

Nordmeccanica Provides Machinery and Consultancy for Environmentally Sustainable Packaging

The Piacenza, Italy-based company, a world leading manufacturer of flexible packaging machinery, is investing resources for the creation of innovative machines for food packaging based on paper and totally recyclable single plastic materials.

Nordmeccanica, the world leader in flexible packaging machines, is looking to the future and making its own contribution to an increasingly green world. The Italian company is indeed betting on sustainable packaging through the use of new 100%-recyclable single-material plastics and paper.

With turnover of 110 million Euros in 2023, this year the company will be using 50% of its R&D investments to create new machines for food packaging based on paper and totally recyclable single-material plastics. This new range, which currently represents 30% of the company's turnover, will offer the same preservation performance for food products as packaging currently in use.

The Packaging of the Future

“The future trend for the packaging market is to develop ever-more environmentally sustainable technologies. We are focusing on the use of single-material plastic, which still remains the most economical as well as the most sustainable material, as well as paper, both offering 100% compostability,” explains Vincenzo Cerciello, Nordmeccanica’s Technical Director.

"In order to support this market, in 2023 we assigned 50% of our R&D budget to the creation of machines for the production of single-material packaging, which is therefore totally recyclable, and can be manufactured equally out of paper or

polyolefin (biodegradable plastic) in order to ensure maximum operational flexibility for our customers,” Cerciello continues.

“The creation of new single-material PE food packaging bags, which are 100% recyclable (in photo), uses innovative polymers and conversion technologies in order to ensure a high barrier to oxygen and water vapour, and exceptional packaging integrity.

This packaging film has been produced with the best polyethylene resins, using five-layer extrusion. One of these layers making up the film is covered with an aluminium oxide coating and lacquered with water-based barrier resin. The conversion of the PE films has been performed by Nordmeccanica Group’s Vacuum & Coating divisions, which represent a benchmark for the packaging market in terms of reliability, thickness control and energy efficiency.

Four Thousand Machines Installed

The company boasts an installed base of over 4,000 machines sold around the world, and is ready to adapt the technology of most of these, around 1500 next-generation machines, for the switch from production of traditional films to 100% recyclable single-material or paper-based packaging.

For Nordmeccanica's customers who wish to make this transition, their machines will be optimised and personalised on an ad-hoc basis to meet their different packaging requirements.

“The recent entry of a new manager of the calibre of Ralf Wunderlich to our board as special consultant demonstrates our drive to seek out innovation and technological excellence in order to expand ever-further into new international markets,” Antonio Cerciello explains. “Wunderlich has indeed led a range of sector multinationals for years, for instance Amcor Group and Linpac Packaging where he was President and Managing Director. He is currently a board member of prestigious international groups such as AptarGroup, Huhtamaki and Shepherd building Group.

Nordmeccanica will close out 2023 with financials in line with 2022: “Despite the global fall in consumption due to price increases and uncertainty linked to global conflicts, our company continues to grow, asserting its leadership in not just European and American markets, but in a uniform manner around the world,” the President concludes.

Nordmeccanica for La città delle Donne, Fighting Violence against Women

Nordmeccanica Group has always been particularly attentive to charity initiatives, supporting the Piacenza community and the local area where the company is based. Seventeen company employees put themselves forward to represent the different months of the year, in partnership with photographers Fausto Ferri and Claudio Pallaroni. This led to the creation of the calendar of Nordmeccanica's women for women: the funds raised from the sale will be used to support the organisation La città delle Donne, a Piacenza-based centre fighting against gender-based violence. The association has been active in the area for 30 years, and is recognised by the Italian Ministry for Equal Opportunities and the Emilia Romagna Region.



Nordmeccanica's calendar in support of the La città delle Donne organisation against gender-based violence



The single-material plastic films produced by Nordmeccanica



Prototype 100%-recyclable packaging bag