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WELCOME

Welcome to the 6th edition of our printed *Canmaking News* Annual. As with similar years, the team have selected a variety of news stories and features for you to read through which we believe truly reflect the remarkable year the industry has had.

Recycling remains a key theme of the last 12 months with companies embracing new technologies and strategies designed to help them meet ambitious climate goals. The metal packaging sector is, undoubtedly, an important cog in the sustainable wheel. We're looking forward to seeing what 2024 brings and the innovations that propel our industry to the front of the sustainable packaging world.

2023 saw us celebrate 20 years! We're sure you will agree that a lot has changed since *Canmaking News* made

its digital debut in 2003. When we look at how the publication has developed over the last year, we are so immensely proud of the work that the team has put in to creating what exists today. 20 years is no mean feat and we're heading into 2024 full of new ideas and projects. You'll be hearing from us very soon!

Our podcasts have continued to grow in popularity since they began in 2021. This year, we spoke to a number of industry stalwarts, including Mark Williams from CPM Packaging, Christina Kleinpass from Messe Essen; Robert Fell from the MPMA; Tom Giddings from Alupro; Robert Bunting Jnr from Bunting Magnetics; David Racino from American Canning; Joe McEachern from T.D. Wright; Mark Smyth from MS Can Solutions; and Josh Brooks from Paris Packaging Week.

We're looking ahead now to shows and meetings for next year and can't wait to see you all again. For now, we wish you a happy and healthy 2024!

Janis Osborn

Publisher



janis@canmakingnews.com

GET IN TOUCH

Established in October 2003, *Canmaking News* is the leading online magazine for the global metal packaging industry.

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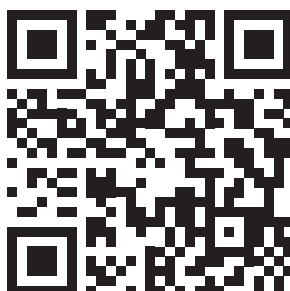
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Canmaking News

YOUR INDUSTRY IN ONE PLACE

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MEET THE TEAM



Janis Osborn ■ Publisher & Editorial Director

Janis boasts over 40 years of experience in publishing, during which time, she has worked mainly on trade publications and business to business (B2B) magazines. Janis is very experienced in all forms of media, including TV and radio. She is also an accomplished events organiser, with global conference and exhibition expertise.



Zoe Fryday ■ Social Media Manager and Copywriter

Zoe is an experienced journalist and copywriter specialising in the print and digital B2B sector. She provides businesses far and wide with high-quality blogs, features and news articles, social media management, PR and proofreading.



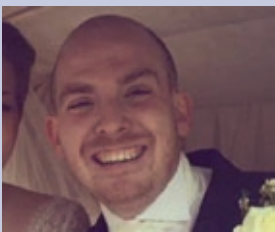
Ellie Walker ■ Digital and Brand Marketing

Ellie is an expert digital and brand marketing specialist. With many years of experience building marketing strategy from the ground up, she has a proven track record of generating business leads through social media, advertising, design and SEO and content strategy.



Alice Osborn ■ PR and Communications

Alice has extensive experience delivering strategic media relations in several markets, including Europe, Asia, and the US, for a variety of complex businesses. Alice works closely with clients to ensure that their communications programmes are aligned with their marketing goals, regularly securing top-tier, high-impact media coverage.



Matthew Coppard ■ Web Design & Development

Matt has over 10 years' experience in web design and development. Having worked for clients across a range of industries, Matt has acquired vast experience in creating websites and digital marketing campaigns that ensures your brand stands apart from the competition.

JANUARY 2023

New closed loop carbon recycling system to reduce emissions in steelmaking industry

Researchers from the University of Birmingham have designed a novel adaptation for existing iron and steel furnaces that could reduce CO2 emissions from the steelmaking industry by nearly 90%.

This radical reduction is achieved through a 'closed loop' carbon recycling system, which has the potential to replace 90% of the coke typically used in current blast furnace-basic oxygen furnace systems and produces oxygen as a biproduct.

Devised by Professor Yulong Ding and Dr Harriet Kildahl from the University of Birmingham's School of Chemical Engineering, the system, if implemented in the UK alone, could deliver cost savings of £1.28 billion in five years while reducing overall UK emissions by 2.9%.

The novel recycling system captures the CO2 from the top gas and reduces

it to CO using a crystalline mineral lattice known as a 'perovskite' material. The material was chosen as the reactions take place within a range of temperatures (700-800oC) that can be powered by renewable energy sources and/or generated using heat exchangers connected to the blast furnaces.

Under a high concentration of CO2, the perovskite splits CO2 into oxygen, which is absorbed into the lattice, and CO, which is fed back into the blast furnace. The perovskite can be regenerated to its original form in a chemical reaction that takes place in a low oxygen environment. The oxygen produced can be used in the basic oxygen furnace to produce steel.

University of Birmingham Enterprise has filed a patent application covering the system and its use in metal production and is looking for long-term partners to collaborate.

PPG names new Packaging Coatings Global Technical Director

PPG has named Polina Ware as its new Packaging Coatings Global Technical Director, effective from 9 January.

Polina leads the Packaging Coatings leadership team, with responsibility for the continued development of the company's industry-leading packaging coatings solutions. She will manage research and development teams at Packaging Coatings Innovation Centres in Milford, Ohio; Bodelshausen, Germany; and Zhangjiagang, China.

Her team ensures that PPG and its canmaking customers comply with and stay ahead of evolving global food-contact materials regulations, working in conjunction with PPG's Global Technical Service team.

Polina joins PPG from the specialty chemical manufacturer Rogers Corporation, where she served as Global Research and Development Director. In addition, she oversaw a Global Technical Service and Application Development team, and a worldwide research and development centre.



Coca-Cola announces £17m expansion in Northern Ireland

Coca-Cola HBC Ireland has announced an investment of £17 million to expand its production facility in Knockmore Hill, Lisburn

It represents the single largest investment since the production facility opened in 2008 and will deliver 35 new permanent roles with recruitment underway. The extension will add an additional 4,597 square metres to the facility, covering manufacturing, warehousing and logistics.

With a heritage in Ireland dating back to 1938, Coca-Cola HBC employs over 750 people across the island with 450 colleagues based at the Knockmore Hill site.

Since 2008, over £127 million has been invested in the facility in Knockmore Hill. A significant proportion of this was used to further Coca-Cola HBC's goal of achieving net zero by 2040, including the rollout of innovative and environmentally friendly cardboard packaging solutions, water saving initiatives and increasing the use of recycled plastic.

The expansion comes after a competitive tender process where Coca-Cola HBC Ireland and Northern Ireland was selected as the strongest location amongst a number of other bottling operators across Europe.

Miles Karemacher, General Manager of Coca-Cola HBC Ireland and Northern Ireland, said: "We are delighted to announce the expansion of our Knockmore Hill production facility. Coca-Cola HBC has a rich history in

Northern Ireland, and this extension demonstrates our strong continued commitment to the island of Ireland and to our employees and the communities we serve here.

"I am incredibly proud of our team in Knockmore Hill and the work they do, acting as a leader in innovation and sustainability across the sector, and I am confident that the future is bright for our organisation across the island in the years to come."



Aluminium Recycling Coalition launched by Emirates Global Aluminium

Emirates Global Aluminium has announced the launch of the Aluminium Recycling Coalition, which aims to drive a step-change in aluminium recycling in the UAE.

Members of the coalition include EGA, Abu Dhabi Waste Management Company (Tadweer), Aujan Coca-Cola Beverages Company, Coca-Cola Al Ahlia Beverages Company, BEEAH Tandeef, Pepsi-bottler Dubai Refreshment, CANPACK, Crown Bevcn EMEA, DULSCO Group, and Veolia.

The Aluminium Recycling Coalition strives to promote aluminium recycling by UAE consumers, particularly beverage cans, as millions of individual decisions every day on which bin to use drive collection rates.

As its first project, the coalition intends to support a study by the International Aluminium Institute on aluminium recycling rates and behaviours in the UAE to fully understand the scale of the opportunity and potential solutions.

The coalition also expects to provide support to government on aluminium recycling regulation and policies, and to work together to further the development of aluminium recycling infrastructure.





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FEBRUARY 2023

DrinkPAK to add new canning line to Santa Clarita plant

DrinkPAK is expanding its business by adding a third production line capable of producing 2,200 cans per minute at its campus on Needham Ranch Parkway in Santa Clarita, California, US.

To support the expansion, DrinkPAK will be hiring up to 80 residents by April for roles in packaging, warehouse, batching and maintenance.

DrinkPAK currently employs approximately 350 people across six buildings in the Santa Clarita Valley, with a total footprint of more than one million square feet.

Most of the manufacturing employees work a 2-2-3 schedule of 12-hour shifts, which provides built-in overtime and a schedule that requires being on-site only seven days out of every two-week period



versus 10 days per two-week period in a normal five-day work week.

"As a rapidly growing company in the Santa Clarita Valley, we're thrilled to offer even more employment opportunities to the community as we continue to manufacture beverages for

the biggest energy drink, water, soda and alcohol brands in the world," said DrinkPAK CEO Nate Patena.

"The increasing demand for our business is thrilling and serves as a testament to our technology and our extremely talented team."

Muller snaps up polish seafood canner

German food giant Unternehmensgruppe Theo Muller (UTM) is hoping to expand its footprint in Poland by acquiring part of Polish seafood company Graal Group.

UTM's subsidiary in Poland, Lisner, signed an agreement on 16 February to purchase the part of the Graal Group's

business related to canned fish, ready meals and pickles.

Private equity firm Abris Capital Partners signed the preliminary agreement to sell 100% of its shares in Graal, alongside the company's founder, Bogusław Kowalski. The transaction excludes Koral's fresh and smoked fish business, produced under the Superfish brand and private label.

Abris is exiting its investment following a six-year period during which the company has grown revenues and EBITDA consistently despite the Covid-19 pandemic and geopolitical challenges.

UTM includes numerous major global brands in the dairy, fish, delicatessen and service industries. In Poland, it is mainly represented by the Muller and Lisner brands.

Headquartered in Wejherowo, Poland, Graal manufactures a wide range of canned and chilled fish-based products, as well as meat-based prepared foods. It produces branded products under the Graal, Neptun and Kuchnia Staropolska brands, and is a major private label supplier.



Crested River Cannabis Company launches cannabis - dedicated beverage manufacturing line

Crested River Cannabis Company, a craft cannabis manufacturer since 2019, has launched Minnesota's first cannabis-dedicated beverage manufacturing line out of its headquarters in rural Morgan.

Shawn Weber, Managing Director at Crested River, said: "Minnesota's consumers have been clear that they want to responsibly and enjoyably consume cannabis and cannabis products.

"Our expanded manufacturing capabilities and the introduction of Minnesota's only cannabis-dedicated beverage mixing, filling and canning line will help us meet market demand and continue to grow as the legalised cannabis market takes shape in Minnesota."

Crested River has been active in more than just the business side of the cannabis industry. In addition to



manufacturing high-quality cannabis products in small, craft batches, it has been on the front lines of advocacy efforts to reform the state's medical cannabis programme and usher in a legalised and regulated adult use market.

Crested River is a founding member

of the Minnesota Hemp Growers Cooperative and a supporting member of the MN is Ready coalition. The company's growth is set to continue in the beverage space with the additions of low-sugar options, as well as a non-carbonated line of basic water formulations.

New management team at Bunting's European operations

Bunting has announced three key internal senior promotions at its UK Redditch and Berkhamsted manufacturing facilities.

Adrian Coleman assumes the post of European Technical Director, with Alison Flower replacing him as the Bunting-Redditch General Manager. Meanwhile, David Hocking is promoted to the same



David Hocking at Bunting-Berkhamsted

position of General Manager at Bunting-Berkhamsted.

Adrian Coleman's appointment as Technical Director for all of Bunting's European operations follows nearly six years as General Manager of Bunting-Redditch. Adrian became General Manager when the Bunting Group acquired Master Magnets, where he had been Managing Director since 2007.

In the newly created role, Adrian is applying over 30 years of experience to the development and design of a wide range of magnetic technology. This includes magnetic separation equipment and magnet assemblies.

Adrian is replaced as General Manager of Bunting-Redditch by Alison Flower. Alison joined Master Magnets in 2007 after a distinguished career in material handling with General Kinematics.

After Bunting's acquisition in 2017, Alison moved from technical sales to assume the position of Customer Services Manager. In July 2022, she was appointed Production Manager before being promoted to General Manager of Bunting-Redditch in January 2023.

Rounding off the trio of appointments, David Hocking has been promoted to the position of General Manager of Bunting-Berkhamsted just over a year after being appointed Operations Manager.

David has held a range of customer facing, purchasing and quality roles since joining Bunting in 2012. As Operations Manager, David oversaw modernisation and reorganisation of the shop floor to adapt to an increase in industrial magnetiser projects and to improve production efficiency.

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MARCH 2023

Sherwin-Williams investigates the role of coatings in sustainable packaging

Sherwin-Williams Packaging Coatings has published a white paper titled *Can Coatings: Unlocking the Future of Sustainable Packaging*, highlighting the critical role coatings play in the future of sustainable packaging for the European food, beverage and household goods markets.

The paper illustrates why metal cans are favoured by the market due to their infinite recyclability, and safety and performance benefits – contributing to a circular economy.

It also explains how can coatings play an integral role in mitigating can corrosion and supporting sustainability goals, particularly examining Sherwin-Williams' valPure V70, described as the

world's first non-BPA epoxy coating that delivers exceptional corrosion protection, flavour preservation and pack performance while meeting rigorous international food safety regulations.

"As regulatory agencies continue to evaluate proposals that limit the use of BPA-based products, now is a good time for industry stakeholders to re-evaluate their can coatings," said Sarah Dubail, Sherwin-Williams Senior Regulatory Specialist.

"valPure V70 is a globally recognised non-BPA epoxy can coating engineered to provide the same industry standard of epoxy coatings and is backed by more than 10 years of research and development."



GBFoods expands Ghana Factory and adds tomato canning line

GB Foods has expanded its production line by commissioning a state-of-the-art tomato canning line in Tema, Ghana.

Built at a total cost of \$5 million, the state-of-the-art tomato canning is aimed at reducing the amount of raw materials imported in the manufacturing of the company's products, thereby offering

more employment opportunities to Ghanaians.

Commissioner of the production line, Artur Carrula, President of Agrolimen, parent company of GBFoods, said: "With the support of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and Ministry of Trade and Industry, we are working to identify locations for two contiguous farmlands

of 7,000 acres, each on which we will construct two industrial farms, each with an integrated factory to process tomatoes concentrate that we will use in Ghana and also export to other African countries.

"We estimate that on completion these two projects, GBFoods would have invested over \$70million and created over 5,000 jobs, earn FX for Ghana."

David Kofi Afflu, General Manager of GBFoods Ghana, added: "Apart from the tomatoes processing line, this state-of-the-art facility also has a curry processing line.

"We believe in Ghana and remain committed in driving investment to grow our footprint in the county. The commissioning is a demonstration of our deep level of commitment to this cause and we shall not relent on this effort."



Martha Rojas joins Roeslein

Roeslein & Associates Inc has appointed Martha Rojas as Global Business Development Executive, fittingly coinciding with Women's History Month, Women in Construction week (5-11 March) and International Day of the Woman (8 March).

Martha has a tenure of professional management expertise in the numerous aspects of global shipping and logistics. Being a true industry icon, serving the international can manufacturing industry for 30-plus years, she will be a welcomed and well-aligned member of Roeslein's global sales team.

Martha began her career as an Executive Manager with Rewico LLC, based in New York. Then, she turned to UTC Overseas and, most recently, Good Logistics as Executive Vice President, where Martha travelled extensively, calling on the global network of canmakers and their vast supply chains.

Martha made her debut with the Roeslein team at the 2023 METPACK Tradeshow in Essen, Germany.



Water in aluminium bottles served at the Oscars

Sustainable water brand Open Water partnered with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences to offer aluminium bottled and canned water in an effort to eliminate the use of plastic bottled water at the Oscars on March 12.

During the 2023 ceremony, Open Water was available for working crew and served to guests. Through the collaboration, the Academy moved to a system of reuse and refill for water service.

Jess Page, Co-founder of Open Water, explained: "We started Open Water with the mission to stop the scourge of

plastic water bottles from making their way into our oceans. We are thrilled that the Academy is using Hollywood's biggest stage to make a statement on the importance of minimising plastic waste."

Open Water is on a mission to fight ocean plastic pollution. Launched in 2014, the brand offers still and sparkling water in 100% recyclable aluminium bottles and cans, eliminating the need for plastic bottles.

Open Water is a member of 1% For The Planet and donates 1% of every sale to ocean conservation projects. The company is also a certified Women-

Owned business (WBENC) and certified Climate Neutral brand.



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THE IMPACT OF AI IN CANMAKING

We explore some of the ways artificial intelligence (AI) is shaping the canmaking industry

Artificial intelligence (AI) has become an omnipresent force in modern society. Its applications span a spectrum of advancements – from the convenience of voice-activated personal assistants to the transformative potential of autonomous vehicles, healthcare diagnostics and complex algorithms steering financial markets. As AI and machine learning progress, the very fabric of our existence undergoes a dynamic shift, reshaping the landscape of how we live, work and engage with the world around us.

While the term “AI” is widely recognised, grasping its fundamental nature is crucial. AI refers to the development of computer systems that can perform tasks that typically require human intelligence. These capabilities include learning from experience (machine learning), understanding natural language, identifying patterns and engaging in complex problem-solving.

In the realm of canmaking, AI emerges as a catalyst for innovation, redefining traditional processes and ushering in a new era of efficiency and precision. By embracing AI-driven technologies, canmaking facilities across the globe can streamline production lines, optimise resource allocation and enhance quality control measures.

ACTEGA Artistica, a leading authority in water-based sealants, understands the paramount significance of integrating AI into the canmaking process. Managing Director Dr Teresa Ramos explains: “In a mature business like canmaking, the implementation of AI – ranging from digital transformation to process automation – is a total must to achieve critical business outcomes: accelerated growth, efficiency gains, productivity increases, well-managed risks and sustainability advantages. We also cannot forget that AI significantly streamlines our operations, providing swift data access and facilitating prompt

decision-making processes.”

Dr Ramos acknowledges the high-speed nature and inherent complexity of can manufacturing processes. In an industry where profit margins are not known for being the highest, she points out that any operational efficiency gain translates into significant savings and increased profits. Ismael Vazquez, Head of Digital Technologies at ACTEGA Artistica, contributes to the discussion, underscoring the crucial role of quality control in guaranteeing defect-free products through visual inspection. Ismael notes: “Fortunately, the use of AI in computer vision technologies allows us to automatically segregate non-compliant pieces or those falling outside specified parameters.”

With extensive expertise in customer processes, the ACTEGA Artistica team comprehensively grasps the challenges and essential measures required for a significant shift in prevailing process

Dr Teresa Ramos (centre) and Ismael Vazquez (third from right) with the METPACK 2023 Silver Innovation Award for ROTARflow



standards. "For example, ACTEGA has understood that in the case of higher speed lining machines, with 10 injection heads lining 2.500 epm, it is extremely difficult to keep the sealant film weights under control, especially because there are only manual controls every four hours and the process generally shows very low process capacities," says Dr Ramos.

ACTEGA's solution, ROTARflow, controls, adjusts and monitors the amount of ARTISTICA water-based sealants applied to can ends directly at the point of application. This is done automatically and continuously, ensuring ongoing monitoring of film weights, as well as individual gun adjustments of the needle lift when necessary. The result is a secure full stability and a six-sigma process with very low rejections. Ismael explains: "The algorithm is able to assure the sealant weights under control on liners of 6, 8 or 10 guns, and on different diameters and profiles of shells. Additionally, the data gathered from the Digital Services offered

with ROTARflow serves as valuable input, serving as early AI signals that something may require preventive maintenance."

AI stands as the essential tool for propelling ACTEGA Artística and its customers to new heights in their operations. Dr Ramos underscores: "Canmakers should recognise that AI is not merely a cost but a mid-to-long-term solution essential for sustaining business vitality. The efficiency gains, operational savings and improved EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation) it offers are invaluable. Implementing real-time data collection tools at the line level, coupled with predictive algorithms, allows for significant time and cost savings. Predicting when a machine might fail empowers timely scheduling and pre-emptive changeovers of consumable parts, mitigating disruptions. What's more, in addressing the industry's shortage of skilled workers, AI implemented in the lines, through smart automated controls,

ensures consistent adherence to standards, irrespective of the operator's experience level."

In 2023, a suite of AI technologies emerged to aid canmakers. December, for example, saw a ground-breaking software co-developed by AkzoNobel's Powder Coatings business and coatingAI unveiled, leveraging artificial intelligence to help customers improve the application process and reduce their carbon footprint. Named Flightpath, the "industry-first" AI-based technology, which has undergone two years of meticulous development, optimises equipment settings to enhance the coating application process, reduce defects and overspray, and improve powder consumption.

Flightpath empowers customers to fine-tune equipment settings, including gun motion, fostering more uniform and consistent coverage with fewer imperfections, all thanks to the precision of AI-generated recommendations. Notably, the software boasts user-



AkzoNobel's Powder Coatings business and coatingAI develop Flightpath

friendly features, requiring no complex integration, and it continually adapts its recommended parameters in response to changing conditions.

Highlighting the partnership, Remco Maassen van den Brink, Marketing Director of AkzoNobel's Powder Coatings business, states: "Collaborating with a start-up like coatingAI, who are pushing boundaries to transform the coatings industry, means we can accelerate our own powder revolution and provide services like no other. We proactively seek ways to assist customers in enhancing sustainability within their operations, and this collaboration significantly enhances our

ability to deliver improved results. It aligns with our ambition to halve carbon emissions across the value chain by 2030."

Another significant advancement in AI and robotics was announced by OMRON at the end of the year. The Japanese electronics company launched its MD-650 and MD-900 medium-payload (650 kg and 900 kg) autonomous mobile robots (AMRs), which have been developed to provide greater efficiency in material transfer with medium-duty payloads and integrated control technology.

Designed for industrial manufacturing

and warehouse logistics operations, hence well-suited to canmakers, the MD-series can work collaboratively with humans and is an ideal choice for pallet-moving applications where pickup and drop-off stands can be used. "Manufacturing sites today focus on productivity and quality while creating workplaces that reduce the physical burden on workers," explains Miguel Garcés, Mobile Robotics Business Development Manager at OMRON Europe. "Autonomous mobile robots, with smart fleet management software, can take over heavy and repetitive tasks."

The MD-series AMRs boast high speed, safety and a unique obstacle avoidance algorithm, grounded in proven experience from implementing thousands of these robots globally. Operating adeptly in narrow spaces, the MD-650 achieves a maximum speed of 2.2 m/sec, while the MD-900 reaches 1.8 m/sec. Both models incorporate advanced navigation and obstacle avoidance technologies. The introduction of advanced battery and charging technology enables the MD-650 to run for 8 hours on a 30-minute charge and the MD-900 for 7.5 hours. Managed by proprietary software, the



OMRON's MD-650 autonomous mobile robot



Jeff Hartung, VP Sales,
Antares Vision Group - Rigid Containers

integrated control system facilitates coordination among up to 100 mobile robots, allowing real-time routing for efficient transfers.

For a quarter of a century, Antares Vision Group - Rigid Containers (formally Applied Vision Corporation) has consistently set a benchmark for quality inspections of rigid containers used in the primary packaging of food and beverages. Backed by a robust suite of supporting technologies, including AI, the team is steadfast in their belief that integrating AI into the canmaking industry represents a transformative leap toward enhancing efficiency, quality and overall productivity. According to Jeff Hartung, VP Sales, as the industry evolves, embracing AI for purposes like defect detection, predictive maintenance, traceability, service support and document management not only improves internal processes but also aligns with broader trends towards sustainability, quality assurance and regulatory compliance. This strategic approach, he says, positions companies to stay competitive and responsive to the evolving landscape of manufacturing and consumer expectations.

Various AI applications are already making a tangible impact, fostering a more streamlined, efficient and high-quality production environment. Jeff specifically highlights computer vision applications, such as Antares Vision Group - Rigid Containers' Genius Inside Can and Ends Inspection, Orion G6 and DecoMatch decoration inspection systems, which are "revolutionising" quality assurance processes. He

explains: "These systems already use AI algorithms to identify and classify defects in real-time, train and learn production, significantly reducing the likelihood of faulty products reaching the market while reducing false rejects." Alongside this, machine learning applications, particularly in predicting drifts in process data, have enabled proactive maintenance strategies. "By analysing historical data and identifying patterns, our AI solutions can help prevent equipment failures, minimise downtime and optimise production schedules," says Jeff. He further underscores the role of generative AI in streamlining service support and document management. "Chatbots powered by AI provide instant and accurate responses to customer queries, enhancing overall support efficiency, while AI-driven document management systems automate the organisation, retrieval, and analysis of vast amounts of data, facilitating seamless information flow within the business."

Antares Vision Group - Rigid Containers is at the forefront of leveraging AI technologies to enhance operational efficiency and deliver value to clients. One notable case study involves the implementation of the organisation's computer vision system for defect detection in manufacturing processes. Jeff elaborates: "In a beverage manufacturing facility, we deployed our advanced computer vision system to analyse real-time production line data and inspect the quality of empty rigid containers. The system identified and classified defects in with high accuracy, significantly reducing the need for manual inspection and minimising the risk of defective products reaching the market. The main aspect is that we have delivered an application that can be used in production directly by operators, that in a few steps and minutes can specialise an AI model, making it suitable for inspecting new items without the need for long and laborious activities. This not only improved product quality but also streamlined the production process, leading to a notable reduction in production costs."

Looking ahead, Antares Vision Group -

Rigid Containers anticipates significant AI advancements in the next five to ten years, reshaping industries like canmaking. "We can expect more sophisticated and specialised AI models, leading to even more accurate defect detection and predictive maintenance capabilities," states Jeff. "The native integration of AI with Internet of Things (IoT) devices, edge computing and equipment will likely become more prevalent, enabling real-time data processing and decision-making. Over the next two decades, we foresee the evolution of AI towards achieving a deeper understanding of context and enhanced generalisation abilities. This could lead to AI systems that are more adaptable to diverse tasks and industries, potentially opening up new applications and opportunities."

Beyond canmaking, AI is poised to play a vital role in strategic decision-making across various business sectors. Jeff predicts increased reliance on AI-driven insights for market analysis, customer engagement and operational optimisation as AI technologies mature. "Automation and AI-driven productivity enhancements will likely become standard practice, leading to more agile and competitive enterprises," he adds. "Ethical considerations and responsible AI practices will gain prominence, with regulations and standards playing a crucial role in guiding the development and deployment of AI technologies. Companies prioritising transparency, fairness and accountability in AI systems are likely to gain a competitive edge and maintain stakeholders' trust."

In the dynamic world of canmaking, artificial intelligence stands as a game-changer revolutionising traditional processes and boosting efficiency. Industry leaders are leveraging AI for defect detection, quality assurance, predictive maintenance and much more. The ongoing evolution of this unique technology promises exciting innovations that will undoubtedly shape the fabric of the industry. Canmakers embracing these advancements lead the charge in progress, riding the AI wave to stay at the forefront of innovation! The question remains: Are you among them?

APRIL 2023

Henkel's new cleaner tech offers low temperature washing for cans

Henkel's low-temperature cleaner for aluminium beverage cans, said to use natural gas and reduce carbon emissions by 38%, is set for a worldwide roll-out.

It is claimed that the Bonderite C-IC 72000 series operates at 43°C,

compared to the typical temperature of 60°C offered by conventional cleaners. Although results vary from plant to plant, manufacturers' energy consumption is expected to decrease.

"Our initial line tests show a 32% reduction in natural gas consumption

at the plant from turning off one boiler. Additionally, a 5% to 20% reduction in water was achieved during recent trials," said Fabio Portelinha, Technical Customer Service Manager at Henkel Adhesive Technologies.

Evaporative losses are reportedly cut down by decreasing the temperature at which the cleaning bath operates, which also hopes to provide employees with a more comfortable working environment. So, too, are the steel washer and parts expected to maintain a longer lifespan in a less corrosive environment.

Bonderite C-IC 72000 claims to have generated 75% less foam than standard cleaners in laboratory studies conducted by Henkel. Very little foam is thought to be carried over into downstream stages during the cleaning process, and the rinse stages apparently stay cleaner due to reduced residue in rinse cycles.



Alupro presents new roadmap to increase aerosol recycling

Alupro officially launched its Roadmap to increasing UK aerosol recycling, a long-term strategic vision to drive a widespread uplift in national capture and recycling rates, at BAMA's Innovation Day on 19 April.

Developed on behalf of the UK Aerosol Recycling Initiative, a working group comprising partners from across the value chain, the document outlines five key challenges preventing higher aerosol recycling rates and details a proposed solution to tackle each head-on.

These include improving data quality through vigorous sampling of materials at MRFs, driving an uplift in kerbside volumes by establishing collection consistency, investing in new pathways to treat non-empty containers, increasing consumer education through

standardised labelling, and improving the overall design of aerosol containers to optimise the value in recycled materials.

The roadmap also presents the results

of extensive consumer research, analysis from local authorities and in-depth interviews with key industry experts, with the aim of clarifying best practice to maximise capture rates in a post-EPR, post-DRS landscape.



Top DJ tie-in for RHODIUS and Ardagh

German beverage producer Rhodius has clubbed together with legendary DJ Robin Schulz to launch a range of on-point canned mate drinks under the label "Robin Schulz x My Mate".

Mate is a naturally stimulating herbal infusion, traditionally drunk in South America and fast becoming an international beverage trend. Recognising the appeal of this caffeine-rich ingredient for young and adventurous consumers, Rhodius has created three Mate-based drinks - My Mate Vodka, My Mate Alcohol-Free and My Mate Secco.

The drinks are packed in Ardagh Metal Packaging (AMP) cans with a "dazzling look-and-feel" designed to attract style-conscious partygoers and nightlife fans.

The graphics on each can in the Robin Schulz x My Mate range focus on a stylised portrait of Germany's best-known DJ himself, while "scribbled" faces in the background are based on Schulz's trademark tattoos, as well as suggesting a lively club full of dancers.

Across the three packs, the luxurious design takes a seductive palette of black, gold and silver, and enhances it by deploying several of AMP's customisation options.

Lisa Etchemendy, Senior Product Manager at Rhodius, underlined the company's enthusiasm for cans, saying: "For us, the can is the ideal packaging for this exciting cooperation with Robin Schulz. It has the ideal consumption size and reflects the values 'young, modern, convenient', so it's perfect for our target market."

"Ardagh's graphics team worked with us to achieve the dynamic 'night-time' look we wanted - particularly hitting the right gold tone, which can be a challenge - and we're thrilled with the finished result."

With decades of expertise in at-source mineral water filling, Rhodius will fill the Robin Schulz x My Mate cans itself, having just added a third can filling line to its facility in Burgbrohl, Germany.

California Olive Ranch rolls out olive oil in aluminium bottles

California Olive Ranch has launched a new line of fully recyclable and eco-friendly aluminium bottles for its olive oil products - a move which establishes the brand's commitment to achieving broader sustainability and quality goals.

The packaging was launched online on 5 April with three varieties of olive oil: 100% California Extra Virgin Olive Oil, Avocado Blend, and Reserve Blend Extra Virgin Olive Oil. The products will be available online and at selected retail partners across the US.

California Olive Ranch claims the new packaging is the most lightweight so far. It has a bisphenol A-free liner and a high-density polythene plastic cap, which maintains the freshness of the olive oil, preventing it from excessive light and oxygen exposure.

California Olive Ranch CEO Michael Fox said: "Quality and accessibility are two key pillars of the California Olive Ranch brand, and our goal with this launch is to provide premium extra virgin olive oil and avocado oil blends to all consumers, removing price as a prohibitive purchase factor.

"The launch of the aluminium bottled oil collection highlights the brand's dedication to delivering consumers a versatile product line of high-quality cooking staples, essential for everyday needs."



MAY 2023

Inca Packaging expands sustainable aluminium solutions

Among the company's latest innovations, Inca Packaging showcased its recent collaboration with Collistar for Puro lipstick at PCD Milan (16-18 May 2023).

The new packaging consists of a polypropylene base and cap, complemented by a refillable aluminium mechanism. The refill can be replaced indefinitely, generating a saving of more than 50% in plastic.

Inca Packaging also presented a new version of its eco-designed luxury travel-spray, initially unveiled at Paris Packaging Week earlier in the year.

Made up of 100% recyclable aluminium covering a glass bottle, this refillable packaging is designed to safely house the glass bottle and perfectly suit the need of people on-the-go, and it presents a wide range of customisation possibilities (hot foil stamping, pad printing, screen printing, engraving).

Given the popularity of this product, Inca Packaging has extended the range with two additional items: a lipstick and a lid for cream containers made of aluminium. The lipstick is designed with a 100% recyclable aluminium cap and base, and a plastic mechanism.

On top of this, during PCD Milan, Inca Packaging highlighted its know-how in the production and decoration of aluminium candle lids. The manufacturer created an exclusive decoration with four colour gradients on a dark background for the candle holder of the Accessories line of Parisian brand Diptyque, with intense colours inspired by ancient ceramics.

Other high-end prestige brands, such as Maison Francis Kurkdjian, Etro or Mirko Buffini, also entrusted Inca's know-how for their candles.



German grocer adopts CCT EEASY Lid in European first

Family-owned grocer EDEKA Kempken launched CCT's EEASY Lid in select stores in Krefeld, Germany on 25 May, bringing the jar lid innovation to European customers for the first time.

CCT's patented EEASY Lid is designed to help brands provide an unprecedented level of accessibility to their jarred food products.

The EEASY Lid allows consumers to vent a vacuum-sealed jar by simply pressing a button on the lid, reducing the amount of torque needed to twist off the lid by up to 50%. It is also claimed to be the world's first aluminium lug jar lid - a more sustainable and durable alternative to traditional steel lids.

The EEASY Lid was created after a company Co-founder was approached by a close friend who underwent surgery for breast cancer. Struggling to open a jar, she asked why someone couldn't make a jar lid that was easier to open.

After eight years of research and development, CCT's EEASY Lid is the first major jar lid innovation in over seven decades - and the only one to eliminate the struggle of opening a stubborn jar lid.

"It is our ongoing mission to solve the decades-old problem of opening jar lids for consumers across the globe," said Brandon Bach, President of CCT.

"Our partnership with EDEKA Kempken allows us to bring an unprecedented level of accessibility to shoppers in Germany. Customers will be able to open their favourite jarred food products, regardless of disability or physical limitation."



Britvic's £8 million project to improve energy efficiency

Britvic is redoubling its efforts to cut carbon emissions and save energy, with £8 million of investment to improve efficiency at its London factory.

The project, which kicks off at Britvic's Beckton site, will see the installation of a new heat recovery system - cutting

factory emissions by an estimated 1,200 tonnes annually - which is equivalent to the annual energy usage of around 500 UK homes.

Part funded by a £4.4 million government grant from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, the new heat recovery

system will see the soft drink manufacturer switching its heating from natural gas boilers to carbon free heat extractors.

With the help of the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero's Industrial Energy Transformation Fund, the heat recovery system will take waste heat recovered from Britvic's existing systems, increase the temperature and redistribute it around the site using a new low temperature hot water network, replacing a carbon intensive steam system. This will decarbonise 50% of the site's heat demand by shifting its heat source away from fossil fuels.

The company said that the move is a huge step towards its commitment to reduce its direct emissions by 50% by 2025 and to be net zero target by 2050, verified by the Science Based Target initiative.



P Wilkinson Containers and William Say create Coronation tins

To celebrate the Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla, P Wilkinson Containers (PWC) and William Say supplied a range of Coronation tins for The Royal Collection, Waitrose and Daylesford.

The three separate commissions - each offering their own unique look and feel - are said to boast immaculate artwork and high-precision colour matching, with The Royal Collection and Waitrose orders integrating seamlessly with their respective existing Coronation ranges.

Waitrose's Coronation shortbread and tea tins feature attractive, vivid colours set against a solid cream colour and bright bunting, while Daylesford's commemorative tea and truffle tins have a more playful feel, due to a 'cartoonesque' illustration of his Majesty King Charles III.

The third commission, The Royal Collection's traditional commemorative tea and shortbread tins, are instantly

recognisable as the official Royal brand, thanks to their solid blue background and intricately designed, embossed royal coat of arms. The tea tins also feature a 'Metal Recycles Forever' deboss on the base.

Stuart Wilkinson, Sales and Marketing Director at P Wilkinson Containers and William Say, said: "We are proud to have delivered high-quality commemorative

tins that fit the exacting requirements of the Royal Collection, Waitrose and Daylesford, including the tight deadlines.

"Our state-of-the-art technology, meticulous attention to detail, profound industry expertise, close industry partnerships and can-do approach all combine to make our tin product offerings a compelling proposition."





SLAC Precision Equipment's presentation on 'The Boxer'

METPACK 2023 REVIEW

METPACK made its comeback to Messe Essen, Germany from 2-6 May 2023

The long-awaited five-day exhibition welcomed around 6,500 trade visitors, who were given the opportunity to experience forward-looking technology, new products and further developments in the production, refinement and recycling of metal packaging. Decarbonisation and digitalisation were defining topics, and the vast innovations of the industry took centre stage

Oliver P Kuhrt, CEO of Messe Essen, summarised that "the atmosphere was excellent" and we couldn't agree more. Across Halls 1, 2 and 3, elaborately designed booths invited visitors to exchange ideas and network, and mechanical engineering at the highest level was presented, sometimes in action, for all to see.

According to a survey carried out by METPACK's organisers, all in all, 82% of visitors rated the range of products and services on offer as very positive. There was a particularly large number of visitors from abroad, accounting for 73%, with Italy, the USA and the UK leading the national rankings. The quality of the visitors was also top-class, with 88% boasting purchasing and procurement expertise.

From an exhibitor perspective, the trade show was hailed a great success. METPACK recorded 313 exhibitors at its tenth edition, a slight increase on the 2017 show, and for 92% of the exhibiting companies, expectations were met. Many successful deals were closed, with customers placing orders directly during the event, and post-show business also promises to be positive.

Canmaking News had a fantastic five days at METPACK and our stand received a great response. We couldn't think of a better way to mark our 20th anniversary! On top of celebrating our own birthday - two decades of serving the metal packaging industry - we brought a bit of British royalty to Messe Essen to coincide with the coronation of King Charles III. There was union jack bunting, balloons, cake and even a cardboard cut-out of His Majesty - visitors absolutely loved snapping up photos with him!

Anyway, enough about us... Let's get back to the main event. 3 May was defined by the METPACK Conference - a meeting point for specialist exchange - which included eight thought-provoking presentations from some of the biggest names in the industry.



2023's Innovation Award winners

The opening keynote, chaired by Dr Daniel Abramowicz, Executive Vice President, Technology and Regulatory Affairs, Crown Holdings Inc, looked at key innovations in metal packaging over the last quarter century. Shortly after, the presentations commenced.

Damian Pollock, Team Leader Product Management, Koenig & Bauer MetalPrint, delivered a presentation on closed-loop coating thickness regulation in metal sheet coating, and Neil Finley, Henkel's Head of Global Food Safety, focused on food contact risk assessment of BPA-NI coatings for metal packaging - demonstrating the safety of NIAS (non-intentionally added substances) and Henkel's holistic, triple safety approach.

Another interesting talk was chaired by Ian Scholey, CTO, Stolle Machinery. Ian explained how Stolle is using data analytics to deliver "more good cans" in a can plant. Efficiency and sustainability are front of mind and the next step, he says, is zero supervision.

The second part of the Conference included a total of five further speakers.

Enpack's CEO, Europe Tim Clarke delved into the company's intelligent factory for EOE, while Dr Demetrios Tsimpoukis, Managing Director of Chrotex in Greece, looked at the cost optimisation of lacquering, with insights into concepts and applicability.

We then heard from Shintaro Yakamanka, Senior Manager, High-performance Steel Sheet Research Department, Kyushu R&D laboratory, Nippon Steel Corporation, who delivered a talk on Chromate-free Tinplate.

After, SLAC Precision Equipment's Rainer Berkefield, who heads up Sales and Business Development, and Jeff Harper, Sales Manager, OKL Engineering, delved into SLAC's new development in DWI technology - The Boxer, with a fun, quirky presentation that highlighted all the key features of the new tech.

Last but not least, Christian Buske, Managing Director, Plasmatrete; Antonio Galhardo, Coatings Director, Actega Brasil; and Augusto Franca, Director, Brasilata Labs came together to share their big innovation - Openair Plasma Surface Treatment of Metal Sheets.

Day two also saw the highly-anticipated METPACK Innovation Awards ceremony take place. The awards recognise outstanding new and further developments in the metal packaging industry, and for 2023, a total of 19 exhibitors submitted 31 entries. It was "a tight race", however, ultimately, Koenig & Bauer MetalPrint secured Gold, Actega Silver and Can Man Bronze. A huge congratulations to all three winners! Gold Innovation Award recipient Koenig & Bauer MetalPrint impressed the judging committee with its new closed-loop colour control system. "MetalControl" scans each sheet and measures the ink density. The results are transmitted digitally to the control panel, evaluated and the ink zones automatically corrected. Manual adjustments are no longer necessary, and complaints, test prints and makeready times are reduced. What an exciting five days it was at METPACK. The trade fair will be returning to Messe Essen in May 2026. Unsurprisingly, 93% of visitors surveyed plan to visit again, along with 95% of exhibitors. *Canmaking News* will see you there next time!



A LOOK AT THE GLOBAL AEROSOL CANS MARKET

Canmaking News provides an overview of the global aerosol cans market, with key insights from some of the sector's leading manufacturers and suppliers

Aerosol products account for a huge share of the canning industry. Manufactured in countries all around the world - from Europe to North America, Asia-Pacific, Latin America, the Middle East and Africa - they are used in various end-use sectors, including personal care, household care, healthcare and automotive, among others.

Aerosol packaging has been in use since it was developed in 1941. So, how is the market currently performing, and what trends and innovations are being witnessed? According to the latest *Aerosol Cans Market* research report from Research and Markets, the global aerosol cans market size was

projected at USD 10.2 billion in 2021 and is expected to reach USD 12.2 billion by 2026.

The report, which profiled key players including Ball Corporation, Trivium Packaging, Crown, Mauser Packaging Solutions, Toyo Seikan Co Ltd, Nampak Ltd, CCL Container, Colep, CPMC Holdings Ltd, Guangdong Sihai Iron-Printing and Tin-Making Co Ltd, reveals that the aluminium material segment accounted for the largest share in the global aerosol cans market during the forecast period.

Aerosol cans are typically made from aluminium, steel and plastic but aluminium continues to be the most

preferred material for packaging thanks to its lightweight, shatterproof, impermeable, flexible and recyclable properties. As a packaging solution, it fulfils a wide range of requirements - whether it's for cosmetic, household, pharmaceutical, medical, industrial or technical purposes.

The personal care end-use sector segment, which encompasses products such as deodorants, face and body creams, shaving foams and perfumes, accounted for the largest share in the market - as did the 1-piece aerosol cans product type segment.

Asia-Pacific (APAC) is projected to be the fastest-growing market for aerosol



cans during the forecast period and is projected to register the highest CAGR (Compound Annual Growth Rate) among all the regions. This, the report suggests, is attributed to increasing disposable income in developing economies such as China and India.

In November 2022, The International Organisation of Aluminium Aerosol Container Manufacturers (AEROBAL) reported that global shipments by its members increased by 5.5% in the first half of 2022 to around 3 billion units. The market growth was mainly due to rapidly increasing demand from the pharmaceutical, hairspray and household sectors, which grew by 9%, 34% and 15% respectively compared to the previous year. Demand from the volume-dominant deodorant and perfume market was also satisfactory, growing by 1.2%. Overall, this end-consumer market accounts for about 57% of total deliveries.

Concerning the development of the different world regions, demand from the 27 European Union (EU) members, also including the UK, rose by roughly 11%, while deliveries to the Americas grew by 2.6%. These two regions account for approximately 70% of total shipments of AEROBAL members. Deliveries to the Asian/Australian region also increased by 3.2% and shipments to the Middle East soared by around 28%.

AEROBAL President Wan Tsang Lin recognises that the global energy crisis, logistics bottlenecks and the lack of skilled workers are among the biggest concerns of international aluminium aerosol can producers. "However, the aluminium aerosol can industry also holds an important ace up its sleeve because of the excellent sustainability credentials of aluminium," says Wan Tsang Lin. "The material offers good formability, lightness and unparalleled recyclability, which are relevant for improving the carbon footprint during transport, production and recycling, and thus contribute to resource-efficient packaging solutions."

AEROBAL also found that despite the positive market development in the first half of 2022, aluminium aerosol can producers fear a possible recession in leading markets such as Europe, the Americas and Asia, which might put a damper on customer and consumer sentiments. Moreover, inflation is curbing consumers' buying power, which could have a negative impact on the demand for fast-moving consumer goods such as body care products. This could considerably impede can producers' performance because these products account for an estimated 80% of AEROBAL members' shipments.

In 2023, one of the key developments for the aerosols market was the increasing regulatory and consumer

pressure to ban all bisphenols that pose concerns to safety and the environment. More recently, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) proposed a new Tolerable Daily Intake (an amount of a substance in food or drinking water assessed as safe on a long-term basis) for BPA that essentially bans it from use in Europe.

The move has raised the attention of the global canmaking industry and accelerated discussions about non-BPA conversion in markets where the adoption of non-BPA coatings was believed to be years away. While these regulations have arrived sooner than many in the industry expected, greater supplier collaboration and ongoing coatings innovation will prepare canmakers for what's ahead.

The topic was discussed in great detail at ADF Paris (25 and 26 January 2023) when Charles Turner, Packaging Coatings Technical Director for PPG Europe, delivered his talk: 'Cans, coatings and consumers: considerations for a non-bisphenol future', providing key information, insights and advice while highlighting how PPG is primed to help customers on their non-BPA transition journey.

PPG offers non-bisphenol solutions for aerosol cans inside and out – specifically, a complete range of protective internal and external non-BPA coatings as part

of its PPG HOBA and iSENSE solutions. "Our technologies anticipate regulatory requirements and evolving consumer preferences for safe and versatile products," says Hella Gourven, Global Personal Care Coatings Segment Manager for PPG. "With billions of cans coated with PPG Hoba and iSense coatings to date, these products were recently improved to optimise adhesion to a high post-consumer recycled substrate."

Hella explains that the complete removal of bisphenol-starting substances from aerosol can coatings aligns with PPG's decades-long non-bisphenol strategy. "Our approach results from years of research and customer feedback to ensure improved application properties and operational benefits for plants around the globe. "PPG prescribes its PPG SAFEASSURE for enhancing the consumer safety side of sustainability in our packaging coatings, and our experienced packaging coatings global technical services team works with customers to trial and optimise non-BPA coatings on their production lines for a smooth transition. We closely monitor the ever-evolving global regulations to develop long-term regulatory-compliant solutions that make certain PPG, and its customers, stay ahead of the trends." The team at PPG anticipate that more brands and aerosol can manufacturers will convert to non-BPA solutions to comply with ongoing regulations and protect consumers and the environment. Their advice is to start the non-BPA transition today by converting to non-bisphenol starting coatings solutions. "Partnering with the right coatings solutions provider, such as PPG, eases the transitional challenges and paves the way for operationally efficient, innovative and sustainable operations ready for the future," says Hella.

The Sherwin-Williams Company, a global leader in the manufacture, development, distribution and sale of paints, coatings and related products, is also pioneering non-BPA solutions, with a notable innovation being its valPure V70 non-BPA coatings, which apply as an epoxy. "In an industry that historically relied on epoxy chemistry, the valPure



V70 technology platform delivers spray application, fabrication and pack performance advantages of traditional epoxy-based coatings in a non-BPA coating," states Donald Le, The Sherwin-Williams Company Marketing Director - Household Products.

When looking at the overall aerosol market, Donald forecasts that the personal care segment will rebound and household products will see growth, even with the headwinds of raw material availability and prices. The sustainability of the metal package type, along with the availability of non-BPA internal coatings, likely will support the growth over other material options.

Sustainability, Donald says, is a driving force for brands. "Greater use of

recycled substrates and less energy-intensive processes can help reduce the carbon footprint, and canmakers should be aware that coating suppliers can support these sustainability efforts." He continues: "At Sherwin-Williams, solutions exist that perform with 100% recycled aluminium (rALU), cure using UV versus a thermal bake, and are water-based, offering lower VOC and lower global warming potential (GWP) compared to solvent-based coatings. In 2023 and beyond, these types of solutions will likely be in greater demand as ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) reports gain greater prominence."

Regulatory guidelines will continue to dictate the standards required from all coatings suppliers. Canmakers should



be familiar with evolving changes at the local, regional and global levels. "Having a close relationship with your coatings supplier will help you to stay informed," says Donald. "Regulatory capabilities at Sherwin-Williams are unmatched - as proven by our long-standing use of our Safety by Design methodology, receipt of hundreds of patents and global regulatory approvals, and an industry-leading team of toxicology experts available to our customers."

Trivium Packaging is another company with a strong sustainability ethos. Its extensive product portfolio offers a wide variety of metal packaging solutions, including a large selection of steel and aluminium aerosols in many shapes and sizes. The firm's vision is to provide customers with high-quality, innovative packaging with unlimited design opportunities, helping them to elevate their brand through enhanced sustainability and distinctive graphics.

John Martyn, Director of Sales, Aerosols - Trivium Packaging, explains that Trivium's R&D facilities in France and

the USA employ a team of scientists who consistently bring innovations to customers and the packaging industry. "Sustainability is engrained in our DNA - innovation and sustainability are at the heart of what we do," he says. "Trivium Packaging holds a Platinum rating for sustainability from Ecovadis, A- ratings from the CDP and has been named a Supplier Engagement Leader by the CDP."

Trivium is continually developing new packaging for aerosol products. At the end of 2022, its refill bottle for Brazilian cosmetic company Boticário was recognised by Centro Brasil Design as a winner of the 'Design for a Better World Award'. The solution is a lightweight, easy-to-recycle and user-friendly cologne refill bottle, which includes a patented dropper, designed to fit the original glass bottle. Not only is the bottle visually appealing, but it's also sustainable - containing up to 10% recycled content and saving 89% weight compared to the original packaging.

John and the wider Trivium Packaging

team expect to see a few different trends over the next 12 months. These include increasing PCR rates and supply in the market - both of which are in high demand by customers and consumers; brand owners pushing to reduce CO2 packaging emissions; end-consumer focus on environmentally friendly packaging; brands pushing the boundaries on the refill/reuse of bottles, especially through the use of concentrate pods and tablets; and a shift from "recyclable" to "curbside recycled" in line with the anti-plastic regulations and increase in awareness of the reality that many substrates are recyclable but not recycled at scale.

As we head into 2024, the aerosol market is predicted to continue to perform strongly. The near future, it appears, will centre on moving towards even more sustainable operations and manufacturing processes. This kind of climate-friendly innovation, when paired with the increasing awareness and uptake of aerosol recycling initiatives around the globe, is paving the way for a healthier, prosperous planet.

PIONEERING REVOLUTIONARY INK TECHNOLOGIES TO TRANSFORM BRAND EXPERIENCES

CTI (Chromatic Technologies Inc.) stands as a pioneer in the dynamic domain of innovative ink technologies, intending to leave an enduring imprint on brands globally. From its humble beginnings in 1993 in a Cornell University dorm room, CTI has evolved into a formidable force headquartered in Colorado Springs with a rich legacy of innovative thermochromic, photochromic, and glow-in-the-dark (GID) ink printing technologies.

Boasting a remarkable track record of turning visionary ideas into impactful products, CTI has solidified its position as an industry leader, holding various U.S. and international patents and serving clients in over 60 countries.

Founded in 1996, CTI's Colorado Springs facility spans 25,000 square feet of research and development (R&D), manufacturing, and office space. The company is a unique fusion of a chemical engineering firm, a manufacturer, and a marketing/innovation agency dedicated to helping brands communicate attributes and generate attention from consumers on the shelf as well as during and post-consumption. With a global reach, CTI's transformative technologies are applied to products from renowned brands like Molson Coors Beverage Company, Congo Brands, Lexus, Duracell, Pizza Hut, General Mills, PlayStation, Carlsberg, The Coca-Cola Company, Constellation Brands, and many others.



CTI's transformative journey reached a pivotal moment in 2002 when founder Lyle Small presented the potential of thermochromic ink to Molson Coors.

"We are an innovation partner to brand owners, to their creative agencies, and to packaging converters and printers. Our chromatic technologies make packaging 'talk' to and interact with consumers and therefore generate a sales lift."

– Daniel Wachter, CEO, CTI

COORS LIGHT'S THERMOCHROMIC BREAKTHROUGH TRANSFORMS BRAND IMAGE

In 2002, Lyle Small, founder and current Chief Technical Officer, approached Coors with a revolutionary vision to enhance the brand's association with cold, leveraging thermochromic ink technology. Following persistent efforts, CTI convinced Coors to embrace color-changing cans, with the mountains turning blue at approximately 46 degrees Fahrenheit. The result was nothing short of a groundbreaking home run, surpassing expectations as Coors Light swiftly ascended to become one of the top-selling beers in America. For the last 16 years, the blue mountains on Coors Light's cans became a tangible manifestation of the brand's commitment to Rocky Mountain Freshness, and the now-iconic image of the Rockies turning blue has become an intrinsic part of Coors Light's DNA.

FANTA UNVEILS MYSTERY WITH COLOR-CHANGING CANS

Fanta introduced a special Halloween edition, Fanta Misterio. This unique offering features conventional flavors like passion fruit, orange, and guarana, coupled with cutting-edge thermochromic technology embedded in the cans. In collaboration with The Coca-Cola Company, CTI's ink thermochromic technology enhances the sipping experience, setting the stage for a uniquely immersive Halloween celebration. As the beverage cools, the thermochromic ink changes color and consumers witness the label transition to a vibrant pink hue, experiencing two visual states in Fanta cans: one at room temperature and another when chilled.

Fanta's Halloween limited edition, infused with CTI's transformative ink technology, provides a visual spectacle and adds extra excitement to Halloween festivities. This innovation showcases how inventive ink technologies can elevate beverage experiences, creating immersive moments for consumers. This new flavor is available in 11 Latin American countries since October.



WARM

COLD

Expanding its reach in beverages, CTI ink technology is now felt in the Halloween season with Fanta's mysterious flavor-changing cans.

“The challenge and quality results of applying the ink technology across different countries in Latin America surpassed our expectations.”

– Joe Kruse, Brand Innovation Partner, CTI

CORONA EXTRA TRANSFORMS THE FESTIVE EXPERIENCE WITH COLOR-CHANGING MAGIC

Constellation Brands, focusing on celebrating growth, creativity, and brand-building, has unveiled a limited holiday-themed edition of Corona Extra in collaboration with CTI and Talia Coles. This distinctive partnership adds a delightful and interactive element to the traditional beer can, highlighting the captivating potential of color-changing ink technologies through the Feliz Navi-Drip campaign.

The transformed Corona Extra beer incorporates CTI's cutting-edge color-changing thermochromic ink technology, revealing imagery from Corona's iconic holiday ad as the can warms up. This infusion of innovation injects an interactive and dynamic twist into the classic beer can experience.

Exclusively available in Los Angeles, Miami, New York, and Philadelphia, USA, the limited-edition twelve-packs debuted on Black Friday.

“The holidays have long represented a moment when ugly sweaters take center stage, but here at Corona, we thought it was time to change that,” says Saul Trejo, Corona's director of brand marketing. The brand aims to elevate festive attire from the typical ugly sweater to a stylish and comfortable robe, aligning with the cans' makeover that mirrors the iconic imagery of their classic holiday ad.



COLD

WARM

As the can warms during consumption, the light effects emerge, creating a visually dynamic experience.

CTI'S ONGOING COMMITMENT TO INNOVATION

As CTI consistently pushes the boundaries of ink technologies, its global impact on brands is a testament to the company's dedication to innovation and creating memorable consumer experiences. Collaborating with industry giants such as Molson Coors Beverage Company, The Coca-Cola Company, Constellation Brands, Congo Brands, and others underscores the transformative power of innovation in shaping brand identities. Moving forward, CTI remains steadfast in its commitment to innovation, ready to influence billions of packages worldwide and shape daily consumer experiences. The successful journey of CTI provides a glimpse into the innovative milestones yet to unfold.



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JUNE 2023

Eviosys unveils Ecopeel can design

International packaging giant Eviosys has revealed its latest innovation - Ecopeel, which, it claims, it set to revolutionise the packaging industry and drive further adoption of metal packaging.

Ecopeel presents an 'industry first' processable food can with a sleek peelable foil directly sealed on the can body. It has been designed with sustainability, convenience and inclusivity at its core.

By replacing the traditional ring-pull opening mechanism with foil, which is directly sealed onto the can, Ecopeel is said to be made lighter than its contemporaries and facilitates carbon reduction of up to 20% per can. As such, the packaging supports

businesses in the food industry to achieve their sustainability objectives and drive the move away from plastic.

Ecopeel's unique sealing surface has also been created with inclusion and the reduction of food waste in mind. The 45° angle claims to reduce the force necessary for opening and allows for 100% full aperture of the can.

Additionally, the smooth body of the can allows for full product release unhindered by any extra materials around the opening, thus ensuring easier, more efficient use.



Hydro to build new aluminium recycling plant in Spain

Hydro has signed an agreement to purchase land in Torija, Spain, with the aim of constructing a state-of-the-art aluminium recycling plant.

The plant facility, which will have 120,000 tonnes of annual capacity and around 65 direct employees, will strengthen Hydro's capabilities to produce low-carbon aluminium and ensure more scrap is kept in Europe.

The agreement has been signed with a subsidiary of the Pulsar Properties Group. The total project investment is estimated to be between €130-140 million, depending on the final facility design, market conditions and macroeconomic development.

Eivind Kallevik, Executive Vice President for Hydro Aluminium Metal, explained: "The European

and Iberian market for aluminium continues to grow. This investment will be an important step towards Hydro's ambition to recycle more post-consumer aluminium, strengthening our position to capture value from growing demand for greener and circular aluminium."

The recycling facility in Torija will be capable of producing Hydro CIRCAL and other recycled low-carbon aluminium with a CO2 footprint below 4 kg CO2 per kg aluminium.

Unique to Hydro, Hydro CIRCAL extrusion ingot contains at least 75% post-consumer scrap certified by third party auditor DNV GL and has a market leading CO2 footprint of only 2.3 kg CO2e/kg aluminium.

The Torija project will complement the offering from Hydro's plant in Azuqueca located nearby and bring a wider range of Hydro's value added products to the Iberian market.



83% of packaging professionals question sustainability of their supply chains

New research conducted by packaging sustainability consultancy Aura has revealed that 83% of packaging professionals think their company's supply chain is either not as sustainable as it could be or not sustainable at all.

The findings were revealed in a survey of senior industry leaders carried out at the SPC Impact 2023 conference in Texas.

The poll of experts from a range of brands also found that 22% of respondents are unsure if their business is on track to meet its announced sustainability targets. 61% said their brands are only educating the public on packaging sustainability with information on the packaging itself, rather than investing in marketing campaigns or other channels to bring the message home. 74% feel there is either room for improvement when it comes to having good enough data on the environmental impact of their packaging or that they lack that data entirely.

The survey also revealed that 52% of respondents think a genuine circular economy for packaging is still 20 years away, while 26% don't see it happening for 50 years or more.



Thai Union opens Portugal factory store to sell canned tuna salads

Thai Union has opened a new factory store in Peniche, Portugal, via its subsidiary European Seafood Investment Portugal (ESIP), to sell a new line of canned tuna salads geared toward the domestic market.

The retail outlet, which had its opening on 25 May, will sell Peniche Can by Thai Union, a brand-new range of products. The store, dubbed Peniche Can Store, to align with the brand, will be a retail extension of ESIP's production facility

in Peniche and will sell Peniche Can Surf, a selection of tuna salads.

"Our brand-new factory store and our new brand Peniche Can by Thai Union with its Peniche Can Surf range of products are a celebration of Peniche as a playground for surfers from Portugal and all over the world," said ESIP Plant Manager João Santos.



"Our store is right next to the beach and at the heart of our community. We're all proud to live and work here, and our Peniche Can Store will show people from near and far that we're responsibly producing seafood products that make their way all over the world - from right here in Peniche."

The new brand was created as a "reverence to Peniche's fishing heritage" and its community of surfers, according to Thai Union. It includes a salad range including three products: tuna, bulgur and vegetables; tuna, red beans and mixed vegetables; and tuna pasta salad with tomatoes, green olives and a tomato and herb sauce.

ESIP was founded in 1915 and exports its products to three continents. Thai Union purchased the company in 2010.

JULY 2023

Dole's canned fruit range expands and relaunches

The Dole Sunshine Company has relaunched and expanded its canned fruit range, consisting of three cuts of Tropical Gold Pineapple – slices, chunks and a unique small chunk cut. The range will also feature a Tropical Fruit Mix variety, containing pineapple, papaya and guava.

Each line will have an RRP of £1 for a 227g can, which the supplier says offers retailers margins of more than 30%.

Andrew Bradshaw, UK Sales Director at the Dole Sunshine Company, said: "This smaller range provides the perfect portion size for smaller households, and we hope will open consumers' minds to exotic food adventures at home, such as pineapple on a pizza or in a taco using our new Dole small chunk SKU. "We know these kinds of ambient products are becoming

increasingly popular with consumers at present, as they not only offer good value, but increased flexibility with longer shelf lives, meaning less waste."



Wild Planet Foods reveals sustainably caught products

Wild Planet Foods has introduced five new seafood items to Whole Foods Market shelves nationwide.

The products include Skipjack Solid Light Wild Tuna in Pure Olive Oil; Wild Smoked Pink Salmon in Extra Virgin Olive Oil; Wild Smoked Mackerel Fillets in Extra Virgin Olive Oil; Wild Pink Salmon, 3-Pack; and Wild Tuna Quinoa

Salad Ready-To-Eat Meal.

Wild Planet brings these new SKUs to shoppers looking to make a positive impact on their health and the planet's by purchasing high-quality, premium canned seafood products that prioritise sustainability.

The fishing industry continues to face criticism due to the depletion of fish

in our waters, with 34.2% of global fish stocks being overfished and about 22 billion pounds of food killed and discarded due to non-selective harvesting methods.

Wild Planet uses selective harvesting methods that target just one species at a time to help eliminate bycatch (species unintentionally caught in the process of fishing a targeted catch).

Whether that means catching tuna without nets and only using a pole and line or sourcing from well-managed and highly respected fisheries for salmon and mackerel, sustainability begins and ends with selectivity, diligence and care.

The future of our oceans relies on responsible fishing, which is why Wild Planet partners with small-scale fishermen and fishing families who share our mission in respecting the planet by only taking what it can give and wasting nothing taken.



CANPACK repackages ABI Columbia's premium beer range

When ABI Colombia's Bavaria Brewery decided to repackage its flagship premium beers for a new generation, it turned to CANPACK, which created three new cans for the Club Colombia range that tell a new story.

The minimalist designs draw on the rich cultural heritage of Colombia's diverse people. The cans carry subtle patterns that pay tribute to highly skilled and iconic crafts typical of three of the country's regions.

The gold (dorado) label references the filigree metal work produced in the city

of Santa Cruz de Mompox, which turns the legendary gold into an even more valuable treasure.

The red (roja) label represents the hands that weave the caña flecha in the departments of Córdoba and Sucre and turn this material into the iconic vueltiao hat, a symbol of Colombian identity and Caribbean culture.

The third and final label, black (negra), evokes the precise and complex designs in Tamo de Nariño that remind that mastery lies in patience, delicacy and attention to detail.

The labels proclaim the brewery's proud claim: 'Only here do we take what is good and turn it into something even better'. The finishing touch on the new Club Colombia cans is CANPACK's special MATT varnish.



Brazilian beverage brand chooses Crown aluminium cans for health-conscious drinks

Brazilian beverage producer Socorro Bebidas has expanded its partnership with Crown Embalagens Metálicas da Amazônia S.A., a subsidiary of Crown Holdings, to launch Acquiíssima Sabor flavoured mineral water in 350ml CrownSleek cans.

The premium zero-calorie drink features natural aromas, offering a 'health-conscious alternative' for consumers to stay hydrated and incorporate key nutrients into their daily diets.

The line made its debut with two flavours, Lychee and Green Apple, and is currently available in Acquiíssima stores, restaurants and supermarkets in Brazil.

When considering the package format for the brand, Socorro knew it needed to help convey the refreshing and health-conscious nature of the beverage, while also delivering on sustainability.

The inherent properties of metal packaging, including providing a powerful barrier against light and oxygen, helps maintain the product's freshness.

Aluminium beverage cans are also infinitely recyclable and are the most recycled beverage package in the world - characteristics which resonate with

Brazilian consumers, who have recently helped drive the country's recycling rate for aluminium beverage cans to an astounding 100%.

"We are proud to continue our work with Crown as we launch the newest addition to the Acquiíssima portfolio," said Maurício Cruz, Commercial Director of Socorro.

"We created the Acquiíssima Sabor line to give Brazilian consumers a healthy, delicious beverage alternative.

"It demanded packaging that would help convey the uniqueness of the brand, its refreshing appeal and our commitment to sustainability. Ultimately, the beverage can was the perfect choice."



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CELEBRATING WOMEN IN METAL PACKAGING: BETH GRAVES

In a brand-new profile series, *Canmaking News* puts the spotlight on the inspirational businesswomen shaping the metal packaging industry. For our first piece, we speak to Dr Beth Graves, President of Prime Controls Inc

Based in Dayton, Ohio, Prime Controls is a world leader in metal sensing solutions. Its innovative inspection equipment, used by top producers of canmaking machinery in the United States and across the globe, is setting a higher standard for quality, reliability and accuracy.

From state-of-the-art double sheet detection to double shell and missing tab solutions and both air and light leak detection, Prime Controls' products are designed to help canmakers improve their bottom line, boost product quality and ramp up manufacturing efficiency.

At the helm of the company is Dr Beth Graves. In her role as President, Beth oversees the day-to-day running of this second-generation, family-owned business. Under her leadership, Prime Controls was named a 2021 and 2016 Dayton Business Journal Manufacturing Business of the Year, and in 2023, the firm is stronger than ever as it celebrates a special milestone - its 30th anniversary.

While strategy formation and direction are central to Beth's management of Prime Controls, she also takes great pride in building the culture of the company. "I would describe us as tight-

knit, smart and authentic," she says. "We continue to evolve as more people join the team, but essentially, it is a culture of people that really care for each other. That might be because I am a woman and that is part of my nature. I am a huge proponent of balance and being who you are at work - no masks. I feel we radiate the best energy when we are able to be our best selves."

Beth is a graduate of Wright State University with a master's degree in Business Administration (MBA) and a Doctorate in Strategic Leadership (DSL). She started her career as Marketing



Coordinator for German company Rittal Corporation, and after five years, was recruited by a start-up wireless company out of Seattle, WA. "While there, the experience instilled in me a sense of urgency around product development and product launch," points out Beth. "The entire experience was full of energy and excitement. I was able to learn from many very talented marketing and business leaders."

Then things took a turn. When her brother passed away suddenly, Beth's world changed. In 2011, her father, Larry Tucker, Owner and Chairman of Prime Controls, asked if she might want to come work with him at his company and help with marketing communications. "I felt a sense of responsibility to help," explains Beth. "As fate would have it, I was able to bring my experience working at Rittal and the start-up to his then very small company. I never had the intention to stay there long-term, but here we are 11 years later, and I am still enjoying the opportunity."

A few years after she officially joined Prime Controls, Beth's father retired and she took the reins as the second-generation leader of the business. "Before becoming President, I learned from my father while working in both marketing and inside sales. He gave me the space to spread my wings and take the company where I wanted to take it." For Beth, it has been about building a team of the best people - both in terms of their professional performance and

'cultural fit' within the organisation.

A testament to Prime Controls' business success is the fact that it continues to win awards locally. For manufacturing, Beth explains, this is a very big deal. The company has been part of the Dayton Business Journal Business of the Year program for eight consecutive years.

On a personal level, Beth has recently completed a Doctorate in Strategic Leadership - a fantastic achievement. "This took me four years," she says. "It felt like running two marathons back-to-back, but I wouldn't trade it for the world. I sharpened me, both personally and professionally. I am at a point in my life where I don't really see challenges or setbacks. I see all experiences as necessary learnings and stepping stones. Probably one of the biggest things I continue to do is work on myself. I continue to dig into the deeper parts of myself. I think it is very important as a leader to do this."

Although it is a traditionally male-dominated industry, Beth enjoys working in metal packaging. However, she thinks that the sector needs more women, and to achieve this, women need to continue to feel welcomed and included. "It is important to ensure we are including all people around the board room today in the conversation," says Beth. "It's very easy, and also human nature, to only direct our attention to those who are most like us and not include those who are not. We can overcome this by

making sure all are being heard and that we are addressing all. Diversity - both physically and in thought - enhances creativity and innovation. It makes us more competitive. It will only enhance our industry."

It can seem isolating when you are the only woman in the room. In Beth's eyes, businesses have an important part to play in helping women gain exposure and equality. "I see the corporate can plants doing a lot of work and encouraging diversity and inclusion efforts," she states. "Continuing these efforts will be key and it is great when the companies are behind it. I think there is a lot of work being done, at least from what I can see where I am in the US, to encourage women to explore technical fields."

Once women have entered the metal packaging industry, the attention then shifts to retaining them. The way to do this is by ensuring they feel included and welcomed, Beth reinforces. "Both men and women bring unique perspectives to the conversation, to product development, marketing and many other aspects of business. It would be so encouraging to all women to feel an equal and important role in growing this worldwide industry."

Beth is an inspirational leader, and we wish her all the best as Prime Controls celebrates 30 years in business. Like many, Prime Controls attended METPACK in May, and we thoroughly enjoyed catching up with the team!

AUGUST 2023

Belvac acquires Arc Pacific

Belvac Production Machinery Inc., an operating company of Dover Corporation, has acquired Arc Pacific, a leading global supplier of can washers, dry-off, pin and internal bake ovens for the metal packaging industry. Arc Pacific will become part of the Belvac business unit within Dover's Climate and Sustainability Technologies segment.

Founded in 2003, Arc Pacific has manufacturing facilities in Foshan, China, and Chonburi, Thailand. The acquisition is expected to further

strengthen Belvac's position as a leading provider of manufacturing equipment and services to the two-piece metal packaging industry.

"Belvac has teamed with Arc Pacific on a number of successful turnkey projects, making this acquisition a great fit while adding a complementary product line offering to Belvac's portfolio," said Dan Metzger, Chief Commercial Officer of Belvac.

"Working with Arc Pacific has proved very successful and we are delighted to

bring its industry knowledge in-house to complement our turnkey integration offerings."



Orora Beverage opens new \$80 million can production line

Orora Beverage, an Australian manufacturer of cans from aluminium foils, has opened its new \$80 million multi-sized can production line.

The company produces almost 1 billion beverage cans annually and has a client base consisting of VB, Mount Franklin and Coke.

President Simon Bromell said: "The cans business has been growing strongly - hence the investments that we have made. Some of that growth clearly comes from sustainability cues of cans relative to plastic. Some of it comes from consumer preference, which is particularly craft beer playing a strong role."

According to Bromell, Orora Beverage's 200ml aluminium cans seem to drive smaller customers who want to launch new brands with their flagship products. Orora received an unspecified amount from the State Government and added its capacity to invest about \$110 million in the Dandenong expansion and revamp its Ballarat ends unit. The expansion has created 18 new jobs, primarily in Dandenong, where Orora already employs 250 people. The Industry and Innovation and

Manufacturing Sovereignty Minister Ben Carroll and Dandenong MP Gabrielle Williams toured the plant on 23 August and witnessed the mechanical and chemical treatment of metal, which is cured into can shape at a rate of 300 cans per minute.

The cans are recyclable and decorated using an eight-colour paint machine.

They are then dried, washed, checked and stacked in towers before being shipped to customers for filling.

The new wastewater treatment plant, which has been operational since January, was also showcased during the visit. It enables Orora to recycle 50% of its water for washing.



Little Tin Co launches seafood cannery in Australia

Australian couple Dan and Rachel Weeks have launched Little Tin Co, Australia's first craft cannery in Port Adelaide.

The inspiration came during their Covid-19 isolation on Deal Island, where they realised the lack of

Australian-origin tinned fish. With Dan's background in tuna boats and abalone farms, they focus on local produce, emphasising low food miles and sustainability.

The first release includes local Sardines, Hot Smoked Kingfish,

Vermouth Pate, and Smokey Port Lincoln Mussels. Rejecting large-scale automation, Little Tin Co uses a single canning machine and a team of five to 10 people for hand-crafted production. The tins are decorated with original designs by local artist and Dan's mother Ingrid Mangan.



Unable to travel due to the pandemic, the couple researched, connected online with Mediterranean businesses and experimented with recipes. The products, such as the whisky-infused mussels and vermouth-flavoured kingfish, can be enjoyed on fresh bread with lemon, shared among friends – and are recommended by Rachel as a premium source of protein for hikers.

Future goods may be sourced beyond the state – but not the country – as Rachel instils her years of work for sustainability not-for-profits in Little Tin Co.

Wild creates new cosmetics line in refillable aluminium bottles

UK start-up Wild has partnered with industrial design and innovation consultancy Morrama to develop a 'first of its kind' with the Wild refillable shower gel.



On average, British adults throw away 312 plastic bottles per year, but only half recycle bathroom packaging. There are limited plastic-free options available on the cosmetic market, especially for liquids, but Wild aimed to change that.

Transporting liquids without plastic or high energy aluminium is a major challenge. Whilst there are compostable pouches on the market, they lack durability and they need to be poured into a refillable vessel.

The goal with Wild was to create a refill that was both convenient and compostable – refill that would leave no trace, breaking down completely, even in landfill conditions, in less than two years.

The Wild refills are made from 70% bamboo starch, a fast-growing plant known for its natural waterproof properties. The remaining 30% is plant starch from agricultural waste and is used to enhance the refills' structural integrity. Once the refill is empty, it can be put on the compost heap or in general waste, where it will biodegrade faster than a banana peel.

The lightweight aluminium case has been designed to complement the deodorant's sleek aesthetic and encloses the bamboo refill, fully protecting it from water and humidity. The only plastic part of the product is the pump, which is made from 50% post-consumer recycled plastic.



Joe's father, David McEachern



Joe McEachern

KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY: JOE MCEACHERN

The metal packaging industry is abundant with family-run companies. Our new feature series Keeping it in the family shines a spotlight on those organisations and the benefits and challenges associated with working within them. For our first feature, we spoke to Joe McEachern, CEO of T.D. Wright

When I wasn't quite old enough to get a job, I worked summers sweeping floors, cleaning up machines and scraping the old paint off the doors at T.D. Wright. Fast forward to 2012 and I came back with a business degree to fill in some gaps in the administrative team.

Although the time I spent working alongside my father was limited, I can say that I enjoyed learning about the shop, the business and the people from our time working together. I continue to learn more every time I go to a conference and meet with the people he worked with for decades.

Taking over a family business is full of challenges. Being seen as an extension of your family can make it difficult to make your own decisions, especially if you know those decisions might not be the same as the ones your family would make.

On the other hand, having that family connection has made me feel like many people in the industry already knew me from day one. This made getting thrown into my first few business trips a lot more comfortable.

I see a lot of family-run businesses in the canmaking industry. I think this is, in part, because the people that work

in this industry are passionate about it and want to share that passion with their family. My father is the reason I got started at T.D. Wright, but it wasn't so much planned, as it was the right thing to do when the time came.

For me, one of the most meaningful things about being the second generation of a family-run business is knowing everything before you know anything. My entire upbringing, I heard stories about my dad's work trips, successes, failures and relationships. Even after being with the company for over 10 years, I am still discovering things that I can trace back to his stories from when I was a kid!

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SEPTEMBER 2023

Lumi closes seed round of funding

Lumi, a newcomer in the food and beverage packaging sector with a mission to combat the global surge in single-use plastics, has successfully closed its seed round of funding.



Proceeds will enable the brand to fully launch production of the LumiCup, which claims to be the lightest disposable and endlessly recyclable aluminium cup on the market.

Initial investors include Innovent Group LLC, Hydra Group LLC and Responsibly Fund LP.

With shipments to hospitality, entertainment, and travel and leisure consumers beginning in early 2024, the LumiCup is poised to disrupt the beverage packaging landscape with a truly environmentally conscious product available in 9 oz, 12 oz and 16 oz cup sizes, serving a wide variety of cold beverages.

Lumi will also soon introduce its infinitely recyclable 2oz ramekin called the 'LumiKin', designed to replace single-use plastic ramekins with a superior alternative to hold sauces, dressings and garnishes.

Prime Control's Mark Mohn joins SpecMetrix systems team

Sensory Analytics has hired Mark Mohn as its new Technical Sales Manager. Mark brings almost 25 years of combined industrial technology experience to Sensory Analytics. In his new role, he will help the company meet increased year-end demand for its innovative SpecMetrix systems product lines within the global metal packaging and coated metals business segments.

Mark is a familiar face for metal packaging industry customers, where he has spent over a decade driving technical sales for Prime Controls. In his former role, Mark contributed to triple-digit sales growth and helped oversee worldwide sales of sensor systems and custom controls. Additionally, he spent much of his time on customer sales visits, application support visits, product installations, trade shows and hands-on customer training.

With his wealth of experience with technical sales efforts and a strong background in electrical engineering, Mark is well positioned to drive the technical sales efforts for SpecMetrix systems for current and prospective SpecMetrix system customers.

The Sensory Analytics team say they are thrilled to welcome him on board and eagerly anticipates Mark's support of company success and customer satisfaction moving forward.



Novelis inks agreement to supply aluminium beverage can sheet to Ball

In early 2023, Novelis signed a new anchor customer contract with aluminium can maker Ball Corporation in North America. Under the contract, Novelis will supply aluminium sheet to Ball canmaking plants in North America.

With this contract and other commitments, Novelis has secured all of the beverage can capacity from its new plant in Bay Minette, Alabama, underscoring the strong demand for the company's high-recycled-content beverage can sheet.

The new plant, expected to begin commissioning in 2025, will be the first fully integrated aluminium manufacturing plant built in the US in nearly 40 years and will have an initial capacity of 600,000 tonnes of finished goods primarily for the North American beverage can and automotive markets.

The agreement between Novelis and Ball advances both companies' sustainability

commitments by including closed-loop recycling and joint efforts to improve beverage can recycling.

Through closed-loop recycling programs, Novelis directly takes back the manufacturing scrap generated during the can-making process and recycles it into new can sheet, which is then made into new beverage cans.

In addition to this continuous loop, Novelis recycles more than 82 billion used beverage cans per year into new aluminium for beverage packaging. These efforts result in lower-carbon products, as recycling aluminium requires only 5% of the energy used to make primary aluminium, resulting in 95% less carbon emissions.



Aptar Beauty launches range of overcap-free aerosol actuators

The new range of aerosol actuators created by Aptar Beauty has been designed to eliminate the need for an overcap, while still ensuring the formula is protected. The innovation was made possible thanks to an intuitive locking and unlocking technology, dubbed twist-to-lock.

The twist-to-lock technology eliminates the need for an overcap, meaning there is no cap to lose. According to Aptar,

it is easy and intuitive to use. The actuators are locked and unlocked with a simple 'twist' gesture. An audible click indicates when they are properly closed.

The locking and unlocking system also limits the risk of breakage or leakage, making the range e-commerce capable and safe for on-the-go usage. Moreover, anti-slip ribs ensure a good grip in dry or wet conditions like the shower.

The new range is made up of three actuators - Ringo, Nora and Tina - designed to dispense foam, gel and spray formulas, thus covering the main applications for aerosols.

The three actuators boast clean and lean lines and a matte finish. Their two-part composition allows bi-colour decoration for more creative freedom.

As for the environment, the actuators can be provided with a POM-free mechanism and up to 100% PCR (post-consumer recycled) content.

The twist-to-lock aerosol range is compatible with a ball valve, vertical valve or bag-on-valve, with two different skirt lengths.





ALUMINIUM BEVERAGE CAN INDUSTRY ENCOURAGES EXPANSION OF WELL-DESIGNED RECYCLING REFUND POLICIES

Heath Cox, Director of Industry Affairs at the Can Manufacturers Institute, examines the challenges US aluminium beverage canmakers face to produce cans made solely from recycled content and promotes the expansion of recycling refund policies

An average aluminium beverage can in the United States is made with 73% recycled aluminium, an exceptionally high amount of recycled content compared to containers made with glass or plastic.

The high proportion of recycled material goes a long way to helping aluminium beverage can manufacturers meet their decarbonisation goals. US aluminium beverage can makers, however, aspire to produce cans with the highest amount of recycled content possible. Their challenge is getting enough recycled material.

Regrettably, only 45 of every 100 aluminium cans are recycled in the US. Although that rate is higher than any other beverage container type, it leaves billions of cans worth millions of dollars buried in landfills, wasted in incinerators and polluting the country's land and waterways annually.

Aluminium beverage can manufacturers and can sheet supplier members of the Can Manufacturers Institute (CMI), a trade association that represents US metal can manufacturers and their suppliers, seek to significantly increase the percentage of aluminium beverage cans recycled. With that goal

in mind, CMI published an 'Aluminium Beverage Can Recycling Primer and Roadmap' last year, outlining pathways for reaching a 70% recycling rate of aluminium beverage cans by 2030, 80% by 2040 and 90% by 2050.

Reaching the 70% target would already deliver meaningful economic and environmental impact. Based on the volume of aluminium beverage cans sold in the US in 2020, a 70% recycling rate would have added more than 25 billion aluminium beverage cans and more than \$400 million in revenue to the US recycling system. Furthermore, the resulting energy savings from recycling

the additional aluminium versus producing the cans from virgin metal would power more than one million US homes for an entire year.

CMI's roadmap lists four paths of action to achieve the aluminium beverage can producers' and suppliers' recycling ambitions: well-designed recycling refund system, increasing household and away-from-home recycling, improving sorting at recycling centres, and broadening consumer awareness. The expansion of recycling refund programs, also known as deposit return systems (DRS), is recognised as the biggest lever to pull in pursuit of higher recycling targets.

Recycling refund laws have been remarkably effective in the 10 states that have adopted them. The Container Recycling Institute (CRI) reports that 77% of aluminium beverage cans sold with a deposit in the US are recycled. By contrast, only 36% of non-deposit aluminium beverage cans are recycled. CRI also found that the 10 states with a deposit system in place account for 40% of all recycled aluminium beverage cans in the US.

Extrapolating from CRI's data, CMI's roadmap shows that the establishment of a national recycling refund system where all states have similar performance as the average of the 10 current deposit states could expect to achieve a 43% increase in the amount of aluminium beverage cans recycled assuming some efficiency gains and factoring in a change in curbside collections.

Not all of the current states have a well-designed recycling refund system, and as a result, the potential increase could be even higher if the national deposit system is a well-designed one. Among other principles, US aluminium beverage can manufacturers assert that an optimally designed system would include elements such as a variable deposit value based on the volume of the container, the inclusion of all beverage types and containers, and a convenient redemption process for consumers and retailers.



Heath Cox

The economic and environmental promise of a national recycling refund program, however, has failed to gain traction. Without a national plan, CMI modelling shows that the initial 70% target can be reached if recycling refunds systems are installed in eight to 12 key states. In addition to the implementation of well-designed recycling refunds, this alternative path also relies on increasing curbside recycling and improvements in sorting at recycling centres.

Unfortunately, the expansion of recycling refunds at the state level has been muted since Hawaii became the 10th state to join the recycling refund club when it passed container deposit legislation in 2002. Attempts to introduce new or updated legislation in several states since then have been met with fierce opposition. Most recently, recycling refund bills to establish new programs in Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Virginia and Illinois and legislation to update existing programs

in Vermont, Massachusetts and New York failed to gain enough support to pass.

However, there is some recent positive news. In 2022, Iowa installed a review committee aimed at monitoring the program better and updated its handling fees, although retailer requirements were eased too. Also, in laws passed last year, Oregon expanded the beverage containers that are included in its program and Connecticut successfully raised its deposit to 10 cents.

Advocates of recycling refunds acknowledge that their goals are ambitious, but aluminium beverage can producers cannot reach their recycling rate goals or reduce their carbon emissions from greater use of recycled material if they do not have more available to use. Collection of a sufficient amount of recycled aluminium is constrained without significant expansion of the recycling refund systems that have proven to be so effective.

OCTOBER 2023

Colep and Envases to build aerosol packaging plant in Mexico

Colep Packaging and the Envases Group have signed a joint venture agreement for the construction of an aerosol packaging plant in Mexico.

The agreement, which is based on a 50/50 shareholding, will represent a total initial investment of more than \$30 million over a period of two years. In a first stage, the new plant will focus its production on three aluminium aerosol lines. The aim is to serve customers in Mexico, as well as the entire Central America market, using this production unit.

The agreement will make it possible to serve the North and Central America clients more closely and present a competitive offer in terms of portfolio, production capacity and lead times,

reinforcing the high levels of service that characterise both companies and which are decisive in the current market context.

For both Envases Group and Colep Packaging, a RAR Group company, this

is an important step in consolidating their growth journey and reveals their ambition to take a prominent position in new geographies, enabling the companies to respond closely and proactively to the challenges of the global packaging market.



ALFED report examines impact of Russia/Ukraine war on the UK aluminium industry

ALFED (the Aluminium Federation) has launched a new report examining the impact of the Russia/Ukraine war on the UK aluminium industry.

Developed in partnership with CRU International Ltd, the document explores the short, medium and long-term consequences of government import sanctions, as well as suggesting



alternative future options to maintain primary aluminium supply.

With the objective of protecting the UK's thriving aluminium supply chain, supporting domestic production and minimising the effects of geopolitical issues, it considers how removing Russian material from imports will directly impact UK businesses and how changing market dynamics will likely hit future export demand.

The opportunities to increase uptake of recycled content and reduce the industry's carbon footprint are also covered in detail, alongside the wider supply chain issues presented by a weakening global forecast.

Tom Jones, Chief Executive Officer of ALFED, said: "Politically, and morally, pressure is increasing to ensure that all materials used within the UK have a

clear path of origin and do not - in any way - support the Russian state.

"While Russian-sourced aluminium was only ever responsible for a small fraction of the import market, it is still important to consider the longer-term picture to ensure minimal disruption to the supply chain.

"Our latest report investigates the widespread impact of global conflict, identifying both challenges and opportunities, but also raising a number of highly pertinent questions.

"Firstly, what does a viable future solution for material sourcing look like? Secondly, what support should the UK government offer to support the wider agenda? And, finally, what are the immediate priorities that we - as an industry - must be tackling to maintain global competitiveness?"

Hill's Pet Nutrition expands canned food production capabilities

Hill's Pet Nutrition has opened its newest manufacturing plant in Tonganoxie, Kansas.

Located on more than 80 acres, the 365,000-square-foot, fully designed smart facility will increase the company's production capacity for canned pet food and provide a runway for continued expansion of Hill's Science Diet and Prescription Diet brands.

"It's only appropriate that as we celebrate Hill's 75th anniversary, we are able to unveil the next chapter of smart manufacturing innovation

in the pet food industry," said John Hazlin, president and CEO of Hill's Pet Nutrition.

"The Hill's Tonganoxie plant helps set the stage for the continued growth of our science-led nutrition, increasing our capacity and our ability to better serve the evolving needs of pets and pet owners in the United States and around the world."

The new Hill's Tonganoxie plant marks a step change in strategic automation and technological advancements in the pet food industry. The new Tonganoxie

facility was fully-designed to be "smart", including artificial Intelligence to power a digital food safety vigilance system, automation and robotic devices, enhanced food safety systems, and end-to-end digital process/safety monitoring.

The new technology and processes will help to improve speed to market by shortening the production cycle, while also offering long-term flexibility to innovate new formats and products that help deliver on the company's mission to support the health and well-being of pets.



Dan Rinehart appointed CCO at Industrial Physics

Dan Rinehart has been appointed as the new Chief Commercial Officer (CCO) of global test and inspection partner Industrial Physics.

Dan has over 20 years of leadership, strategy and commercial experience in public corporations and private equity backed businesses to the Industrial Physics leadership team.

Having previously led commercial strategy development and execution in his role as Vice President of Global Sales and Marketing at Danaher Corporation ("Danaher"), Dan will join the Industrial

Physics leadership team alongside new CEO Barry Lyon.

His appointment closely follows the news that Industrial Physics' acquisition by investment funds managed by KKR was completed this month.

These developments will support the company's vision to build a scaled testing and measurement platform that continually invests in growth and innovation to even better serve the needs of customers around the world in sectors such as food, beverage, flexible packaging, automotive and more.





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NOVEMBER 2023

Coopers places big beer cans across Australia

Coopers celebrated its status as the last locally owned and operated big-beer brand in Australia with a new campaign via Special Australia.

The 'Local, Everywhere' campaign established Coopers as the local beer

of Australia. "Although Coopers may be born in Adelaide, it's raised by locals all over Australia, making Coopers truly Local Everywhere," the company notes.

An augmented reality campaign allowed beer-lovers to insert a big can

of Coopers in their local. The Big Ales app had a map showcasing 1,200 Big Ale locations, allowing you to find the nearest Big Ale to you, and - much like Pokemon Go - hold your phone up while panning it around to look for the can. There were giveaways, as well as a series of bar-shouts across the country. Ryan Fitzgerald, Coopers Executive Creative Director, said: "In 'Local, Everywhere', we got a platform that lets us celebrate the genuine connection that Coopers has established with drinkers right around the country off the back of 162 years of brewing exceptional beers.

"The Big Ales is our playful way of thanking Coopers drinkers, everywhere - leaning into something quintessentially Australian at a scale like never before."



METPACK 2026 cut to four days

The Messe Essen METPACK Committee have confirmed the adjustment of the trade fair period to four days, which they believe will "enhance the efficiency and attractiveness of the event".

This means that the international metal packaging industry will next meet from 5-8 May 2026 in Halls 1, 2 and 3 of Messe Essen to discuss innovations and trends. From Tuesday to Thursday, METPACK will now open

one hour longer from 9am to 6pm, and on Friday, the last day of the trade fair, from 9am to 3pm.

During the 2023 edition, the trade fair was still held for five days. "This model of also holding the event on Saturday has proven to be outdated," explained Oliver P Kuhrt, CEO of Messe Essen. "Exhibitor and visitor surveys have shown that many of our guests are already leaving on the Friday of the trade fair. An extended version of the event into the weekend is therefore obsolete."

"We are responding to the industry's desire for greater harmonisation and more efficiency and are certain that the path we have taken will lead us to a successful event in 2026," added Christina Kleinpaß, Project Manager of METPACK.



DrinkPak announces Fort Worth expansion

Contract manufacturer of aluminium canned beverages DrinkPak is expanding operations with two new locations in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

The first facility will be in the Trammel Crow development at 35 Eagle industrial park, located at I-35W and

Eagle Parkway in Fort Worth, while the second will be located at Carter Park East in Fort Worth.

Both facilities will total 2.8 million square feet and will produce various beverages, such as energy drinks, sodas, waters, hard seltzers, canned cocktails, milk and milk-

alternative beverages.

The proposed expansion of the Santa Clarita, California-based company would result in 1,000 full-time jobs in the area by 2026. Local individuals would be hired for roles in production, batching, quality, maintenance, engineering, warehousing and more.



Aluminium industry denounces Digital Deposit Return Scheme

A number of influential figures in the aluminium industry have come together to denounce the Digital Deposit Return Scheme (DDRS), arguing that it is impractical and unsustainable.

The group, which included Tom Giddings, Executive Director of Alupro; Robert Fell, Executive Director of MPMA; and Tim Conybeare of Chairman of The Can Makers Committee, cited a number of reasons why the scheme would not work, separating them into two pillars of thought.

A 2023 report by consultants Eunomia, *Serialised Deposit Return Systems: An assessment of the feasibility and desirability of container serialisation and alternative DRS return pathways in Belgium*, prepared for Recycling

Network Benelux, highlighted these same concerns and identified others.

In a statement, the group said: "Our industry is opposed to any proposal that doesn't guarantee lower contamination levels for recycling, doesn't demonstrate that it can support our sustainability ambitions nor conclusively tackle litter.

"On these grounds, the aluminium packaging and recycling sector does not support a Digital DRS, defined as an alternative DRS model where instead of all containers being taken to return points by consumers, deposits can be redeemed by the public through mobile technology by scanning unique codes (e.g QR marks) on each container which can be recycled through existing systems (e.g kerbside collections).

"The studies and trials exploring DDRS' to date have highlighted the potential theoretical benefits of such a system, but these have yet to be demonstrated not only at scale but also, more fundamentally, that the requirements placed on the packaging value chain by a DDRS are even feasible or sensible. They have proven simply that the public appear, quite understandably, supportive of recycling initiatives that they can participate in by using an app at home.

"Our challenges to the concept revolve around two themes. Firstly, that a DDRS cannot be facilitated by the aluminium beverage packaging and supply chain and secondly that it is not as effective as a conventional DRS as a measure that improves packaging sustainability and recycling rates."

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DECEMBER 2023

UK's aluminium can market is Europe's second leading hub

The UK stands as a prominent player in the European aluminium cans market, boasting over \$2.6 billion in canned food retail sales.

With a staggering 9.7 billion beverage cans shipped annually, the country showcases a robust market driven by a 99.4% household penetration in the canned food category.

A noteworthy shift towards sustainable packaging, particularly aluminium cans, is underway, spurred by heightened environmental consciousness and regulatory support.

The Metal Packaging Manufacturers Association reports a substantial market of around 14.7 billion units, aligning with the broader European production of 98 billion units annually.

Investment in recycling infrastructure, exemplified by Diageo's support for the British Aluminium Consortium for Advanced Alloys (BACALL), positions the UK as a hub for advancing a circular economy in aluminium through the establishment of a dedicated plant with a capacity exceeding 400 million cans, including popular brands like Guinness and Gordon's.

Meanwhile, the global aluminium cans market is on a trajectory of substantial growth, with an expected Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 4.7% between 2023 and 2033. Sales of aluminium cans are forecasted to

surge to \$92.31 billion by 2033, up from \$58.31 billion in 2023. This remarkable expansion is fuelled by the growing consumption of beverages, particularly among the millennial demographic.



New INX Sustainability Report details ESG commitments

INX International Ink Co has released its inaugural *Sustainability Report*, offering a comprehensive overview of the company's evolving practices.

A priority assessment project helped INX identify Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) initiatives that were aligned with the CSSF model and integrated into INX's Sustainability strategy.

The report explains the company's sustainability strategy, focusing on the three areas of impact within the CSSF model: Product Design for the environment, Process Design for the environment and Social Responsibility.

It further details the sustainability attributes of INX's products, the optimised manufacturing processes supporting the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), INX's identification of six high impact areas and more.



International Delight launches its cold foam creamer in aluminium cans

Creamer brand International Delight has launched its much-awaited Cold Foam Creamer in aluminium cans.

The Cold Foam Creamer, expected to reach stores in January 2024, will “introduce coffee lovers to an inventive new format that efficiently enriches coffee concoctions”, rapidly transforming any hot or cold coffee into a “foaming delicious” coffee shop drink.

Kallie Goodwin, Vice President of Marketing, Coffee Creamers of Danone North America, said: “As a leader in coffee beverages, International Delight knows consumers are looking for ways to recreate the coffeshop experience at home.

“With International Delight Cold Foam Creamer, we are delivering an innovative and convenient new way to effortlessly bring a foamy, creamy twist to your daily coffee ritual. “This revolutionary product allows

coffee lovers nationwide to revel in a foaming delicious, multi-sensorial experience with delightful flavours and texture in every sip.”

The International Delight Cold Foam Creamer has three frothy flavours: French Vanilla, Caramel Macchiato, and Sweet & Creamy. This foam topper,

inspired by coffee shop aesthetics, combines the properties of cream and foam to enhance your coffee. It gradually incorporates creamer into your cup, resulting in a distinctive experience that produces foam that can be easily consumed within seconds.



ICC fulfils a family's Christmas wish

On 22 November, the Independent Can Company (ICC) received an enquiry through its website from someone named Adam who was looking for a single holiday popcorn can.

As a metal packaging manufacturer, the company only ships to distributors and wholesale customers, but this opportunity was so special that the team felt that they had to help.

In the message, Adam described his wife's tradition of picking out a large tin from a local popcorn shop to gift each of their children at Christmas. The kids enjoy the popcorn and the decorative tin becomes a keepsake that holds the ornaments they get each year from family.

Adam went on to mention that his wife was about to have another baby and

they were hoping to keep the tradition going. But unfortunately, their local popcorn shop in Canada stopped carrying the large tins.

When Sales Manager Christina saw the inquiry come through, she was certain ICC could help with his holiday quest. She had recently enjoyed some amazing popcorn from ICC's customer, Velvet Crème, and knew that they carried a 6.5 gallon tin - the size Adam was looking for.

In an update a couple weeks later, Adam revealed that they were settling in with their newest family member. “We received the tin and it's everything we hoped for! The popcorn is delicious and my wife was in tears. She was so happy to have it. You've really made our Christmas so much better!”

ICC said: “This is the stuff that warms our hearts and keeps us going. We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season.”



2023'S BEST CANNED BEVERAGE ADVENT CALENDARS

Canmaking News ranks the most striking, unique and competitively-priced canned beverage advent calendars of 2023



Among the many traditions that have sprung up to accompany the advent season over the years, ranging from the iconic Christmas tree to the artful hanging of wreaths and beyond, one of the simplest and most popular is the advent calendar.

Instead of strictly following the four-week advent period, which can start anywhere from 27 November to 3 December, an advent calendar typically begins on 1 December and offers a delightful countdown to the much-anticipated Christmas day.

Advent calendars now come in many forms, but the tradition began simply enough when German families in the mid-nineteenth century started counting the days until Christmas by tallying chalk marks on a door or wall. Variations of the countdown included lighting a candle or hanging a religious picture for each day leading up to

Christmas Eve. Some families began making homemade advent calendars to accompany their countdown, and by the early 1900s, a few publishing companies and newspapers had produced simple printed calendars.

Advent calendars became more popular with the help of a German printer named Gerhard Lang. Having grown up with a homemade calendar, Lang began designing cardboard advent calendars in around 1900 and, later in the 1920s, came up with the idea of cutting out little doors that could be opened each day. Behind each door, a devotional picture or Bible verse was hidden. With this innovation, Lang is considered the father of the modern advent calendar.

Paper rationing during World War II halted the production of advent calendars but after the war, a few printing companies revived the

tradition, and the calendars began to catch on again. Their popularity in America was boosted somewhat by images of President Dwight Eisenhower opening an advent calendar with his grandchildren in the 1950s. By then, many calendars began including simple gifts, such as chocolate or a small toy, behind each door.

Now the advent calendar market is big business. Gone are the days of a simple chocolate or toy inside each door. The popularity of advent calendars, particularly in Europe, has continued to grow, with a wide variety on sale, featuring all manner of surprises - including, of course, canned beverages.

The team at *Canmaking News* had a wonderful time reviewing some of our favourite canned advent calendars so you didn't have to. It's a tough job but hey, we were happy to do it on your behalf!

BREWDOG'S 24 BREW ADVENT CALENDAR - 8/10

This is a huge advent calendar, weighing in at over 10kgs. We really struggled to get it through the front door but once we opened it, it was clear that this was one of the best ones on the market. Scottish-based Brewer Brewdog might have been one of the first to put together a canned beer advent calendar and they really do have the market cornered. At £49.95, we think it's pretty reasonable, particularly if you're a big fan of Brewdog's more niche ale beverages.

On the calendar, Brewdog says: "A mix of stone-cold classics, new brews, collaborations and festive one-offs, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Try something new, revisit the old classics and feel like it's Christmas morning every day of December."

We loved the Clockwork Tangerine, a delightful citrus IPA, as well as Wingman, a bright, mellow and very drinkable session IPA. There are a

couple in there that we weren't too sure about. Grind Coffee Stout, a very caffeinated stout, wasn't to our tastes and Neon dream, a tropical wheat ale, tasted like a cross between a beer and

a tropical Fanta. All very confusing. That being said, this is a great value for money advent calendar for all ale fans and will undoubtedly get them into the festive spirit!



FODABOX - 12 DAYS OF BEER AND SNACKS ADVENT CALENDAR - 7/10

We love an advent calendar that includes snacks and think that most of you would to! This 12 Days of Beer and Snacks Advent Calendar will suit any beer lover, snack connoisseur or preferably a master of both. A perfect gift for your friends, family or colleagues to enjoy over the festive season, it is filled with delicious artisan snacks and craft beer made by hand by a variety of small batch and independent brewers and makers. Delight in a different drink or snack during the 12 Days of Christmas, including lagers, smoked almonds, IPA's and Pilsner's.

Beautifully packaged, even though this one has only 12 windows, we can forgive it for the excellent snacks - the chicken crackling was a particular highlight! At £50, the advent calendar was more on the expensive side so we've scored it a little lower, however, it's a good sturdy option for the holiday season.



FUNKIN' COCKTAIL'S ULTIMATE NITRO COCKTAIL ADVENT CALENDAR - 9/10

The effortless way to indulge in bar quality cocktails in the countdown to Christmas, Funkin' Cocktail's Ultimate Advent Calendar is a sight to behold. The company says: "As Christmas approaches, the decorations are up, the classic Christmas songs blasting through the radio and it's time to enjoy your Christmas cocktails. Cheers!" - and we couldn't agree more.

We love a canned cocktail at *Canmaking News* HQ and there really is an excellent selection in this box. A classic Mexican cocktail that features on every cocktail menu, we loved the Lime Margarita, a delicious mix of Mexican lime juice, quality agave spirit and a hint of sea salt to create a zesty, tangy, citrusy Margarita cocktail to get you in the party mood. The Funkin Espresso Martini Nitro Cans contains a barista blend of the finest cold brew coffee, a hint of vanilla, and a kick of premium vodka. Expect the silky-smooth consistency of a bar-quality

Espresso Martini without actually having to make one!

Priced at £49.99, this really is an excellent value advent calendar. Our

only complaint is that we could have done without the sore head the next day (note to self, testing boozy advent calendars on a Monday might not be the best idea!).



MAKER'S WINE ADVENT CALENDAR - 6/10

There are some excellent canned wines on the market - Maker's being one of them - and this holiday season, you can gift 12 days of premium canned wine to every wine lover in your life. Each box includes 12 cans (four bottle equivalent) by different, award-winning, small producers. You'll also receive a guide linking to complimentary tasting videos to accompany each wine!

This is, however, less of an Advent Calendar and more of a fun way to taste all of the different Maker's favourites - not unsurprising given that advent calendars in the US are less popular but it is still a great way to try the different wines Maker has to offer and a fab gift to send to friends and family. The packaging is stylish and the wine is delicious. That

being said, the price point is high at \$139 or £109 (shipping is free), which

is why we've scored it lower than we'd like to.

**TAPP'D CHRISTMAS COCKTAIL COUNTDOWN BOX - 7/10**

We like the Tapp'd cocktails. Out of most of the ones on the market, they're some of our favourites so we were excited to see what their advent calendar had to offer. This limited-edition box is a delightful journey through 12 days of Christmas, each day revealing a new and exquisite cocktail experience that captures the spirit of the season. Indulge in the magic of mixology as you uncover a carefully curated selection of premium bottled and canned cocktails, as well as Tapp'd accessories - all designed to transform your home into a winter wonderland of taste and merriment. About their advent calendar, Tapp'd said: "Our Christmas Cocktail Countdown Box is the perfect gift for any cocktail connoisseur - and, yes, self-gifting is certainly encouraged."

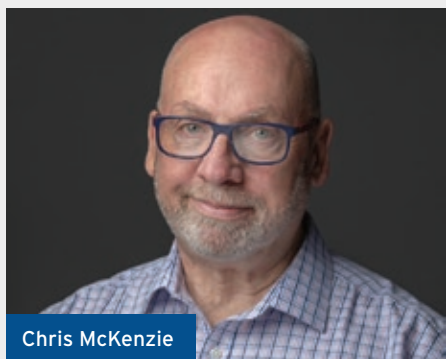
The purple rain canned cocktail had notes of rich cherry with a bite of sour lemon. Gently carbonated with a blend of handcrafted vodka, this was a hit for all of the team. We also loved the Long

Island Iced Tea, a classic concoction of vodka, rum, tequila, triple sec and a hint of tangy lemon, sweetened with cola. At £40, this is a great value advent calendar. We just felt the packaging was a little cheap and the options could have been a bit more thought out.



THE IMPORTANCE OF INTEGRITY

Chris McKenzie, Technical Director of Tolag Pty Ltd, examines the importance of integrity in the canmaking business



Chris McKenzie

The question of supplier integrity is often a grey area as there are many levels to consider. Usually there is a great deal of trust in the suppliers' sales or technical adviser. Sometimes the trust is hidden behind a large corporate name. Either can be deceiving.

If we look at some well-known case histories, Nick Leeson, who served four years in prison for fraud after bankrupting the London-based Barings Bank in 1995, hid \$1.4 billion in debt he had accumulated as a derivatives trader in Singapore. This was clearly evidence of trust on an individual level that went terribly wrong. On the other hand, when we view evidence of trust in corporations, it's unfortunate that these have often been eroded by even the most prestigious names.

One of the most publicised cases recently was the Apple 'Battery Gate' of December 2017. A Reddit user reported that a software update had reduced the performance of their iPhone, but that this had corrected itself when they replaced the battery. The post led to a lot of press coverage, with some commentators suggesting that Apple was trying to force users to upgrade by deliberately slowing devices as they aged. CEO Tim Cook issued a statement confirming that the software was designed to throttle performance, but

claiming that the intent was only to prevent unexpected shutdowns, which could affect devices with older batteries.

Often when we look at our own industry and supplier trust, we hear the reply that the person or corporation is doing a great job. During my visits to plants in recent decades, I have noted that they are doing a great job, but not for the plant. They were, however, doing a great job for themselves or their employer.

It's important to remember and look inwards to verify this in your own mind that the majority of suppliers will sell you what will bring the best margin, kudos from their management or commission – that is their job and it only changed when competition is strong, and proof of benefit is needed to retain or gain that account. There are very few who will look at what you want or need, always looking for ways to benefit profit line or volume.

To be fair, there are some great and honest engineers, but often stifled by management. Corporations are no different, but the bigger they are, the more they are beholden to shareholders and thus the bottom line is all powerful.

It's always best, where possible, to involve non-aligned auditors to check your systems, possible purchases or plants – it can save you hundreds of thousands of dollars in capital. More importantly, that's millions of dollars in lost customers through downtime and poor-quality produced packaging.

Acquisitions over the past three decades have seen the elimination of competition by stealth, most evident in the number of suppliers in particular fields as we walk through the annual exhibitions in the packaging sector. Thankfully, there is indeed a resurgence in small companies

starting to filter through as the loss of skill in the industry through attrition and retirement is attempted to be plugged by the highly skilled older engineers fighting back against industry losses.

The older engineer is passionate, resilient, fast thinking and knowledgeable, and should be used to bring the younger generation of canmakers up to speed before this resource dies off. TOLAG has served and worked in the industrial field with a wide and varied diversity encompassing food and beverage in both steel and aluminium DWI, EOE, general line, aerospace and automotive, as well as ferrous and non-ferrous rolling and extrusion.

The following poignant story struck a chord with us. A giant ship engine failed. The ship's owners tried one expert after another, but none of them could figure out how to fix the engine. Then they brought in an old man who had been fixing ships since he was a young. He carried a large bag of tools with him, and when he arrived, he immediately went to work. He inspected the engine very carefully, top to bottom. After looking things over, the old man reached into his bag and pulled out a small hammer. He gently tapped something. Instantly, the engine lurched into life. He carefully put his hammer away. The engine was fixed!

A week later, the owners received a bill from the old man for ten thousand dollars. "What?!" the owners exclaimed. "He hardly did anything!" They wrote the old man a note saying, "Please send us an itemised invoice. The man sent an invoice that read: Tapping with a hammer..... \$ 2.00. Knowing where to tap..... \$ 9,998.00. Effort is important, but knowing where to make an effort makes all the difference!

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