

Stora Enso to axe more jobs at Anjalankoski industrial site

 **EUWID +** 04 December 2024 |  ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 49/2024](#)

Stora Enso is further reducing the number of jobs at the Anjalankoski industrial complex in Kouvola, Finland in order to adapt the site's workforce to the current size of the industrial operations. The company said that 40 positions are being cut at the site. The number of redundancies, however, would be lower as 11 employees have been offered the possibility for assuming another position at the Anjalankoski site, a company spokesperson explained.

Anjalankoski industrial complex is part of Stora Enso's Packaging Division. The site consists of the Anjala paper mill and the Ingerois board mill and features a total production capacity of 495,000 tpy. The Anjala paper mill is geared for a production of 185,000 tpy of book paper, coated magazine paper and improved newsprint. The Ingerois board mill produces folding boxboard with a capacity of 310,000 tpy.

Stora Enso originally planned to cut 64 positions at the site. According to the company, the move was motivated by the new set up of the Anjalankoski industrial site, which has been operating one production line each at Anjala and Ingerois since the closure of paper machine PM 3 at the Anjala mill at the end of last year. The jobs cuts are mainly related to maintenance positions, the company spokesperson said.

Finnish media also quote the mill manager as saying that the Anjalankoski industrial complex is working to reduce costs and improve competitiveness.

Stora Enso had already cut 22 jobs in Anjala at the mid-year point.

Inapa Germany reborn as OVOL Papier Deutschland

 **EUWID +** 04 December 2024 |  ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 49/2024](#)

OVOL Papier Deutschland GmbH, OVOL ComPlott GmbH and OVOL Packaging GmbH, all headquartered in Düsseldorf, Germany, commenced business activities on 1 December 2024. The companies have emerged from insolvent company Inapa Germany and sister companies.

“The name is new but the offerings are strong as ever,” the company says, Inapa has become OVOL, a 360° service provider for paper, packaging, large-format printing and logistics.

OVOL Deutschland group comprises OVOL Papier Deutschland GmbH, OVOL ComPlott GmbH and OVOL Packaging GmbH. The group offers customised solutions along the entire print value-addition chain and caters to global players as well as SMEs, design agencies and family-owned printing companies.

Japan Pulp & Paper Co. Ltd. (JPP) signed the purchase contract on 11 October 2024 to acquire insolvent companies Inapa Deutschland GmbH, Inapa ComPlott GmbH and Inapa Packaging GmbH. JPP companies operate under the OVOL brand umbrella.

© 2024 EUWID Europäischer Wirtschaftsdienst GmbH | All Rights Reserved.

Copyright notice The individual articles, tables and other contents published by EUWID are protected by copyright and are provided exclusively for the client's own use and the use of the client's employees. In the absence of a more extensive licence agreement, only one copy may be printed for circulation at a single business location designated by the client. Digital distribution of EUWID contents, especially by intranet or by e-mail, within a company, throughout a group of companies, or outside a company is not permitted and constitutes an infringement of copyright law. Read more in our FAQ.

Södra and Billerud join Industrikraft

 **EUWID +** 04 December 2024 |  ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 49/2024](#)

Sweden's pulp and paper manufacturers Billerud and Södra have joined Swedish energy platform Industrikraft. Other well-known Swedish industrial companies such as ABB, AFRY, Hitachi Energy, Saab and Volvo Cars also joined the consortium, Billerud and Industrikraft announced. Being one of the largest consumers of electricity in Sweden, Billerud says that Industrikraft provides a way for better analysis and clearer communication for energy-intensive industries, helping it to shape Sweden's future energy model.

Industrikraft was founded earlier this year by Alfal Laval, Boliden, SkF, Stora Enso and the Volvo Group as equal shareholders. Industrikraft was founded to make a constructive contribution to financing, securing and expanding the Swedish energy system. The platform is committed to access to fossil-free electricity at competitive prices, which it considers to be a decisive factor for the competitiveness of Swedish industry.

© 2024 EUWID Europäischer Wirtschaftsdienst GmbH | All Rights Reserved.

Copyright notice The individual articles, tables and other contents published by EUWID are protected by copyright and are provided exclusively for the client's own use and the use of the client's employees. In the absence of a more extensive licence agreement, only one copy may be printed for circulation at a single business location designated by the client. Digital distribution of EUWID contents, especially by intranet or by e-mail, within a company, throughout a group of companies, or outside a company is not permitted and constitutes an infringement of copyright law. Read more in our FAQ.

Carton Pack buys Clifton Packaging

 **EUWID +** 04 December 2024 |  ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 49/2024](#)

Italian packaging supplier Carton Pack has announced the acquisition of Clifton Packaging Group Limited, a British manufacturer of plastic-based flexible packaging solutions for the food industry.

Clifton will continue to operate under the leadership of its management team, led by CEO Shane D'Souza.

Carton Pack is a portfolio company of private equity firm A&M Capital Europe (AMCE) and operates from seven production facilities and 15 warehouses in Italy, Spain and the UK, employing approximately 700 people. The company's portfolio includes rigid and flexible plastics, corrugated and solid board products, as well as moulded pulp.

The takeover is Carton Pack's sixth acquisition since 2020 and the third since AMCE acquired a majority stake in the group alongside the founding Leone family in April 2022.

© 2024 EUWID Europäischer Wirtschaftsdienst GmbH | All Rights Reserved.

Copyright notice The individual articles, tables and other contents published by EUWID are protected by copyright and are provided exclusively for the client's own use and the use of the client's employees. In the absence of a more extensive licence agreement, only one copy may be printed for circulation at a single business location designated by the client. Digital distribution of EUWID contents, especially by intranet or by e-mail, within a company, throughout a group of companies, or outside a company is not permitted and constitutes an infringement of copyright law. Read more in our FAQ.

Arctic Paper acquires solar park in Poland

 **EUWID +** 04 December 2024 |  ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 49/2024](#)

Following the construction of a number of solar parks, Arctic Paper is now acquiring a turnkey plant for the first time. The company has signed a contract for the purchase of an existing solar park near Warsaw.

The seller is the Polish company Coral J.W. Perkowski, which specialises in renewable energy projects. The plant is located in Garwolin in the Mazovia region and has an annual capacity of 4 MW.

Until now, Arctic Paper has built solar parks on its own premises, but now the investment is to be accelerated through the acquisition of a turnkey plant, Arctic Paper explains. The purchase will increase the company's total solar park energy output to 23 MW, which is generated in four plants in Sweden and Poland. The energy produced in Garwolin will be sold to customers outside the Arctic group of companies, the company says.

© 2024 EUWID Europäischer Wirtschaftsdienst GmbH | All Rights Reserved.

Copyright notice The individual articles, tables and other contents published by EUWID are protected by copyright and are provided exclusively for the client's own use and the use of the client's employees. In the absence of a more extensive licence agreement, only one copy may be printed for circulation at a single business location designated by the client. Digital distribution of EUWID contents, especially by intranet or by e-mail, within a company, throughout a group of companies, or outside a company is not permitted and constitutes an infringement of copyright law. Read more in our FAQ.

Tissue manufacturer Lucart with new CEO

 **EUWID +** 04 December 2024 |  ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 49/2024](#)

Italian sanitary paper producer **Lucart** has appointed **Francesco Pasquini** as its new chief executive officer (CEO). **Massimo Pasquini**, who has headed the group since 2004, will remain the company's chairman, the company said at the end of November. Following signing of the deal which gives Azzurra Capital a strategic stake in Pasfin S.p.A. – the holding company which fully controls Lucart S.p.A. – the advisory council now comprises Massimo Pasquini (chairman), Francesco Pasquini (CEO), Alessandro Pasquini, Lorenzo Pasquini and Tommaso De Luca (all executive directors) as well as GianErnesto Bernardi, Cristina Ferrari, Federico Lovadina and Massimo Innocenti (all non-executive directors).

© 2024 EUWID Europäischer Wirtschaftsdienst GmbH | All Rights Reserved.

Copyright notice The individual articles, tables and other contents published by EUWID are protected by copyright and are provided exclusively for the client's own use and the use of the client's employees. In the absence of a more extensive licence agreement, only one copy may be printed for circulation at a single business location designated by the client. Digital distribution of EUWID contents, especially by intranet or by e-mail, within a company, throughout a group of companies, or outside a company is not permitted and constitutes an infringement of copyright law. Read more in our FAQ.

Pappenfabrik Obenauf with new owner and manager

 **EUWID +** 04 December 2024 |  ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 49/2024](#)

German board mill **Pappenfabrik Obenauf** has a new owner and managing director. **Alexander Wietasch** took over as the board mill's new owner and director and head the company as CEO from the beginning of October. Pappenfabrik Obenauf said in a press release that the transaction was completed on 1 October. The board mill's current CEO **Tobias Neidhardt** will remain with the company in an advisory capacity. The board mill produces unlined chipboard and paperboard and speciality products such as water-repellent and resin-reinforced paperboard. Pappenfabrik Obenauf's site employs around 40 persons.

© 2024 EUWID Europäischer Wirtschaftsdienst GmbH | All Rights Reserved.

Copyright notice The individual articles, tables and other contents published by EUWID are protected by copyright and are provided exclusively for the client's own use and the use of the client's employees. In the absence of a more extensive licence agreement, only one copy may be printed for circulation at a single business location designated by the client. Digital distribution of EUWID contents, especially by intranet or by e-mail, within a company, throughout a group of companies, or outside a company is not permitted and constitutes an infringement of copyright law. Read more in our FAQ.

Ranheim Paper starts up PM 5 after rebuilt

 **EUWID +** 04 December 2024 |  ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 49/2024](#)

Norwegian **Ranheim Paper & Board** has commissioned the PM 5 at its Norwegian plant following an upgrade carried out by **Toscotec**. The board machine now manufactures greyboard and coreboard with basis weights ranging from 220 to 500 g/m². The rebuild was aimed at increasing the machine's production capacity, but a concrete number was not published. Ranheim Paper & Board has 270 employees; its annual production capacity in Norway and the Netherlands amounts to 122,000 tpy of testliner, fluting and specialty paper as well as 80 million m² of solid board.

© 2024 EUWID Europäischer Wirtschaftsdienst GmbH | All Rights Reserved.

Copyright notice The individual articles, tables and other contents published by EUWID are protected by copyright and are provided exclusively for the client's own use and the use of the client's employees. In the absence of a more extensive licence agreement, only one copy may be printed for circulation at a single business location designated by the client. Digital distribution of EUWID contents, especially by intranet or by e-mail, within a company, throughout a group of companies, or outside a company is not permitted and constitutes an infringement of copyright law. Read more in our FAQ.

VPK orders new OCC pulper for Oudegem mill

 **EUWID +** 04 December 2024 |  ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 49/2024](#)

VPK Group has placed an order with Austrian **FMW Industries** for the supply of an OCC pulper feeder line at the Oudegem mill in Belgium. The delivery scope includes a new OCC pulper feeding line as well as a fully automatic OCC bale wire cutter. The state-of-the-art system, with a capacity of 1,200 BDMT per day, is scheduled to be commissioned in October 2025. At the Oudegem mill, VPK operates three RCCM machines with a total capacity of 500,000 tpy.

© 2024 EUWID Europäischer Wirtschaftsdienst GmbH | All Rights Reserved.

Copyright notice The individual articles, tables and other contents published by EUWID are protected by copyright and are provided exclusively for the client's own use and the use of the client's employees. In the absence of a more extensive licence agreement, only one copy may be printed for circulation at a single business location designated by the client. Digital distribution of EUWID contents, especially by intranet or by e-mail, within a company, throughout a group of companies, or outside a company is not permitted and constitutes an infringement of copyright law. Read more in our FAQ.

High pulp prices boost Altri Q3 sales and profits

 **EUWID +** 04 December 2024 |  ~ 4 min | [Published in issue 49/2024](#)

Portuguese pulp producer Altri posted a substantial increase in sales and profits in the third quarter of 2024 compared to the same period of last year. Sales revenues of the Altri group and the company's pulp business both rose by 19 per cent to €207m and €173m year-on-year, respectively. The company benefited from a "favourable evolution of pulp prices during 2024" which more than offset lower sales volumes. According to Altri, index prices of bleached hardwood kraft pulp (BHKP) for the third quarter 2024 were approximately 65 per cent higher year-on-year.

In the third quarter 2024, Altri produced approximately the same amount of pulp but sold 11 per cent less pulp at 253,000 t compared to the same period last year. This reflected the slowdown in pulp markets in the third quarter with China being the main driver for this cooling, Altri explained. Despite the European market showing a healthy level of demand, the slowdown in China and the fall in prices in China have led to delays in purchases by European papermakers, in the expectation of convergence with Chinese prices", Altri said. This affected the BHKP market in particular, while demand continued on the high side in the dissolving pulp segment.

The group Ebitda increased by 244 per cent year-on-year to €56m in the third quarter. The company booked a 19 per cent decrease in cost of sales but cost of external supplies and services increased by 24 per cent. Total expenses were almost 5 per cent lower than last year at €151m. The operating profit surged to €41m and the group posted a net profit of €27m for the third quarter 2024.

Despite a solid development in the third quarter, Altri's quarterly performance was weaker than in the second quarter. Sales and profits were down quarter-on-quarter mostly due to lower demand and shipments. To optimise management of stocks of finished goods, the group has been adjusting output to match demand and is also considering taking downtime at the group's mills, Altri said.

Sales for the first nine months of the year increased compared to the same period last year on better pulp demand and higher pulp prices while the group's profits surged on higher sales and lower costs.

According to Altri, the slowdown in trend in China was in its final stage at the end of the third quarter with pulp prices stabilising at low levels. Nevertheless, pulp prices in Europe, which is the main market for Altri, continued at the beginning of the fourth quarter. In addition, an incident in the cogeneration plant at the Celbi pulp mill is expected to increase the group's variable costs. The turbine at the Caima mill is expected to resume production in the first quarter of next year.

Altri pushes for diversification, Project Gama still waiting for environmental permit

As a part of its diversification process Altri is working on the “recovery and valorisation of acetic acid and furfural from renewable sources” at the Caima pulp mill. The project is scheduled for completion at the end of next year. At the Biotek mill, a project is underway to convert the mill from the production of paper pulp to specialty pulp. The conversion is proceeding gradually and the mill is expected to be fully dedicated to dissolving pulp production by the end of the 2026.

The company is also considering building an integrated specialty pulp and cellulosic textile fibre facility in Galicia, Spain. The pulp mill is geared for a total production capacity of 400,000 tpy of dissolving pulp (DP) of which 200,000 tpy would be processed at the site for the production of lyocell fibre. In the first project phase, which is to be realised at a cost of €900m, the mill would consume 1.2 million m³ of eucalyptus wood to produce 250,000 tpy of DP and 60,000 tpy of lyocell.

The new facility in Palas de Rei is still in the process of obtaining an integrated environmental license, which is the crucial criterion towards the final investment decision. The Gama project, as the new facility is named, is operated by Greenfibre, a JV company in which Altri holds a share of 75 per cent with the remaining 25 per cent held by Spanish renewable energy company Greenalia.

Altri announced the Gama project in 2022 and originally planned to make the final investment decision in 2023, especially after it was declared of special industrial interest by the regional government of Galicia. However, the project is facing mounting resistance from local groups and environmental organisations.

Altri results				
million €	July - September		July - September	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
Key figures				
Sales	207.0	174.4	669.7	601.0
Cellulosic fibres	172.8	144.9	560.9	496.1
EBITDA	56.1	16.3	180.1	97.5
Operating result	40.6	-1.1	134.0	45.4
Net result	27.4	0	89.2	27.6
Business area review				
Pulp production, 1,000 tonnes	263.2	261.6	815.3	781.3
BHKP, 1,000 tonnes	231.1	235.8	727.2	706.1
DWP, 1,000 tonnes	32.1	25.8	88.1	75.3
Pulp deliveries, 1,000 tonnes	252.5	284.8	827.7	810.4
BHKP, 1,000 tonnes	219.7	57.0	727.5	735.5
DWP, 1,000 tonnes	32.8	27.9	100.2	75.9
Source: Altri				

Shandong Chenming Paper idles large parts of its board and paper production

📄 **EUWID +** 04 December 2024 | ⌚ ~ 2 min | [Published in issue 49/2024](#)

Chinese paper major Shandong Chenming Paper Group is in a severe financial crisis. Due to lack of operating capital, the company has temporarily idled roughly 70 per cent of its production capacity including two board machines and three graphic paper machines.

The company explains that paper and board capacities in China have seen significant increase. In conjunction with the weak economy, this is said to have disrupted the equilibrium between supply and demand. As a result, prices of Chenming Paper's key products, especially board, have fallen sharply, impacting margins and transforming profits into losses, the company reports.

Since some lenders have reduced credit lines, the company has come under a temporary shortage of operating capital. Chenming Paper and some of its subsidiaries failed to meet certain financial obligations in a timely manner. The company's creditors therefore filed a case in court due to the debts and petitioned the court to seize the company's assets. In response, the court decided to freeze some bank accounts of the company and its subsidiaries.

On 18 November, Chenming Paper reported that its total debt amounted to CNY1.82bn (€250m) which is roughly equivalent to 10.91 per cent of its net assets. At the time of the report, 65 bank accounts (8.47 per cent) holding in total RMB64.84m (€9m) had been frozen.

To reduce losses, Chenming Paper curtailed or idled production at some of its sites in November 2024. The measures affect 71.7 per cent or 7.03 million tpy of the company's total pulp and paper capacity, the company confirms.

Chenming Paper has temporarily stopped one cartonboard production line with capacity for 500,000 tpy as well as one each for uncoated and coated fine paper at its Shouguan mill. Other machines for woodfree paper and tissue at the site are running, according to market observers. Chenming Paper operates 8 paper machines at the site in addition to pulp production lines, the company writes on its website.

At the Zhanjiang mill, pulp production as well as one machine each for fine paper and board have been stopped. Other machines for pulp and woodfree uncoated paper are still running.

The company's sites in Jianxi and Jilin have been fully shut down, Chenming Paper writes in a press release. The company produces bleached TMP and deinking pulp as well as coated and uncoated paper, and packaging paper in Jiangxi, according to its website. The portfolio in Jilin includes coated and uncoated graphic paper, tissue and pulp.

The Huanggang mill in Hubei is not mentioned in the press release. According to market observers, the site produces up to 600,000 tpy of pulp.

Chenming Paper says it is undertaking every effort to procure operating capital and restore production and commercial operations at the earliest.

According to China Paper Association, Chenming Paper is the fifth largest paper producer in the country.

© 2024 EUWID Europäischer Wirtschaftsdienst GmbH | All Rights Reserved.

Copyright notice The individual articles, tables and other contents published by EUWID are protected by copyright and are provided exclusively for the client's own use and the use of the client's employees. In the absence of a more extensive licence agreement, only one copy may be printed for circulation at a single business location designated by the client. Digital distribution of EUWID contents, especially by intranet or by e-mail, within a company, throughout a group of companies, or outside a company is not permitted and constitutes an infringement of copyright law. Read more in our FAQ.

Closure of Ober-Schmitten specialty paper mill imminent

 **EUWID +** 04 December 2024 |  ~ 2 min | [Published in issue 49/2024](#)

German specialty paper mill Spezialpapierfabrik Ober-Schmitten (SPO) based in Nidda will be shut down for good. The company's preliminary insolvency administrator, Jan Markus Plathner, informed the around 180 employees about the necessary closure at a staff meeting held on 29 November.

The company will now start phasing out production of electrical paper, which SPO manufactures to be used for condensers, cables, transformers and inductors. The last orders will be fulfilled by spring next year. Dr Plathner explained in a statement that customers had placed firm orders for this product with the specialty paper mill and had promised to make necessary financial contributions over the next three to four months. He added that theoretically, it is still possible to find a party interested in taking over the specialty paper mill during the production wind-down phase.

SPO filed for insolvency in September. Preliminary insolvency proceedings were started on 4 September by the local court of Friedberg and simultaneously, an international investor process began. For some time, production stood still because the raw material supply chain had been interrupted. In mid-October, however, paper production was restarted.

In the summer of 2023, Turkish İŞ Holding A.Ş. had taken over the mill from Glatfelter who wanted to close the site due to a lack of competitiveness as well as increased energy, labour and raw material costs. The İŞ Holding formed its İŞ Paper business unit and planned to strongly invest in the site. The new owner intended to construct a new paper machine, the fifth one, and to expand the mill's production capacities. The plan also provided for taking on further employees, an intention that Ilkem Sahin, Chairman of İŞ Holding, still announced on the occasion of a press conference in spring.

Spezialpapierfabrik Ober-Schmitten has a production capacity of around 10,000 tpy of specialty paper. Its product range includes glassine and electrotechnical papers, among others, which are used e. g. in the packaging, industrial and electronics segments. Most recently, the paper mill employed 180 people.

DS Smith invests in Hungary and France

 **EUWID +** 04 December 2024 |  ~ 2 min | [Published in issue 49/2024](#)

British paper and packaging group DS Smith is continuing to invest in its European packaging network. Investments have now been announced in Hungary and France.

According to a press statement by the Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Péter Szijjártó, DS Smith will invest HUF12.7bn (approximately €31m) to increase the capacity of the Füzesabony, Nagykátá and Győr sites by 40 per cent. Further details on the investments were not disclosed. DS Smith operates 8 sites in Hungary and employs more than 1,000 people.

Minister Szijjártó emphasised that the country, which expects economic growth of 3 per cent in 2024, has supported investments by 42 companies in the packaging industry worth a total of HUF164bn (nearly €400m) over the past ten years.

In addition, DS Smith has invested €10m in its plant in Kunheim, France. The company said it installed a combined gluing and printing machine and modernised other production lines for industrial, bulk and heavy-duty packaging. The new BGM machine can print, die-cut, fold and glue or staple large-format sheets (2,000 x 5,500 mm) in a single pass, achieving speeds of up to 7,000 sheets per hour, according to DS Smith. DS Smith also operates two corrugators at the Kunheim site. In total, the plant has a capacity to produce 97 million m² or 60,000 tpy of corrugated sheets and packaging.

In 2024, DS Smith has already invested more than €25m in Poland and over €50m in Portugal.

EU to decide on IP/DSS merger in January

DS Smith operates in over 30 countries and employs more than 30,000 people. The company is currently in the process of being taken over by US company International Paper. The acquisition is set to be completed in the first quarter of 2025, following approval by the shareholders of both companies in October. The EU competition authority has now announced that it will decide on the takeover by 10 January 2025.

Oji to discontinue paper production at Kinleith mill

 EUWID+ 04 December 2024 | ⌚ ~ 2 min | [Published in issue 49/2024](#)

Following the decision to close its Penrose recycled containerboard mill, the Japanese Oji Holdings is now also planning to end paper production at the Kinleith site in New Zealand. As announced by the group subsidiary Oji Fibre Solutions, containerboard production at Kinleith is to be discontinued from the middle of next year. According to current estimates, the shutdown would affect around 230 jobs. The exact extent would become clear in the course of the consultation talks, the company said.

According to Oji, producing paper at the site is no longer profitable and the paper division in Kinleith has been making losses for several years. Therefore, Kinleith mill will concentrate on the production of pulp in the future.

With the closure of PM 6 in Kinleith, Oji will run no more paper operations in New Zealand and intends to import all of the paper and board needed for its packaging division. The company operates five packaging sites in New Zealand – three corrugated cardboard packaging facilities, one paper bags facility, and one specialty board facility – with a total production capacity of 140,000 tpy.

Consultations with Kinleith mill employees are expected to last until early January in order “to see if there is an alternative we have not yet considered,” explained Oji. A final decision on the future of paper production at Kinleith is expected to follow at the end of January 2025, the company reports.

The Kinleith mill produces primary and secondary fibre-based corrugated case material on one paper machine. The company puts the production capacity of PM 6 at 325,000 tpy. The production capacity for market pulp is 275,000 tpy of bleached softwood fibre pulp. According to a press release from November, the decision to discontinue paper production would create potentials to increase the production capacity for market pulp.

Last September, Oji Fiber Solutions announced that it would cease production of recycled corrugated case material at the Penrose mill in New Zealand by the end of the year. The Penrose mill has a production capacity of 85,000 tpy. The company was citing the high energy price as the main reason for the closure of the mill.

Buyers demand further price cuts for recycled corrugated case material in Germany

Another cartonboard producer announces price hikes

 04 December 2024 | ⌚ ~ 5 min | [Published in issue 49/2024](#)

EUWID Price Watch Germany				
November 2024				
Prices in € per tonne free delivered unless otherwise stated	November 2024		October 2024	November 2023
Fine paper				
Woodfree uncoated				
A4 C-grade, branded paper	970	- 1,010	970	- 1,010
A4 C-grade, non-branded paper	930	- 960	930	- 960
Offset sheets 80 g	1,040	- 1,130	1,040	- 1,130
Offset reels 80 g	970	- 1,030	970	- 1,030
Woodfree coated				
Sheets, double coated, 100 g	1,040	- 1,120	1,040	- 1,120
Reels, double coated, 100 g	960	- 1,000	960	- 1,010
Publication paper				
Newsprint 45 g (coldset)	600	- 630	600	- 630
Newsprint 42.5 g (coldset)	610	- 640	610	- 640
Newsprint 45 g (heatset)	600	- 630	600	- 630
LWC offset 60 g	780	- 820	780	- 820
LWC rotogravure 60 g	800	- 835	800	- 835
SC offset 56 g (A)	680	- 710	680	- 710
SC rotogravure 56 g (A)	680	- 710	680	- 710
Corrugated case material				
Primary fibre corrugated case material				
Unbleached kraftliner from Scandinavia 175 g	850	- 870	870	- 890
Semi-chemical corrugated medium ¹⁾	775	- 1,000	775	- 1,000
White-top kraftliner 140 g	1,070	- 1,150	1,070	- 1,150
Recycled corrugated case material				
Schrenz	570	- 590	590	- 610
Wellenstoff	600	- 620	620	- 640
Testliner II	630	- 650	650	- 670
Testliner III	610	- 630	630	- 650
White-top testliner, coated	910	- 950	910	- 950
White-top testliner, 140 g, ISO 70-75	790	- 805	790	- 805
Cartonboard				
Unlined chipboard	815	- 855	815	- 855
GD II	850	- 950	850	- 950
GC II	1,210	- 1,235	1,210	- 1,235 ²⁾

¹⁾ Prices at the upper end of the range represent Scandinavian primary fibre grades, lower-end prices are quoted for other European grades.

²⁾ In October prices for smaller orders started to increase by an average of 30 €/t.

© 2024 EUWID Europäischer Wirtschaftsdienst GmbH

All rights reserved.

EUWID assumes no liability for the accuracy of pricing information.

On the German market, a mark-down occurred for brown recycled corrugated case material in November, whereas prices for white testliner remained untouched. Negotiations for December are underway and buyers are looking to achieve another reduction for brown grades.

On the German market for cartonboard and folding cartons, buyers of recycled board have been confronted with a further announcement targeting higher prices as of next year. After one industry-relevant producer of GD (white-lined chipboard) first informed the market about its plans in late October, a second large-capacity supplier announced at the end of November it also intends to raise

prices.

White-top testliner prices stable in November

The softening price trend for recycled corrugated case material seen in October continued in November as well. According to respondents in Germany, the latest price cuts amounted to €20/t.

During the EUWID market survey in the final days of November, it was unclear whether this downtrend would persist in December. Conversations with buyers reveal they are envisaging something like “summer rebates,” while others believe further talks will not be possible until the start of the new year. However, since it is becoming an increasingly short-term market and – as October demonstrated – retroactive price reductions are possible, it remains to be seen what the final month of the year will bring.

The developments over the past months and years, however, show how rapidly the paper industry is changing. After the insolvencies of Zanders and Baden Board in 2021, the Nortrup mill was mothballed in 2022, and the Raubling mill is slated to shut at the end of this year. Papierfabrik Meldorf is in the midst of insolvency proceedings and Papierfabrik Carl Lenz will cease production in mid-2025, while the future of the paper mill in Nidda is still up in the air. Germany's neighbouring markets are seeing similar processes.

This is not only the result of untenable cost increases but also because players have to compete with high-capacity plants that have started up or are slated to do so soon. These include Eilenburg and Laakirchen as well as mills in the UK, Italy and France. If the start-ups proceed as planned, a total of more than 2 million tonnes of new capacity will be added within a relatively short timeframe to a market that is already having trouble filling existing capacity.

In November, the market for white-top testliner was different to brown grades. It is not unusual for white grades to track the upward and downward movement of brown papers with a slight delay. Following the cuts for brown grades in October, experts expected white-top testliner to come under considerable price pressure. This did happen, but only towards the end of the month, and did not result in any concessions from paper mills. Producers noted they had not implemented the last increase that was introduced for brown grades and that prices of the white recovered paper grades they require "have not slumped nearly as much" as those needed for brown paper grades.

Further calls for price hikes for WLC

On the German market for cartonboard, buyers of white-lined chipboard (GD) have been confronted with a new price announcement as of 2025. At the end of October, one industry-relevant producer had made the first move, asking for an increase of 8-10 per cent as of 1 January. In late November, a second large-capacity supplier followed suit with calls for mark-ups of €50/t.

Folding carton producers are putting up resistance to these plans. Buyers surveyed by EUWID said they had been expecting such a move, given the margin pressure that producers are facing. However, in many cases, specific negotiations had reportedly not yet started by late November. As long as there was only one supplier attempting to raise prices, and given the excess capacity and weak demand in the GD market, converters were pursuing a strategy of blocking price increases or shifting their volumes elsewhere. It is now unclear how the second price announcement will affect the situation.

During November, there were no widespread changes in GD prices. Players said concessions were made only for a few special deals. Buyers' attempts to achieve price cuts by pointing the falling recovered paper prices were unsuccessful. Focus is now shifting to the delivery conditions as of January.

GD producers say order intake has recently picked up slightly. This is not yet a trend turnaround but there is some stabilisation, albeit at a low level, they explain. Players in the folding cartons industry say demand has not significantly improved.

For the most part, the market for GC (folding boxboard) also saw a sideways trend in November. Bookings on the machines could be better, EUWID was told. In some cases, producers say their order books are shrinking again. Other suppliers report a slight improvement compared with October and say capacity utilisation is no longer declining. Business with the pharmaceutical industry has been volatile recently and demand for food packaging is reportedly subdued or steady.

One Scandinavian producer announced a price hike of €85/t as of 1 November for GC, but this has apparently not been implemented so far. According to buyers, the price negotiations only really got started in November. Moreover, it might only be possible to implement mark-ups as of January, they say. Buyers of GC believe price increases are not justified due to the overcapacity and sluggish demand. Producers, for their part, cite margin pressure and ongoing high pulp costs as arguments. For November, both sides of the market report a roll-over of GC prices.

The market situation on the unlined chipboard (greyboard) market is said to be difficult. Non-integrated producers in particular report an unsatisfactory bookings situation, temporary downtime and short lead times. Integrated board mills are benefiting from internal orders and can thus offset the lack of volumes from external customers. Demand from many segments is weak, EUWID was told. Neither the automotive nor the canning industry is showing any signs of a rebound, and the intermediate layers business is also lacklustre, insiders report.

Suppliers of unlined chipboard are vehemently trying to resist downward price pressure. In some cases, board mills would rather take downtime than reduce prices, they say. Prices did not move in November, according to respondents. Price dumping would not generate additional orders, players believe. Market participants are keeping mum about their pricing plans for the turn of the year. Suppliers say one indicator they will be watching is whether the announced price hikes for GD board succeeds. For now, they are reportedly focused on securing volumes.

European Graphic Paper Statistics

September 2024

1,000 tonnes	September		%	January - September		%
	2024	2023	24/23	2024	2023	24/23
Newsprint						
Total deliveries¹⁾	284	313	- 9	2,589	2,731	- 5
to Europe	214	212	+ 1	1,917	1,902	+ 1
to outside Europe	70	100	- 30	673	829	- 19
European demand ¹⁾	238	227	+ 5	2,070	2,075	± 0
Coated mechanical reels						
Total deliveries	221	239	- 7	1,914	1,887	+ 1
to Europe	172	179	- 4	1,437	1,468	- 2
to outside Europe	50	60	- 18	477	418	+ 14
European demand ¹⁾	172	179	- 4	1,437	1,468	- 2
SC paper						
Total deliveries	141	146	- 3	1,147	1,253	- 8
to Europe	131	133	- 2	1,049	1,154	- 9
to outside Europe	11	12	- 12	98	99	- 1
European demand ¹⁾	131	133	- 2	1,049	1,154	- 9
Uncoated mechanical (improved + others)						
Total deliveries	119	112	+ 7	1,050	972	+ 8
to Europe	101	93	+ 8	886	819	+ 8
to outside Europe	18	18	- 1	164	152	+ 8
European demand ¹⁾	101	93	+ 8	886	819	+ 8
Coated woodfree						
Total deliveries	216	207	+ 4	1,942	1,772	+ 10
to Europe	174	184	- 5	1,568	1,477	+ 6
to outside Europe	42	24	+ 79	374	295	+ 27
European demand ¹⁾	185	192	- 4	1,655	1,534	+ 8
Uncoated woodfree						
Total deliveries	363	368	- 2	3,571	3,205	+ 11
to Europe	303	304	± 0	2,964	2,668	+ 11
to outside Europe	60	64	- 7	608	537	+ 13
European demand ¹⁾	352	343	+ 3	3,414	3,052	+ 12
Total graphic paper						
Total deliveries	1,344	1,384	- 3	12,214	11,820	+ 3
to Europe	1,093	1,105	- 1	9,819	9,490	+ 3
to outside Europe	251	279	- 10	2,394	2,330	+ 3
European demand ¹⁾	1,178	1,168	+ 1	10,510	10,103	+ 4

¹⁾ partly estimated; for woodfree grades excludes Russian domestic deliveries

Source: Euro-Graph

© 2024 EUWID Europäischer Wirtschaftsdienst GmbH | All Rights Reserved.

Copyright notice The individual articles, tables and other contents published by EUWID are protected by copyright and are provided exclusively for the client's own use and the use of the client's employees. In the absence of a more extensive licence agreement, only one copy may be printed for circulation at a single business location designated by the client. Digital distribution of EUWID contents, especially by intranet or by e-mail, within a company, throughout a group of companies, or outside a company is not permitted and constitutes an infringement of copyright law. Read more in our FAQ.

Supply glut on thermal paper market driving price-driven competition

Restructuring of thermal paper segment on the horizon

 04 December 2024 |  ~ 4 min | [Published in issue 49/2024](#)

For producers and converters of thermal paper, the market situation remains difficult at the end of 2024. Many players are dissatisfied with the volumes and margins in their businesses. Industry representatives do expect a slight economic recovery towards the end of this year and beginning of 2025. However, they are also feeling the sting of the downward demand trend, especially in the POS and tickets segments, as well as the intense price-driven competition due to the ongoing supply glut in all segments.

On the thermal paper market, issues such as globalisation, restructuring, transformation and digitalisation are becoming increasingly impactful. In a market environment where paper mills and converters often have weak capacity utilisation, many companies are struggling. Only a handful of players report solid order backlogs and see signs of a slight economic recovery.

EUWID respondents are seeing positive developments in previously niche applications for thermal paper. Specialty products, such as solutions to replace plastics as well as linerless applications, are definitely providing some rays of hope, they say.

Fierce global competition

Nevertheless, the industry finds itself in a difficult situation – and not only in Europe. In general, there is a supply overhang on the thermal paper market, which is adversely impacting business. Players unanimously agree that global competition is intense. In Europe, both converters and paper producers complain about their margins. The fierce competition for orders has also become apparent in the declining paper prices, which are posing a problem for paper mills.

Industry representatives report that a paper pricehike was announced in spring 2024 and was implemented. Over the summer, however, quotes for thermal paper softened again slightly owing to the lacklustre demand and abundant supplies. This downward price pressure has persisted for the remainder of the year. In many cases, producers had no choice but to follow the downward pulp price trend and grant price reductions for thermal paper. But the decrease in paper prices is steeper than the cost relief on the pulp side, players stress.

Respondents are not expecting this situation to improve in the near future, neither for paper mills nor for converters. The process of restructuring – which some describe as consolidation – in the industry continues. The latest signs of this, according to market watchers, include the insolvency of Fjord Paper Flensburg, which is trying to find an investor, as well as Domtar's

acquisition of Iconex Paper. Although the latter deal creates vertical integration, it also raises questions about what impact this deal will have on the European business.

Looking at the US market, experts say that acquiring Iconex will provide Domtar with greater leverage. However, this new positioning could result in a new competitive situation on the North American market, with some current customers looking for alternative suppliers, which might open up opportunities also for paper mills from Europe.

At the moment, however, it appears that paper producers from Southeast Asia are very active in Europe. According to industry experts, imports, for example from China and Korea, are playing an ever-larger role in the European market, also when it comes to pricing. Now that many domestic economies in Southeast Asia are sluggish, thermal paper producers are actively searching for new opportunities for deliveries and business growth in overseas markets. A wide portfolio of products is being delivered to Europe, market participants say.

Turmoil in market for mass-market applications

The growing imports of inexpensive thermal paper for POS and label applications are flooding into a shrinking market in Europe. Following a considerable drop-off in delivery volumes last year, the POS segment is once again contracting noticeably, especially in the business with non-food cash register receipts.

Besides the poor economic sentiment, the POS market is increasingly feeling the impact of digitalisation, which offers an alternative to printed cash register receipts. However, the impact of digitalisation is predictable, and also expected to consolidate in 2025, according to experts. By contrast, the recessionary environment in key markets such as Germany is weighing heavily on the industry – especially in the label segment. The general slowdown in consumer spending is hampering the growth of applications in both the logistics and e-commerce segment, though the latter has been showing some signs of a rebound lately, EUWID was told.

Experts believe the downward trend in the tickets segment will continue, as many paper applications have already been replaced by electronic media.

BDI finds industrial production in Germany still under pressure after three years of downturn

Increase in volumes cannot make up for 2023 losses in the paper sector

 **EUWID +** 04 December 2024 |  ~ 3 min | [Published in issue 49/2024](#)

Industrial production in Germany has been on a downward trajectory for three consecutive years. This is one result of the BDI (Federation of German Industries) industry report 2024, which was published in late November. Against the background of decreasing production figures and an “alarming growth trend”, the industry has come under massive pressure not only in Germany but also Europe-wide, reports the BDI. Owing to the overall weak development seen in the first half of 2024, production is likely to drop by 3 per cent in total in the manufacturing sector this year. According to the BDI, the recession has also continued in the European Union.

The report of the industry federation reveals that the German industry has fallen further behind the EU average. The Covid-19 pandemic and the strong rise in energy prices have taken a toll on the German industry in particular. While the EU's manufacturing output was already 1.3 per cent higher in the first half of the year than before the outbreak of the pandemic, the German industry produced 9.4 per cent less than in 2019 during the same period. In nearly all sectors, Germany's industry output lagged behind that of the other industries in the European Union.

Growth in paper industry production in 2024 not sufficient to make up for 2023 losses

This also affects the German paper industry, which saw moderate production growth and lower sales levels in the first three quarters of 2024 compared with 2023, reports the BDI.

Between January and September 2024, the output of paper and board rose by 4.7 per cent compared to the corresponding prior-year period, reaching 14.6 million t in total. Simultaneously, total sales grew by 3.7 per cent and also summed up to 14.6 million t. Revenues generated by the pulp and paper industries, however, were 3.8 per cent lower in the first three quarters of 2024 than in the corresponding period of 2023. Last year, paper production dropped to the lowest level in 20 years, and sectoral sales revenues fell by 27 per cent to annual revenues of €15.5bn. According to the BDI, the development seen in the current year is not sufficient to offset these losses, and the industry's situation has remained tense.

Paper industry growth mainly attributable to packaging paper

According to the BDI report, the increase in production volume primarily results from the developments registered for packaging paper as well as technical and security paper.

The output of paper and board for packaging, the industry's largest grade area, grew by 6.6 per cent to 9.4 million t in the first three quarters of this year compared to the same period a year earlier. The output of technical and specialty paper increased by 4 per cent to 1.1 million t.

The graphic paper sector recorded an increase in production of 1.1 per cent to a total of 3.1 million t. Last year production fell by no less than altogether 30.5 per cent, a fact that the BDI attributes to digitalisation. The production of sanitary paper rose slightly by 0.4 per cent in the current year to date.

Economic lull burdens domestic business in Germany

The BDI reports that the overall situation of the German pulp and paper industries has remained difficult. The development of business on the domestic market has remained weak and is characterised by low demand. High energy and raw material costs coupled with structural changes caused by the massive decline in the area of graphic paper continue to impact the pulp and paper industries in 2024.

From 2019 to 2023 alone, paper industry production dropped by 14.4 per cent in Germany, reports the BDI. In the European Union, paper industry production was also on the decline – but by only 5.6 per cent in total, which was far lower than in Germany.

The BDI also recorded negative development in the metal, chemicals, mechanical engineering and electrical industries in Germany. According to the federation, the only industrial sectors that enjoyed growth between 2019 and 2023 in Germany were the pharmaceutical industry (up by 10.2 per cent) and the other transport equipment segment (up by 50.1 per cent).

Billerud presents new investment programme for conversion of North American mills

 **EUWID +** 04 December 2024 |  ~ 2 min | [Published in issue 49/2024](#)

Billerud plans to invest around SEK1.4bn (around €121m) in its North American sites to enable the transition towards cartonboard production there. The company announced that it has decided on an investment programme of SEK1.2bn for the Escabana mill and SEK0.2bn for the Quinnesec mill. These strategic investments are to be carried out in phases and in coordination with the planned maintenance shutdowns of the plants in order to minimise production interruptions. Billerud says it will start modernising the wood yard at the Escabana plant immediately, with the majority of the work planned for the second half of 2025.

The investments are part of Billerud's strategy to maintain its position in the North American markets for graphic papers and speciality label papers and at the same time to gradually develop in the direction of packaging materials. The company says that white linerboards are an attractive opportunity for the company, given a market size of 1.5 million t and an expected growth rate of 2 per cent per year. Billerud has set itself a position of about 7 per cent market share by 2030, corresponding to about 120,000 tpy of sales volumes. The market, dominated by one producer, needs imports of about 300,000 tpy, and there are so far no new capacity announcements, Billerud explains.

The white cartonboard market in North America (3.6 million t, 2 per cent growth) also represents an attractive opportunity for the company. Billerud says that growth is driven by plastic substitution and consumer preferences. The company has set itself the goal of a 2 per cent market share and 100,000 tpy of sales volumes per year in 2030.

The third segment Billerud is targeting is the North American kraftliner market, one of the largest product categories in North America. The market is consolidated, but there are no new capacity announcements, competitor mills are in US South, and there is large NA independent converter capacity, Billerud explains. The company has itself set a target market position of about 1 per cent by 2030, corresponding to sales volumes of 100,000 tpy.

In May of this year, Billerud abandoned its original plan to convert the Escabana plant for the production of cardboard with investments totalling \$1bn for financial reasons. The originally planned investment sum would be significantly exceeded and a more moderate investment strategy would therefore be developed, the company explained at the time.

Billerud has also revised some of its financial targets downwards. Instead of an Ebitda margin of at least 17 per cent, the company has set a minimum target of 15 per cent. The conditions on the pulp, paper and board markets in Europe have

changed since the beginning of 2022, and the tight European wood market and high fibre costs represent a structural change, Billerud explains.

The company has therefore also decided to include a return on capital employed (ROCE) of at least 11 per cent and a minimum cash conversion of 80 per cent in its targets. Previously, Billerud's financial targets included net sales growth of 3-4 per cent per year.

© 2024 EUWID Europäischer Wirtschaftsdienst GmbH | All Rights Reserved.

Copyright notice The individual articles, tables and other contents published by EUWID are protected by copyright and are provided exclusively for the client's own use and the use of the client's employees. In the absence of a more extensive licence agreement, only one copy may be printed for circulation at a single business location designated by the client. Digital distribution of EUWID contents, especially by intranet or by e-mail, within a company, throughout a group of companies, or outside a company is not permitted and constitutes an infringement of copyright law. Read more in our FAQ.

Mercer to upgrade Stendal and Rosenthal mills with Valmet

 **EUWID +** 04 December 2024 |  ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 49/2024](#)

North American forest products company Mercer International has tapped Finnish Valmet to provide technology upgrades to the company's pulp mills in Germany. Valmet will deliver a shoe press roll upgrade with a new shoe press belt and corresponding services to Mercer Stendal pulp mill in Germany. Mercer expects the upgrade to significantly improve the performance of the pulp drying line's press section at the Stendal mill. The delivery will take place during the mill's annual shutdown in the fourth quarter of 2025. The value of the order will not be disclosed.

Valmet will also deliver a pre-evaporator for the Mercer Rosenthal mill in Germany. According to Valmet, the solution increases the mill's energy efficiency and brings savings in the feedwater treatment. "We wanted to find a solution to improve the energy efficiency of our continuous cooking plant. By installing this pre-evaporation system, we can improve both energy and water efficiency. By more efficient steam consumption we can use more steam for electricity production in our existing steam turbine," said Tobias Albert, Mill Manager for Mercer Rosenthal. The new system is planned to be taken into operation during the fourth quarter of 2025.

Mercer International is considered one of the world's largest producers of softwood market pulp and is growing its position in the solid wood products market. Mercer Stendal has a production capacity of 740,000 tpy of softwood and hardwood kraft pulp. The Mercer Rosenthal mill produces about 360,000 tpy of NBSK (Northern Bleached Softwood Kraft).

© 2024 EUWID Europäischer Wirtschaftsdienst GmbH | All Rights Reserved.

Copyright notice The individual articles, tables and other contents published by EUWID are protected by copyright and are provided exclusively for the client's own use and the use of the client's employees. In the absence of a more extensive licence agreement, only one copy may be printed for circulation at a single business location designated by the client. Digital distribution of EUWID contents, especially by intranet or by e-mail, within a company, throughout a group of companies, or outside a company is not permitted and constitutes an infringement of copyright law. Read more in our [FAQ](#).

Germany's recovered paper imports up by a fifth

 **EUWID +** 04 December 2024 |  ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 49/2024](#)

Germany is expected to import significantly more recovered paper in 2024 than last year. According to preliminary figures from the Federal Statistical Office, imports increased by 19 per cent to 3.78 million t in the first nine months of the year. Germany's exports decreased by 8 per cent in the same period. This suggests that full-year exports could amount to even less than last year's record low levels.

Destatis puts the total value of recovered paper imported into Germany from January to September at €630m. The resulting average value stands at €167/t, compared to an average of €147 in the same period of 2023. The upturn is in line with the price increase observed on the German recovered paper market mainly in the spring of this year, which was also documented in the EUWID's monthly market reports. However, prices have recently been falling again.

In tonnage terms, it was recovered paper imports from the Netherlands that increased the most in the nine-month reporting period, having risen by 290,000 t or 44 per cent to a total of 948,000 t. Significantly more recovered paper was also imported from Poland, France and Belgium.

On the export side, a 75 per cent drop in deliveries from Germany to India stands out. In contrast, shipments to Switzerland doubled and exports to Turkey more than tripled.

Overall, Germany's net import surplus reached 2.65 million t in the first three quarters of 2024, up from 1,96 million t a year before.

Germany: imports and exports of recovered paper

	EXPORTS January - September		Change in %
	2024	2023	
Netherlands	309,882	388,388	-20
Austria	293,802	255,423	15
France	246,417	238,138	3
Switzerland	82,683	41,899	97
Belgium	63,108	65,806	-4
Turkey	28,568	7,973	258
Italy	24,946	26,479	-6
Sweden	18,054	15,834	14
India	12,935	48,822	-74
Poland	12,854	23,044	-44
Other countries	39,216	118,415	-67
Total	1,132,464	1,230,221	-8
thereof EU-27	979,377	1,025,136	-4

	IMPORTS January - September		Change in %
	2024	2023	
Netherlands	947,896	658,301	44
Poland	774,275	572,438	35
France	418,892	368,832	14
Denmark	322,958	314,745	3
Belgium	242,699	194,399	25
Czech Republic	208,002	251,794	-17
Switzerland	163,655	189,355	-14
United Kingdom	163,511	155,563	5
Austria	151,771	136,474	11
Italy	115,142	88,383	30
Other countries	269,122	254,707	6
Total	3,777,923	3,184,991	19
thereof EU-27	3,377,554	2,775,270	22

Source: Destatis; calculations by EUWID

EUWID assumes no liability for the accuracy of information.

Irving Paper curtails production due to high energy costs

 **EUWID +** 04 December 2024 |  ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 49/2024](#)

Canadian company Irving Paper has recently announced it would temporarily curtail SC paper production at its mill in Saint John in New Brunswick, Canada from 2 December. For at least one week, the mill will produce at only 50 per cent of its capacity.

According to Irving Paper, the reason for this measure is the high cost of electricity that it purchases from energy supplier NB Power. "No business can absorb price increases of that level without negative impacts. Irving Paper has shut down or reduced its operations over 30 days so far in 2024, with more expected," said Mark Mosher, Vice President of the Irving group's Pulp & Paper division.

Irving Paper used to have annual energy costs in the range of \$60m. The company now expects that this will increase to well over \$80m in 2024 and \$100m in 2025, with significant downtime built in to avoid a much higher bill, says Mr Mosher.

Irving Paper is part of the J.D. Irving group and produces SC paper for flyers and magazines. The mill runs one machine with a capacity of 400,000 tpy, of which 95 per cent is exported to 65 countries, and employs 310 people.

© 2024 EUWID Europäischer Wirtschaftsdienst GmbH | All Rights Reserved.

Copyright notice The individual articles, tables and other contents published by EUWID are protected by copyright and are provided exclusively for the client's own use and the use of the client's employees. In the absence of a more extensive licence agreement, only one copy may be printed for circulation at a single business location designated by the client. Digital distribution of EUWID contents, especially by intranet or by e-mail, within a company, throughout a group of companies, or outside a company is not permitted and constitutes an infringement of copyright law. Read more in our FAQ.

Petteri Kalela new head of SCA Containerboard and Pulp

 **EUWID +** 04 December 2024 |  ~ 1 min | [Published in issue 49/2024](#)

SCA has appointed **Petteri Kalela** as the new President of the Containerboard and Pulp business areas and member of the executive management team. He will assume the position during the first half of 2025, but no later than 1 June 2025. He succeeds **Mats Nordlander**, who will leave SCA at the turn of the year. During the interim period, SCA President and CEO Ulf Larsson will act as head of the Containerboard and Pulp business areas. Mr Kalela previously worked in various leading positions at UPM and Huhtamaki.

© 2024 EUWID Europäischer Wirtschaftsdienst GmbH | All Rights Reserved.

Copyright notice The individual articles, tables and other contents published by EUWID are protected by copyright and are provided exclusively for the client's own use and the use of the client's employees. In the absence of a more extensive licence agreement, only one copy may be printed for circulation at a single business location designated by the client. Digital distribution of EUWID contents, especially by intranet or by e-mail, within a company, throughout a group of companies, or outside a company is not permitted and constitutes an infringement of copyright law. Read more in our FAQ.

Recovered paper collection volumes in France declined slightly in 2023

Downtrend steepest in industrial arisings and graphic paper volumes

 **EUWID +** 04 December 2024 |  ~ 4 min | [Published in issue 49/2024](#)

French waste management companies collected slightly less recovered paper in 2023 than in the previous year. Last year's collection volumes amounted to 6.47 million t, down 1.5 per cent from the prior-year level. Stéphane Panou, president of the paper and board division of the recycling industry association Federec, described this as good performance in a difficult year.

The recycling industry, as other industries, was and is feeling the impact of the economic crisis. The inflation-related drop in packaging consumption led to lower production of paper. Consequently, less recovered paper was generated and collected. Volumes collected from industrial businesses in 2023 were down 4 per cent year-on-year, according to the association. Volumes from household collections, on the other hand, were relatively stable.

Due to the increased popularity of online shopping, more paper packaging ended up in the wastestream separately collected from households. According to French recycling organisation Citeo, the per capita collection volume of board was 16.2 kg last year, representing an increase of 12 per cent compared to 2022. Overall, packaging accounted for 80 per cent of the total paper and board collection volume, Federec said.

Collections of graphic paper down by 10 per cent

While packaging makes up an increasingly large share of recovered paper volumes, the proportion of graphic paper is shrinking. According to Federec, graphic paper collection volumes in 2023 were down by 10 per cent compared with the previous year. Citeo also reports that the per capita volume of graphic paper collected from households stood at 14 kg, representing a 7 per cent decrease versus 2022. This was not surprising because the volumes generated were also 11 per cent lower than in the prior year, the organisation said. Federec und Citeo both said the "Oui Pub" experiment was one factor contributing to the downward trend.

In September 2022, the French government started a three-year test phase for the "Oui Pub" project. Since then, in 14 cities and communities across the country, non-addressed print advertising may only be distributed to households if these expressly indicate they wish to receive adverts by putting a "Oui Pub" sticker on their letter box. Interim results after one year showed that arisings of recovered paper in the test regions had plunged.

As less graphic paper waste was being generated in France, a larger share of this fraction was collected. According to Citeo, the recycling rate for graphic paper from French households was 63 per cent in 2023, representing an increase of 2.7 per cent compared with the prior year. The recycling rate for packaging, which includes plastic packaging along with paper packaging, also improved and stood at 67 per cent in 2023.

Recovered paper consumption drops by 9 per cent, industry revenues slide

For waste management companies in France, the main challenge last year was declining demand. While arising volumes in the country were decreasing, paper and board producers also required less recovered paper because of a dramatic deterioration in their order situation from autumn 2022. According to Federec, French paper and board mills therefore consumed 9 per cent less recovered paper last year than in 2022. Exports to neighbouring countries and Asia partially offset this shortfall.

Nonetheless, a downward slide in recovered paper prices could not be prevented. According to EUWID research, the average 2023 price for the reference grade old corrugated containers (1.05 according to the EN 643 European list of standard grades for recovered paper) was down by around €40/t compared with the average of the previous year. Prices suddenly collapsed in September 2022 and failed to rebound throughout the entire following year.

According to Federec, this price trend was reflected in the sales revenues recorded by companies in the recovered paper sector. In total, they reported sales of €550m in 2023, a considerable decline compared with the €962m booked in 2022.

Recovered paper consumption has also remained weak in 2024, according to Federec. However, new recycled paper capacities have buoyed the recovered paper market, the association said in its report published in November. In June 2023, VPK started a up a new corrugated case material machine in Alizay, which created new momentum in the market. According to EUWID market research, in spring 2023 waste management companies were finally able to charge more for recovered paper – also owing to the limited availability – and prices rose by €45-50/t for the most-used grades. In the second half-year, however, the trend reversed and prices fell continuously until November.

Saica plans first paper mill in the USA, confirms construction of a second packaging plant

📄 EUWID + 04 December 2024 | ⌚ ~ 2 min | [Published in issue 49/2024](#)

The Spanish paper and board manufacturer Saica is continuing its expansion in North America. In addition to the second packaging plant in the USA, which is to be built in Anderson, Indiana from 2025, Saica plans to build a paper mill for recycled corrugated case material in Dayton, Ohio, geographically close to the company's Hamilton corrugated packaging plant.

When asked by EUWID, a company spokesperson confirmed that Saica is currently examining the possibility of purchasing a plot of land in Dayton, Ohio in order to possibly build a mill for recycled corrugated case material. There are no finalised plans yet, the spokesperson said.

It is currently not permitted to build a pulp or paper mill in Dayton. The city's zoning plan would therefore have to be changed. Saica has already applied to the City of Dayton for a corresponding amendment to exclude the manufacture of recycled paper products from the ban. The manufacture of primary fibre paper products - which often involves the use of chemicals and bleaching agents and requires significantly more energy - would still be prohibited, Saica emphasises.

This would give Saica operational flexibility should the company decide to purchase the site, it says. Saica estimates that the construction costs would be around \$600m, according to the company spokesperson.

Construction of second packaging plant to start in spring 2025

Saica also plans to start construction of the [new packaging plant in Anderson](#) in spring 2025 - subject to approval by the Board of Directors in February 2025. An investment of \$120m is planned.

Production is scheduled to start at the end of 2026 or in the first quarter of 2027. The plant will produce packaging from recycled paper and will be similar in design and capacity to the existing site in Hamilton, Ohio, which started [operations in spring 2022](#). One focus will be the production of lightweight packaging, which has been very successful in the USA so far. As a Saica spokesperson confirmed to EUWID, the company is already in talks with potential customers in the region.

This article was updated on 5 December 10:45 am CET.

EU Packaging Waste Regulation passes European Parliament

02 December 2024 [Eva Riebeling](#) | 🕒 ~ 1 min [Published in issue 49/2024](#)



The legislative process for the new EU Regulation on packaging and packaging waste is on the home stretch.

Green light for the EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR): The European Parliament has given its tacit approval. The next step towards final adoption of the new Regulation is an endorsement by the Council, representing the member states' governments.

The PPWR will then be published in the Official Journal of the EU and is expected to enter into force at the beginning of 2025. Its application will then begin to apply after a transition period of 18 months. However, the Regulation also contains a number of provisions with differing transition periods, and these will only become binding later.

The PPWR is being adopted via the corrigendum procedure. The compromise negotiated in "trilogue" talks by the Parliament's and the Council's representatives in the first quarter of this year could only be submitted in English language to the [EU Parliament's plenary vote in April](#) due to a lack of time before the European elections. The versions in the other official EU languages have now been adopted [as corrections to this text](#).

As part of this procedure, the Environment Committee confirmed the PPWR on Monday evening. At the opening of the plenary session on Tuesday morning, the corrigendum was then announced by the EU Parliament's vice-president Katarina Barley. In accordance with Parliament's rules of procedure, the PPWR has now been adopted because no political group or group of at least one twentieth of the 720 MEPs demanded a vote within 24 hours of the announcement.

UPM Fibres concludes change negotiations in Finland

02 December 2024 | ⌚ ~ 1 minPublished in issue 49/2024



UPM will cut jobs in the fibre operations

UPM Fibres has completed change negotiations in the Fibres Finland Operations organisation and will cut a maximum of 88 jobs.

The company and employee representatives also agreed on possible temporary layoffs at the UPM Pulp and UPM Timber operations in Finland in the first half of 2025. These possible layoffs could be implemented in stages and could last up to 90 days, according to UPM.

The change negotiations, which included the UPM Pulp, the UPM Timber and the UPM Forest organisations in Finland, started in October. Approximately 1,600 employees were included in the scope of the change negotiations, writes UPM.

Hinojosa Paper to increase CCM capacity

29 November 2024 | ~ 1 minPublished in issue 49/2024



Voith will implement a significant upgrade at Hinojosa Paper Alquería

Spanish Hinojosa Packaging Group will implement the rebuild of PM 1 at its site in Alquería de Aznar, Spain jointly with Voith.

The company aims to increase containerboard output in the 115-195 g/m² weight range by around 19 per cent to 128,000 tpy, enhance overall efficiency of the machine and reduce steam combustion.

The rebuild of PM 1 with a width of 3,400 mm and a design speed of 1,000 m/min is another step to improve the environmental footprint and at the same time secure efficient and reliable operation, the company says.

The shutdown and restart of PM 1 are scheduled for the first quarter of 2026. The rebuild includes upgrades to both the OCC stock preparation and the paper machine. Voith will make changes to the approach flow system and also relocate the existing headbox. The forming section will be optimized and will receive new dewatering elements.

Hinojosa Paper Alquería is a part of Hinojosa Packaging Group. The company employs 2,900 employees to generate sales of €739m and operates 24 sites in Spain, Portugal, France and Italy. The company's two divisions Paper and Packaging produce containerboard, corrugated packaging, end-user packaging and food packaging.

Suspicion of price fixing: German Federal Cartel Office conducts investigation into tissue manufacturers

28 November 2024 [Konstantin Stoll](#) | 🕒 ~ 1 min [Published in issue 49/2024](#)



The Bundeskartellamt is investigating possible competition infringements in the German tissue sector.

EUWID.

The German Federal Cartel Office is investigating possible collusion under competition law in the German market for tissue paper.

On 26 November 2002, the Bundeskartellamt carried out inspections at nine locations in Germany, targeting seven tissue manufacturers.

The Federal Cartel Office is investigating suspicions of possible price and volume agreements restricting competition at the paper mills concerned, a spokesperson for the authority explained in response to an enquiry from

The spokesperson emphasised that the searches do not yet constitute evidence of an infringement of competition law and that the presumption of innocence applies until the proceedings have been concluded.

The Federal Cartel Office did not provide any information on the market participants. In a statement, Metsä Tissue confirmed an ["unannounced audit at the Kreuzau tissue paper mill"](#). Hygiene paper manufacturer Wepa also confirmed searches in response to an EUWID enquiry. Other companies have not yet made any public statements.

Norske Skog's Saugbrugs and Skogn mills threaten to be excluded from EU ETS

28 November 2024 | 🕒 ~ 2 min Published in issue 49/2024



Norske Skog's Skogn and Saugbrugs mills in Norway are threatened with exclusion from the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) in the period from 2026 to 2030.

Norske Skog says that the Norwegian Environmental Protection Agency (Miljødirektoratet) has announced a possible decision in this regard for the two sites, which would mean that the plants would not receive a free allocation of EU emission allowances (EUAs) for emissions

trading in the specified period.

The introduction of a revised qualification criterion in the EU ETS system for 2026 to 2030 means that the two plants no longer qualify for emissions trading, Norske Skog reports. The criterion leads to the exclusion of plants where, on average, more than 95 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions in the qualification period between 2019 and 2023 come from sustainable biomass as defined under the Renewable Energy Directive II (RED II) instead of fossil fuels.

Norske Skog comments on the environmental authority's announcement that such a decision represents a significant setback for the sustainable industry and, on the contrary, creates incentives for plants that continue or even increase their use of fossil fuels. The company will work with industry partners to ensure that biomass is treated equally alongside other decarbonisation measures. The company highlights as positive the political development in Austria to reintroduce CO₂ compensation, which would neutralise the effects of the exclusion from the free allocation of EUAs in Norway.

If it were decided to exclude Norske Skog Skogn and Saugbrugs from the emissions trading scheme, the plants would neither receive a free allocation of EUAs nor would they be obliged to surrender EUAs to cover greenhouse gas emissions from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2023. Norske Skog points out that neither the Golbey and Bruck plants nor the corresponding CO₂ compensation schemes in Norway are affected by the new qualification criterion.

For next year, the company expects to sell around 150,000 EUAs at its Skogn and Saugbrugs plants net.

© 2024 EUWID Europäischer Wirtschaftsdienst GmbH | All Rights Reserved.

Copyright notice The individual articles, tables and other contents published by EUWID are protected by copyright and are provided exclusively for the client's own use and the use of the client's employees. In the absence of a more extensive licence agreement, only one copy may be printed for circulation at a single business location designated by the client. Digital distribution of EUWID contents, especially by intranet or by e-mail, within a company, throughout a group of companies, or outside a company is not permitted and constitutes an infringement of copyright law. Read more in our FAQ.

UPM Raflatac to close Kaltenkirchen mill in Germany

27 November 2024 | ⓘ ~ 1 minPublished in issue 49/2024



UPM Raflatac has announced that it will close down its Kaltenkirchen mill close to Hamburg in Germany. The site produces self-adhesive products for labels and graphic solutions. The company put the number of positions affected at 154 and said it would implement the closure in stages during 2025.

The production of label material in Kaltenkirchen will be transferred to UPM Raflatac's mills in Poland and Finland.

In addition, the company will transfer the graphic solutions

production to its mill in Belgium. UPM Raflatac had announced in July this year that it would take over Belgian company Grafityp to accelerate its growth in this segment. The production of graphics solutions will continue in Kaltenkirchen until the transfer of the upgraded coating line is completed.

With the move, UPM wants to create the conditions to grow in the Films and Graphics business. "By centralising the production to more cost competitive factories, we will also improve the cost efficiency and quality of our products," added Tim Kirchen, EVP of UPM Raflatac.

UPM Raflatac is a subsidiary of the UPM group and offers self-adhesive paper and film products. The company operates 13 mills and employs around 3,100 people.

Lecta announces the spin-off of its self-adhesive business

27 November 2024 [Frauke Schmidt](#) | 🕒 ~ 1 min [Published in issue 49/2024](#)



Lecta will part with its self-adhesive materials activities

The new entity, Lecta Self-Adhesives España, S.L.U., will be responsible for all the group's self-adhesive activities, contracts and commercial relationships as of 1 January 2025.

Lecta has announced the spin-off of its self-adhesives business unit from Torraspapel. This spin-off will be effective as of 1 January 2025. It entails the creation of the new company Lecta Self-Adhesives España, S.L.U which will take over all activities, agreements and commercial relationships relating to the Lecta's self-adhesives

business, including all its [self-adhesive products](#).

This strategic decision reflects Lecta's transformation and specialisation that has taken place in recent years. With this new structure, Lecta seeks to optimise the management and profitability of the business through specialisation, higher production efficiency and better adaptability to market opportunities of each business unit.

Lecta Self-Adhesives España S.L.U. will maintain its headquarters at Llull Street 331, 08019 Barcelona, Spain.