

SHOW BRIEFS

- PackMedical a medical paper bag and Heavy Duty (HD-E) bagger was launched by **Automated Packaging Systems**.

The Autobagger has been designed for optimum performance in medical applications where, thicker, tougher and stiffer films are required, say APS.

Said to deliver full automated sterilisation, the system is based on the Autobagger platform and features components that improve bag indexing, opening and sealing for tough applications.

It is suitable for medical device manufacturers, contract packers, hospitals and pharmacies, says APS, and can run inline with a thermal imprinter.

Made up of a base web medical paper and a top web of PE/PE or PET/PP, the bags can be sterilised using gas, steam, formaldehyde or radiation.

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- First time exhibitor **Luceo Inspection**, of France, showed off its ThermoSecure range of detectors. ThermoSecure, which includes a model for building in to FFS machines, detects contaminated seals, label position, weigh/price information, and variable information including best before dates and barcodes. www.luceo-inspection.com

- Ultrasonic innovations for sealing applications on flexible and rigid packaging were shown by **Telsonic**. A new torsional ultrasonic head is now featured on its longitudinal Fin Sealing head. www.telsonic.com

Allen commmits to non-contact coding

A move into laser and inkjet markets, plus the transfer of all manufacturing out of the UK were announced by Allen Coding Systems during the PPMA Show 2009.

Part of ITW, Allen will exclusively offer Barcelona-based Macsa's ICON laser coder as an entry-level machine for small character coding.

Introduced as part of an on-going strategy to increase its range of contact and non-contact technologies, Macsa's ICON laser coder can print up to eight lines of code, at speeds of up to 500m/minute, on a variety of substrates including cartonboard, glass, metal and labels. It is suited to applications in the beverage, cosmetics, industrial, and electronics industries.

Designed for small character coding the ICON system is claimed to be easy to use, fast and at £9,400 competitively priced with ink jet printers. It features an integrated colour touch screen and intuitive interface with context sensitive menus for ease of navigation.

It uses high performance optics, powerful hardware and advanced, low overhead software to enable the core laser to meet the high speeds of most

production lines, states Allen. Its compact design means it can be installed in locations where space is limited.

Allen Coding's commitment to grow its range of non-contact systems, was underlined by the new partnership with Hitachi to sell its range of continuous inkjet printers in the UK and Ireland. Allen's managing director Adrian Shepherd said, "This will help us maintain a competitive edge and our order book promises significant growth. Hitachi and the Macsa agreements are just two of a series of initiatives that will grow our range of non-contact systems in 2010."

Designed for reliable and accurate reproduction of text, graphics and variable data such as product identification directly onto uneven or flexible substrates including food, glass, plastics, metal and rubber, the Hitachi CIJ range is designed for fast and challenging production environments.

The range can reach print speeds of up to 700m/minute and prices start at £5,000.
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Barcelona bound

Allen Coding Systems announced the consolidation of all its manufacturing into ITW's site in Barcelona, where a brand new facility will come on line in 2010. Additionally, one product line will be moved to Taiwan.

The first products from the Barcelona facility are expected during December this year.

In the UK Allen is moving to a new and bigger distribution facility from which it will continue to distribute its full range of thermal transfer, hot foil and laser coding and marking equipment, and its sister company ITW Betaprint's range of thermal transfer print and label application systems.

Blisters at the double

A new feeder for packing multi-product pharmaceutical blisters was launched by the Technical Engineering Group's TechnicalPharma division.

Claimed to double the output of a blister line, the Electro-mec NG Feeder has a modular basis and can be tailored to precise

web width and draw. It was demonstrated with a continuous motion unit, and an Orbital Brush and Web Brush.

Its compact dimensions mean that up to three individual units can be installed and run side by side on a standard length blister machine, says the company.

This allows fast and accurate filling of multi-product blisters, with individual control of each product.

Technical Engineering Group acquired the pharmaceutical division of Electro-mec UK earlier this year. www.techengtool.com/pharma

Phantom in mini format

Fortress Technology unveiled its most compact metal detector to date, the Mini-tex.

Available with the options of a 52mm or 109mm size aperture, it retains the functionality of other models in the Phantom range, but with a drastically reduced footprint, says Fortress.

It has been developed as a replacement for older metal detector models especially those in restricted or awkward places where a larger unit would involve moving or replacing other equipment in the production line.

Based on the company's Vertex system for freefalling products, Mini-tex uses the latest Digital Signal Processing and despite its slim design is capable of detecting small ferrous and non-ferrous contaminants at



high speed and sensitivity, says the company.

The raw product inspection makes it highly suited for metallised film applications, as raw product inspection yields higher sensitivity levels.

Its mountable remote control box facilitates easy set up.

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Sustainable links for all-round eco-service

A holistic approach to sustainable packaging was taken by Aetna UK which exhibited its new range of Ecoplat pallet stretch wrapping machines with 100 per cent recyclable paper pallets from The Paper Pallet Company.

All Aetna's pallet wrappers are made from eco-friendly components where practical and are designed to use the minimum amount of energy and materials through increased control of the wrapping cycle

Aetna Group UK's national sales manager Paddy McCartney said: "The Ecoplat range provides cost and environmental benefits through film savings plus labour savings, as well as health and safety advantages compared with manual wrapping."

By working with the Paper Pallet Company Aetna UK is ensuring its customers are offered an all-round environmental service. "Our link with The Paper Pallet Company



underlines our pledge to help our customers meet their environmental commitments," explained Colin Barker, General Manager, Aetna UK.

The lightweight paper pallets answer concerns about wood infestation; a major threat to both agriculture and the environment. They do not need infestation treatment or certification for export as they

are fully compliant with the new international regulation ISPM – the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures.

Food and pharma safe, the lightweight paper pallets are fully recyclable, have excellent moisture resistance and beam strength, compression strength of 10 metric tonnes, and are available in Euro and American sizes.

Aetna's three new models: the Ecoplat Base, Ecoplat FRD and Ecoplat PPS feature a 1,650mm turntable and wrap up to 2,000kg, and all have a three year warranty.

Ecoplat Base is an entry level machine for companies looking to upgrade their basic palletising operations from manual to a semi-automatic environment, while the Ecoplat PPS features power pre-stretch capability (see *MU September/October 2009 p48*)

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Mixer for in house trials

Winkworth Machinery introduced its 7-litre Z Blade MZ7 mixer development for companies wishing to conduct pre-production scale up trials in-house.

Suitable for mixing, kneading and blending of materials for development such as chewing gum, sugar paste, silicon, soaps and flavour development, its size fits neatly between a laboratory and full size industrial

mixer enabling small scale volume production for extended trials and acceptance.

Winkworth claims the 7-litre mixing capacity delivers the reliable mixing characteristics of a much larger machine. Offering an easy clean facility which takes just a few minutes, the stainless steel mixer can be used for repeat small batches. Its endplate and blades can be easily removed by the operator

within the laboratory allowing for thorough cleaning to eliminate potentially damaging cross contamination between batches, says the company.

A data logging function not only enables the recording of important parameters but also stores the changes in the actual mixing process ready for subsequent analysis.

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