

SPOTLIGHT ON PACKAGING & LABELS

CCL: Three more acquisitions in Europe and Asia

Canadian firm **CCL** (Toronto, Ontario; www.cclind.com) has announced three binding acquisition agreements. **Olympic** (Venray / The Netherlands; www.olympicbonding.com) manufactures PMMA tapes, **Uni-Logo** (Piaseczno / Poland; www.unilogo-drukarnia.pl) manufactures pressure sensitive labels and sleeve labels and **Hinsitsu Screen Vietnam** (Hanoi / Vietnam; www.hinsitsuvietsnam.com) produces tamper-evident labels and graphic overlays for the electronics industry.

Tetra Pak: Carton recycling partnership with Veolia

Packaging giant **Tetra Pak** (Pully / Switzerland; www.tetrapak.com) has joined forces with **Veolia** (Paris / France; www.veolia.com) to enable all components of used beverage cartons collected within the EU to be recycled by 2025. The average beverage carton comprises around 75% paperboard, 20% plastic and 5% aluminium foil. While the fibres recovered during recycling have a healthy market when converted into high-quality paper pulp, the same is not true for the recovered polymer and aluminium (PolyAl) mix.

TriMas: Takeover of Italian closures manufacturer

US firm **TriMas** (Bloomfield Hills, Michigan; www.trimascorp.com) has signed an agreement to acquire caps and closures manufacturer **Plastic Srl** (Forli / Italy; www.plasticsrl.it). The purchase price has not been disclosed. The transaction is scheduled to close in early 2019, after which Plastic Srl will be a wholly-owned division of TriMas' packaging business **Rieke** (www.riekepackaging.com). Plastic Srl has more than 100 closure product designs and serves several European markets, generating annual sales of around EUR 10m.

EcoCortec: New plant for packaging films in Croatia

Croatian company **EcoCortec** (Beli Manastir; www.ecocortec.hr) has opened a new packaging materials plant in Beli Manastir. The 2,000 m² facility includes an extrusion line, which can handle 6.2 m wide film, bags on roll and perforated sheets. The plant has been in part funded by the Croatian **Ministry of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Crafts** within a European funding programme. EcoCortec regards itself as one of Europe's largest manufacturers of "Vapour phase Corrosion Inhibitor" (VpCI) films and packaging.

Rikutec: Production moves to France and Spain

Richter Kunststofftechnik (Rikutec, Altenkirchen / Germany; www.rikutec.de), a specialist for large-volume blow-moulded articles, wants to focus more strongly on competencies when it comes to their European production plants. As a result, the Habitat business unit is transferring the production of water and oil containers for household applications from Altenkirchen to the company's plants in Drulingen / France and Lan-tarón / Spain.

Daily news at www.pieweb.com

UK

Eunomia report recommends levy on virgin packaging to boost demand for recycled materials

A levy should be placed on all virgin packaging to boost demand for recycled materials, says UK consultancy **Eunomia** (Bristol; www.eunomia.co.uk), recommending a system that combines a fee on packaging and products with a refund to those companies that can demonstrate their use of recycled materials. It said the credits can have a value that varies according to the use of the post-consumer recycled (PCR) material, giving some stability in terms of incentive. The research was carried out during a challenging time for the UK recycling sector, which has recently been affected by China's ban on plastics waste imports, press accusations of industry mismanagement as well as a report by the **National Audit Office** that concluded the government does not check whether exported material is actually recycled.

Eunomia has identified several market failures, including an inability to fully internalise all externalities, high transaction costs, a lack of accurate information on waste quality and unnecessarily strict limits on the use of PCR. The consultancy sees four options to address these failures: material taxation, tradable credits for using PCR, a fee-rebate scheme and establishing a single producer responsibility organisation (packaging). The UK firm favours the "feebate" system because of its versatility of design, reduced administrative complexity and the stability of the incentive it yields.

■ Full report available at www.pieweb.com/241224

GERMANY

Plastic packaging recycling slightly down in 2017 / New law sets higher recycling rates in the new year

Packaging recycling in Germany remained at a high level in 2017, but the recycling rate across all packaging materials fell slightly by 0.9% to 79.0%, according to German packaging market research firm **GVM** (Mainz; www.gymonline.de). Compared to 2016, the recycling rate of laminated cartons for liquids rose by almost 1%. Recycling declined slightly for all other materials – only tin cans remained constant at more than 90%. **Conversio's** (Mainaschaff / Germany; www.conversio-gmbh.com) most recent data for 2017 shows that the German plastics sector has a lot of catching up to do, with a recycling rate well below 50% and only a small amount of recycled materials being used in plastics processing.

With the German populace producing packaging waste totalling more than 18m t/y, per capita consumption is approximately 222 kg each year, with households generating about half of this. The European average is 167.3 kg per year.

From 1 January 2019, the new national packaging law will come into effect. It includes raising plastic packaging recycling rates from 36% to 58.5%, to be raised to 63% from 2022. That same year glass, iron, aluminium and paper packaging will all have recycling targets of 90%. The recycling rate for laminated beverage cartons is 75% starting in 2019, which will go up to 80% in 2022. There is also a modulated fee structure that will affect manufacturers. It is intended for ecodesign criteria to be taken into account, and to encourage packaging manufacturers to use materials containing recycled materials.