



**Ten-station end liner launched in the US**

Custom Machining Corporation was at Cannex to introduce its new ten-station end liner to the US market. The new generation of the rotary end liner can process up to 2,500 ends per minute, said CMC's sales manager Ed Bendell.

"European canmakers are on the cutting edge and are looking to improve production while trimming costs," Bendell said. "They began asking about higher speeds and that got us to thinking about a ten-station liner. There's a market for it in the US, and Cannex is an opportunity to get it in front of people."

The six- and eight-station units have a capacity of about 1,500 and 2,000 ends per minute, respectively, so the new model can increase speeds by 25 percent. It is designed for ends sized up to 209, and to slide into an existing machine.

The original ten-station prototype was too large to fit an existing machine, so CMC technicians whittled down the size of some components to make it compatible.

"Our sales pitch is that you can quickly and conveniently increase speeds without buying a new machine or disrupting your production," says Bendell, who has been with the Colorado company since it was created in 2003. "A lot of us here used to work for Preferred Machining, so with our experience, we're experts when it comes to compound lining."

A customer with an eight-end station need only replace the upper turret casting and lower spindle hub and then buy the two additional stations. The casting and hub need to be replaced so they accommodate the hoses feeding them.

"One issue where we held our ground, as designers, was that it needed to fit an existing machine. We didn't want a customer having to buy a new machine just to get this upgrade," Bendell said. "The people who develop our rotary end liners are the ones who service them, so it's built in a very sensible way."

"If the ten-station liner is going to be serviced or inspected, it's easy to get at the main parts. Efficiency means more than just producing more ends in less time, it also means making it efficient for service personnel – reducing their work time."



LPT's winning combination (l-to-r): Hans-Peter Kaempfer, Dwain Gaalema and Mike Simonson

**Winning combination solutions in hard materials**

US tooling manufacturer LPT, part of Germany's Wallram Group, used Cannex to promote its expansion into high precision tungsten carbide tooling.

Known for its distinctive yellow ceramic die necking tools, LPT has relocated this year to a new 21,500 sq ft facility at Colorado Springs, Colorado, which features a dedicated carbide punch sleeve line.

The Wallram Group acquired

Lieb Precision Tool (LPT) in 2008, when Hans-Peter Kaempfer became the sole owner, president and chief executive.

At Cannex he was keen to stress his company's strength, derived not just from the combination of hard tooling materials, but that of personnel.

Mike Simonson, who was with LPT since day one as process engineer is LPT's plant manager responsible for manufacturing.

Dwain Gaalema joined LPT in 2009 as technical sales manager. His career spans more than 25 years at Metal Container, Ball Corporation and Roeslein & Associates, and provides an engineering support, says Kaempfer, "we couldn't offer before".

Kaempfer's expertise meanwhile lies on carbide tool manufacturing.

With facilities in the US, Germany and Poland, the Wallram Group produces ceramic and carbide tooling for cuppers, body-makers, decorators and neckers.

Wallram applied for the first patent for the production of tungsten and molybdenum carbide in 1914.



Croatian canmakers (l-to-r): Ante Andric (Pluto), Pende Antun (MGK-Pack), Petric Tomisav (Pluto's president), Modrag Glusac (MGK-Pack) and Kristian Krpan (MGK-Pack's chairman)

LPT pioneered yellow-coloured ceramic tooling which allows laser-engraved identification marks to be viewed more clearly.

**Lightweight drinks can ends debut in Middle East**

Container Developments Ltd, which was exhibiting at Cannex, shipped two complete shell and conversion systems for manufacturing lighter-weight beverage ends that involve novel process-control technology.

Soft drinks producer Mahmood Saeed in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, has ordered the multi-million dollar CDL+ system after the design's success with canmaker Ball Corporation in the US and Europe.

"Ball has made around 40 billion CDL ends so far," said Pete Stodd, chief executive of Ohio-based Container Developments.

The CDL+ design enables the high-speed production of 200 diameter ends in an aluminium alloy gauge of 0.008 inches that hold a pressure of 112psi, which is necessary when the canned drinks are passed through a pasteuriser.

"With 200 ends normally using a gauge of 0.009 inches that means a saving of between 12 and 14 percent," said CDL's Jim Wilkins. "There is also a large-opening version of the end available."



Gustavo Deandar, of Mexico's Indel Food Products, was after equipment for a second line



Egypt's aerosol canmaker Can Co has begun production of food cans, said Omar El-Mokadem