

Acer celebrates 2 years in business



Introducing Claire, the newest member of the Acer Machinery Team!

After what was a complete whirlwind of a first year in business, it is hard to believe that Acer Machinery's second anniversary has arrived already!

The last year has bought new chapters (and challenges!), including securing new customers and machine sales from 2021 now in full production. Having said this, the most notable highlights of the year are as follows:

- In May we welcomed the addition of Claire to the Acer team, as Project Coordinator and Sales Assistant. Claire's new role sees her coordinating the growth of aftersales projects and processing new queries and orders.
- Acer Machinery's aftersales support has doubled, offering improved services to our customers, through additional offerings from manufacturers, which include fitting retrofits to client's existing equipment, such as adapting equipment to run with sustainable materials. Overall, we are grateful for another successful year!

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Article author: Emma Ridgway

PPMA Show

Run in overdrive, with excitement and a huge amount of pride.

After my initial years trading the importance of promoting Acer and its' represented manufacturers Mespack and UET was essential and with the PPMA reopening its SHOW doors for the first time since 2019, participation was paramount. This decision was not taken lightly as there was still uncertainty surrounding the event itself, would it go ahead? would it be well attended with the world only just starting to reopen itself to travel? Would visitors be comfortable mingling in an indoor environment and would those attending the show unwittingly have Covid? All these questions leading to the substantial commitment... would it be worth it?

Having taken the plunge, and despite the fuel crisis we all faced the days before, adding an additional unpredictable level of uncertainty, the show actually saw a strong footfall. It was absolutely fantastic and energising to once again engage face to face with customers both new and old, colleagues who we have only worked with through video conferencing platforms for over a year or more, to meet with them was so rewarding.

Emma stated on reflection...

"Seeing your company displayed in all its glory for the first time, is a moment I'll never forget"



With the quality of enquiries taken and sales in place following the show, it is without doubt the right decision to be exhibiting again this September at the 2022 PPMA TOTAL SHOW.



UET will be exhibiting their Compact 5 cartoning machine with grouping table, configured to run a combination of carton formats including aeroplane tuck, reverse tuck and cartons with 5th flaps. Additionally, UET will also announce new Industry 4.0 technology available for both retrofits and new installations later this year.

Mespack will be present to discuss with you their drive for a greener world and the available technology to manufacturers in order to produce flexible packaging formats from sustainable materials on both horizontal and vertical form-fill-seal machinery.

Book your free ticket to the show through this link [PPMA Show Registration](#)

Article author: Emma Ridgway

DATA Analysis

Increasing demand to better understand how your machine behaves and the knowledge you can gain from being able to analyse newly available data can result in seeing improved efficiencies, downtime reduction, quality improvement, output increase, maintenance cost reduction and production cost reduction

Mespack's ATHENA a unique control suite platform is being installed on all new machine models, available through an on-premise or cloud based integration. As an operator friendly system, the clear and easily identifiable touch screens, simplify the operators experience and enables quick access to machine overviews where machine performance can be determined.

Some of the available features include recipe management, quality of pack formats, keeping track of both good/ rejected counts, understanding fill accuracy, alarms and alerts giving extended information about the fault and solutions enable customers to reduced unplanned downtime between 1.5-3%. Maintenance Panel with advice within and schedules of due maintenance enables customers to be able to save between 135-200hrs of maintenance labour costs within 12 months of utilising this technology.

With remote access, you never need be far away from keeping an eye on how your machine is performing with access of the machines general overview, possible wherever you are in the world. Additional levels of data analysis are available through

extended platforms providing OEE information, Raw Materials consumption during production, rejected reasons – each reason can be analysed by individual pouch, alarm detail including current alarms and history, and Energy Management.



Mespack Athena complies with CF21 part 11 – Code of Federal Regulations commonly used in the pharma industry.



Hot on Mespack's heels, during the course of this year UET have been developing their industry 4.0 technology to be launched across all new machine builds later this year. With many machines around the world already in production and a growing number of requirements being received from existing customers requesting data analysis on how their machine is performing, the UET development team have been working also on a system that can be retrofitted easily to these installed machines.

The on-premise computer accessible through the touch panel, the Phase 1 release, collects statistical data from the machine providing detailed information on the timings of the machine so that operators can analyse the production time on the machine against time seen in non-production, providing further detail on where this is seen i.e during setting up the machine, changeovers or on breakdowns.

Further functions include counter information, the existing system advises the number of cycles the machine makes, this improved function enables operators to count the number of good boxes produced.

Phase 2, under development, will provide greater levels of data including intelligent maintenance, advising on alarm faults, what has caused them and advise on spares consumables wearing and those recommended for replacement. Through modem connection, customers will also further benefit from remote support.

Article author: Emma Ridgway

Machines delivered

It has been a very busy year with a wide range of machines ordered and seeing equipment through build to installations. Below, we report on some of these



- The first of two cartoning machines has been installed at a well-known respected cosmetics contract manufacturer in the UK. With a large number of customers, our client needed to be able to run many carton formats, specifying to handle reverse tuck and aeroplane tuck cartons. With the patented infinitely adjustable starwheel, they are readily able to run multiple carton dimensions, simply adjusting between the widths, depths and heights.

Additional features included a grouping table and by selecting the “wheels with feet” option rather than the standard lockable castor wheels, the customer retains the ability to easily move the machine across to different lines if required, and by lowering the feet down over the castor wheels, secures a fixed machine position.



- Mespac delivered its H140S form-fill-seal machine to a food manufacturer, to produce from recyclable materials 3 and 4 side seal sachets for its dried seasonings. With a range of densities, these powders required careful handling. The 35g & 45g sachets are produced on this simplex machine at up to 70/75 cycles min.



- The Compact 3 with pocket star is UET's first machine of its kind in the UK. With fixed carton sizes and 1 product per box, this simple cartoning machine is now in production and makes light of the previous labour-intensive hand packing.

A special product sensor was installed to be able identify the product from underneath the box – ideal for products that lay diagonally across the box or simply don't fill the boxes volume.



- For a repeat customer, Mespac were delighted to supply a second H180SC fill-seal machine. This machine is specified to run with recyclable laminate premade pouches with zipper and will be filling a large variety of dried fruits and nut products, into pouches up to 180mm wide at up to 55 cycles/ min .

In mirrored version, special features on this machine include gas flush to reduce oxygen content in the pouch.

Article author: Emma Ridgway



- A new customer to UET, in the vaping industry has recently taken delivery of their Compact 4 cartoning machine and grouping table. This customer bringing their business back into the UK, looked for a cartoner to run their narrow 18mm deep cartons for their disposable vaping pens.

With automatic leaflet insertion and a quick change over tool, this customer can run both reverse tuck and aeroplane tuck cartons. They are so pleased with it they are now putting other lines down the machine including their vaping liquids.



- An established, well respected, food customer has increased their Mespack portfolio of machines by another 2!

Producing a high number of sachets, duplex machines were requested to meet the demand and versatility required and with 2 on order, these machines were configured with mass flowmeters for the hot filling of sauces consisting of various viscosities, with / without particulates filling up to 125cc in duplex mode at 100-120 sachets/min.

These machines feature the new Mespack Athena control suite platform and are prepared to run with sustainable laminates.

The above reflects a selection of the machines built and installed in the last twelve months. The next year looks busy for both manufacturers and we look forward to sharing detail on these machines in the next newsletter.