

# BCN

BOARD CONVERTING NEWS™

An N.V. Publication

## SSCC To Shut Down Snowflake Machine

Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation said it will cease operations of its 135,000 tpy containerboard machine at the Snowflake, Arizona, mill no later than October 15.

The Snowflake mill includes two newsprint machines owned by Catalyst Paper Corporation and one containerboard machine owned by Smurfit-Stone but managed by Catalyst under a 10-year agreement set to expire in October. The

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## Sonoco Tacks On Energy Surcharge

Sonoco will implement a \$40 per ton average energy surcharge for its uncoated recycled paperboard products in the United States and Canada, it was reported by James Harrell, Division Vice President and General Manager, Paper North America. The surcharge will be added as a separate line item to all invoices for shipments on or after July 14.

"We have been impacted by dramatic increases in the cost for natural gas and diesel fuel during the previous six months and we expect continued cost pressure for the foreseeable future," said

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## Inside:

**Investment Firm Buys Midland**

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**New Digital Printing Plate**

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'Follow The Rules':

## FBA's Schmidt Presents LCA Planning Advice

Fibre Box Association President Dwight Schmidt had some advice for packaging professionals considering a life cycle analysis (LCA) of their products. "If you don't know, or don't want to follow the rules...don't start an LCA, because it can be an expensive, time-

**'LCA's value depends entirely on the credibility of the information it yields. Setting appropriate goal and scope, system boundaries and functional units to be measured is the most important step in LCA planning.'**

**- FBA President Dwight Schmidt**



consuming process whose value depends entirely on the credibility of the information it yields. Setting appropriate goal and scope, system boundaries and functional units to be measured is the most important step in LCA planning," he explained.

### Corrugated's Perspective

Schmidt addressed more than 200 packaging professionals at the Institute of Packaging Professional's (IoPP) Packaging Summit in Rosemont, Illinois, where he presented an industry perspective on conducting an LCA. His presentation, entitled "Life Cycle Analysis: Real-World Execution," focused on general guidelines to consider when planning an LCA for a company, product or industry.

First developed in the late 1960s, Life Cycle Assessment focused initially on waste and energy. In 1996-2000, LCA guidelines were standardized by ISO in its 14040 series and have been used by thousands of companies to guide product and process improvements.

Numerous commercial software and databases are already avail-

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### Corrugated Gear & Services [www.corrugatedgear.com](http://www.corrugatedgear.com)

Original equipment manufacturer for all S&S and General Corrugated Machinery. A full service supplier offering replacement parts, machinery repair, and cost effective innovations for all makes of corrugated equipment.

### Corrugated Machinery Specialists, Inc. [www.cmsretrofits.com](http://www.cmsretrofits.com)

Leading manufacturer and installer of quality retrofits, upgrades and replacement parts for S&S and Prime Flexo Folder Gluers. Specialists in complete reconditioning of S&S Flexo Folder Gluers, including ink, air and electrical systems.

### Corrugated Replacements, Inc. [www.corrugatedparts.com](http://www.corrugatedparts.com)

Specialist in replacement parts for the corrugated industry - for all types of corrugators and flexos. Now manufacturing slitters, female slotters and spacers, male slotters - standard and serrated.

### C.U.E., Inc. [www.AnvilCovers.com](http://www.AnvilCovers.com)

Makers of single and dual-width Timesaver® Anvil Covers, the premier urethane anvil cover for corrugated die cutting. Timesaver® covers feature a unique construction of solid steel backing and solid steel locking components to ensure a precise fit every time - a vital dependability difference that means seamless installation and a perfect cutting surface. C.U.E., Inc. also offers Dura-Latch and Cor-Lock anvil covers, in addition to urethane Lead Edge Feed Wheels.

### Data Technology, Inc. [www.data-technology.com](http://www.data-technology.com)

From samplemaking to laser die cutting to digital die cutting systems. Data Technology gives you 'The Complete Package'. We are the only full-line American manufacturer of automated cutting hardware to the industry.

### DayCorr [www.day-intl.com](http://www.day-intl.com)

DayCorr, a manufacturer of high quality diecutting blankets and anvil covers now offers its new patent-pending ClamLok diecutting blanket - a true product revolution.

### Dicar, Inc. [www.dicar.com](http://www.dicar.com)

Dicar offers a complete line of urethane products for the corrugated industry including Tapiton® Die Cutting Covers, DuraBlue® Boltless Anvil Covers, the Equa-Mount® Equalizer®, and a full range of Lead Edge Feeder Replacement Wheels and rollers.

### EMBA [www.emba.com](http://www.emba.com)

Manufacturing and engineering facilities in Örebro Sweden, Lübeck Germany and Avon, Ohio support a complete line of corrugated converting machinery for the worldwide market. EMBA's Quick Set technology enables the highest productivity across a broad range of converting equipment from mini to super jumbo. In addition to flexo folder gluers, product lines include HBL format machines, rotary die cutters and in-line printers as well as rebuilds and upgrades for EMBA, and other manufacturers' equipment.



Spotlight on...

# BCN

## PRPflexo

by Greg Kisbbaugh

People, by and large, respond adversely toward change. Those in the flexo industry are no different.

"There wasn't a single positive thing I could say about digital plates," said Kevin Hood, Flexo Press Operator with Masco Support Services. "The bottom line was that I just didn't like them." So when the Cumberland, Indiana, facility decided recently to incorporate digital plates into its workflow, replacing its familiar conventional plates, there was naturally a bit of hesitancy from the workforce. But, as the old saying goes, sometimes seeing is believing. "I've had to take back every bad thing I've said about digital plates," said Hood. "They have been amazing."



Kevin Hood

The plates in question are newly developed patent pending flat top digital plates from PRPflexo called Digital ExSpec.

Masco Corporation manufactures a number of brand named consumer products for the home and family, including Behr coatings and Delta faucets. Until 1993, Masco Support Services provided printing services solely to Delta Faucet Co. but now produces flexo labels and blister cards to several Masco companies and has recently begun to consider moving into markets outside the core Masco companies.

The company currently produces labels on three Mark Andy presses, a two-color press and two eight-color 2200 presses. Printing on the Mark Andy presses, the new ExSpec plates tackle one of the most difficult obstacles faced by any printer: consistency. "The problems of consistency have been totally eliminated," said Production Manager Jay Jones. "These plates come right up. We run three shifts here so the ability for the third shift to come up to color and print exactly the same consistency as was done on our other shifts is key."

In addition, set-up times with the plates have been greatly reduced, according to Jones. "I would say our set-up times are about 20 percent faster with the digital plates. We match to proofs very quickly, and the density is almost perfect from the start."

### Corrugated Is Next Target

Although Masco has proven the positive effects of using the ExSpec plates for running labels, PRPflexo feels the market that may reap the greatest rewards from the new technology is the corrugated arena. "We have direct printed using 200-line screen in tests at Clemson on a Bobst

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## PRPFlexo (Cont'd on Page 24)

press using a banded roll, and the problem of fluting associated with printing on corrugated board was completely eliminated," said PRPFlexo Sales Manager David Price.

The plates offer sharper bevels and, said Price, one-third more relief depth than conventional plates. "Whatever we ablate in mask, that is the size of the dot," he said. "There is no change." In addition, PRPFlexo has been able to consistently image one-point type.

In order to assist customers in achieving higher levels of print quality, PRPFlexo has instituted something it calls Print Champions, a program whereby the company can analyze everything a printing company is using, from boards and inks to the type of press it employs, in order to assess what changes may need to be made.

"Printers like to have numbers to shoot for," said Chris Green, PRPFlexo's Business Development Manager. "Printers want hard science. Saying that printing is an art puts a lot of pressure on press operators and makes it nearly impossible to achieve consistent results. The only way to achieve consistency is through measurable results."

One area in which PRPFlexo has focused its attention on recording measurable results is in trying to discern just how long the ExSpect digital plates will last in a typical pressroom operation. "On one of our fingerprint trials we decided to run 1,500 sheets in order to find out when they would get dirty. But after the 1,500 sheets, that still hadn't happened," said Price.

Masco Support Services has experienced much the same results. When asked how often the ExSpect plates had to be replaced, Hood said, "We honestly don't know yet. After four months, we are still on our first set. Our guess at this point is that they last about three times longer than our conventional plates and cost roughly about the same price."

PRPFlexo plans to continue testing the plates, said Price, with an eye on quantifying the product's abilities. In a recent test run at a converter in the Chicagoland area, for example, 1,400 line anilox rolls were used on a Comco press.

In order to ensure comprehensive test results, PRPFlexo is currently seeking flexo printers for additional trials of the ExSpect digital flexo plates. Participants will be asked to utilize the new plates on their presses to run existing work where comparisons are available.

In return for participation, printers will be provided the plates at no charge for a mutually agreed upon job. PRPFlexo asks that documentation of the run data must be provided. This will help PRPFlexo continue to turn quantifiable results from the plant floor into hard science, it said.

Those interested in participating in the trials can contact Chris Green at (317) 783-3226, ext. 1148.

*(Editor's Note: Kisbbaugh is Editor-In-Chief of Flexo Market News, BCN's sister publication.)*



**Corrugated printers might have 'great ExSpect-ations' from PRPFlexo's plates, right, compared with conventional anilox.**

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[www.kiwiplan.com](http://www.kiwiplan.com)

Kiwiplan - premier worldwide software provider of enterprise-wide, fully automatic solutions specifically for the corrugating and packaging industries. Kiwiplan's Total Solution delivers comprehensive, seamless real-time flow of information from sales order management to dynamic total plant scheduling and inventory control through shipping.

### Mark/Trèce, Inc.

[www.marktrece.com](http://www.marktrece.com)

Mark/Trèce provides the highest quality printing plates, pre-press, and cutting dies for the corrugated and flexo industries. Our digital printer can print directly onto substrates from corrugated to metal, up to 63" x 96" and 1.5" thick. Mark/Trèce is your total graphic solutions provider.

### Marotech Inc.

[www.marotech.com](http://www.marotech.com)

Manufacturer of Marotape™ and Marotape™Plus; hot melt coated reinforcing and tear tapes used for reinforcement and easy-open features for packaging. Marotech Inc. also manufactures state-of-the-art dispensing and tape placement equipment to optimize the productivity of applying hot melt coated tapes in packaging.

### MECA & Technology Machine, Inc.

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### Mitsubishi

[www.mhicorrugating.com](http://www.mhicorrugating.com)

MHI Corrugating Machinery Company is the world leader in new corrugating and boxmaking technology, offering an advanced line-up of machinery, from individual products to complete corrugators, manufactured worldwide.

### Pamarco Global Graphics

[www.pamarcoglobal.com](http://www.pamarcoglobal.com)

Pamarco Global Graphics provides the flexo, gravure, offset and embossing markets with more than 2000 products into over 60 countries world-wide. With a history of innovation and achievement, Pamarco has developed a reputation for progressive product development and industry leading standards of service.

### Profero Systems, Inc.

[www.ProferoSystems.com](http://www.ProferoSystems.com)

Profero Systems the leader in double facer heating and traction section conversions along with other performance enhancing products. Featuring products from Contact Bars and Compensating Rolls to New Glue Machines and Double Facers.

### Radius Solutions, Inc.

[www.radiusolutions.com](http://www.radiusolutions.com)

Radius Solutions is a leading provider of global, integrated ERP/MIS Software Solutions specifically designed to fit the needs of the packaging and printing industries; providing up-to-the minute business intelligence within single and multi-plan or global operations.

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## People & Places

### EMBA Appoints

Frank J. Smithhisler has been appointed General Manager at Avon, Ohio based EMBA Machinery. He started with EMBA last February.

### Corrugated Supplies Welcomes

Steve Baker, formerly General Manager of Temple-Inland's St. Louis, Missouri sheet feeder, has returned to Corrugated Supplies as Regional Sales Manager for its New Haven, Indiana sheet feeder.

### Harper Corp. Appoints

Jeff Leazer has joined Harper GraphicSolutions, the technical service arm of Harper Corporation of America. A graduate of Central Piedmont Community College's graphics program at the Harper National Flexographic Center, Leazer has accepted the position of Technical Graphics Specialist.

## News Briefs

Mannkraft's Tullytown, Pennsylvania facility is a member of the EMBA Century Club. On October 7, 2007, the plant ran a total of 126,039 boxes in eight and a half hours, the supplier reported—**Mesirow Financial Inc.** served as exclusive financial advisor to Fidelity Container Corporation in its recent sale to xpedx, a division of International Paper—**CMM International** reported that it has extended the deadline for submitting abstracts for CMM 2009 presentations to July 25. For more information, e-mail Jan Simpson, Conference Manager, at [cmmconference@pennwell.com](mailto:cmmconference@pennwell.com).



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