

# Seminar sessions are set to solve problems

At the PPMA Show at the NEC in September (27-29) a series of seminars presented by some of the industry's most influential packaging, processing, vision and robotics experts – including a paper from leading retailer Marks and Spencer – will make up the new Manufacturing Forum.

The Forum is designed to update machinery professionals on the latest topics impacting the industry including automation,



*The Manufacturing Forum takes place in Hall 5 each day of the show and starts at 10.45am*



*John Quinn from retailer M&S*

machinery safety, productivity and energy efficiency. Tailored presentations will then give way to topical debates to invoke delegate participation at every opportunity.

John Quinn is a technologist for Marks & Spencer's traditional meals, Gastropub and Bistro

ranges and has seen many unsuitable solutions for the labour-intensive process of assembling chilled ready meals because of cost and flexibility issues. In his seminar, he will explain why he believes machinery manufacturers and their customers need to engage in meaningful dialogue on what is required to introduce flexible automation and robotics to the chilled meals industry.

Quinn will also give an insight into the criteria the retailer has already shared with automation manufacturers.

The Manufacturing Forum takes place in Hall 5 from 10.45am each day and is free of charge to PPMA show visitors.

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

## Access to finance falls back

In May, mechanical engineering firms' order intake improved significantly on the previous month but any positive developments regarding access to finance have melted away, according to the Engineering and Machinery Alliance's (EAMA) Monthly Business Monitor.

"It is worrying to see what looked like a positive trend emerging disappear as this move back into negative territory coincides with anecdotal reports of banks renegotiating stiffer

overdraft terms," says EAMA chairman Martin Walder.

"Our sense is that companies are still trying to limit their exposure to banks, preferring to use their own resources for investment because confidence remains fragile," Walder continues. "Not only is the memory of the banks' ability to change terms at extremely short notice raw, there are also many other factors affecting business prospects, from the reduction in public expenditure to the impact

of the Japanese tsunami on supply chains, the speed of recovery in Europe and when manufacturers are going to start producing for the UK's nuclear power programme."

It does seem that although returns on inquiries and orders have stepped down in intensity compared to the first quarter, the Monitor seems to be indicating that underlying business is good in that the majority of firms are still fairly bullish on jobs.

## Domino invests in traceability for US eggs

Domino Printing Sciences has agreed to join with NewMarket Impressions (NMI) to form a new company to develop and deploy proprietary food safety and traceability technologies for the US egg industry.

Domino is subscribing \$50 million in cash from its own

resources for a 15% equity share in the new company. It will be the sole supplier of both laser and ink jet coding equipment and fluids and aftermarket services to the new business.

Additionally, the company intends to grow its existing global egg marking and coding services

through this business opportunity and offer its current and future customers access to NMI's proprietary egg safety and traceability technology. In excess of six billion dozen eggs are produced in the US each year.

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## interpack sets its 2014 date



The next interpack will take place three years from now – from 8-14 May, 2014 – at the Düsseldorf trade fair centre. Companies wishing to participate as exhibitors can register from autumn 2012 onwards while the official registration will be spring 2013, with the exact date to be announced by organisers Messe Düsseldorf in the coming months.

This announcement follows this year's event held in May which attracted 166,000 trade visitors with roughly three quarters of these being decision makers. These participants visited 2,700 exhibitors from 60 nations in all of the 19 fully-booked halls.

"interpack has confirmed the stability of the positive economic trends," says Christian Traumann, president of interpack 2011 and managing director of exhibitor Multivac Sepp Haggenmüller.

Organisers were particularly pleased with the significant increase in decision makers visiting compared to the previous fair. An especially large proportion of trade visitors come from top management, who turned out at interpack in even greater force and over 60% of visitors were from outside Germany.

Because of the Eurovision Song Contest, there was a shift in the pattern of visits this time. Many experts only arrived after the song contest final on 14 May, which took place in the arena by the side of the exhibition grounds.

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# Sad passing of former editor

As *Machinery Update* last went to press we learned that former editor Mary Murphy had died suddenly at her home in West Sussex. Here, current editor Gail Hunt pays tribute.

Mary's entry into the world of packaging started with a freelance assignment for Packaging Week writing that year's interpack feature. It seems ironic, that nearly 25 years later she would die during the same exhibition.

Such was her influence on the packaging industry, that there can't be many people who have not had some contact with her when she was at Packaging Week which then became Packaging Magazine before being sold to Packaging News. She was especially well connected with the movers and shakers of the industry – of which she was one – and she



*Mary Murphy was an effective champion for the packaging industry*

could count many CEOs of leading packaging companies among her friends.

She joined Packaging Week full-time in 1987 as features

editor but quickly rose to editor the next year. Her journalistic skills acquired in Fleet Street, her no-nonsense approach, her inherent fairness and professional integrity took the magazine to new heights that made life on the established magazines much tougher. And in truth, her work and her passionate style made for a much stronger UK packaging press as a whole.

She was sometimes known as 'Scary Mary' as she certainly didn't suffer fools gladly and would tell you in no uncertain terms if she felt you were wasting her time. But this only added to her reputation, which she played perfectly to ensure her magazine was the best it could be.

In 2002, Mary formed her own company MAJIC with her partner Audrey and has worked

as an independent publisher, PR consultant and conference organiser for clients such as The Packaging Society, Reed Exhibitions, William Reed Business Media and the PPMA, for which she edited *Machinery Update* magazine.

Above all of these achievements, however, is the fact that she was a true friend to many people throughout her career and she delighted in other people's success along the way. She was also bloody good fun. She loved a drink; she loved a fag and she was a good laugh. If you were ever lucky enough to have a night out with Mary, you could guarantee it would never be boring.

She will be truly missed by her family and friends, but also by the packaging industry for which she was an unlikely but extremely effective champion.

# Popular former UKIVA director dies

It is with great sadness that the UK Industrial Vision Association (UKIVA) has announced the death of former director Don Braggins, at the age of 70, following the diagnosis of an inoperable brain tumour in October last year. Don was a very popular and highly regarded figure in the world of industrial vision and made an outstanding contribution over the years at UKIVA.

Don's Machine Vision Consultancy was one of the founder members of the Association in 1992 and then in 1995, he took over its administration. This was a role he continued, as well as providing technical support, for the following 14 years, before overseeing the transition of the association into a Special Interest Group of the PPMA in 2009. He continued as a

consultant to the PPMA until December 2010.

In addition to the role he played for the association, Don was active in many other areas of vision. He was elected a Fellow of SPIE in 1990. He was a member of the jury for the annual innovation prize at the Vision exhibition in Stuttgart from 2000 – 2009, and served on the executive committee of the European Machine Vision Association for six years.

Don was passionate about spreading the word on the uses of vision in industry – the prime objective of the UKIVA – and he authored numerous articles on the subject. In addition, from 2005 to 2009 he acted as associate editor for Machine Vision for the peer-reviewed SPIE journal Optical Engineering.



*Don Braggins (left) is seen here with Chris Buxton of the PPMA*

There is no doubt that the high regard that the world of vision holds for Don has helped the UKIVA become the force that

it is today and he will be sorely missed. He leaves a wife Anne, two children and five grandchildren.

# Changes to reporting injuries at HSE

From 12 September this year, statutory reporting to HSE of work-related injuries and incidents under Riddor (the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995) will move to be a predominantly online system.

Revised online forms will make the reporting process quick and easy. Fatal and major injuries and incidents can still be reported to HSE's Incident Contact Centre by telephone, at present. In addition, HSE's Infoline telephone information service will end on 30 September this year.

Businesses seeking information on health and safety can use HSE's website as well as its official guidance, completely free of charge.

The website receives 26 million visits every year and is already overwhelmingly the most popular option for accessing health and safety information, with 100 times more visitors than Infoline has

## Italian machines detect in the UK

Metal Detection Services (MDS) has agreed a new dealership with Ceia of Italy for the UK market.

Already an established brand in the UK food, pharmaceutical, textile and security sectors, the Italian supplier has built a reputation for product development, performance and reliability. This new partnership with MDS will ensure that existing and future customers receive the highest levels of support and access to the technology.

"Our new partnership with Ceia will enable me to highlight the latest THS/21 series of metal detectors," says new sales and marketing director at MDS David Hale. "The THS/MS21 is a true multispectrum metal detector."

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www.mds.org.uk

callers. It has recently been updated with a new suite of new resources including:

- Interactive risk assessment tools for low-risk businesses
- Health and Safety Made Simple – straightforward step-by-step guidance on what small and low risk businesses need to do to achieve a basic level of compliance
- Expanded frequently asked

questions to answer common queries.

These changes to HSE's Riddor reporting is to help achieve efficiencies.

www.hse.gov.uk



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