

Press release

More reliability in coding & marking for the food industry

LEIBINGER and SÜDPACK – two Swabians take on the challenge and win

Tuttlingen / Ochsenhausen, September 12, 2024 – Packaging leader SÜDPACK and industrial printing specialist LEIBINGER have joined forces to meet the growing demand for sustainable packaging solutions. The first joint project is testing the suitability of CIJ inks for printing on recyclable films for packaging food that is sterilised following the packaging process. The tested system combination of packaging and printing solution saves food manufacturers time and ensures investment security.

Today, packaging films are expected to be resource-saving and recyclable to support a circular economy. The EU Packaging Regulation requires all packaging on the EU market to be recyclable by 2030. As a result, composite materials are being increasingly replaced by monomaterials. If these monomaterials are not equipped with a barrier function that prevents ink components from migrating to food, they may only be printed with harmless ink. This raises the requirements for the production, coding & marking of packaging films.

Advancing R&D for more sustainability

The packaging market is experiencing very fundamental changes. And it is with this in mind that SÜDPACK is continuously expanding its portfolio of recyclable film solutions. The company is developing monomaterials that are very much on par with previous composite materials – both in terms of convenience and protection. For printing and coding this type of food packaging, LEIBINGER offers industrial inkjet printers and develops special continuous inkjet (CIJ) inks together with SIS Ink Solution, a LEIBINGER Group company. The interaction of these components is the focus of the joint project between SÜDPACK and LEIBINGER.

In test: Sterilisation resistance of CIJ ink for marking food packaging

Are continuous inkjet inks suitable for printing on and subsequently sterilising recyclable food packaging? Specialists from both companies investigated this very question at SÜDPACK's technical centre. The team printed the innovative single-material solutions based on PE and PP with advanced CIJ ink. During the subsequent steam sterilisation, the printed films were heated at 121°C for 30 minutes. Assessment of the print samples before and after sterilisation showed that the print was still perfectly legible. The inks used are suitable for printing on food contact materials. This means that they only contain raw materials that are approved in compliance with the German Printing Inks Ordinance and the Swiss Commodities Ordinance.

How the collaborative project came about

The idea for the joint project between the two family-run Swabian companies SÜDPACK and LEIBINGER originated at a meeting at the PackExpo trade fair in Chicago in 2022. Together, the two companies set themselves the goal of providing food manufacturers with a packaging and printing solution that had already been tested for key customer requirements.

Results can be used directly by customers

“The sterilisation resistance of ink is always a major challenge. I am delighted that we have succeeded in developing a food-approved CIJ ink that is this effective when printing on monomaterials,” explains Dr Thomas Paul, ink expert and Managing Director at SIS Ink Solution, a LEIBINGER Group company.

The companies

High-performance films and packaging solutions from SÜDPACK have been winning over customers in various industries worldwide for more than 50 years. With some 1,800 employees at 10 production sites worldwide, SÜDPACK distinguishes itself through its high level of innovation, quality and reliability. Printers and inks from LEIBINGER in Tuttlingen, Germany, are also used worldwide. For about 75 years, the company has been an expert in industrial printing systems that are used to print expiry dates on packaging, among many other things. LEIBINGER is ideally positioned globally with 150 partners and 300 employees.

Live at Fachpack 2024

Would you like to learn more about the cooperation between LEIBINGER and SÜDPACK? Visit us at booth 7-550, hall 7 at the Fachpack in Nuremberg and experience the printing on the sustainable films live.

If you are interested in finding out more about the collaboration project or the tested packaging and marking solution, we would be delighted to hear from you. Further information about the company can be found on the LEIBINGER website: www.leibinger-group.com

Image captions:

	<p>Through various tests, the optimal LEIBINGER ink for marking SÜDPACK's recyclable food films was developed.</p> <p>Source: Paul Leibinger GmbH & Co. KG</p>
	<p>Johann Gühr, Business Development & Innovation Management at SÜDPACK (right), and Michael Wöhrmann, Director Business Development at LEIBINGER (left), value the collaboration and joint forward-looking projects.</p> <p>Source: Paul Leibinger GmbH & Co. KG</p>
	<p>With special LEIBINGER inks, the recyclable food packaging from SÜDPACK can be marked and then sterilized. Johann Gühr, Business Development & Innovation Management at SÜDPACK (right), and Michael Wöhrmann, Director Business Development at LEIBINGER (left), are pleased with the successful outcome of their joint project.</p> <p>Source: Paul Leibinger GmbH & Co. KG</p>

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About Paul Leibinger GmbH & Co. KG (LEIBINGER)

LEIBINGER is a globally operating specialist in coding & marking systems with headquarters in Tuttlingen, Baden-Württemberg (Germany). The third-generation family-run company, founded in 1948, develops and produces industrial inkjet printers as well as inks for various applications – with a

workforce of close to 300. Innovative technologies and an exceptionally high standard of quality are what distinguish LEIBINGER's advanced coding and marking solutions. As the inventor of a groundbreaking nozzle sealing technology that makes ink-based marking systems much less susceptible to contamination, LEIBINGER ensures greater productivity in the manufacturing of food and industrial products – with tens of thousands of successful installations worldwide. A global network with some 150 distribution partners and subsidiaries in the US and China ensures that LEIBINGER is ideally positioned to maintain close relationships with its many customers worldwide.

About SÜDPACK

SÜDPACK is a leading manufacturer of high-performance films and packaging solutions for the food, non-food and medical goods industries, as well as customised compounds for technically exacting applications.

The headquarters of the family-owned company, which was founded in 1964 by Alfred Remmele, is located in Ochsenhausen, Germany. The production sites in Germany, France, Poland, India, Switzerland, the Netherlands and the USA are equipped with state-of-the-art plant technology and manufacture to the highest standards, including under clean room conditions. The global sales and service network ensures close proximity to customers and comprehensive technical application support in more than 70 countries.

With its state-of-the-art development and application centre at its headquarters in Ochsenhausen, the innovation-oriented company provides its customers with an ideal platform for the development of customer-specific solutions and for carrying out application tests.

SÜDPACK is committed to sustainable development and honours its responsibility as an employer and towards society, the environment and its customers. SÜDPACK has been recognised several times for its sustainable product developments and its consistent commitment to a functioning circular economy in the plastics industry. Further information can be found at

www.suedpack.com