

BioPack packaging

Switzerland-based VC999 Packaging Systems is to showcase its new VC999 BioPack at this year's SPE.

BioPack is a new concept to pack fresh-foods under modified atmosphere (MAP) completely in bio-plastics, said VC999. All components are biologic and made from renewable resources.

The trays and multilayer barrier films (plain or printed) are made of PLA. Cellulose-based biodegradable absorbent pads and biodegradable labels complete the range.

In terms of biodegradability and compatibility, the entire VC999 BioPack packaging system has DIN CERTCO certification (no. 7P-0199). The appearance and shelf-life of VC999 BioPack packaging is exactly the same as oil-based plastic packaging.

VC999 has been manufacturing vacuum packaging machines for more than 35 years. The company also manufactures rollstock thermoformers, tray sealers, vacuum chamber machines and conveyerized chamber machines.

Its VC999 Rollstock Thermoformers — the RS series — are generally in use wherever large quantities of the same product are to be processed.

The packages are fabricated online from a lower web of rigid or soft (flexible) thermoformable film and a cover film sealed on.

VC999 Rollstock Machines have a modular design for customized adaptations. This high performance compact machine can also be integrated in an inline environment including e.g. dosing, weighing, printing, labeling, etc.

The thermoforming technology allows cost-efficient packaging of the products for the self-service shelf and attractive presentation of the packaged goods at the point of sale, said a company spokesman.

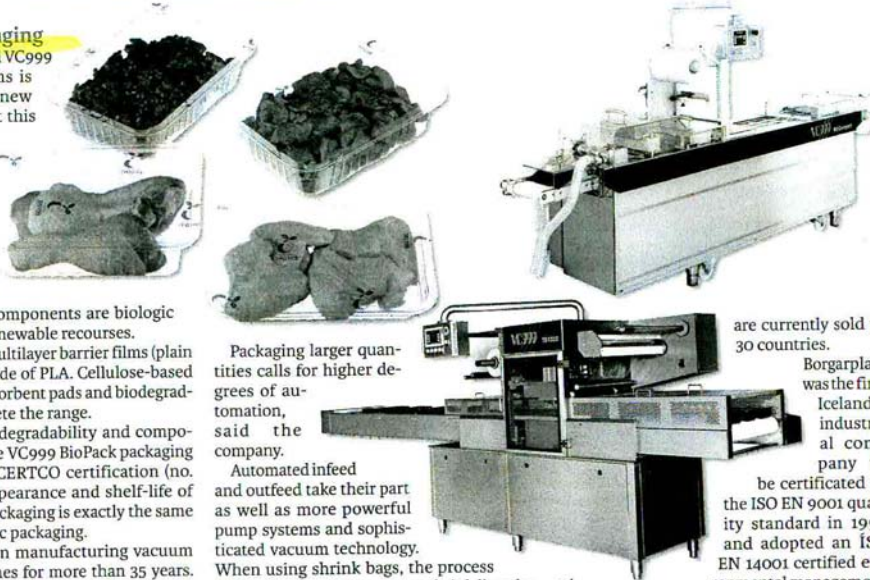
The VC999 RS420 and the VC999 RS Compact are being exhibited at Brussels. The VC999 RS420 is a high production thermoformer for industrial packaging. The compact machine RS Compact needs only 2.5-square metres space.

It will also show its VC999 TS1300 compact tray sealer. This fully-automated machine automatically seals pre-made trays, with or without exchange of atmosphere (MAP using vacuum/gas) or using skin packs. It is ideal for medium to large scale production, said VC999.

Last but not least, the company will demonstrate its K-Series vacuum chamber and conveyor chamber machines.

These compact and powerful machines are used preparing limited quantities of consumer packs with extended shelf-life.

The wide machine range extends from small professional tabletop models to large high-speed double chamber machines.



Packaging larger quantities calls for higher degrees of automation, said the company.

Automated infeed and outfeed take their part as well as more powerful pump systems and sophisticated vacuum technology. When using shrink bags, the process integration in whole vacuum shrink lines becomes important, including shrink tank and dryer.

Its K12 has two independent chambers with two independent lids which share the same vacuum pump. Thanks to partially simultaneous processing, double chamber machines with two independent lids are more than 20 percent faster than comparable swing-lid machines, said VC999.

The company will be located in Hall 4 at Stand 5923.

Insulated containers

Founded in 1971, Borgarplast is a packaging manufacturing company that offers insulated containers for the food industry. Its products

are currently sold to 30 countries.

Borgarplast was the first Icelandic industrial company to be certified to the ISO EN 9001 quality standard in 1993 and adopted an IST EN 14001 certified environmental management system in 1999.

According to General Manager, Gudni Thordarson, the company's market share of insulated fish containers in Iceland is in excess of 80 percent.

Borgarplast also produces polystyrene boxes that are used for transporting fresh fish fillets via air cargo all over Europe and North America. These boxes can also be used for transporting fresh fillets in sea containers to Europe.

The Icelandic fishing fleet replaced fish boxes with insulated containers 25 years ago. To begin with, 630 l (model 660) containers were used, but 12 years ago the 430 l (model 460) became popular. Today these containers

