

Success stories from Belgium: Meypack packaging machines for Café Liegeois and Campbell Foods

Meypack's Belgian representative Bipack has successfully realised two exciting projects during the last few months: One was the commissioning of a mid-speed VP 451 K packaging machine for Café Liegeois while the other was a Meypack high speed VP 501 for Campbell Foods Belgium N.V. The kompackt editorial staff had the opportunity to speak with Christian Holcomb from Bipack about these projects, among other things.

Mr Holcomb, what kind of a year has 2006 been for you?

Christian Holcomb: When considering sales and turn-over, I would say that 2006 was on the whole a good but not outstanding year. On the other hand, 2007 looks to be very promising thanks to the large number of exciting enquiries we have at the moment.

What products are being packed there?

Holcomb: The VP 451 K packs block bottom plastic bags filled with coffee pads. These bags are produced by an upstream Bosch FFS machine and transferred to the end-packaging machine. It was our task to pack these bags in 2 rows of 5 in wrap-around cases which also function as display cases.

his interest in the Meypack machine and this visit actually served as the kick-off for the Café Liegeois project.

Another recent project was Meypack's VP 501 for the world famous Campbell Soup Company. What did you do there?

Holcomb: We not only delivered a high speed continuous motion VP 501 wrap-around case/tray packer but also a proven PK 110 palletiser. This end-packaging line was installed at the Belgian plant in Puurs. Through a customised technical solution we were able to deliver an extremely quietly running machine, which was a central requirement stipulated by the customer.

And what products are being run on the machine?

Holcomb: This machine packs glass jars filled with broth and sauces. There are 2 different dimensions of glass jars and we have to pack them in groups of 6 into both wrap-around cases and trays



Christian Holcomb, Managing Director Bipack Belgium: "2006 was a very successful year for us"

heart of the machine. During my last visit to this customer there was an incident on the machine where two jars got stuck together due to a labelling error. The jars broke but the machine was cleaned very quickly because, thanks to the open design, most of the broken glass fragments and contents fell through the machine directly onto the floor. The glass and food contents were able to be easily removed and the residue cleaned with a simple cleaning agent.

"First and foremost, it was the open design of the machine that appealed to the customer. This enables full accessibility right up to the product."

What are your hopes for the coming year?

Holcomb: We have a lot of in-



teresting projects in the pipeline at the moment. It goes without saying that I hope to obtain and realise some of these projects in 2007.

Mr Holcomb, thank you very much for your time today.

Holcomb: It was my pleasure. I am looking forward to continued and fruitful cooperation with Meypack and joint success in 2007.



Proven technology meets open design: The Meypack lowering principle of the VP 451 K

Let's talk about the projects for Café Liegeois and Campbell Foods, two timely projects for well-known customers. Which system was installed at Café Liegeois?

Holcomb: At Café Liegeois we delivered a VP 451 K case packer. This case packer is designed to be very space saving and thanks to its compact construction offers a high degree of flexibility. In addition, the machine has a very open design, making cleaning and maintenance faster and easier. These two features impressed the customer very much and were in my opinion the decisive factors for the order placement.

What was the biggest challenge with respect to the machine solution for Café Liegeois?

Holcomb: In fact, this project was a standard project for Meypack and there were no surprises. We



Open construction, excellent accessibility: Meypack's VP 501 in CleanDesign

were with the customer in Vienna and saw a similar line working smoothly for hours without interruption. This reliability piqued

at a speed of 34 cases/trays per minute.

You have installed a CleanDesign machine there. What advantages of the new CleanDesign technology were of particular importance to the customer?

Holcomb: First and foremost, it was the open design of the machine that appealed to the customer. This enables full accessibility right up to the product - into the



**Strong partner in Belgium:
Meypack's Representative
Bipack**

For the last 8 years, Meypack's Belgian representative Bipack, under the direction of Christian Holcomb, has been travelling the road to success from its location in Kortrijk-Bissegem. Bipack's product palette includes case packers and shrink wrappers. In addition, the Belgian company has also been representing Meypack's bag closing machines for many years. Bipack not only offers its customers standard machine solutions but also individual, customised machine systems.

Christian Holcomb, owner and managing director of Bipack, has been active in the packaging machine business for over 15 years. Before going out on his own with Bipack in 1998, he was a sales engineer at Beaurain, a well-known trading company for packaging machine solutions in Brussels.

Bipack consults and looks after well-known customers in the food and beverage industries in addition to customers from non-food industries. A large number of Bipack's customers are repeat customers and have purchased up to 10 packaging lines through Bipack in recent years. Bipack maintains and nurtures the relationships with its customers - one of the reasons for the long-standing cooperation with many companies.

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