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Gillette's collaboration with Colbert Packaging results in a switch to BlisterGuard's eco-friendly clamshell alternative.

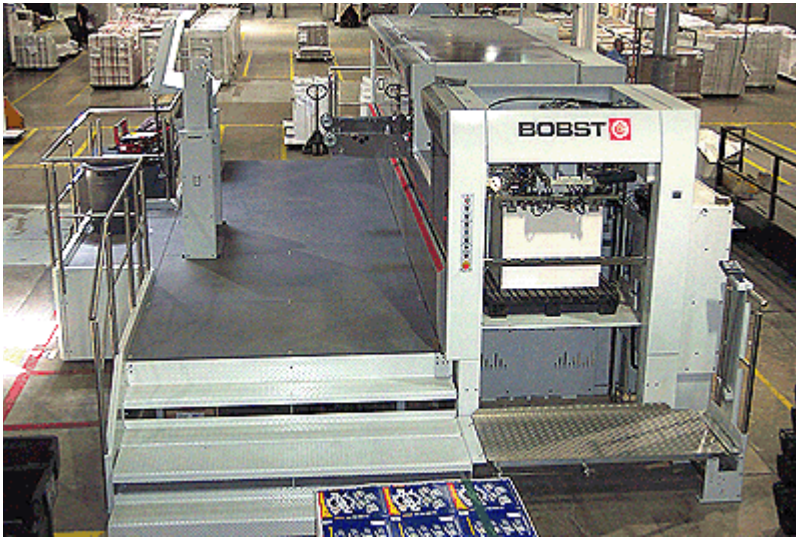
Colbert Packaging Corp., a manufacturer of folding cartons, rigid paper boxes, and paperboard specialty products, is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Bill Snyder, VP of operations, says the company's longevity — and continued success — is due to its ongoing investment in research and development, as well as new equipment and technologies.

The company's folding carton, flexographic packaging, and pressure-sensitive label operations are based in Lake Forest, IL; an additional folding carton facility is located in Elkhart, IN, along with rigid box production. Manufacturing facilities are a combined 340,000 sq ft.

Equipment at its Lake Forest folding carton plant, which primarily produces pharmaceutical packaging, includes a new seven-color, 28x40-in. Mitsubishi Diamond 3000 tandem perfecter, which prints six colors on the front side and one color on the back. Because 21% of its jobs have two-sided printing, Snyder says the new press eliminates the need for a second pass on many cartons.

“A lot of pharmaceutical companies right now are looking to put more print and instructions on the back side of the carton as well as the front because they need more space,” he explains. “The unique thing about this press is that it will print the back side and the front side in one pass, even with the same side gripper. The idea is to get good registration front and back.”

Along with the new press, Colbert also installed the Simulchange automatic plate-changing system that will change all seven plates in one minute. Because of the tandem feature of the press, it runs at a maximum speed of 13,000 sheets/hr. The new press complements a recently upgraded Mitsubishi with updated inking and computer systems, “so really they're interchangeable,” explains Snyder.



Colbert Packaging has made an investment in its die-cutting capabilities with a new Expertcut Autoplaten unit from Bobst Group.

Also new is an Expertcut Autoplaten die-cutter from Bobst Group. The machine is said to provide state-of-the-art register systems, intelligent feeders, and quick-change tooling, complemented by an ergonomic design.

The facility also houses ten Bobst folder/glueers and serves as the Beta site for an Advanced Vision Technology Orion inspection system. The separate Lake Forest flexo facility has four 7-in. and 13-in. Mark Andy presses that print both labels and cartons in up to eight colors.

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