

Developing sustainability in packaging

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Companies in industry and construction are becoming more aware of the environmental impact of their purchasing decisions. As a result, manufacturers of adhesives and sealants are increasingly demanding sustainable products – a trend which is driving change in the packaging sector. medmix, a leading provider of liquid application and mixing technologies, is supporting its customers by integrating sustainability into its product development process.

Every company needs to bear responsibility for preserving the natural foundations of life. At medmix, sustainability is embedded in the daily business. It is the company's goal to reduce the environmental footprint through impactful actions in the areas of energy use, water usage and waste management as well as in the product development process.

Gerry Hernandez, Head of Global Product Management Adhesives at medmix, says: "Traditionally, packaging has been defined by price, performance and quality. However, customer demand for sustainability offers businesses like us a new dimension in which our products can excel. We have implemented sustainability into our product development process and are continually building our knowledge, applying it to new and existing products so that we can stay ahead of the curve and meet customer sustainability requirements."

The product lifecycle

For fluid application systems, there are many aspects to consider when designing a more sustainable product. Manufacturers must assess the quality of suppliers and the carbon emissions associated with raw materials. Design teams need to optimize products, reducing the size, weight and amount of materials. Production processes, and associated power sources, must also be considered. Following on from manufacturing, reducing the emissions associated with transporting products to customers is also key. Once an order has reached a customer, there is usage and secondary packaging to contend with. Developing products that can be reused or properly recycled further helps to improve sustainability.

“We consider products throughout the entire lifecycle,” elaborates Jim Giger, Head of Technology Development at medmix. “The only way to accurately assess the sustainability of a particular design is with hard data. Internally, and with independent third parties, we carry out accurate CO2 footprint analysis of the products in our range. This benchmarking is especially important, as it provides us with information we can share with our customers, ensuring we are being transparent in our sustainability approach. Our product development process includes eco-design principles to ensure that we optimize the sustainability of new products in terms of raw materials, design, process, transport, usage and end of life.”

Applying design knowledge

A primary example of this in action is the MIXPACTM ecopaCCTM cartridge for adhesives and sealants. During an independent lifecycle analysis, the ecopaCC was found to produce less than a quarter of the total gCO2-eq emissions of a similar solid cartridge. Its design reduces plastic waste by up to 82% when compared to traditional solid cartridges, while it can be packed into four times less space when empty, helping to minimize transport emissions. The ecopaCC is actively designed

with the eco-design principles in mind. It is popular in construction, aerospace and mining applications – and adoption is growing.

“The knowledge we gained developing the ecopaCC is what we are using to inform our sustainability strategy going forward,” Jim explains. “We are assessing how more sustainable materials, such as recycled plastics or design changes can be implemented across our existing range and to new concepts. Our key aim is to introduce these new materials without any compromise in performance. We’re also focusing on how we can optimize production processes and our power sources to make sustainability gains in this area too.”

Listening to the market

To gather intelligence and inform about the company’s long-term sustainability, medmix has paid close attention to its customers and evolving legislation regarding packaging worldwide.

“We are seeing legislation designed to reduce wastage being introduced worldwide, from the EU to China. As a packaging manufacturer, it is imperative that we stay ahead of this, ensuring that our products meet these regulations or even exceed them. This legislation will become more stringent, and we will ensure we are using appropriate materials, reducing secondary packaging and promoting reuse and recycling wherever possible,” Jim says.

“Our customers are approaching us regarding our more sustainable products,” Gerry adds. “There is an increased sense of urgency across the industry to improve sustainability. If we can provide the hard data to show a solution is more sustainable, more and more of our customers will be interested in adopting it. We want to produce

the products that our customers are asking for, while sharing our journey with complete transparency.”

Innovating sustainably

By committing to providing hard data on the CO2 footprint of its products, moving to more sustainable materials, using low carbon power sources and innovating – sustainability is being built into the entire medmix range.

“Essentially, we are a market driven company, which is continuously implementing improvements across the organization. This spirit of innovation has meant that we have been able to add a sustainable approach to our product development process early on. As a result, we design sustainability into our products, rather than simply reacting to market conditions. At the same time, we provide our customers with all the data to make an informed and more sustainable purchase,” Gerry concludes.

medmix sustainability highlights

- MIXPACTM ecopaCCTM collapsible cartridge that reduces transport emissions and wastage
- Wide utilization of solar and wind power across facilities
- Introduction of internal sustainability checklist
- Accurate CO2 calculations for new and existing products
- Use of biopolymers and recycled plastic in new and existing designs

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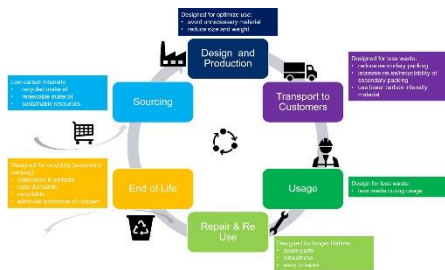


Image 1: medmix explain their sustainable circular economy



Image 2: MIXPACTM ecopaCCTM provides up to two third in costs savings for transportation due to reduced volume



Image 3: medmix Industry provides solutions for the automotive, construction, aeronautical, electronics, naval and renewable energy industries.

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About medmix

medmix is a global leader in high-precision delivery devices. We occupy leading positions in the healthcare, consumer, and industrial end-markets. Our customers benefit from a dedication to innovation and technological advancement that has resulted in over 900 active patents. Our 13 production sites worldwide together with our highly motivated and experienced team of 1,900 employees provide our customers with uncompromising quality, proximity, and agility. medmix is headquartered in Zug, Switzerland.

Our shares are traded on the SIX Swiss Exchange (SIX: MEDX).
www.medmix.swiss

medmix Industry delivers the world's leading hand-held mixing and dispensing systems for adhesives and sealants. Through MIXPAC™, COX™ and MK™ we specialize in the mixing and hand-held dispensing of adhesives and sealants. We have strong partnerships with industrial manufacturing, production, coating, and construction leaders that have lasted for close to 100 years.

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