**Sustainable packaging solution for fresh food**

Wolfertschwenden, 30. April 2019 - In order to meet the demand from the market for alternative packaging materials, the two companies LEIPA Georg Leinfelder GmbH and Koehler Paper Group have developed in conjunction with MULTIVAC a cardboard composite, which can be used for packing fresh food such as meat for example. This innovative solution based on paper fibre packaging material will be presented at IFFA on the MULTIVAC stand and run on a compact thermoforming packaging machine. The packs are designed in such a way, that the end user is able to separate the cardboard backing from the plastic barrier layer and then put it into the paper recycling.

**Multilayer composite for skin packs: LEIPAflat**

When developing this material, the challenge was to produce a cardboard composite with high barrier properties and a suitable sealing medium, which has the stiffness of a flat pre-cut card sheet but is also capable of being wound onto a roll, so that it can be run on a thermoforming packaging machine. The first results show that the LEIPAflat multilayer composite is excellent at meeting all the requirements. This material can be used on a thermoforming packaging machine to produce skin packs, which not only package the product securely but also present it attractively to the consumer. As a strategic development partner in the board sector, Koehler provides LEIPA with the material for manufacturing LEIPAflat.

“LEIPAflat is made of up to 90 percent renewable raw materials. Compared to the conventional packs used for these products, the features of this packaging material are its appearance and feel of a paper pack, and
this contributes significantly to product differentiation in the
chill cabinet,” explains Matthias Haux, Commercial Head of Flexible
Packaging at LEIPA. “This solution meets the high aspirations and de-
mands of consumers, who are conscious of both quality and the envi-
ronment. The cardboard offers not just the required stiffness, but it can
also be run particularly well on thermoforming packaging machines
thanks to its ease of winding on rolls. This solution can generally also be
used on existing machines and dies. If requested, we are always willing
to give customers advice on site about the optimum settings for their
equipment.”

Danny Köppl, Product Manager for Films & Consumables at MULTIVAC,
adds: “This sustainable packaging solution, which was launched at
FachPack 2018 and marketed under the MULTIVAC PaperBoard range,
has already received a very positive reception from professionals in the
trade. Now we are receiving a large number of enquiries from the mar-
ket, particularly against the background of the EU Plastics Strategy, and
these are coming not only from Germany and Western Europe but also
from many other regions such as Eastern Europe, North America and
Oceania. We are currently carrying out a large number of sample pro-
ductions for a wide range of customers.”

“We see great potential for this project, which has begun very success-
fully, and we are convinced that we can address the future of packaging
in conjunction with our highly qualified partners, who embody the same
collaborative ideas as we do,” says Dr. Markus Wildberger, Corporate
Director of Technology at Koehler. “As part of our own ideas on sustain-
ability, this project supports our aims of replacing plastics in packaging
with paper-based materials, where it is sensible and practical to do so.
This means that a product made from renewable raw materials is used,
one for which closed-loop recycling has already been developed. We
see in this and other collaborative projects the opportunity to develop
and market further innovative solutions in the sector of flexible and rigid
board packaging.” Dr. Wildberger also emphasizes that this could in-
volve developments in the non-food as well as food sector.
“Based on today’s knowledge of the planned harmonisation of the EU regulations on plastic disposal, we assume that LEIAP flat will lead to significant cost benefits in the context of the packaging fee for companies,” says Matthias Haux from LEIPA. “And last but not least, the environment as well as consumers also benefit from this solution.”

MULTIVAC PaperBoard

The MULTIVAC PaperBoard portfolio comprises a wide range of solutions for producing MAP and vacuum skin packs from paper fibre-based materials. In conjunction with leading manufacturers, MULTIVAC has developed suitable packaging materials, which can be run on standard machines. By using different functional layers, it is possible to produce packs from paper fibre-based materials, which also meet the barrier requirements of the most sensitive products. The packs can be designed in such a way, that the end user is able to separate the cardboard backing from the plastic barrier layer and then put it into the paper recycling.

Further information on MULTIVAC presence at IFFA can be found under: http://multivac.link/iffa

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About LEIPA

The LEIPA GROUP is an independent group of companies with over 170 years of passionate support for environmentally friendly processes and technology in the sector of paper, packaging, logistics and the environment. Together with its claim to quality, service and reliability, this is the best foundation for outstanding products in all areas of paper and packaging. Within the LEIPA GROUP it is the LEIPA FlexPack Division, which is the Innovation Center for contemporary solutions in the sector of flexible packaging. Its high-quality products enable LEIPA FlexPack to meet the requirements of manufacturers and the trade as well as the aspirations and demands of environmentally aware consumers. As a major European player with a worldwide customer base, the family-owned LEIPA GROUP
with around 1,700 employees achieves a turnover of 850 million euros. www.leipa.com

About Koehler Paper Group

Paper is a tradition at Koehler. Specialised paper has been manufactured for 212 years, and there are currently more than 1850 employees at four production sites in Germany. The company has reinvented itself several times. Koehler is now the world’s market leader in thermal paper, and it is also a major player in the sector of paper for flexible packaging. Innovation is written in capital letters at Koehler. The company is currently developing a paper with a functional surface, in order to be able to replace non-sustainable plastic packs with recyclable or biologically degradable alternatives made from paper.

About MULTIVAC

MULTIVAC is one of the leading providers worldwide of packaging solutions for food products of all types, life science and healthcare products as well as industrial items. The MULTIVAC portfolio covers virtually all requirements of processors and producers in terms of pack design, output and resource efficiency. It comprises a wide range of packaging technologies as well as automation solutions, labellers and quality control systems. The product range is rounded off with portioning and processing solutions upstream of the packaging procedure. Thanks to extensive expertise in packaging lines, all modules can be integrated into complete solutions. This means that MULTIVAC solutions guarantee a high level of operational and process reliability as well as efficiency. The MULTIVAC Group has approximately 5,900 employees worldwide, with some 2,200 based at its headquarters in Wolfertschwenden. With over 80 subsidiaries, the Group is represented on all continents. More than 1,000 sales advisors and service technicians throughout the world use their know-how and experience to the benefit of customers, and they ensure that all installed MULTIVAC machines are utilised to their maximum. Further information can be found at: www.multivac.com.