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First recyclable strip packaging for pharma solids by Romaco and Huhtamaki

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Market's first-ever recyclable unit the 'Push Pack model' with proven heat-sealing technology is a step towards sustainable pharmaceutical packaging

At the upcoming CPhI Worldwide in Frankfurt (Germany), Romaco and Huhtamaki will show the first recyclable strip packaging for pharmaceutical solids. An HM 1-230 heat-sealing machine from Romaco Siebler will be used to manufacture the Push Packs.

Pharmaceutical manufacturer Romaco Siebler and foil specialist Huhtamaki are about to launch the market's first-ever recyclable unit dose packaging for solid pharmaceutical products. The newest Push Pack model is made from recyclable polyolefin laminate. The unique structure of the strip packaging foil enables it to be recycled back into the material loop. More than 90% of the components which are used to make the packaging belong to the same material class (PE and PP). The result is a primary packaging recycling rate of better than 70%. Huhtamaki's innovative foil is processed into four-side sealed strips with a push-through function using Romaco Siebler's proven heat-sealing technology. Romaco and Huhtamaki developed the recyclable Push Packs as a joint step towards more sustainable pharmaceutical packaging.

Push Packs save material and costs

As far as the eco-balance is concerned, the packaging forms in the Push Pack product family have inherent advantages over conventional blister packs. This is due to the significantly lower material consumption, especially in direct comparison with Al/Al blisters. The Push Pack foil exhibits the same barrier properties as blister foil but is much thinner and lighter. The heat-sealing machines in Romaco Siebler's HM 1 series process this ultra-thin primary packaging foil into air, light and moisture-tight push-through strips. The QuickSeal technology was developed by Siebler specifically for handling laminates with an aluminium foil thickness of between 9 µm and 25 µm. Push Packs are consequently less than half the weight of Al/Al blisters. The material saving is additionally reflected in the costs: Push Packs are up to 60% cheaper than Al/Al blisters.

PVC-free

Regardless of whether the standard, barrier or eco version of the Push Packs is chosen, all packaging forms are made from PVC-free material. Since the relatively small cavities in the Push Packs also mean smaller air pockets, the medicines have a longer shelf life. Romaco can supply the push-through sealed strips in various geometries and designs on request. All Push Packs have a large surface that can be printed on both sides. Siebler heat-sealing machines pack between 800 and 7000 tablets per minute depending on requirements.

Romaco at CPhI 2019

Romaco will be represented at this year's CPhI Worldwide in Frankfurt at three separate booths. At the booth of the specialist engineering firm's parent company Truking (110C30), Romaco will show all-in-one solutions for pharmaceutical applications. Romaco Innojet will exhibit the VENTILUS® V 2.5 processing machine at the stand of its industry partner Biogrund (102C22). Interested trade visitors will moreover have a chance to experience Push Packs live in the making on a Romaco Siebler HM 1 heat-sealing machine at the Huhtamaki booth (111B53).

On show at CPhI Worldwide in Frankfurt/Main (Germany) from 5 to 7 November 2019, Messe Frankfurt: Stand 110C30 (Truking), Stand 102C22 (Biogrund) and Stand 111B53 (Huhtamaki).

More than 650 highly skilled and committed Romaco employees are dedicated to the development of future product technologies and to the continuous implementation of internal improvement processes.