

trays are equipped with a corresponding plastic sealing layer that can then also be separated from the cardboard after use. The output requirements of the packaging solution significantly influence the decision as to the respective ideal system.

### Processing cardboard backing

Skin packs on the basis of cardboard backing can be produced with MULTIVAC thermoforming packaging machines as well as with traysealers. In contrast to the tray-sealer which processes cut cardboard sheets, the thermoforming packaging machine can use material from a roll, which makes this technology far more flexible in respect of the design of the packs. In addition, processing the material from a roll is also significantly more efficient.

### Processing malleable paper

Similarly, MAP and skin packs made of malleable paper composites can also be produced. Paper and cardboard composites with different grammages and different functional layers are used. Pack cavities with a depth of up to 20 mm can be produced with the standard version of MULTIVAC thermoforming packaging machines. As with the previously mentioned packs, the materials of this pack can also be separated according to type and the paper backing sent for recycling.

### MULTIVAC expertise

In order to achieve optimal results, MULTIVAC supports its customers with comprehensive pack tests that are then used for a holistic assessment of the packs. MULTIVAC, as a system supplier, also offers suitable packaging materials that are designed for processing in packaging machines.

Our pronounced line expertise also enables the development of automatic solutions that fully meet the specific requirements of the processors in terms of output and process reliability. Initial customer projects have already been successfully completed.

In general, MULTIVAC has sufficient experience in the handling of paper-based packs – and will increasingly focus on innovative packaging concepts at future trade fairs. ♦

## MULTIVAC celebrates opening of new production facility in Bulgaria

Yesterday, the new production plant of MULTIVAC Bulgaria Production Ltd was inaugurated in Bozhurishte, near Sofia, with a festive opening ceremony. The guests included Boyko Borissov, Prime Minister of Bulgaria, Emil Karanikolov, Minister of Economy of Bulgaria, Gerogi Dimov, Mayor of Bozhurishte and Franz Josef Pschierer, Bavarian Minister of State for Economic Affairs, Energy and Technology, as well as other government officials and local politicians. Also participating in the celebration were representatives of the Agency for Investment and the National Company Industrial Zones EAD, board members of the German-Bulgarian Chamber of Industry and Commerce and managing directors of MULTIVAC Hans-Joachim Boekstegers, Group CEO and Spokesman, Guido Spix, Group CTO and COO, and Christian Traumann, Group CFO.

The new manufacturing plant of MULTIVAC Bulgaria Production Ltd is located in the industrial area of Bozhurishte and has a total surface area of around 20,000 square metres. In addition to a factory building with the latest technology for the production of MULTIVAC parts, the complex also includes a state-of-the-art warehouse and logistics



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centre, a training centre and an administration building. In addition to the Bulgarian sales and service company headed by Trifon Filipov, an international Shared Service Centre for IT, Strategic Purchasing, Design and Service will also be housed in the new building.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the new production facility was celebrated in September 2016. A total of 18.8 million euros were invested and more than 150 modern and secure jobs were created. Several initiatives were started by the company as far back as 2015 to attract young professionals in IT and logistics, among other areas.

“We are pleased to celebrate the opening of our first production facility in Eastern Europe here in Bozhurishte after a construction period of roughly two and a half years”, said Hans-Joachim Boekstegers, Managing Director and Group CEO of MULTIVAC. “Working in three shifts at this site, qualified specialists will produce machine parts and assemblies that meet the MULTIVAC quality standard. We are using modern turning and milling machines just as we also use at our headquarters in Germany. Incidentally, just a few weeks after commissioning, we are already utilising our full capacity.”

Ivaylo Dimitrov, Managing Director of Bulgaria Production Ltd, added: “We are proud that the MULTIVAC Group has opted for Bulgaria as the place to expand its production capacity. Our goal is to be one of the most modern production sites within the Group and to guarantee the high MULTIVAC standards through our specialists.”

In addition to the new plant in Bulgaria, MULTIVAC has eleven additional production sites in Germany, Austria, Spain, Brazil, Japan, Finland and the USA, as well as more than 80 sales and service companies worldwide. ♦