TO see full Sun Chemical press conference, visit www.labelsandlabeling.com

Inspection results are summarized for quality assurance documentation.Lake Image Systems' latest IntegraVision Discovery inspects and verifies both print quality and variable data, including barcodes, on all narrow web platforms, including digital presses. The system references against a 'golden' image and inspects via a high-resolution 100% line scan camera at speeds up to 1,000 feet/min. Non-western characters are included, identifying defects as small as 0.04mm. Also shown was a label inspection system for ANSI/ISO barcode grading, fitted to an Ashe Converting Opal slitter/rewinder.

INKS AND COATINGS

This Labelexpo will certainly be remembered for the first demonstration of LED curing on conventional narrow web production systems. Ink manufacturer Siegwerk was at the center of these developments with a new ink system developed to work alongside a curing system from US company Phoseon on a Gallus ECS340 press. Siegwerk's LED system includes UV flexo inks, UV screen inks and UV overprint varnishes. The company says they are a match for conventional UV inks in terms of drying speed, achieving print speeds on a suitably modified press in excess of 100 m/min.

The lamps and inks are currently 15-20 percent more expensive than those for conventional UV drying, but Siegwerk says this is offset by lower energy consumption, the elimination of air exhaustion systems and a safer work environment.

Another trend was towards the introduction of low migration inks compliant with emerging tough regulations in Switzerland. Mirage Inks, for example, launched Quartz Artemis, a cationic UV curing ink system that complies with the impending Swiss laws, without the presence of potentially harmful bi-products like benzene, itx and 4 methyl benzophenone. Tests by Pira on commercially printed shrinkable PET found no detectable migration.

Paragon launched its NC Series ink range which meets the latest Nestle migration compliance list for raw materials, and cures at speeds over 250m/min with a high color strength. The NC Series includes the LM and LO Series, all of which are Benzophenone, ITX and BDK free.

Pulse Roll Label Products launched a range of inks for food packaging applications. The company's PM and BB range of inks are the result of working closely with raw materials suppliers and end users.

Global ink manufacturer Flint Group, meanwhile, introduced Flexocure Force, a lower viscosity ink with no foaming that the company says increases print quality, improves mileage and press performance and can adhere on a wider range of substrates. Tests have shown new ink does not cause plate swell. Also new was Flexocure XS opaque white ink for shrink sleeve printing, with improved slip characteristics, and the latest upgrade of CombiWhite.

Sun Chemical promoted new UV additions to its Solaris narrow web ink system. SolarFlex Nova for UV flexo offers improved cure time, higher color strength and ColorSat color management tools to reduce downtime. Silicone-free, the new ink allows for easier post-print enhancements as well. Suncure Starluxe is the company's latest UV offset ink, offering enhanced performance on a broader base of substrates. Solar Screen Opaque Whites were launched in both silicone and silicone-free versions.

Screen ink specialist Marabu and UV flexo specialist Paragon Inks demonstrated live label printing at their joint booth on a Mark Andy UV flexo/rotary screen servo press and Franchini's SeriGon flatbed screen press. Marabu presented two new gold pastes, which join the successful high-gloss silver S-UV 296. All metallic concentrates can be used with the respective clear for rotary and flatbed printing.

Ruco introduced a line of UV screen printing inks that it says is made up of '40 percent renewable raw materials'. It showed the inks printed on a Fasson biodegradable stock. Developed for the decoration of plastic films, the inks are highly reactive and are available in high-gloss formulations. The company claims a high resistance to solvents and a high quality print result on pre-treated PE and PP.

Security ink manufacturer Luminescence introduced its 'metameric' optically variable ink. The system uses two inks that appear exactly the same when viewed directly, but one changes color when the viewing angle is changed. The system can be incorporated into designs or make a message emerge from a flat image. The inks are available in several different colors and are suitable for flexo, gravure, intaglio and screen printing.

CTI presented its full line of screen, gravure, flexo and offset thermochromatic inks, along with value-adding inks including glow-in-the-dark and color shifting options.

On the inkjet front, Roland DG was claiming a first for its metallic silver ink. When used in combination with CMYK inks, this new color in the ECO-SOL MAX range allows the creation of a range of special colors, including gold and various metallic colors.

ANILOX SYSTEMS

Sandon Global Engraving launched HOC, an anilox roll technology for label printers looking to use high opaque color UV flexo printing as an alternative to rotary screen. The HOC technology joins the company's high opacity white HOW anilox brand for printing screen quality whites using UV flexo, which also showed for the first time in Europe. The company's HVP high volume process and Ipro high process print anilox roll technology also made their debuts; the latter designed for high print speeds and high line count applications in process printing.

Pamarco Global Graphics launched E-Flo, an anilox roll designed to compliment CTP plate technology for high-end flexible packaging. A new cell structure and different cell angles have been applied to provide a more consistent ink lay down. This system is designed to help printers using high definition (HD) systems maintain color density and the integrity of the anilox and printing plate.

Apex Europe showed its new 2G anilox rolls with a lightweight steel body and stainless steel journals. It also introduced to European converters its Genetic Transfer Technology, which