Press Information

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Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG

P.O. Box
69159 Wiesloch
Germany

Gutenbergring
69168 Wiesloch

Matthias Hartung

Phone
Fax

Matthias.Hartung@heidelberg.com
www.heidelberg.com

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Fachpack 2025: HEIDELBERG and Solenis present new process for the economical production of barrier-coated flexible paper packaging solutions

- **New inline process for applying barrier coatings integrated into flexographic web printing system Boardmaster**
- **HEIDELBERG reinforces its position as a full-service provider of in the attractive growth market of high-volume fiber-based packaging solutions**

With regard to a functioning circular economy, flexible paper packaging as a substitute for plastics, also known as "paperization," is becoming increasingly important. Flexible paper packaging is predicted to grow by 4.5 percent annually until the end of the decade. An expert survey conducted by the Baden-Württemberg Cooperative State University Heilbronn (DHBW) and Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG (HEIDELBERG) confirms this trend. As the head of the study, Prof. Dr. Carsten Kortum, says, "This is not a short-term trend, but a profound change driven by new legal requirements, increased environmental awareness in conjunction with changing consumer behavior, and technological innovations."

However, the big challenge is to find suitable materials that act as a barrier to water, water vapor, hot and cold liquids, oils, and fats, while also fulfilling the sustainability principle of a circular economy. Until now, however, paper packaging, which had to fulfill important barrier functions for food, beverages, cosmetics, and certain non-food items, had reached its technical limits. HEIDELBERG, together with Solenis, a leading manufacturer of barrier coatings, has now achieved a breakthrough. The results will be presented at Fachpack 2025 in Nuremberg.

HEIDELBERG is a strong driving force behind paperization.

The process developed jointly by Solenis and HEIDELBERG enables the industrial, partial and therefore cost-effective application of barrier coatings to paper packaging. As a system integrator, HEIDELBERG has integrated Solenis' technology into the flexographic web printing process with the Boardmaster. During the ongoing process, the barriers are transferred to the paper web with precise registration only at the necessary points. The aim of the collaboration is to leverage the advantages of the individual Boardmaster assemblies for applying Solenis barrier coatings in order to make the process technology quickly and easily available to packaging producers.

"Economic innovations are crucial if we are to replace plastic packaging with recyclable or compostable paper packaging. By collaborating with Solenis to develop coatings and inks and produce coated paper packaging inline, HEIDELBERG is reinforcing its claim to be a strong driving force behind paperization," says Dr. David Schmedding, CSO at HEIDELBERG. "We are thus acting as a full-service provider of end-to-end solutions in the growth market of mass production of fiber-based packaging solutions."

Innovative applications in focus at the Fachpack trade fair presentation

At this year's Fachpack (September 23 to 25 in Nuremberg), HEIDELBERG and Solenis will present the innovative process at their joint booth 4A-342 in Hall 4. Visitors will receive samples to take away so they can test the results of the coating process for themselves. Experts from HEIDELBERG and Solenis will be on hand at Fachpack to talk to interested parties about the future of sustainable paper packaging production.

About HEIDELBERG

Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG (HEIDELBERG) is a leading technology company that has been standing for innovation, quality, and reliability in mechanical engineering worldwide for 175 years. With a clear focus on growth and as a total solution provider, HEIDELBERG is driving further development in the core areas of packaging and digital printing, software solutions, and lifecycle business with service and consumables so that customers can achieve maximum productivity and efficiency.
The company is also focusing on expanding into new business areas such as high-precision plant engineering with integrated control systems, automation technology, robotics, and the growing green technologies sector. With its strong international presence in approximately 170 countries, the creative power and expertise of its roughly 9,500 employees, its own production facilities in Europe, China, and the USA, and one of the largest global sales and service networks, the company is ideally positioned for future growth.

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Image 1: At Fachpack 2025 in Nuremberg, HEIDELBERG and Solenis presented a jointly developed innovative process for barrier coatings on flexible paper packaging for food, beverages, cosmetics, and certain non-food items.

Image 2: Together with Solenis, HEIDELBERG is expanding the range of applications for the Bordmaster in the attractive segment of flexible paper packaging.

Images and further information about the company are available in the press portal of Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG at www.heidelberg.com and in the Media Library.

For further information:
Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG
Group Communications
Matthias Hartung
Phone: +49 (0)6222 82-67174
Email: matthias.hartung@heidelberg.com