

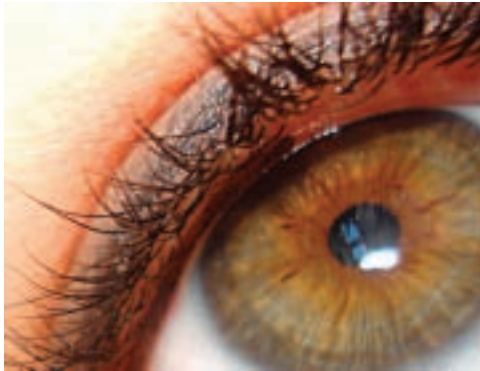
# Vision of the future created by the PPMA

The development of leading edge technologies at the vanguard of processing and packaging developments was the main driver behind the joint decision to bring the UK Industrial Vision Association (UKIVA) into the Processing and Packaging Machinery Association (PPMA) fold.

The move to incorporate industrial vision systems into the association is wholly complementary with the amalgamation of the British Automation & Robotics Association (BARA) into the PPMA earlier this year.

Vision technology is taking a more important role in many applications served by the PPMA:BARA membership and the move will allow the association to create real synergies for its members and their customers covering robotics, automation and machine vision.

Announcing the proposed move PPMA chief executive Chris Buxton said: "The growing importance of vision technology



to packaging and processing markets together with the amalgamation with BARA, means that we now have a developing community embracing technologies which are driving the market."

He added: "The inexorable growth of the low overhead economies means that the need for UK-based machinery suppliers to innovate and differentiate themselves from what is now world-wide competition has evolved from being a preferred option to one that has become essential."

UKIVA Chairman, Mark Williamson, said, "The combination provides a wider network of resources (people, financial and knowledge),

background and profile to be able to make a real difference to UK industry."

Another significant benefit of the initiative is that it brings with it the UKIVA Academic members, from leading University Departments and other not-for-profit organisations.

The move will grow PPMA membership to an all time high of approximately 400, making it one of the UK's largest technology associations.

Buxton concluded: "This is both a market and member driven initiative which will do much to further the interests of the industry and will significantly enhance the benefits of both PPMA and UKIVA membership."

- The amalgamation has been agreed unanimously by UKIVA members and is due to be ratified at an EGM in early September.

- UKIVA is a trade association whose members supply goods or services for machine vision, or who carry out research in industrial applications sectors of the technology, or who provide training in the technology.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

**Legislation** giving the Food Drug Administration (FDA) greater powers and resources to strengthen food safety in the US has been passed by the House of Representatives.

These powers, which will be limited to foods that are considered to represent the highest risk, are aimed at preventing the spread of food-borne illnesses. It follows a series of high profile outbreaks including salmonella in biscuit dough.

The FDA will be given the authority to order recalls and quarantine foods, establish a traceability system and an importer verification program.

**Former Defra** minister Lord Rooker has been appointed as the next chair of the UK's Food Standards Agency, taking over from Dame Deirdre Hutton.

Lord Rooker helped set up the Agency in the late 1990s when he was a minister at MAFF – the now disbanded Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

"I believe it is vital we have an independent, non-ministerial department responsible for food safety, which is open and transparent," he said.

**British Plastics Federation**, PlasticsEurope and the Packaging & Films Association have launched the Plastics 2020 Challenge to step up recycling and to stop sending plastic to landfill.

The plastics industry is aiming to double the recycling rate of plastic packaging by the year 2020.

The campaign also challenges the government, MPs, environmental groups and consumers to join forces with the industry to get more out of the resources we all use. [www.plastics2020challenge.com](http://www.plastics2020challenge.com)

## Recession softens for UK business

Recessionary influences for mechanical engineering companies softened with UK business improving both for inquiries up 10 per cent and orders up 6 per cent in June compared with falls in recent months.

Conducted across 85 companies the EAMA Business Monitor reported that overall 39

per cent of companies reported UK business up. The Monitor had been recording net declines both in UK and in overseas business since January this year.

The news is not so good for overseas business which remains in negative territory with 32 per cent of exporters saying orders from overseas were lower.

The most active customer sectors were: food (32 per cent), automotive (26 per cent), medical (13 per cent) and aerospace (10 per cent).

The nine trade associations in the Engineering and Machinery Alliance represent 1,300 mechanical engineering SMEs. [www.eama.info/business-monitor.htm](http://www.eama.info/business-monitor.htm)

## Untouched by human hand

Robotics is among the most exciting methods to help your business prosper. In recognition of this, the new association between the PPMA and BARA has developed a seminar exploring how robotics and automation technology is benefiting businesses in all areas of production.

Taking place on October 15 at the University of Warwick, Coventry, The Impact of Automation & Robotics in the Food Industry seminar will include:

- Robot technology in Bottling & Packaging - KHS - Hilmar Schumann
- The role of technology in operational efficiency - ITCM - Simon Strothers
- De-risking the introduction of automation in packing and picking - RTS - Etienne Croquette
- Automation for the end of line - Ferder - Mike Wilson
- Automation journey over the past 5 years - Ginsters - Tom Crawford
- The food factory of the future - University of Manchester & FMEG - Professor John Gray

Delegates will also have the opportunity to take a tour of Warwick's world famous robotic facility.



**Cost:** 1st Delegate @ £395 + VAT; Subsequent Delegates @ £350 each + VAT

**To book** contact Christine Jordan, PPMA.

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# S+S sort out recycled food grade plastics

S+S Inspection is working with Closed Loop Recycling in Dagenham to remove metallic contamination from pre-processed bottles to protect the granulators and to colour sort the final material after processing.

Converting some 35,000 tons of used PET and HDPE bottles for re-use as new food and drink packaging each year,

Closed Loop Recycling is using S+S magnetic and inductive separators and two S+S Spectrum sorters for the more complex operation to colour sort the processed granulate.

The Spectrum sorters remove any coloured or discoloured chips from the final material stream before bagging ready for despatch. Streams of small granules run at about 50 tonnes/day through each of the



S+S Spectrum sorter

two sorters, which use high definition CCD cameras to identify coloured and discoloured chips, which are then removed by air-jet ejectors.

Outputs from the CCD cameras are analysed by image processing systems to determine the exact position of each rejected granule and a signal passed to activate one of the 240 air-jet nozzles at precisely the time the granule is passing.

Each air-jet is able to fire at up to 500 times/second providing the ability to remove up to 200,000 rejects/minute. The image processing system can be programmed either manually or by the S+S Auto-Teach Mode using samples of good and bad material.

In addition, the whole system can be set-up to process a range of different input materials.

Closed Loop's managing director Chris Dow said: "Our plant in Dagenham is the first to use state of the art technology to sort; wash and super clean both PET and HDPE bottles to meet EU and US FDA standards, taking 875 million plastic bottles out of the export and landfill channels.

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## Krones sales and profits slump

Krones has reported a €16m loss in the first half of 2009 compared with a €91m profit for the same period last year as the recession continues to erode its global sales.

Sales have fallen by 23.3 per cent to €924.4m compared with the first 6 months of 2008.

However, Krones reports that second quarter order bookings were up by 11 per cent compared with the first quarter of the business year, while its cost-cutting initiatives were already beginning to bite.

The beverage industry had not been as affected by the recession as other sectors and would probably recover more



Krones has sold its 1000th Contiform stretch blow-moulding machine

quickly, said Krones. Softening the bad news sales are on the rise in Germany, the Middle and Near East, and in China and

Africa. However, they shrank significantly in the rest of Europe, and America.

www.krones.com

# Tesco endorsement for picking and tracking

Norprint, in conjunction with its partners Toshiba TEC and Opticon, has won endorsement from Tesco for a labelling solution which aims to help all of the retailer's suppliers to become 100 per cent compliant with its Advanced Shipping Notification/Serial Shipping Container Code (ASN/SSCC) system.

Tesco has set a timetable for all supplier pallets to be SSCC labelled to GS1/Tesco standards. Fresh produce suppliers have complied since 2008, with grocery suppliers set to meet a November 2009 deadline and all non-food products tasked to meet the criteria by 2010.

The retailer says that the benefits of becoming ASN/SSCC compliant will provide suppliers with electronic proof of delivery, eliminate order discrepancies, give full pallet traceability and earlier notification of delivery on time.

The Norprint software solution uses Toshiba SX industrial printers and Opticon hand-held devices. An entry-level system can be installed for as little as £6,000, says the company.

Information from the Tesco EDI order is downloaded through the Norprint ASN program to the Opticon device. Two unique labels per pallet are required; both containing a SSCC

barcode. When the pallet enters the logistics chain, the barcode is its unique identity, so the retailer knows exactly what its contents are as soon as it is scanned into the Distribution Centre.

Before the pallet label barcodes can be populated and items despatched, the product labels must be scanned for format, date code and order compliance verification and the relevant pallet label barcode is scanned to link the information. This process continues until the order has been completed.

Exactly what remains on the order is displayed on the Opticon device. At the end of this process the information is uploaded to the Norprint ASN Creator and an ASN is created for uploading to the Tesco

Information Management System (TIMS) website.

Individual pallet information is retained and viewable on the TIMS website, providing full pallet traceability.

The system is able to deal with multiple orders to multiple depots and can switch between orders and depots. Additionally it reduces the opportunity for human error by preventing incorrect products from being despatched. It also stops the use of a wrong Tesco order as the system looks directly for the date of the order and associated reference number.

The solution can be tailored to different suppliers and also a picking tool for other retailers.

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## BUSINESS BRIEFS

**Campden BRI** has published the second edition of its HACCP Auditing Standard. It defines the requirements that a food company needs to fulfil in order to obtain independent, third party recognition of its HACCP system.

Included with the Standard is the protocol describing the processes associated with audits. It outlines the procedures that must be followed by the certification body and defines the processes the food operation must follow to achieve accreditation  
[www.campden.co.uk](http://www.campden.co.uk)

**A Buyers Mission Programme** is being organised for British and other EU companies and associations to the 15th Istanbul Packaging Industry Fair to be held October 22-25 2009 at the TUYAP Fair Centre.

Accommodation and local transfers will be funded by the Under-secretariat for Foreign Trade. The mission will include briefings, bilateral business meetings with Turkish companies, an exhibition tour, visits to production plants and a city tour.  
[www.turkishtrade.org.uk](http://www.turkishtrade.org.uk)

**Defra** has set the UK industry a target to reduce water consumption by 25 per cent in some areas of the country.

With the water footprint fast emerging as a method for measuring the environmental impact of manufacturing, Campden BRI is holding a seminar on calculating industry's water footprint at its offices on November 11.

Speakers will include representatives from ADAS, Defra, the World Wide Fund for Nature, the Food Ethics Council, and the Water Footprint Network.  
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## Olympic efforts save water

Almost 500,000 cubic metres of water - equivalent to nearly 200 Olympic swimming pools - has already been saved by 36 UK food and drink manufacturers.

This marks the sector's first step towards achieving a 20 per cent reduction in water use by

2020 compared with 2007.

Part of an initiative between Envirowise and the Food and Drink Federation, companies contributed to a collective reduction in water use of 1.7 per cent during 2008, and have saved almost £500,000 in the

purchase of water alone, not including the cost of water treatment and effluent disposal.

Water-saving measures include improved water recovery and re-use, rainwater harvesting, and clean-in-place.  
[www.fdf.org.uk](http://www.fdf.org.uk)

## Pharma excellence

Success through Manufacturing Innovation a conference from the International Society for Pharmaceutical Engineering (ISPE UK) will focus on manufacturing excellence.

To be held at the Holiday Inn, Stratford-upon-Avon, on November 26 speakers and subjects include David Lovett of Perceptive Engineering on Plant optimisation, saving money, energy and reducing waste; Andrew Sinclair, Biopharm, Electronic Technology Transfer - Transforming Manufacturing; and How Sanofi-Aventis - Fawdon implemented lean techniques, saving £1m by increasing production effectiveness.

The annual awards dinner, which follows the conference session, will be addressed by Dr Phil Hammond, a qualified GP, well known as a comedian, author and TV personality with appearances on many topical comedy programmes such as 'Have I Got News for You'.

To book:

[www.ispe.org/uk](http://www.ispe.org/uk)

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## Radix move

Radix Systems has moved to a new factory unit in Winchester. As well as providing modern, larger offices, the new factory will have a dedicated demonstration room for customer trials and machine demonstrations.

Radix became part of the Fowler Westrup Group of companies, headquartered in Bangalore, India, in September 2008.

# Commission to force retailers to be fair

An ombudsman to arbitrate and settle disputes between retailers and suppliers has been recommended by The Competition Commission (CC) to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).

The aim is to help enforce the terms of a new Grocery Supply Code of Conduct to ensure that suppliers do not have costs imposed on them unexpectedly or unfairly by retailers.

The Code of Conduct was drawn up by CC after an inquiry in 2008 which highlighted concerns about the relationship between retailers and suppliers.

Retailers will be prohibited from making retrospective

adjustments to terms and conditions of supply and from entering into arrangements with suppliers that result in them being held liable for losses due to shrinkage.

Retailers will also be required to enter into binding arbitration to resolve any dispute with a supplier.

All retailers with groceries turnover in excess of £1 billion/year are included.

The suggestion has not gone down well with the major retailers but Peter Freeman, CC chairman and chairman of the Groceries Inquiry said: "We believe that everyone's interests — and that includes retailers —

would be served by tackling a problem that has clouded the industry for many years."

He added that current economic difficulties reinforced rather than reduced the need for action: "While some retailers have recognised this, regrettably the majority have not. We are now left with no alternative but to set out the new Code of Practice and recommend that BIS set up the Ombudsman to oversee its operation."

It is proposed that the Code of Practice should be included in all retailers' contracts with their suppliers to provide a clear framework for agreements.

## Alf Taylor joins Top 100

Alf Taylor, founder of tna, has been named one of Australia's 100 most influential engineers of 2009 by Engineers Australia, the largest professional body for engineers in Australia.

The list, published annually, identifies the country's leading engineers in academia/research, associations, consulting, engineering expertise, industry, public service and politics.

Taylor designed the robag®, which produces high speed bagging for food packaging.

He went on to invent a line of highly efficient, integrated solutions for food packaging including: the tna robag® 3 ttx (twin) vertical form-fill and seal bagger, tna roflo® 3 gateless transfer and distribution system, and the tna intelli-flav® 2 flavouring system.



## Adelphi Group expansion

Adelphi has completed the second phase of its development of a 2.5 acre site to provide a new machine hall and office space to meet increasing business demand.

The two storey 800 m<sup>2</sup> building in Haywards Heath provides a 400m<sup>2</sup> of machine hall on the ground floor plus first

floor offices. Energy efficiency features include a super digital inverter room temperature control which reduces energy consumption by up to 40 per cent compared with traditional fixed speed units.

Additionally, solar tube lighting is being used and a rain water harvesting has been

installed for machine hall cleaning and toilet flushing.

Adelphi Masterfil and Adelphi Coldstream now have a larger machine hall to cope with demand for filling/capping machines, process vessels and mixers. While extra warehousing means Adelphi Tubes will be able to expand its stocks.