



L to R: Marco Angeli (BW Papersystems), Silvio Cappelletti (CEO and President of Euroscatola) and Carmine Belardo (BW Papersystems).

618 DD MINI FOR EUROSCATOLA



ITALIAN PACKAGING GROUP CHOOSE THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY FLEXO FOLDER GLUER FROM BW PAPERSYSTEMS.

An article commissioned by BW Papersystems.

The story behind Euroscatola is as sad as it is happy. The company was founded back in 1973 by the current President and CEO, Silvio Cappelletti. He set up the business off the back of a family tragedy, in which his father had died in a car accident. "My father had been in the furniture business and this would probably have been where I would have ended up too," explains Mr Cappelletti. "Following my father's death, I was at a loose end and did not know what I wanted to do as I was only a young man. But it was a dinner with an old family friend that changed the rest of my life. He was telling me how frustrated he was with the quality of the packaging he was using for his own business and joked with me that I should start up a packaging company. I didn't think it was such a bad idea,

even though I did not have the first clue about packaging or corrugated. The rest is history!"

With a bit of a shaky start and some assistance from the owner of Bizzozero, Mr Cappelletti set about learning the industry. He spent several weeks working in a sheet plant near Milan and when he felt he knew what he was doing, he went to Bizzozero and bought a few basic machines. After a few false starts (getting sheet board proved almost impossible at a time during the oil crisis of the early 1970s), Mr Cappelletti started to grow his business and within six years, had moved three times. He progressed from his family garage, onto a small factory and finally ended up in a 3,000 sqm factory in Bregnano, the site that they still run from today.

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The early days were focussed on producing basic corrugated boxes, with sales being achieved by door-to-door selling to local businesses. He built up the order book and his customers respected him as an honest, hard working supplier who tried to never miss a delivery deadline. This attention to customer requirements set the business up for good things – today, Mr Cappelletti is joined in the business by his son and daughter. "We have certainly come a long way since the early days in my garage," recounts Mr Cappelletti.

Growing company

Euroscatola has two corrugated sheet plants – one is in Bregnano, north of Milan, (headquarters) and the other in Cantù, about 12km from the headquarters. A third site – which specialises in POS displays and digitally printed packaging – is located 5km from the headquarters.

At the Bregnano plant, the company focuses on long and medium run work. With eight production lines (three casemakers, two printing machines, two die-cutters and one folder gluer), they can manufacture up to four colour printed boxes, primarily for transit packaging. Thanks to a jumbo casemaker, they can also produce very large boxes for industrial uses.

The Cantù plant was acquired from the Eurographic Group and merged with Euroscatola in 2010. It runs a casemaker, three printing machines and die-cutters. With its high quality post print capabilities, the plant produces a wide range of displays as well as litho-laminated packaging for cosmetics and pharmaceuticals, bag-in box for fruit juice and wine, as well as household appliances.

Annual corrugated production from the three plants is 50 million sqm, which generates a group turnover of €40 million. A total of 135 people are employed across the three sites. Packaging is supplied to customers within a 200km radius, reaching as far away as Italy and France. Around 50 per cent of annual production is for transit packaging, with 30 per cent being digital and litho-laminated work and 20 per cent being high quality post printed packaging.

Ups and downs

Mr Cappelletti has always tried to be as fair as possible with his suppliers. "I treat my equipment and material suppliers the way I like to be treated by my own customers," he says.

EUROSCATOLA INVEST

THE 618 DD CAN HANDLE A MAXIMUM SHEET SIZE OF 600 X 1860MM AND MINIMUM SHEET SIZE OF 175 X 400MM – IT CAN PROCESS UP TO 22,500 SHEETS PER HOUR

“Over the forty or so years I have been in business, I have created relationships with my suppliers that will benefit both them and us.”

One of those relationships had been with Curioni. “I had bought several machines from them over the years – their equipment represented good value for money and the machines were pretty reliable,” he continues. “We bought their prototype DD618 mini FFG, but it had many deficiencies. In 2008, we purchased a 3.5m machine and it too performed below our expectations. I was not surprised in 2011 to hear they got bought by Barry-Wehmiller, as they were pretty much finished, but I was concerned about how we would maintain the Curioni machines we had.”

He continues, “Over the course of the next few years, Barry-Wehmiller and MarquipWardUnited worked to build bridges with us, offering spares and service. During this time, I got to know some of their people better and when they told me they were re-engineering and improving the 618 DD Mini, I was certainly interested in looking at what they had to offer. I did get some negative feedback from my own people, as they were worried about service and support levels, but I pushed ahead and last year, signed the order for the new mini flexo folder gluer.”

Market acceptance

Installed in January 2017, the four colour BW Papersystem 618 DD mini flexo folder gluer is manufactured in Lodi, Italy at the previous Curioni headquarters. The machine features Corrusleeve technology for fast plate change, whereby an operator



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"EUROSCATOLA IS A HIGH PERFORMING PLANT AND NEEDED MACHINES THAT COULD HANDLE AROUND 30 DIFFERENT SIZED JOBS PER DAY."



pre-mounts a stereo on a cylinder away from the machine and then simply slides the cylinder into the printing unit without having to open the machine up. It ensures high productivity and has an option that allows a plant to print both the inside and outside of the case in the same pass. To date, BW Papersystems has installed almost 20 such machines at plants around the world. The latest generation machine at Euroscatola is the third such machine sold in Italy in the last year alone.

The 618 DD can handle a maximum sheet size of 600 x 1860mm and minimum sheet size of 175 x 400mm – it can process up to 22,500 sheets per hour. A lead-edge feeder increases production rates without sacrificing quality and the left and right squaring ensures accurate squaring of the sheet prior to feeding.

The machine features direct drive, servo driven, top print flexo units. Each

print station has three motors, driving the plate roll, anilox roll and sheet transfer – this helps ensure excellent registration and is easy to access and maintain. The print units feature stainless steel chamber dual doctor blades, an automatic wash-up system and two separate pumps for the supply and recovery of ink.

Transfer between each section is by way of vacuum transfer system, which provides constant surface speed, enhanced registration and allows for transfer of even warped board. Thanks to a zoned vacuum suction system, the machine adjusts the vacuum according to the sheet size, which means consistent vacuum pressure throughout the print and die-cut process. A motorised 'open and close' function allows for safe and easy access to each machine station.

The slotting section has a four-axis dual slotter. This ensures quick

change between jobs and also means knives have to be replaced less frequently. The unit has pre-creaser and creaser units, which prepares the sheet perfectly for the folder gluer section. The unit also features Mansfield Board Machinery's patented Shok Blok steel to steel tab cutting system, mounted on both slotting axes. After creasing, the sheets enter the top die-cutting unit, with trim and waste being taken from the machine by way of a trim transfer belt.

The enhanced design of the folder gluer section allows for consistent and accurate folding, which is one of the reasons that Euroscatola purchased the machine. Printed and glued cases are then bundled in the top loading counter ejector – a top belt drives the bundle through the unit in order to avoid any shingling of the bundle and a bottom belt is positioned according to the size of the bundle for maximum stability.

About BW Papersystems

The brand identity of BW Papersystems was launched in 2016. A division of Barry-Wehmiller, BW Papersystems combines companies, technologies and experience for the sheeting and packaging, stationery, book binding, security documents and corrugating and finishing industries. BW Papersystems is a combination of nine brands, including: BW Bielomatik (BWB), Curioni, JAG SYNCHRO, Kugler-Womako, MarquipWardUnited (MWU), SHM, VortX, WillPemcoBielomatik (WPB) and Wrapmatic. The company operates manufacturing plants in the USA and Europe, as well as parts and service centres in the USA, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Brazil, Singapore and China.

"The 618 DD is easy to maintain and combines the advantages of a fixed type machine with the benefits of an 'open and close' machine," explains Marco Angeli, New Equipment Sales Leader, BW Papersystems. "It can be easily accessed for cleaning and maintenance, making it the ideal machine for a high productivity plant environment such as Euroscatola. We are delighted that Mr Cappiletti has placed his faith in our new line."

"Euroscatola is a high performing, high output plant and needed machines that could handle around 30 different size jobs per day," explains Carmine Belardo, Sales Executive, BW Papersystems. "They were very clear with us when we began the project that they needed a machine that could not only run fast, but be easy and fast to set-up too. The feedback from the operators so far is that we have provided a machine that can handle their volume of orders comfortably."

Bold future

"Euroscatola is a wonderful adventure that I began just over 40 years ago," concludes Mr Cappiletti. "I've always believed a job should be enjoyable, something you should be involved with and committed to. I think that our strategies will always be based on this vision and so far it has yielded excellent results – it will allow us to keep growing, to improve constantly and to become an even more influential, dynamic and innovative company. Our strategy of continual investment – including the new 618DD Mini from BW Papersystems – will ensure that we face the future challenges with confidence and retain our market position in the Italian corrugated industry." ■

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