

Russia's Arkhangelsk upholds normal operation but has to react to shortage of chemicals

Russian company Arkhangelsk Pulp and Paper Mill (APPM), a subsidiary of Vienna-based Pulp Mill Holding, and subsidiaries will continue normal operation at their production and converting plants. The company underscores in a press release that it will uphold all commitments made to employees, customers and partners. APPM in Novodvinsk, Russia has capacity to produce 600,000 tpy of fresh fibre-based containerboard. The company is also involved in packaging and tissue production through its subsidiary Arkhbum.

At the same time, current conditions necessitate developing a strategy in order to be able to respond to extreme challenges, APPM says in a statement. The company is reportedly reviewing measures to minimise the negative impact on production activities. APPM notes that it is particularly reliant on imports for chemicals, adding that its principal supplier of bleaching agents has stopped deliveries to Russia. In order to minimise risks to pulp production, APPM says it quickly developed an alternative and is implementing

in-house production of a substitute chemical. The company adds that it is also reviewing prospective suppliers from China, Turkey and Southeast Asian countries as well as India for chemicals including sodium chlorate and hydrogen peroxide. However, the switch to other suppliers would take some time, APPM adds.

Switch to unbleached pulp

To avoid stoppages to production plants, APPM has switched production to unbleached hardwood and softwood pulp as well as unbleached packaging paper. The company has successfully produced trial batches.

APPM adds that the Russian Ministry for Industry and Commerce is preparing proposals to be submitted to the government for additional measures to support the country's wood and paper industry. APPM writes that programmes to quickly develop and implement Russian substitutes for chemicals used in the wood industry should be accorded top priority. □

Burgo rebuilds press section in Avezzano

Italy's Burgo has awarded machine engineering company Andritz with modernisation work at its containerboard mill in Avezzano in Italy. Andritz reported that it will rebuild the press section of the site's PM 2. Start-up is scheduled for the first quarter of 2023. The new press section has a design speed of 1,200 m/min and a width of 5.32 m. According to Andritz, the aim of the rebuild is to significantly increase the dryness content after the press – while also saving energy – and to improve other paper properties. With this rebuild, Burgo Group is strengthening its ambition to constantly reduce energy consumption.

The Avezzano mill produces recycled corrugated case material with a capacity of 200,000 tpy on one machine. □

Russia's Kama Karton renamed

Russian folding boxboard producer Kama Karton changed its name to Kama LLC on 22 February 2022. Kama adds that the formation of the group and renaming process began in the autumn of 2021 with the merger of Kama Pulp and Paper Mill and Kamabumprom. In a subsequent step, Kama Karton LLC was renamed to simply Kama.

Kama group is the only producer of lightweight coated (LWC) magazine paper and folding boxboard (FBB) in Russia. The company uses

hardwood as raw material. Kama's LWC capacity amounts to 85,000 tpy and the cartonboard capacity to 220,000 tpy.

Russia experts expect that Kama group is gaining relevance for the local market against the backdrop of sanctions against the country. According to earlier information, domestic demand for recycled cartonboard in Russia exceeded 550,000 tpy while demand for FBB stands at 370,000 tpy. Russia's demand for LWC and fine paper is estimated to be significantly lower, but still cannot be met by domestic output, making imports necessary. According to EU statistics, European exports of paper and board to Russia in 2021 totalled 887,316 t with Finland accounting for 54 per cent. □

Schades – R+S Group expands into eastern Europe

German investment fund Harbour Investment has acquired Polish thermal paper converting business Omeko Papier, which was subsequently integrated into the portfolio of Schades – R+S Group. With more than 100 employees, Omeko is considered to be one of eastern Europe's largest suppliers in the area of POS and labels. The company manufactures cash register rolls and labels. Harbour Investment reportedly entered into a share purchase agreement with Omeko Papier.

The transaction is expected to solidify Omeko's market position in the region and to generate synergies within the group, e.g. the implementation

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of pan-European projects. Harbour Investment acquired Schades and R+S Group, one of the largest manufacturer of POS products and labels in Europe, from South Korean paper producer Hansol Paper in spring 2020. The company's investment portfolio covers a range of production and sales companies focusing on paper rolls, self-adhesive labels and flexible packaging. □