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- Reduce corrosion
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Watch the savings build up, not the scale.
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One Bin – A No Win for Paper

By John O’Brien, Managing Editor
jobrien@paperage.com

My municipality recently switched from multi-stream recycling to single stream recycling. Basically, we used to have two containers for recycling: paper, cardboard, corrugated, etc. went into one container; plastics, glass and metal cans into the other. It wasn’t that hard to do nor was it an inconvenience – for me anyway.

Now we have one of those large trashcans on wheels for all of the aforementioned recyclable items. At curbside a truck equipped with a mechanical arm comes by, hooks and lifts the container, dumps the contents into the truck, and off it goes to be recycled.

I’m not a fan of mixing paper in with everything else (the contamination factor), but I figured that single stream collection is simply the most cost-effective method to get recyclables to an MRF (material recycling facility), and it is. However, the cost to process those comingle recyclables once they arrive at an MRF is substantially greater than those associated with multi-stream. In fact, the high processing costs offset savings derived from the single source collection not to mention revenue losses from tonnes of unsaleable materials due to cross contamination.

In an excellent, unbiased study titled, “A Comparison of Single and Multi-Stream Recycling Systems in Ontario, Canada”, author Calvin Lakhan (Department of Geography, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada), highlights the differences in cost and recycling performance between single and multi-stream recycling systems in Ontario. It involves data from 223 provincial municipalities over a 10-year period.

According to the study, “There is a general assumption held by municipal waste planners that the reduction in single stream collection costs will compensate for increased capital investments at the MRF (material recycling facilities). However, the analysis in this study found that the difference in collection costs between single and multi-stream systems was only 3%.

Differences in processing costs between single and multi-stream systems was significant.

“Additional investments in single stream MRF equipment (corrugated cardboard screens and optical sorters) inflate municipal processing costs. The general intuition behind increased mechanization at single stream MRFs is that greater volumes of material can be processed, reducing the per tonne cost of material management (costs are distributed across a greater quantity of material). While this study found that single stream MRFs are capable of processing more tonnes relative to multi-stream MRFs, the difference in processing capacity was insufficient at offsetting additional costs from investments in sorting technology.”

“While which system to implement is largely contingent on site specific conditions, single stream recycling . . . results in higher levels of recycling contamination and reduced commodity prices as a result of contamination. Manufacturers have reported problems with single stream recycling created by poor quality materials being shipped to their downstream processors.

“Conversely, multi-stream collection is generally seen as having much lower levels of contamination and requiring fewer capital investments at the MRFs to sort material.

“While proponents of single stream recycling recognize that contamination and residue is higher in single stream systems, there is the assumption that savings in collection costs will more than compensate any loss in revenue (this study found that this was not the case).”

I’m an advocate of recycling and, yes, admit my bias towards paper. It’s durable and fragile at the same time, which is why it deserves its own recycling bin!

For anyone who would like a PDF copy of the 14-page study (338k), send me an email and I’ll get one to you.

Have a safe and happy holiday season.
A new deal for deinkers:
How three mills cut feed cost and boost quality

See for yourself how DEKA 2000 replaces expensive surfactants while boosting deinking performance:

A recycled newsprint mill boosted ONP percentage to save money. With help from DEKA 2000, brightness gain allowed an ONP increase from 30% to 45%, dirt counts decreased, and stickies removal improved 15%.

A recycled paperboard mill added post-consumer and printed waste paper such as SWL, MOW and coated white paper to save money. DEKA 2000 helped this white top liner mill increase brightness, lower dirt count, and slash expense with cheaper furnish.

A recycled office paper mill opted for replacing the more expensive enzyme. Using DEKA 2000, brightness increased 2 points, dirt count is lower, color is improved, and chemical cost is reduced.

Contact us today for details on how you might benefit from using DEKA. We'll be glad to show you more detailed mill results and schedule a trial in your mill.
Verso on Nov. 1 announced plans to temporarily idle the No. 3 paper machine at its Androscoggin Mill in Jay, Maine, reducing annual coated paper production capacity by approximately 200,000 tons. Verso intends to implement this capacity reduction beginning in the first quarter of 2017.

The mill also will idle a digester and recovery boiler that support the No. 3 paper machine.

In a press release the company said, “Most products currently produced on the No. 3 paper machine will be transitioned to other machines in Verso’s highly flexible manufacturing system with no expected disruption to customer orders.”

Michael A. Weinhold, Senior Vice President for Sales, Marketing and Product Development for Verso, explained, “It’s critical to Verso’s long-term success that we balance the supply of our products with our customers’ demand for them, and we currently have more coated paper capacity in our mill system than we can fill.”

Verso made the decision to temporarily idle the No. 3 paper machine and transition the machine’s production to lower-cost machines in our manufacturing system to help us stay ahead of the curve and move the entire company toward sustained profitability. At the same time, we are positioning the mill for future success by optimizing equipment, enhancing process efficiency and expanding production for the growing specialty papers market.”

The idling of the No. 3 paper machine will result in the layoff of about 190 employees at the Androscoggin Mill. Verso anticipates that if the machine is not restarted, the capacity reduction will result in the elimination of those jobs.

“Challenging market conditions have made these types of actions far too frequent in recent years, and they are never easy,” Weinhold said. “They are especially difficult for the employees and their families who are directly affected. Verso is committed to treating all of our impacted employees with fairness, dignity and respect and to communicating openly and honestly with each individual about how this decision will affect him or her.”

Verso said that it will continue to evaluate market conditions to determine if and when the No. 3 paper machine at the Androscoggin Mill will be restarted.

Packaging Corp. of America (“PCA”) in October announced that it entered into a definitive agreement to acquire substantially all of the assets of Columbus Container, Inc., an independent corrugated products producer, in a cash-free, debt-free transaction for a cash purchase price of $100 million.

Under the terms of the agreement, PCA will acquire a full-line corrugated products facility located in Columbus, Indiana, five warehousing facilities and other related operations located in Indiana and Illinois.

The transaction is structured as a purchase of assets resulting in a full-step-up of the assets to fair market value.

Columbus Container is a full-service provider of corrugated packaging products utilizing state-of-the-art technologies and design centers to provide customers a solution for nearly any packaging need.

As a result of the acquisition, PCA’s containerboard integration level is expected to increase by over 30,000 tons and will allow for further optimization and enhancement of mill capacity. The value of the increased containerboard integration, the expected synergies and the tax benefit of the step-up of assets, plus Columbus Container’s LTM EBITDA, results in a purchase price multiple of approximately 3.3 times EBITDA. The acquisition will be accretive to earnings immediately.

PCA Chairman and CEO Mark Kowlzan said, “Following our acquisition of Timbar, this acquisition will further enhance our operations both geographically and strategically through additional integration and optimization of our warehousing and logistics capabilities.”

Closing is subject to certain customary conditions and regulatory approval and is expected in the fourth quarter of 2016. PCA expects to finance the transaction with available cash on hand.
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The FabriCare™ ECOfficiency concept uses high pressure needle jets to clean the paper-side of the fabric directly on a roll. The needle jet has the highest cleaning capacity but using low cleaning pressure and low water consumption. The rebound of the water jet from the fabric and roll surface carries the released contamination into the cleaning head. The vacuum created directly inside the head transports the debris further to the save all.

- No moving parts on the head = extreme low maintenance
- Roll specific radius to keep the distance cleaning head to fabric as small as possible = high vacuum level = efficient discharge of impurities
- The demand for energy to produce the water jet and the water consumption is very low
- Vacuum produced by using low amount of mill air supply - no need for additional evacuation sources like vacuum pumps or regenerative blowers in combination with a water separator.
- The application prescribes the quantity and size of the nozzles – variable adaption
- The FabriCare design does not require a suction hose inside the beam which could get clogged.

For technical information please contact:
North American Director of Sales - Michael Psenicska • Phone (610) 715-3882 • e-mail: mpsenicska@jamesross.com • www.ibs-ppg.com
Kruger announced that the $250-million No. 10 Paper Machine (PM10) grade conversion project taking place at its Trois-Rivières Mill in Quebec is proceeding on time and on budget. PM10 currently produces newsprint.

Upon completion of the project, which is expected in May of 2017, the rebuilt machine will have an annual production capacity of 360,000 tonnes and start producing 100% recycled lightweight, high-strength XTR linerboard, an exclusive product from Kruger.

Kruger noted that a portion of PM10’s linerboard production will be used by the company’s packaging plants in LaSalle, Quebec, and Brampton, Ontario, while the remainder will be sold to packaging manufacturers across Canada and the United States.

Currently, some 200 workers are finishing work on the pulp mill, which will supply the new production line with recycled fiber, while the company makes the most of each PM10 maintenance shutdown to work on the paper machine.

During the project’s final phase — from February 26 to May 7, 2017 — PM10 will cease all newsprint production and more than 350 workers will work in rotating shifts for 20 hours a day to complete the rebuild.

Daniel Archambault, Executive Vice President, Kruger, said, “We are very satisfied with the progress of work. Not only is the project on time and on budget, but it also boasts a very positive health and safety record, which is a testimony to the know-how and professionalism of everyone involved: employees, suppliers and partners alike.”

Sonoco has acquired Plastic Packaging Inc. (PPI), a privately held Hickory, North Carolina-based flexible packaging company.

Founded in 1957, PPI specializes in short-run, customized flexible packaging for consumer brands in markets including: food products, pet products, confection, and health and personal care.

PPI expects 2016 sales of approximately $42 million and operates two manufacturing facilities in Hickory, NC, and Forest City, NC, with approximately 170 employees.

Through the acquisition, Sonoco gains additional lamination, wide and narrow web flexographic printing, and pouch and bag forming capabilities that will allow Sonoco to better serve its current customers, while expanding its customer base.

Sonoco Acquires Plastic Packaging Inc.

Weyerhaeuser Company on Nov. 1 completed the sale of North Pacific Paper Company (“NORPAC”) to an affiliate of One Rock Capital Partners, LLC.

Terms of the sale were not disclosed.

The deal includes the printing papers mill located in Longview, Washington.

Weyerhaeuser operated NORPAC through a 50-50 joint venture that was originally formed in 1979 with Nippon Paper Industries Co., Ltd.

NORPAC products include printing and publishing papers, copy paper, and newsprint. The mill has the capacity to produce 750,000 tons per year. In addition, the mill operates an advanced de-inking facility that processes old newspapers, magazines and sorted office papers into high-quality recycled fiber for paper grades that include post-consumer waste.

According to One Rock Capital Partners, the company will be led by chief executive officer, Craig Anneberg, who previously served as the Mill Manager and has worked within the Weyerhaeuser organization for more than 35 years. Anneberg will be joined by an experienced management team who have all held senior leadership positions at NORPAC for the past several years.

Weyerhaeuser Completes Sale of NORPAC
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NORTH AMERICA
Manufacturers Team with Suppliers to Promote Corrugated Packaging Industry

The Fibre Box Association (FBA) recently announced its partnering with corrugated industry suppliers to launch a five-year Corrugated Industry Promotion Program beginning in January 2017.

The purpose of the Corrugated Industry Promotion Program is to enhance, elevate and change perceptions toward the corrugated packaging industry and its products. The program will inform target audiences about the benefits of corrugated packaging and will correct misinformation that exists about the industry. The program will recognize that the overall health and well-being of the industry is important to both manufacturers and their suppliers.

To launch the program, FBA reached out to a select group of leading industry suppliers who it felt were best positioned to help focus attention on the industry effort. Suppliers who have pledged to support the program include Amtech, BHS Corrugated North America, Bobst, EFI, Fosber America, MarquipWardUnited/BW Papersystems, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries America, Inc., Sun Automation Group and Sun Chemical.

“We’re very pleased that such an outstanding group of corrugated industry suppliers have pledged to support the Corrugated Industry Promotion Program,” said Pete Watson, President and CEO at Greif and Chairman of the FBA Board of Directors. “Their support demonstrates a true commitment to the corrugated industry. We look forward to working together to further the industry’s overall health and well-being.”

The association has been running a successful outreach program aimed at the produce market since late 2014. The new program will allow the association to expand its reach to additional markets for corrugated packaging. To learn more, visit FBA’s website: www.fibrebox.org.

EUROPE
UPM Paper ENA to Reduce Graphic Paper Capacity in Europe

UPM in early November announced plans to permanently reduce its graphic paper capacity in Europe by 305,000 tonnes. The capacity cuts involve the permanent closure of two paper machines: SC paper machine 3 at UPM Steyrermühl in Austria; and SC paper machine 2 at UPM Augsburg in Germany.

About 275 people in total will be affected by the machine closures — 150 at UPM Augsburg and 125 at UPM Steyrermühl.

The plan would result in annual cost savings of about EUR 30 million, UPM said.

According to the plan, both mills would continue paper production on the remaining cost-competitive paper machines at the mill sites.

“The demand for SC papers, in line with other graphic papers, has been declining during the last years and the decline is expected to continue,” said Winfried Schaur, Executive Vice President, UPM Paper ENA. “Even under challenging market conditions our employees have always given their best and we regret the impact of the planned closures on the personnel. However, we have to adjust our operations to match with long-term customer demand.”

Anu Ahola, Senior Vice President, News & Retail, UPM Paper ENA, explained, “Due to the adverse market conditions we have conducted a thorough analysis on the cost competitiveness of our graphic paper machines. Because of their scale, technical age and limited further savings potential, PM3 in Steyrermühl and PM2 in Augsburg are the least competitive SC PMs in UPM’s machine park. The planned closures would ensure an efficient use of our remaining five SC paper machines.”

In May of this year, UPM sold its Schwedt mill in Germany to LEIPA. The mill’s production capacity is 282,000 tpy of newsprint, which LEIPA will continue to produce until the third quarter of 2017, then convert the mill’s production to 450,000 tpy of linerboard.

Smurfit Kappa to Acquire Saxon Packaging in the UK

Smurfit Kappa UK announced the acquisition of Saxon Packaging based in Lowestoft, Norfolk (UK).

Saxon Packaging is an independent converter of board into corrugated boxes and fitments.

According to Smurfit Kappa, Saxon over the past few years has invested in new machinery that has enabled the company to meet the needs of its growing customer base in Suffolk, East Anglia and the Home Counties.

Clive Bowers, CEO of Smurfit Kappa UK commented, “I am delighted with this acquisition which will integrate another strong professional management team into the Smurfit Kappa organization. The culture of this company is very much aligned with the Smurfit Kappa philosophy.”
**EUROPE**

**Ahlstrom and Munksjö Announce Proposed Merger**

The Boards of Directors of Munksjö Oyj and Ahlstrom Corporation on Nov. 7 announced the combination of the two companies through a merger.

The proposed combination of the two companies would have preliminary combined annual net sales of approximately EUR 2.2 billion and adjusted EBITDA of EUR 249 million. (Based on the twelve months ended September 30, 2016).

The deal will be implemented as a statutory absorption merger whereby Ahlstrom will be merged into Munksjö. The combined company will have approximately 6,200 employees as well as production in 14 countries.

Completion of the merger is subject to, among other things, approval by the Extraordinary General Meetings of Munksjö and Ahlstrom, which are expected to be held on January 11, 2017.

The combination would create a company with leading global positions in the primary product areas decor (paper), filtration and release liners. Together, the companies will be able to serve a broad range of end-market segments with complementary product and service offerings (e.g., filtration and abrasives to the automotive industry, as well as food and beverage packaging, and release liners to the food and beverage industry).

In addition, the companies have complementary geographical footprints, as Munksjö holds market positions in Europe and South America, while Ahlstrom maintains market positions in Europe, North America and Asia.

Ahlstrom and Munksjö estimate annual cost synergies would be approximately EUR 35 million. The cost synergies are expected to be gradually realized over two years following completion of the merger with a more pronounced impact expected from the fourth quarter of 2017. The majority of the planned cost synergies are expected to be achieved through organizational streamlining, mainly within general, administrative and sales expenses, as well as through a focusing of central administration and a combination of administration for closely located sales offices and mills.

Ahlstrom and Munksjö expect to complete the deal in the beginning of the second quarter of 2017.

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EUROPE

AR Packaging Acquires Maju Jaya Sarana Grafika in Indonesia

Sweden’s AR Packaging Group AB has entered into a binding agreement with PT Maju Jaya Sarana Grafika (MJSG) for the acquisition of a significant majority stake in the company. Adrian Koesnendar, CEO and co-owner of the family business, will continue to own the remaining shares.

Maju Jaya is a leading Indonesian packaging companies with a majority of the customer base in the tobacco and food segments. The company has two production sites in Bekasi (close to Jakarta, Java) and Semarang (central Java).

In January 2016, AR Packaging and Maju Jaya announced a strategic partnership with the objective to work together in manufacturing, procurement, sales and marketing. The partnership has now evolved with the equity investment of AR Packaging.

“We are very satisfied to have found such a competent partner in Maju Jaya,” said Peter Aichhorn, COO Branded Products of AR Packaging. “We have worked very closely with the company in recent months and we are convinced that together we will be able to provide the best possible service to both our local and multi-national customers going forward.”

Harald Schulz, CEO of AR Packaging, added, “The acquisition of Maju Jaya is an important step to implement our expansion strategy outside of Europe. We view a South East Asian platform to be the natural first step in our global aspiration in selected segments.”

SAICA Group to Acquire Ireland-based Americk Packaging

SAICA Group in mid-October agreed to acquire 100% of Americk Packaging.

Terms of the deal, which is subject to approval by the Irish Competition and Consumer Protection Commission, were not disclosed.

Americk Packaging Group of companies includes six manufacturing sites in Ireland and the UK and 691 employees, plus additional operations PP Global and Starfish Brand Solutions who operate as independent brands in the same market. The group achieved a combined turnover in 2015 of around GBP 110 million.

Americk Packaging produces a full range of printed packaging including: cartons, produce packaging, punnets, trays, flexibles, reel-fed and self-adhesive labels.

The move by SAICA follows its recent diversification into flexibles with the acquisitions in Spain of Grupo Polibol and Italy with Centroplast.

Ramon Alejandro, President of SAICA, commented, “This agreement allows us to enter the flexible packaging market in Ireland and the UK more actively, hand in hand with a leading player. Enabling the SAICA Group to continue its development in the flexible packaging sector with the aim of offering a wider range of products and services to our customers.”

Americk Packaging emphasized that the acquisition will not affect its current operations, which will continue to be managed by the existing senior management team.

Paper Recycling Rate in Europe Reached 71.5% in 2015

The European Recovered Paper Council (ERPC) announced that the paper recycling rate in Europe reached an impressive 71.5% in 2015.

According to ERPC’s final monitoring report for 2015, compared to 2010, collection and recycling has increased by almost one million tonnes of paper.

The 2015 European paper recycling rate of 71.5% is 1.5% higher than the target set by the ERPC in the 3rd European Declaration on Paper Recycling for the period 2010-2015.

ERPC said that it is proud to report on the impressive work completed, following the pledge it first made in 2000 to expand paper recycling in Europe.

“The efforts of the ERPC perfectly complement EU policy on Circular Economy. The paper fibre loop can serve as the perfect model for circularity,” said ERPC Chairman Henri Vermeulen. “All 13 ERPC associations are proud to be part of a value chain ‘Made in Europe’, prolonging value creation and job opportunities.”

ERPC said that in addition to the quantitative progress, a lot of qualitative work was done, particularly with initiatives to facilitate the recycling process and increase recycling activity. These notably include collection and applying ecodesign to paper products.

For the commitment period of 2011 to 2015, EY has independently verified the recycling rate calculations. Currently, a new ambitious commitment for 2016-2020 is being prepared. This will keep the industry moving on its path towards ever-higher recycling rates, ERPC added.
Valmet announced that it will deliver two Advantage NTT tissue lines including stock preparation equipment and automation systems to Sofidel America’s greenfield tissue paper mill and converting plant in Circleville, Ohio.

The value of the order was not disclosed.

Sofidel first announced its plan to build the $300 million integrated tissue mill in Circleville in November of 2015, and the company broke ground on July 11 of this year.

“The U.S. is the most important market in the tissue paper industry, so selecting an ideal facility location was critical to our continued growth in American markets,” said Luigi Lazzareschi, CEO of Sofidel Group.

Valmet’s scope of supply includes two complete tissue production lines including Advantage NTT tissue machines, with OptiFlo headbox and cast alloy Yankee cylinder.

Valmet will also supply detailed mill engineering, stock preparation equipment as well as automation packages including DCS (distributed control) and QCS (quality control) systems.

The new tissue machines will have a design speed of 1,800 m/min in textured mode and 2,000 m/min in plain mode. Each line will have an annual production capacity of 70,000 tons.

According to Valmet, the production lines are optimized to save energy and fiber as well as add possibilities for product differentiation and increased capacity of premium quality products.

Start-up for both lines is expected during 2018.
BillerudKorsnäs announced that Ulf Eliasson, head of business area Consumer Board, has been appointed Senior Vice President Production. In a related move, Peter Jhaveri has been recruited to succeed Eliasson as Senior Vice President Consumer Board, effective Jan. 1, 2017. Jhaveri’s most recent position was Managing Director of Tetra Recart AB.

International Paper announced Carol L. Roberts, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, and William Hoel, Senior Vice President, Container The Americas, will retire on March 31, 2017. In addition, IP announced the following senior leadership transitions: Glenn R. Landau has been named Senior Vice President, Finance, effective Jan. 1, and will become the Company’s CFO in the first quarter of 2017; W. Michael Amick, Jr., has been named Senior Vice President, Paper the Americas, effective Jan. 1; Timothy S. Nicholls has been named Senior Vice President, Industrial Packaging the Americas, effective Jan. 1; Gregory T. Wanta has been elected Senior Vice President, North American Container, effective Dec. 1, 2016; and Catherine I. Slater has been elected Senior Vice President, Consumer Packaging. Slater will join IP from Weyerhaeuser, effective with the completion of the acquisition of Weyerhaeuser’s pulp business, which she currently leads.

Rottneros has appointed Monica Pasanen as new CFO of the Group, effective no later than February 1, 2017. She succeeds Krister Lindgren, who has been interim CFO since 2013. Pasanen will join Rottneros from Stora Enso, where she is responsible for Supply Chain within the Consumer Board business unit.

Sonoco has named John Florence as Corporate Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary. Prior to this promotion, Florence has been the company’s Corporate Attorney since August 2015.

Södra has named Anna Belfrage as its new Chief Financial Officer, effective January 16, 2017. She will also serve as a member of Group Senior Management. Belfrage’s most recent position was CFO and Interim President of Beijer Electronics, which she left in 2015. Belfrage will succeed Jörgen Lindquist, who was appointed President of the Södra Wood business area.

Stora Enso has named Annica Bresky as Executive Vice President, Consumer Board division and member of the Group Leadership Team. She will join Stora Enso no later than May 1, 2017. Currently, Bresky is President and CEO of Iggesund Paperboard AB.

Barry-Wehmiller announced that Carol O’Neill has been promoted to the newly-created role of Group President of Packaging. O’Neill joined Barry-Wehmiller in 2014 to serve as Vice President of Strategy, Technology and Key Initiatives.

Valmet appointed David King as Area President of North America, effective November 15. He also becomes a member of Valmet’s Executive Team. King previously served as Senior Vice President, Pulp and Energy, North America for Valmet. He succeeds William (Bill) Bohn, who will retire in March of 2017.

AICC, The Independent Packaging Association, announced that Mike D’Angelo joined its professional staff as Vice President. D’Angelo has a long history of experience and service in the corrugated, folding carton and rigid box industries in sales and executive roles at Bobst, an active AICC Member, and Goss International.
NOVEMBER 22-24, 2016
European Paper Week
CEPI
Radisson Blu Royal Hotel
Brussels, Belgium
www.cepi.org/EPW

2017

JANUARY 24-26, 2017
58th Annual Paper Distribution Conference
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Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort
Naples, Florida, USA
www.gonpta.com

FEBRUARY 13-17, 2017
Paper Week Canada
PAPTAC
Sheraton Centre
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
www.paperweekcanada.ca

FEBRUARY 22-24, 2017
ASPI 2017 Spring Meeting
Association of Suppliers to the Paper Industry
The Ritz-Carlton
Sarasota, Florida, USA
www.aspinet.org

MARCH 6-8, 2017
RISI European Conference
RISI
Marriott Amsterdam Hotel
Amsterdam, Netherlands
www.risiinfo.com

MARCH 14-17, 2017
Tissue World Milan
UBM
Fieramilanocity Hall 3
Milan, Italy
www.tissueworld.com

MARCH 26-28, 2017
Paper2017
AF&PA and NPTA
Chicago, Illinois, USA
www.afandpa.org

MARCH 29-31, 2017
PPC Spring Outlook and Strategies Conference
Paperboard Packaging Council
Charlotte Marriott City Center
Charlotte, North Carolina, USA
www.paperbox.org

APRIL 10-12, 2017
Biomass Conference & Expo
BBI International
Minneapolis Convention Center
Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA
www.biomassconference.com

APRIL 23-26, 2017
PaperCon 2017
TAPPI
Minneapolis Convention Center
Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA
www.papercon.com

JUNE 5-8, 2017
International Conference on Nanotechnology
TAPPI
Hyatt Regency Montreal
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
www.tappi.org

JUNE 18-21, 2017
74th Annual Safety & Health Conference
Pulp and Paper Safety Association
Charleston Marriott
Charleston, South Carolina, USA
www.ppsa.org

July 9-12, 2017
OSP 2017
The Network
Orlando, Florida
www.osp2017.org

July 16-19, 2017
PPIA Annual Conference
PPIA
Boise, Idaho
www.ppia.org

July 30-31, 2017
IPIA Conference 2017
IPIA
Chicago, Illinois
www.ipia.org

August 1-3, 2017
PPC Fall Outlook and Strategies Conference
Paperboard Packaging Council
Charlotte Marriott City Center
Charlotte, North Carolina, USA
www.paperbox.org

August 7-9, 2017
2017 Tissue World North America
UBM
New York, New York
www.tissueworld.com

August 10-11, 2017
ASPI Fall Meeting
Association of Suppliers to the Paper Industry
The Westin Sarasota
Sarasota, Florida
www.aspinet.org

September 11-13, 2017
Paper 2017
AF&PA and NPTA
Chicago, Illinois
www.afandpa.org

September 13-15, 2017
OSP 2017
The Network
Orlando, Florida
www.osp2017.org

September 24-26, 2017
TAPPI 2017 Conference
TAPPI
Miami Beach, Florida
www.tappi.org

September 25-27, 2017
PPSA Annual Conference
Pulp & Paper Safety Association
Charleston Marriott
Charleston, South Carolina
www.ppsa.org

October 1-3, 2017
Graphene World Congress
Graphene Council
Charleston, South Carolina
www.grapheneworld.org

October 3-5, 2017
OSP 2017
The Network
Austin, Texas
www.osp2017.org

October 16-19, 2017
OSP 2018
The Network
Phoenix, Arizona
www.osp2018.org

November 19-21, 2017
OSP 2017
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Committed to Sustainability: The 2016 AF&PA Sustainability Award Winners

By Donna Harman, President and CEO, AF&PA

A F&PA’s 2016 Sustainability Awards recently honored five members for their commitment to sustainability. The annual awards program recognizes companies for projects that demonstrate AF&PA members’ continuing commitment to sustainability and achievement of our Better Practices, Better Planet 2020 goals.

AF&PA sustainability award applicants are considered in two primary categories. Projects that support the Better Practices, Better Planet 2020 sustainability goals qualify for recognition in the “Leadership in Sustainability” category. This year’s Leadership award winners distinguished themselves with projects that support the Better Practices, Better Planet 2020 goals related to paper recovery for recycling, energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction, safety and water. The “Innovation in Sustainability” award is reserved for projects that merit recognition for their contribution to sustainable business practices, not one of the goals specifically.

Dart Container Corporation was recognized with the Leadership in Sustainability Award for Paper Recovery for Recycling for the Dart Employee Recycling Center, a drive-through recycling facility that Dart opened at its Mason, Michigan headquarters. In an area of the country where regular curbside residential recycling services are uncommon and often require payment, Dart is leading by example to make paper recovery for recycling free, accessible and convenient for their employees and their families. In its first three months, the facility recycled nearly 93,000 pounds of paper products.

Sappi North America received the Leadership in Sustainability Award for Energy Efficiency and Greenhouse Gas Reduction for their Hood Heat Recovery Project at Somerset. Sappi’s Somerset Mill in Maine reduced its energy-associated footprint and costs through updates that enable the mill to capture wasted heat and use it to heat water for the manufacturing process. The modifications have resulted in lower operating costs, fossil fuel use, purchased electricity, waste and greenhouse gas emissions, showing that improvements to industry infrastructure can benefit the environment as well as the bottom line.

WestRock Company was awarded the Leadership in Sustainability Award for Safety for their Safety First, Safety Always video project. To achieve a higher rate of employee safety engagement, improve safety culture and morale, and reduce injuries and costs, WestRock produced the Safety First, Safety Always video as part of their 2015 safety strategy. The video includes three modules: Speak Up for Safety;
Plan for Safety; and Engaged for Safety. Together, they are a straightforward and effective tool that centers on creating actively engaged employees and a safer workplace.

Procter & Gamble (P&G) was recognized with the Leadership in Sustainability Award for Water for their Water Conservation Response project. P&G’s facility in Oxnard, California implemented five distinct projects that led the site to deliver a cumulative absolute fresh water consumption reduction of 28 percent between 2012 and 2015 and set new site and business records for low levels of water consumption, making P&G an important and responsible partner in addressing California’s urgent need for good stewardship of scarce water resources.

Georgia-Pacific LLC was awarded the Innovation in Sustainability Award for their Protecting Endangered Forests and Special Areas project. Georgia-Pacific used scientific methodology to map and rank woodlands within more than a dozen Southern states, designating 4.5 million acres as endangered forests and special areas, adding a new and innovative dimension to the industry’s efforts to promote and support sustainable forestry, which will help to ensure a healthy environment for future generations. The company will only buy fiber from these areas in unique situations where active forest management is needed to improve habitat for endangered, rare and/or vulnerable species.

AF&PA’s 2016 Sustainability Report showed that our members have made great progress on the Better Practices, Better Planet 2020 sustainability goals, including reaching the goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve safety ahead of schedule. Projects like the ones awarded help to improve the industry’s sustainability performance and are representative of our members’ commitment to their businesses, the communities where they work and the environment. We are proud to recognize their achievements and to share them with you, in the hope that they may inspire sustainability projects elsewhere.

For more information about AF&PA’s Sustainability Awards program and Better Practices, Better Planet 2020 initiative, visit: www.afandpa.org/sustainability.

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Pulp markets are currently in fairly good shape overall as rising demand in Asia, i.e. China, led to modest improvements in softwood prices in North America and China during the first half of 2016. Hardwood markets were more mixed as prices are under more pressure, but gains were also seen on hardwood as well. The recent gains offset the steady downward trend that had seen softwood prices in North America fall steadily last year. Similarly, prices in China had fallen steadily for softwood and hardwood last year before turning up modestly earlier this year.

The strong demand in China led to world market pulp shipments being stronger than expected with shipments up over 3% through June 2016 with the most surprising growth for softwood grades. Early in the year this growth was in part driven by some substitution as the price differential vs. hardwood had narrowed, but the gap has returned and this effect has diminished. Over the longer term, market pulp demand is rising about 1% annually globally and thus recent growth is much higher than that.

Overall world demand for market pulp continues to steadily expand, driven by several factors with a major driver being growth in tissue demand. Tissue grades are estimated to account for about half of market pulp demand in North America, about one third in Europe and one quarter in China. In contrast, demand from the largest historical use for market pulp — printing and writing

The strong demand in China led to world market pulp shipments being stronger than expected with shipments up over 3% through June 2016 with the most surprising growth for softwood grades
grades — continues to be poor as global demand for these grades is projected to drop about 1% to 1.5% annually due to losses in Europe and North America.

**CHINA DRIVING DEMAND**

As noted, the majority of the growth in pulp demand has been driven by Chinese consumption where deliveries jumped about 12% in the first five months of 2016. Chinese demand has been rising rapidly since about mid-2014 and grew by over 1.5 million tonnes last year alone. In contrast, pulp shipments fell last year to North America and Latin America and were flat to West Europe and Japan. China’s demand for softwood Kraft pulp has grown from about 6.5 million tonnes in 2013 to just over 7.5 million tons in 2016, while hardwood demand rose from about the same level in 2013 to the 8-million-ton level by last fall.

The factors driving demand for pulp in China are widespread. Large amounts are consumed in tissue (the fastest growing market), wood free papers (the largest use) and specialty papers. Paperboard and other uses are smaller segments. Growth has also been driven by a “substitution” effect due to the shutdown of significant capacity at small, old mills which often used straw or other fiber. In contrast, new mills are based on wood pulps.

World chemical market pulp demand posted a solid gain in 2015, rising in excess of 2.5% to an estimated level of 61 million tonnes, nearly double the rate of growth posted in 2014, according to estimates. Demand reached 19 million tons in China, about the same size as Europe, with the two markets now accounting for 60% of demand.

An improved level of demand in turn helped boost market pulp operating rates to the 94% range for softwood during the first half of 2016 and resulted in successive price increases on softwood grades in North America and some improvement in export prices as well. In contrast, growing capacity depressed the global hardwood operating rate to 87% in the January to May period leading to price erosion in some markets. However, there were spot improvements in hardwood prices too.

**FUTURE CAPACITY**

While markets improved in 2016, new capacity over the next couple of years is likely to have quite an impact. Capacity growth is widespread ranging from softwood capacity from new lines planned for Sweden and Russia to significant gains in hardwood capacity based on new pulp lines in South America and Asia. Estimates vary depending on exactly when new capacity hits the market, but about 1.7 million tonnes of softwood pulp, 1.2 million tonnes of fluff pulp and 6.4 million tonnes of hardwood pulp will be added over the 2016 to 2018 period. NBSK capacity is projected to rise about 700,000 tpy in 2017 and 1.1 million tonnes in 2018. Other softwood pulp capacity growth is projected to be modest, with about 650,000 tpy net increase in 2017 with little beyond that.

Capacity concerns are more profound in hardwood market pulp where large expansions are likely to contribute to significant excess capacity in the 2017 to 2019 period. This includes two 1.4 million tpy lines in Indonesia and Klabin (1.5 million tpy) in Brazil. However, it’s unclear just when the capacity in Indonesia will hit the market. It’s been assumed one line will be online this fall, but it’s unclear when the second line will start. In softwood, almost 3 million tons of capacity are expected over the next couple of years, which would be about double the expected growth in demand. Softwood/fluff pulp projects include IP (Riegelwood, 360,000 tpy), Domtar (Ashdown, 330,000 tpy) and Sodra (Varo mill).

**CONCLUSION**

Many analysts expect that the rapid growth in demand will slow somewhat in coming months and in fact some pullback has been seen from the strong levels of early 2016. With the rise in capacity, softwood prices are likely to weaken by year-end, falling off from the recent highs set during the 2nd and 3rd quarter of 2016. This is likely to continue during the first half 2017 before rising demand catches up and allows prices to recover somewhat later in the year.

The outlook is a little more negative for hardwood. Prices are similarly expected to dip into next year. However, rising capacity could limit the ability for prices to rebound and they could stay weak for some time. As noted, hardwood prices will to some extent depend on the timing of new capacity.

Harold Cody is a contributing writer for PaperAge. He can be reached by email at: HaroldCody@paperage.com.
The Delivery Economy: When Boxes Fly

Is an unmanned aerial vehicle going to deliver your next online purchase? E-commerce is changing the way Americans shop, and creating unique opportunities for containerboard mills and converters.

By Soile Kilpi and Keith Freudenberger
Pöyry Management Consulting North America

Innovation in the United States has often been driven by the idea of making life more convenient. The microwave has saved countless hours of cooking time and reinvented the way Americans eat. The dishwasher has saved Americans innumerable hours of cleaning dishes. The remote control has saved immeasurable trips from the couch to the television.

The Internet and e-commerce have made shopping from your home, your car and your office possible and extremely convenient. You can sit on your couch and order nearly anything imaginable, as you continue to use your remote and eat microwaved popcorn as your dishwasher hums in the background. Sit back and enjoy all this saved time and effort as you wait for your order to be delivered in a brown box on your door step.

Statistics show Americans are in love with the delivery economy. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, while total retail sales increased 2.3% in Q2 2016 versus the previous year, e-commerce sales went up nearly 16%. Furthermore, e-commerce’s share of total retail sales reached 8.1% in Q2 2016, compared to 6.6% in Q2 2015. As Americans increasingly shop from their tablets, phones and computers, implications for the containerboard market will continue to intensify.

LIGHTWEIGHT DELIVERS OPPORTUNITIES

Critical to this new economy is shipping costs, as every ounce and pound counts. For an online shoe retailer like Zappos that offers both free shipping and returns, surely they must be paying close attention to the cost of their corrugated boxes and how much it costs to ship each pair of shoes. If they can switch to corrugated boxes made from lighter liner and medium combinations without sacrificing structural integrity, the savings multiplier could be significant.

Imagine ordering a new pair of shoes or a pizza or groceries and having it delivered out of the sky by an unmanned aerial vehicle. Drone package delivery may not be here yet, but there are numerous companies such as Amazon, Google and UPS working on its development. Aviation authorities are still developing the rules for drone
delivery, and some say not to expect widespread usage until 2020. That number used to sound a lot more distant and futuristic. The future is fast approaching, and this future provides another opportunity for lightweight boxes. A package’s weight must factor into drone delivery efficiencies. If you are a mill or a converter that can provide the paper and board for that package, cutting precious ounces from the corrugated container, you could have a lot to gain from this once far-fetched reality.

Industry statistics hint at the emergence of lightweight containerboard in the delivery economy. Lightweight liner and medium, in this instance defined as 33 lb. and below and 26 lb. and below, respectively, have been chipping away at heavier grades’ shares, based on AF&PA statistics. At the same time, according to the Fibre Box Association (FBA), average corrugated sheet weight has continued to slightly inch downward. New lightweight containerboard capacity has been added in the last few years to meet the market demands for lighter weight packaging materials. Cascades’ Greenpac mill in Niagara Falls, New York; PCA’s DeRidder, Louisiana conversion and Pratt’s mill in Valparaiso, Indiana are focused on lightweight supply. Kruger’s ongoing conversion at Trois-Rivières and the recently postponed Corrugated Supplies’ Alsip Minimill project in the Midwest will also focus on lightweights. Could even more supply be needed to meet the demands of the delivery economy?

Statistics show Americans are in love with the delivery economy. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, while total retail sales increased 2.3% in Q2 2016 versus the previous year, e-commerce sales went up nearly 16%. (Pictured above is one of Amazon’s massive warehouses).

**MULTIPLE TRAILS LEAD TO NEW BUSINESS**

The delivery economy provides multiple business development paths for a corrugated manufacturer. New startups, for instance, are popping up constantly, offering subscription services for razors (e.g. Harry’s), healthy snacks (e.g. NatureBox) and vinyl records (e.g. Vinyl Me Please) to name a few. All of these companies need means to effectively ship their monthly offerings to their customers, and increase awareness of their brands. Packages need to stand out with unique designs, intricate die cuts and partitions, and colors and graphics that pop. The path to success with such start-ups may be lined with investments in value-added equipment.

In addition to start-ups, major retailers such as Walmart, BestBuy and Target are also aligning their business models with e-commerce. These giants are assessing their corrugated packaging, looking for innovation and cost savings. Walmart has developed a system to improve box utilization by more than 30%. After studying how goods were being shipped, it was determined fulfillment centers needed to increase their assortment of boxes. In this case, more is less as more box sizes equal more efficiency, which means less waste. Box makers able to serve the programs of such giant retailers will benefit.
Another way box suppliers can benefit through the growth of the delivery economy is by closely following the footprint of giant retailers. With every new distribution center that opens comes an opportunity to provide that location with corrugated. Amazon has built over 50 new facilities since 2010. The distribution networks of Walmart, Target and P&G are also growing. Following this “yellow brick road” of distribution networks will lead converters to corrugated box business.

Pizza delivery has been around for decades, but ordering pizza online is relatively new. You can even text your order to Domino’s using emojis! In the delivery economy, even the pizza box is being reexamined. Pizza Hut, which by one estimate goes through 675,000 boxes per day, made a rather simple design change to their boxes. By reducing the front edge of their box they were able to save more than 9,000 tons or 46 million square feet of corrugated board. If you’re competing for a major pizza chain’s business, maybe it’s time to get creative to save your customer some costs in order to win the account.

Mega trends support the idea that the delivery economy is here to stay. The convenience of the delivery economy is supported by increasing urbanization and households where both parents work fulltime jobs and do not have time for trips to the store. The convenience of the delivery economy is supported by increasing urbanization and households where both parents work fulltime jobs and do not have time for trips to the store.

**TIME TO PERFECT FOOTPRINT**
Not only goods are moving in the corrugated box sector. M&A activity has been rampant, with over 30 major acquisitions of box and sheet plants by integrated mills since 2014. More and more independent players are getting snatched up, becoming part of integrated systems.

In parallel to the industry consolidation trend has been the box converting plant rationalization trend. Since 2015 over 40 corrugated converting plants have been closed. Leading the trend have been the largest integrated corrugated manufacturers — International Paper and WestRock.

Acquisitions of new box plants have enabled companies to close high cost operations and align their market footprint with where the market is. Mid-West and West Coast regions especially have seen a positive trend in box plant investments, drawn by their high concentrations of consumer goods manufacturing and agriculture, respectively.

**HERE TO STAY**
Mega trends support the idea that the delivery economy is here to stay. The convenience of the delivery economy is supported by increasing urbanization and households where both parents work fulltime jobs and do not have time for trips to the store. Efforts for more sustainable solutions, whether done to reduce costs through lighter and less packaging, or for environmental stewardship, are not going away. America’s population may be aging, but older generations are also getting tech savvy and embracing e-commerce. Millennials have practically lived their whole adult lives with e-commerce and have formed shopping habits around its existence.

Opportunities are out there in the delivery economy, whether you are a mill or a converter. The key to success is to deliver on customer needs. Some fundamentals never change – even when boxes fly.

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Global Status of Uncoated Woodfree Printing Paper

As UWF demand slows and then contracts, producers will have to compete harder to survive, and many of the choices those survivors have to make will rely on innovation — even in a market where demand is declining.

By Hans Larsson, Senior Consultant, Fisher International

Following a decade of steady positive growth, the production of uncoated woodfree printing paper (UWF) globally has leveled out to roughly 45 million metric tons per year. Growth to date, as Figure 1 illustrates, can be attributed to China. However, our models of UWF demand suggest that total global demand will flatten and then decline. Ultimately, some producers will be forced from the market. The survivors will have one or more competitive advantages. This article looks at what those advantages might be.

**PAPER MACHINERY**

An interesting question is how up-to-date and modern paper machines producing UWF are. One measure is their “Technical Age” which is calculated by Fisher International by weighting the ages of the different equipment in the paper machine. In Figure 2, it is obvious that the Asia Pacific machines are the newest compared with the other regions and North America, on average, have the world’s oldest machines producing UWF.

Technical Age is an important measure of survivability because it indicates how efficiently an asset should be able to operate or, conversely, how much money would have to be spent to bring it to the most modern standards. The older the Technical Age of an asset, the less likely it is
to have modern technology necessary to operate efficiently. At some point a machine can get old enough that investing in a rebuild is less attractive than closing it.

The relative competitiveness of regions is supported also by Figure 3 which shows how many new UWF machines were installed over the last four decades.

And when we look at the number of machines above 1200 mpm (Figure 4), it is clear that the Asia Pacific machines are the fastest. So far, we’ll conclude that many newer Asian machines should have a survivability “leg up.”

**ASIA PACIFIC – A FRAGMENTED MARKET**

Given the monumental rate of growth in China, perhaps it’s not surprising that the UWF market in Asia Pacific is highly fragmented while North America is the most consolidated among the major global regions. Figure 5 shows UWF producers’ market shares by region and how much of the market is in the hands of the top five players within each region. Consolidation is important because it tends to make the remaining producers more efficient and, therefore, more likely to survive longer.

M&A tends to accelerate in markets with slower growth. Once the rate of growth slows in Asia Pacific, we might see an increase in the amount of M&A activity.

**PRODUCTS**

A great deal of UWF production is of a commodity-like nature. Some 75% of UWF global production is divided between offset grades and copy paper (Figure 6).

However, recent developments in printing indicate strong growth in fast and wide ink jet printing (HSI or High Speed Inkjet) where Variable Data Printing is of great interest. The aim is to customize each printing job where the printer combines the end-user’s personal data with the general text and images. In Figure 7 we can see the fast development of digital printing compared with offset printing.

Some experts believe the volume of HSI will exceed that of offset within ten years. This change in printing focus will have a great impact on the
uncoated woodfree printing paper

COSTS

When we look at the cost curve for the four regions, it is clear that there is a big difference in cost between mills that are integrated with pulp and those that are not. In the Figure 8, green indicates that the mill is buying raw fiber (logs or chips) whereas red indicates the mill is buying market pulp. In general, integrated mills have more efficient production whereas non-integrated mills have greater flexibility. Our surviving mills of the future will have to choose between these two sets of advantages.

With all the non-integrated mills clustered on the right side of the cost curve, there is no doubt that it is hard to compete with integrated mills for the large-volume grades such as copy and offset paper. Non-integrated mills will have to pursue smaller niche grades with higher prices to stay competitive. Digital printing paper grades are products suitable for these types of mills.

FURNISH DEVELOPMENT

Figure 9 shows the average UWF furnish worldwide, segmented by region, together with trends over the past ten years. It illustrates some interesting differences. In Latin America bleached hardwood kraft pulp (BHKP) is used in higher percentages, as one might expect given how much low-cost BHKP the region makes. In Asia Pacific and Latin America, Bleached NonWood fibers are also used (e.g., bamboo, straw, and cotton linters).

The direction taken by local fiber costs versus that of market pulp will be another determinant of which UWF producers survive in the future. To some extent, this factor is out of their control. However, there are new filler technologies that producers can use to reduce the impact of fiber costs. Filler content is steadily increasing but there is quite a big difference in the levels between regions. Europe and North America have significantly higher filler levels.

In the last 7-8 years, new chemical systems have been developed with the aim of increasing filler content by 5-10%. Examples are Optifill™ from Solenis, FillerTEK from Nalco, EcoFill™ from Kemira, XELOREX™ from BASF, and Fulfill™ from Specialty Minerals. Asia Pacific companies could most probably benefit from these types of systems without the need to increase BSKP content, thereby cutting costs.
An interesting development is the new pigment grades for HSI grades as mentioned above. Omya has developed the Omyajet®-serie of pigments for inkjet surface treatments and Kemira is launching the Kemprint program with a special pigment.

There are also new technologies developed for NonWood fibers. One example is formicofib™ from the Finnish company Chempolis, which is said to be more sustainable than the old technologies. This might also be a means to cutting costs.

**CONCLUSION**

As UWF demand slows and then contracts, producers will have to compete harder to survive. Each will have to make choices on where to invest scarce resources — in cost reduction, M&A, new grade development, fiber sourcing, recipe development, and possibly other subjects not discussed here. One lesson to take from this is that many of the choices survivors have to make rely on innovation, even in a market where demand is declining.

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I certify that all information furnished is true and complete.
John F. O’Brien, Jr., Managing Editor
American Eagle Paper Mills in late-September invited over 100 guests, including local politicians and business leaders, to an event that showcased the Tyrone, Pennsylvania mill’s new natural gas boiler. The ceremony also featured a “blast from the past.”

The $8-million energy project involved the replacement of a 1957 coal-fired boiler with a new Babcock and Wilcox natural gas boiler as well as an equipment upgrade to the mill’s power distribution infrastructure.

In lieu of a traditional ribbon-cutting, the official inauguration featured a re-blowing of the mill’s whistle, which had been silent since the boiler project got underway. During the ceremony, Mike Grimm, American Eagle Paper’s President and CEO, spoke to attendees about the mill’s history, its evolution, and the people in the community.

“Hundreds of pictures, thousands of faces, tens of thousands of people and families that have been connected to the mill over the past 136 years. It is humbling to know that I am merely one in a very long line of people that have walked through the doors,” Grimm said. “The interesting part is this was engineered and built up mostly by our own employees.”

The 90,000 tons per year paper mill in central Pennsylvania produces uncoated freesheet grades for office/copy, offset, envelope, and reply card papers. The mill operates two paper machines, PM 3 and PM 4, which primarily utilize recovered paper for their feedstock.

As a result of the new boiler coming on stream, American Eagle Paper gains substantial operating efficiencies while significantly reducing its environmental impact.

• Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 70% (124,345 tons per year)
• Elimination of the consumption of 70,000 tons per year of coal
• Elimination of landfilling 10,000 tons per year of coal ash
• Reduction in water use by 82% per year (11.5 million/day)

The newly installed boiler started up in mid-July of this year and is at the heart of American Eagle Paper’s overall $15 million investment strategy that began over three years ago. Beyond the natural gas boiler, the company opened a new 50,000-square-foot warehouse with new inbound and outbound truck and rail facilities, and started up a second cutsize sheeter.

In bringing the inauguration ceremony to a close, Grimm told the crowd, “The one daily constant that I can remember from my childhood growing up here in Tyrone was the paper mill whistle. This whistle directed not only the days for the employees of the mill, but it directed most of the residents of the town . . . So today we are very proud to restart the whistle to continue the long standing presence here in Tyrone.”

Sitting atop a table in the new warehouse was a big red button that was wired to the mill’s renowned whistle. Several of the original investors who helped restart the mill in 2003 gathered together around the table and simultaneously pressed the button, launching a blast from the whistle and signifying the beginning of new era for American Eagle Paper Mills.
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