Holistic Approach Towards Sustainable Pharma Packaging Solutions: Paper Trays & 100% Recyclable Plastic Mono-materials

Marchesini Group, an Italian packaging company which designs and builds stand-alone machines and customised lines for packaging pharmaceuticals, are implementing the portfolio of recyclable solutions.



Marchesini Group produces machines and lines able to package products with different types of materials, including paper, recyclable and recycled mono-material plastics and aluminium. Each of these solutions is the outcome of research and development work directed at meeting the market's demands.

"*More and more customers are calling us in for projects that involve the sustainability of packaging materials*," Group CEO **Maurizio Marchesini** tells us. "*Good results in this area require a high degree of cooperation between ourselves as automatic machinery constructors and the suppliers of the packaging materials; the issue must be tackled with a holistic approach that considers all the requirements involved and increasingly embraces the packaging's entire lifecycle.*"



One of the latest innovations developed by the Group is a machine designed to carton **vials in paper trays**. This solution is presented together with a new-design paper tray, researched and developed entirely by the Group itself, which generates **savings** of about **fifty percent in paper** and about **fifty percent in glue** compared to the models currently on the market.

What's more, the new paper tray is less thick, providing **space savings of thirty percent** when products are combined inside the case, with obvious benefits during shipment in terms of load capacities and relative CO2 emissions. The Group, which has been developing paper tray solutions as a valid, safe alternative to thermoformed plastic for more than ten years, has created this new prototype with the aim of guaranteeing **even more responsible use** of packaging material, while further reducing production costs and **avoiding waste**.



The sustainability area is completed by a line for blister products, comprising first and foremost an integrated, robotised solution which inserts tablets in a packaging consisting of seventy-five percent PVC-free aluminium, an entirely recyclable, infinitely reusable material, and then in a cardboard carton. The line is completed by a monobloc comprising a case packer and a palletiser equipped with an innovative robot.

The Group is able to provide too a thermoforming machine for forming mono-material trays in R-PET, PET containing up to eighty percent recycled material, designed to take vials, and a line comprising a Schmucker 12-lane stick packaging machine, a stick inspection system and a cartoner.

This line is designed to process PP-based packaging materials (with and without PE) such as 100% recyclable mono-material plastics like OPP or BOPP with a metallised intermediate layer. Due to its suitability for food contact, this material is a worthy polyolefin-based substitute for the classic PET/ALU material for production of high-barrier flexible packaging.

The sustainability of packaging materials is only one of the many frontiers in which Marchesini Group is investing in order to comply with the paradigms of the circular economy: it is also engaged in other activities such as the business of Rinova, the company created to give new life to pre-owned original Marchesini lines and machines. In fact, through a remanufacturing process the Group is able to offer customers a solution more advantageous in both economic and environmental terms, with the same quality and reliability specifications.

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