

# Conversions

## Takigawa Adds HELIOSTAR

**Gravure capacity in Kentucky plant Supports Growth & Company Goals**

Takigawa Corporation, an international producer of flexible packaging, has added a second HELIOSTAR gravure press from Windmoeller & Hoelscher to their Bardstown, Kentucky facility. The 10-color press has been in production since July 2022.

“We opened operations in the United States in 2019 and have made excellent headway in printing flexible packaging, in markets such as pet food. We are committed to printing beautiful quality images that can evoke emotion and awaken senses as packaging aims to do, while doing so sustainably,” said Weijia Zhang, Director of Business Development and Marketing.

**Takigawa continued on page 4**

## Did you miss K or need a recap?

**No problem!**

On pages 6 and 7 you can find a summary of the technologies and products W&H and partners introduced at the K 2022 in Düsseldorf, including the **EASY2 Change** module.



**Efficient Production | Circular Economy | Digitization**



The Takigawa and W&H Teams together at Pack Expo International in Chicago in October 2022.



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# President's Corner

## Trade Shows Dominate Fall of 2022

K 2019 was the last major worldwide trade show before COVID 19 hit and is the largest show in the world for the plastics industry. Since then, all major shows where we normally exhibit (DRUPA, Interpack, NPE, multiple Pack Expos) were canceled.

W&H management wondered what would happen to K 2022. Due to quarantine rules, it was clear that China, a dominant exhibitor and visitor to K, would not be able to attend. Others would be prevented due to the war in Ukraine, so it was a complete crapshoot what the turnout would be.

Nevertheless, the strong spine of W&H leadership recognized that the world would be starved for innovation, interaction, and inspiration, particularly from the worldwide leader in our industry. So, our event team, along with dozens and dozens of contributors started planning while being ready for the various complications that would, should, and could arise. Should we show a running line?

Of course, we were going to show a line ... pedal to the metal! We were going to show the industry, that COVID is NOT another word for "stop innovating." The wonderful German saying "Wenn schon, denn schon" ("if you are going to do it ... do it RIGHT," or in southern vernacular "go big or go home") proved right on target.

W&H not only exhibited a running line at K (unlike many competitors), but clearly separated itself from the rest of the industry with demos of technical innovation being shown 3 times daily. We wowed hundreds of visitors with each show. Clearly, W&H engineers spent the years since the last K coming up with new and innovative ways to help our customers, showing improvements in waste reduction, productivity, and efficiency that truly illustrated the goal of a circular economy and sustainability.

During the eight days of K, thousands of people watched the demo and saw for themselves that sustainable products can be produced sustainably in real life. That beats individual demos by a long shot.

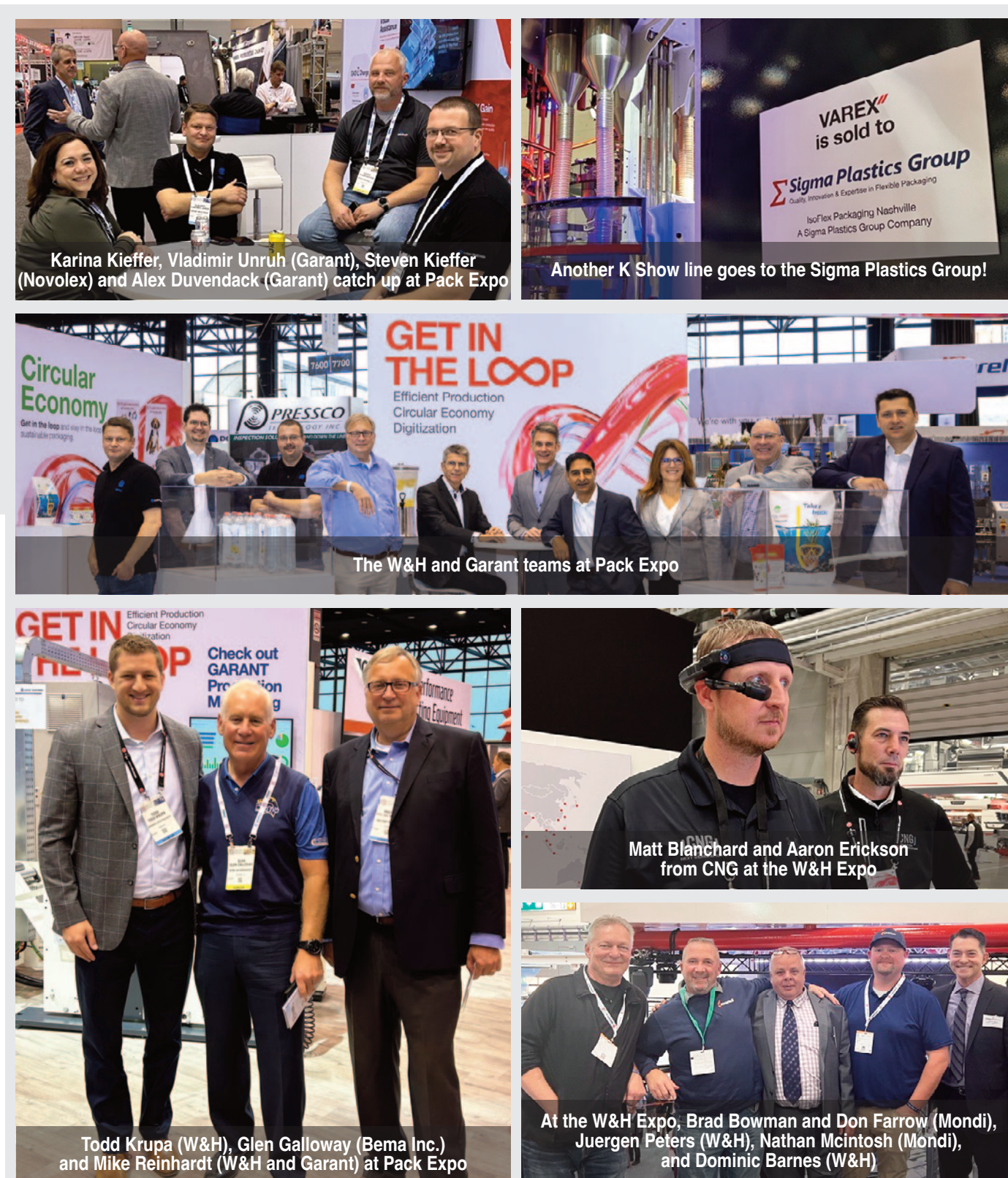


We obviously would have loved it if international trade show organizers communicated with each other, but due to a SNAFU in scheduling, Pack Expo International in Chicago overlapped with K for the crucial second week of K. A major North American show, Pack Expo did not disappoint with attendance of close to 45,000 visitors and over 2,000 exhibitors. As usual, the W&H booth was full of old friends eager to catch up, and we were really excited about discussing new projects and the technologies from K with customers who had not gone to Germany.

W&H was well represented, including a team from Garant, our paper bag subsidiary. Garant ran live demonstrations on the ROTADIA that makes paper cone bags, something you don't see too often on this side of the Atlantic, even though it was sold to a new customer in Florida.

Across the board, it was an exciting, interesting, and exhausting trade show season. I absolutely loved it, and it was so great seeing so many of you again!

## President's Corner continued



# Annual Service Meeting in the Ocean State



Every year at the beginning of Thanksgiving week, the entire North American service team meets in Rhode Island. It never fails to be a fruitful and rewarding couple of days during which we get to see each other face-to-face, have open discussions, and work together on ideas to make your customer experience even better.

## Takigawa continued from page 1

After three and a half years in the U.S. market, the company recognized room for growth, which triggered the purchase of the new HELIOSTAR. "Gravure is the predominant printing process in Japan and Asia as a whole. As a result, the Takigawa group has a lot of experience with it and the technology has allowed us to deliver exceptional print quality to our customer base. Because of the success the

HELIOSTAR has helped us achieve, and the fact it is being used in all three of our plants (Japan, Vietnam, US), we felt adding another was the logical decision. Running the same technology in all locations is beneficial in terms of knowledge sharing and providing the confidence we are delivering consistent print quality to our customers around the world," said Chad Rupert, President of Takigawa Corporation America.

As a testament to both companies' shared values of customer service and long-term partnerships, Takigawa and W&H have been partners for decades in both printing presses and blown film extrusion lines, with the first gravure press dating back to the 1950's.

The company is also gearing up to support their customer base in their pursuit of recyclable packaging. The newest HELIOSTAR gravure press is equipped with novel technology to offer unparalleled print quality and leakproof pouches, specifically designed for monomaterial packaging.

[www.takigawa-corp.com](http://www.takigawa-corp.com)



The new HELIOSTAR located in Takigawa's Bardstown, Kentucky facility.

# NOVOFLEX II Brings No-Bounce Printing to Overwraps

## First North American Press with RUBY Check@Slitter

Overwraps Flexibles specializes in flexographic printing, laminating barrier films, and producing pouches and bags. Recently the company installed its first W&H press, a 10-color NOVOFLEX II at their plant in Dallas, TX.

"When W&H was pitching the business, they claimed the NOVOFLEX II could run no bounce and we were skeptical," said Will Siler, Vice-President of Manufacturing and Technical at Overwraps. "Since commissioning, the press has been running extremely well and bounce-free on anything we've thrown at it. We can take challenging designs, run them on the NOVOFLEX and the results are amazing," he added.

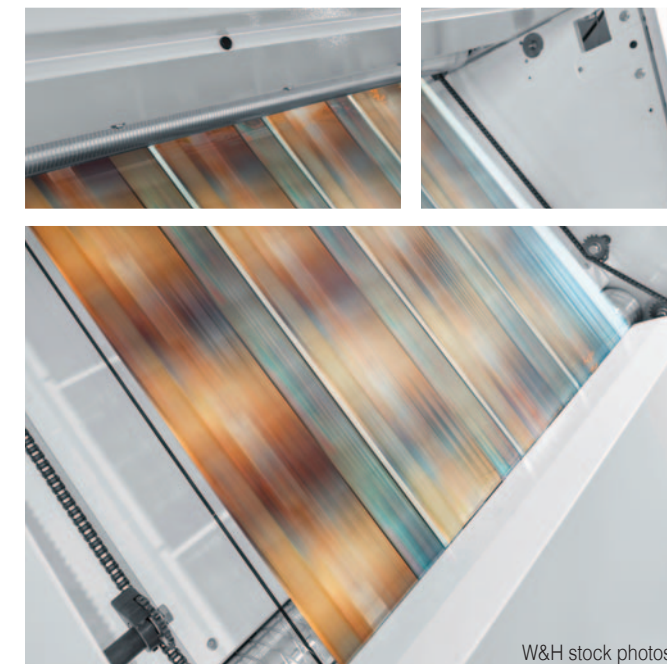
With the new press, Overwraps is currently running jobs at 1,800 ft./min, which is twice as fast as they were used to (the press can run up to 2,000 ft./min.). Whereas the automated systems and interface features made running the press easy, the increased speeds initially created a learning curve on how to feed the press fast enough, explained Siler.

This is the first press in North America to have RUBY Check@Slitter, which takes data from the W&H defect detection system and communicates with downstream processes, in this case the slitter, indicating where to stop and cut out defects.

Another valuable option on the press according to Overwraps is the inserter, which allows them to register front to back printing on the second pass. The NOVOFLEX can throw a flying splice on the second pass at full speed and always stay in register with no need to stop the press.

"We're very pleased with the performance of the press and ongoing responsiveness and quality of support from W&H," concluded Siler.

[www.overwraps.com](http://www.overwraps.com)



W&H stock photos



# Highlights from K 2022

## EASY2 Change Autopilot to Success



The EASY2 Change automation system was the main W&H attraction at K 2022. Running live demos three times daily, EASY2 Change showed job changeovers, with just one operator, all in under 10 minutes.

### What makes EASY2 Change different?

To start with, the system offers clear guidance, and sophisticated automation that together simplify the process for the operator.

The intuitive dashboard not only guides the machine operator through every step of a changeover, but also provides complete transparency and control throughout the process. Using innovative technology, the bubble shape, stability, and the frost line are all visible on the dashboard. This visual aid assists the operator, quickly bringing the bubble to the perfect shape to produce top quality and reproducible films.

The integrated automation systems include the ARCTIS II air ring, along with features from EASY Change, EASY Wind, TURBOCLEAN and Profile Booster. With so much automation, the number of clicks required by an operator are reduced by 70%. This translates into job changes being twice as fast. Scan here to watch the video. >>



## Our first Sustainability Report

Learn about our environmental, social and governance goals as your partner working towards sustainability.

Scan this code to read the report. >>



## Products for the Circular Economy

Learn more about innovative film structures and processes developed with our partners.

At K 2022 we highlighted newly developed packaging that is recycle-ready or contains a significant percentage of recycled content. All these examples were extruded and printed on W&H machines and tested for processability on W&H sack machines or on equipment from our partners.

See them all by scanning this QR code. >>



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## Highlights from K 2022 continued

## RUBY GAIN for Extrusion Monitor and Analyze Production Data

RUBY GAIN is an extension to RUBY GO, the IoT system from W&H, designed specifically to run on W&H extrusion lines. RUBY GAIN monitors production on every machine, giving real-time alerts that help you doubled increase film quality, improve efficiency and avoid producing scrap.

But it doesn't stop there. RUBY GAIN analyzes your film structures and suggests parameters based on past jobs, W&H process know how and proven data analytics. This information gives insights to operators on the floor as well as quality managers in the office.

Have a look at this video for a deeper look into RUBY GAIN. >>



## Peter Langhan to Retire



**Peter Langhan**, a long-time sales associate for W&H in North America, is retiring after 40 years.

But his relationship with W&H started long before his first official workday. Peter's dad had worked at a company called Sheldahl and started representing W&H in 1974, just under 50 years ago. He took a young Peter on the

## RUBY APP

Remote Production Monitoring

Stay connected with your machines and keep an eye on the production - no matter where you are. Get alerts via push notification if disruptions arise during production.

Watch this video to learn more. >>



road with him, introducing him to the industry, the people in it, and their kids. Many of those people and their kids became Peter's customers.

Peter's knowledge, experience and ability to connect easily with people has been invaluable to the success of W&H in the United States. During retirement he will undoubtedly spend his time continuing to learn and explore on his many travels. We wish him all the best and will miss him dearly.

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# W&H Employee News



**Craig Harris** joined W&H in October as Corporate Controller succeeding Wally Kaehler, who will be retiring in the spring. During the past 15 years at Talentburst, a workforce management solution provider, Craig climbed the ranks from staff accountant to Accounting Manager then controller and finally VP of Finance. He was heavily involved in the company's international growth from \$20 million - \$250 million in turnover in just 15 years. He holds a B.S. in Accounting from Bridgewater State University.



**Junaid Ahmed** had been with W&H India for almost 9 years before transferring to Rhode Island in August. He has held several service roles including field technician, IDC specialist, and service manager. In his new position as Service Support Manager, Junaid will work closely with Regional Service Managers and monitor and analyze installation and commissioning milestones to improve service. Junaid holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and an MBA.



**Genesis Pulgar** started out with W&H in April and has since been hired full-time as an Accounting Assistant/receptionist. This is Gen's first position after graduating from Rhode Island College with a B.S. in Accounting. While in college, she did an internship at Citizen's Bank as a part of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion team. She will report to Craig Harris.



**Katrina Josephson** joined W&H in June 2022 as a Parts Specialist. Her past experience includes working as a finance analysis with the U.S. Navy, market researcher at Lopez Mora Business Design, and in translation/localization project management at Schneider Electric. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Rhode Island. Katrina enjoys foreign languages and speaks German and French. She plays bass guitar as a hobby.



**Ilya Simakov** moved to Rhode Island in November to join our field service technician team. For the past four and a half years, Ilya has worked for W&H Russia servicing printing presses in Europe, Asia, and Africa. Prior to joining W&H he worked at a laser machinery company responsible for AutoCAD drafting and overseeing production. He holds a B.S. in Technological Machinery & Equipment from Bauman Moscow State Technical University. Ilya is a basketball enthusiast and played American football (OG and OT) in the amateur Russian league. He is very happy and thankful to be here.



**Leon Rupe** – In November, Leon Rupe, moved to Rhode Island to join the North American extrusion team as Regional Manager of Technical Sales. Leon started his career with W&H in Lengerich in 2021 and over the next three years, he will support the North American extrusion team and learn about the market before returning to Lengerich. Leon earned both his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the Fachhochschule Südwestfalen and an MBA from the Fachhochschule Münster while working full-time!

## 2023 SCHEDULED SHOWS (subject to change)

- Jan 31-Feb 2** AMI PE Films | Orlando, FL | Kasie Fairbarn speaking
- Mar 28-30** PTXPO | Rosemont, IL | Mike Andrews PhD speaking
- Apr 12-13** Converters Expo | Green Bay, WI | Booth 89
- Apr 17-18** FTA Info\*Flex | Columbus, OH | Booth 500
- May 4-10** Interpack | Düsseldorf, Germany | Booth Hall 12 A 39
- Jun 20-21** AMI Thin Wall Packaging | Chicago IL | W&H speaking



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