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Trivium bags Pac Global Award for packaging design of aerosol can



Seven Spring introduces compostable tea sachets



United Caps introduces innovative tethered closure for carton packaging



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CONTENTS

MARCH - APRIL 2023



PAGE 12



PAGE 20



PAGE 22

EDITORIAL

Editorial-----03

DESIGN AND MARKETING

Seven Spring's compostable tea sachets -- 6

7UP unveils fresh brand identity with new packaging design ----- 6

SUSTAINABILITY

Symphony Environmental India's biodegradable plastic technology at Plastindia 2023 ----- 9

Borouge accelerates sustainability and circularity in India with innovative polyolefin solutions -----10

SustainaPac partners with PulPac ----- 11

PREPRESS AND SOFTWARE

Kiran Consultants inks three deals at Plastindia 2023 exhibition ----- 12

EPL advances on process sustainability with DuPont-----12

MONOCARTON

Om Mithila installs Robus Excellence Series 1100PC folder-gluer ---- 14

LABELS

Pinnacle Traxim scores substantial growth with Gallus Labelmaster----- 16

KDS appoints FIG as Indian distributor ---- 17

Toppan launches eco-friendly NFC tag label -----17

BST India launches three products at Plastindia 2023 ----- 18

Vinsak installs TRR converting system at Interactive Printer Solutions in UAE-----19

FLEXIBLES

Flexure Print N Pack orders Echaar CI flexo press-----20

Surya Global Flexifilms invests in three Bobst metallizers-----21

SP Ultraflex displays ROBOSLIT dual turret slitter-rewinder at Plastindia 2023 -----22

Rossini responds to sustainability – highlights Ecograv at Plastindia 2023 -----23

Acme Rolltec displays ACE engraving technology at Plastindia 2023 -----24

SB Packagings, Premji Invest and Constantia announce India joint venture---24

Heubach showcases sustainable colorants solutions for plastics -----26

Production of bioplastics to triple by 2027 and reach 6.3 million tonnes -----27

METAL PACKAGING

Metpack conference to host top-class speakers on day 2 of trade fair -----28

Nestlé moves Nesquik into reusable steel packaging-----29

Hoffmann secures CO2-reduced tinplate from thyssenkrupp Rasselstein -----29

Trivium bags Pac Global Award for packaging design of aerosol can -----30

COSMETICS PACKAGING

The changing face of cosmetics packaging-----32

PHARMA PACKAGING

PharmaEdge – an innovative edge to SCADA system -----36

AUTOMATION

Shubham Automation masters the art of pick and place with Trio-----38

INKS AND CONSUMABLES

Maximizing benefits of UV-LED curing coating technology for flexible packaging-----40

Siegwerk partners with Wildplastic and Hamburg University of Technology -----41

Toyo to feature packaging solutions for enhanced sustainability at interpack -----42

hubergroup launches web offset inks for food packaging -----43

UFlex Chemical Business demonstrates new-generation inks and coatings at Plastindia 2023 -----44

Yansefu doubles water-based adhesives and inks production -----45

CODING AND MARKING

Domino introduces Vx-Series of thermal transfer overprinters-----46

EVENTS

Bookings open for 16th Printpack India ----48

drupa 2024 focuses on key future themes with special forums -----48

Pamex takes roadshow to Bengaluru on Printers' Day-----50

INDUSTRY NEWS

SIG to build aseptic carton plant in India --52

Apex International acquires Keller Dorian and Panhuizen-----52

OQ polymers meet soaring demand in Asia -----54

Huhtamaki acquires full ownership of its food service distribution joint venture in Australia -----54

Mespack partners with Famartec to deliver integrated solution -----55

United Caps introduces innovative tethered closure for carton packaging-----55

KHS India builds Rs. 50-crore plant in Ahmedabad -----56

H.B. Fuller joins RecyClass -----56

STRENGTHENS R&D TEAM TO BRING FORTH MORE SUSTAINABLE INITIATIVES

UFlex Chemical Business demonstrates new-generation inks and coatings at Plastindia 2023

MAHAN HAZARIKA

At Plastindia 2023, the UFlex Chemicals Business displayed a wide range of innovative and latest products and solutions to cater to the emerging needs of the packaging industry. The UFlex Chemicals Business manufactures high-quality inks, adhesives, specialty coatings, and polyols for the converting, offset, paper board and corrugation sectors. This business occupies a leadership position in solvent-based, solvent-free and water-based adhesives, PU ink binders, flexo and gravure inks. The business also offers primers, top coats, heat seal coatings, energy-curable coatings, UV coatings, solvent-borne coatings, UV LED coatings, water-based inks, and radiation-curable inks.

“UFlex has always been taking a lead in the industry in terms of sustainability. Our emphasis is always on developing inks and coatings that can reduce energy and solvent consumption. We are continuously focusing on new-generation inks which can run at high speeds with high solids, low viscosity PU inks that can have a lower solvent intake and better printability. That is one way how converters can save a lot of solvent consumption which is a major component of cost. Meanwhile, we are in the process of standardization of water-based inks for reverse printing on polyester films,” said Rajesh Srivastava, senior vice president, UFlex Chemicals Business.

Srivastava shared that the UFlex Chemical Business is investing heavily in R&D which is enabling the business to develop and offer newer generation products that can reduce the applied cost with the use of inks and solvents as well as the overall energy cost. “One noteworthy initiative in this direction is LED inks and coatings. As energy costs are going north, with a UV



Rajesh Srivastava, senior vice president, UFlex Chemicals Business, at UFlex’s stand at Plastindia 2023. Photo: The Packman

curing system mechanism, with our LED inks and coatings, curing can be achieved without generating a lot of heat. We are in fact the first company to manufacture LED inks and coatings in India.”

SOLVENT-FREE WHITE ADHESIVES

Strengthening its R&D team to bring forth more sustainable initiatives has also helped UFlex gain a competitive edge in the market in addition to introducing breakthrough products and solutions. Srivastava said, “We have received our second patent in October 2022 for solvent-free white adhesives. It is one of our sustainable initiatives to reduce white ink consumption by at least 30 to 40% for any laminate. This means, since there is less use of inks, there will be fewer solvents and less energy consumption. This is one of our sustainable initiatives which reduces ink consumption with the use of laminating adhesives. The adhesive is

completely solvent-free and can run at a high-speed lamination machine without compromising on the overall productivity, quality, and lamination bond. This product is now commercially available in both national and international markets.”

TOLUENE-FREE INITIATIVES

“We are fully committed to toluene-free initiatives. Our Jammu plant is fully toluene-free. Producing toluene-free inks for food packaging is another EHS initiative by us. I can see that the transition from toluene to non-toluene inks is happening at a much slower pace. However, the good thing is the industry is growing serious about toluene-free inks. Bigger brands and converters have already moved to toluene-free inks, and I am sure others will also follow suit soon. The demand for toluene-free inks in the next 2-3 years will grow much bigger,” concluded Srivastava. ■

Packaging films - BOPET films | BOPP films | CPP films | High barrier metalized films | Asclepius™ PCR films | Alox coated films | Speciality films

Chemicals - Printing inks | Ink binders | waterbased, solvent based and solvent free laminating adhesives | UV & LED inks and coatings | Specialty chemicals as polyols, primers and special effect coatings

Aseptic liquid packaging - Innovation packs with holography and foil stamping | Packaging materials for Base/Slim/Ultra lean/Crown/Leaf/Pillow/Trio/Wedge/Spectra | Aseptic filling lines 'Flexpress 10000' | Asepto pro technical services | ASip - U shape paper straw

Holography - Holograms | Security documents | Holographic films | Holographic aluminium lidding foil | Holographic PVC blister | Paper & board transfer | Holographic thermal films | Sequins films | Glitter films | Hot melt foil films | Hot stamping foils | Registered lens technology



Flexible packaging - Flexible packaging laminates | Pre-fabricated pouches | Easy-tear sachets | Big bags | Block bottom bags | Premium shower-proof bags | FlexiTubes | Pharmaceutical packaging | FlexFresh™ modified atmospheric packaging

Printing cylinders - Electromechanically & laser engraved rotogravure cylinders for printing | Laser engraved coating cylinders for extreme high & low GSM | Embossing cylinders | Robotic laser engraved specialised rotogravure cylinders | Flexographic polymer printing plates | Flexographic elastomer printing plates

Engineering - Packaging machines | Converting machines | Recycling machines | Specialty product machines | Aseptic liquid filling machines

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