

# DuPont Packaging Graphics

THE SCIENCE OF COLOR AND PRINTING TECHNOLOGIES

Innovation at the speed of your business



Fruit and vegetable packaging

Coupling in progress



## NetPack – Environmentally smart plates and processes for “green goods”

Netpack is an Italian company specializing in the production and marketing of flexible packaging for the food sector. Employing about 200 people and having a yearly turnover of 45 millions Euro (2006), the company is located near Cesena, one of the most important areas in Italy for fruit and vegetable production. Operating for years in the local and international market, Netpack today serves 3.000 customers worldwide.

At the end of 2005, the company started a development program that would have as a major goal the overall speed up of the platemaking process and a reduction ecological footprint of its industrial processes. They found in DuPont™ Cyrel® FAST system the unique solution to their needs. A first line of production was installed in May 2006, and it includes a DuPont™ Cyrel® FAST thermal developer (dry processor) that works in conjunction with an Esko Cyrel® Digital Imager (CDI) unit, both for large format plates. To increase the department production capacity, the company has recently added a second platemaking line with a CDI Advance 5080 and a Cyrel® FAST TD4260, again both for large format plates.

A division of the Sorma Group, a worldwide known manufacturer of equipment for the fruit and vegetable packaging sector, Netpack is a dynamic company often considered a point of reference for fruit and vegetable packaging and related products such as adhesive labels and banners. Always focused on the customers' desires and needs, whatever their dimensions might be, Netpack's strength is its extremely flexible service. All of this is possible thanks to the daily work of highly skilled specialists, and also to the capability of managing the entire production cycle in house: from graphic design to plate production, from raw material processing to print, coupling and cutting.

### Production and technologies

The production site covers an area of 20,000 square meters, where platemaking systems, co-extrusion lines, flexographic printing presses of up to 8 colours, solventless couplers and spoolers are installed to process various types of material.

Production is divided into 3 well integrated areas:

#### Graphic Area

- 5 Mac and Windows workstations, for designing or adjusting graphic layouts for a streamlined plate production.
- DuPont™ Cromamet® color management system and DuPont™ Cromalin® digital proofing system

#### Pre press Area

- One CDI 5080 and one CDI 5080 Advance for direct imaging of plates sized up to 1270 mm. x 2030 mm.
- Two large format DuPont™ Cyrel® FAST for thermal plates processing (up to 1067 mm. x 1524 mm.)
- 1 traditional DuPont in-line unit for exposing, processing and drying of solvent plates.

#### Press Area

- 1 Dromont Mixing Station for internal production of Pantone colours
- 2 DuPont™ Microflex® plate mounting systems
- 4 Schiavi printing presses (Alfa model up to 8 colours)



The miracles of science™

**Protecting the environment and improving industrial processes are two key commitments on which DuPont focuses every time a new solution is installed in a production site, particularly in the packaging sector.**

This strong promise also involves Mario Castelli, DuPont Packaging Graphics Sales Manager for Italy and Greece, who introduces us to Mr. Mariano Giorgini, Netpack plant manager, interviewed to better understand the reasons of the DuPont choice.

### **Why did you choose a thermal system for flexo plate preparation?**

There are many reasons that brought us to this choice. First of all, there's a crucial concept: preparing and printing flexo plates plays a very important role in the production cycle of our company. As you can imagine, from a competitive point of view, speed is a key element in this process. The new DuPont™ Cyrel® FAST system allows us to produce flexographic plates while reducing production time by 75% compared to the time normally required by using other conventional development processes. If we consider that the drying process of a thin plate traditionally took us 90 minutes (a thick one would even have taken us 3 hours!), while today the entire process takes us only between 20 and 25 minutes, we can easily calculate the convenience and the improvements in terms of efficiency. Moreover, the system is thermal and totally dry, it eliminates the use of any solvent - or water - based chemical solutions, which is a perfect fit to our policy regarding ecological footprint reduction. In this way, in fact, solvent emissions are inexistent and we no longer have chemicals or fluids that have to be treated, stored, preserved and recycled.

### **Which criteria did you use to evaluate different production systems and how did DuPont convince you?**

The company's objective was to renew the plate production line, replacing old solvent based equipment with cleaner technology units having a low impact on the environment. We started to take a look around and discovered that only DuPont, with which we have had a good business relationship for over 10 years, could offer a solution that truly satisfied our needs. We carried out the necessary tests to investigate reliability, quality and production capacity of their solution. After seeing the positive results, our choice became extremely easy. The consequences are, as I already said, a consistent reduction of



**Quality Control**



**Mr. Mariano Giorgini,  
NetPack Plant Manager  
next to their second  
DuPont™ Cyrel® FAST system**

production times, allowing us to prepare the plate in a quarter of the time required by the traditional systems and the complete elimination of solvents and chemicals, and consequently of the necessary equipment to stock, handle and treat them. All this is also helping us to cut costs and to have a more efficient and clean working environment.

### **From a technological point of view, which are now your objectives to further improve your offer to the market, in terms of products and service?**

After investing in these new production lines, we believe that our facilities are now adequate to the company productions requirements. Now we will focus on the workflow and on the internal management of orders and procedures, modifying processes and keeping building on our human resources.

### **Which needs are being expressed by the market today and how are packaging producers like you are paying attention to them?**

I would say that the main reasons that pushed us towards the recent technological investments are the new requests of the market, which require flexibility, production speed and higher quality products. In fact, in addition to reducing plate production time, the two Cyrel® FAST systems also helped us improving the ink transfer onto the many different substrates.



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**DuPont Packaging Graphics**  
**“Advancing Flexography”**