









ONLINE PARTS
STORE



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Welcome to the March issue

hope this note finds our readers well. The recent heavy snow here in the UK has cleared, the temperature has risen considerably and Spring will soon be here.

By the time you read this, we will hopefully have found out when we will be emerging from our third lockdown and that coupled with the vaccination roll-out is paving the way for optimism.

In this issue we bring you news of expansion plans from Ball Corporation, NPB and Canline as well as the ever increasing sustainability news within the industry. In Events/Diary we learn of the 'physical' conferences that have been rescheduled following cancellations due to the pandemic.

There's an update on how Brexit will affect the can making industry in the UK and Europe. Not surprisingly, as writer Liz Newmark reports from Brussels, there will be costs, delays and 'severe disruption' according to experts for the UK and European can manufacturing industry.

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David Hayes updates on the can seaming market and the high-speed seaming technology available for two-piece can manufacturing. Meanwhile, Matt Shelley from Air Control Industries discusses the ease of commissioning custom-built fans and can drying solutions.

Elsewhere, Vladislav Vorotnikov, in his Iran focus report, tells us of how the Iranian government expects more canneries to be launched in the country in the coming year, even though the country is still stripped of foreign equipment.

This month's Insight comment is from Marty Jones of Cask Global Canning Solutions; he offers an entertaining read on the ever-rising popularity of craft beer cans.

All that remains to say is enjoy the read and stay safe.

Jill Sayles, Editor CanTech International

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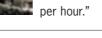
SANDFORD ORCHARDS INVESTS IN **OWN CANNING LINE**

Sandford Orchards is investing £1.2 million into expanding its packaging capabilities including setting up its own canning line and developing and implementing a new branding strategy.

The company took the opportunity to press forward with its expansion plans buoyed by ever-growing consumer demand.



The company's Barny Butterfield, chief cidermaker, said: "At the beginning of the first lockdown our usual canning business became too busy to provide us with the capacity that we needed. We knew that canned cider offered us a huge potential market, as it is not well served by quality craft ciders, so we took the plunge and invested in our own in-house canning line which delivers 3,500 cans of cider



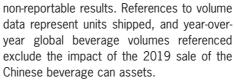


Ball Corporation has announced full-year 2020 net earnings of \$585 million.

The company's full-year 2020 comparable net earnings were \$987 million, or \$2.97 per diluted share, compared to \$861 million, or \$2.53 per diluted share in 2019.

Fourth quarter 2020 net earnings were \$227 million, or 68 cents per diluted share, on sales of \$3.1 billion compared to \$160 million, or 48 cents per diluted share, on sales of \$2.7 billion in the fourth guarter of 2019.

Its fourth quarter 2020 comparable net earnings were \$272 million, or 81 cents per diluted share versus fourth quarter 2019 comparable net earnings of \$238 million, or 71 cents per diluted share. Results reflect the 2019 sale of the company's Argentine steel aerosol business and Chinese beverage can assets, and new segment reporting for the company's beverage packaging, EMEA business and other



During the quarter, the company posted 14 per cent comparable earnings per diluted share growth on 12 per cent global beverage volume growth and 18 per cent growth in funded and unfunded aerospace backlog. In addition, the successful fourth quarter startup of the company's aluminium cup manufacturing facility in Rome, Georgia, will support the North American retail launch of the new aluminium cup during the first half of 2021.

AkzoNobel will no longer acquire Tikkurila

After submitting a binding proposal to acquire Tikkurila for €31.25 per share on 28 January 2021, AkzoNobel no longer intends to pursue this acquisition, following a competing, higher offer for Tikkurila.

Thierry Vanlancker, CEO of AkzoNobel, said: "We have clear priorities and criteria for capital allocation, including investing for growth, paying dividends, conducting acquisi-

tions, and carrying out share buybacks. The intended acquisition of Tikkurila can no longer compete with more attractive opportunities to create superior value for our shareholders and other stakeholders. Executing with discipline has been key to AkzoNobel's transformation into a company with higher profitability and strong free cash flow. This is working well for us and part of who we are."



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NPB and Canline expand local operations in US

NPB and Canline have announced that they will expand their presence in the US.

This strategic decision emphasizes the significant role that the US has in the global metal packaging industry and companies in the industry can strengthen their production needs through NPB/Canline's localized system capabilities and service levels.

The US-based operations will enable the companies to work more closely with key customers and their demanding market needs as the market growth for the manufacturing of cans and ends soars high. This will continue for the next years to come to meet consumer demands and support the move to a more sustainable trend in packaging in reference to plastic or glass packaging materials.

Johan Orrenius, managing director of NPB, said: "We continuously strive to further strengthen our long-lasting relationships with our key customers. Therefore, the level of delivery capabilities and localised services must be very high. We believe further localization in the US will accelerate achieving these goals."



Wouter de Roos, managing director of Canline, said: "To act as true partners for our key customers, we do not only have to deliver market leading technology, but also market leading services."

The US based operations will include key competences for can- and end manufacturing, plus end-of-line automation. All other vital factors of service provided will be locally present, including project management, site supervision, field service support, performance monitoring, process optimization and spare parts.

NPB and Canline are partners and sister companies within the Business Unit Industrial Solutions of XANO AB.

Ball to build new can production facility in Pilsen

Ball Corporation says it intends to begin construction of a new can production facility at Pilsen Digital Park in the spring of this year.



The development, in the West of Czech Republic, would expand the company's output in the region to meet the growing demand from consumers who want sustainable and recyclable beverage packaging.

The €170 million facility plans to employ up to 200 people and launch operations in October 2022.

The new factory, with two production lines, would occupy a site of more than 100,000m2 in the Pilsen Digital Park, enabling further expansion when required.

Its construction is to be divided into two phases. The first would create around 150 new jobs and the second, raise the total to around 200 professional jobs in engineering and support roles.



Demand for aluminium tubes and aerosol cans not expected to pick up soon

Manufacturers of aluminium tubes and aerosol cans in Germany do not expect demand to pick up until the third quarter of 2021, according to the Gesamtverband der Aluminiumindustrie e.V. (GDA), an association of German aluminium companies.

However, it says demand for aluminium tubes last year declined only slightly by around one per cent, as good demand from pharmaceutical and food sectors almost offset the decline in demand for cosmetic products. Deliveries of aluminium aerosol cans to Germany fell by around 9 per cent due to lower sales in the core market of deodorants. Despite the keen demand for disinfectants in the first quarter of 2020, the industry was not able to compensate for this decline. Nevertheless, the overall result in 2020 is still moderate compared to other end-use markets in the aluminium industry.

"Due to the ongoing pandemic, the slow start of vaccinations and the associated restrictions for the population in Germany and Europe-wide, the market situation is expected to remain difficult until the middle of the year", said Johannes Schick, chairman of GDA's Division for Tubes, Cans and Impact-Extruded Parts. In particular, demand from the cosmetics market will continue to suffer from the mobility restrictions, as shops in the cities will be closed and other important sales channels such as duty-free shops in airports are also shut down. A sustained upturn in the market is only expected from the third quar-



ter of 2021. Until then, the association says the market situation will remain erratic.

The recyclability of packaging will play an even more important role in 2021, according to GDA. The current recycling rate for aluminium packaging in Germany is 93.2 per cent. The growth potential for aluminium packaging in the German packaging market is considerable because it currently only accounts for around one per cent of total packaging consumption in Germany.

Coupled with the outstanding protective performance of aluminium, which efficiently prevents product spoilage and loss, an ecologically convincing overall package is delivered. Aluminium packaging is therefore fully in line with the EU Commission's Green Deal approach for more resource efficiency and sustainability.

Sun Chemical increases prices on inks, coatings and adhesives in EMEA

Sun Chemical has recently increased prices across a broad portfolio of its packaging and commercial sheetfed inks, coatings, and adhesives in Europe, Middle East, Africa (EMEA).

The company reports that a combination of raw material shortages, including petrochemical, vegetable oils and derivatives, dramatically increased international freight transport costs and the

demand due to economic recovery, are all contributing factors to the cost increases in its raw material feedstocks.

Nicolas Bétin (pictured), director product strategy EMEA at Sun Chemical, said: "The



pressure across the supply chain is causing an abrupt rise in raw material costs and unfortunately requires us to increase customer prices. We will continue to work with our sourcing partners to manage and minimise the impact on our customers."

Ink supplier, Sun Chemical says it is working hard to mitigate rising costs by implementing internal improvement programs and by

maintaining very close communication with its suppliers and industry associations to ensure it is fully aligned to the latest procurement situation. It will communicate specific increases directly with its customers.



Exclusively by



UK aluminium industry faces plant closures if DRS is adopted

The UK's aluminium industry, which employs more than 20,000 workers nationwide, would be stung with an annual production shortfall of 4.7 billion units and the possibility of plant closures if the UK adopts a flat rate Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) according to key findings from the Aluminium Packaging Recycling Organisation (Alupro).

The organisation launched an extensive report analysing the implications of a poorly designed national scheme. It was developed in partnership with independent think-tank London Economics and alongside experts from across the UK packaging sector. The



document analyses the environmental and economic implications of implementing a flat rate versus a variable rate deposit fee.

Aiming to tackle plastic pollution, increase recycling rates, improve recyclate quality and minimise litter, England, Wales and Northern Ireland's DRS is expected to come into force in 2023. The scheme will see a deposit value added to the price of a beverage product in store, which will be refunded to the customer when empty packaging is returned to a designated collection point.

While a variable rate fee would see containers allocated with a deposit value based on container size, a flat rate model would apply a fixed fee to all beverage containers. This unsophisticated approach, according to Alupro, could see customers charged an additional £4.80 for a 24-can multipack (on top of product purchase price) compared to just 80p for a two litre plastic bottle, which research suggests would result in 60 per cent of shoppers opting for larger, cheaper, but much less sustainable plastic alternatives – resulting in an immediate decline in demand (c.11per cent) for easy-to-recycle aluminium cans.

Alongside the implications for aluminium beverage can demand, Alupro's report uncov-



ers a number of wider concerns posed by a flat rate model.

Alupro states that a variable rate system would see the government achieve their 90 per cent return rate almost a year earlier, leading to a higher recycling rate and less litter on the streets.

Visit: alupro.org.uk/sustainability.

Survey shows three-quarters of consumers prefer cans

More than 75 per cent of consumers say they would choose the beverage can in preference to other packaging formats, once they were aware of the can's sustainability benefits, according to a new IPSOS survey.

The study, completed for Metal Packaging Europe (MPE), also revealed that more than 90 per cent of consumers were confident that packaging displaying the Metal Recycles Forever (MRF) logo, would actually be recycled.

It follows reports last year that more than half of Britons did not understand common recycling symbols found on everyday items, according to a survey by SaveOnEnergy.com.

Simon Gresty, Can Makers chairman, said: "In the last year, demand for the beverage can has increased to record levels and the results of the IPSOS study for MPE clearly show the significant potential which the can is set to make to a more resource efficient, circular economy.

"Consumer confidence in the MRF logo is also very encouraging. The beverage can is already the most recycled drinks packaging format in the world and the infrastructure is in place to recycle every single can placed on the market in the UK today."

The MRF logo which was launched in 2014 is one of the newest recycling symbols found on everyday packaging and the study presents clear evidence that it is easily understood and trusted by consumers.

Gresty added: "The IPSOS survey shows that more than 40% of consumers already purchase one or more beverage cans every week and as the MRF logo becomes more widely recognised it will play a vital role, ensuring we capture even more resources in the drive to achieve a truly circular economy."

Significantly, in addition to the 80 per cent of consumers that participated in the survey who said they believed the beverage can was easy to recycle, 60 per cent were also aware that metal beverage cans could be recycled over and over again.

Leonie Knox-Peebles, CEO of Metal Packaging Europe, said: "By ensuring that consumers and brands are aware of and understand the sustainability benefits of



beverage cans, including their outstanding recyclability as packaging made from a permanent material, we can help them to make informed and sustainable choices."

The MRF logo was designed to inform consumers about the infinite recyclability of rigid metal packaging and to help them understand the key role they have to play in keeping metal in the material loop by recycling their empty packaging.

The logo is available free of charge for all beverage fillers using metal packaging. To find out more go to: https://www.metalrecyclesforever.eu

Closed can-to-can recycling loop does not bring best environmental and economic performance for aluminium aerosols

Demands for increasing recycled material content in packaging and recycling in the sense of a closed product loop are gathering momentum in the industry.

The question is whether such a closed product loop recycling is under environmental and economic aspects advantageous for aluminium aerosols compared to a closed

material loop approach.

The International Organisation of Aluminium Aerosol Container Manufacturers (AEROBAL) and the European Aluminium Slug Producers group (ASP), organised under the umbrella of the German Aluminium Association (GDA), commissioned the Swiss research institute Carbotech to investigate into this subject.

The study shows that there is not just one aluminium specification but different aluminium alloys for the production of tailor-made aluminium products with different properties. After recycling, the use of the recycled material can be more appropriate than primary aluminium for certain aluminium applications, if already existing alloying elements in the recycled aluminium support the required specifications.

Additionally, it has to be taken into account that demand for recycled aluminium is much higher than supply. Roughly 25 per cent of the global aluminium demand can be satisfied by recycled aluminium. Thus, a focus on the recycled content has no direct influence on the global environmental impacts but only on the distribution to the different applications. The best strategy is to focus on high collection and sorting rates to maximize the amount of aluminium that stays in the market in the sense of a closed material loop.



Request for proposals released for CMI's aluminium beverage can capture grant programme

The Can Manufacturers Institute (CMI) and The Recycling Partnership (The Partnership) recently announced requests for proposals (RFP) for aluminium beverage can capture grants, sponsored by can manufacturers Ardagh Group and Crown Holdings, that will fund eddy currents, robots and other equipment or process improvement activities to capture used beverage cans at Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs). The Recycling Partnership joins as a strategic partner by fulfilling several critical roles in the grant programme including evaluating and assessing the proposals submitted, as well as executing the grant programme overall.

The programme will begin as a pilot effort in the Southeast region of the US, enabling grant partners to evaluate effectiveness and apply learnings. This grant programme focuses on the Southeast region because of its strong potential to significantly increase the recycling rate for aluminium beverage cans.

CMI, along with funding partners Ardagh and Crown, will provide feedback during the grantee selection process. Grantees are expected to provide initial impact results by the end of 2021.

The MRFs that receive grants will be able to capture and sell beverage cans that are currently being lost or uncaptured at the MRF. While aluminium beverage cans are consistently one of the most valuable materials by weight in the recycling stream, a recent CMI study indicated up to one in four beverage cans are missorted at a typical MRF. Capturing these cans will provide critical revenue to MRFs, many of which struggle with sortation costs higher than revenue earned from selling recyclables. It also means additional aluminium will be recycled into new cans or other useful, recyclable products.

To learn more about the issue of lost and uncaptured cans at the MRF, visit: cancentral. com/cansdriverecycling.

Ardagh Group earns A- from CDP

The Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) has awarded Ardagh Group its Leadership Class ratings for sustainability performance - scoring Ardagh Group A- for climate change and A- for water management. The CDP is a notfor-profit that runs a global disclosure system which helps different stakeholders to manage environmental impacts. Ardagh's teams are focussed on driving our sustainability strategy across all its dimensions," said John Sadlier, Ardagh's chief sustainability officer. "The ratings from CDP evidence our constant focus on minimising our environmental footprint. While doing so, we actively support our customers in their own sustainability activities."



An overview of metal packaging events news and diary dates

Metpack to take place in May 2023

The trade fair for metal packaging, Metpack, will be held at Messe Essen in Germany from 2-6 May 2023. After the last event was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and then had to be cancelled, it is now reopening in the usual three-year cycle and parallel to interpack which will take place from 4-10 May 2023.

In addition to packaging, the range of products presented by the more than 300 exhibitors at the trade fair recently included machinery and equipment for the production of cans, lids and bases, as well as filling and sealing systems. Interested exhibitors will soon find the application documents at metpack.de.

"We are confident that Metpack 2023 can take place with its usual size and internationality. On the part of the exhibitors, we have recently experienced a lot of understanding and encouragement. The message was clear: The industry needs Metpack and would rather come back to Essen today than tomorrow. Due to interpack taking place in



Düsseldorf at the same time, we are again expecting considerable synergies with the visitors," said Oliver P. Kuhrt, managing director of Messe Essen.

The Metpack Innovation Award will be announced during the show and current trends will also be the subject of the conference, at which representatives from industry and science will provide insights into the future of metal packaging. This is characterised, among other things, by more product variety, less material and networked production.

interpack 2023 date announced

Messe Düsseldorf has announced that the next interpack event will take place from 4-10 May 2023 at the Düsseldorf Trade Fair Centre. Messe Düsseldorf has set this date in agreement with its partners and committees.

Interested companies from the packaging sector and the associated processing industry will be able to register online at interpack. com from the end of March/beginning of April provided all goes to plan, according to the organisers. Exhibitors that were approved for interpack 2021, which was cancelled due to the pandemic, have already been able to reserve stand positions for 2023 and will now be able to rebook when registering.



NEW DATES ANNOUNCED FOR ALUMINIUM 2021

Aluminium, the trade fair for the aluminium industry, that was scheduled for 18-20 May 2021, in Düsseldorf, Germany, has been rescheduled to 28-30 September this year.

Organiser Reed Exhibitions made this decision because of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, after discussions with exhibitors and partners. Uncertainties surrounding travel restrictions were also a deciding factor due to the international nature of the event.

The focus of the September show will



be a congress, organised in partnership with the German aluminum association — Gesamtverband der Aluminiumindustrie (GDA) — and will address the future of the industry.

"We are confident that the new dates will provide us with the ability to ensure a safer event and provide our exhibitors and visitors more time to plan their attendance," said Benedikt Binder-Krieglstein, CEO of Reed Exhibitions Deutschland.

"The still unclear developments of the pandemic and general uncertainty have prompted us to reassess the situation. For us, the priority is to minimise the health and economic risks to all participants and to avoid unnecessary costs," Binder-Krieglstein continued.

The focus of the trade fair and the congress programme will include the future prospects of the aluminium industry, the digitalisation of the value chain, sustainable mobility and the Green Deal.



"The entire aluminium industry is facing a future-facing transformation. In September, we will provide the industry with the platform to address these important challenges and position aluminium as a key material of the future. In doing so, we will also examine how we can ideally combine physical and digital components. With the September 2021 event, we will also provide an outlook on the future direction and topics of the subsequent Aluminium 2022," concluded Binder-Krieglstein.

EVENTS/DIARY

JUNE 2021

ADF Paris

ADF – Aerosol and Dispensing Forum is an event dedicated to driving innovation, business and knowledge in the global aerosol dispensing sector.

Date: 22 - 23 June 2021 Location: Paris, France

Website: adfpcdparis.com/en/about-adf/



SEPTEMBER 2021

ALUMINIUM 2021

The trade fair for the aluminium and its applications industries.

Date: 28 - 30 September 2021 Location: Düsseldorf, Germany Website: aluminium-exhibition.com

PPMA SHOW

The show is a UK processing and packaging

machinery exhibition.

Date: 28 - 30 September 2021 Location: Birmingham, UK Website: ppmashow.co.uk



OCTOBER 2021

IMDPA Annual Conference

The conference features experts from around the world presenting on the latest developments in metal decorating and packaging technology.



Date: 5 - 7 October 2021 Location: Oak Brook, IL, US

Website: metaldecorators.org/imda-annu-

al-conference/

ASIA CANTECH 2021

Asia CanTech is the conference and exhibition for can makers and fillers in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Date: 25 - 27 October 2021 Location: Bangkok, Thailand Website: asia-can.com

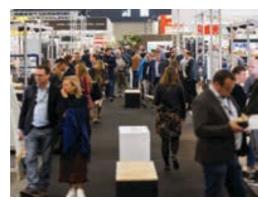


EMPACK

Empack showcases the latest innovations for smart packaging, packaging machinery, industrial robots and automation, used in the packaging industry.

Date: 27 - 28 October 2021 Location: Mechelen, Belgium

Website: empack.be/enal-conference/





RENEE SCHOUTEN

Following her appointment as president at IMDPA late last year, INX International's Renee Schouten updates us on her plans in her new role and developments at the association

What is the role of the International Metal Decorating and Packaging Association (IMDPA)?

The IMDPA represents individuals from around the world promoting the interests of metal decorators, canmakers, designers, and trade suppliers involved in metal decorating and packaging worldwide. With more than 600 individual members, our organisation represents over 200 corporations. Our objective is to foster and encourage improvements and advances in the art of metal decorating through education, networking and communications. The IMDPA provides opportunities throughout the year for our members to promote their products and services to a global community.





How long have you been involved with the association?

I've been a member since 2004 and joined the board of directors in 2010. In 2015 I ascended to the executive board and my current two-year term as president follows my roles as the secretary/treasurer and vice president.

Briefly take us through your career path.

I started with INX International Ink Co. in 2001 after graduating from SUNY Fredonia in New York state working out of our Dunkirk, NY location. I relocated to Illinois where our corporate offices are located in 2002 as marketing specialist for the company. Shortly after I received my MBA from DePaul University. Since then, I've held the role of marketing manager for the company and currently serve as director of marketing where I oversee our strategic marketing programmes and initiatives.

What are the current trends in metal decorating and packaging?

Of all the different types of metal packaging, cans continue to be the most popular. As canned beverages are being considered trendy among younger generations, and ready-to-eat or semi-processed canned foods are consid-



ered convenient and economical, the penetration of canned products is increasing rapidly. Metal cans are also gaining traction in the packaged water, wine and seltzer categories. These cans offer sustainability advantages, and significant producers can be expected to continue to invest in developing technologies for beverage can production, light-weighting techniques, and improvement in can functionality. Current design trends in beverages are vibrant, wild colours, custom lettering, simple and clear messages conveying the brand's story as well as sustainability, 'natural', and healthy ingredients.

What will your focus and objectives be as president of IMDPA?

During these next two years, I hope to pioneer programmes that will have a lasting impact on our membership. I plan to focus on increasing our value to the industry with new quarterly webinars, tools our members can use to promote their product(s) and increasing our online presence with digital content. Together with the membership committee I plan to focus on member retention and new member recruitment both of which are very important. We will continue to build on the important initiatives our college education and technical resources committee have set forth to attract younger generations and intend to provide access to new educational tools and resources that our members can use for years to come. We recently released a brand new Product Innovations and Insights e-newsletter and are rebranding our long-standing association newsletter as FundaMetals.

How will you ensure that IMDPA represents and engages our industry?

Over the next two years and moving forward we will be putting a great deal of time and

effort into industry and member engagement, emphasizing our value proposition and utilising the online tools and resources that are at our disposal.

We recently sent out a membership survey to get a better understanding of our members' key challenges and needs to make sure we are providing the right information and resources and meeting their expectations.

We will make sure our website, benefits and resources are simple and easy to use. We will stay on top of trends and leverage social media in our efforts to not only promote metal decorating and packaging but educate our audience as well.

We will create opportunities for interactions not just in person but via webinars with live Q&A sessions.

What are the current key challenges the industry is facing?

Global manufacturing stands at a critical point in its long history and how industry leaders view and react to the changing landscape will influence its future. Two of the key challenges facing the industry are the multi-generational workforce and the growing skills gap and the increased demand for cans due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

As technology, demographics, and economic climate shift, the metal packaging industry must meet demand challenges, focus on employee skills sets and innovate in order to stay competitive.

Research from the Manufacturing Institute and Deloitte predicts there could be as many as two million unfilled manufacturing jobs by 2025, up from initial estimates of 600,000.

But Baby Boomers are ageing and retiring and there are simply not enough skilled workers to fill the positions they're leaving.



The Brexit effect

Brexit to spell costs and delays for can manufacturers, say experts, reports Liz Newmark, in Brussels

he United Kingdom's definitive exit from the European Union (EU) on December 31, 2020, after an 11-month transition period, will severely disrupt the UK and European can manufacturing industry, experts have told CanTech International. That said, industry figures acknowledge however that, by avoiding blanket tariffs and a 'no-deal' Brexit, the UK/EU Trade & Cooperation Agreement (TCA) signed on Christmas Eve did head off economic disaster.

The UK TCA allows for quota and duty-free trades in food and drink, including in cans, between the EU and the UK, with the level of red tape being less than between the EU, UK and Canada or Japan, who have signed bilateral trade deals with both London and Brussels.

The main impact of Brexit on can manufacturers and fillers, notably due to the UK (excluding Northern Ireland) now being outside the EU Customs Union, will be increased red tape and more costs, said Will Surman, public affairs and communications director for FoodDrinkEurope, the organisation representing European food and drink companies: "Inevitably, when free trade is taken away, there will be more friction when you go across borders."

And there is a lot to lose in an industry where the value of UK canned food sales is estimated at GBP2.3

billion (USD3.1 billion), the UK's Metal Packaging Manufacturers Association (MPMA) has noted.

A note from the European Commission stressed that EU/UK "trade can no longer be seamless". It added: "Customs checks and controls will apply to all UK exports entering the EU. UK agri-food consignments will have to have health certificates and undergo sanitary and phytosanitary controls at member states' border inspection posts. This will cost UK businesses time and money."

Robert Fell, CEO and director of the MPMA, agreed, telling CanTech International: "The situation is considerably more difficult than we hoped, and possibly even worse than we feared."

Despite the "eleventh hour deal providing zero tariffs and zero quotas together with some concessions on business travel, the realities of the UK having left the EU's Custom Union are now starting to be felt in earnest," said Mr Fell: "As a consequence, we are now fielding numerous enquiries from members many of whom are experiencing serious difficulties and delays importing and exporting materials and finished goods."

The MPMA, representing a market where it says around 14.7 billion units are produced in the UK each year – a large proportion of the 98 billion produced in the EU (according to European industry association Metal Packaging Europe) is doing what it can to help,

Mr Fell explained: "We are endeavouring to support members with their issues wherever we can and we are also keeping them and our contacts at BEIS [the UK's ministerial department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy] fully informed of the issues as they arise."

One task is helping can makers prove that their products fulfil all necessary 'rules of origin' requirements, so that they can still benefit from zero tariffs and quotas on all goods.

These are not simple. On the one hand, rules state that a product shall not be considered in originating in the UK or the EU if it is just put in a tin: "...simply placing in bottles, cans, flasks, bags..." is not enough to meet the agreement's requirements.

The TCA also says (p43, 4) that preserving operations such as chilling, freezing or ventilating are not enough to confer origin. However, "pickling, drying or smoking, intended to give a product special or different characteristics" – operations often associated with canning products – will enable products to comply with rules of origin and benefit from zero tariffs.

The agreement further includes a detailed section on sanitary and phytosanitary protection (SPS), which allows for health checks to be made on food products traded between the EU and the UK, although pledging that future EU and UK rules "do not include unnecessary, scientifically and technically unjustified or unduly burdensome information requests that might delay access to each other's markets." The UK has delayed requiring SPS certificates for EU exports until April 1, although many EU member states are already insisting that British exporters produce this paperwork — except for trades from Northern Ireland, which remains within the EU single market for goods under the special protocol designed to prevent the imposition of a hard border between the province and the Republic of Ireland.

In Europe however, the metal packaging industry is more positive about the UK/EU TCA. Maarten Labberton, director packaging group, at industry association European Aluminium, welcomed that the deal

"The situation is considerably more difficult than we hoped, and possibly even worse than we feared." — Robert Fell, CEO and director of the MPMA

headed off the potential imposition of tariffs and duties of UK/EU trades.

And he noted that existing labelling rules would – for now - still apply, including specific UK requirements, regarding for example, environmental claims (such as using references such as 'widely recyclable' for certain packaging, including aluminium packages)."

Mr Labberton told CanTech International that certain practices promoted by the aluminium industry in Britain and the EU, together with can makers and on a voluntary basis, would continue – such as the use of references to 'Metal Recycles Forever' and participation within the Every Can Counts programme – something that would not change post-Brexit.

He also welcomed the Northern Ireland protocol of associated with the agreement, which also ensures the province remains part of the EU customs union. This would, he predicted, ensure a free flow of canned goods between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, even though checks now must be undertaken on food entering Northern Ireland from Great Britain.

This has resulted in delays, disruption and calls from Northern Ireland's First Minister and Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) leader Arlene Foster for it to be replaced, although it will be in place until December 2024, when a vote will be staged on whether the protocol should be extended for a further four years.

So, the can manufacturing and filling industry looks set to wrestle with EU/UK trade red tape and bureaucracy for some years to come, where before none existed.



High-speed can seaming



David Hayes reports on how multinational beverage brands are installing automatic X-ray seam scanners to gain full benefit of latest new high-speed can seaming technology

growing number of multinational and other major beverage companies are increasing their investment in high-speed seaming lines as part of production expansion plans to meet rising global demand for canned beer and soft drinks.

The current new wave of investment in beverage can filling capacity mirrors corresponding growth in two-piece can production capacity in certain regions while other markets are seeing a reduction in two-piece overcapacity as demand grows for canned drinks.

Major soft drinks and beer brands are scaling-up production of canned drinks by building new large scale beverage filling plants equipped with high-speed can seamers and filling lines capable of reducing can filling costs at the same time.

The availability of high-speed can seamers designed to seal up to 2,500 cans per minute (cpm) follows improvements in beverage can seaming technology over the past decade.

These advanced seamers complement developments in two-piece can design using lighter weight, thinner materials that reduce costs and help increase can making speeds.

The development of lightweight cans incorporating thinner flanges and end hooks has resulted in smaller seams that are harder to form and conse-

quently require more accurate seamer equipment setting up and tooling.

Seaming rollers used in can seamers' multiple seaming stations now are made of special steel alloys, Chemical Vapour Deposition (CVD) coatings or industrial ceramics to increase the roller life and seaming rollers' corrosion resistance and hardness.

More accurate, longer lasting silicon nitride bearings, on which seaming rollers run, now have replaced steel bearings enabling can seamers to operate at faster speeds than previously.

High performance rollers and bearings together with other can seamer developments produce a more consistent seaming quality in today's can seamer equipment that requires less maintenance downtime than previously.

Compound gun technology controlling the application of sealant compound during the seaming process also has improved. Stolle now offers a fast opening sealant gun that is designed to reduce sealant wastage caused by the sealant overlap at the point where the start and finish of the can end seam meet. Leading can seamer manufacturers include Ferrum of Switzerland, Britain's CarnaudMetalbox Enegineering (CMB) and Pneumatic Scale Angulus of the United States, while a number of smaller companies also produce medium and low speed can seamers.

Beverage can seamers are available catering to a wide range of budgets and seaming speed requirements.

Seamers on offer range from low-speed models



Interior view of CanNeed X-ray seam scanner

operating at about 80-320 cpm through to top of the range high-speed machines fitted with 18 seaming heads running at about 850-2,500 cpm that are being installed in new large scale canned beverage filling plants being built in the Americas, Asia and Europe.

"Multinational and major local beverage companies buy the best can seamers they can find as these offer the lowest life cycle costs," explained Steve Davis, UK-based European vice-president for CanNeed Instrument Ltd, China's leading supplier of quality control (QC) inspection equipment to the canmaking and beverage filling industries. "Can seamers in general follow a standard



CanNeed X-ray seam scanner

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Can filling line (beer filling in the centre, Ferrum F18 seamer on

design; so all can seamer manufacturers are aiming for a similar high performance.

"They are all trying to reduce the lifetime can production cost, so they try to develop faster seamers that require less maintenance and down time."

To obtain the maximum performance and cost saving from installing a high-speed can seamer, a growing number of multinational beverage companies also are equipping their new filling lines with inline automatic X-ray seam scanners which inspect filled cans seams for defects after sealing.

Automatic X-ray scanning can identify can seamer process drift more quickly than an operator using a traditional manual inspection gauge. This is an important consideration owing to the potential large number of reject filled cans that can result should a seaming fault occur, for example, on a filling line running at 2,500 cpm for several minutes.

"The chuck roll may begin to wear in the seamer station as the bearing begins to fail, for example, so the seamer head does not exert the same pressure," Davis said.

"If you measure the seam dimensions of a can produced from each seaming head automatically every two to three minutes you can find a seaming fault quickly.

"For a filling line running at 2,500 cpm, say, if you find a seam fault within two minutes the filling line already has made 5,000 faulty filled cans

which an operator has to find on the production line and remove.

"If you inspect less frequently, however, maybe every 15 minutes, it can be 15 times 2,500 cans which is 37,500 faulty filled cans that are wasted and have to be found and removed from the production line."

Although can seamers are fitted with optical gauges to assist the operator in completing an accurate seamer set up that ensures a reliable repeatable seaming performance, variations in the can body flange and can end curl are among other potential factors which can cause faulty seaming to occur, and that need to be detected and rectified.

"The can body flange and can end curl are two key components in the filled can, so if there is any tiny variation in these features of the components from different suppliers this may give a variation in the can seam," Davis said.

"Inline automatic X-ray inspection is reliable and provides dependable results that go back to the production process, but if you inspect this with equipment manually you may miss errors.

"This is all about the immediacy of data – the sooner you find the fault the more money you can save."

For beverage companies using traditional manual can seam inspection methods, this involves an operator taking a filled can at three or four hourly intervals from each of the can seamers' seaming



Snow Breweries Hubei super-brewery

stations and then cutting the can perpendicularly to measure the exposed seam elements with an optical gauge.

Both the can and its contents are lost in the inspection process.

The use of automatic X-ray seam scanning is non-destructive, however, after which the inspected can then be returned to the production line for packing and shipment.

"Inline X-ray scanners are non-destructive measuring systems that allow can fillers to measure as many can seams as they want without destroying the cans," Davis said.

"They can measure their seamer performance more regularly and pick up seamer drift earlier.

"It's unworkable to check every can seam, so you check as many as possible."

More than 20 automatic X-ray seam inspection systems are estimated to have been installed on high-speed beverage filling and seaming lines worldwide so far; most are in Asia and the United States, followed by Europe.

Food and beverage companies recently buying inline automatic X-ray seam scanners for their new filling plants from Canneed and other suppliers include Coca Cola, Heineken, AB Bev, Kraft Food Snow Breweries, the producer of China's biggest beer brand Snow Beer, in which Heineken has a 40 per cent shareholding.

"Inline X-ray seam testing is growing slowly as the upfront cost is high compared to a manual optical gauge for destructive seam analysis testing, but the benefits are there," Davis remarked.

"The companies making the inline X-ray

seam inspection investment are the multinational beverage companies, not the smaller independent brands.

"We sell to the biggest two-piece beverage fillers who are putting inline X-ray scanners into their newest filling plants as part of their overall investment. When they are investing about US\$20 million to build a new beverage filling line, paying the extra for an inline seam inspection system is not a big item."

Beverage fillers' recent interest in producing cost savings from can seam inspection and improved can seamer performance coincides with the current wave of new large scale two-piece beverage plant investment committed to meet growing demand for canned soft drinks and beer.

Canned beverage consumption is rising as consumers switch from purchasing soft drinks in PET bottles to drinks in cans as part of a worldwide trend to reduce plastic waste and pollution.

Aluminium cans are recyclable, increasing their appeal to young consumers while a switch from serving beer in glass bottles to two-piece cans is boosting demand in a number of emerging markets including China and Vietnam.

"There is a swing from PET bottles to twopiece cans; there is real growth in beverage cans," Davis commented.

"The consensus of the can industry is there is a swing to aluminium cans. Only about five per cent of beverages currently are in two-piece cans, so it doesn't take much of a swing in percentage terms to boost numbers.

"A small swing from PET bottle packaging to five-piece cans is big in numbers due to the current size of PET bottle use, that's why there is large investment now in aluminium canmaking and can filling.

"The scene was set before the pandemic happened; the new can seamers and filling lines were on order 18 months ago and are being installed now."

According to industry figures about 67 per cent of all beverages are sold in PET bottles while 7 per cent are in glass bottles, five per cent in two-piece cans, and the rest are sold in paper-based cartons, , beer kegs, etc.

PET bottles account for 81 per cent of carbonated drinks and mineral water supplied globally, of which 51 per cent is carbonated drinks and 30 per cent mineral water.

In addition, 48 per cent of sports drinks are sold in PET bottles, and 41 per cent in two-piece cans and bottle cans. Some 65 per cent of tea and coffee drinks are sold in PET bottles.

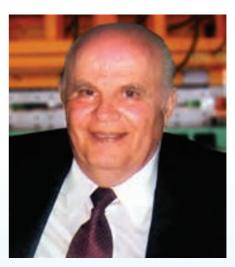
"It doesn't take much of the PET bottle drinks market to move away to create huge demand for 2-piece cans and other beverage packaging such as cartons," Davis commented.



Joe Bulso

The global can industry has lost a giant with the passing of Joe Bulso. A fierce advocate for metal packaging, Joe spent his entire professional life dedicated to creating and implementing the technology that continues to be used day in and day out in the global can manufacturing industry. He was a named inventor on 50 US patents.

Joe was destined it seems to be a technology leader as he studied in the tool and die program at Timken High School. He started his packaging journey as a



1932 - 2021

machinist and later joined Thomas Tool, which became Paumier Tool and Die. But it was his creation of Redicon in 1975 that defined both Joe and to a large degree the two piece can industry itself. Joe assembled a technology and supply network that still exists today, albeit in a different form. Many of us at Stolle Machinery either started our careers working for Redicon or competing with Redicon. In either case, we were all made better for the experience and looked to Joe as a true mentor. He was a hands-on leader who always had time for the people and knew well that engineering and the factory floor were the twin pillars of the company.

Although he never visited the modern day and fully integrated Stolle Machinery Canton plant, this nearly 200,000 square foot facility with 200 employees was in a sense "built by Joe," as within its walls are much of the technology and many firms that were once spread across the Canton area as a part of a supply chain that defined the can business in the 1970s and onward. Joe and Redicon were at the center of this network, and that legacy continues today - and will for years to come.

We send our heartfelt condolences to the Bulso family and thank Joe for being a leader, colleague and friend.



Custom-built fans for the can sector





Matt Shelley

Matt Shelley, ACI UK sales manager at Air Control Industries discusses the art and ease of commissioning custom fans – how to get it right

or businesses across the world, finding the right fan for a specific application can be more challenging than you might at first think. Off-the-shelf solutions have their place; an instant solution to an immediate problem. However, this 'easy' option can often be surprisingly costly in ways you might not expect.

Get the specifications wrong and you could miss out on significant cost savings and energy efficiencies, making operations less efficient or competitive. For OEMs providing solutions to the can sector, it could make the difference between product success and failure. For can manufacturers and end users, poorly performing fans can be hugely detrimental to profit, efficiency and the environment.

Order a fan that's too small and it won't be up to the job. Too large and the excess cost in energy alone could more than double the long-term cost of an off-the shelf option. So, how do you avoid falling foul of fan procurement failure in the can sector? And how can you be certain of getting a fan that's just right for the job and at the right price too?

Thankfully, the answer lies in custom-built fans combined with integrated solutions such as can tunnel drying

systems and air knife drying products, providing a precise solution to precise needs, ensuring optimal efficiency and performance alongside significant lifetime unit cost savings.

The good news is that the process is a lot easier and quicker than you might think.

Within the drinks and food sector – as well as in aerosol manufacturing – can drying solutions powered by fans are necessary for a whole host of reasons. These include drying cans ready for date coding or packaging. More critically, fans also provide drying solutions that eliminate stress cracking, removing water from can lids, thereby preventing seal failure through ingression of water at the point where the can lid meets the lipping edge.

While integrated solutions are common, having fans that are the right size, providing the correct power, noise level and degree of efficiency is critical, be that for a can drying tunnel, where low pressure air is necessary, or for surface drying to enable date coding, where a small centrifugal blower provides the requisite pressure.

Where air knife solutions are required, backward curved turbine bladed impeller blowers are particularly popular. In ACI's case, the EP10A compact blower range has motors of 5.5-15kW that can be retrofitted in place of other belt driven alternatives, such as radial blowers. This ends the need for segmented solutions that require ducted air supply. With a significantly smaller footprint, these compact blowers can be integrated into the production line with cans flowing through the drying remedy. This reduces both noise and inefficiencies associated with radial blowers that are typically mounted alongside the production line or in a plant room due to their size.





With so many considerations to bear in mind, how do you make sure that you have the best performing fans for your production line? How do you know whether there's not an existing solution that fits the bill? And if a custom solution is best for you, what information do you need to supply to get the right fan?

If you know the problem that you're facing, and the outcome that you're after, your fan manufacturer should be able to put the pieces of the puzzle together to design the perfect fan solution for the job. They should also be able to advise on whether an existing solution can be modified or implemented. For example, ACI offers ready-to-go can drying solutions utilising air knives and acoustic enclosures, delivering line speeds of up to 60,000 cans per hour.

If custom is the way forward, by working with an accredited fan manufacturer, you can look forward to a total solution addressing performance, appearance, size, preferred materials, finishes, motor types, speeds, voltages and frequencies.

If you already know your Duty Point, or the required flow or air velocity through which the air has to pass and the space within which the fans needs to be housed, the ideal size of fan for the role can be selected using smart software.



SO HOW DOES THE DESIGN PROCESS WORK?

Once your specification has been agreed, your fan manufacturer will use an array of design software, such as 3D modelling, drawings, basic rendering and animations to bring the fan design to life.

This should take account of physical space restraints and your material preference, be that mild steel, stainless steel or other, as well as required protection such as powder coating, specialist paint finish or PTFE coating to protect the fan casing from corrosion.

Ensuring that your fan manufacturer is aware of the environment in which the fan has to operate is important too, such as whether it needs to be ATEX explosion-proof, anti-sparking or IECEx flameproof.

Other things to take account of are frequency, voltage or special motor requirements for use in different global markets.

Next, other factors such as inlet and discharge options – whether open or connected – need to be considered. Be sure that your fan manufacturer ascertains if your fan requires a mounting flange, inlet filter, spigot, dampers, guards, flexible connections or an AV mount connected to the motor or the inlet to remove vibration from fan to the system.

Your manufacturer should also assess whether you require a mounting pedestal, brackets, or feet on the motor in relation to the fan, and if the fan and motor need to be incorporated onto a skid ready for ancillaries. Other factors on the checklist should include cable requirements, wiring harnesses and electrical plugs as well as enclosures, be that standard or custom-built – often the case in the can manufacture sector.

With all these boxes ticked, your fan manufacturing partner should be able to take you through your options, variants and the pros and cons of each, taking into account any additional factors that you might identify. They should also be able to provide you with an accurate quote in terms of pricing and manufacture timeframes so that you're always in control.

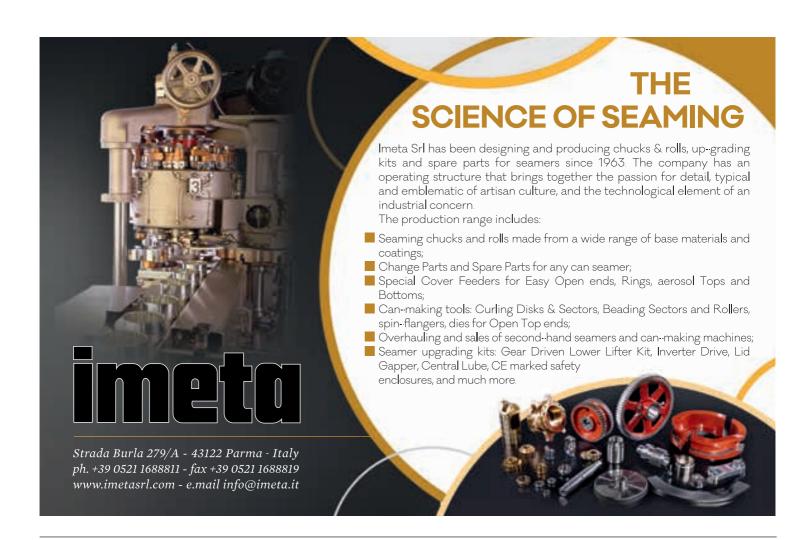
REAL-LIFE TESTING

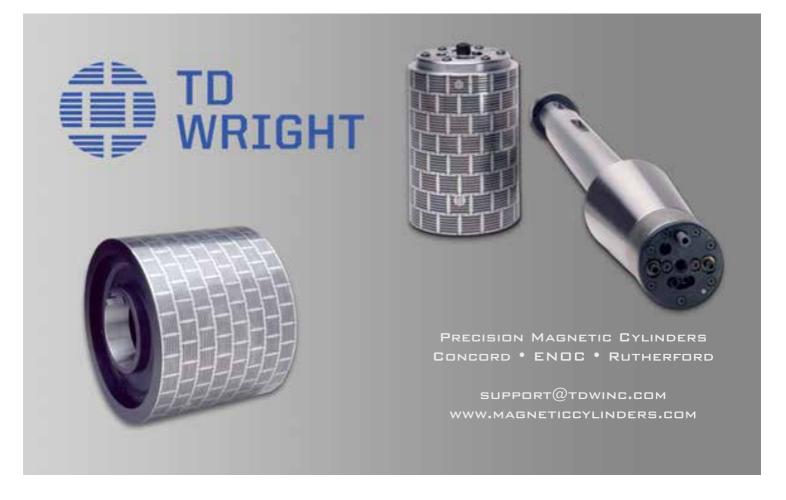
The next step will be the development of a prototype to give you absolute certainty that the fan meets all your expectations.

This should be tested to measure airflow, pressure and current. Your manufacturer should also provide a performance curve to demonstrate your fan's capabilities, examining performance, vibration, noise, speed, and a heat run for three hours to measure resistance across the windings from cold to hot; this ensures that the loading on the motor is correct. From here, any final changes can be made based on sizing and performance before your prototype is sent to you for trialing in city.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD YOU LOOK FOR IN A MANUFACTURER?

Following these guidelines, you should not only be able to find the right manufacturing partner, but you should have a simple step-by-step road map to the creation of a custom fan solution that will not only save you money over off-the-shelf alternatives, but provide your business with a product that is smaller, more efficient, faster, or cheaper, giving you the edge.









The annual Conference and Exhibition that puts can makers and fillers from across Asia in touch with their global suppliers



Canning in Iran

IRAN METAL PACKAGING IS DEVELOPING DESPITE ALL CONSTRAINTS, REPORTS VLADISLAV VOROTNIKOV

he Iranian government expects more canneries to be launched in the country in the coming year, even though it is still stripped of foreign equipment.

The commissioning of Sinaken Canning Factory in the Sina Province in December of 2020 marks an important milestone for the Iranian metal packaging industry. With a designed production capacity of 760 million tonnes of cans per year, this is the largest cannery in Iran, said Erfan Khosravian, CEO of Sinaken Canning Factory.

The investment cost of the factory is 200 billion tomans (\$20 million). This figure could be lower, but the factory encountered quite a few obstacles on its way to commercial operation.

"Schuler Company, which was the installation and commissioning contractor, withdrew from the project referring to the end of the contract period," Khosravian said. "They refused to participate, and other foreign companies were invited to the project in September of 1397 [Iranian year], but also failed to do the job due to a new wave of Western sanctions".

In this context, a bold decision was taken to pass the work to local scientists and engineers, who managed to write the entire software and install machines in less than four months, Khosravian said.

"Basically, in June of 1399, we estimated that 99 equipment units were installed incompletely," Khosravian said, adding that the Iranian engineers had done an exceptional job. "The main achievement is that the knowledge of setting and maintaining metal packaging lines has been localised in our country."

The new factory has great importance for the entire



Iranian economy. It alone would prevent local companies from spending roughly \$50 million per year on purchasing aluminium cans for carbonated beverages abroad, Hamidreza Sheeran, CEO of the Food Industries Holding, estimated. "The factory was put into operation under a sanction pressure when foreign parties refused to provide any help in setting the facility. This has been achieved for the first time in the industry, and it would give us a great deal of self-confidence and pave the wave to boost [metal cans] production further," Sheeran added.

Facing a lot of back-and-forth with international sanctions, Iranian metal packaging producers have a great need for new equipment and technologies. Speaking with a local press a few years back, Mohammad Reza Behjati, a spokesperson for a local metal packaging plant, stressed that there were production technologies dating back to the 1980s still running at some factories, with some machines in operation having a service life of more than 60 years.

It is believed that canneries delay modernisation, hoping the international restrictions to be lifted. However, so far, their hopes did not come true.

THE BITING SANCTIONS

In 2018, the US President Donald Trump re-imposed the full panoply of sanctions against Iran that were waived under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action nuclear agreement, targeting its oil sales, its wider energy industry, shipping, banking, insurance, and so on. However, the greatest impact to the metal packaging industry was caused by what is known in the trade as "secondary sanctions," in that they are intended to apply pressure on other countries and companies to prevent them from trading with Tehran.

Basically, any Western company continuing business in Iran was risking falling under potentially devastating US sanctions.

The sanctions caught metal packaging companies off guard, having installation and maintenance companies nobody could execute. According to Hamidreza Sheeran, the Sinaken Canning Factory was standing nearly completed for 18 months due to the sanctions. All this time, its future was vague, and it is believed that a dozen similar projects in the country still find themselves in the same shoes.

However, the Iranian government remains optimistic that the worst times in the industry are over.

It was estimated that 15 new projects had been set to be launched in the country by the end of 1397 Iranian year, or March 21 of 2021, the Ministry of Industry, Mines and Trade said. Their combined designed production performance is 112,000 tonnes per year, and the investment cost amounted to 271 billion tomans.

For instance, currently, 41 canneries are operating in Iran with an annual capacity of 185,000 tonnes, the Ministry estimated. In general, this means that Iran could overcome import-dependence on the domestic metal packaging industry.

"The metal packaging companies managed to overcome the technical problems they had encountered in 2018. Some canneries failed to conduct proper modernisation and maintenance during the last two years, and naturally, the industry development was severely hampered by those restrictions," commented a source in



the Iranian metal packaging industry who wished to stay anonymous.

"The business managed to adapt, sometimes attracting foreign specialists to equipment installation and maintenance, but unofficially. This practice is risky for both sides, and often there are no guarantees, but this is better than nothing," he added.

MORE CANS NEEDED

The Iranian government has been pedaling the metal packaging industry development. In early 2020, the rapid national currency depreciation caused a price hike on the food cans market, as producers had to import cans, causing record high prices.

"The currency fluctuations are the main factor to blame for the recent jump in prices for fish cans in the country," Nabiulla Mirzae, chairman of the national fisheries association, said, speaking at a press conference in early 2020.

In 2018, the average price per canned tuna was around 7,000 tomans (\$0.7), while now the price is up by 2,000 to 3,000 tomans (\$0.2 to \$0.3), all because of the imported metal packaging, Mirzae said. The price of imported cans in Iran is almost twice what the Iran canneries are offering. In 2020, metal cans of Iran-origin had a wholesale price on average around 1,800 tomans (\$0.18) per unit, estimated Mozaffar Abdullah, spokesperson of the









national tomato paste association.

The expensive metal packaging spurred the price for food cans – in some cases, it jumped by 200 per cent or 300 per cent. In previous years, such sharp rises in food prices sparked unrest on the streets of Tehran, which caused the Iranian government to push canneries to expand production capacities.

"To improve the situation in the metal packaging industry, we still need to increase cans and aluminium keys supply – we import 50,000 tons of these two products annually," said Hedayat Hatami, deputy governor of Kermanshah province.

"We invite the underprivileged or any other investor to work in these two areas, and the government will provide them with all the necessary stuff, including land, communications, and other facilities and additional aid," Hatami said.

PROBLEMS REMAIN

However, even partly overcoming technological issues, Iranian canneries still have to cope with several long-standing problems. The biggest issue is that Iran still lacks high-quality tin plate, which is, to a large extent, imported from abroad.

The country needs from 250,000 to 300,000 tonnes of tin plate sheets per annum, while the combined production performance of Mobarakeh Steel Company

The metal packaging companies managed to overcome the technical problems they had encountered in 2018. Some canneries failed to conduct proper modernisation and maintenance during the last two years, and naturally, the industry development was severely hampered by those restrictions

and Tavan Avar Asia Steel Industries, the two tin plate producers in the country, was limited to 200,000 tonnes, the Iran Metal Can Producers Association estimated.

Local market participants also complain that Iranian tin plate often does not meet their requirements in terms of width and rigidness.

In previous years, numerous companies were importing tin plate from the European Union (EU), but now this is no longer an option. The government has embarked on a modernisation campaign in the domestic metal industry, which, among other things, is called to solve this problem, but so far, there was no a lot of progress in this area.

New digital printing cost-effectively produces gift tin short run

William Say & Co. cost-effectively produced a short run of gift tins with the use of new digital-printing technology.

The London-based canmaker commissioned and formed a run of 100 unique tins as Christmas gifts for customers, printed on a Fujifilm Acuity B1 by Tinmasters at its plant in Swansea.

"We've been watching developments in digital print technology in our industry for a while," said Stuart Wilkinson, marketing and sales director at William Say & Co. "We actually had the privilege of working directly with Fujifilm to produce a short run of hot chocolate tins for a special Fortnum and Mason in-store display

on even further."

In 2020 Fujifilm entered into a technology partnership with Tinmasters – one of Europe's biggest metal packaging printers. As part

early last year. Since then, things have moved



of this relationship, Tinmasters bought and installed an Acuity B1 inkjet printer at their site in Swansea.

"We've worked with Tinmasters for many years," said Wilkinson. "And now they have this partnership with Fujifilm, and the ability to print extremely high quality short run work, they were perfectly placed to help us. We're really excited about the growth potential inkjet offers our business and our industry and we wanted a way to clearly demonstrate this to our own customers.

"We printed a run of 100 tins, in full colour, each with a unique series number. It was a simple exercise that would have been extremely complex and costly using traditional offset print. "There used to be a lot of canmakers in London. Now we're the only ones left. And in large

part, it's because of our willingness to seize opportunities like this that we're still here, and thriving, and will be for many years to come."

MERRY

Belvoir now available in 250ml can four-pack



Belvoir Farm's lightly sparkling, alcohol-free drinks are now portioned in ready to drink 250ml cans and packaged in four-packs.

The premium drinks are produced in Leicestershire, UK, and are available in Elderflower, Raspberry Lemonade, Ginger Beer and Pink Lady flavours.

They are crafted using simple ingredients including real fruit juices mixed with lightly sparkling water; and contain no preservatives, flavourings, artificial colours or artificial sweeteners.

Tama Tea produces sparkling tea in cans

Tama Tea has developed a sparkling tea from its Tama Cafe, in Wilmington, US. They are-packaged in tins from Ball Corporation.

Tama Tea has used its experience and customer feedback to create the product which is crafted and brewed with a whole leaf organic green tea and is available in three flavours (Lemon Lavender, Peach Pear and Mango Verde).

There are no artificial ingredients, concentrates and no sweeteners. For example, with the Mango Verde, it steeps the organic whole leaf green tea with dried mango pieces.



Sea Arch launches the Sea & T range of alcohol-free RTDs

Two non-alcoholic 'ready to drink' cans have been launched by Sea Arch Drinks, both using its trademark Coastal Juniper distilled spirit as the base for an alcohol-free cocktail.

Inspired by a G&T but with no alcohol, the Sea & T is a double measure of Sea Arch spirit mixed with a lightly sparkling Indian tonic, while the Rose Sea & T is blended with a rose and raspberry infused tonic.

The Sea & T range is low in calories and free from sweeteners and preservatives. Derived from 100% natural ingredients, the two new drinks are sold in 250ml recyclable aluminium cans.

Heineken enters the sleek can market TUBEX RECEIVES

Heineken is entering the fast-growing sleek can market and updating the style of Heineken Original. The refreshed cans debut with an initial launch this month throughout Florida. The 12-ounce cans will be available in six-, 12-, 18- and 24-packs. With a 5 per cent alcohol by volume in each 12-ounce serving, the cans will replace the current 12-ounce cans on-shelf. They will be available at both on- and off-premise accounts in the state.

The launch in Florida is designed to attract new buyers to drive increased household penetration for the brand in the state, the company says. Consumer awareness of the launch will be driven through digital and social media, OOH, and local radio endorsements. Both on- and off-premise accounts will benefit from a host of in-store visibility and point-ofsale materials showcasing the new can for Heineken Original.

Heineken believes the launch of this style



of can in Florida will drive higher velocity and incremental sales and profits for retailers in the state, which could eventually lead to a national launch for the brand in 2022.

WORLD STAR AWARD

The Tubex team has been awarded another World Star Award for the Unilever Rexona Recycled Refreshed deodorant aluminium aerosol can

The can displays unique properties in terms of sustainability. It is manufactured from a patented alloy with an inclusion of 25 per cent real PCR material.

The use of alloy and a slight change of shape makes Rexona Recycled Refreshed 14 per cent lighter than its predecessor.

This substantial weight reduction was the result of the joint development of

Unilever, Tubex and the slug supplier Neuman Aluminium.

A can is usually fully lacquered inside, but this can is only partially (50 per cent) lacquered - which saves additional resources. Standard lacguers emit VOC when applied. To forego the use of VOC, Unilever chose to use internal powder coating instead.

To meet Tubex sustainability standards of aerosol can manufacturing, the overspray of the powder coating is reused.

Ball's aluminium cups used at US Super Bowl

Ball Corporation and Bud Light recently partnered to bring Ball's infinitely recyclable aluminium cups to spectators at the US Super Bowl 2021, held at the Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Florida in February.

Ball designed the lightweight cups in response to growing consumer preference for more sustainable products. Bud Light was the NFL's official beer sponsor during the event. The 16 and 20-ounce cups were available in the clubs, suites and general concourse areas of the stadium during the event.







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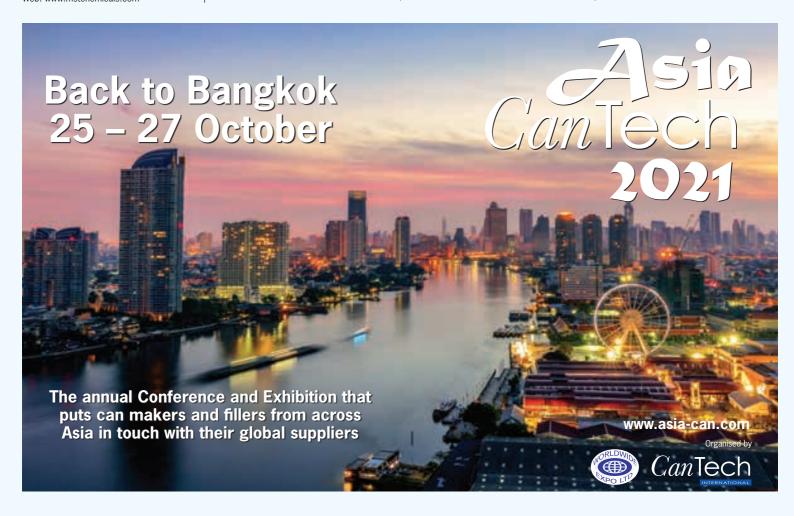


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Why craft cans keep crushing it

By Marty Jones of Cask Global Canning Solutions

hen Cask Global Canning Solutions invented micro-canning twenty years ago, many brewers thought we'd lost our mind. "No self-respecting micro-brewer will put their beer in cans" was a frequent response to our breaking of the glass-bottle ceiling. A few established craft beer makers publicly deemed cans an outright sacrilege.

Today those cynics are true believers in the previously reviled aluminium can. The myths we overcame in the early days ("cans impart metallic flavours") are heard as infrequently as "the world is flat" and "the hazy IPA trend won't last." Instead, the mighty can is heralded for the benefits we and our customers (and open-minded beer lovers) celebrated from the beginning.

Cans provide complete protection from beer's worst enemies, light and ingressed oxygen. Cans are less fuel-consuming to ship and more likely to be recycled than bottles – benefits adored by Mother Nature and enviro-minded consumers. Cans are immensely portable, welcome where bottles are not (the boat, the backcountry, the bathtub) and have a retro/blue-collar appeal that turns almost trippy when filled with full-flavored beer.

But during the past pandemic year, the ever-rising popularity of craft cans has grown even more. Why? For starters (according to their respective trade groups) about 70 per cent of craft breweries in the US, UK, Canada and Australia produce 1,000 BBL or less per year. Prior to Covid-19, most of that two-thirds majority lived on by-the-glass sales at brewery tasting rooms and never considered packaging.

But with the shutdown of their on-site bars and outside draft accounts, these now-isolated brewers need a reliable, small-scale way to get beer to distanced customers. Cans and micro-canning gear are a means to survive and, for some, a way to thrive. Better still, on a Cask Manual Canning System (or a similar system of 25 cases/hour speed), these un-



der 1,000 BBL brewers can package their annual production in just a dozen canning hours or less per week. How's that for a doable take-control move?

The pandemic also led urgent-to-can brewers into mobile canning, and the trade has more on-the-move canners and new-in-cans brewers than ever. Many of these newcomers are already purchasing or pondering their own systems – a DIY move with production pluses and packaging-cost savings that help pay for a system in relatively fast fashion.

With their own canning system, craft brewers can also easily add new canned beverages and revenue streams. That's also timely: In the US, 21 per cent of craft brewers make something in addition to beer. To satisfy that thirst for variety (from seltzer and soda to coffee and kombucha), we create flexible systems uniquely capable of canning nearly any beverage type and can size - all on one sophisticated and affordable canning system. These are all significant benefits for these difficult and uncertain times. For those of us who were here from the early days of canned craft beer, they also make us rather proud. The bauxite blasphemy of twenty years ago, that evil threat to the future of craft beer? It has become something else: a little hero. Powerful, shining, and here to help save the day.



Marty Jones

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