

IMPROVED PRODUCTIVITY



SADA GROUP

The Italian Corrugated Plant and Opts for a Worldwide 'First' Folding Carton Factory Leith Agnati New Technology

In 2002, the factory installed a new Agnati 2.5m corrugator and complete NE Engineering materilas handling system. In 2007, the Sada family had just opened a new factory next to the corrugated plant where they diversified the business into the production of folding cartons. A new KBA press, Bobst flat bed die-cutter and a Bobst gluer where the first machines in a huge factory.

Business is still tough in southern Italy. Against a backdrop of global economic melt-down and a slow, but steady recovery over the last few years, southern Italy is still struggling to rebound. However, there are a few goodwill stories in the region, and Sada Group is one of them. Continuing investment in a variety of projects has meant the company bucks the trend and shows double-digit growth in certain divisions, year on

year. Today, the group of companies employs 300 people and generates over €90 million in turnover.

They bought their first corrugator, a second hand machine, in 1974 and as business prospered, then installed a new corrugator in 1979. In the early 1980s, they acquired a local paper mill and so the family's future in the corrugated industry was clear to all.

"We have always believed in choosing the best equipment on the market," explains Antonio Sada, President and CEO. "For example, in 2001 we were the first company in our region to install a Bobst Masterflex and this set us apart from our competitors. In the same vein, we were the first corrugated company in the area to set-up a micro-flute and folding carton factory that was in 2007.





Up until 2012, the company had been using micro-flute board being produced on the Agnati corrugator at the board plant next door. As production demand grew, so the owners realised they needed a dedicated machine that could run E and F flute broad in a controlled environment. But they also had some other requirements too. For example, they needed a compact machine with minimal footprint and it needed to be run by only two or three people. They contacted BP Agnati to see what could be done.

The Quantum corrugator is a new concept machine. It has been designed for the production of high quality single wall board (all flutes) and has a length of only 45-50 m. However, the Quantum can not be considered just as a compact corrugator, because it includes some major differences in the way it is built and in its production process.

"The Quantum was developed in very close collaboration with Sada who needed a corrugator to produce fine flutes, flat board, a true printing surface quality and a stack quality to allow for subsequent offset post-printing," explains Michael Schmiedt, Sales Director of BP Agnati.

"Furthermore, it had to be capable of producing fine flutes-N and F-with low paper weights, down as low as 40gsm." BP Agnati have totally changed the design of the Quantum corrugator. The single face web exits the Single Facer immediately after the glue is applied to the flute tips and enters the double facer above the bridge. The outside liner is combined from the top.

The Single Facer included in the Quantum is the new BP Vantage, featuring non-metallic roll, which means no pressure marks. The Double Facer has a top and a bottom belt to avoid

contact with the printing surface with the heating plates and shoes. This allows for a reduction in the contact temperature. The machine features low volume heating plates at the bottom and heated pressure shoes on top. Once the single wall board exits the double facer it is slit and cross cut. The stacker is similar to a single face stacker, having front and edge pushers to produce perfect stacks.

In the Quantum system, the process of bonding the liners and fluting is achieved in one phase. The temperature of the liners is adjusted to the temperature necessary for the bonding process, which is in a range between 60-80 °C. "In our view, the Quantum is the ideal machine for folding carton producers who are looking to diversify their product range," states Mr Schmiedt.

Commitment

The Sada Group takes its role in the community and the local environment most seriously. A significant investment in solar panels on the roof of each factory generates a larger proportion of the energy needed to run the plants; surplus energy is sold back to the local power companies. In addition to this, the company is a significant employer in the region and holds all industry-recognised certification, from ISO to FSC and more. "We are proud of our environment and want to protect it for future generations," concludes Antonio Sada. "The stability of our business going forward relies on us looking after our environment and engaging with the local community. Add to this, the on-going relationships with all our various suppliers and we are sure the future of our business is in safe hands.

Source: International Paper Board Industry and Agnati.

