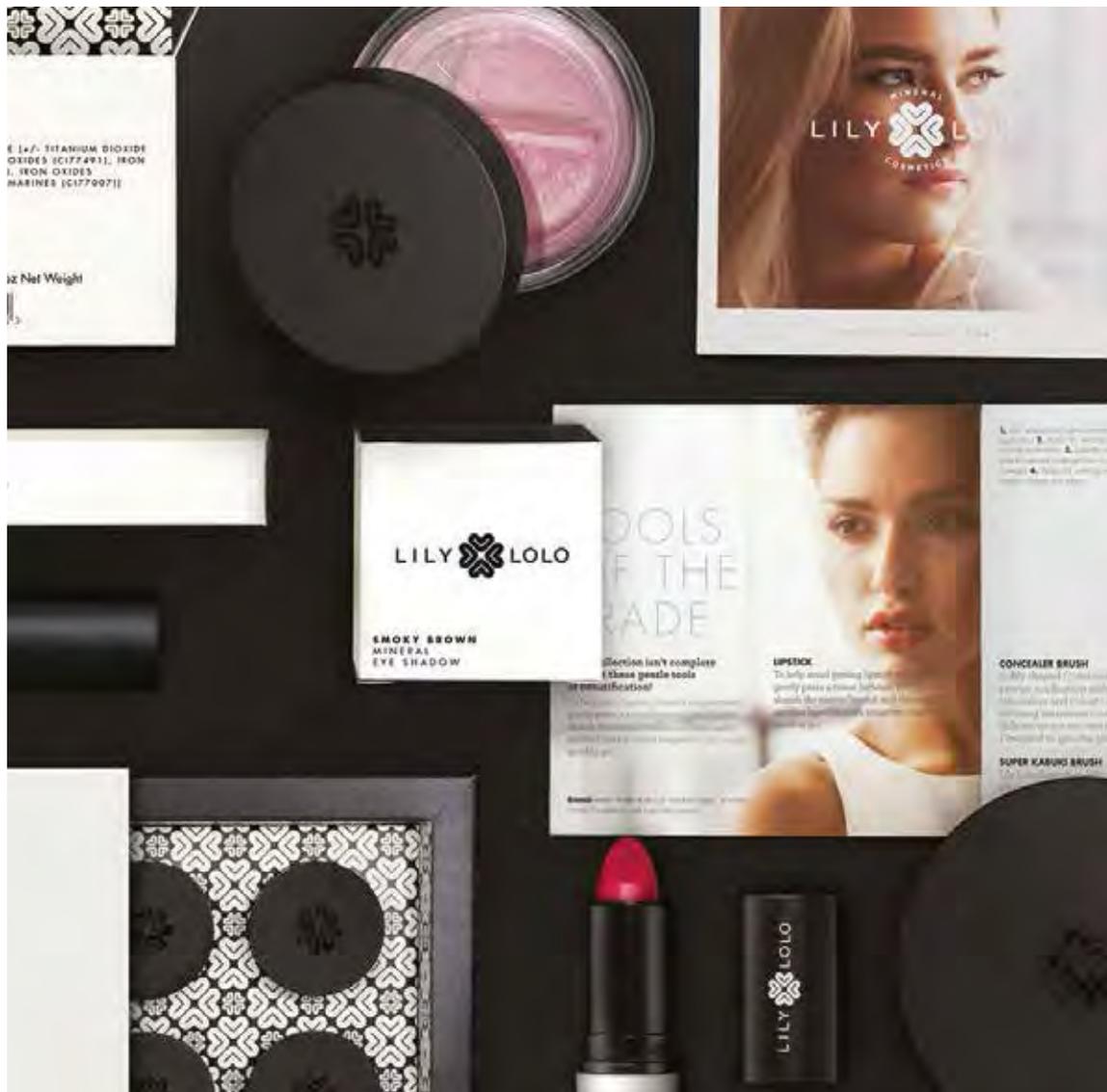


PackagingNews

Innovation • Production • Design • Equipment

December 2015



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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“One day the economy is hawkish, the next dovish”

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Printed by
Headley Brothers, Ashford, Kent

Subscriptions
Circulation enquiries
020 8950 9117
UK £95/year
EU £140/year
Rest of the world £150/year
Single copy rate £12
ISSN 0030-9133



Flint adds digital with Xeikon buy

by Waqas Qureshi

Flint Group has acquired digital print technology firm Xeikon, for an undisclosed fee.

With headquarters in Luxembourg, Flint works in the global printing and packaging industry, manufacturing a portfolio of printing consumables, including inks and coatings for most offset, flexographic and gravure applications.

Xeikon designs and develops high-end digital colour presses and consumables for the global commercial, document, label and packaging markets.

The company has been investing resources in various parts of the world, notably in Asia, and will now form the foundation of a newly created division to be called Flint Group Digital Printing Solutions.

Xeikon currently has around



Xeikon will be the foundation for Flint Group's new division

20% global market share of the digital print equipment market, second to digital giant HP.

The new division is aimed at broadening Flint's conventional and digital printing solutions, offering equipment, consumables and services.

Antoine Fady, chief executive of Flint Group, said the deal represents an excellent opportunity to propel into the digital print market, with a focus on driving growth through product innova-

tion, developing markets and portfolio expansion.

Fady said: "Xeikon have a proven history of delivering exceptional value through high-quality, high-productivity, innovative and sustainable solutions for their customers, which fits seamlessly with our own long-term vision for our business."

Wim Maes, chief executive of Xeikon, will become president of Flint Group's Digital Printing Solutions division, reporting to Antoine Fady. He said the deal will help accelerate business growth.

He added: "This next chapter in our more than 20-year existence opens many opportunities for Xeikon as a company, as well as for our customers, employees, partners and stakeholders."

The transaction should be completed by the end of the year.

Nestlé in push to reduce its packaging

Nestlé is experimenting with degradation factors on chocolate bars to reduce packaging.

The company has had 700 bars of chocolate placed side-by-side in a sealed room in a Swiss laboratory wrapped in transparent packaging. They are attached to sensors and exposed to light for 24 hours a day.

The team painstakingly wrapped each of the 700 individual chocolate bars in different packaging materials with varying properties. Throughout the experiment, the chocolate is continuously exposed to light at the same intensity.

"In normal circumstances the product would never be subjected to this much brightness," said lead scientist Robert Witik. "This is an accelerated situation."

Nestlé hopes that the findings should enable the company to calculate how much oxygen chocolate will consume when packed in a given material under specific conditions.

THE BIG QUESTION

What were the highlights of 2015?

From mergers and acquisitions to plain tobacco packaging and the plastic carrier bag charge – 2015 was certainly an eventful year. Some industry experts share their thoughts with *Packaging News*



Jason Short, managing director, Qualvis Print and Packaging
As a carton manufacturer,

the industry has largely remained buoyant throughout the year and we continue to mirror that trend. Specifically, we have seen a move towards tactile finishes, featuring soft touch laminations and glitter varnishes. These high-end finishes have also been used to good effect on the more general food packaging with finishes, such as drip-off varnish, used on standard food lines. We have produced some very exciting packaging for a range of new accounts that we look forward to showcasing.



Matthew Kensall, packaging development manager, Sun Branding Solutions

Change is ongoing in packaging and 2015 has been no exception. Two notable tipping points are the introduction of the 5p plastic bag charge, and the passing of legislation to standardise cigarette packaging. The plastic bag charge is arguably the most palpable grass roots indication that sustainability is increasingly high on the public agenda. Plain tobacco packaging will be implemented in 2016, and its demonisation could be an arbiter of what's to come in soft drinks and certain foods.



Tony Foster, sales and marketing director, DS Smith UK Packaging Division

The real highlight of 2015 was the breakthrough in digital PrePrint. For DS Smith this means quicker products to market, very flexible print run lengths and the ability to customise batches to support brand, marketing and regional initiatives. Commentators again predict record E-retail growth. The demand for variable data on home-delivery packs will also grow and I believe that the agility that comes with digital PrePrint will make it an ideal vehicle to take retail theatre into the home.



Barry Sheehan, associate partner, Livingstone Partners
The trend of market

consolidation continued to characterise the UK packaging sector in 2015 as strategic acquirers remained committed to M&A as a means to increase market share and achieve scale as well as acquire technical know-how. Reacting to changing consumer/market trends is often the root of success for mid-market packaging companies, many of whom have carved out profitable niches in their chosen market segments. Acquiring this technical capability remained a key driver underpinning M&A activity.

ACE and OPRL combine to boost scheme

The Alliance for Beverage Cartons and the Environment (ACE) UK has become joint owner of OPRL, which runs the UK's on-pack recycling label scheme.

ACE UK represents beverage carton manufacturers Tetra Pak, Elopak and SIG Combibloc, and joins current owners the British Retail Consortium (BRC), the trade association for the retail sector.

Richard Hands, chief executive of ACE UK, said the move was intended to help boost recycling. "We believe that simple easy to understand on-pack recycling information is vital in helping consumers to recycle more. To this end we have worked closely with OPRL for several years, including developing the special beverage carton recycling label which reflects the wide availability of local authority collection services for cartons.

"Clear information and leadership is required to achieve our common aims."

Americk snaps up Adare Advantage

by Philip Chadwick

Americk Packaging has snapped up the packaging division of the Adare Group, Adare Advantage.

The division of Adare, based in Havehill, Suffolk, has established itself as a labels and flexibles printer and has diversified into artwork services and security labelling.

It will now be branded Americk Advantage. The business has 110 production, sales and office staff. Livingstone's Industrial sector team advised the shareholders of the Adare Group, including investor Endless, on the sale of division. Americk is a provider of carton, label and flexible packaging in the UK and Ireland.

Patrick Doran, chief executive of Americk Packaging, said: "The acquisition of Adare Advantage will add a new dimension to Americk



Americk: Acquires Adare Group's packaging division

Packaging. The core strengths of the business and its successful track record of year-on-year growth is a credit to the management team, all of whom will continue to run the business. The diverse product portfolio will complement our group strategy to offer market-leading supply of a wide range of packaging solutions."

Americk Advantage managing director David Mills added:

"This is a tremendous opportunity for our business, staff and customers. With the backing of Americk Packaging our vision to develop innovative solutions and meet the demands of the industry is a mouth-watering prospect."

Patrick Groarke, partner at Livingstone said: "Adare Advantage is an impressive business with a successful track record of growth."

Beatson Clark invests £800k in new system

Beatson Clark has invested £840,000 in a new recycling system at Rotherham.

The glass manufacturer holds the contract to manage the town's recycling collections.

The plant receives 6,240 tonnes of mixed material from the council every year, of which 4,734 tonnes is glass.

Beatson Clark installed a new automated recycling system which will make recycling much faster and allow it to process more cullet (waste glass) for its furnaces. The new plant processes six tonnes of materials per hour - compared to 3.5 tonnes previously.

The original system involved manual sorting, but the new system has an optical sorting machine which uses light and cameras to sort glass of different colours and identify ceramics, stones and porcelain which can cause defects in the glass and damage the furnace if they're not removed. All the glass recycled at Beatson Clark is used to make new bottles and jars.

WRAP calls for food overhaul

WRAP is calling for an overhaul in the way food is manufactured, sold and consumed.

Its new report outlines the risks to the UK food system over the next decade, and urges a "business unusual" approach to all aspects of food, including packaging and recycling.

The 'Food Futures' report, assesses 15 topics in the UK food system from farm to fork and outlines recommendations for actions by the industry and the government.

Some of the risks and opportunities identified in the report include societal challenges like reducing food waste or tackling diet-related ill health.

"By capitalising on the three trends and embedding the recommendations from the 'Food Futures' report, the industry can take a business unusual approach to the challenges and become more flexible, intelligent and transparent, 'FIT', to meet the 21st century demands," read the report.

WRAP's Courtauld

Commitment 2025 will play a leading role in bringing together the whole food system, helping to safeguard the UK's food supply and respond to consumer's changing needs over the next decade.

Liz Goodwin, WRAP chief executive, said: "In the next 10 years we will be faced with challenges around feeding a growing population and nutritional security. Our 'Food Futures' report highlights how governments, businesses and we, as consumers, can turn these challenges into opportunities."

Goodwin further added: "We've gone from a non-recycling nation to a nation at one with recycling, and we've reduced household food waste by 21% over a five-year period."

She pointed out WRAP's behaviour change campaign Love Food Hate Waste and its voluntary agreement the Courtauld Commitment.

The report proposes the creation of a 21st century supply chain that is fit for the future.

Glossop buys Contact to strengthen carton work

by Tony Corbin

Glossop Cartons has acquired Stockport-based Contact Print and Packaging.

The deal, which was officially completed last month, will see the manufacturer of cartonboard packaging move from its current site in Padfield, Derbyshire to Contact Print and Packaging's facility in Stockport, Cheshire, by the end of 2015.

Glossop said it will enjoy improved transport links and benefit from much larger premises with a superior layout, allowing the business to fully-exploit both its conventional and digital packaging capabilities to UK and global brands. All employees of Glossop Cartons will be relocated, if agreeable, and remain with the company.

Glossop Cartons sales director Jacky Sidebottom-Every



Glossop Cartons' sales director Jacky Sidebottom-Every

said Contact Print's reputation was well-regarded and its new production facilities are well recognised by its clients within the food, pharmaceutical, beverage and gifting sectors.

"The move will allow Glossop to significantly enhance our digital suite and ensure that we're in a

stronger position to offer unique products and unparalleled production capabilities.

"Contact Print and Packaging has BRC and Pharmaceutical accreditation along with ISO 9001 and Glossop Cartons has ISO 9001, 14001 and 18001. Together, we'll have the required standards to produce packaging for all sectors with confidence and with the ethical standards to back up our manufacturing processes going forward."

The deal was backed by Lloyds Bank Commercial Banking, which provided a loan to support the purchase of Contact Print and Packaging's premises. The bank also provided an asset finance facility to enable Glossop Cartons to purchase the printing machinery.

Contact Print and Packaging employs 54 people.