More Bag for the Buck

Flexible packaging suppliers are being asked to play a greater role in the marketing mix by providing higher performance, lower cost and visual appeal.

hat's required of today's snack food flexible packaging supplier? "I want a

by Huston Keith

supplier who's solution-oriented to help determine what packaging materials are needed to meet our objectives of freshness and shelflife," asserts Jane Bretl, Marketing

Manager for Otis Spunkmeyer Inc., San Leandro, Calif.

In the fiercely competitive snack food fray, processors vie for every possible advantage. While the "4 P's" of marketing — product, promotion, place and price —

seem to receive the greatest attention, the fifth "P" — packaging — is called on to pitch in and push the other four along. Processors need flexible packaging to deliver a quality product to the place of sale without increasing the price.

The greatest need is better barrier without increased cost. And snack food processors haven't changed their requirements — Nabisco still demands a six-month shelf-life for its cookies and crackers.

Consumers have changed their requirements, however. Their purchases of lowfat snacks, led by the various *SnackWell's* varieties, have

taken off dramatically. Nearly every cookie maker, as well as numerous salted snack manufacturers, now has a reduced-fat line of products to keep health-conscious Americans snacking merrily away.

"Lowfat products need higher barrier requirements," says Rich

Felber, group leader for packaging development at Nabisco Biscuit Co. These



Performance and visual appeal: Nabisco achieved the former when it switched to an easy-to-reseal inner wrap for its *Ritz* crackers and the latter with high-impact graphics on its new *Wacky Frootz Gummi Savers*.

new products are especially sensitive to moisture loss. The fat replacers are also sensitive to development of off-flavors. And natural foods without preservatives are more prone to deterioration.

Nearly all flexible packaging sup-

pliers are responding with higher barrier products to meet these needs, prompting the continued growth of metallized films. Offering nearly the same barrier as foil, most flexible packaging suppliers offer a line of metallized films with a base featuring cast polypropylene (CPP), oriented polypropylene (OPP) and polyester (PET).

These improved barriers also allow a wider range of distribution outlets for snacks. To sell to convenience stores without direct store distribution requires as much as a nine-month shelf-life, possible only with high-barrier films. The improved seals on Himac Inc.'s metallized-cast polypropylene allow Eagle Snacks Inc. and Keebler Co. to compete in the chip market without a national network of plants. These seals still hold in high altitudes because of the film's specially designed properties.

To assist processors in understanding how packaging materials affect the delivered quality of the

product, Mobil Chemical Co.'s Films Div. has developed a sensory testing panel. "It helps align ourselves with customer needs," says Kevin Frydryk, product manager. Training the panel required seven months of intensive work. The result: customers can now tie physical measures of moisture content, rancidity, texture, etc., to scientific sensory evaluations.

"It closes the loop by helping understand flavor issues related to extended shelf-life," concludes Frydryk.

MORE SPEED, PLEASE

Flexible materials that provide more machinability and higher speeds on existing equipment are finding new acceptance.

For instance, cold seal films are now finding applications outside their conventional use on candy

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bars. Mobil's new Bicor LTSC OPP for horizontal form/fill/seal equipment offers heat seal temperatures of 160°F, 20° lower than most coextruded films. The film offers line speeds as fast as 200 feet per minute, 50 feet per minute faster than coextrusions. It also accepts a wider variation in speeds at any temperature, a key component to smooth operation and higher throughputs with today's servo machines that vary speeds to adjust for package input rates.

To introduce its Craisins cranberry fruit snack, Ocean Spray Cranberries Inc. used the graphics and barrier offered by American Packaging Corp.'s Kardogard Paper/PVdC/PE. With equivalent barrier to foil, this material allows metal detection and was easy to run on available packaging equipment.

For gum production, a "tricky to apply" patterned silicon no-stick coating is applied to the wrapper. But if the coating gets in the seal area, the package won't seal. For a new bubble gum product, a converter has replaced the silicon with a food grade proprietary additive built into the sealant. Now the wrapper seals more consistently, providing the processor with much better throughput.

PACK IT UP, MOVE IT OUT

Survey after survey shows that 80% or more of buying decisions are made at the point of purchase. Flexible packages are increasingly providing that last-minute promotion especially critical to snacks.

The new flexible standup pouch used by Nabisco's Planters Div. provides that "pop on the shelf," states Susan Farrell, senior manager of Planters and LifeSavers packaging services.

The bold, contemporary graphics are essential to initial trial. The pouches have been successful in attracting consumers who aren't major nut purchasers, Planters says. The convenience of the recloseable bag increases appeal by attracting

New Players

Since last year, the players in the flexible packaging arena have shifted their resources to better meet the demands of the marketplace. First, Hercules Inc. decided to sell its Packaging Film Group to Applied Extrusion Technologies Inc. (AET) in January for \$160 million in cash. AET itself is a former Hercules division producing films for personal care

AET is now the second largest producer of OPP (150 million lbs. a year) after Mobil (200 million). With the large usage of OPP film for snack packaging, it is not surprising that several snack film suppliers also are major OPP film producers: Simpro Inc. (50 million lbs.), Toray Plastics (America) Inc. (45 million), Quantum Performance Films (35 million) and Borden Packaging & Industrial Products (30 million). While a recent study by Permapack, Lenni, Pa., points to near-term oversupply, annual demand growth of 6% worldwide should soon fill up capacity.

Other flexible packaging suppliers are making acquisitions to broaden their markets. Graphic Industries expanded its product line by purchasing Beckett, a metallizer in Toronto, and Package Products, a converter in Charlotte, N.C. Lawson Mardon, a Canadian packaging company, expanded its international presence with Alusuisse Flexible. And Printpack Inc. boosted its worldwide standing after the recent acquisition of UCB with the purchase of Flexpack.

"grab 'n' eat" consumers.

This package is the result of steady improvements in machinery and materials, states Farrell, rather than a big breakthrough. The bag is a heavy-gauge foil laminate with a sealant to provide the high barrier required by nuts.

Tortilla chip maker S&K sought out similar "shelf-popping" power when looking to package its all-natural Nana's Cocina brand of tortilla chips, says President Eugene Suarez. Using a premade white kraft window bag lined with polypropylene from Bagcraft Corp. of America, the chips are sold in several supermarket chains in the Mid Atlantic area. The bags achieve a minimum of 75 days shelf-life.

While for Planters and S&K newer is better, sometimes consumers prefer traditional packages, says Jim Scott, Nabisco's director of biscuit packaging development. The inner wrapper for Ritz cracker was originally made of wax/glassine with an amber hue. When Nabisco switched to clear OPP for a better moisture barrier, consumers complained it was difficult to open and reclose. After Reduced Fat Ritz were

introduced, James River Corp. made an HDPE/Nylon/Surlyn® coextrusion that matched the moisture barrier and the amber color, had easy peel and was recloseable.

On the other hand, easy opening is the goal for many snack makers. How often have you struggled to open a chip bag and suddenly dumped the entire contents into your lap and onto the floor? Hargro Packaging's vice president of marketing, Dick Abbott, says the RipGard™ OPP lamination prevents the bag from tearing. The proprietary structure helps control the initiation and propagation of the opening so bags open more easily and don't come apart.

More than ever, flexible packaging will be protecting the product quality of snack food up to and beyond the place of sale within the price point required — and helping promote the product to "pop" off the shelf. Packaging is poised to deliver a major contribution to the "4 P's" of the marketing mix both now and in the future.

Huston Keith of Keymark Associates is a packaging and marketing consultant in Marietta, Ga.

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			LE PACKAGING SUPPLIERS SNACK TYPE							
Company	Process	Structure	Salted	Cookies	Crackers			Fruit	Candy	Othe
American National Can 8700 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. Chicago, III. 60631 Andrew Thurstone Product Manager - Snacks (312) 399-8575 FAX (312) 399-8099	Laminated Coex Solventless Adh. Pouches Flexographic Print Rotogravure Print Cold Seal Blown Cast Holographics	All Films & Materials Various Various Various (Standup & Regular) 8-color 8-color Various Various Various Various Various Various	2 22 2	11 111	1 11 1	V V	22222	2222	>>>>>>	1
American Packaging Corp. 2900 Grant Ave. Philadelphia, Pa. 19114-2395 Bruce Kemp, V.P., Sales & Marketing (215) 698-4800	Met., Rotogravure, Laminated in-line Ext., Rotogravure or Flexographic	Film/Ink/Adh./Film Film/Ink/Adh./Foil/Adh./Film Film/Ink/Adh./MetOPP Film/Ink/Adh./Film/Adh./Film Ink/Paper/Adh./Foil/Adh./Film Film/PE/Film/Adh./Film Film/PE/Foil/Adh./Film Film/PE/Foil/Adh./Film Film/PE/Met./Film/LDPE	********	**********			*******	*********	*******	
Applied Extrusion Technologies Inc. Hercules Plaza Wilmington, Del. 19894-0001 Barry Jones, Dir., Sales (302) 594-6701 FAX (302) 594-5204	Slip-Modified Met. OPP PVdC-Coated Opaque OPP Sealable Coex OPP	OPP Hercules T523 OPP Hercules T523-23 Ultimet MST2 Ultimet MST3 Hercules UBS Hercules HR500/2S Hercules WT503/2B Hercules WT502/2S Hercules SB522/1 S Hercules HSL Hercules PST2 Hercules CSB	*******	2 29 2	,	*	> >	>>	>> >>>	20 22 22
Bagcraft Corp. of America 3900 W. 43rd Chicago, Ill. 60632 Alden Cohen, V.P., Communications Stanley Kerman, V.P., Sales (312) 254-8000 FAX (312) 254-8204	Laminated* Coated*	Hi-Gloss/PP Super Cal/PP Kraft/PP/Window Kraft/PP Tac-Seal Kraft/PP Kraft/Wax	2	*****	,		7			~
Borden Packaging & Industrial Products 351 Holt Rd. North Andover, Mass. 01845 William Halter, Marketing Mgr. (508) 682-0701 FAX (508) 682-3740	Met. Laminated Coex	OPPtimum Proponite OPP OPPticoat OPPtiwrap (OPP/PVdC) OPPtiwrap (OPP/Acrylic)	*****	*****	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		222	11	*****	
Ron Leech, V.P., Sales/Marketing	Laminated CoSar Plus CoMet Plus CoSar EX CoMet EX CoLam	OPP/PVdC/OPP OPP/OPP Met. OPP/PE/PVdC/OPP OPP/PE/OPP/Met. OPP/Cast OPP PET/LDPE Cello/LDPE	2 2222	2 222	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	v	, ,,,,,,			
		Various Various	> >	77	**	77	77	~ ~ ~		
P.O. Box 862	Laminated Met. Pouch: Reclosable	Custom Structures with OPP, PET, PE, etc. Rollstock	unspe	cified	*	11	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	11		

			SNACK TYPE							
Company	Process	Structure	Salted	Cookies	Crackers	Meat	Nuts	Fruit	Candy	Other
Graphic Packaging Corp. 955 Chesterbrook, Blvd., Suite 300 Wayne, Pa. 19087 Fred Levitt, Bags Don James, Laminations (610) 695-9200 FAX (610) 251-1362	Laminated Bags Met. Cold Seal	Paper/Film Film/Foil/Film Film/Film Film/Paper w/Film Liner Paper w/Film Liner Various Various	>> >	1 111			V		V	
Hargro Packaging 415 Eagleview Blvd. Exton, Pa.19341 Dick Abbott, V.P., Marketing (215) 458-7422 FAX (215) 458-7428	Met. Cold Seal Coex	RipGard™ OPP/OPP Super Block™ I OPP/Adh./PVdC/OPP Super Block™ II OPP/PE/PVdC/OPP HB OPP/Adh./LDPE OPP/Adh./LDPE OPP/PE/Met. PET/Sealant OPP/PE/Met. BON/Sealant OPP/Adh./Met. OPP OPP/PE/Met. OPP Met. PET/Sealant Paper/Film/Cold Seal Met. PET/OPP/Cold Seal PP/Paper/Cold Seal Film/Cold Seal Various	***************************************	******	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	V	1111	1 1111 11	دردر در درد	
Himac Inc. 457 Main St., Suite 4B Danbury, Conn. 06811 Dave McKee, V.P., Sales & Market (404) 505-1203; FAX (404) 505-1	Met. ing 302	PET Biaxally Oriented Nylon CPP	v v	v		222	V	11		
Hoechst Diafoil Corp. P.O. Box 1400 Greer, S.C. 29652 Ed Koinskie, Industry Specialist (803) 879-5754; FAX (803) 879-5	Coated	Hostaphan 2007/2660 2660 Hostaphan 2DEF/2DEH	*	33	*		11			
ICI Americas Inc., Films Div. Concord Plaza 3411 Silverside Rd. Wilmington, Del. 19850 Bill Nelson, Marketing Mgr., PFL I (302) 887-8166; FAX (302) 887-1	Films 1742	Melinex 813/840 PET Melinex 800 PET Melinex 850H, 851H Heat-Sealable PET	111	***	***		222			
Lawson Mardon Flexible Inc. 3800 N. Wilkes Rd., Suite 150 Arlington Heights, Ill. 60004 Tom Grey, V.P., Sales & Marketing (708) 590-2800 FAX (708) 590-2829	Monolayer Laminated Met. Coated	Printed OPP/Cohesive Printed LDPE Printed Cello OPP/Ink/Adh./OPP OPP/PE/OPP Cello/Ink/Adh./OPP OPP/Ink/Adh./LDPE PET/Ink/Adh./Poly OPP/Ink/Adh./Met. OPP OPP/Ink/Adh./OPP/Cohesive OPP/Ink/Adh./Met. OPP/Cohesive	2	111 111					>	*********
Milprint, Inc., A Bemis Co. 2451 Badger Ave. P.O. Box 2968 Oshkosh, Wis. 54903-2968 Mike Miller, Marketing Mgr. (414) 236-8600 FAX (414) 236-8610	Met. Cold Seal Flexographic Print Rotogravure Print	OPP/OPP PP/PE Paper/Sealant Glassine/Sealant Met. OPP/Sealant OPP/Ink/Adh./Met. PET/Cold Seal OPP/Cold Seal Lacquer/Ink/Adh./Met./ PET/OPP/Cold Seal 8-color, All Structures 8-color, All Structures							******* **	
Mobil Chemical Co., Films Div. 1150 Pittsford-Victor Rd. Pittsford, N.Y. 14534 Tony Orea, Marketing Assistant (716) 248-1193 FAX (716) 248-1075	NAME OF TAXABLE PARTY.	Mobil Metallyte OPP Met. HB OPP Bicor HBS2 OPP Bicor PXS OPP Bicor LTSC OPP Bicor AOH OPP Bicor AOH OPP Bicor AXT OPP Procor AB-X OPP Bicor ASB OPP Bicor ASB OPP Bicor ASB-X OPP	**********	**************	***************************************	CO	NTIN	VUED	ON P.	AGE 4

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				SNACK TYPE							
Company	Process	Structure	Salted	Cookies	Crackers	Meat	Nuts	Fruit	Candy	Oth	
Mobil Chemical Co., Films Div. continued)	Coex Slip Opaque, Coated Opaque, Uncoated	Bicor BSR-One OPP Bicor SPW OPP Bicor HSH OPP Bicor LBW OPP Bicor LCM-W OPP OPPalyte HSTW OPP OPPalyte HSW OPP OPPalyte ASW OPP OPPalyte TW OPP OPPalyte WOS OPP OPPalyte HTW OPP	11 11	1111111111	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,		>>	7	22222		
Packaging Products Corp. 1800 W. 61st St. Mission, Kan. 66201 ack Joslin, President 913) 262-3033	Met. Coated Monolayer	PP/Ext./PP PP/Adh./PP PP/Ext./PE PP/Adh./PE PET/Ext./PP PET/Adh./PP PP/Ext./PP PP/Adh./PP PET/Ext./PP PET/Adh./PP PET/Ext./PP PET/Adh./PP PET/Extrusion Coating PET/Extrusion Coating PP PET PE Cellophane	*************	, , , , , ,	v		**		***************************************		
acquet Oneida Inc. 0 Clifton Blvd. .O. Box 449 lifton, N.J. 07015 elmut Kern, V.P. 201) 777-5600/(800) 631-8388 AX (201) 777-2155	Laminated Met. Coated	OPP/PE/PVdC/OPP OPP/Adh./OPP OPP/PE/OPP OPP/Adh./Met. PP OPP/PE/Met. OPP 250K/Adh./Met. PET OPP	2222	, ,,,,	2		~		22		
aramont Packaging Corp. D2 Oak Ave. halfont, Pa. 18914 avid J. Fahey irector, Sales & Marketing 215) 997-4396 AX (215) 997-4427	Rotogravure or	OPP/Adh. Ext./LDPE PET/Adh. Ext./OPP LDPE/Adh. Ext./Met. OPP LDPE/Adh. Ext./Met. PET LDPE/Adh. Ext./Met. LDPE	*****	*****	*****	2222	2222	2222	2222		
rintpack Inc. 335 Wendell Dr. Itlanta, Ga. 30336 usan Folds orp. Communications Mgr. 404) 691-5830 AX (404) 699-6116	Met. Bar Wrap Multipack Bag	OPP/Adh./OPP OPP/LDPE/OPP PET/LDPE OPP/LDPE OPP/LDPE/Foil/PE PET/LDPE/Foil/Ionomer OPP/LDPE/OPP OPP/LDPE/OPP OPP/LDPE/LDPE Paper/LDPE/Foil/LDPE/LDPE OPP OPET Sigma Pak APET WOPP/Pattern Cold Seal PVdC Coated WOPP/PCS OPP/Adh./WOPP/PCS OPP/Adh./Met. PET/PCS OPP/PCS Acrylic Coated OPP PVdC Coated WOPP OPP/LDPE PET/LDPE PET/LDPE LDPE/LDPE	111 1111 111	دردر درد در	11 11 11	1 11	***************************************	111111 11			

Company	Process	Structure	Salted	Cookies	Crackers	Meat	Nuts	Fruit	Candy	Other
601 E. Lake St. Streamwood, III. 60107-4195	Met. Coex	Normet XLW Normet CW LTS-1, 2 (Low-Temp Sealant) CLD (Cold Seal) CW-S (Low COF) RAP (Shrink) CW CGW CGW CGW-3 HBHE (High Barrier, High Energy)	ננג נ ננ	11 1 1111	******		22	V	>> >>>>>>	, ,,,,
Plicon Corp. 1700 Concord Blvd. Columbus, Ga. 31904-4442 Don Plote, V. P., Sales & Marketing (706) 327-0234; FAX (706) 322-33		Met. PET/PE PET/OPP/Foil/PE OPP/OPP OPP/PE	***	1111		1111	***	***	222	
Holcomb, N.Y. 14469	Plain Corona-Treated Coex Coated	PET, Various Gauges PET, Various Gauges Co-PET, Heat Sealable PET/PVdC, PVOH	>>>	111	333	****	>>>	***		
9905 S. Ridgeview Dr.	Laminated Coated Met.	Flexfilm Custom Laminations Custom Laminations	111	131	777	222	>>>	>>>	>>>	>>>
	Clear Coex Metal Coex Barrier Coex Barrier Metal Coex Non-Seal Coex	XAS-T XDAS-TM BXAS-T BXDAS-T AP-T	*****	*****	*****		****	****	****	*****
Smurfit Flexible Packaging 1228 E. Tower Rd. Schaumburg, III. 60173 Joe Marinacci, V.P., Sales & Marketing (708) 884-1200 FAX (708) 884-7206	Met. Coated	PP/PP CelloIPP Nylon/PE PETIPE PET Nylon PP PET PP Nylon	**********			********		***********		H.S.A.S.
Toray Plastics (America) Inc. 50 Belver Ave. North Kingstown, R.I. 02852 Rick Schloesser, V.PSales/Marketing, Torayfan (401) 294-4511 FAX (401) 294-1480	Met. Coex Other (matte)	PWX2 OPP PWS OPP PMX OPP PC1 OPP YL82 OPP Various OPP YM OPP F59 OPP	******	*******	***					
Union Industries Inc. 10 Admiral St.	Laminated Met.	Various Various	~	*	*	22	2	2	1	~

Adh.—Adhesive
Coex—Coextruded
EVA—Ethylene Vinyl Acetate
Kraft—Paper
OPET—Oriented Polyethylene Terephthalate
PET—Polyethylene Terephthalate
*Preformed bags

APET—Amorphous Polyethylene Terephthala CPP—Cast Polypropylene Ext.—Extrusion Laminated LDPE—Low-Density Polyethylene OPP—Oriented Polypropylene

PS—Polystyrene

BON—Biaxially oriented nylon
EVOH—Ethylene Vinyl Alcohol
HDPE—High-Density Polyethylene
Met.—Metallized
PE—Polyethylene
PVdC—Polyvinylidene Chloride

SNACK TYPE