

IMA Buys Stake in Teknoweb

IMA, an Italy-based designer and manufacturer of automatic machines for a number of industries, has acquired a 60% stake in the newly formed Teknoweb Converting, based in Palazzo Pignano, Cremona, Italy. Teknoweb converts, markets and sells machines for the production of wet wipes. Under the terms of the deal, IMA invested about €6 million. The deal should close in late February.

IMA has also been given the option of purchasing the remaining 40% stake in Teknoweb Converting between 2018 and 2024. In 2014, Teknoweb Converting's sales were about €12 million and its EBITDA was €1.5 million. "This is a strategic deal," says chairman and CEO Alberto Vacchi. "The acquisition of Teknoweb converting will make it possible to generate significant production and marketing synergies with the Ilapak Group, which produces primary packaging machines using flexible materials. The growth in the wet wipes market entails a search for efficiencies in this field and the need on the part of customers to integrate the various technologies involved in the production line."

Web Industries Expands Options

Web Industries, Inc. has expanded its range of converting options for the consumer packaged goods (CPG) market through the acquisition of additional high-speed, wide-width converting capabilities. Continuing the company's focus on staying ahead of emerging market trends through investment in innovative technologies, this new converting capacity will produce jumbo rolls of up to 60-inch outside diameter (OD) by 80-inch width, allowing the company to offer true "Big Roll Converting" to the consumer products market.

According to the company, jumbo rolls can contain as much as 57% more material than existing rolls. This increase in material volume can give leading producers of adult incontinence, feminine hygiene, baby care and home care products significant manufacturing advantages. During material sourcing, Web's ability to handle incoming jumbo rolls will let CPG companies order parent materials in larger rolls, reducing supply chain costs. During manufacturing, jumbo rolls of nonwovens

and films converted by Web will allow longer manufacturing run-times with few changeovers, increasing their overall efficiency. These advantages, combined with Web's other advanced converting and material management services, support consumer product companies looking to bring innovative new products into the marketplace faster or looking to extend the profitable lifespan of existing products by driving down production costs.

The new capabilities are located at Web's Fort Wayne, IN, facility, which already houses some of the world's largest nonwoven and film converting equipment. The Fort Wayne facility is also home to Web's high-speed, wide-web flexographic printing services, which offer tight dimensional pattern registration and precision inline slitting on nonwoven materials as light as 10gsm. This collocation of wide-width printing and large OD converting assets gives consumer product companies the option of having their component materials printed and slit and then spooled onto jumbo rolls under one roof. ■

Shemesh Debuts Packaging Technology

Shemesh Automation (SA) rolled out its Xpander recently at a private central London event, which targeted companies from around the world. These companies received a first-hand impression of the new packaging technology.

Built on decades of industry experience supporting the wipes manufacturing sector with its in-line, high throughput downstream packaging portfolio, Shemesh Automation has now brought together all its proven technologies for the first time in a single application. The unique, all-in-one monoblock design encompasses all aspects of round wipes downstream packaging from cans and wipes loading, dosing and sealing through to capping, a full built-in quality control and smart weight checking. The Xpander has a throughput of 30-35ppm and is the only machine of its kind available on the market today.

Shai Shemesh, SA's managing director and the head of its London office, says, "We could not be happier with the reac-

tion we keep getting from the market to the Xpander. This is a direct result of continual evolution and constant dialogue with our customers, leading to significant productivity enhancements, benefiting manufacturers and boosting efficiency."

Operated by as little as two operators, the Xpander affords flexible and efficient operation and offers exceptional ROI while reducing waste, cutting production times and maintaining high levels of product quality. The Xpander+ configuration offers virtually "hands-free" operation with the only requirement that the lids and empty cans hoppers are full. In addition, with a monoblock footprint of only two square meters, the Xpander is capable of operating in very small spaces.

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