Is There Anything Paper Can’t Do?

By Mary Anne Hansan, President of the Paper and Packaging Board

Is there something about paper that inspires the human imagination? I think so. While paper has been around for centuries, the "first technology" has continued to innovate right up to the present day.

Take sustainability for example. A research group at the University of California, Riverside and Shandong University in China are on the verge of inventing re-printable paper. The group has developed a coating that allows paper to be printed on, erased, and printed on again up to 80 times.

What about wallpaper that blocks WIFI but not cellphone signals? That would be useful in offices that need secure connections and hospitals where WIFI could interfere with sensitive equipment. French scientists have created just that — a wallpaper that only blocks a select set of frequencies used by wireless LANs and allows cellular phones and other radio waves to get through.

But the most exciting developments, I think, come from the world of medical diagnostics. We know the Zika virus can be harmful to newborns and deadly to mothers, but spotting the disease usually requires the kind of laboratory you’re unlikely to find in a jungle or rural area where the virus thrives. Now there is a portable Zika test made of freeze-dried synthetic gene circuits embedded on a paper disc. The circuits are activated when the paper is rehydrated with a droplet of fluid, such as blood, urine or saliva. The paper changes color when the Zika virus is present, just like a pregnancy test.

A similar approach is behind a cancer detecting tool developed at MIT that uses nanoparticles on paper that trigger the release of biomarkers in a cancer patient’s urine.

That also happens to be the active ingredient that makes an extraordinary magazine ad from Ikea come to life. Last year, working with an ad agency and chemical company in Sweden, Ikea created an advertisement for a baby crib with an unexpected feature. The price of the crib was obscured to all . . . unless you’re pregnant.

(continued on page 6)

Advancing our Industry: The 2018 AF&PA Sustainability Award Winners

AF&PA honored five of its member companies for their commitment to sustainability with 2018 AF&PA Sustainability Awards.

Supporting the Better Practices, Better Planet 2020 sustainability initiative, AF&PA’s annual awards are designed to recognize exemplary sustainability successes in the paper and wood products manufacturing industry. Winning projects are showcased as best examples of how the industry is making progress on its sustainability goals.

Leadership in Sustainability Awards

Leadership in Sustainability awards recognize projects that support the Better Practices, Better Planet 2020 sustainability goals.

Energy Efficiency/Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Clearwater Paper: Lewiston Pulp Optimization Project

Clearwater Paper replaced an old Kraft batch digester system at their Lewiston, Idaho pulp mill with a continuous digester that significantly reduced the mill’s reliance on fossil fuels. Clearwater Paper saved more than 100,000 pounds per hour of steam compared to the previous batch process — an estimated reduction of 150,000 tons of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions per year. Their reduced energy needs are expected to avoid the same amount of GHG emissions per year going forward.

Paper Recovery for Recycling

WestRock: Advancing Foodservice Packaging Recycling

WestRock demonstrated technical recyclability of polycoated foodservice (continued on page 12)
Sure we’re a paper company and we really (really) love paper. We also love the OMG moment when premium paper meets powerful design. That’s why we launched our new website, POP from Sappi. It’s packed with inspiration and insights that can help take your work to an MVP level.

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• Pulp

Contact your WestRock representative.
If you were in the market for baby furniture all you had to do was urinate on the ad. And if you were pregnant at the time, a special discounted price appeared at the bottom of the page.

This year Ikea is trying to one up itself with their “Cook This Page” feature. They’ve printed recipes on large sheets of paper that double as cooking parchment. You follow the recipe by placing the ingredients of a full meal in the outline of that food marked in soluble ink on the paper. Then you roll it all up and cook it, paper and all. The result is a good looking and thoroughly delicious meal.

The statistics program at the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) has roots going back to the 19th century. Back then, the Writing Paper Manufacturer Association (founded 1861) collected data via postal mail, tallied it by hand, and published bound books that were then mailed to participating companies.

While the concept behind data collection to promote a more competitive market may not have changed over the years, nearly every other aspect of our work has changed. In fact, the current AF&PA statistics program is about a million miles from where we began.

Snail Mail vs. E-mail – Both Bad for Statistics

Not only is data no longer gathered via postal mail, the use of the fax machine has gone the way of the dodo bird. AF&PA now has an online data entry system that makes it extremely easy for companies to submit data: they can copy and paste it from their system to our website, which is simply a “write once” interface. No more data entry errors!

The significance of the new data entry system is profound; it has proven transformative for the program. Transposition errors are eliminated as are grade and data alignment issues. When reviewing data previously, anything questionable meant first comparing entered data with the received data – a step that is now completely redundant.

While the data input system updates have been revolutionary, the data output has been more evolutionary. Still, evolution over time makes for systems that are unrecognizable 15 to 20 years later. The “data out” software we use is a sophisticated business intelligence platform known as Business Objects, which is now owned by SAP. The BusObj software we used 15 years ago, however, is very different from the BusObj software in use today. A simple distinction is the change from a product limited to your desktop to one that is browser-based. The program has changed substantially over time: gone are all the calculations we were previously forced to include. These calculations have either been eliminated or moved to be a function in our database.

Members Served: Millions and Millions

Well, not really millions. But for the past three years, AF&PA members have downloaded over 6,000 reports per year from www.StatMill.org. The statistics department has also fulfilled nearly 200 custom data requests per year during the same period.

Despite the increase in output over the decades, our efficiency gains have meant our statistics staff has been reduced from 17 people in 2007 to just seven in 2019.

AF&PA Statistics: History over 100 Years, Technology for the Present and Future

Now there is a portable Zika virus test made of freeze-dried synthetic gene circuits embedded on a paper disc. The circuits are activated when the paper is rehydrated with a droplet of fluid, such as blood, urine or saliva. Areas that have turned purple indicate samples infected with Zika, while yellow areas indicate samples that are free of the virus. Credit: Wyss Institute at Harvard University.

All of this is to show that we have not even begun to exhaust the possibilities of paper. Like perhaps no other technology, its uses are limited only by our imagination and creativity.

The Paper and Packaging Board promotes the use of paper products and paper-based packaging by highlighting the value they bring to our daily lives. The Paper & Packaging – How Life Unfolds® national marketing campaign shows how paper and packaging enhance business and personal productivity, creativity and learning and help protect and deliver the food and goods we want. To learn more visit: www.paperandpackaging.org.

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OUR PERSPECTIVE ON MAGAZINE PUBLISHING

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For those who don’t yet know us, ND Paper is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Nine Dragons Paper (Holdings) Limited, a leading global paper product manufacturer and the largest containerboard producer in Asia. We are an environmentally-friendly company that manufactures various types of high-quality pulp, paper and paper-based packing materials. Our mills in Rumford and Biron are integrated paper & pulp facilities, while our Fairmont, West Virginia facility is one of only three in the world that produces air-dried recycled pulp. We are proud of our 1,100 dedicated employees, who together produce more than 1.1 million metric tons of paper annually.

Sustainable paper is our way of life.

For more information on our products, please visit us.ndpaper.com

ND Paper Fires Up #5 Boiler at Old Town Pulp Mill in Maine

ND Paper LLC in late February fired up the #5 package boiler at the Old Town kraft pulp mill in Maine.

ND Paper acquired the mill from OTM Holdings, LLC in October of 2018.

After a series of phased capital investments, ND Paper expects the mill to restart in the first quarter of 2019 and ultimately produce 275,000 admt annually of unbleached kraft pulp.

After a series of phased capital investments, ND Paper expects to ultimately produce 275,000 admt annually of unbleached kraft pulp at the Old Town mill.

“Our team [the last week of February] successfully fired our #5 package boiler. While this is one task of many yet to come, it marks a very important milestone in the journey to restarting the facility,” ND Paper said in a press release.

“The #5 boiler is the first piece of major operating equipment to run in the mill since its idling in October 2015. Further, the mill will now be self-supplied with heat; up to this point, we’ve relied on portable heat units,” the company added.

ND Paper is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Nine Dragons Paper (Holdings) Limited.

WestRock Honored for Design Excellence by Paperboard Packaging Council

WestRock received 12 awards at the 75th annual North American Paperboard Packaging Competition. The awards include the inaugural Digital Application of the Year Award for its Crown Royal Rodeo Digital Campaign.

Sponsored by the Paperboard Packaging Council (PPC), the competition is judged by a panel of packaging experts. The awards recognize cartons that represent the best in converting excellence, innovation and sustainability that the North American folding carton industry has provided its customers over the past year.

WestRock’s Crown Royal Rodeo Digital Campaign received the PPC’s first Digital Application of the Year Award for its use of high-quality printing on transfer-metallized 24-point board, rather than traditional 12-point board. Multiple rodeo-inspired images wrap around the carton, designed to capture the consumer’s eye from every angle. The campaign also received Gold and Excellence awards in this year’s competition.

In addition to the Digital Application of the Year award, WestRock earned four gold and seven excellence awards for a variety of packaging solutions.

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Bolkar Adiyaman Celebrates 10th Year with Cartonsa

Cartonsa, a global supplier of paper and pulp and a leading exporter of specialty papers is a second-generation, family-owned business. Founded in 1996 by Halil Adiyaman in Montreal, the company has grown through hard work, dedication, innovation and strong family values.

Bolkar Adiyaman, the President of the company, is celebrating his 10th year with Cartonsa and says the pulp and paper industry remains a passion within his company.

“Cartonsa is always expanding, growing, and innovating in a sustainable manner, but we also keep the values transferred by my father, who started it all from scratch. He made all these things possible and my father, who started it all from scratch. He made all these things possible and we still taught us how to turn dreams into possibilities,” Adiyaman explained. “We still have the same dedication, the same commitment, the same thirst for making this business a success, and the same vision and optimism. Not only do we work as a team, but also as a family.”

Bolkar credits his father for passing along the values he instills in Cartonsa today. “I learned a lot from my father from the time I was a young kid, and I think this is what makes the company a success — the understanding of the industry, the knowledge that I got from him and from his experience. As Cartonsa family, we share the same vision and passion for the business and continue to follow his path and his legacy. For us, it’s not just a business, it’s a family thing.”

Case Paper Hires New GM for Philly

Thomas McDonough joined the Case Paper team in February 2019 as the first General Manager of the company’s Philadelphia division who is not a Philadelphia sports fanatic.

“We have a hardworking, dedicated team in Philadelphia, so we’re thrilled that Tom is now managing and leading this division. And we promise not to hold it against him that he’s a Jets fan,” exclaims Case Paper’s Simon Schaffer, CMO and Vice President of New Business Development.

For the last decade and a half, Tom was an executive manager for Bilcare Research and Tekni-Plex Inc., pharmaceutical packaging and specialty film manufacturers. At these companies, he executed commercial and operational initiatives at local, national, and multinational levels.

Prior to that, Tom was responsible for operations in the ink and coatings industries as well as the commercial textile wallcovering and upholstery markets. He has a broad background in business management, as well as experience in web handling, printing, slitting, sheeting, lamination, extrusion, and thermoforming.

“His manufacturing experience, combined with over a decade of managerial success, will help us streamline operations so we can enhance our service platform and plan for the future,” says Robin Schaffer, CEO and President of Case Paper.

Metsä Board Invests EUR 11 Million in New Sheeting Line at Äänekoski Mill

Metsä Board has started construction of a new sheeting line at its Äänekoski board mill in central Finland. The investment will increase the annual capacity of the sheeting plant by 35,000 tonnes to a total of 120,000 tonnes.

The value of the investment is EUR 11 million.

The new sheeting line will help ensure that the mill can continue to respond to increasing demand.

In addition to the new sheet cutter, the investment includes additional automation to the existing sheet cutters as well as equipment for cutter reel handling and storage. The new sheeting line will be located in the existing sheeting plant and production is planned to start during September 2019.

The Äänekoski Board Mill has the capacity to produce 240,000 tonnes of fully coated bleached paperboards for high performance packaging and graphical end uses.
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The Navigator Company Listed on CDP Climate Change A List

The Navigator Company has been rated as a global leader on corporate climate action by environmental impact non-profit CDP, achieving a place on the CDP Climate Change A List.

Diogo da Silveira, CEO of The Navigator Company, said, “We are proud of this international recognition from CDP and our aim is to go even further: be a Carbon Neutral Company by 2035.”

The Navigator Company has been recognized for its actions in the last reporting year to cut emissions, mitigate climate risks and develop the low-carbon economy, based on its 2018 disclosure to CDP.

“We are honored to be among only 5 companies worldwide on the Pulp, Paper & Forest sector that made it, as well as among the only Portuguese company with an A rating,” said Diogo da Silveira. Every year, thousands of companies disclose data about their environmental impacts, risks and opportunities to CDP for independent assessment against its scoring methodology. In 2018, companies were requested to do so by over 650 investors with over US$87 trillion in assets, and/or 115 major purchasing organizations with US$3.3 trillion in purchasing power. Companies receive scores of A to D — for how effectively they are tackling climate change, deforestation and water security, while those that don’t disclose or provide insufficient information are marked with an F.

AF&PA Sustainability Award Winners (continued from page 1)

Safety (Small Company)
American Eagle Paper Mills: Shifting to a Culture of Safety
American Eagle designated safety as a major focus on for 2017. At their Tyrone, Pennsylvania mill, the company identified issues and inadequacies with their equipment guards; expanded communication at all levels; and empowered employees to stop individuals who are creating potential safety incidents. In January 2018, they completed 365 days without a lost-time injury — a record achievement in the history of the mill.

Water
Domtar: Hawesville Water Conservation Project
Domtar’s mill in Hawesville, Kentucky made 17 upgrades, repairs and process changes that conserved vital water resources for their operations and the mill’s surrounding ecosystem. These small, relatively inexpensive projects amounted to collective water savings of nearly 2,200 gallons per minute or 3.2 million gallons per day. The mill’s total water intake decreased 34 percent, contributing to cost savings to pump, treat and heat process water, boiler feed water and effluent.

Innovation in Sustainability Award
The Innovation in Sustainability award is reserved for projects that merit recognition for their contribution to sustainable business practices, rather than a specific Best Practices, Better Planet 2020 goal.

WestRock: TechniFlute™
TechniFlute™ is a cost-effective alternative to conventional corrugating medium used in the manufacturer of corrugated containers. Through a proprietary laminating process, it uses multiple lightweight papers to produce a corrugating medium with high unit strength and up to 20–40 percent fiber savings. Due to its lower basis weight, TechniFlute™ allows for greater transportation efficiency and reduced associated greenhouse gas emissions.

For more information about the 2018 AF&PA Sustainability Award winners, visit afandpa.org/sustainability.
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Trade Tension Undermines U.S. Pulp and Paper Industry Exports

This is the second article in a two-part series on trade issues and the industry in the Paper2019 Convention Daily. An overview of the ongoing U.S.-China tariff war and tariff retaliation appeared in the Monday edition.

U.S. tax and regulatory policies have boosted U.S. manufacturing, including the pulp and paper industry. However, President Trump’s actions withdrawing from the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement and threats to withdraw from other trade agreements upends decades of effort to open global trade by both Republican and Democratic administrations. One of the biggest accomplishments of 2018 was renegotiation of the 25-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

NAFTA Out, USMCA In

The ups and downs of the renegotiations of NAFTA created business uncertainty that still lingers. While all three countries have agreed to a new U.S. Mexico Canada Agreement (USMCA), there are speed bumps that must still be resolved for it to take effect. The deal needs to be ratified by each country’s legislative body. The U.S. pulp and paper industry has greatly benefitted from NAFTA, and we expect to benefit in the future from the updates that have been agreed to. In 2018, Canada and Mexico represented markets valued at $10.1 billion in U.S. pulp and paper exports – or 44 percent of the industry’s global exports – up from just $3.2 billion in 1993, the year before NAFTA went into effect.

For the U.S. pulp and paper industry, the positive aspects of the USMCA include the preservation of duty-free trade in North America; language committing the three countries to fight illegal logging and associated trade; and greater transparency and cooperation on regulatory practices. However, we are disappointed that the new agreement rolls back important investment protections in NAFTA in the form of an investor-state dispute settlement mechanism that we supported. The USMCA also fails to deal with the U.S. steel and aluminum tariffs, so the retaliatory tariff Canada imposed on paper and paperboard products will remain in place for now.

To put pressure on Congress for a quick approval of the USMCA, President Trump said that he plans to formally notify Canada and Mexico of his intention to withdraw the U.S. from NAFTA. A party can withdraw from the agreement by providing a six-month written notice to the two other parties. It is not clear, however, whether the President can withdraw the U.S. from NAFTA on his own accord or whether congressional approval is required since NAFTA came into effect through congressional legislation.

A U.S. withdrawal from NAFTA would create significant uncertainty and is opposed by a broad coalition of U.S. business. It would affect paper and paperboard exports to Mexico because the U.S. would lose its duty-free status provided by NAFTA. On the other hand, both the U.S. and Canada eliminated tariffs on all paper and paperboard products under the 1994 Uruguay Round Agreement, so there will be no effect on pulp and paper trade between the two countries. However, it could also affect domestic sales of paper and paperboard used by other industries that could see a decline in their exports to Canada and Mexico.

While the USMCA has the strongest labor and environmental provisions of any previous U.S. trade agreement, Democrats have stated that they are not satisfied with the agreement’s enforcement provisions. They also may not want to work with President Trump and give him an early “win,” delaying a congressional vote on the agreement until after the other countries have approved the agreement.

As the three countries’ legislatures are working to approve the agreement, the U.S. government is continuing its push toward more bilateral agreements. The U.S. has indicated it will open talks with Japan on a new agreement and with the U.K. once Brexit is dealt with. Additionally, the U.S.–European Union trade talks are at a very early stage. This shift in policy from multilateral to bilateral agreements was an early pledge made by President Trump and is expected to continue throughout his term in office.
WestRock’s Bob Feeser to Retire; Pat Lindner to Succeed Him

WestRock Company announced Robert (Bob) Feeser, President of Consumer Packaging, will retire from the company, effective April 30, 2019 and that Patrick (Pat) Lindner has been appointed the new president of Consumer Packaging.

During his 32-year career, Feeser has held various management and leadership positions within the company’s paper, containerboard and consumer packaging businesses. Since the creation of WestRock, he has led the company’s Consumer Packaging business, advancing its strategy in both paperboard and packaging across the consumer packaging markets. “Throughout his career, Bob has set an outstanding example through his unwavering commitment to our customers’ success, his collaborative mindset and his thoughtful mentorship,” said Steve Voorhees, WestRock’s CEO.

Lindner will join WestRock in March and succeed Feeser in the role of president of Consumer Packaging. Lindner joins WestRock from the privately held, $3 billion sales, W.L. Gore & Associates, where he has served as its chief operating officer. Prior to this role, Lindner served as president of the $6 billion sales Performance Materials group for E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from Hamilton College, and a PhD. in chemistry from Dartmouth College.

Georgia-Pacific Ceases Production of UFS at Port Hudson Mill

Georgia-Pacific announced on Jan. 10 that it is exiting the communication papers business following an assessment of its long-term competitive position in a declining market. As a result, the company will permanently shut down the communication papers machines, related converting assets, as well as the woodyard, pulp mill and a significant portion of the energy complex at its Port Hudson facility in Zachary, Louisiana.

The Port Hudson mill accounts for 630,000 tons per year of uncoated freesheet capacity, which translates to about 8% of the North American market for that grade.

The Port Hudson mill accounts for 630,000 tons per year of uncoated freesheet (UFS) capacity, which translates to about 8% of the North American market for that grade.

The pulp and paper production closures affect approximately 650 jobs at the facility. About 40 business and sales jobs are also affected by this decision. “The employees in our printing and writing papers business have worked diligently to support the business, and in recent years we have invested significantly in our operations. We have ultimately decided that the required investment to sustain the operation long-term, coupled with the declining market, is not viable,” said Mike Adams, President - GP PRO and Communication Papers.

Georgia-Pacific said that it will continue to operate and invest in the Port Hudson mill to support its growing consumer tissue and towel business. The Port Hudson facility, with its premium product tissue and towel machines and associated converting equipment, is a key contributor to the success of the Consumer Products Group’s retail business. The company will retain approximately 300 employees to manage those operations.

Investors Buy Former Neenah Paper Mill in Vermont for $5 Million

A group of four investors with the help of a Vermont development organization worked out a deal over a two-month period to buy Neenah’s paper mill in Brattleboro, Vermont. The investors — Ben Rankin and his partners, Phil Farmer, Mike Cammenga and Richard Normandin — go by the name Long Falls Paperboard.

In May of 2018, Neenah announced plans to sell the facility and worked actively to do so, but did not receive an acceptable offer. After reviewing alternatives, the company decided in late October 2018, that the best economic decision was to close the mill — a decision that would affect about 100 workers. However, on Oct. 30, the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC) facilitated a meeting between state agencies and Rankin and Farmer, and when 2018 came to a close, so did the deal to buy the mill.

According to an SEC filing by Neenah, the sale of the Brattleboro mill to Long Falls Paperboard, LLC was completed on Dec. 31, 2018 for a purchase price of $5 million, subject to post-closing inventory adjustments.

Rankin told a local newspaper, the Brattleboro Reformer, that working with Neenah was a pleasant surprise, considering how cut-throat the competition can be in the marketplace for paper products. “They could have taken an easier road,” said Rankin. “Neenah was committed to keeping this facility open, which is fairly unusual. Many paper companies will make a point when they are closing a mill that they want to scrap it and sell off the pieces because they don’t want the competition. They would rather take the capacity out of the market. Neenah really did right by the community and they deserve credit.”

Rankin noted that when Neenah bought Fibermark in 2015, the Brattleboro facility was just one of the assets it acquired. “The reality is, Neenah is a paper maker, not a paperboard maker. This mill was a little bit outside of their area of expertise and where they wanted to put their focus. They found the Brattleboro plant was not a good fit for them,” Rankin explained.

In a press release from the BDCC, Rankin stated, “Since our first visit to the mill in November we have been welcomed and supported by BDCC, the employees, the USW, and a wide variety of state offices. We deeply appreciate this support, without which we would never have been able to purchase the paper mill in the very short time available. We look forward to being part of the Brattleboro community for many years to come.”
Diversified Slitting Capabilities at K & L Services

K & L Services in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin offers the market a wide range of roll widths and has invested in a multi-faceted asset base, positioning the company to service many segments, specialties, and needs in the paper industry.

The firm slits as narrow as 0.50" (12.7mm) for straw paper manufacturers, tag and label printers, steel interleaver papers, book binding and specialty core and tube companies. “We have slit 42# Linerboard to 96875” (31/32") wide X 59” OD for a core company. We are also slitting straw paper to 0.55” wide X 30” OD,” said Scott Soldner, Vice President of Manufacturing for K & L.

As part of the asset base, the company has two 72” automatic small OD Jennerjahn slitters. These two machines have computerized tension controls that provide consistency and quality control. The slitters are running wide format digital papers, dye-sub heat transfer papers, flame retardant kraft paper, steel interleaver and miscellaneous signage products.

To round out K & L’s narrow width and small OD capabilities, the company installed a 114” wide Webco TDS HD slitter. The winder can accept master rolls up to 114” (2,895.6mm) wide X 84” OD weighing up to 12,000 lbs and can rewind up to 110” wide X 72” OD rolls. The machine has a top speed of 5,000 feet-per-minute and can run a grade range from 13# MG up to .045” chipboard.

“We run a lot of coated/uncoated fine papers, C1S/C2S cover and board grades as well as tube/corestock paperboard,” Soldner explained. The company is seeing growth in food packaging papers/paperboard and has developed a rigorous Quality Control Program, insuring compliance with the customer’s specifications for cleanliness and contamination free rolls. “Some of these products go into food drums, portion cups, candy wrappers and other packaging papers used for direct contact with food,” Soldner pointed out.

K & L can unwind from 3”, 4”, 5”, 6”, 8”, 10” and 12” ID cores and can rewind onto 1”, 1.5”, 2”, 3”, 4”, 5”, 6”, 8”, 10” and 12” OD cores. The facility also has a semi-automatic wrap and cap machine with paddle crimping and header vacuum for mill wrap rolling packaging.

Mike Kamps, President of K & L, added, “K&L Services diversity is due to the awareness of the changing market and needs. We are always adapting to meet these changes to better serve our customers, and new challenges are faced proactively with a successful end result.”

Cascades Investing US$58 Million at Its Wagram, NC Tissue Plant

Cascades is investing US$58 million in its Wagram plant in North Carolina that will modernize the plant and add new tissue converting equipment.

The Wagram plant produces hand towels, paper towels, bathroom tissue and napkins marketed under the Cascades’ PRO brand, which serves the Away-from-Home markets. The facility will be largely supplied by the Cascades’ tissue plant located 30 miles away, in Rockingham.

The project will involve the installation of five new state-of-the-art converting lines and the modernization of four existing lines.

The project will involve the installation of five new state-of-the-art converting lines and the modernization of four existing lines. Sixty-six full time employees will be hired to operate the new equipment.

The commissioning of the new converting lines is expected to begin in April 2019 and will be finalized in the first quarter of 2020.

Upon completion of the project, the Wagram plant converting capacity will increase from 5.3 million cases per year to close to 15 million cases per year, resulting in a global capacity addition of 3 million cases for the Group.
Packaging Recyclability, Recovery and Bans Top State Legislative Agendas

The November 2018 election ushered in a new class of state legislators who are eager to prioritize environmental legislation, with packaging issues near the top of the agenda along with better-known issues such as greenhouse gas regulation and renewable energy. A crisis in the market for mixed plastics created by China’s import bans and ongoing concern about the impact of plastic litter in the environment is creating momentum for legislative initiatives to regulate packaging. Paper packaging products are often swept into initiatives targeting plastic waste.

Washington state has been in the lead, with legislation to ban plastic bags and straws expected to pass easily. Comprehensive Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation for plastic and plastic-coated paper packaging has been introduced, as well as legislation to ban non-recyclable and non-compostable plastic and plastic-coated paper food-service packaging. The state haulers association has proposed legislation to remove several paper packaging products from single-stream recycling collection. The state Department of Ecology is proposing to create an office to bring stakeholders together to study and propose changes to the recycling system and work on end markets development for recovered materials.

Maine legislators are also working on sweeping legislation that would create new mandates, including a twenty-five cent fee on foodservice packaging and ban non-recyclable and non-compostable products, in addition to considering broader EPR legislation for packaging. Other northeast states, including Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New York are expected to consider similar concepts. Meanwhile the California legislature, historically the most active on packaging issues, is currently preoccupied with the transition in the Governor’s office, although we expect it will consider packaging legislation in the summer. The city of Berkeley, California became the first in the nation to mandate a twenty-five cent fee for paper cups at restaurants.

The state policy activity has coincided with several recently-announced and ongoing initiatives from brands and retailers centered on Circular Economy principles that focus on recyclability and increasing recycled content in packaging. In addition, some brands are exploring concepts to transition to reusable packaging for certain products.

Streco Fibres Provides Sourcing and Inventory Solutions

In twenty-nine years of business, Streco Fibres has maintained a reputation as a paper company whose focus is on sourcing high-quality materials and providing outstanding customer service. The company has met 2018 market challenges with a sustained commitment to continually bring value to its suppliers, as well as customers.

With a diversified offering of first-line industrial papers, side trim, and joblots, Streco provides customized solutions for both domestic and international customers. “While 2018 brought challenges of rapid price increases and sold out machines, Streco continues to support suppliers and converters by buying their inventories and finding alternative sourcing while extending converter payment terms to help keep the businesses cash flow,” said John Strelitz, President of Streco Fibres.

“Streco invests in its customers’ future and facilitates their capital and supply needs, assisting them in sustainable growth,” he added.

By having a complete understanding of the need to act quickly and strategically in the constantly evolving paper industry, Streco Fibres is well positioned for the future and committed to continually providing first-class service to customers. To learn more visit: www.streco.com.
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