

# Show reputation attracts first-timers

More than 80 per cent of the floor space has been booked at this year's PPMA Show with some 23 new names lining up at the event, which takes place at the NEC Birmingham from September 29 to October 1.

The dedicated machinery and equipment focus of the exhibition, the diversity of markets served and the calibre of visitors it attracts are key reasons cited for exhibiting.

The strength of the PPMA remains a major selling point for new exhibitors. VC999, manufacturers of vacuum packaging machinery for industries such as food and medical, has recently joined the association and sees exhibiting at the PPMA Show as a natural extension of membership.

Martin Howells, sales manager – southern region of VC999, said: "We will be presenting a range of solutions – including our



new K7 machine, a conveyor-fed chamber system for vacuum packaging meat."

Interfood Technology will be exhibiting its recently launched Plasti-Clip Line EZ P 600 which, while predominantly designed for food applications, will be shown off to potential users for a wide range of processing and packaging applications.

The PPMA Show's leading UK status also makes it an attractive proposition for international companies keen to increase their presence in the country, such as wenglor sensoric, a German-owned manufacturer of photoelectric &

inductive sensors, image processing, OCR readers, barcode scanners and safety technology.

This unique exhibition, delivers innovative production line solutions to enhance productivity, efficiency and flexibility across a wide range of industries including food and drink, household products, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and toiletries says Reed Exhibitions.

The PPMA Show 2009 takes place at the NEC Birmingham, from September 29 to October 1. Contact Graham Earl:  
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## BUSINESS BRIEFS

Subject to regulatory approvals, **Domino Printing Sciences** is to acquire Labeljet S.A and its subsidiary Marque TDI, a full sales and service operation selling a wide range of coding and marking products in Portugal.

Marque TDI, which is based in Porto, has been Domino's distributor in the Portuguese market since 2002.

Initial consideration is a fixed sum of €4m plus an amount to be agreed for net tangible assets.

The total initial sum including net tangible assets is expected to be approximately €7m.

**ROVEMA Global Packaging Group** has acquired Hassia-Redatron and the packaging unit of Piltz Verpackungstechnik. The company names will be amalgamated to form Hassia-Piltz, and be based in Butzbach, Hessen, Germany. Hassia-Piltz Group produces single- and multi-lane form/fill/seal machines for 3- and 4-side sealed bags. [www.rovema.de](http://www.rovema.de)

Growth in the Indian sub-continent has led **PIAB**, a global vacuum technology specialist, to open a subsidiary in Chennai, India. The Chennai subsidiary will service pharmaceutical, chemical, food and automotive companies, providing vacuum conveying solutions.

PIAB will support existing distribution networks and provide training and technical support for distributors and customers.

**UPM Conveyors** has created a specialist division for product handling incorporating box fillers; product counting by weight; product conveying controlled through bar code reading; and complete systems to transfer products through all stages of manufacture.

## Bosch brand extended

Bosch Packaging Technology is standardising the packaging names of its companies under the Bosch brand to underscore its one-stop shop capabilities and reinforce its long-term commitment to its businesses.

Friedbert Klefenz, president, Bosch Packaging Technology said, "The standardisation allows us to leverage the excellent global reputation of the Bosch brand to strengthen our market presence."

Thomas Quante, senior vice president, added: "Our approach is based on a 'global team with regional focus' policy, meaning that our customers



President of Bosch Packaging Technology Friedbert Klefenz

now benefit from the technology and support of a global company, while retaining the quick, responsive services and market knowledge of a local machine manufacturer."

US-based Dobby Inc., New Richmond, becomes Bosch Packaging Technology, Inc; the Dutch Tevopharm BV, Schiedam, becomes Bosch Packaging Technology BV; the Swiss company Demarex SA becomes Bosch Packaging Technology SA; and Dutch company Robert Bosch Verpakkingmachines BV, becomes Robert Bosch Packaging Technology BV.

## Fishy projects from Campden

A range of projects including different aspects of fish processing, preservation and packing will be examined by Campden BRI's new fish and seafood research group.

A recently undertaken project looks at High Pressure Processing (HPP) for shelf-life extension and meat extraction. Fish specialist Craig Leadley said: "Over half a million tonnes of HPP treated seafood are being processed each year in North America and New Zealand, where the technology is a commercial reality. But European seafood processors have yet to fully exploit the technology.

"The research will help provide independent guidance for industry on the potential applications, benefits and economics of the technology."

In a separate project Campden BRI has explored the use of a new approach to modified atmosphere packaging (MAP) of fish with soluble gas stabilisation (SGS).

The process is similar to MAP except that carbon dioxide is dissolved into the product.

[www.campden.co.uk/sectors/seafood.htm](http://www.campden.co.uk/sectors/seafood.htm)

## Welsh food

A £5m food research centre has been opened at the School of Health Sciences, based at the University of Wales Institute Cardiff. It will help local food businesses to introduce and monitor the rigorous food safety processes needed to comply with global food safety standards.

[www3.uwic.ac.uk](http://www3.uwic.ac.uk)

# Some glad tidings amid the gloom

This year's Budget was greeted with gloom and derision by most commentators. However for both large and small businesses the Chancellor Alistair Darling did offer some relief in three areas of business which could help to stimulate capital investment.

For multi-nationals, the news that companies headquartered in the UK will not pay tax on profits generated by overseas subsidiaries will be welcomed. However, the jury is still out on the overall impact of the measure as it comes with penalties and a tightening of the net in other areas by HMRC to compensate for loss of revenues.

For smaller companies the extension, until November 2010, of the scheme allowing them to claim back tax on the previous

three years' profits by 'carrying back' losses up to £50,000 is likely to boost liquidity. It will help to improve cashflow for up to 140,000 small businesses at a time when the squeeze on credit and payment terms is hitting hard.

But the British Chambers of Commerce said the £50,000 carry back limit should have been increased to make a real impact. Late payments and cashflow issues account for one quarter of all business failures.

Of particular significance for the engineering sector was the doubling of capital allowances, the tax relief for investment in machinery and plants, to 40 per cent. Taken in conjunction with the VAT rate cut, a company can save as much as £75,000

on every £1m of investment. It remains to be seen if bigger companies will see this as an opportunity to invest in better equipment to improve their productivity and margins.

Some areas of processing and packaging technology could also benefit from the £750m the Government is making available via the new Strategic Investment Fund, of which £10m is earmarked for UK Trade and Investment.

Overall representatives of small business felt much more could have been done to boost manufacturing. Chris Buxton, CEO, PPMA, said: "Small businesses are essential to the UK economy - increased fuel duty and increased redundancy payments are no help at all."

## Meech wins Queen's Award 2009

PPMA member and electrostatic control systems specialist Meech International has won a Queen's Award for Enterprise:

International Trade 2009. Based in Witney, Oxfordshire, the group received the award for its "continuous achievement in

international trade, sustained over no less than six years".

Businesses winning the award have to demonstrate substantial growth in overseas earnings and commercial success for the goods or services in comparison with the size of the applicant's operations.

Some 70 per cent of the systems produced by Meech are sold in 45 overseas markets via its subsidiaries and specialist distributors.

"This is the first time the company has applied for a Queen's Award, so winning it is particularly special and a great honour," says CEO Chris Francis.

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Meech CEO Chris Francis



A cooking vessel from Terlet, represented in the UK by Holmach

## Holmach agencies made clear

Holmach is the new agent for German group NIKO Nahrungsmittel-Maschinen, which produces a range of tunnel pasteurisers and coolers, rinsers, stainless steel depalletisers, and solids and liquid fillers for sauces, pickles and preserves.

There are more than 50 installations of NIKO equipment in the UK and Ireland - all of which will be supported through Holmach's after sales department.

Holmach also represents Dutch company Terlet for the batch or continuous cooking and cooling of sauces, ready meals and condiments.

Customers are not only looking for flexibility but increasingly rapid process times to improve quality. Steam injection while reducing cooking times can damage the molecular structure of the product, so batch vessels must also be constructed to give rapid heating.

Terlet specialise in the manufacture of process vessels and the Terlotherm scraped surface heat exchangers.

*Machinery Update March/April 2009 inadvertently used an incorrect caption under a picture of a Terlet Cooking Vessel - the picture is repeated above.*

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# M & S chairman hails food centre

The doors to the National Centre for Food Manufacturing at the University of Lincoln's Holbeach campus have been opened officially by Sir Stuart Rose, executive chairman, Marks & Spencer.

Located at the heart of the UK's food manufacturing industry in southern Lincolnshire, the £3.5m centre is a state-of-the-art food packaging and processing training factory for food sector employees.

The Centre will also support the University's developing agenda for research and innovation in food packaging and automation (*MU Sept/Oct 2008*).

It offers a range of training opportunities, from bespoke short courses to degree programmes for food sector employees.

Sir Stuart said: "Holbeach will ensure a steady flow of trained professionals into the food manufacturing industry, enabling companies like Marks & Spencer to benefit from continual innovation from its suppliers."

The training factory provides a 'real-life' environment and

top-of-the-range equipment including: a £1.5m fully-automated production line for ready meals; gas analysis equipment for modified atmosphere packing; packaging coding and dating equipment; a sauce depositor; ultra-violet technology.

Chief executive of sponsoring association the PPMA, Chris Buxton, said: "In the current climate the need for industry and academia to work together closely is all the more important. This new initiative epitomises all that is good about such collaboration in one industry leading facility."

[www.lincoln.ac.uk/holbeach](http://www.lincoln.ac.uk/holbeach)



Val Braybrooks, Dean, University of Lincoln Holbeach; and Sir Stuart Rose, executive chairman, Marks & Spencer

## Formcook for Interfood

Interfood Technology has been appointed the sole distributor in the UK and Ireland for Formcook AB of Helsingborg, Sweden, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.

Ken Mossford, Interfood's cooking and cooling specialist, said: "We represent a wide range of equipment used by many of the leading names in bacon production and the addition of the Formcook Contact Cooker, along with the Afoheat food heating, grilling

and bar-marking equipment, extends our capability in this area.

"We employ in-house food technologists with in-depth knowledge of bacon processing, including the different cooking processes available, so that customers have access to help in maximising product quality and profitability."

(See new Formcook Contact Cooker page 12)

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## IN BRIEF

Springvale Equipment has become the UK agent for the German made PACK-SAVER range of Product Recovery Machines from LEU-TRONIC. The PACK-SAVER is designed to allow clean separation of product from its packaging material. It operates without knives using adjustable tear-off rails to open the packages. An air-stream blows the empty wrapping material out of the machine. The product is then transported to a vibration sieving device, where an exhausting device separates small wrapper particles from the product, which can then be re-processed.

Depending on product, a capacity of up to 400kg/hour can be achieved. Typical products which are being recovered are: coffee, tea, sugar, confectionery, chewing gum, chocolate bars, biscuits, crisps, and detergent tablets.  
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Growth in the packaging sector has led mailing solution company, Kern, to create a separate name and brand for its packaging division. Now called KernPack, the brand demonstrates Kern's commitment to the packaging industry and gives the packaging sales and service team its own identity.

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## MACHINERY FINDER

Can't find the machinery you are looking for?

Consult the PPMA machinery finder service

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[www.ppma.co.uk](http://www.ppma.co.uk)