

“In terms of machinery range, we have moved a lot in the last 10 years!”

C2 in an exclusive interview with Teddy Burckhardt, managing director of Burckhardt of Switzerland AG in Basel



Teddy Burckhardt



The entry-level machine B-SMART



EOS: an integrated carrying handle for tertiary packaging

C2: Mr Burckhardt, a few weeks ago the converting industry had its big reunion at ICE Europe. What is your personal summary of this first major live trade fair?

Teddy Burckhardt: Basically, it was nice to be at a real trade fair again and to be able to talk to people 1:1. This is a first step out of the Covid crisis. The presence at the fair was okay. We had about half the contacts we had at previous ICE fairs. The decision of the organisers to hold the fair again in 2023 has certainly also contributed to the fact that many have refrained from participating this year.

C2: How did you experience the pandemic phase in your company? What has changed since then?

T. Burckhardt: We weathered the pandemic phase well. We introduced compulsory masks at an early stage and our employees complied with them in an exemplary manner. In the final phase of the Covid pandemic in Switzerland, i.e. February/March, we had some absences of staff who had to remain in quarantine with mild symptoms.

C2: In rotary needle perforation, BURCKHARDT covers a wide range of requirements. Can you give us details of your offer here?

T. Burckhardt: Our machine spectrum now covers the range from the entry-level machine “B-SMART”, which offers trailed cold perforation, to the high-end solution with two driven and electronically synchronised rollers for male/female and also 3D perforation.

In between we offer our most versatile machine PAB-H which covers many areas and can also be adapted modularly. Some special designs as well as high performance perforating machines like the Hot-Speed complete the range. In the last 10 years, we have made great strides in our machine range and have been able to learn a great deal, also thanks to the development of perforating solutions on behalf of customers; this is reflected in improvements to the existing machine types. We will soon be introducing a new all-round perforating machine, but I don't want to reveal too much about that yet ...

C2: Your company is also very active in research and development. What can customers expect in your in-house laboratory?

T. Burckhardt: In our perforating laboratory we can carry out simple tests or test series as well as perforate material under industrial conditions. Typically, the customer first sends sample material, which we analyse and then carry out the desired tests in consultation with the customer. This is often an iterative process that then leads to the desired result. We can also offer the necessary 0-series or initial productions as contract perforation. Thus we offer – enriched with our know-how – a practical development platform, which allows our customers to make several development steps with us without having to invest in their own plant in advance. The production plant for the customer is then in turn specified and built by us in such a way that the desired results are well achieved.

C2: You have caused quite a stir with EOS, an integrated carry handle in tertiary packaging. Can you tell us more about this innovation?



In the perforating laboratory at BURCKHARDT, simple tests or test series can be carried out; furthermore, material can be perforated under industrial conditions

T. Burckhardt: This concerns the packs of six PET bottles (typically water) that are shrink-wrapped with a handle, making them easier to carry. Here we have developed a handle that is made of the same material as the shrink film. Since less material is used, we have a solution that reduces resource consumption and at the same time drastically increases the recyclability

of the packaging. We are now developing this win-win solution to series maturity with one of the major market players. If this goes as planned, we will see the product in shops this year.

C2: Given the difficult economic and political situation in Europe, what are your

expectations and hopes for the coming months and years?

T. Burckhardt: At the moment, despite the difficult procurement situation, it is important to maintain the ability to deliver. Fortunately, we strengthened our supply chain management a few years ago; this is now benefiting us. In the short term, I think that the lockdown situations in China will put further pressure on the market and exacerbate the bottlenecks. In the medium term, I expect the markets to relax and become saturated, as many products are currently being ordered in stock, also for safety reasons. This will calm the situation down. Nevertheless, I see the borderless globalisation slowing down somewhat, as many producers now prefer to consider local suppliers that are a bit more expensive instead of working with uncertain partners only on the basis of price.

From this I also draw confidence that a company like Burckhardt with innovative products and traditional values will still have a long future! ■

Image sources: Burckhardt of Switzerland

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