

QwikPak™

UNIFILL SETS THE NEW FRONTIER OF FLEXIBLE PACKAGING

When a new type of packaging has to be selected for a re-closable container with filling volumes between 200 and 500ml, the search almost always ends up with a compromise, since too many variables have to be considered and too many elements have to be evaluated, concerning costs, flexibility, appeal, equipment capital investment, etc.

In recent years, the choice of the decision-makers has often taken the shape of a dilemma, whether to privilege the flexibility offered by a Pouch or the personalization offered by a Blown Bottle.

Pouches are soft and practical and, although their unit cost is not low, they can be purchased to be filled and capped on dedicated lines. But Pouches cannot have shape and look almost look alike. And this is what marketing people don't like.

Bottles are sometimes preferred as this kind of packaging is more easily identified with "premium" products and, what is more important, bottles can be shaped in order to differentiate one product from the others. Bottles can be blown in-house but blow-moulding machines are extremely expensive and so are change-over sets. The alternative is to buy ready blown-bottles although this imply costs of transportation and stocking space. Also, the filling lines must include unscrambling and rinsing units.

At INTERPACK 2008, UNIFILL will be presenting the **TF-400**, a brand new Thermoform Fill & Seal machine suitable for the production of a new type of spouted & capped container called *QwikPak*™.

QwikPak™ containers are produced on the TF-400 of UNIFILL likewise all other Unifill-type containers, i.e. starting from a reel of plastic material with thickness ranging between 200 and 600 microns.

The machine unwinds the film and the film is consequently taken through a patented 5-stations unit where it is pre-heated and pre-sealed, the spout is applied and the thermoforming is completed. The formed containers are subsequently filled, capped and finally conveyed to the final station where the containers are individually shaped cut.

The container that is obtained, is flexible but shaped and smartly combines all the advantages of Pouches (softness, nice printing possibility, possibility to use different type of packaging materials with different barriers), with those of Blown Bottles (possibility to shape the container, possibility to produce rigid containers, marketing appeal). In addition to this, some other extremely interesting advantages are there such as the line flexibility and the low change-over costs that are typical of FF&S systems.

Depending on the final application as well as on final packaging requirements, *QwikPak*™ can be produced using soft or rigid plastic materials.

The **TF-400** machine can produce *QwikPak*™ containers with volumes ranging between 50 and 500ml and can reach a speed up to 200 units/minute.

Thanks to its modular concept, the **TF-400** machine can be set up to either produce finished "filled & capped" containers or empty spouted containers ready for being filled and capped on conventional lines.

The *QwikPak*™ is ideal for a great variety of food and non-food applications such as "on-the-go" drinks, purified water, sauces, detergents, etc.