

SNIPPETS

Markem's latest thermal printing technology - SmartDate 5 - has a 1000mm/second print speed to keep pace with the fastest production lines, print set-up is fast and easy, and the 0.5mm gap between prints delivers more codes from every metre of printing ribbon, claims Markem.

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Erapa's BandAll automatic banding/labelling system is a cost effective alternative to traditional labelling and carton-board sleeving in the ready meals sector, says the company. Band widths of 29, 48, 75 and 100mm are available on reels containing up to 2000 bands, which, the company believes, can be stored more easily than sleeves.

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The new Scribing Laser Range from **Linx Printing** comprises the Linx SL101 and SL301 scribing lasers (respectively 10W and 30W power options). The range of lenses and beam



delivery options mean they can be manoeuvred into tight spaces. Featuring an intuitive interface with a Hand-Held Control Unit other new features include greater marking versatility thanks to the use of a variety of beam delivery options for different spot sizes, product to lens distances and mark fields.

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Ready Meals & Snacks – coding, marking & labelling

Making sense of packaging codes

The latest version of Claricom's CLARiSOFT software for Package Coding Management (PCM) includes a number of enhancements, including compatibility with the latest GS1 DataBar barcode.

Previously known as Reduced Space Symbology (RSS) barcodes, GS1 DataBar has



Claricom's DataBar in use

been endorsed by GS1 for global, unrestricted trade item identification from 1 January 2010 onwards.

Claricom says its decision to adopt the technology well in advance of that deadline

demonstrates its commitment to real-time coding and labelling driver connectivity.

CLARiFY advanced planning software has been enhanced with the ability to integrate photo standard information into its database for improved efficiency and quality control, says the company.

The photo standard is the document used throughout food and related industries to provide operators at the start of a production run with a highly visible guide to what the product and packaging should look like. Usually, there will be a unique photo standard for each variant, which in a larger manufacturing facility may mean as many as 700 documents.

The need to address this inefficiency was coupled with a desire amongst many food manufacturers to make Photo Standard part of their Q & A processes.

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Open and shut case for clamshells

Used for convenience foods as well as fresh produce, the plastic clamshell pack poses particular challenges at the labelling stage. Sessions of York has developed a system specifically for this market.

Typically, the pressure-sensitive, tamper-evident label needs to be applied to the leading edge of the closed pack and then wrapped around the top and bottom.

The Sessions labeller achieves this in a single pass, holding the sometimes fragile packs positively in place between two feed conveyors, while not applying excessive pressure.

Spectrum applicators are used, and an alternative print-apply version is designed around Sessions' SPA 92X print unit. This generates labels at high speeds, and is able to produce up

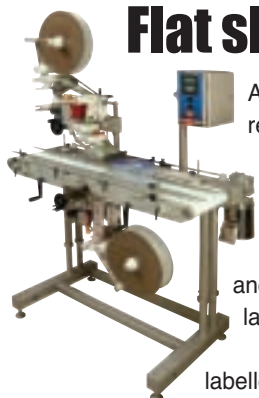


Sessions clamshell labeller

to three print widths in 17 standard fonts and 12-dot print head resolution.

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Flat sleeve labelling at speed



Atwell Labellers has recently supplied several of the UK's top ready meals suppliers with systems incorporating its AL120-S top, base and side self-adhesive label head.

The off-line flat sleeve labellers, rated to IP55 and

IP65 standards, achieve accuracy levels of + or - 0.5mm at speeds up to 8000/hour, claims Atwell. The in-line systems for lower risk environments can apply labels (paper or plastic) up to 200mm and are IP55 rated.

The company's new Matrix Express label head has been developed for facilities with high wash down requirements.

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