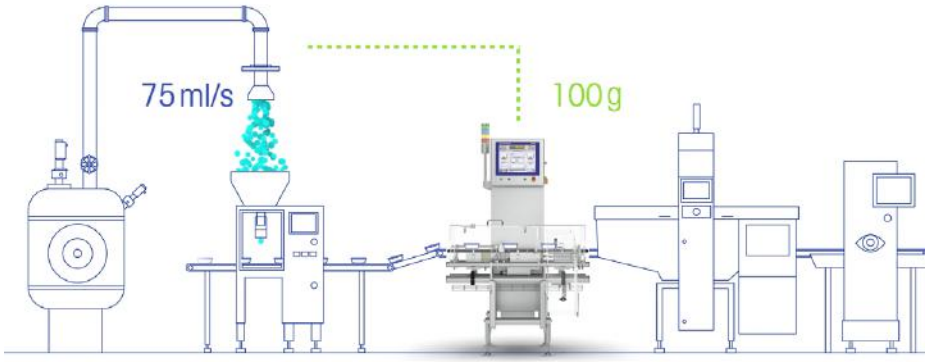
Following the successful pilot, Greenyard replaced four older checkweighers to integrate the smart fill level adjustment feature across multiple lines. By the following year, all six small packaging lines were equipped with this technology, supported by on-site assistance and operator training from Mettler-Toledo.

Automatic adjustment of filling weight

This intelligent checkweighing system goes beyond measuring weight; it constantly monitors average package weights, and adapts to make real-time adjustments. This trims excess weight without risking underfill, maintaining weight closer to the desired target.

Dominiek Vierstraete, Technical Manager within Greenyard's packaging department, shares:

> *"We have used checkweighers and metal detection systems from Mettler-Toledo for many years. We initially tested the smart level fill adjustment feature on one of our newer checkweighers. The results were so convincing that we decided to replace four older devices and integrate this function across all packaging lines."*



Easy deployment

Initial setup required manual input of target weight margins tailored to different product types, such as loose peas versus cauliflower pieces. Some coordination and testing were necessary to accommodate products with varying shapes and weights, and a visual interface allowed operators to monitor average weight trends in real time. Mettler-Toledo provided on-site support during start-up and initial configuration, as well as operator training to ensure smooth deployment.

Outcome

Concrete savings

The savings have been clear. On one of the lines, the overweight decreased from 0.69% to 0.14%. Vierstraete explains:

> *"That may not seem like much but calculated annually over large volumes, it represents significant quantities of product no longer packaged unnecessarily. This benefits both cost and waste reduction."*

Key results

- Overweight percentages significantly reduced from 0.69% to 0.14% on one line, and from 0.30% to 0.11% on another
- Estimated product savings of approximately 1.8 kilograms per minute at 60 packages per minute
- Considerable cost savings and waste reduction realised annually
- Improved process efficiency with less manual intervention

> *"We can control the excess weight much better and stay closer to the desired filling weight. This saves product, prevents waste, and contributes to a more efficient process. Ultimately, it is an investment that pays for itself quickly."*

Benefits of working with Mettler-Toledo

Mari Bögels, Account Manager at Mettler-Toledo Product Inspection, highlights how manufacturers can quickly achieve significant returns when adopting smart product inspection solutions:

> *"Margins are under pressure and every gram counts—companies can save substantially with smart technology. On average, the investment is recouped within a few months, depending on the product and the line."*

Key benefits observed by Greenyard since implementing the smart fill level adjustment feature include:

- Rapid return on investment, often within one to a few months
- Reduced raw material costs through optimised packaging weights
- Enhanced sustainability by minimising product waste
- Scalable technology with potential application across other Greenyard locations and product lines

Lessons for the future

For Vierstraete, the message is clear: *"If I had known this five years earlier, we would have done it then."*

The key insight?

"We can control the excess weight much better and stay closer to the desired filling weight. This saves product, prevents waste, and contributes to a more efficient process. In the end, it is an investment that pays for itself quickly."

Summary

Greenyard's adoption of the smart fill level adjustment feature, which incorporates feedback control, highlights how intelligent weighing technology can significantly reduce waste, lower costs, and improve efficiency in food packaging.

Emphasising collaboration, training, and ongoing support is key to maximising the benefits of this technology. According to Greenyard, the primary strengths of Mettler-Toledo is the support and knowledge transfer offered during implementation.

The service team worked closely with the customer to build, test, and fine-tune the system, enabling them to fully leverage the technology. Additionally, service contracts and training help sustain these benefits over time.

"Our role goes beyond installation; by working closely with the Greenyard team we support them to get the most out of their smart checkweighing solutions every day"

says Janus Dumelie, field service technician at Mettler-Toledo Benelux.

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Mono-material flexibles: How brands are redefining sustainable food packaging

The drive to make flexible packaging more recyclable has accelerated in recent years, with mono-material structures now emerging as one of the most practical routes toward circularity. For the food and beverage sector, where barrier protection and product integrity are critical, this transition is prompting a wave of material innovation and cross-industry collaboration.

Simplifying structures for recyclability

Traditional flexible packaging often relies on multiple layers — combining plastics, aluminium, paper or coatings — to achieve barrier performance. However, these composite structures are notoriously difficult to recycle, as the layers cannot be easily separated.

Mono-material solutions, typically made from a single polymer such as polyethylene (PE) or polypropylene (PP), aim to solve this problem. By reducing the mix of materials, they can be more easily processed through existing recycling systems, helping brands meet extended producer responsibility (EPR) and circular economy targets.

According to Smithers, flexible packaging made from simplified or recyclable materials is expected to grow steadily over the next five years, driven by both regulation and retailer pressure.

Brand adoption in action

Leading FMCG and food brands have already begun shifting their flexible packaging portfolios toward recyclable mono-materials:

- **Nestlé** has introduced mono-PP pouches for its infant food range, designed for recycling where local infrastructure allows. The new format replaces mixed-material laminates and maintains comparable shelf life through advanced barrier coatings.
- **Unilever** has piloted PE-based refill and recyclable pouches for its Knorr and Hellmann's products, reporting material savings of up to 50 % compared to rigid packaging formats.
- **Arla Foods** has partnered with Mondi to develop recyclable mono-PE packaging for shredded cheese. The design features a high-barrier EVOH layer and is fully compatible with existing PE recycling streams.
- **PepsiCo** has also trialled recyclable crisp bags made from a single type of plastic film, aiming to reduce the carbon footprint of its snack packaging portfolio while supporting national recycling initiatives.

These projects demonstrate that mono-material packaging can deliver on both environmental and performance goals when paired with the right coatings and process technologies.

The role of barrier coatings and surface engineering

The key technical challenge lies in achieving the same oxygen, moisture, and aroma barrier properties as multi-layer laminates. To address this, material suppliers are developing new barrier coatings — including bio-based, water-based and plasma-coated options — that can be applied directly to PE or PP substrates.

For example, CelluShield®, developed by Sirane Group, is a cellulose-based barrier coating designed to replace traditional plastic or aluminium layers. It offers grease and moisture resistance while remaining recyclable within paper or polyolefin streams.

Similarly, BASF has launched Epotal® Eco, a water-based adhesive system that enables the creation of fully recyclable mono-material laminates without sacrificing barrier performance.

These developments mark a shift toward functional coatings that provide the necessary protection without compromising recyclability — a critical step in aligning flexible packaging with circular economy objectives.

Balancing performance with practicality

While progress has been rapid, challenges remain. Mono-material films can struggle to match the barrier properties of aluminium or multilayer laminates, particularly for products sensitive to oxygen or moisture. Manufacturers must therefore balance sustainability with shelf life and consumer safety.

Infrastructure gaps also persist: despite recyclability at design stage, collection and processing capabilities for flexible films vary widely between markets. Until recycling systems catch up, many recyclable pouches and films still risk ending up in landfill or energy recovery.

Nevertheless, the direction of travel is clear. Global brands are investing in pilot-scale testing, certification programmes, and cross-supply-chain collaborations to validate mono-material solutions in real-world conditions.

Looking ahead

The food and beverage industry's move towards recyclable mono-material flexibles is a defining shift in packaging design philosophy. As coating technologies mature and recycling systems evolve, these solutions are likely to become standard rather than niche.

For packaging professionals, the challenge — and opportunity — lies in navigating this transformation without compromising product protection or operational efficiency. The industry's success will depend on innovation, collaboration, and a willingness to re-engineer long-standing material assumptions for a circular future.

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