

PRESS RELEASE

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More sustainable food packaging thanks to hubergroup's new oxygen barrier coating

Recyclable packaging solutions are increasingly in demand. However, due to a complex requirement profile, flexible food packaging often consists of combinations of different films and is, therefore, difficult to recycle. That is where hubergroup Print Solutions' new HYDRO-LAC GA Oxygen Barrier Coating comes in. It protects the packaged food from oxygen and thus enables mono-material packaging. Consequently, it is easier to recycle and can be returned to the material cycle.

"Conventional flexible food packaging often consists of several laminated film layers of different chemical natures. Each fulfils a specific function – one of which is the protection against oxygen," explains Dr Ralf Büscher, Senior Expert Projects Flexible Packaging at hubergroup. "However, packaging that consists of several plastics cannot be recycled at all or only with great effort."

That is where hubergroup's new oxygen barrier coating comes into play. It allows food manufacturers to use pure, so-called mono-materials for their packaging. To do this, they use film laminates made of the same polymers (usually polypropylene or polyethylene), between which they apply the oxygen barrier coating. An OTR (oxygen transmission rate) of less than 10 cubic centimetres of oxygen per square metre and day can be achieved under industrial conditions, when using polypropylene. Oxygen-sensitive foods such as muesli or nuts are thus excellently protected from atmospheric oxygen in modern, recyclable packaging. Dr Lutz Frischmann, Global Product Director Flexible Packaging at hubergroup: "Through innovative solutions such as our new barrier coating, we can contribute to a circular economy together with our customers."

In 2021, hubergroup has already launched a water barrier coating that protects paper packaging from moisture. With the launch of the oxygen barrier coating, the international printing ink specialist is now pushing the development of sustainable barrier varnishes even further.

Picture 1: With the new oxygen barrier coating, flexible food packaging (e.g. for nuts) can be produced from mono-material. (Source: @sogmiller - stock.adobe.com)

Picture 2: Measurements show that the OTR for a film with hubergroup's oxygen barrier coating is below 10 cubic centimetres of oxygen per square metre and day. (Source: hubergroup)

About hubergroup

hubergroup is a family business based in southern Germany with a 255 year history. The Print Solutions division produces and sells printing inks and printing aids for packaging printing and commercial printing. The security inks segment for international banknote and identity document producers is covered by the subsidiary Gleitsmann Security-Inks. The Chemicals Division markets raw materials such as pigments, resins and additives produced in India.

The company has always been focused on customer success. That is why hubergroup works on innovative solutions, technologies and services every day in order to optimise the value creation in the printing and chemistry industry and to allow their customers to achieve first-class results. In 2021, hubergroup generated an annual turnover of about €704 million and currently employs approximately 3,500 employees worldwide in over 30 countries.

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Press contact:

Franziska Feuchtmann

hubergroup

Global Corporate Communication

Telefon: +49 89 9003 254

Mail: franziska.feuchtmann@hubergroup.com

Philipp Dolejsky

Schliesske Markenagentur GmbH

Leiter PR

Telefon: +49 173 2038 117

Mail: p.dolejsky@schliesske.de