Interview with Eric Lepagney, Production Manager at Bio Planete, France

Founded in 1984 and named after its creator, Moog oil mill is the first exclusively organic oil mill in Europe. Today called Bio Planete, it is still a specialist in organic craft oils produced from more than ten different seeds and nuts; and transforms oils from different origins. The company bottles its oils on site and has entrusted the product label printing to aps Alternative Printing Services. Material specific to the labelling of high-end products was carefully selected.

BIOPLANÈTE
HUILERIE MOOG
FONDÉE EN 1984

Can you tell us about Bio Planete?

Bio Planete is a craft oil mill which was founded 26 years ago. It is located in Aude, 20km from Carcassonne. Our business process includes the grinding of seeds, i.e. pressing, to the conditioning of the oils. Our main feature is that all our products are 100% organic. On site, we grind seeds of sunflower, soya, colza, and sesame; and peanuts, walnuts and almonds. We bottle organic olive oil that we import from Spain, Italy and Greece. We bring in marrow pips from Austria; and coco from Indonesia and Sri Lanka. Nearly 70% of turnover is achieved through export, especially to Germany, where the founder of the company, M. Moog was born. Germany is a country with which we have always had special links. Our headquarters are located in Bram, which is also our production site. The company grows year after year by riding the wave of organic growth and we base our progress on a policy of constant innovation. Our latest is a 250 ml bottle, a composition combining extra virgin olive oil and balsamic vinegar of Modena and which is the first oil-vinegar mixture ready for use, as organic quality. We are also able to meet the specific requests of our customers. The experience of Germany and the rigor imposed by the exchanges with this country is a very positive experience for the development of new markets.

In what type of conditions are the aps equipment used?

We use two apsolute printers positioned on a bottling line to ensure the marking of information - the deadline for optimal use, batch number and origin of the seed. By the way, we are the only one to indicate the origin of the seed, which constitutes for us a guarantee of transparency. Printing is done before the depositing on the bottle. The label roll runs on the carrier strip, the label being snapped up when the bottle moves. We were previously using inkjet printers, but what has attracted us to this conventional machine proposed by aps is its simplicity of operation. If a problem occurs, simply change the cartridge. The operators need only minimal training since there is no maintenance or technical knowledge to acquire. Use is much less complex than inkjet, which is sometimes sensitive to light and moisture. On the other hand, this very flexible use is well suited to our working conditions which involve changes in labels size and bottles frequently. Stops of the production line are no longer a problem. The complete absence of solvents in the ink, and therefore in the workshop, is also a point that has attracted us as it reflects our brand image and our organic policy. At this level, regulations will certainly be set up, but we preferred to take the lead on that project.

A shutter, to avoid any inadvertent drying

Another interesting aspect of the aps machines is the shutter that we use for several

aps
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About aps

The aps group with headquarters in Herrenberg, Germany, is a leader in industrial marking and coding, specialising in ink jet technology. Founded in 2000, the aps group is represented with their own offices and stores worldwide in more than 30 countries. With their apsolute printer, the company offers the first and reusable, maintenance-free inkjet printer. Both products and packaging can be identified thanks to the large range of ink available. Furthermore, aps offers extensive services such as equipment, spare parts and service for all common industrial printers (Imaje ®, Linx ®, Videojet ®, Willett ® etc.).

months. This feature avoids any drying of the print head. Before using this process, if we did not print a label for 30 seconds, the ink dried and at the resumption of printing, the first label showed a small defect. If there was an interruption of 1 minute, the first label was completely white. Thanks to the shutter, we do not encounter this problem anymore. A shutter closes when the machine stops and re-opens when it starts again, which prevents the ink from drying. During the break, a buffer system provides a micro-purge absorbing ink. It's very easy to use and there is no defect on the first label. We no longer need to tap on the cartridge between the shutdowns. Additional points are also interesting, like being able to save all messages printed, which can be transferred from one machine to another if needed, without having to retype any information.

Do you think the aps machines are well suited to your business?

Yes, for us, ease of use of the aps apsolute printers is the major advantage. In a small and medium-sized firm like ours, we cannot be equipped with all the skills. We have a person specialist of this hardware, but who cannot be sought at any time. Thanks to the simplicity of use, operators are able to work independently without being dependent on technical problems. The adjustment is done once and then you just replace the cartridge and restart. The installation of machines, made by aps, is the same principle as an inkjet machine. So everything is very simple, and mainly in the setting.

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