



K5000 METALIZER

Lecta group invests in metalizer

THE LECTA GROUP is looking to increase production capacity of metalized papers at its Leitza plant. Andy Thomas reports

The Lecta group has invested in a new metalizer which will provide a 70 percent increase in metalized paper production capacity at its Leitza plant in Spain.

The installation of the machine, which is due to become operational in early 2012, will enable Torraspapel to increase total metalized paper production capacity to meet the needs of a growing market, especially those of the labeling and packaging sectors and to position the company as a leader in the metalized paper segment.

'By going for metalized paper, Torraspapel's aim is to boost production of its range of high added value products and extend its leadership to other segments of the market,' says Xavier Fortea, business manager metalized materials. 'With this investment, we seek to provide a better service and offer high quality products with advanced technology and a high degree of specialization.'

The new machine represents a qualitative leap in the Leitza plant's competitiveness, as well as a making a major contribution to the social and economic development of the region, both through the direct creation of new jobs and the indirect employment generated by increased activity. The company is proud of its deep roots in the territory. 'We have created stable employment and manufacturing high added value special papers supports the development of important expertise,' says Fortea.

The Leitza plant began operations in 1959, and was at the forefront of industry innovation and development as the first paper metalizing plant in Europe. 'This commitment is still a key aspect of the success of the Leitza plant, whose technological enhancements have led to a more competitive mill in terms of both capacity and research and development, as well as a range of high quality metalized papers,' says Fortea. 'Our mission is to continue upholding our commitment to quality and service in order to meet our customers' needs.'

Today, the Lecta group's plant in Leitza has a 139,000 tonne production capacity, a 160,000 meter square total floor space and directly employs 460 people. The products manufactured

at the Leitza plant are sold in 79 countries and 80 percent of its output is exported.

In these times of environmental awareness, Torraspapel extols the advantages of high vacuum metalized paper as a fully recyclable product. 'Owing to its production process, it is much more sustainable than other alternative products such as aluminium laminate, since metalized paper only contains 0.08 grams of aluminium per metre square on its surface,' says Fortea.

Metalvac is targeted at the decoration of beer, spirits and general beverage labels, as well as inner liners, gift wrap and flexible packaging. 'It is suitable for food applications and, due to its excellent performance in industrial washers, for labeling returnable bottles,' says Fortea.

Torraspapel has been part of the Lecta group since December 1999. The paper companies Cartiere del Grada (Italy) and Papeteries de Condat (France) and Torraspapel jointly form the second largest coated paper manufacturing group in Europe. Together, they have a two million tonne total production capacity and a strong client portfolio with over 14,000 customers worldwide.

Torraspapel's total production capacity exceeds just over one million tonnes and it manufactures pulp, coated and uncoated paper, backing paper and specialty products such as metalized, carbonless, thermal, cast-coated and self-adhesive papers. It has seven plants in Spain in which major investments have been made, and each of them specializes in specific product lines with a high degree of integration.

Torraspapel has made numerous investments in a variety of environmental projects, the most notable of which are the production of ECF cellulose, the installation of cogeneration plants and reductions in water consumption and wastewater, in CO₂ emissions and in waste sent to landfill.

In addition, the entire group's plants have PEFC and FSC Chain of Custody certification, which ensures that the wood used in the production process comes from responsibly managed forests. They also have ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) certification.