GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

UPM nears start-up of its 2.1 million tpy greenfield eucalyptus pulp mill in central Uruguay

Nippon Dynawave Packaging benefits from new pulp drying and baling line and metal belt calender
Motion is a leader in delivering the services and supplies that keep essential industries up and running.
FEATURES

22 Growth Opportunity
UPM is nearing the start-up of its 2.1 million tonne per year greenfield eucalyptus pulp mill near Paso de los Toros in central Uruguay. The mill is scheduled to start production by the end of March 2023. Besides the mill, the total investment of USD 3 billion also includes a pulp terminal in the port of Montevideo as well as investments in local facilities in Paso de los Toros.

26 Adapting to Changing Needs of the Market
Nippon Dynawave Packaging partners with Valmet on pulp drying equipment and metal belt calender technology.

COLUMNS

20 Advocating for a Strong Paper and Packaging Industry
The paper and wood products industry is filled with unique perspectives from people who help achieve our sustainability goals and share our success stories through their advocacy.

DEPARTMENTS

4 Editor’s Note
6 Industry News
18 People
19 Calendar

OF INTEREST

28 Stora Enso and Northvolt have entered into a Joint Development Agreement to create sustainable batteries using lignin-based hard carbon produced with renewable wood from the Nordic forests.

30 Recycling Matters
New data has revealed that the generational gap in recycling has gone global — with older people more than any other generation holding themselves accountable for responsibly recycling of boxes. While Gen Z members often are considered to be the most environmentally conscious, they have the least confidence among all age groups in knowing how to recycle.

SERVICES

29 Classified Ads
29 Index of Advertisers
Impressive Resources

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

In May of 2021, Paper Excellence announced that it intended to buy Domtar Corporation for about $3 billion, which is exactly what it did, and the transaction closed at the end of November 2021.

When the deal closed, Paper Excellence said, “Domtar will operate as a stand-alone business entity within the Paper Excellence Group, with Domtar’s current CEO and management team remaining in place. There are no further changes to operating locations, business plans, or Domtar’s employee base at this time.”

Domtar is the largest integrated manufacturer of uncoated freesheet (UFS) in North America and its product portfolio also includes fluff and specialty pulp and airlaid nonwovens. In addition, the company is nearing completion of converting a UFS machine at its Kingsport mill in Tennessee to the production of containerboard. The rebuilt machine will have the capacity to produce about 600,000 tons of high-quality 100 percent recycled linerboard and corrugated medium annually.

By the numbers, Domtar has approximately 2.4 million tons of UFS capacity and 3.4 metric tons of softwood, fluff and hardwood pulp capacity.

Following the Domtar acquisition, Paper Excellence on July 6 announced that its new wholly-owned subsidiary Domtar Corporation and Resolute Forest Products Inc. entered into an agreement under which Domtar will acquire all of the outstanding common shares of Resolute stock. The cash consideration represents an enterprise value of approximately $2.7 billion.

Paper Excellence said, “Resolute will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Domtar, under the auspices of the Group, and continue to operate on a business-as-usual basis under the Resolute name. The Resolute management team will remain in place at the company’s headquarters. Considering the quality workforce available with Resolute and Domtar, Montreal will become an important hub for the Group’s North American businesses.

Furthermore, the Group plans to retain Resolute’s production locations and levels of jobs.”

Remi Lalonde, Resolute’s President and CEO, said, “With this transaction, Resolute will accelerate its growth as it gains access to more tools, capital and opportunities to pursue our ambitions with the combined resources of the Paper Excellence Group.”

Paper Excellence noted that the Group intends to support Resolute management’s existing growth strategy, focused on strategic investments in its lumber and pulp businesses, and maximizing the value of its paper and tissue businesses. It also plans to undertake a detailed feasibility study for the eventual conversion of Resolute’s Gatineau, Quebec, newsprint mill to the production of packaging paper.

So, who is Paper Excellence?

According to its website, Paper Excellence is headquartered in British Columbia and a diversified manufacturer of pulp and specialty, printing, writing, and packaging papers. The company operates seven mills and a large-scale cargo distribution center in Canada producing and shipping over 2.8 million tonnes annually with a workforce of more than 2,400.

However, that’s not “The Group.” The Paper Excellence Group is a private equity holding company that oversees individual pulp and paper business units. Its operations include the manufacturing of pulp and specialty, printing and writing, and packaging papers, producing over 7 million tons annually with a workforce of over 10,000 in its nearly 40 locations across the Americas and Europe.

And that summary is without Resolute added to the mix — a deal the Paper Excellence Group expects to close in the first half of 2023. To say the Paper Excellence Group has impressive resources is a gross understatement. What it may pursue with those resources in the future is the billion dollar question.
Do you value technology, innovation, teamwork, sustainability, continuous learning, and development? If so, there is a world of opportunity for you at Valmet! Our team members are inspired by taking on new challenges and making a difference. We are dedicated to the well-being of our employees, and we believe your talent can help move our company forward!

Build your career based upon values you believe in by putting your skills to work at Valmet.

Hear what employees have to say about their careers at valmet.com/careersna #NextStepForwardWithValmet
NORTH AMERICA

Paper Excellence Enters Agreement to Acquire Resolute Forest Products

The Paper Excellence Group, through its wholly-owned subsidiary Domtar Corporation, and Resolute Forest Products, have entered into an agreement under which Domtar will acquire all of the outstanding common shares of Resolute stock.

The cash portion of the merger consideration represents a premium of approximately 64% to Resolute’s closing share price on NYSE on July 5, 2022. The cash consideration represents an enterprise value of approximately $2.7 billion, including pension liabilities and excluding the Contingent Value Right (CVR) on softwood lumber duty deposit refunds.

Patrick Loulou, vice chair and chief strategy officer of the Paper Excellence Group, commented, “We are excited to welcome Resolute and its employees to the Paper Excellence family. Resolute is an ideal fit for our long-term growth strategy. It complements our existing pulp, paper and packaging businesses and adds capabilities in lumber and tissue.”

Resolute will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Domtar, under the umbrella of Paper Excellence Group, and continue to operate on a “business as usual” basis under the Resolute name. The Resolute management team will remain in place at the company’s headquarters. Considering the quality workforce available with Resolute and Domtar, Montreal will become an important hub for the Group’s North American businesses. Furthermore, the Group plans to retain Resolute’s production locations and levels of jobs.

“With this transaction, Resolute will accelerate its growth as it gains access to more tools, capital and opportunities to pursue our ambitions with the combined resources of the Paper Excellence Group,” stated Remi G. Lalonde, President and CEO of Resolute. “This is good for employees and the communities where Resolute operates because we will continue to grow in a manner consistent with our core values of accountability, caring and trust that we hold dear.”

Paper Excellence said it intends to support Resolute management’s existing growth strategy, focused on strategic investments in its lumber and pulp businesses, and maximizing the value of its paper and tissue businesses. It also plans to undertake a detailed feasibility study for the eventual conversion of Resolute’s Gatineau, Quebec, newsprint mill to the production of packaging paper.

Furthermore, Paper Excellence intends to form long-term partnerships with one or more universities in Quebec and Ontario to spearhead innovation in the field of fiber-based biomaterials.

The transaction is expected to close as soon as possible following stockholder and regulatory approvals, and satisfaction of other customary closing conditions, which is currently expected in the first half of 2023.

Ahlstrom-Munksjö to Invest EUR 15 Million in Boiler Conversions at Mosinee and Rhinelander Mills

Ahlstrom-Munksjö is investing in new technology and converting its existing boilers at its Mosinee and Rhinelander mills in Wisconsin to reduce carbon emissions and landfill waste.

These investments at the Mosinee mill will enable a reduction in its carbon footprint by an estimated 20%, and a reduction of landfill waste by more than 10%. The project is estimated to be completed at the end of the second quarter in 2023.

In addition, the Rhinelander mill is expected to reduce CO2 emissions by an estimated 14% and landfill waste by more than 50%. A new energy center and associated buildings at Rhinelander will consolidate and simplify energy operations, enabling the plant to house a future boiler and a heat recovery steam generator. The project will commence immediately and is estimated to be completed in the third quarter of 2023.

“These investments will enable us to reduce carbon emissions and enhance our operational efficiency,” said Thomaz Gruber, Vice President of Operations for the Wisconsin mills. “We take our responsibility to protect our natural resources seriously and we have demonstrated this through our sustainable forestry practices as well as the contributions our plants have made to Wisconsin communities for more than 130 years.”
Wolseley Industrial Group is now FERGUSON INDUSTRIAL

SAME PEOPLE  
SAME PRODUCTS  
SAME PROCESSES  
SAME COMMITMENT  
SAME QUALITY  
SAME VALUES  
SAME SERVICE  
SAME CORE COMPANY  
SAME LOCATIONS  
SAME EXPERTISE  
SAME SAFETY  
SAME US

FERGUSONINDUSTRIAL.COM/REBRAND
©2022 Ferguson Enterprises, LLC 0322 3924535
Total Fiber Recovery Partners with Cellmark to Build Recycled Pulp Facility in Virginia

Total Fiber Recovery of Chesapeake (TFRC) said that it has started construction of its $80 million recycled pulp production facility in Chesapeake, Virginia. This will be the first of several such pulp facilities by Total Fiber Recovery. The Virginia Small Business Financing Authority authorized the issuance of $65 million of Green Bonds for the facility that were sold to Alliance Bernstein.

TFRC is a joint venture between Oregon-based Total Fiber Recovery and CellMark Inc. The project will be supplied by CellMark’s Recycled Fiber Division and all pulp produced will be marketed by CellMark’s Pulp Division. Bulk Handling Systems, an affiliate of Total Fiber Recovery, is furnishing the equipment for the facility.

TFRC will begin operations in Q4 2023 and annually process up to 300,000 tons of mixed paper and Old Corrugated Containers (OCC) from the region’s materials recovery facilities (MRFs).

“The paper industry demands recycled pulp to make new products, and North America is home to some of the world’s most advanced MRFs that produce high-quality recycled fiber,” said Steve Miller, CEO of Total Fiber Recovery. “We are grateful for the support of Governor Youngkin, the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, the Port of Virginia, Mayor West, and the Chesapeake City Council.”

The Virginia Economic Development Partnership worked with the City of Chesapeake’s Economic Development Department and the Port of Virginia to secure the project for Virginia.

WestRock to Acquire Remaining Interest in Grupo Gondi for $970 Million

WestRock in late-July entered into an agreement to acquire the remaining interest in Grupo Gondi for $970 million, plus the assumption of debt, representing an estimated implied enterprise value of $1.763 billion.

WestRock currently owns 32.3% of Grupo Gondi, and this transaction will secure the remaining 67.7%.

Grupo Gondi operates four paper mills, nine corrugated packaging plants and six high graphic plants throughout Mexico, producing sustainable packaging for a wide range of end markets in the region.

The tuck-in acquisition will provide WestRock further geographic and end market diversification as well as position the company to continue to grow in the attractive Latin American market.

“Acquiring the remaining interest in Grupo Gondi is the next strategic step in our broader North American paper and packaging expansion strategy,” said David B. Sewell, CEO of WestRock. “As onshoring continues to grow in the region, WestRock will be well positioned to meet this growing demand with fully integrated operations in Mexico. We will also have expanded capabilities to serve customers across many geographies, driving additional productivity and cost savings.”

Alejandro González Cimadevilla, President and Chairman of Grupo Gondi, commented, “WestRock and Grupo Gondi have been great joint venture partners over the past six years, working together to provide outstanding service and innovation for our customers. Becoming part of WestRock, with its scale, geographic footprint, and customer-focused solutions, will further enhance our ability to provide complete packaging solutions for our customers.”

The acquisition, which is subject to a number of customary closing conditions, including approval by regulatory authorities in Mexico, is expected to close by the end of the calendar year 2022, after which WestRock would consolidate Grupo Gondi into its financial statements.

WestRock has the ability to fund the purchase with existing liquidity.
Our team provides "personalized attention" with expert technical consultancy to find the best solution for your application.

Dienes systems are the fastest and most accurate recipe setups in the industry.
The Cedar Hill City Council recently approved an agreement with Pratt Industries, Inc. (through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Pratt Corrugated Holdings, Inc.) to locate a Regional Manufacturing & Innovation Center at High Point 67 in Cedar Hill, Texas. The Pratt facility will manufacture corrugated boxes and custom packaging solutions and employ 150 full-time workers.

“We’re very honored to be in Cedar Hill and we’re committed to the great state of Texas — in fact this is our 5th box factory here,” said Anthony Pratt, executive chairman of Pratt Industries. “We have long prided ourselves on the fact that we employ 11,000 Americans in well-paying, green-collar manufacturing jobs and we have now invested in America to the value of $10 billion. Cedar Hill will be our 71st factory in the USA.”

Mike Tansey, President of Pratt’s Southwest Converting Division, said, “We are excited to partner with the city of Cedar Hill and its officials to open this state-of-the-art facility and bring new, green collar jobs to the area.”

Additionally, Pratt plans to sponsor a training and development program in collaboration with the city and school district.

“Pratt believes in investing in our employees and the communities where we live, work and serve,” Tansey said. “We have a strong history of providing continuous education, apprenticeships and on-the-job training opportunities for our employees.”

---

It’s Time to Implement a Reliability Inspection System

Your equipment should be working for you rather than against you.

With T5 Group’s mobile reliability inspection systems, your team can automate the inspection progress for lube, safety, and OBC. Our data drawn automation brings all equipment data to one screen, so you can adapt maintenance strategies and assess equipment condition in real-time.

Experience T5 Group at work at t5groupllc.com.

www.t5groupllc.com
info@t5groupllc.com
(800) 883-1063
Matt Terrell (Sales Director) ext 715
Ward Lammerts (Sales Manager) ext 716
Stabilize your recycled packaging process. And do it with less effort.

Manufacturing recycled packaging is harder than ever. You’ve got pressure to use less water. Rising contamination in OCC. Greater reliance on anaerobic digestors to treat effluent. Adding more chemicals to combat these issues leads to more process variability. That’s a lot to handle.

Ackumen™ MCA-i™ – a digital/chemical solution powered by artificial intelligence with automated insights – manages changing process conditions for you.

Ackumen MCA-i combines state-of-the-art sensing technology and cloud-based analytics with best-in-class MCA chemistry. So you can monitor your process in real time. Detect patterns. Anticipate changes. And dose precisely the amount you need, when and where you need it. Result? You’ll stabilize your overall papermaking process and improve the quality of your recycled packaging. All from your desktop or mobile.

To learn more, contact your Buckman representative today. Or scan the QR code to visit buckman.com.
Georgia-Pacific to Invest $34 Million to Modernize Corrugated Plant in Pennsylvania

Georgia-Pacific said that its corrugated plant in Bradford, Pennsylvania, will undergo a significant upgrade with an investment topping $34 million. The funding will provide new equipment to modernize the plant’s operations.

The upgrades include a new corrugator, two new converting lines, and upgrades to the shipping department, which will help the plant operate more efficiently. Newer converting equipment will improve the plant’s throughput and print capability to better meet customer needs.

"This has been a work in progress for many years. We wanted to be responsive to customer needs and provide the best long-term solution for Georgia-Pacific to allow us to grow as a preferred partner with our customers," said Earl Wright, area general manager. "The equipment we selected will meet the needs of our customers across Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio, western/central New York, and eastern New Jersey for many years to come."

"We have a great team here and Georgia-Pacific’s Bradford plant is a solid performer," said Joe Roulo Jr., director of operations. "Our employees have tremendous pride in the quality packaging they make for our customers and are excited for the opportunity to operate new state-of-the-art machines that will improve service and delivery for our customers."

The plant team will begin preparing the facility for installation in the coming months, with the first equipment expected to be installed in the first quarter of 2023. It will take approximately 12 to 14 months to complete the upgrades.

The Bradford plant has been in operation for 87 years, employs approximately 125 people and has been operated by Georgia-Pacific since 1990.

Sonoco Expanding Residential Recycling of Paper Cups to its Mill in Hartsville

Sonoco is expanding post-consumer recovery and recycling opportunities for paper cups in bales of mixed paper to be used as raw material at its Hartsville, South Carolina, paperboard mill to produce new paperboard.

All of Sonoco’s United States paper mills have previously validated that they can accept rigid paper cans in bales of mixed paper coming from residential Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs). This new announcement extends acceptance to paper cups at the Hartsville mill. Additional testing is underway with the aim of expanding cup recycling to all Sonoco mills that utilize residential mixed paper.

"After validating that our mills could recycle EnviroCan paper containers in residential mixed paper, we decided to further demonstrate the ability to recycle other similar polycoated fiber-based containers through the post-consumer mixed paper stream," explained Elizabeth Rhue, Vice President of Global Environmental, Sustainability, and Centralized Technology at Sonoco.

Cascades Revises Investment Total of Bear Island Machine Conversion Project

Cascades in its second quarter 2022 earnings report said that its strategic investment in a paper machine conversion project at its Bear Island paper mill in Ashland, Virginia, is progressing well despite the current environment of important cost inflation and delays in the completion of certain construction milestones due to labor and material availability.

The project involves converting an idled newsprint machine (PM 1) at the mill to produce containerboard for the North American market. Upon completion of the machine conversion, PM 1 will produce recycled linerboard and medium grades with a basis weight range of 88-176 g/m2 and have an annual capacity of 465,000 short tons.

Cascades revised its initial total investment of $475 million (US$380 million) upward in the first quarter of 2022 to a range of $530 - $565 million (US$425 - US$450 million) following continued inflationary pressure on costs.

"The persistence of these factors and short-term construction interruptions caused by delivery delays of construction materials, have further impacted the total cost of the project, which is now forecast to total $595 - $615 million (US$470 - US$485 million)," Cascades said.

The announced start-up date of the facility is December 14, 2022. However, the timing of some critical construction milestones may be at risk due to labor, supply chain and material availability which may in turn delay the start-up of paper production to the first quarter of 2023, Cascades added.

Cascades said it is working closely with contractors to mitigate the potential delay caused by these elements in order to meet the targeted mid-December 2022 start date.
GP Cellulose is investing about $80 million to add fluff capacity at its GP Cellulose Alabama River mill near Monroeville, Alabama. The project is being implemented in phases and will increase the mill's ability to produce fluff pulp.

The Alabama River mill operates two lines, one currently producing only paper pulp bales. This investment upgrades production by adding the ability for this line to also produce fluff pulp rolls. The mill's second line was upgraded to produce both paper pulp bales and fluff pulp rolls in 2011.

“This investment will enable GP Cellulose to address the increasing fluff pulp needs of our customers worldwide,” said Munir Abdallah, President – GP Cellulose. “The completion of this project will add capability and flexibility to our system to meet a wider range of needs and position us to grow with our customers.”

Major aspects of the project are complete, including investments in the headbox and forming table. The final phase is underway now and includes infrastructure as well as winding and wrapping components.

Completion of the project is expected in late 2023.
industry news

SOUTH AMERICA

Arauco to Invest $3 Billion in Construction of New Pulp Mill in Brazil

Arauco in June signed a US$3 billion investment collaboration agreement with the government of Mato Grosso Do Sul in Brazil for the construction of a new pulp mill.

Arauco has named the initiative “Project Sucuriú.”

The new mill would have a production capacity of 2.5 million tons of hardwood pulp and would be located 50 km from the municipality of Inocência.

Matías Domeyko, CEO of Arauco, commented, “Brazil is an important pole for the company’s global strategy — a country where we have a presence since 2002 and where we are evaluating increasing our investments by entering the pulp business.”

Arauco emphasized that the project is subject to a number of variables that are being studied. Among them: market conditions, the environmental impact permit, the timber offer assessment, and the approval of the Board of Directors.

If conditions allow for it, the construction stage of this new plant could begin in 2025, the company said.

Arauco noted that the area of Inocência offers several benefits from a logistics point of view — there is a high-quality forest mass near the plant and the area facilitates pulp exports to other regions.

Suzano to Build New Tissue Mill with Converting Operations in Brazil

Suzano announced plans to build a tissue mill with converting operations in the municipality of Aracruz, state of Espírito Santo, Brazil. The new plant would have the capacity to produce 60,000 tons per year of tissue, which would then be converted into tissue and towel products.

Suzano estimates investment in the project of around R$ 600 million and an implementation period of approximately two years from the time of its approval.

The project is subject to approval by the company’s internal governance bodies, including the Board of Directors, as well as the closing of contracts with suppliers.

Suzano plans to fund the investment using its balance of ICMS tax credits in the state, which will depend on the presentation of a specific project and authorization by the applicable authorities.

The construction of the new tissue mill is in line with Suzano’s strategy to advance in the links of the value chain, always with a competitive advantage, such as in the country’s growing market for sanitary paper products.

EUROPE

Feldmuehle to Switch from Natural Gas to Heating Oil for Steam Generation

German specialty paper producer Feldmuehle announced that it will be switching fuel for steam generation from natural gas to light heating oil during the fourth quarter of 2022.

Feldmuehle said the switch will ensure the continued operation and competitiveness of the mill in the event of a worsening natural gas shortage and associated sharp rising prices.

The necessary investments of 2.6 million euros will be financed by an extraordinary shareholder contribution.

Feldmuehle and all the authorities that will be involved, as well as suppliers, are working closely together to implement the project in a short timeframe and in compliance with all applicable limit values.

In the medium to long term, Feldmuehle said it will continue to pursue future plans to make the mill CO2-neutral, including the use of wind energy, solar energy and geothermal energy playing key roles.

Feldmuehle operates a paper mill in Uetersen, Germany, with an annual production capacity of approximately 75,000 tons of high-quality label paper and flexible packaging papers.
**EUROPE**

**Stora Enso and Tetra Pak Study Solution for Beverage Carton Recycling**

Stora Enso and Tetra Pak are jointly examining a shared beverage carton recycling solution to meet the growing recycling need in Benelux. The joint feasibility study includes a plan for a comprehensive beverage carton recycling facility at Stora Enso’s Langerbrugge site in Belgium. Processing of the fibers would take place at the Langerbrugge site, while the polymer and aluminum barrier materials would be recycled by a dedicated partner.

According to Stora Enso, approximately 75,000 tonnes of beverage cartons are put on the Benelux market annually, a growing volume of which more than 70% is already collected for recycling. Currently, there is no existing beverage carton recycling infrastructure in Benelux. This collaboration between Stora Enso and Tetra Pak would create a complete recycling system for beverage cartons in Benelux and surrounding regions.

Within the solution, Stora Enso would process collected beverage cartons and recover the fibers. The recycled fibers would serve as source material for producing recycled containerboard within the Langerbrugge site. Tetra Pak would secure a recycling solution for polymer and aluminum materials to be processed by a dedicated partner.

The recycling project is linked to Stora Enso’s recently announced feasibility study to potentially convert one of the Langerbrugge site’s paper lines into a high-volume recycled containerboard line. This feasibility study is expected to conclude in the first half of 2023. Upon a decision to invest, the recycled containerboard line is expected to be in production during 2025. The joint study with Tetra Pak will follow the same timeline.

The proposed recycling line in Langerbrugge will initially process an estimated 50,000 tonnes of recycled cartons per year with the potential to increase.
Mondi plc (“Mondi” or the “Group”) has entered into an agreement to sell its most significant facility in Russia, Joint Stock Company Mondi Syktyvkar, together with two affiliated entities to Augment Investments Limited for a consideration of RUB 95 billion (around EUR 1.5 billion at the exchange rate in August), payable in cash on completion.

The sale is conditional on the approval of the Russian Federation’s Government Sub Commission for the Control of Foreign Investments and customary antitrust approvals, and subject to the approval of Mondi’s shareholders at a General Meeting.

The Syktyvkar assets to be transferred to Augment Investments exclude a cash balance of RUB 16 billion (around EUR 255 million). The cash balance is planned to be distributed by form of dividend to Mondi before completion.

The proposed sale follows Mondi’s announcement in May that, having assessed all options for the Group’s interests in Russia, it had decided to divest its Russian assets.

Accordingly, Mondi launched a competitive auction process to find a suitable new owner for Syktyvkar.

Syktyvkar is a wholly owned integrated pulp, packaging paper and uncoated fine paper mill located in Syktyvkar (Komi Republic). The Business employs approximately 4,500 people and it is a leading provider of uncoated fine paper and containerboard to the domestic Russian market.

For the year ended 31 December 2021, Syktyvkar reported revenues of EUR 821 million, EBITDA of EUR 334 million and profit before tax of EUR 271 million.

Mondi operates three converting plants in Russia, which are much smaller in size, not affiliated with Syktyvkar and not part of the sale.

An update will be provided on the divestment of these plants in due course, Mondi said.

Augment is an investment vehicle majority owned by Viktor Kharitonin, comprising assets in the pharmaceutical and other sectors across Russia, Europe and the United Kingdom.

Mondi expects to complete the sale in the second half of 2022. However, the divestment process for these significant assets is operationally and structurally complex and is being undertaken in an evolving political and regulatory environment. Therefore, there can be no certainty as to when the proposed transaction will be completed.

EUROPE

Mondi to Acquire Burgo’s Duino Paper Mill in Italy for EUR 40 Million

Mondi has agreed to acquire the Duino mill near Trieste (Italy) from the Burgo Group for a total consideration of EUR 40 million. The mill currently operates one paper machine producing lightweight coated mechanical paper. Mondi plans to convert this paper machine to produce around 420,000 tonnes per year of high-quality recycled containerboard for an estimated investment of around EUR 200 million.

Close to two important export harbors, Duino is ideally located to supply the Mondi Group’s Corrugated Solutions plants in Central Europe and Turkey as well as to serve the growing local Italian market.

According to Mondi, the containerboard machine will strengthen backward integration in the company’s Corrugated Packaging segment and provide security of supply to better serve customers.

“We are excited by this opportunity to invest in the growth of our packaging business, build on our integrated platform and broaden our geographic reach,” said Andrew King, Group CEO of Mondi.

The acquisition is subject to competition clearance and other closing conditions and completion is expected in the second half of the year.

RUSSIA

Mondi to Sell Syktyvkar Pulp and Paper Mill in Russia for EUR 1.5 Billion

Mondi plc (“Mondi” or the “Group”) has entered into an agreement to sell its most significant facility in Russia, Joint Stock Company Mondi Syktyvkar, together with two affiliated entities to Augment Investments Limited for a consideration of RUB 95 billion (around EUR 1.5 billion at the exchange rate in August), payable in cash on completion.

The sale is conditional on the approval of the Russian Federation’s Government Sub Commission for the Control of Foreign Investments and customary antitrust approvals, and subject to the approval of Mondi’s shareholders at a General Meeting.

The Syktyvkar assets to be transferred to Augment Investments exclude a cash balance of RUB 16 billion (around EUR 255 million). The cash balance is planned to be distributed by form of dividend to Mondi before completion.

The proposed sale follows Mondi’s announcement in May that, having assessed all options for the Group’s interests in Russia, it had decided to divest its Russian assets.

Accordingly, Mondi launched a competitive auction process to find a suitable new owner for Syktyvkar.

Syktyvkar is a wholly owned integrated pulp, packaging paper and uncoated fine paper mill located in Syktyvkar (Komi Republic). The Business employs approximately 4,500 people and it is a leading provider of uncoated fine paper and containerboard to the domestic Russian market.

For the year ended 31 December 2021, Syktyvkar reported revenues of EUR 821 million, EBITDA of EUR 334 million and profit before tax of EUR 271 million.

Mondi operates three converting plants in Russia, which are much smaller in size, not affiliated with Syktyvkar and not part of the sale.

An update will be provided on the divestment of these plants in due course, Mondi said.

Augment is an investment vehicle majority owned by Viktor Kharitonin, comprising assets in the pharmaceutical and other sectors across Russia, Europe and the United Kingdom.

Mondi expects to complete the sale in the second half of 2022. However, the divestment process for these significant assets is operationally and structurally complex and is being undertaken in an evolving political and regulatory environment. Therefore, there can be no certainty as to when the proposed transaction will be completed.
ABB has been appointed by Arauco to provide remote supervision in five of its pulp mills in Chile to ensure greater reliability and monitoring across all processes.

ABB supported Arauco in the setup of an operations room for remote supervision in central Concepción, Chile, the installation of remote monitoring infrastructure and ongoing service. ABB will establish connections from the operations room to the respective ABB Ability™ System 800xA distributed control system (DCS) in the Arauco and Licancel mills. The other sites, Constitución, Nueva Aldea and Valdivia mills, were supported by another DCS as part of the Arauco project.

ABB will also supply seven of its Extended Operator Workplace (EOW) control room consoles and manage the configuration and installation of these in each of the mills. ABB already has a large installed base with Arauco and was selected for this order due to its scalability, future supply of consoles and remote connections.

“This project with ABB is an important step forward for the company and supports our strategy to focus on the technological and sustainable development of our plants and advance our position as a relevant player within Industry 4.0,” said Marcelo Silveira, Arauco’s Deputy Manager of Process Reliability. “It will allow us to centrally monitor all of our operations in our Pulp and Energy business and offer a competitive edge on quality, response time, operational stability and cost reduction.”

Felipe Rojas, Sales Services, Process Industries at ABB in Chile, noted, “This project is significant for ABB and marks a milestone in the drive for remote operations in the pulp and paper sector,” said Felipe Rojas, Sales Services, Process Industries at ABB in Chile. “It will be the first remote monitoring room that will be launched from a central building of a pulp production company in Chile.”

Valmet will supply two IntelliTissue 1600 tissue machines for Liaoning Yusen tissue mill located in the county of Tai’an, Liaoning province, China.

The value of the order will not be disclosed, but Valmet said the total value of an order of this type and delivery scope is typically around EUR 6-8 million.

The two new tissue production lines will produce high quality tissue with a basis weight range of 12.5 -31.3 g/m2, a design speed of 1600m/min and a reel trim of 3500mm. Combined, the new machines will increase Liaoning Yusen’s annual tissue production capacity by 60,000 tons.

The scope of supply includes approach pipe and instrumentation mechanical drive system, lubrication system, steam system and other auxiliary systems.

Valmet IntelliTissue machines belong to the small and medium size tissue machines that were integrated into Valmet’s offering through an acquisition in 2020.

The two tissue lines are scheduled to be in production in the middle of 2023.
PaperWorks recently appointed Chris Mitchell to the position of Senior Vice President, Sales & Marketing. Mitchell joined PaperWorks having most recently served as Vice President of Specialty Paper for Dunn Paper.

Sonoco has named Rob Dillard, who most recently served as the company’s Chief Strategy Officer, as Chief Financial Officer, effective July 1. He succeeds Julie Albrecht, who left the company on June 30.

Independent box producer, The Royal Group (TRG), announced that Pete Grill has joined the company as the new General Manager of its corrugated packaging facility in Marion, Ohio. Grill comes to TRG with 32 years of experience in the packaging industry.

Twin Rivers Paper Company announced recent additions to its executive leadership team. Robert Harvey joined the company as Chief Operations Officer in February, and Tyler Rajeski was named Vice President of Finance in April 2022. Harvey joined Twin Rivers from Essity, where he was responsible for the company’s Midwest region operations. Rajeski joined twin Rivers from Atlas Holdings, where he worked closely with various companies in the Atlas portfolio, including Twin Rivers Paper and Finch Paper.

Kadant Johnson LLC has appointed Danielle Rohrer to Vice President, Commercial Operations and a member of Kadant Johnson’s Senior Leadership Team. Ms. Rohrer joined Kadant Johnson in 2008 as a marketing manager. She holds an MBA and a bachelors in sales and business marketing from Western Michigan University.

Kemira has appointed Antti Salminen to lead Kemira’s Pulp & Paper segment, effective Aug. 15. Salminen has held several prior leadership positions in Kemira, most recently as President, Industry & Water segment. He has been a member of Kemira’s management board since 2011 and holds a PhD in engineering.

Valmet announced that Katri Hokkanen has been appointed CFO, effective August 1. Ms. Hokkanen began her career at Valmet in 2006 and has worked as Valmet’s interim CFO since May 1, 2022.

The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) announced the promotion of Andrew Topps as the next Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, effective September 1. Topps assumes the role following the retirement of Jan Poling. Topps joined AF&PA’s legal team in 2010 and most recently served as Deputy General Counsel.

Weyerhaeuser Company in June announced the passing of George H. Weyerhaeuser Sr., long-time former leader and great-grandson of founder Frederick Weyerhaeuser. Weyerhaeuser served as president and CEO from 1966 to 1991 and continued to serve as Board chairman through 1999. He oversaw significant growth of the company, including a number of major timberland acquisitions, and had an enduring impact on the evolution of forest management at Weyerhaeuser and across the industry. He was 95.
SEPTEMBER 18-20, 2022
PPI Transport Symposium 24
IFPTA and Fastmarkets
Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa
Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, USA
www.ifpta.org

SEPTEMBER 19-21, 2022
Corrugated Week 2022
TAPPI and AICC
Henry B. González Convention Center
San Antonio, Texas, USA
corrugatedweek.org

OCTOBER 3-5, 2022
BLRBAC Fall Meeting
Black Liquor Recovery Boiler Advisory Committee
Sonesta Hotel (formally the Crowne Plaza)
Atlanta, Georgia, USA
blrbac.net

OCTOBER 4-6, 2022
Specialty Papers US
Smithers
The Westin Milwaukee
Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA
www.specialtypaperconference.com

OCTOBER 19-20, 2022
Paper & Plastics Recycling Conference
Recycling Today Events
Marriott Marquis Chicago
Chicago, Illinois, USA
paperplasticsna.recyclingtodayevents.com

OCTOBER 26-28, 2022
PPC Fall Meeting & Leadership Conference
Paperboard Packaging Council (PPC)
Hyatt Regency Austin
Austin, Texas, USA
paperbox.org/events

OCT. 30-NOV. 2, 2022
International Bioenergy and Bioproducts Conference (IBBC)
TAPPI
Rhode Island Convention Center
Providence, Rhode Island, USA
tappi-ibbc.org

OCT. 30-NOV. 2, 2022
Pulping, Engineering, Environmental, Recycling and Sustainability (PEERS) Conference
TAPPI
Rhode Island Convention Center
Providence, Rhode Island, USA
www.tappipeers.org

NOVEMBER 7-9, 2022
International Containerboard Conference
Fastmarkets
Swissôtel Chicago
Chicago, Illinois, USA
www.fastmarkets.com/events

NOVEMBER 17-18, 2022
Paper & Beyond (online event)
Cepi
Confederation of European Paper Industries
Brussels, Belgium
www.paperandbeyond.eu
The paper and wood products industry is filled with unique perspectives from people who help achieve our sustainability goals and share our success stories through their advocacy. With each voice comes attention to critical issues that help our industry — advocates for a strong paper and packaging industry.

Advocacy can happen in so many ways and places. In Washington, D.C., in state capitals and in local communities, we all have the power to stand up and be heard.

Advocacy also takes many forms. Attending in-person events is a form of advocacy. So is sharing a tweet or sending an email.

In June, our industry gathered to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Pulp and Paperworkers’ Resource Council (PPRC), representatives of our industry’s union workforce. This grassroots organization is unique and led by employees advocating for the U.S. Forest products industry.

The PPRC helps advance sensible, science-based environmental and recycling policies to encourage economic growth and ensure an abundant and sustainable fiber supply.

PPRC members traveled from across our country to Washington, D.C., to meet with policymakers. They shared authentic stories about the essential and sustainable products we make, the people who make them, and the local communities which benefit.

Members of Congress attended the PPRC’s celebration reception, including members of the Congressional Paper and Packaging Caucus. This Caucus focuses on promoting policy solutions for our industry through their bipartisan, bicameral leadership.

This type of engagement and these partnerships are crucial. We’ve had recent success with local advocates reaching out to their state and local lawmakers on extended producer responsibility (EPR). Importantly, we need more voices to join us.

All who have an interest in the success of our industry have the power to make a difference and advance a sustainable
industry advocacy

future through advocacy. Getting involved is easy! Here are a few things we can all do:
• Share a tweet to spread the good news of our industry’s high recycling rate
• Write a letter or send an email to your elected representatives
• Organize a mill tour
• Attend a town hall meeting

One of the most important actions we can take is voting in the mid-term elections. It’s an opportunity for us to ensure our advocacy can continue promoting policies to advance our sustainable industry.

We all need your voice — you can offer a personal perspective on our essential industry making significant contributions to the circular economy.

AF&PA provides several ways to advocate and stay engaged.

Start by signing up for our grassroots alerts, and sign-up to receive our bi-monthly newsletter, AF&PA Delivered, on our website: www.afandpa.org.

Follow us on social media, including Twitter (@forestandpaper) and Instagram (@afandpa). There you’ll find key updates on important policy issues and how to get involved.

Your voice can and will make a difference on behalf of the paper and wood products industry this year.

The question is: How will you join us?

About AF&PA
The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) serves to advance U.S. paper and wood products manufacturers through fact-based public policy and marketplace advocacy. The forest products industry is circular in nature. AF&PA member companies make essential products from renewable and recyclable resources, generate renewable bioenergy and are committed to continuous improvement through the industry’s sustainability initiative – Better Practices, Better Planet 2030: Sustainable Products for a Sustainable Future.

The forest products industry accounts for approximately four percent of the total U.S. manufacturing GDP, manufactures nearly $300 billion in products annually and employs approximately 950,000 people. The industry meets a payroll of approximately $60 billion annually and is among the top 10 manufacturing sector employers in 45 states. Visit AF&PA online at www.afandpa.org or follow us on Twitter @ForestandPaper.
UPM’s 2.1 million tonne per year pulp mill in Uruguay has entered its commissioning stage, with start-up scheduled in March of 2023.

The information in this article was originally published in separate articles by UPM Pulp.

UPM is nearing the start-up of its 2.1 million tonne per year greenfield eucalyptus pulp mill near Paso de los Toros in central Uruguay. The mill is scheduled to start production by the end of March 2023. Besides the mill, the total investment of USD 3 billion also includes a pulp terminal in the port of Montevideo as well as investments in local facilities in Paso de los Toros.

In June, the Uruguayan environmental authorities granted approval for the new pulp mill’s commissioning plan, enabling UPM to begin the testing phase for pulp production equipment at the new plant.

The commissioning tasks, including mechanical, hydraulic and efficiency tests, and the respective adjustment of various production equipment, will be carried out during 2022 and until the start-up of the mill. The start-up and pre-operation of certain equipment is an essential stage of commissioning required prior to the start-up of pulp production at the pulp mill in the first quarter of 2023.
“The execution of the tests and trials in the different areas of the mill brings us closer to the start-up and allows us to focus more and more on production,” said Gervasio González, Senior Environmental Manager of UPM. “This phase, where everything that has been built so far is tested, is a key stage to continue planning the overall operation.”

At this stage many of the pulp mill areas are subject to a thorough check of their components and operational requirements, and preparation for full operation takes place. The areas concerned are the wood yard, chipping, fiber line, pulp drying, evaporation, recovery boiler and biomass boiler, auxiliary boilers, white liquor plant, steam generation and distribution turbines, water treatment, demineralized water plant, effluent treatment, sludge drying plant, chlorine dioxide plant, oxygen plant, auxiliary systems and industrial solid waste final disposal site.

Other tasks include reception of chemicals and wood in preparation for the production phase.

All tests to be carried out in this process were approved by relevant authorities in the Environmental Management Plan and will be under strict environmental monitoring, including measurement and recording of air and water quality, UPM noted.

Why Uruguay?

One of the most often asked questions is “why Uruguay” — what makes Uruguay the ideal location for such a major investment?

According to UPM, there are many reasons for this. As a country, Uruguay is an excellent location for a long-term investment and sustainable operations. The country has a strong political and social stability, robust legislation and democratic tradition with transparent government policies, including a solid legal framework that promotes sustainable forestry.

“UPM has over 30 years of experience in Uruguay, with a great team and excellent pulp and forestry operations, and we look forward to continue this journey,” the company said.

There have also been questions about the specific location in central Uruguay such as: Why choose a location where major infrastructure developments are needed?

“The exact location was agreed in cooperation between UPM and the Government of Uruguay based on the necessary prerequisites for a pulp mill, namely the availability of wood and water, along with the government’s criteria for balanced development of logistics, environment and employment in the Uruguay inland. The infrastructure development that is required for the mill is in line with the government’s interest in regional development,” UPM said.

“The investment agreement that was signed in November 2017 that outlined the local prerequisites and infrastructure development for the investments for both parties, has been publicly shared both as a summary and in its entirety as well as the complementary items such as the labor protocol,” UPM added.

UPM Uruguay – Port and Rail

Significant infrastructure developments in port and railway operations are underway in Uruguay as the new pulp mill makes its way towards start-up.

To ensure the efficiency, speed and
safety of pulp transports from Uruguay to global markets, UPM is building a new pulp terminal at the Montevideo port. An improved and partly rebuilt railroad will connect the new mill near the city of Paso de los Toros in central Uruguay to the capital.

The new pulp terminal in Montevideo will be used for receiving, handling and storing pulp and chemicals used in pulp production. UPM has 15 years’ experience in pulp loading, gained during operations at the Nueva Palmira pulp terminal. The new terminal in Montevideo will be similarly specialized for pulp, but even bigger.

After two years of construction, the terminal building is nearly ready, says Javier Solari, Vice President of the UPM Uruguay Development Project, speaking this past April. Open 24/7, the terminal can handle over 2 million tonnes of pulp annually. UPM will operate it on a 50-year concession.

“At the peak of construction, we had about 400 workers. Apart from dredging and some automation, electrical and piping installations, everything is nearly done,” Solari said.

**Major Storage and Loading Areas**

A total of 50,000 m² of warehouse space — enough to store 140,000 tonnes of pulp — has also been built along with the terminal. Expanding the current dock will allow Panamax (length 294, beam 32, draught 12 m) and Post Panamax (length 366, beam 49, draught 15 m) sized vessels to enter the port for cargo loading.

“The whole construction process happened in a public space, inside a busy working port. We were never alone, and the port traffic created challenges in scheduling the work to minimize distractions,” Solari explained.

The project also includes constructing a 12,000 m² roofed loading area, which will allow loading and unloading of cargo directly to vessels in all weather conditions. Utilizing a railway to transport pulp from the mill will be a significant advantage. Five rail tracks will lead directly to the dock, of which two are used for pulp, one for chemicals, and the others for shunting and as spare tracks.

**Impact on Entire Export Sector**

According to UPM, the rebuilding of the railroad leading from Paso de los Toros to the capital is one of the most significant infrastructure projects in the country’s history. The railway will be 273 kilometers long and run as a double rail for the first 36 kilometers from the Montevideo metropolitan area.

Although UPM has been the initiator in the construction of the railway, it will be state-owned and open to other users as well, including passenger trains. UPM estimates it will run seven daily trains, each carrying 1,664 tonnes of pulp.

The railroad is part of the Uruguayan government’s infrastructure plan, executed as a public-private partnership. The existing railroad was outdated and not much used, so along with the
railway 246 level crossings, 66 railway bridges and 25 stations and passenger stops are being built.

The railroad construction and maintenance for 18 years were awarded to the Grupo Via Central consortium, led by Spanish construction firm Sacyr. The operating company providing the freight services will be a consortium led by Deutsche Bahn International Operations. At the beginning of 2022, approximately 30% of the railroad was finished, meaning the project has been delayed from the initial schedule but is expected to be finished by May 2023.

Solari, speaking not only as a UPM professional but also a native Uruguayan, sees that the infrastructure project has a significant impact on the whole country.

“The Port of Montevideo has always been a driving force for the economy. The connection via railroad will benefit the whole export sector of Uruguay and its supply chain. The railway is also a safer and cleaner method of transport,” Solari noted.

UPM Trains Local Young Talent

Santiago Sagari, Director of HR at UPM Uruguay Operations, said that the ongoing training program covers all future operators of the Paso de los Toros mill. “In this regard, we have come a long way, as the program has been running in Fray Bentos since the beginning of the operation back in 2007,” he pointed out.

According to Sagari, the duration of the program can vary slightly according to business needs, but it usually takes place over several stages. The training starts with a classroom course on the pulp production process, covering approximately the first five weeks. This module is taught by an educational institution, with the last two training sessions given by the Faculty of Engineering.

“Our Supervisory team then goes deep in the training with specifics in the various process areas, including related equipment and our way of working in the mill. Finally, future operators join the shifts in order to initiate a process of on-the-job training by working with an experienced operator,” Sagari explained.

This last stage takes several months, during which the operations team leaders identify learning objectives, assess the progress and provide feedback. During the initial years, this process is repeated until each trainee has the necessary knowledge to operate their area in various possible situations.

Training Considered Highly Valuable

The feedback from the training has been very positive. Sagari observes that, typically, those joining the company have commented they would not have been able to do the job without the knowledge gained from the different training modules. Likewise, many participants have said that without the training process, it would probably have taken them years to start performing adequately.

Regarding the profile of the trainees, Sagari said that heterogeneity is a key value of the teams. The different teams have, for instance, members with post-graduate degrees and those with strong practical work experience in industrial processes.

“The groups also vary in terms of age and gender. In our experience, diversity is a value to be protected.”

Keep Learning, Stay Positive

Sagari believes that the most challenging thing about becoming an operator is always keeping alive the desire to learn — and a positive attitude to contribute to the team. As for the best part of the job, he views the possibility of joining a united, strong team as a very attractive one.

“After all, it is a very good working environment in a company that is genuinely committed to the development of operations in a sustainable way.”

Building on Tradition

Obviously, the local expertise gained in the past 14 years from running the UPM Fray Bentos mill is immense. Sagari assesses that the key take-away from Fray Bentos is the value of the team.

“Year after year, one can see how people have developed a culture of improvement, which allowed us to reach the historical record of annual production one year ago. This is not a one-day achievement, but rather the result of commitment, constant knowledge development, professionalism and perseverance,” he said.

As the Fray Bentos know-how is being passed on to the young talent at Paso de los Toros, Sagari notes that this “knowledge transfer” is undoubtedly a crucial part of future success.

“We must bear in mind that when the Fray Bentos mill began operations, we did not have the opportunity to learn from ourselves, to build on lessons learned in the operation,” Sagari pointed out, adding that the key to success is ultimately based on the knowledge and commitment of the UPM people.

In addition to the operator training, there are many other programs, too, that contribute to knowledge transfer, ranging from corporate programs to local mentoring or process improvement.
Adapting to Changing Needs of the Market

Nippon Dynawave Packaging partners with Valmet on pulp drying equipment and metal belt calender technology.

By Amanda Kernan and Thomas Palange, Valmet North America.

In Longview, Washington, Nippon Dynawave Packaging (NDP) operates a single-line facility producing liquid packaging board and market pulp. In September 2016, NDP was formed when Weyerhaeuser sold its liquid packaging board business to Nippon Paper Industries. For more than ten years, Valmet has been a strong partner to NDP, having executed several projects in the mill.

In the past two years, Nippon Dynawave Packaging has partnered with Valmet on two signature projects that helped to achieve the pulp and board producer’s goals. First the installation and start-up of a Valmet pulp drying and baling line, followed soon after by the installation and start-up of an OptiCalender metal belt calender.

Addressing the Changing Needs of the Marketplace

While the liquid packaging markets have remained largely stable, nonintegrated paper producers, the traditional customer base for wet lap market pulp, have decreased significantly in the Pacific Northwest. With a limited geographical range and declining customer base, there was a need for a product that could be shipped anywhere in the world. NDP therefore decided to invest in a new pulp drying and baling line and a pulper feed system to adjust to the changing market demand.

“The investment will allow the mill to supply a global customer base and give the business additional opportunities we’ve previously lacked,” says Andrew Cooper, Vice President, Operations at NDP.

NDP’s products play an essential role in delivering fresh liquids to nourish people all over the world. Their board holds fresh liquids for school milks, fruit juices, nectars, coffee and water, and provides packaging for various food service applications. NDP’s pulp is used by tissue and towel manufacturers, packaging, and communication paper producers, and even pet bedding manufacturers.

“The new pulp drying and baling line project is the first large greenfield project executed since the acquisition. The project has been both challenging and exciting,” says Cooper. The project featured Valmet Airborne Dyer and
Valmet Baling technology and included an automatic pulper feed system to ensure the safest possible operating system. With the new system in place, NDP can remain flexible, adapting to the market by choosing the most economical fiber for the moment while still maximizing its pulp production capacity.

Delivering Sustainable Board with Less CO2 Emissions and Fibers

In pursuit of its sustainability goals, NDP succeeded in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and using less fibers for the same amount of board with Valmet’s metal belt calender. “Putting a metal belt calender on our paper machine allowed us to use less fibers to make the same quality board for our customers, which is really revolutionary to this business,” says John Carpenter, President, NDP.

While there were some challenges with the installation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the team was able to deliver above and beyond expectations. NDP chose Valmet as a supplier for the metal belt calender after doing extensive pilot work. They made some uncalendered paper and sent it to the Valmet Paper Technology Center in Järvenpää. “Since the rebuild and start-up of the metal belt calender, the day-to-day operations are quite simplified,” shares Perry Brandenburg, Machine Manager, NDP. “The calender is repeatable and seems to be reliable. There are only two parameters that the operators generally work with to adjust the paper quality.” Brandenburg continues: The results with the metal belt calender were actually better than with the pilot scale projections, so it has been quite an asset to NDP to make better paper while reducing fiber demand.”

Strong, Long-Term Partnership Yields Results

Nippon Dynawave Packaging has benefitted from Valmet technology through the installations of a pulp drying and baling line and OptiCalender metal belt calender. The equipment has increased flexibility, boosted efficiency and enhanced quality at the mill in Longview, Washington. The start-up of the Valmet pulp drying and baling line occurred in November 2020, and the OptiCalender metal belt calender started up in December 2021.

“Our expectations in partnering on projects have focused on very high levels of cooperation, communication, responsiveness, technical support, and knowledge,” continues Cooper. “The size of our business means NDP also always focuses on cost savings and project returns. The solutions presented in this project have generally met all these expectations.”

Amanda Kernan is Marketing Manager, Valmet North America and Thomas Palange is Marketing Manager, Valmet North America. For additional information about the subject matter in this article, contact either Amanda or Tom at: amanda.kernan@valmet.com or thomas.palange@valmet.com, respectively.
Stora Enso and Northvolt Partner to Develop Wood-Based Batteries

Stora Enso and Northvolt recently entered into a joint development agreement to create sustainable batteries using lignin-based hard carbon produced with renewable wood from the Nordic forests. The aim is to develop the world’s first industrialized battery featuring anode sourced entirely from European raw materials, lowering both the carbon footprint and the cost.

Northvolt is a European supplier of sustainable, high-quality battery cells and systems.

“The joint battery development with Northvolt marks a step on our journey to serve the fast-growing battery market with renewable anode materials made from trees,” said Johanna Hagelberg, Executive Vice President for Biomaterials at Stora Enso. “Our lignin-based hard carbon, Lignode® by Stora Enso, will secure the strategic European supply of anode raw material, serving the sustainable battery needs for applications from mobility to stationary energy storage.”

Both companies bring key components, competence, and expertise to the battery partnership. Stora Enso will provide its lignin-based anode material Lignode, originating from sustainably managed forests, while Northvolt will drive cell design, production process development and scale-up of the technology.

Emma Nehrenheim, Chief Environmental Officer at Northvolt, said, “With this partnership, we are exploring a new source of sustainable raw material and expanding the European battery value chain, while also developing a less expensive battery chemistry. It is an exciting demonstration of how our pursuit of a sustainable battery industry goes hand-in-hand with creating a positive impact both on society and cost.”

Lignin is a plant-derived polymer found in the cell walls of dry-land plants. Trees are composed of 20-30% of lignin, where it acts as a natural and strong binder. It is one of the biggest renewable sources of carbon anywhere.

Stora Enso’s pilot plant for bio-based carbon materials is located at the Group’s Sunila production site in Finland, where lignin has been industrially produced since 2015. The annual lignin production capacity is 50,000 tonnes, making Stora Enso the largest kraft lignin producer in the world.

The Group is also evaluating its first industrial production of Lignode at the Sunila site through a feasibility study.
classified

Hydro-Flo™ Deckles

*Hydro-Flo™ Low Profile Deckles
*Hydro-Flo™ Duplex Water Strainers
*Hydro-Flo™ SS FlexLine Showers
*NO Wire Contact
*Very Low Maintenance
*Easy Hand Adjustment
*Improved MD, CD Profiles
*Smooth Sheet Transition

Worldwide Sales & Service since 1976!

1(989)695-2646

Papermachine.com

index of advertisers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPANY</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
<th>WEBSITE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BCTMP Plant Auction</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>crglc.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckman</td>
<td>11, 32</td>
<td><a href="http://www.buckman.com">www.buckman.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dienes</td>
<td>9</td>
<td><a href="http://www.dienesusa.com">www.dienesusa.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edwin X. Graf</td>
<td>29</td>
<td><a href="mailto:headbox@aol.com">headbox@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENESSCO</td>
<td>21</td>
<td><a href="http://www.enessco.com">www.enessco.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esco</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>esscoincorporated.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferguson Industrial</td>
<td>7</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ferguson.com">www.ferguson.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMW</td>
<td>19</td>
<td><a href="http://www.fmw.co.at">www.fmw.co.at</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFPTA</td>
<td>31</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ifpta.org">www.ifpta.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motion</td>
<td>2</td>
<td><a href="http://www.motionindustries.com">www.motionindustries.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papermachine Service Ind.</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>papermachine.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T5 Group</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>t5groupllc.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valmet</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>valmet.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VM5 Lighting</td>
<td>15</td>
<td><a href="http://www.vm5lighting.com">www.vm5lighting.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HAVE HEADBOX ISSUES?
Not getting answers?
Edwin X. Graf, A.P.M., LLC
• 30+ years experience with major builders of both Hydraulic and Roll Headboxes
• Negotiated Rates
Cell: (920) 915-1845
e-mail: Headbox@aol.com

PaperAge
Are you reading your own copy of PaperAge?
Never miss an issue!
Subscriptions are available free of charge to qualified individuals.
To request a free subscription, please visit our website:
www.paperage.com
and click on ‘Subscription Services.’
New data from DS Smith has revealed that the generational gap in recycling has gone global — with older people more than any other generation holding themselves accountable for responsibly recycling of boxes.

While Gen Z members often are considered to be the most environmentally conscious, they have the least confidence among all age groups in knowing how to recycle, based on the new survey in the UK that matches a similar company poll in the United States.

In the latest UK poll, two thirds of Gen Z respondents (those born from 1997 to 2012) blame barriers to recycling, including confusion over what items can be recycled, a shortage of recycling bins and lack of clear disposal instructions on products. Only 41% of those over age 55 see such obstacles.

Also, twice as many in the Gen Z group compared to their older counterparts say they don’t know where to find advice on recycling.

The findings indicate that the generational split on sustainability is international.

A DS Smith survey in the U.S., released in May 2021, found that Baby Boomers — the generation that came of age amid the first Earth Day in 1970 — are the most motivated to recycle those leftover boxes.

Broken out by generation, Baby Boomers (71%) hold themselves more accountable for responsibly recycling their boxes than others — millennials (60%), Gen Z (59%) and Gen X (58%).

“To encourage all generations to play their part in helping the environment, we have to remove the barriers that keep them from doing so,” said Keith Tornes, managing director of Paper, Forestry and Recycling for DS Smith North America. “That’s why at DS Smith, we have publicly supported local initiatives to improve recycling infrastructure and increased awareness to help consumers understand how and what to recycle.”

The U.S. survey found that all groups were united when asked about the surplus of boxes from e-commerce spending and the message was clear: They’re not bothered by the extra packages but do want them made of sustainable materials.

About 44% of those surveyed report getting more shopping deliveries during the COVID-19 pandemic, with 15% saying they are “drowning in boxes.”

In an important, pro-environment signal, three-quarters (73%) of those polled say they care if the box is made from sustainable materials.

DS Smith, in its operations, supports a circular economy that aims to reduce and eliminate waste and advocates for the reuse of materials, including its box-to-box in 14 days model that ensures boxes are collected, recycled and turned into new boxes within two weeks.

About the Survey
The U.S. survey was conducted online April 1-5, 2021, among 1,020 Americans who have the same amount or more boxes lying around from online shopping compared to pre-pandemic. The margin of error is plus or minus three percentage points.
MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- **REGISTRATION DISCOUNTS**
  Enjoy reduced registration fees to attend IFPTA seminars and conferences.

- **MEMBERS ONLY SECTION**
  Exclusive access to Member Directory and other content on the IFPTA website.

- **UNPARALLELED NETWORKING**
  Connect with industry leaders around the world and make lasting connections.

CONNECTIONS THAT MATTER

The International Forest Products Transport Association was founded on the core principal of connecting forest products logistics professionals in meaningful ways.

Join today and add your name to the list of industry leaders that proudly call themselves IFPTA Members.

Visit [www.ifpta.org](http://www.ifpta.org) today for information on how to join.

That remains our focus to this day.

No other industry association connects with the leaders in your market. The people involved in the transport, handling, warehousing, and distribution of forest products.
Take more control over pitch by dosing less.

When it comes to making pulp and paper, pitch is a persistent challenge. If not controlled, it shows up as brown or black specks in your product—which can lead to quality downgrades, discounted rates, or even total rejections. Pitch deposits also build up on your pulp and paper machines, including wires and sensors. This not only decreases process efficiency, it increases costs, as you lose valuable time for unscheduled cleanup and repairs or extended shutdowns.

With Buckman® 280, you can take a smarter approach to controlling pitch. It raises the glass transition temperature of the pitch particles and prevents them from melting, agglomerating, and leaving large deposits on your equipment or in the sheet. It has a typical feed rate at 10–15% of talc, one of the most common strategies for controlling pitch. And it uses pump and go liquid totes that eliminate maintenance-intensive made-down systems and bag handling. In the end, you get a more efficient way to keep pitch in check so you can produce a high-quality product, reduce production slowdowns, and decrease operational costs.

Buckman
Chemistry, connected.

To learn more, contact your Buckman representative today. Or scan the QR code to visit buckman.com.

©2022 Buckman Laboratories International, Inc. All rights reserved.