

Boxboard Europe

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Top stories

Potential investor for FOLBB's Baiersbronn Frischfaser Karton withdraws, future of FBB mill in Germany uncertain

By Daniela Wortmann - Friday 28 August

The future of folding boxboard (FBB) production in Baiersbronn, southwestern Germany, has become uncertain after a potential investor for FOLBB subsidiary Baiersbronn Frischfaser Karton withdrew from a proposed takeover of the 150,000 tonne per year site.

"Unfortunately, hopes for a successful conclusion to the investor process for Baiersbronn Frischfaser Karton have not been fulfilled," the law firm overseeing the company's provisional insolvency proceedings, Brinkmann & Partner (B&P), said on Thursday August 27. "The potential investor has announced that it will not be pursuing the planned transaction."

It added that all parties involved had worked diligently to find a viable solution for the company and the Baiersbronn site in recent weeks, but no agreement could be reached due to very challenging economic and industry-specific conditions.

"The management and the insolvency administrator deeply regret this development," B&P said, "especially with regard to our employees and the Baiersbronn location. Further steps will now be coordinated closely with all parties involved in the short term."

The FOLBB subsidiaries Baiersbronn Frischfaser Karton and Folding Boxboard Eerbeek, filed for the initiation of insolvency proceedings in late June. The two mills used to be part of Austria's Mayr-Melnhof Group until they were sold to a group of funds managed by Oaktree Capital Management in August 2021, and jointly became part of FOLBB.

The Eerbeek mill in the province of Gelderland, eastern Netherlands, which was able to produce around 150,000 tpy of FBB and had 220 employees, was intended to be taken over by entrepreneurs Richard Getkate and Siegfried Hohmann, but the deal was not completed within an agreed timeframe and plans to restart operations were cancelled.

For Baiersbronn Frischfaser Karton, B&P confirmed on August 25 that it would continue business operations during the insolvency proceedings, but warned that the potential investor had not yet been able to secure the financing necessary for the transaction.

"Independent continuation of operations after the commencement of proceedings is not possible due to the reinstatement of full costs and limited options for price increases," B&P said. "This limits the remaining timeframe for successfully concluding the investor process. Should the current transaction process not be successfully completed in time, business operations will have to cease upon the commencement of insolvency proceedings."

Insolvent Dutch folding carton producer, packaging printer Royal De Vries ceases operations, equipment up for sale

By Daniela Wortmann - Thursday 27 August

Folding carton production and packaging printing have come to an end in Sneek, in the northern Netherlands. Insolvent carton printer Royal De Vries ceased operations and went out of business at the end of July.

"After 152 years, the folding carton plant of Royal De Vries in Sneek has ceased production. No buyer was found for the business as a whole," the company said on Monday August 24. "The German plant remarketing specialist Allaoui has acquired all assets and is offering them for sale, including a KBA offset press as well as Bobst and MK Masterwork converting equipment," it added.

Royal De Vries started operating as a printing house in 1874. Over the twentieth century, it became a leading folding carton producer for national and international brands and ranked among the leading suppliers to the fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector. In 2016, the company received the Dutch royal designation.

According to majority shareholder FB Oranjewoud Participaties, which took control of Royal De Vries in 2018, a reorganization in 2025 led to quality and delivery problems, causing customers to move elsewhere. The problems were resolved, but sales did not recover, and Royal De Vries filed for insolvency on June 15.

Administrator Christian Geffroy of law firm Dommerholt Advocaten kept the plant running until July 31 to fulfill open orders and preserve the business for a potential buyer. He sought a purchaser for the operation as a whole and negotiated with several interested parties, but no agreement was reached in time. The plant closed, and all 98 employees lost their jobs.

"In recent years, Royal De Vries has suffered losses, after the 2023 financial year was closed with a modest positive result. The market in which the company operates is challenging," Jan Knol, director of FB Oranjewoud Participaties, said in a statement in June.

"We have consistently continued to believe in the employees and the company, and we have worked together to turn the tide and explored whether collaboration with other parties could contribute to a healthy future for the company. Moreover, we have provided additional financing on several occasions, most recently in May. Nevertheless, revenue lags significantly behind what is needed for sound business operations, and there comes a moment when it must be determined that the losses have become too large. Unfortunately, that moment has now arrived," he added.

Allaoui is now offering the entire movable asset base of Royal De Vries, including prepress and CTP equipment, offset printing, die-cutting and folder-gluing equipment, end-of-line packing and palletizing automation, paper and sheet handling equipment, as well as forklifts, pallet trucks, pallet and paper racking, workshop equipment and spare parts. Machines can be purchased with full-service relocation and commissioning.

"A restart is not always possible. As a trustee, you investigate the possibilities, weigh up interests and try to retain value where possible. Thanks to the efforts of all Royal De Vries employees, we worked through the bankruptcy for almost two months. Nevertheless, there is now talk of a permanent closure.

That is also part of insolvency practice," Geffroy said on social media on August 25.

Sonoco to raise EMEA URB prices by €60 per tonne from September 15

By Daniela Wortmann - Wednesday 26 August

Sonoco will increase prices for uncoated recycled paperboard (URB) grades in Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA) region by €60 (\$70) per tonne for all shipments from September 15, the company said on Tuesday August 25.

The company attributed the increase to persistent inflationary pressures.

"Geopolitical constraints and the continued inflationary business environment are driving cost increases across our operations and supply chain. Expected increases in energy and fuel costs are likely to further pressure our operating and transportation costs. As we are unable to absorb these additional costs, we are forced to pass them on to the market," the company's division vice president of sales and marketing for Industrial Paper Packaging in EMEA said.

Sonoco operates 19 tubes and core plants and five paperboard mills in Europe.

Related News Boxboard/Cartonboard Europe

Pankaboard expands PankaBrite product range

- Tuesday 25 August

Pankaboard is pleased to announce the extension of its PankaBrite range with an additional 250 gsm grade featuring a thickness of 450 microns.

The introduction of the new substance is part of Pankaboard's ongoing commitment to better serve customers requiring speciality cartonboard solutions. By extending the range, Pankaboard can offer a more complete product portfolio to converters and brand owners that rely on the unique characteristics of Pankaboard products across multiple applications and substance levels.

With cartonboards available up to 525 gsm, the new 250 gsm option further strengthens the continuity of the portfolio, making it possible for converters to source the cartonboard grades they need from a single supplier.

"Our customers value Pankaboard for its unique speciality cartonboard offering and service capabilities. The addition of the new 250 gsm grade is a direct response to customer needs and further improves our ability to serve converters requiring high-thickness cartonboards across a broader substance range," says Pasi Piiparinen, CEO at Pankaboard.

The extended PankaBrite range is available with immediate effect.

Detailed product specifications are available at www.pankaboard.com.

Boxboard/Cartonboard Europe Key Attributes

Symbol	Description	Date	Price	+/-	Month	Monthly Average
FP-CBB-0098	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g, free delivered France, €/tonne	01 Aug 2026	980 - 1220	0 (0.00%)	Aug 2026	980 - 1220
FP-CBB-0100	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g free delivered Germany €/tonne	01 Aug 2026	980 - 1210	0 (0.00%)	Aug 2026	980 - 1210
FP-CBB-0099	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered France, €/tonne	01 Aug 2026	700 - 740	0 (0.00%)	Aug 2026	700 - 740
FP-CBB-0101	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered Germany, €/tonne	01 Aug 2026	680 - 735	0 (0.00%)	Aug 2026	680 - 735

Boxboard/Cartonboard Germany Markets

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FP-CBB-0100	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g free delivered Germany €/tonne	01 Aug 2026	980 - 1210	0 (0.00%)	Aug 2026	980 - 1210
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Boxboard/Cartonboard Spain Markets

Symbol	Description	Date	Price	+/-	Month	Monthly Average
FP-CBB-0104	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g, free delivered Spain, €/tonne	01 Jul 2026	970 - 1220	0 (0.00%)	Jul 2026	970 - 1220
FP-CBB-0105	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered Spain, €/tonne	01 Jul 2026	695 - 720	0 (0.00%)	Jul 2026	695 - 720

Boxboard/Cartonboard France Markets

Symbol	Description	Date	Price	+/-	Month	Monthly Average
FP-CBB-0098	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g, free delivered France, €/tonne	01 Aug 2026	980 - 1220	0 (0.00%)	Aug 2026	980 - 1220
FP-CBB-0099	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered France, €/tonne	01 Aug 2026	700 - 740	0 (0.00%)	Aug 2026	700 - 740

Boxboard/Cartonboard Italy Markets

Symbol	Description	Date	Price	+/-	Month	Monthly Average
FP-CBB-0102	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g, free delivered Italy, €/tonne	01 Aug 2026	980 - 1220	0 (0.00%)	Aug 2026	980 - 1220
FP-CBB-0103	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered Italy, €/tonne	01 Aug 2026	680 - 730	0 (0.00%)	Aug 2026	680 - 730

Boxboard/Cartonboard UK Markets

Symbol	Description	Date	Price	+/-	Month	Monthly Average
FP-CBB-0094	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g, free delivered United Kingdom, £/tonne	01 Aug 2026	990 - 1175	0 (0.00%)	Aug 2026	990 - 1175
FP-CBB-0095	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g, free delivered United Kingdom, €/tonne	01 Aug 2026	1159 - 1375	3.5 (0.28%)	Aug 2026	1159 - 1375
FP-CBB-0096	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered United Kingdom, £/tonne	01 Aug 2026	715 - 765	0 (0.00%)	Aug 2026	715 - 765
FP-CBB-0097	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered United Kingdom, €/tonne	01 Aug 2026	837 - 895	2 (0.23%)	Aug 2026	837 - 895