

EXPANSION REQUIRES THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY

Tim Klee reports on how screen-printing has helped a specialist company grow its horizons



Murray Bain, Stanpac's Vice President of Marketing

Stanpac manufactures packaging supplies for the US and Canadian markets. To grow its beer, wine and spirits bottle decorating business, the company needed to upgrade its existing decorating machines which were old and could not handle organic inks. In addition, the new equipment had to handle efficiently the unique shapes and vibrant colours that the beer, wine and spirits market uses to make its products stand out on the shelf.

Based on its positive track record with Kammann equipment, Stanpac turned to KBA-Kammann for the latest decorating technology. Last year it installed a five-colour K15 CNC-M18 fully automatic, CNC controlled, universal screen-printing machine with UV drying and a K31 A glass pre-treatment unit.

THE STANPAC STORY

Stanpac started manufacturing caps for glass milk bottles in 1949 and, as the dairy industry moved away from glass bottles, the company diversified and moved into ice cream



Stanpac's head-quarters in southern Ontario

packaging, which is now the largest part of its business. "We do everything from paper forming to die-cutting to flexo and litho printing," says Murray Bain, Vice President of Marketing. "We even offer ice cream filling equipment."

With decorated milk bottles experiencing a new growth, the company continues to supply them and other supplies to those in the dairy industry that rely on refillable glass. These include organic dairies, local dairies that produce milk on the farm, and companies that provide home delivery of milk.

As much as Stanpac loves the dairy industry, it recognised that it needed to get more out of its capabilities. Taking advantage of its glass decorating expertise, Stanpac branched out into producing packaging and ceramic labelling for wine, liquor, and beer bottles. Head-quartered in southern Ontario, one of Canada's two main wine producing areas, the company benefited from the surge in popularity of Canadian Ice Wine.

With seven patents in more than 20 countries, the company is recognised by its customers as innovative and customer focused. "We pride ourselves in listening to our customers and offering solutions to unique problems," offers Bain.

OPENNESS AND FLEXIBILITY

This openness and flexibility also manifests itself in how it helps the community solve problems. Since 2001, Stanpac, through its owner Steve Witt, has donated space in its Smithville, Ontario facility to a local organisation that provides food and emergency assistance for needy families and individuals. Recently, its facility in Brenham, Texas, also got into the act when the manager of a resale boutique geared to seniors needed a new accessible site for its store since the existing one was being torn down. Stanpac responded by providing the space and doing all the work to make it wheelchair accessible. Bain notes: "As a family-run business, people are important, too; not only our own people but also the families in our communities."

GETTING THE RESULTS

Stanpac operates the K 15-CNC on a three-shift basis and is able to produce all of its existing work along a sizeable increase in business. The servo-driven system easily handles the unique shapes and designs requirements of the beer, wine and spirits market. A seam detection system, a bottom



Ice wine has seen a surge in popularity

register camera and an optical registration sensor greatly improved productivity and print accuracy. "The eight color job we just completed required two passes," Bain comments. "But, with the optical sensor, set up was easy and the registration was spot on."

The K31 A pre-treatment unit enabled the company to begin its transition from ceramic to organic inks. "Our customers love the vibrant colours we have been able to achieve with both organic and UV inks," Bain adds. Stanpac also planned for the future by choosing a machine configuration that allows the addition of four more stations.

Stanpac employs over 350 people and has facilities in Smithville, Ontario Canada and in Brenham, Texas USA ■

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