

SKYMARK PACKAGING



THE CUTTING EDGE OF PACKAGING

A MAJOR INVESTMENT IN A NEW CAST POLYPROPYLENE LINE IS SET TO BRING BENEFITS TO BOTH SKYMARK PACKAGING INTERNATIONAL AND ITS CUSTOMERS IN THE FOOD AND DRINK SECTOR

One of the largest independent packaging manufacturers in Britain, the company has recently installed a brand new, five-layer cast

reduced gauge film, Skymark aims to give its customers a competitive edge and bring environmental benefits. As a registered reclamation

In the agricultural belt of North Lincolnshire, Skymark is seeing the market evolve as increasing demand for local produce has led to more interest in locally produced packaging. This is not only for idealistic reasons: Skymark can offer its customers the benefits of lower minimum orders and shorter lead times than many companies based abroad.

Founded in 1987 by Mike Toofanian and John Turner to produce packaging for the mailing market, the company celebrated its 25th anniversary last year. Accredited to ISO 140001 and with 240 staff at sites covering a total of more than 18,000 sq m in Scunthorpe in North Lincolnshire and Ilkeston in Derbyshire; Skymark today offers services such as blown and cast multilayer extruded PE & PP films, solvent and solventless lamination, bag making, recycling and up to 10-colour flexographic printing.

The key to Skymark's steady growth is its continuous programme of investment in everything from

modern equipment and innovative materials to strategic expansion and human resources. The new cast polypropylene line is expected to help grow turnover closer to the desired £45m-£50m mark by 2014 and to offer more innovative packaging solutions to its multi-national client base and its growing markets in north Africa, mainland Europe and Russia.

"We often find when times are down, the best approach is to invest in what you've got," says Paul Glover. "By having modern equipment on site we're able to maintain our staff levels, as you can get a lot more out of new equipment than you can old. And diversifying the business reduces our exposure to some of the markets we're already in."

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polypropylene line, described as the first major investment in cast polypropylene in the UK in 20 years.

At a cost of €4m (£3.42m), this investment shows the company's commitment to new technology and opens up market sectors such as produce, stationery, lamination and medical supplies. Installed at the end of August 2012, the line is set to be one of the most productive in Europe, capable of manufacturing high-quality CPP film up to 2,800mm wide and producing around 5,500 tonnes per year of CPP material between 15 micron and 100 micron. With qualities of good thermal sealing, high transparency, printability and resistance to heat treatments, CPP films are ideal for a wide range of packaging applications and markets.

By investing in new equipment and developing new films, including

company, Skymark can also issue its own PRN (Packaging Recovery Note) and re-use or sell on materials to other recycling companies.

Another reason for the investment is to satisfy demand for better

quality packaging to increase the shelf life of products and the company has been meeting with technical teams at major multiples to promote these new capabilities. "Cast polypropylene packaging is used for things like carrots, onions and parsnips, as it's very impact resistant and the goods don't break through," says Technical Director Paul Glover.

