PDC Enters the New Decade with Technology to Meet Specific Industry Challenges

Systems are engineered to meet the needs of product manufacturers and contract packagers.

Taking the lead is the new 60 Series Evolution Shrinksealer (left), which applies both full-height body sleeves and tamper evident bands – a huge advantage for in-house and contract packagers alike. Also in the spotlight is the new KST Steam Tunnel with Integrated Steam Generator. (shown right – see story, this issue.)

Also generating interest is the new F-160 Evolution Shrinkbander, which applies shrinkbands to tapered and straight-wall tubs used for dairy spreads, ice cream, oatmeal, cultured products, yogurt and dessert toppings.

Red Bull Charges Energy Shot Market with PDC Shrinkseal Technology

Red Bull has rolled-out Red Bull Energy Shot and Red Bull Sugar-free Shot. These concentrated, non-carbonated versions of the world’s leading energy drink come in re-sealable 2 oz. bottles that are fully sleeved and perfectly shrink labeled, thanks to a PDC Model 75 ERL. The 75 Series are Zero Downtime Tamper-Evident Bander/Labelers that also apply neck bands.

PDC 75 Series Shrinksealers apply tamper-evident bands and shrink labels at up to 400 containers per minute, and can incorporate tear tab blades or slit tab blades. Maximum speeds depend on sleeve dimensions. Customized features for this high-profile system include an internal accumulator for zero-downtime roll splicing on the fly, and various perforators.

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PDC has commercialized a unique, proprietary technology for precision venting at the junction of bottleneck finishes and caps on a full range of containers, including hospitality sizes, such as those used for room service and in mini-bars, also gift packs and samples.

The venting allows evaporation of moisture, prevents cap corrosion and eliminates the potential of contamination by organic growth.

The new PDC perforation system is an easy retrofit to existing packaging equipment, including PDC’s tamper-evident neck banding machinery, and shrink sleeve labelers. It operates at line speeds up to 400 bpm with sleeve diameter capacity of 1.5” to 7”.

20+ Members Are Key To PDC Quality

PDC takes great pride in the quality and capability of its systems, and the exceptional employees who engineer, manufacture, test and service those systems.

Many PDC employees have been with the company for 20 years or more and have earned a place in our 20+ Club. This kind of longevity is rare at many companies, but something we strive for as part of our commitment to providing the world’s most robust, and most reliable, packaging solutions.

Here are our 20+ Club members, along with their years of service. During their 20th anniversary year, these exceptional employees and a guest are treated to a one-week cruise to Bermuda as our way of saying “thank you” for a job well done!

> Eileen Quinn, 28 years
> Neal Konstantin, 26
> Carlos Cordero, 22
> Mauro Erazo, 22
> Dennis Doherty, 22
> Mark Granata, 22
> Bill Lockwood, 22
> Bill Frager, 21
> Kendall Giddiens, 20

Recently retired 20+ Club members – Gonzalo “Chalo” Rojas and Tom Deberadinis

20+ Members Are Key To PDC Quality

Recently installed PDC systems include:

- TASTY TOPPINGS - Two R-200 Evolution shrink labelers for a strong regional mid-western salad dressing company.
- PASTEURIZADORA RICA - KST 80-1114 Steam Tunnel for shrink labeling protein powders for the Dominican Republic's largest dairy, which exports throughout North and Central America.
- BERRY PLASTICS - 50-ERL Shrinksealer for pre-decorating blow molded bottles.
- SANDIA LABS - 50-M2 for sleeving live ordnance during decommissioning and recycling.
- SAFEWAY - 75C-ER for tamper-evident banding hot-filled table syrups.
- CAROLINA BEER & BEVERAGE - 75-ER for shrink labeling energy shots.
- SAFEWAY - (3) F-180 Shrinkbanders for applying tamper-evident bands on ice cream containers, replacing competitor's machinery.
- CLEMENT-PAPPAS - R-500 Shrinklabeler and steam tunnels for labeling large juice bottles.
- JUS-MADE - R-300 for labeling spherical-shaped beverage bottles.
- ACADIANA PLASTICS - Marburg M-625 Labeler and PDC KST 55-712 Steam Tunnel for labeling empty dairy bottles in the blow molding operation.
- CREATE-A-PACK - Two KST 55-712 Steam Tunnels for shrinking labels on asymmetrical squeeze bottles for dessert toppings.
- COTT BEVERAGE - Marburg M-500 Labeler and PDC KST 55-712 Steam Tunnel for labeling energy shot bottles.
- DELTA BEVERAGE - R-500 Shrinklabeler for labeling energy drinks at high speeds for the Canadian market.
- McILHENNY (Tabasco) - 75-M Shrinksealer to apply tamper-evident seals on hot sauce products. This is their 5th PDC tamper-evident banding system.

PDC’s new KST 55 is a high quality steam tunnel that incorporates many of the engineering features (including proprietary nozzle positioning technology and dual-wall stainless steel construction) which have distinguished its larger capacity tunnels and labeling systems. Mounted near the stainless tunnel frame is a compact steam generator ready for production — no need for external steam sources.

The KST 55 is a single-zone system that precisely focuses the application of heat, minimizing energy use, optimizing container appearance, and minimizing the risk of container distortion.

With the optional Electronic Regulator, tunnel temperatures are self-monitoring and adjust continuously to compensate for the “thermal loads” of incoming product. This makes the KST 55 ideal for full and cold containers.

Arthur’s Fresh Company chose a PDC R-300 Shrinklabeler for full body shrink labeling of their category-leading smoothies and juices. The Arthur’s packaging design communicates the company’s commitment to environmental stewardship in an exceptionally designed bottle that maximizes visual appeal. Arthur’s packaging is 100 percent recyclable.

PDC has introduced the “Ambiance” Hot Air™ Shrink Tunnels. These dry-heat tunnels were engineered and field-tested in conjunction with PDC Europe, in Montdidier, France, with successful installations throughout Europe and the Americas. Based on twenty years of heat tunnel experience, they are ideal for shrink sleeve labels and multi-packs.

PDC Ambiance shrink tunnels use three dry-heat technologies: re-circulating hot air, blown hot air and PDC’s proprietary “SPAF” system, which injects cool air into the sleeve, controlling the areas of greatest shrink. Ambiance produces highly consistent “steam-like” results where the use of steam is impractical or unavailable.

Ambiance provides perfect control of the sleeve temperature, from room temperature to shrink temperature. Highly efficient and low in wattage, Ambiance warms re-circulated air only when needed, saving energy.
Based on refinement of PDC’s successful existing patents, the F-160 Shrinkbander uses dual servos for product handling and sleeve feeding, and applies tamper-evident bands 1 to 2.3 inches (25 to 60 mm) in height, and 2.5 to 6.75 inches (63 to 172 mm) in diameter. Line speeds are 30 to 400 cpm, depending on container dimensions.

“With the introduction of these systems, and our engineering and development efforts,” says Neal Konstantin, “we have positioned PDC for the upturn. We believed that by never getting bogged down by negative headlines, and staying focused on R&D, we made excellent use of the time we had available when activity levels were slower. “Now,” he adds, “it’s full speed ahead.”

Meet Dan Capell, the head of PDC’s Western Region based in Anaheim, CA. Dan has more than 30 years experience in the development and implementation of shrink sleeve and tamper-evident labeling systems for a broad range of products.

“Dan has a proven track record of sales success and customer relationship experience,” said Gary Tantimonico, Vice President of Operations. “We are confident that he will serve our established base of customers well, and further differentiate PDC as the supplier of choice for heat shrink labeling and tamper-evident banding equipment.”