www.paperage.com

PaperAge

SUMMER 2026

Producing On-Spec Paper Every Time

Automated paper testing offers a significant upgrade to traditional processes

Industrial DataOps in Manufacturing

Building data pipelines you can actually trust

High Performance. Less Waste.

Deublin's capabilities in the design, supply, and installation of steam and condensate systems for paper machine dryer sections are growing more everyday with the addition of Gardner Systems. Deublin offers worldwide support for maximum energy savings, system performance, safety and more.

- Design & Installation
- Diagnostics & Audit
- Maintenance & Training
- Steam Joints & Siphon Systems
- Heat Transfer Fluid Unions
- Water Unions
- Turbulence Bars
- Steam & Condensate Systems
- Thermo-Compressors
- Separators
- Separator Skids
- Desuperheaters

SCAN ME

Learn More at Deublin.com

2050 Norman Drive
Waukegan, IL 60085 USA
+1.847.689.8600

DEUBLIN
HOERBIGER Rotary Solutions

contents

SUMMER 2026, VOLUME 142, NUMBER 2

FEATURES

COLUMN

BRANDED CONTENT

DEPARTMENTS

SERVICES

The Unimaginable

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

By now, many of you are aware of the rupture and implosion of a storage tank containing white liquor at the Nippon Dynawave Packaging pulp and paper mill in Longview, Washington.

This is a tough one to write about. I didn't include the story in our Industry News section because I felt it deserved to be presented as more than just news. It's about a paper mill community that is suffering unimaginable loss and an industry in the state of shock.

Longview, Washington is a long way from the East Coast of Massachusetts where I sit, but this magazine has covered the paper industry for decades and the tragic and catastrophic event that happened at the Nippon Dynawave mill hits close to home.

The deadly incident occurred at about 7:15 a.m. local time on May 26 during a shift change that brought more workers on site and around a break room that was located next to the tank.

According to a statement from Nippon Paper Industries Co., Ltd., the parent company of Nippon Dynawave Packaging, the tank had a capacity of approximately 900,000 gallons, and authorities have estimated that between 550,000 and 570,000 gallons of chemicals were released.

Eleven good men lost their lives and eight others were injured.

The Washington State Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) immediately opened a workplace safety and health investigation. Its goal is to determine what happened, identify any workplace safety violations, and help prevent similar incidents from happening in the future.

L&I staff have been on site since the day of the disaster, including specialized investigators who focus on high-hazard chemical industries.

By law, L&I has 180 days to complete an investigation, with the deadline for this one set at Nov. 22. After results are released, the agency will hold a conference with the employer and worker representatives; it will share findings and what the employer must do to correct any issues.

The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) on May 27 also opened an investigation. The CSB is an independent, nonregulatory federal agency charged with investigating incidents and hazards that result, or may result, in the catastrophic release of extremely hazardous substances.

The agency conducts incident investigations to identify root cause of releases; formulates preventive or mitigative recommendations based on investigation findings and advocating for their implementation; issues reports containing the findings, conclusions, and recommendations arising from incident investigations.

The Longview mill produces about 300,000 metric tons per year of coated and uncoated liquid packaging board, along with northern bleached softwood kraft (NBSK) pulp.

Its history dates back to 1929 when Weyerhaeuser started operations with a sawmill complex at the Longview site. A few years later (1931), a pulp mill was built and began operation. In 1953, a paperboard machine was installed at the site with the board used for milk cartons.

Fast-forward to 2016: Japan-based Nippon Paper Industries purchases the pulp mill, paper machine, and associated utilities from Weyerhaeuser for $285 million. The U.S. subsidiary is named Nippon Dynawave Packaging.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with the families who lost loved ones, the injured workers, and the Nippon Dynawave employees and the Longview community who lost their coworkers and friends.

PaperAge
SUMMER 2026, VOLUME 142, NO. 2

EDITOR IN CHIEF Jack O'Brien
PUBLISHER Michael C. O'Brien
MANAGING EDITOR John F. O'Brien, Jr.
LAYOUT & DESIGN Betsy Gold Design

EDITORIAL AND SALES OFFICE (mail address)
PO Box 904
Cohasset, MA 02025
phone: (781) 378-1253
email: mobrien@paperage.com
www.paperage.com

PaperAge (ISSN: 0031-1081), Copyright © 2026 by O'Brien Publication, Inc., is published four (4) times per year by O'Brien Publications, Inc., 15 Cavanagh Road, Scituate, MA 02066. Business and Editorial Offices: 15 Cavanagh Road, Scituate, MA 02066, Accounting and Circulation Offices: 15 Cavanagh Road, Scituate, MA 02066. Call (781) 536-4925 to subscribe. Periodicals postage is paid at Cohasset Post Office, 100 Ripley Road, Cohasset, MA 02025, and additional mailing offices (if applicable).

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to PaperAge, PO Box 904, Cohasset MA 02025.

Canadian Mail Distribution
Canada Post Publications Mail Agreement No. 40112731.
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:
Ontrac International
P.O. Box 25058
London, ON N6C 6A8

PaperAge Subscriptions: PaperAge is mailed without charge in the U.S. and Canada (upon written request) to qualified individuals in the pulp, paper, paperboard, and paper converting industries. To all others there is a subscription charge of $40.00 in the U.S., $48.00 in Canada, and $60.00 in all other countries. Single copies may be purchased for $10.00 each. All payments must be made in U.S. funds and checks must be drawn from a U.S. bank. Credit cards are accepted.

Sealmaster™ Skwezloc™ Delivers Massive Uptime Gains

A forestry mill battling constant bearing failures found relief with the **Sealmaster Next Generation Skwezloc concentric lock**. Its felt labyrinth seal and improved shaft grip kept pine tar out — and productivity up.

Extends Bearing Life

Outlasted the previous bearings by **8+ months**, slashing replacement frequency and downtime.

Saves Big on Operating Costs

The upgrade now saves the mill over **$900,000 annually**, proving how the right bearing can transform reliability.

Engineered for Harsh, High-Contamination Environments

Designed to maintain lock integrity, resist ingress, and keep equipment running smoothly in demanding forestry applications.

» Learn more at **regalrexnord.com**

RegalRexnord™

NORTH AMERICA

International Paper Completes $360 Million Acquisition of NORPAC

International Paper on June 6 announced the completion of its acquisition of North Pacific Paper Company (NORPAC), a portfolio company of One Rock Capital Partners, for $360 million.

NORPAC is a U.S.-based paper manufacturer operating out of Longview, Washington. The company employs approximately 500 people at its paper mill, where it operates three paper machines that produce approximately one million tons of containerboard and other packaging paper grades annually.

The acquisition brings together two strong teams, high-quality products, and a shared commitment to serving customers. Adding NORPAC to the International Paper

portfolio will enhance system flexibility and expand capabilities.

On June 6, Craig Anneberg, CEO of NORPAC, said, "Today is an important milestone for the NORPAC team and for Longview as we officially become part of International Paper. I'm proud of our employees for what we've built here, and joining International Paper gives us the opportunity to build on that foundation."

Tom Hamic, Executive Vice President and President, Packaging Solutions North America, International Paper, commented, "We're proud to welcome the NORPAC team to International Paper and look forward to what we will accomplish together. NORPAC is a strong strategic fit for our business and expands our capabilities to support growing customer demand for lightweight high-performance packaging grades while improving service to our West Coast customers."

Sylvamo Eastover Mill Investments Continue Making Progress

Sylvamo reported that it is making significant progress on $145 million in high-return projects at its South Carolina facilities and work remains on track for completion in 2027.

"The investments will improve long-term efficiency, lower costs and increase capacity at the company's Eastover, South Carolina mill, only strengthening its position as one of the most competitive paper mills in the world," the company said.

"These projects are part of an overall strategy to invest in low-risk, high-return projects that strengthen business and create long-term value," Sylvamo added.

Paper Machine Optimization. The $100 million project to optimize and speed up the No. 2 Paper Machine remains on schedule, with most work planned during the extended fourth-quarter maintenance outage. Once complete, this project is expected to improve flexibility, reduce costs and enhance product mix across both paper machines, resulting in approximately 60,000 additional short tons of uncoated freesheet annually.

Cutsize Sheeter Replacement. At the Sumter sheeting plant, a $45 million investment in a new, state-of-the-art 13-pocket cutsize sheeter is on schedule, with product currently being tested by the manufacturer. This sheeter will process larger rolls, allowing more paper to be produced in less time.

Installation will occur alongside the paper machine optimization. This new equipment will convert large paper rolls into sheets more efficiently, reducing costs and increasing flexibility to better serve customers.

Woodyard Modernization. Sylvamo entered a 20-year partnership to outsource its Eastover woodyard operations to deliver more efficient, reliable and cost-effective wood processing. The hardwood line came online May 1 and is showing benefits from improved chip quality and yield. Work remains on track for the softwood line to come online in the first quarter of 2027.

NORTH AMERICA

Proposed Tissue Mill Project in Pueblo, Colorado, On Hold for Now

Proposed plans for a tissue manufacturing plant in Pueblo, Colorado, have been paused by the company involved with the proposed "Project Falcon" after Pueblo Mayor Heather Graham insisted more transparency is needed before any agreement moves forward.

According to a report on local news outlet KOAA News5, city council was set to reach a memorandum of understanding at a June 8 meeting — an agreement to help the city understand what is expected from both parties in the major deal. However, Mayor Graham demanded more transparency before the proposed project moves ahead.

"You have heard big promises about jobs, wages, and billions of dollars in economic benefit," said Mayor Graham. "What you have not heard is that the city has not independently vetted these claims."

As of June 8, the identity of the company behind Project Falcon remains unknown, protected through non-disclosure agreements.

Graham's position centers on the need for transparency when taxpayer money is involved, and she will not allow the deal to move forward without scrutiny.

"I will not allow this deal or any other deal to be pushed through in the dark on the basis of unverified numbers," she said.

However, not all council members share her concerns. Councilmember Ted Hernandez and Commissioner Miles Lucero have pushed back on the mayor's claims.

"The idea the community will be left out of the decision until the deal is done? That is a complete mistruth," said Hernandez.

Hernandez and Lucero argue that non-disclosure agreements are common in deals of this nature and that the public will have opportunities to weigh in. Hernandez also addressed concerns about the mayor's opposition to the project.

"If a company's coming to a town, and they can't have the mayor behind them, it's gonna be a little difficult for them to feel their way through," Hernandez said. "It will absolutely, 100% benefit the City of Pueblo."

NORTH AMERICA

Pratt Industries to Expand Corrugated Box Plant in Rockwall, Texas

The Rockwall Economic Development Corporation ("REDC") announced the expansion of Pratt Industries corrugated box plant in Rockwall, Texas.

According to the REDC, the expansion will add approximately 346,000 square feet to the existing facility resulting in a total building size of approximately 736,000 square feet. The project is expected to bring $90 million in capital investment along with the creation of 100 new jobs.

Pratt initially opened its state-of-the-art corrugating facility on approximately 30 acres in the Rockwall Technology Park in 2017.

"Pratt Industries' continued investment in Rockwall is a testament to the strength of our partnership and the success they've experienced here," said REDC President Matt Wavering. "This expansion not only represents a major capital investment, but also the creation of high-quality jobs and advanced manufacturing capabilities."

Pratt Industries Executive Chairman, Anthony Pratt, commented, "We are excited to expand our operations in Texas. The growth of our Rockwall box plant will bring advanced technology and increased capacity directly to our customers, while complementing our existing manufacturing, recycling and transportation network across the state and region. This expansion further drives our commitment to investing in recycling sustainability, and American manufacturing jobs." Construction and equipment installation timelines for the expansion are expected to proceed in phases, with full operations anticipated following completion of the new corrugator line and facility enhancements.

The Rockwall Economic Development Corporation actively works to retain, expand, and recruit industry to Rockwall, Texas.

Jackson Paper and Sustainable Corrugated Combine to Form New Identity

Jackson Paper Manufacturing and Sustainable Corrugated are unifying under a single identity: Sustainable Corrugated & Containerboard (SCC).

The companies have long operated under common ownership and shared leadership, and the combination brings together Jackson Paper's recycled containerboard mill in Sylva, North Carolina, with Sustainable Corrugated's sheet-feeding operations in Morganton, North Carolina and Dalton, Georgia.

According to the companies, the new name reflects how the two long-affiliated businesses already operate as one integrated paper and packaging manufacturer serving corrugated-sheet customers across the Southeast and containerboard customers throughout North America.

"This rebrand reflects who we already are — one team, one integrated company, and one shared commitment to our customers," said Bobby Hunter, President, Corrugated. "By bringing our paper and packaging operations together under the Sustainable Corrugated & Containerboard name, we are better positioned to represent the strength of our vertically integrated capabilities and continue investing in the future of sustainable packaging."

Day-to-day operations, customer relationships, ordering, and product quality will remain unchanged, Jackson Paper noted.

Sustainable Corrugated & Containerboard will continue emphasizing sustainability throughout its operations. The company produces 100% recycled medium, operates a closed-loop cooling system with zero wastewater discharge, utilizes a wood-fired boiler and steam turbine system, and maintains FSC® and SFI® certifications. SCC also offers the capability to produce 100% recycled corrugated sheets for customers seeking environmentally responsible packaging solutions.

NORTH AMERICA

International Paper Breaks Ground for New Corrugated Packaging Plant in Mississippi

International Paper recently celebrated the groundbreaking of its new sustainable packaging facility in Brandon, Mississippi, marking a major milestone in the company's strategic growth and long-term investment in the Mid-South region.

Company leaders, state and local officials, customers, project stakeholders, and community partners gathered on May 20 to commemorate the start of the project, which will include construction of a new 468,000-square-foot corrugated packaging plant on an 80-acre site in the East Metro Center.

The $225 million greenfield facility, located less than 10 miles from International Paper's existing Richland box plant, will strengthen manufacturing and service capabilities across the Mid-South region. Designed to improve reliability, product quality, and cost position, the new facility supports growth in key market segments while reinforcing the company's commitment to operational excellence, sustainability, and customer-focused innovation.

Construction is expected to begin in June 2026, with operations anticipated in the fourth quarter of 2027. Employees at the existing Richland facility are expected to transition to the new plant upon completion.

"This groundbreaking represents an important step forward for International Paper, our customers, and the communities we serve across the Mid-South," said Keith Townsend, group vice president and general manager, IP North America Packaging Solutions East. "The Brandon facility will strengthen our manufacturing network with modern capabilities designed to improve safety, reliability, and operational performance, while positioning us to support long-term growth and deliver even greater value to our customers."

NORTH AMERICA

Domtar Completes Sale of EAM to Saothair Capital Partners

Domtar in early-June completed the sale of its shares in EAM Corporation (Engineered Absorbent Materials "EAM") to Saothair Capital Partners, LLC, a private equity firm focused exclusively on investing in middle-market manufacturing and industrial companies.

Terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

Located in Jesup, Georgia, EAM designs and manufactures airlaid and laminated absorbent materials. The production facility has 3 airlaid machine lines and 2 laminate

machines, with the capacity to produce 50,000 metric tonnes per year. Airlaid nonwoven products are used in a wide variety of consumer products, including feminine hygiene, adult incontinence, baby diapers, pet care products, specialty medical and food packaging applications.

"We are transforming Domtar with purpose and focus. This sale supports that work and helps position EAM for the future," said Steve Henry, President, Domtar USA, and CEO, Paper and Packaging. "I would like to thank all EAM employees for their dedication and hard work. We are excited about this opportunity for EAM and confident that Saothair is an excellent fit moving forward."

Cascades to Install New Tissue Converting Line at Granby, Quebec Facility

Cascades is installing a state-of-the-art tissue converting line at its Granby, Quebec facility. This next-generation equipment will increase the site's production capacity while enhancing product quality, the company said.

The installation of the new equipment — a $15 million investment — will take place over a period of nine months.

According to Cascades, the investment directly addresses sustained demand from retail customers, particularly for regular and multi-pack toilet paper formats.

Strategically positioned, this new line has a capacity of 3 million cases, is scheduled to begin production in the fourth quarter of 2026, and will significantly increase production capacity and better meet the growing needs of our customers.

"This investment reflects our commitment to being the partner of choice for our customers by adapting with agility to market realities," said Hugues Simon, President and

CEO of Cascades. "The installation of this new modern line is fully in line with our long-term growth strategy."

Jamestown Container Companies Acquires Syracuse Corrugated Box

Jamestown Container Companies has acquired of Syracuse Corrugated Box Corp., further expanding the Jamestown's footprint across New York State.

Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed.

According to Jamestown Container, the acquisition of Syracuse Corrugated Box strengthens its ability to serve customers throughout Central New York while continuing to provide responsive service, high-quality products, and innovative packaging solutions.

"This acquisition represents an exciting step forward for our company," said Joseph R.

Palmeri, Chief Operating Officer of Jamestown Container. "Syracuse Corrugated Box Corp. has a strong reputation for quality, reliability, and customer relationships over many years. We are proud to welcome their customers into the Jamestown Container family."

John Wilde, former part-owner of Syracuse Box, explained, "Syracuse Box was started in 1969 by my dad, Richard Wilde and his business partner, Wyman Caruthers. The business was the foundation of our family for many years. When we decided to sell, we liked that Jamestown Container was a family business and shared the same principles of respect for employees and customers. It was a natural fit."

Customers of Syracuse Corrugated Box will continue working with familiar contacts through the transition.

EUROPE

Metsä Group Inaugurates Mariestad Tissue Mill after EUR 370 Million Modernization

Metsä Group on May 26 inaugurated its expanded and modernized tissue paper mill in Mariestad, Sweden. The opening ceremony was conducted by external representatives together with Metsä Group and Metsä Tissue leadership.

The EUR 370 million investment in Mariestad is one of the largest in the European tissue industry and reflects Metsä Tissue's commitment to the future of European hygiene and tissue sector.

The renewed Mariestad mill doubles its annual production capacity to approximately 145,000 tonnes, strengthening the availability of high-quality tissue products in Scandinavia.

"By strengthening local production, we improve availability, reduce supply chain risks and support our customers across Scandinavia strengthening Metsä Tissue's

position as a trusted long-term partner to its customers," said Sari Pajari-Sederholm, CEO of Metsä Tissue.

The modernized mill represents the latest technology in tissue production. It includes a new state-of-the-art tissue paper machine and three new converting lines for rolled and folded tissue products. These enable the efficient and responsible production of high-quality tissue papers for Metsä Tissue's well-known brands, including Lambi, Serla and Katrin.

In addition to increased capacity and improved product quality, the investment significantly enhances the mill's environmental performance by improved energy efficiency and reduces water consumption, lowering emissions per ton produced.

The expanded and modernized Mariestad mill started operations in the fall 2025 and is now fully operational. The mill produces tissue papers used in a wide range of everyday applications, from household use to professional hygiene solutions.

EUROPE

VPK Group Acquires Fencor Packaging Group in the UK

VPK Group has acquired Fencor Packaging Group, the owner of UK-based Manor Packaging, a manufacturer of cardboard boxes and corrugated packaging.

Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

In 2024, VPK purchased a minority stake in Fencor Packaging, and via the acquisition, takes full ownership of the business.

Manor Packaging operates a manufacturing facility, supported by a dedicated storage and warehousing operations in Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire. The location allows the company to serve customers across the UK efficiently and with flexibility.

According to VPK, Manor Packaging will continue to operate as a stand-alone business

within VPK Group. Manor Packaging already enjoys the benefits of a very strong trading relationship with Corrboard UK, which is also majority owned by VPK.

"Manor Packaging is a well invested and agile organization, known for its high service levels and close relationships with customers. We look forward to supporting the business in its next phase of growth," said Martin Taylor, Managing Director VPK UK & Ireland.

VPK noted that David Orr, Group Managing Director of Fencor, will retire after 26 years of managing and growing the business.

Tony Clifton, Sales Director, will continue to lead Manor Packaging as Managing Director.

VPK Group is a European packaging producer with 70 plants across 21 countries. The Group specializes in recycled paper, corrugated packaging and solid board, and solid board products such as tubes, cores and edge protectors.

EUROPE

Stora Enso to Increase Fluff Pulp Production at Skutskär Mill

Stora Enso is investing EUR 19 million to increase the production of fluff pulp at its Skutskär pulp mill in Sweden. This investment follows the company's decision to permanently close softwood pulp production on fiberline 3 (L3) at the mill.

The investment is slated for upgrades that will enhance production stability and efficiency, improve quality, enable future fiber blends, and increase fluff production capacity by about 10%.

The upgrades are expected to be completed during the fourth quarter of 2027.

"This is an important step for Stora Enso. Fluff pulp usage is growing, based on aging population across the globe and increased usage of hygiene products and with demand expected to outgrow supply over time," explained Johanna Hagelberg, Executive Vice President, Biomaterials Business Area at Stora Enso.

The L3 softwood pulp line will cease production during the third quarter of 2026, subject to fulfillment of customer orders. Timo Tidenberg, Head of Stora Enso's Business Unit Skutskär, said, "Market conditions did not support a viable path for the future of L3. This investment sharpens our focus on fluff and the work to restructure the organization accordingly continues. We are positioning Skutskär strategically for long-term competitiveness in the expanding fluff market."

After the upgrade projects have been completed, the Skutskär site will have the capacity to produce 440,000 tons per year of fluff pulp.

EUROPE

Södra Develops New Paper Pulp by Combining Wood Fiber with Oat Hulls

Södra has launched "blue S" — a new type of paper pulp that combines softwood fibers with oat hulls from Swedish grain processing.

According to Södra, the new process makes it possible to combine forest fibers and agro-fibers directly in the pulp process, enabling the company to increase yield and improve strength properties. Pilot trials show that blue S delivers enhanced strength properties and good runnability in paper production.

Several trials have been conducted at Södra Cell Värö in Sweden with very positive results. Towards the end of 2025, the conditions were established to enable campaign-based volumes.

"Södra blue S demonstrates what happens when we challenge our own assumptions," said Annica Ahlstedt Larsson, Head of Product, Södra Cell. "By combining forest raw materials with oat hulls from a local partner such as Berte Qvarn, we increase resource efficiency and create value across two key basic industries. The results show that the technology works and that the pulp is of high quality."

The oat hulls used to produce blue S come from a local food producer Berte Qvarn, located just south of Värö. Their local origin means shorter transport distances while making raw material flows more resilient by building on industries in the surrounding region.

UPM Plans Temporary, Market-Related Downtime at Pulp Mills in Finland

UPM announced that it will temporarily shut down UPM Kaukas pulp mill as of August 3 for approximately six weeks. In addition, a potential temporary shutdown of the UPM Pietarsaari pulp mill is being planned for October.

In a press release, UPM said, "These shutdowns are intended to optimize production levels and wood sourcing and to ensure profitability in the current market and cost environments."

The Kaukas pulp mill is located in Lappeenranta in South East Finland and has the capacity to produce 700,000 tonnes per year of softwood pulp on two production lines. The mill site also consists of a paper mill (shutdown in 4Q 2025), a sawmill, a biorefinery producing wood-based diesel and UPM's research center.

The Pietarsaari pulp mill is located in the Gulf of Bothnia in western Finland and has the capacity to produce 800,000 tonnes per year of softwood and birch pulp. The mill site also houses UPM's Alholma sawmill, Alholmens Kraft power plant and UPM's wood procurement offices.

INDUSTRY SUPPLIERS

IBS Starts-up FabriCare Cleaning System on Packaging Paper Machine

The IBS Paper Performance Group has successfully started up a traversing FabriCare ultra-high-pressure cleaning system on a packaging paper machine.

According to IBS, following a comprehensive audit of the vacuum systems, the existing standard wire suction system was replaced with FabriCare. This measure eliminated the need for a 180 kW vacuum pump entirely, including the associated maintenance and spare part costs. The installation resulted in significant energy savings of 1.44 GWh per year while maintaining or even improving product quality and a return on investment in just a few months.

"FabriCare cleaning systems guarantee perfect cleaning and consistent performance of machine clothing in the forming and drying section throughout their entire service life, while keeping operating costs to a minimum," IBS said. "In the wet end, the system not only minimizes water consumption but also significantly improves machine hygiene by preventing spray mist and the resulting deposits.

"Customers also benefit from reduced chemical consumption as well as significant energy savings achieved by eliminating or reducing the vacuum of suction boxes. Another key advantage is the elimination of manual cleaning tasks, which not only reduces production downtime but also completely eliminates health risks for personnel caused by exposure to hot environments," the company added.

In addition to its application in the wet end, IBS Paper Performance Group also offers FabriCare DryEnd, a specialized solution for drying fabrics. This system ensures consistent performance of the fabric throughout its entire service life and results in fewer web breaks, an optimized moisture cross-profile, and improved heat transfer.

PAPER


Neil Gosbee

- *CellMark* recently appointed **Neil Gosbee** as the new Division President of the CellMark Pulp Division. Gosbee succeeded **Doug Smith**, who stepped down from the role as part of a natural leadership transition following his appointment as President and CEO of CellMark in October 2025. Gosbee has been with CellMark since 2016.


Mike Doss

- *Global Cellulose Fibers* has appointed **Mike Doss** as Chief Executive Officer, effective June 23. Doss takes over for **Clay Ellis**, who transitioned from the CEO role to Board Advisor. Doss most recently served as President and CEO of Graphic Packaging from 2016 to 2025. Prior to that role, he held several commercial, operational and general management positions of increasing responsibility with Graphic Packaging over the previous 25 years.


Malin Nygren

- *Metsä Board* has appointed **Malin Nygren** as Vice President, Husum Pulp and Board Mill, effective July 1. Nygren had been serving as interim Vice President since March 2026 and now assumes the role on a permanent basis.


Mads Eikeland

- *Norske Skog* announced that **Mads Eikeland** has been named Managing Director of the company's Skogn paper mill, effective Sept.1. He currently serves as Chief Financial Officer at Norske Skog Skogn, a position he has held since 2022. Eikeland holds a Master's degree in financial economics and a Master's degree in Accounting and Auditing. He has previous experience as an auditor, consultant, and finance manager, among others from Deloitte and KPMG.


Dan Krawczyk

- *Rayonier Advanced Materials* in June appointed **Daniel M. Krawczyk** as Chief Executive Officer and President. He also joins the company's Board of Directors. Krawczyk most recently served as President of Huber Engineered Materials. He received an MBA, as well as an MS and BS in Electrical Engineering, from the University of Michigan.

INDUSTRY SUPPLIERS


Larry Butkovich

- *Precision Roll Grinders* has promoted **Larry Butkovich** to Chief Operating Officer. He also joins the company's Board of Directors. Prior to being appointed COO, Butkovich served as PRGs' Vice President of Sales and Marketing, and as Vice President of Operations.


Andreas Endters

- *Voith* announced that **Andreas Endters,** President and CEO of Voith Paper will leave the company at the end of the current fiscal year, Sept. 30. Effective Oct. 1, **Tero Kokko** will join the Corporate Board of Management of Voith and as President and CEO of Voith Paper. Kokko currently leads the global pulp business area at Valmet and brings more than 20 years of international leadership experience. He holds a doctorate in Automation and Control Engineering from Tampere University of Technology.


Tero Kokko

IN REMEMBRANCE


Michael Kocurek

- **Dr. Michael J. Kocurek** passed away peacefully on May 26, surrounded by his family and under the care of hospice. He was 84. Founder of the Paper Science Department at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 1970 and Professor Emeritus of Paper Science and Engineering at North Carolina State University, Michael was one of the world's most recognized educators in the pulp and paper industry. During his illustrious career, Michael taught over 6,500 industry operators and professionals across more than 200 paper mills and 50 organizations. A lifelong member of TAPPI, he authored 25 video publications covering the entire field of pulp and paper and was the editor of over 10 books.

AUGUST 26-28, 2026
AIPPM Fall Meeting
AIPPM
The Westin Copley Place
Boston, Massachusetts, USA
www.aippm.com

SEPTEMBER 23-25, 2026
PRINTING United Expo
PRINTING United Alliance
Las Vegas Convention Center
Las Vegas, Nevada, USA
www.printingunited.com

SEPTEMBER 28-30, 2026
Corrugated Week
TAPPI and AICC
Fort Worth Convention Center
Fort Worth, Texas, USA
www.printingunited.com

OCTOBER 5-7, 2026
Forest Products Transport Symposium 2026
IFPTA and TTO BMA
The Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa
Point Clear, Alabama, USA
www.ifpta.org

OCTOBER 6-8, 2026
ABTCP 2026
ABTCP
Transamerica Expo Center
São Paulo, Brazil
abtcp2026.org.br

OCTOBER 18-21, 2026
PACK EXPO International
PMMI
McCormick Place
Chicago, Illinois, USA
www.packexpointernational.com

OCTOBER 27-28, 2026
Specialty Papers US
Smithers
Milwaukee Marriott Downtown
Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA
www.specialtypaperconference.com

NOVEMBER 2-3, 2026
Tissue Summit North America
Nexum Group
Hyatt Regency Green Bay
Green Bay, Wisconsin, USA
tissuesummitnorthamerica.com

NOVEMBER 2-4, 2026
Forest Products North America and International Containerboard Conference
Fastmarkets
Westin Chicago River North
Chicago, Illinois, USA
www.fastmarkets.com/our-events/forest-product-events

NOVEMBER 11-12, 2026
Paper & Tissue Show London
Alfurat Group
Excel London
London, England
london.paperoneshow.net

2027

May 4-6, 2027
Paper Meets Live! 2027
AF&PA and NPTA
Opal Sands Resort
Clearwater Beach, Florida, USA
www.afandpa.org

America at 250: The Paper Industry's Enduring Role in American Manufacturing

By Heidi Brock, President and CEO, American Forest & Paper Association

As America prepares to celebrate its 250th anniversary, we have an opportunity to reflect not only on the ideas that shaped our nation, but also on the industries that helped those ideas take hold. Paper has been part of that story from the beginning, helping to record our founding principles, spread news and information, support education and commerce, and make civic life more accessible. For 250 years, paper has been woven into America's past, and it remains essential to its future.

For all its national significance, paper's legacy is also deeply local. In many parts of the country, pulp and paper mills remain important to rural communities and manufacturing towns, supporting skilled jobs, contributing to local tax bases, and helping sustain the broader network of businesses and services around them. These mills do more than make products. They are part of the economic foundation that supports domestic manufacturing and helps communities continue to grow and adapt.

Part of the reason mills have remained important to so many communities is that this industry has continued to evolve with the country it serves. Our strength has never come from standing still, but from finding new ways to meet the needs of a changing America. Over time, paper and paper-based products evolved from early printing and record keeping to the packaging, hygiene, health care, education, and food service products Americans rely on every day. Today, our products help power e-commerce, protect goods in transit, support public health, and serve homes, schools, hospitals, and businesses nationwide. Innovation did not replace paper. It expanded what our industry can do.

Paper products such as boxes, containerboard, tissues, paper towels, cups, printing papers, and specialty papers may seem familiar, but together they support everyday life and essential business operations.

Recent investment offers one of the clearest signs of how that innovation is taking shape across the industry. Across North America, pulp, paper, tissue and packaging companies have invested billions in new mills, major machine installations, conversions, and equipment upgrades. Those investments are modernizing operations, strengthening domestic manufacturing, enhancing capacity, and supporting long-term competitiveness. Just as important, they reflect

confidence in the people, communities, and manufacturing future that have long defined this industry.

The result is an industry that continues to play a vital role across the American economy. Our products move through nearly every sector, from agriculture and retail to health care, education, and manufacturing. Boxes, containerboard, tissues, paper towels, cups, printing papers, and specialty papers may seem familiar, but together they support everyday life and essential business operations. They help goods move, information flow, and meet basic needs. Our industry celebrates a proud history. And, it remains a vital part of how America works today.

America 250 is a fitting moment to recognize this enduring contribution. For generations, mills and manufacturing facilities across this country have adapted, invested, and delivered the essential products Americans rely on. Just as important, the men and women who make those products have helped sustain communities, strengthen our economy, and carry forward a proud manufacturing tradition. As the country looks ahead, the pulp and paper industry is ready to do what it has always done: innovate, compete, serve customers and keep America working.

For paper industry leaders, that truth is not abstract. You see it on mill floors, in control rooms, on loading docks, and in the collaboration with local communities. At 250 years, as we celebrate America's past, let's celebrate the enduring role of the paper industry in strengthening our country's future.

The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) serves to advance public policies that foster economic growth, job creation and global competitiveness for a vital sector that makes the essential paper and packaging products Americans use every day. The U.S. forest products industry employs more than 925,000 people, largely in rural America, and is among the top 10 manufacturing sector employers in 44 states. Our industry accounts for approximately 4.7% of the total U.S. manufacturing GDP, manufacturing more than $435 billion in products annually.

AF&PA member companies are significant producers and users of renewable biomass energy and are committed to making sustainable products for a sustainable future through the industry's decades-long initiative — Better Practices, Better Planet 2030. ■

Producing Paper On-Spec Every Time, It's Automatic!

By Wilson Monteiro, Global Business Line Manager, Pulp, Paper & Fiber, ABB Process Industries

Automated paper testing is a powerful tool that offers large, medium, and even small paper mills valuable opportunities to improve quality, increase productivity, make faster decisions, and ultimately raise profit potential.

Papermakers' jobs are complicated but have to be precise every time. In the fast-paced world of paper production, achieving consistent quality and efficiency is a perpetual tightrope walk. There is constant demand to deliver a product that meets ever-evolving customer needs, all while minimizing waste, maximizing output speed, and adhering to strict industry standards. Meeting this complex combination of requirements can be very challenging for producers.

Crucial to any successful paper manufacturer is the production of 'saleable quality' paper. In other words, this is a product that fully meets the customer's quality criteria and specifications and can be sold at a fair price for a profit to the business. Get it wrong, and costs can quickly ramp up from wasted raw materials and other unnecessary costs. For decades, manual laboratory testing has been the industry workhorse for paper quality control. But in today's competitive landscape, limitations like slow testing speeds, limited data points, and human error are becoming increasingly costly obstacles.

This is where automated paper testing comes in, offering a significant upgrade to traditional processes. Automated paper testing is a powerful tool that offers large, medium, and even small paper mills valuable opportunities to improve quality, increase productivity, make faster decisions, and ultimately raise profit potential.

Making the Move to Automation

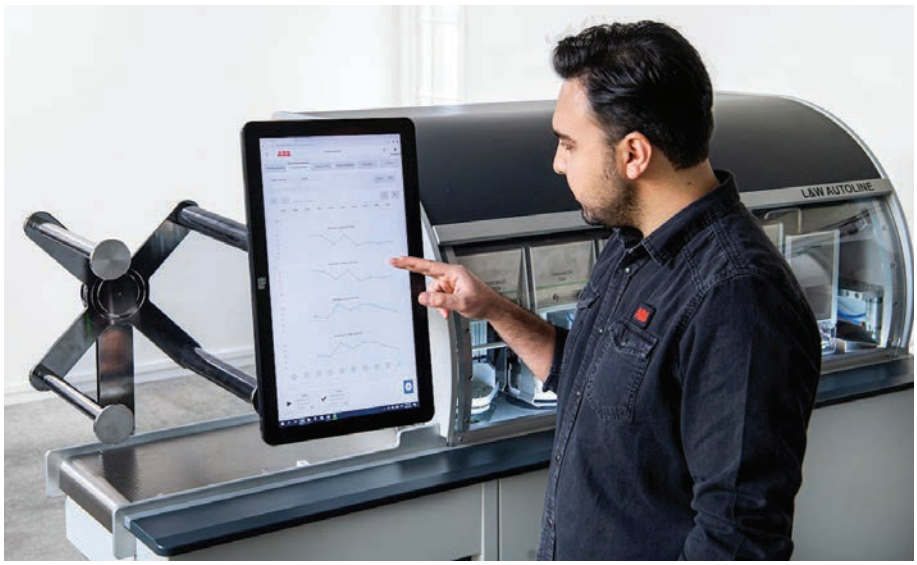
Traditionally, quality control has relied on a method as old as the industry itself — manual testing. Technicians take a handful of samples from each paper reel and subject them to a battery of tests. While it offers a glimpse into quality, this traditional

approach has a critical Achilles heel: a lack of sufficient data.

Testing just a few samples across a wide reel is like trying to judge a whole cake by tasting a single crumb. There's a high risk of missing crucial variations in quality. This can lead to undetected quality issues and tons of unusable paper rolling off the production line. To compound this, manual testing can be time-consuming. The lag time between testing and results, all while potentially off-spec paper continues to be produced, can be a drain. As producers grapple with rising energy bills and other associated costs, the stakes are too high now to operate with such high levels of inefficiency and uncertainty.

A hidden danger with manual testing is the limited cross-machine direction (CD) profile data it produces. Manual testing often fails to capture crucial variations in properties across the entire width of the reel. This creates blind spots in quality control, leaving room for inconsistency. For some paper properties, the quality can vary by more the 10% across the width of the machine, and in some cases even up to 20%, compared to machine direction (MD).

Manually sifting through data for inconsistencies is like searching for a needle in a haystack; a time-consuming and error-prone process that can leave papermakers vulnerable to inconsistent quality down the production line. Thankfully, there's a better way. Automated testing systems offer a modern approach to quality control, one that eliminates these limitations and ushers in a new era of efficiency and precision.



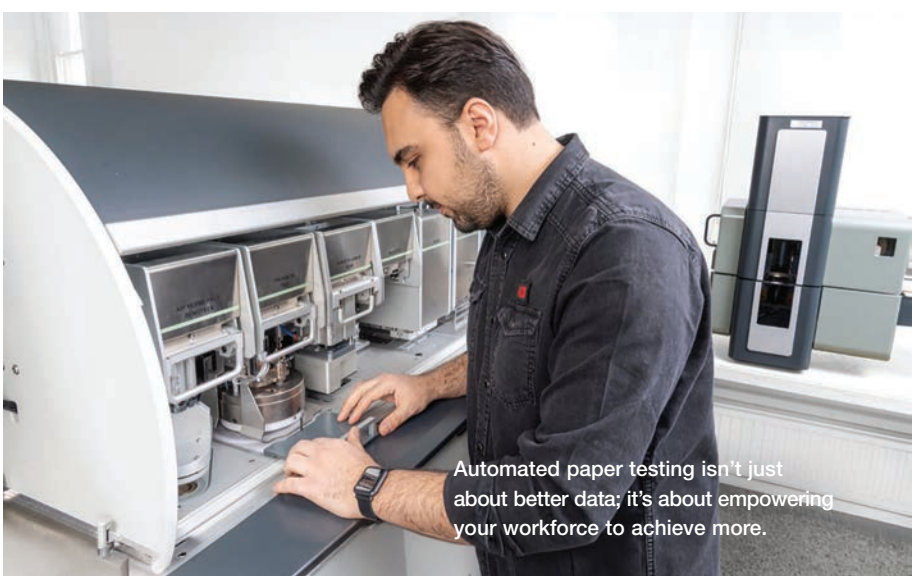
A technician working with ABB's L&W Autoline system, which enables much higher data gathering and analysis.

Is Now the Right Time for Automated Testing?

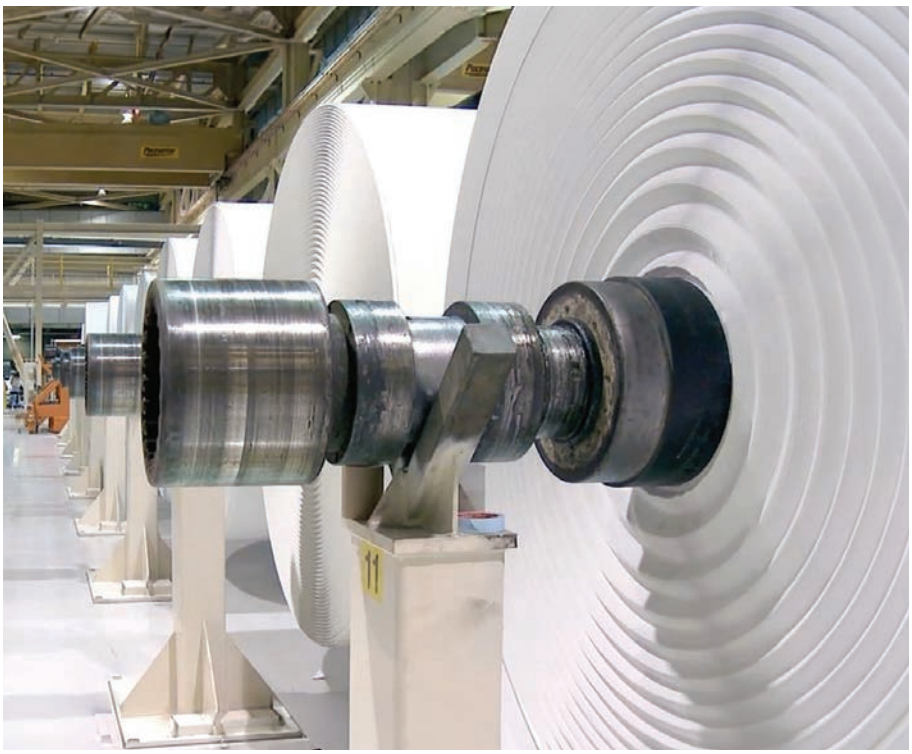
The global paper industry is undergoing a period of significant transformation. Production volumes are increasing, driven by larger, faster machines turning out ever-increasing amounts of paper. This creates a critical need for more frequent and rapid quality testing — a challenge that traditional manual methods simply can't meet.

At the same time, the industry faces labor shortages, rising costs and a fiercely competitive landscape. Advanced automated systems deliver not just speed and efficiency, but also valuable data that correlates test results with real-world performance. This translates to a significant cost advantage over traditional methods. While papermakers are locked in stiff competition, with customers demanding ever-higher quality standards, meeting these standards needs to be balanced with profitability. Automated testing provides an answer, ensuring consistent quality that keeps customers happy, while simultaneously streamlining production and minimizing waste to keep costs down.

The paper industry is embracing sophisticated data modelling to optimize production and predict paper quality. These models rely on vast amounts of testing data, far more than manual methods can provide.



Automated paper testing isn't just about better data; it's about empowering your workforce to achieve more.



In many mills we have seen that trust and confidence between the lab and production improves when an “impartial referee” reports the measurements.

In essence, automated paper is essential for navigating this perfect storm of evolving demands and economic pressures.

The Advantages of Automation

Unlike manual testing’s limited sample size, automated systems collect a significantly higher number of data points, allowing for 10 times more testing points per reel than manual testing comparatively. This creates a statistically robust picture of paper quality, allowing for real-time adjustments to the papermaking process. Automated testing provides the feedback needed to nip quality issues in the bud, ensuring consistent excellence.

Automated systems store all test data electronically, creating a treasure trove of information. Papermakers can now analyze trends, identify root causes of issues, and collaborate more effectively between quality control and operations teams. This knowledge empowers them to continuously optimize the papermaking process, streamlining production and minimizing waste.

In today’s competitive market, both consistent quality and cost-effectiveness are crucial. Automated paper testing systems deliver on both fronts. By minimizing waste and ensuring high quality, papermakers gain a significant advantage. Automation isn’t just a game-changer for paper quality control; it’s a key ingredient for success in the modern paper industry. Perhaps the most compelling indication of this is the fact that no paper mill has ever reverted to manual methods after adopting automation. The benefits are simply too significant to ignore.

Automated testing systems are not just tools; they are a gateway to a more efficient, cost-effective, and quality-focused future for the papermaking industry. By embracing automation, papermakers can not only ensure consistent paper quality but also unlock a world of possibilities for further optimization and innovation.

Virtual measurements were also included in the scope of project delivery, adding strength and weight measurements for more accurate and frequent measurements. Additional complexity lay in integrating across the operational technology, implementing cyber secure architecture all the way from automation to control to IT.

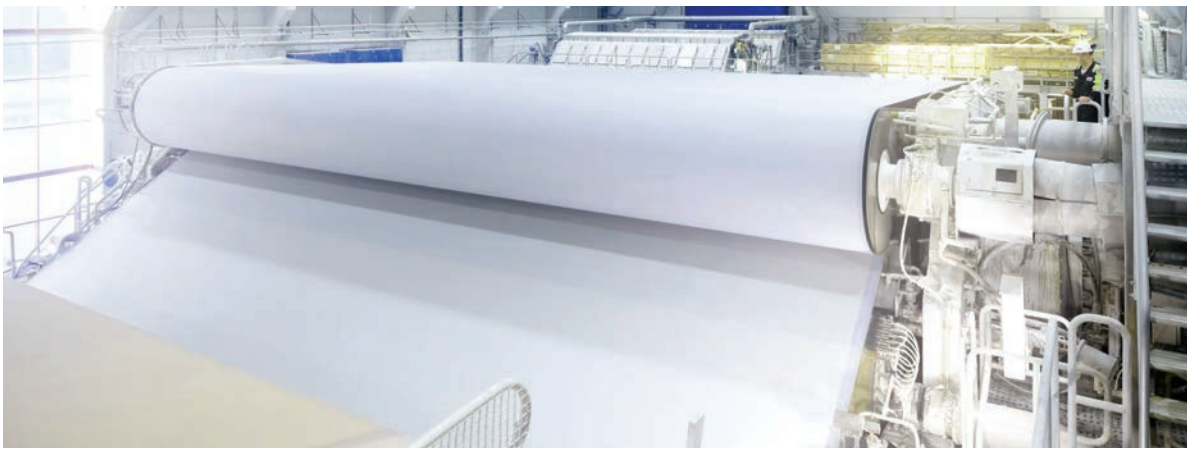
User-Friendly Tech for Seamless Integration

Modern automated testing systems, like the L&W Autoline, are designed with user-friendliness in mind. An operator of any skill level could walk up to a system equipped with an intuitive touchscreen, as easy to navigate as a smartphone, and get to work. Built-in analytical tools take the guesswork out of interpreting data, presenting clear insights at a glance.

In many mills we have seen that trust and confidence between the lab and production improves when an “impartial referee” reports the measurements. Operators no longer question sampling or testing methods, while lab technicians can rely on the system’s consistent and trustworthy results. This trust fosters a more proactive and positive approach to quality management, eliminating the need for unnecessary discussions about retesting and instead allows operators to focus on corrective actions.

Even the testing process itself makes life simple. After each reel change, a sample is collected by the system, eliminating the need for manual intervention. The entire cycle, from sample collection to analysis and data generation, can be completed in ten minutes. That’s a ten-fold improvement over traditional methods, freeing up valuable time for operators to focus on more strategic tasks.

Automated paper testing isn’t just about



The days of manual testing and its inherent limitations may soon be behind us and in its place a wealth of data that will allow mills to paint a detailed picture of their operations and product properties.

better data; it's about empowering your workforce to achieve more.

Case In Paper: Transforming Production with Mill Automation

A US paperboard mill was urged to adopt automated paper testing by its sister mills in Europe, which had been using the technology for several years. The benefits they achieved are a testament to the transformative power of this technology.

Within months of implementing the L&W Autoline system, production and quality teams were not only confident in the results, but also empowered to embark on a Six Sigma project, a method used by businesses to improve their business processes by reducing defects and increasing quality and efficiency. Their goal: reduce basis weight while maintaining tensile strength — a delicate balance.

During the project, thanks to the new high-resolution CD profiles they could get, the team saw that there was excessive variation in tensile tests in one specific position on the machine. The repeatability of automated paper testing enabled the mill personnel to focus on and resolve factors that were affecting that position.

Previously, manual testing's limited reach left them blind to crucial variations across the paper web. Automated testing provided a deeper understanding, thanks to more testing positions across the reel and consistent positioning.

Prior to automation, the mill was forced to over produce basis weight to ensure strength specifications were met. This resulted in wasted materials and higher costs.

The high speed of automated testing enabled multiple test strips per reel in just four minutes. This allowed for basis weight reduction, product recipe updates, and a dramatic decrease in rejects. Due to the testing repeatability, the mill achieved over $1 million in annual savings through adjustments based on data like tensile stiffness orientation. Other significant operational benefits included a 2-3.5% basis weight reduction, a large chemical cost reduction as strength additive usage lowered by 23.5%, and a staggering drop in paper rejections due to low tensile from 65 tons per month to zero.

This case study is a compelling example of how automated paper testing isn't just about data — it's about empowering teams, optimizing processes, and achieving significant cost savings while maintaining exceptional quality.

The Next Chapter

As the paper industry continues to evolve, the need for robust and efficient quality control measures will only become more critical. Eventually, we will reach a point where quality is no longer a guessing game, unlocked by the potential of automated testing and quality control. The days of manual testing and its inherent limitations may soon be behind us and in its place a wealth of data that will allow mills to paint a detailed picture of their operations and product properties.

This continuous process optimization and feedback loop empowers operators to make adjustments on the fly, ensuring consistent excellence in every roll of paper produced. When paired with systems such as ABB's Quality Control System, visibility of operations is enhanced further, providing access to even more data points to optimize operational costs and make high-quality, on-spec paper.

At a time when satisfying the balance between cost and customer satisfaction has never been higher, automation delivers the quality that customers crave while minimizing waste and streamlining production for maximum efficiency.

The paper industry is no stranger to innovation, and automated testing represents the next chapter in this ongoing story. By embracing this powerful technology, papermakers can not only ensure a brighter future for their businesses, but also guarantee a future filled with paper of exceptional quality — one meticulously crafted roll at a time. ■

Industrial DataOps in Manufacturing: Building Data Pipelines You Can Actually Trust

How to build reliable data pipelines from plc to decision.

By Haber

Most manufacturing plants don't have a data shortage problem. They have a trust problem. PLCs are connected. Historians are running. Dashboards are live. Yet when something goes wrong on the plant floor, decisions are still made over phone calls, shift notes, and gut feel.

That gap between available data and usable data, is where industrial dataops actually lives.

What Industrial DataOps Means on the Plant Floor

In theory, dataops in manufacturing is often described as moving data faster or cleaner. Industrial DataOps is about answering one question, every day:

Can I rely on this data right now to make an operational decision?

If the answer is "maybe", the data is useless.

This is where manufacturing differs sharply from IT or digital-native environments. On the plant floor, decisions affect quality, throughput, energy, and safety immediately. There is very little tolerance for "mostly correct" data.

Why Manufacturing Data Pipelines Are Fragile by Default

Most manufacturing data pipelines start with good intent. Signals are pulled from PLCs, stored in historians, pushed into a central platform, and visualized. On paper, this looks complete.

Industrial DataOps is not about collecting more data. It's about making reliability explicit and continuous across the pipeline.

In reality, these pipelines are fragile because manufacturing data behaves badly:

- sensors drift without warning
- tags change during shutdowns or upgrades
- timestamps don't always line up
- sampling rates vary wildly
- context disappears the moment data leaves the control system

Without strong industrial data pipeline architecture, pipelines work during steady-state conditions and quietly fail when things change — exactly when decisions matter most.

PLC Data Integration Is Not the Hard Part

Connecting to PLCs is a solved problem. PLC data integration tools are mature, widely available, and well understood. The mistake many teams make is assuming that once data is extracted, the hard work is done. It isn't.

Raw PLC signals were designed for control, not analysis. A pressure value or flow rate means nothing on its own. Its meaning depends on grade, operating mode, upstream conditions, and equipment state.

Industrial DataOps begins after data is extracted — when signals need to be validated, contextualized, and made decision-ready.

Context Is the Missing Layer

One of the most overlooked challenges in industrial dataops for manufacturing is that critical context often lives outside systems. Operators know when an analyzer is unreliable. Process engineers know which deviations matter during grade changes. Supervisors know which alarms can be ignored and which cannot.

Most data pipelines strip this context away.

When analytics or AI models operate without it, the result is technically correct insights that are operationally wrong. This is one of the main reasons trust breaks down between plant teams and digital systems.

OT–IT Data Integration Is Where Things Get Messy

Bridging OT IT data integration is rarely clean. OT systems are built for determinism and uptime. IT systems are built for flexibility and scale. When the two are forced together without clear ownership, data reliability suffers. Common failure patterns include:

- analytics platforms pulling data without understanding OT constraints
- latency introduced where seconds actually matter
- validation pushed downstream, where it's too late
- no clear accountability when data is wrong

Industrial DataOps sits in the middle — respecting OT realities while making data usable for IT and analytics systems.

How Industrial DataOps Actually Solves This

This is the missing piece.

Industrial DataOps is not about collecting more data. It's about making reliability explicit and continuous across the pipeline.

In practice, strong Industrial DataOps does four things:

1. **Validates data at the edge, not after the fact.** Signals are checked for quality, plausibility, and availability close to the source — before bad data propagates downstream.
2. **Carries operational context with the signal**. Data is tagged with grade, mode, equipment state, and known constraints so its meaning is preserved outside the control system.
3. **Designs for change, not steady state.** Pipelines assume sensors will drift, tags will change, and processes will evolve — and are built to surface those changes instead of hiding them.
4. **Creates clear ownership for data reliability.** When data is wrong, it's immediately visible where and why it broke — and who needs to act.

This is what turns data pipelines from fragile integrations into operational infrastructure.

Where Mt Fuji Fits In

Platforms like Haber's Mt Fuji are built around this exact philosophy.

Instead of treating manufacturing data as just another time-series feed, Mt Fuji focuses on making data decision-ready — by handling validation, context, and reliability as first-class concerns, not afterthoughts.

That's what allows analytics and AI to actually work on the plant floor — not just in demos.

Why Industrial DataOps Matters for AI (More Than You Think)

Most AI failures in manufacturing are not model failures. They are data failures. Models trained on unreliable pipelines drift quickly as processes change. Recommendations lose credibility. Operators stop paying attention. The system technically runs, but no one uses it.

Strong Industrial DataOps changes this equation. When data pipelines are reliable and contextual, AI systems can adapt with the process instead of falling behind it.

This is why industrial dataops is not an "enablement layer" for AI. It is the foundation.

Industrial DataOps Is an Operating Discipline, Not a Tool

It's tempting to look for a platform that "does Industrial DataOps".

In reality, it's a combination of:

- architecture that accounts for plant realities
- continuous validation, not one-time checks
- explicit handling of context and reliability
- clear ownership across OT IT data integration

Without these, even the best tools degrade over time.

Closing Thought

Manufacturing doesn't need more data. It needs data that can be trusted under real operating conditions.

Industrial data ops for manufacturing exists to make that possible — turning raw PLC signals into inputs that operators, engineers, and systems can actually rely on.

Until that foundation is in place, analytics and AI will continue to promise more than they deliver. ■

Haber combines deep paper industry expertise with advanced AI to stabilize operations, optimize every run, and eliminate waste. Haber's platform brings together AI, automation, sensors, and deep process intelligence to help manufacturers operate with greater predictability, speed, and confidence.

Sealmaster™ Bearing Solution Saves Sawmill $900,000 Annually

A sawmill was replacing bearings far more often than necessary, and the constant failures were draining time and money. Operators reported that the competitor's units were "failing every two weeks due to build up of pine tar . . . and pine tar ingress into the bearing." One strategic upgrade changed the trajectory of their maintenance costs and delivered more than $900,000 in annual savings.

Read on to see how this mill turned a recurring problem into a major operational advantage and how the same shift could transform your operation.

Problem: Frequent Bearing Failures

A forestry company was experiencing frequent bearing failures on their lathe tray rolls every two weeks due to build-up of pine tar on the locking mechanism and pine tar ingress into the bearing, resulting in subsequent failure and loss of lock.

Sealmaster Solution

Regal Rexnord proposed a Sealmaster Next Generation Skwezloc concentric lock bearing with felt labyrinth seal solution. The felt labyrinth seal provided improved sealing and the flinger helped keep the pine tar away from getting inside the bearing.

The next generation Skwezloc concentric lock collar design with an innovative circumferential groove on the inner ring provided improved shaft grip on the slightly undersized worn shafting being used.

The Sealmaster Next Generation Skwezloc™ concentric lock bearing outlasted the competitor's bearings by 8 months and counting! This solution resulted in saving the plant over $900,000 per year on bearing replacement costs!

Sealmaster Next Generation Skwezloc Concentric Lock Bearing – Features and Benefits

Sealmaster mounted ball bearing with Next Generation Skwezloc concentric lock provides a variety of features:

- Innovative circumferential groove on the inner ring bore that improves shaft grip and reduces raceway distortion for quieter, smoother operation allowing for improved lock reliability
- Larger cap screw and collar for improved clamping force to the shaft compared to competitive designs
- Optimized chamfer profile that reduces stress concentrations when the collar is tightened
- Designed for use on "commercial" T&P shafting**
- Simple single screw installation; no axial movement during installation or risk of preloading the bearing
- Patented design

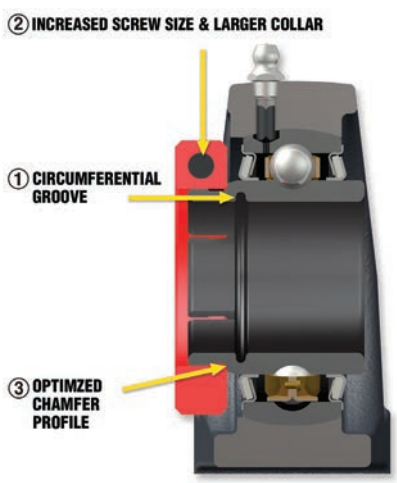
Other features include:

- Wide outer ring design provides increased grease capacity to lubricate the bearings.
- Anti-rotation = pin and dimple system prevents the bearing OD from creep/ rotation due to vibration over time while providing a full ±2" of static misalignment.
- Direct lube = pin and dimple system provides a direct lubrication path into bearing, eliminating the need to channel grease around a lubrication groove common on standard mounted ball bearing units.
- Felt labyrinth seal with rotating flinger helps direct contamination away from the sealing surfaces. Alternate seal options are available upon request; see Sealmaster Custom Select.

Innovative circumferential groove on the inner ring bore that improves shaft grip and reduces raceway distortion for quieter, smoother operation allowing for improved lock reliability.

- Black oxide standard on inner/outer rings and seal components helps inhibit corrosion.
- Zone hardened inner race provides a fully hardened ball path while leaving the race extensions unhardened, allowing better setscrew holding power.
- Length through bore is longer than most competitors for greater shaft stability.
- Land-riding brass retainer has high strength, minimizes friction and provides grease circulation.
- Precision manufactured, diamond faceted setscrews improve clamping and resist backing out.
- Solid base, pillow block, cast iron housing provides improved stability and resistance to shock and vibration.
- Permanent metal nameplate allows for easy identification after years of operation.
- Factory-filled with lithium complex NLGI 2 grease.

***Maximum speed rating on commercial (T&P) shafting equal to setscrew locking; consult bearing catalog.*



Regal Rexnord is a trusted global leader, supplying power transmission solutions for the forest products industry. Our customers have come to rely on our extensive experience, solution-based engineering, quality manufacturing, and exceptionally reliable product performance. We are committed to delivering the highest quality solutions to meet the unique needs of your operations. To learn more, visit: www.regalrexnord.com. ■

Vacuum Systems: Driving Efficiency and Reliability in Paper Production

Vacuum technology plays a critical role throughout the paper manufacturing, printing, packaging, and converting industries. From sheet handling and material transfer to printing and palletizing, reliable vacuum systems help ensure consistent production, reduce waste, and maintain product quality. As paper manufacturers continue to focus on maximizing uptime and improving energy efficiency, selecting the right vacuum solution has become more important than ever.

In paper mills, vacuum is essential during forming, pressing, conveying, and transferring operations. Printing facilities rely on stable vacuum levels for accurate sheet feeding, helping reduce misfeeds, jams, and material waste. Packaging and converting operations use vacuum for pick-and-place systems, die cutting, folding, conveying, and palletizing. These applications often run continuously and experience fluctuating demand, making dependable vacuum performance critical to maintaining production efficiency.

Many facilities still operate multiple standalone vacuum pumps throughout the plant, which can lead to inconsistent vacuum levels, higher maintenance requirements, and increased energy consumption. Centralized vacuum systems offer a more efficient alternative by providing a stable vacuum source that can support multiple processes simultaneously. Properly engineered systems help balance demand, improve reliability, and reduce operational costs while simplifying maintenance.

Quincy Compressor offers a comprehensive portfolio of vacuum solutions designed to meet the unique requirements of paper industry applications. Whether a facility requires an oil-sealed or oil-free vacuum pump, a point-of-use solution, or a centralized system, Quincy Vacuum provides customizable

Centralized vacuum systems offer a more efficient alternative than multiple standalone vacuum pumps by providing a stable vacuum source that can support multiple processes simultaneously.

options tailored to each operation's performance goals. In addition, Quincy offers system accessories including vacuum receivers, filtration packages, controls, and monitoring solutions that help create efficient, reliable vacuum systems.

One solution gaining traction in paper applications is the Quincy QSV Variable Speed Screw Vacuum Pump. Designed to maximize efficiency, the QSV uses variable speed drive technology to automatically adjust motor speed based on system demand. By matching vacuum production to actual requirements, the QSV can significantly reduce energy consumption while maintaining precise vacuum set points. This results in improved process stability and lower operating costs.

The QSV can also be integrated into larger centralized vacuum systems through Quincy's ECOntrol 3.0 multi-pump controller. Acting as the central intelligence of the system, ECOntrol 3.0 coordinates multiple pumps to optimize performance, improve energy efficiency, and provide enhanced monitoring capabilities across the entire vacuum network. Every QSV is backed by Quincy Compressor's industry-leading 10-Year Royal Blue Warranty, providing customers with long-term confidence and peace of mind.

For facilities seeking a complete turnkey solution, the Quincy QVIS Multi-Pump Vacuum System offers a practical and efficient approach. QVIS systems incorporate oil-sealed rotary vane vacuum pumps, receivers, filtration, controls, and system piping into a fully integrated package. Available in simplex through quadruplex configurations, QVIS systems provide flexibility, redundancy, and stable vacuum performance for varying production demands. By consolidating multiple point-of-use vacuum sources into a centralized system, facilities can reduce maintenance burdens, simplify service requirements, and lower total cost of ownership.

"A Legacy of Reliability and Innovation"

For more than 100 years, Quincy Compressor has built its reputation on delivering reliable, high-performance solutions for demanding industrial environments. Known for its commitment to quality, Quincy has become synonymous with "Performance You Demand. Reliability You Trust." Today, that legacy extends beyond compressed air into advanced vacuum technologies engineered to help paper manufacturers improve efficiency, reduce energy consumption, and maintain consistent production. Supported by an extensive network of distributors and factory-trained service technicians, Quincy Compressor continues to deliver the performance customers demand and the reliability they trust.

For more information about Quincy Compressor, please visit www.quincycompressor.com. ■

index of advertisers

COMPANY	PAGE	WEBSITE
Deublin	2	www.deublin.com
Edwin X. Graf	29	headbox@aol.com
Essco	11	esscoincorporated.com
IBS North America	9	www.ibs-ppg.com
IFPTA	31	www.ifpta.org
Kadant	32	kadant.com
MoistTech	14	www.moisttech.com
NAK Kiln	13	nak-kiln.com
Papermachine Service Ind.	29	papermachine.com
ParagonLED	12	thermal-tech-lighting.com
Quincy Compressor	17, 28	www.quincycompressor.com
Regal Rexnord	5, 26	www.regalrexnord.com
Röchling	15	www.roechling.com/industrial/oepping
SealRyt	19	www.sealryt.com
VM5 Lighting Solutions	11	vm5lighting.com

Onsite 3D Printing Cuts Costs and Downtime at Georgia-Pacific Facilities

Georgia-Pacific teams are using 3D printing to solve manufacturing challenges faster, safer and more efficiently from creating custom replacement parts in-house to designing tools that improve operator safety and reduce downtime.

At Georgia-Pacific's Muskogee, Oklahoma and Brewton, Alabama facilities, employees are turning ideas into real solutions that save time, lower costs and improve reliability. Georgia-Pacific's plant-floor 3D printing is an example of teams replacing slower-to-procure, more expensive methods with better ones.

Across GP's facilities, teams are using 3D printing in innovative ways to solve manufacturing challenges faster, safer and at a fraction of the cost. What makes this more effective is that it is driven by a bottom-up approach. It starts on the plant floor, where employees know the equipment best and see opportunities firsthand.

At facilities like Muskogee and Brewton, 3D printing has become an in-house source for items that are costly, time-consuming or difficult to source through traditional channels. Engineers and maintenance teams are designing and producing small parts and novel and protective solutions tailored to real operational needs, replacing long lead times and process frustrations with on- demand production.

How Georgia-Pacific Uses 3D Printing in Manufacturing

In Muskogee, drafter Nate Yarbrough leads much of this work, using CAD software to model parts. Ideas often come directly from operators and mechanics. "It's not a solution for everything," Nate says, "but it is for a lot of things."

One example is small tabs on junction boxes for LGVs (Laser Guided Vehicles).

Nate Yarbrough designs a camera cap solution for the entry gate outside Georgia-Pacific's Muskogee mill.

Instead of ordering an entire replacement box for a single broken tab, the team 3D printed just the tab, cutting the cost to a nominal amount and significantly reducing downtime. Nate has also created custom mounts for turnstile cameras and protective cages for drones so they can safely fly in tight spaces without risking damage.

3D Printing for Process Human Factors & Operational Efficiency

At Brewton, maintenance learning and development lead, Kyle Null, has embraced 3D printing to enhance process reliability and operator safety. In the demineralized water area, operators previously collected multiple process samples using individual glass beakers, carrying them between their fingers. Doing this increased handling and breakage risk and made sample mix-ups more likely.

To address this, the team designed a custom 3D-printed sample organizer for the beakers. The organizer helps operators collect all required samples in a single pass while maintaining clear and consistent organization while also reducing breakage risk, reinforcing process discipline and making training more intuitive for new operations.

Safety, Compliance, and Responsible Innovation

Safety and compliance remain central to every design and print. Printed parts must be reviewed and approved before use, and safety related items are often produced in distinct colors. Teams are also careful to respect legal and "right to repair" considerations, avoiding patented components while still enabling safe repairs to GP owned equipment.

The technology continues to evolve quickly, including advances in metal 3D printing, and teams are already exploring more robust printers to expand what's possible. ■

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.

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.

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

Visit **www.ifpta.org** today for information on how to join.

International Forest Products Transport Association

I F P T A

THE DIFFERENCE ISN'T ALWAYS VISIBLE

Both seal rings looked the same in the box. Only ONE was BUILT TO PERFORM.

When you choose non-genuine parts, you're taking a risk with production, reliability, and safety. Genuine Kadant Johnson components are designed specifically for your equipment and manufactured to deliver the performance your operation depends on.

Don't risk excessive downtime or the safety of your employees. Use only genuine Kadant parts from the one supplier that you trust to help you meet your paper machine performance and runnability goals.

KADANT JOHNSON CERTIFIED GENUINE PARTS

fluidhandling.kadant.com

KĀDANT