

EsterForum!



**The Newsletter of:
Esterform Packaging Limited**

ESTERFORM ACQUIRES PET PLAS PACKAGING

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

New bottle blower planned 2

Preform capacity increased 2

28 mm/30-25 range 3

38 mm range 3

Other products 3

The Team 4

The Directors of Esterform Packaging Limited are delighted to announce that they have acquired Pet Plas Packaging from Alcan Inc.

The combined business will produce approximately 1.5 billion preforms and bottles per annum. It will be wholly focused on polyester (PET) packaging, and will be the largest privately owned PET converter in the UK.

Esterform has achieved success by being a dynamic, customer focused business.

The strategies that have underpinned their success will be applied to the new, enlarged business.

This will be supported by proactive product development. For example, we will be focusing on key current

issues such as light weighting and the environment.

Overall, the depth and breadth of technical expertise in PET conversion in the combined business will ensure that the

development of the product range over time will continue to reflect and anticipate customer needs.



The Directors of Esterform at the Pet Plas site

ESTERFORM + PET PLAS: A NEW FORCE

HIGHLIGHTS:

- A new force in PET packaging.
- 1.5 billion preforms & bottles p.a.
- High level of customer service
- In-depth technical expertise.
- New bottle blowing capacity planned.
- New injection moulding capacity recently installed.

The new business offers a very wide range of preforms and bottles to our existing and potential customers.

A key objective for Esterform will continue to be to develop designs that add value to our customer's products at the point of sale.

In particular the range will be matched to the requirements of customers in the water, soft drinks, juice, alcohol and dairy

beverage sectors. A detailed analysis of the product range is included on page 3.



Highlights of the combined preform and bottle range.

INVESTMENT PLANNED FOR BOTH SITES.



The Leeds site

The Pet Plas operation in Leeds boasts an impressive range of injection moulding and bottle blowing machines.

This complements the extensive portfolio at Tenbury Wells.

A thorough evaluation of the overall operation is currently

underway. The objective is to review the optimum production mix for each manufacturing location.

Discussions are already taking place with regard to the forward investment programme for both sites.

NEW HUSKY INJECTION MOULDING MACHINE INSTALLED.



Husky 17 in Tenbury

A new 72 cavity Husky injection moulding machine has just been installed at Tenbury Wells.

This will complement the existing injection moulding capacity at Esterform, and help provide the optimum balance of flexibility and cost-effectiveness for the business.

In particular, transfer efficiencies will be improved due to the multi-position robotic handling.

The investment includes a built in counting and weighing system, and a vibration unit that will help ensure the best possible preform packing.

A new Piovan dryer is part of the investment.

The Husky technology will contribute to product consistency, and hence to the product quality that is at the heart of Esterform's offering to customers.

As a result of previous

machinery installations at Tenbury, additional investment has already taken place to increase the electricity supply at the site.

The primary work on the new transformer that was required took place during quarter two.

The transformer is now up and running, supporting the new injection moulding and blowing equipment in the Tenbury plant.

SIGNIFICANT BOTTLE BLOWING CAPACITY INCREASES PLANNED.



The SBO 10 in Tenbury

During the last 12 months bottle sales from both sites have shown significant growth. A major investment in further blowing capacity is therefore planned.

The chosen blowing machine is likely to have a capacity of approximately 17,000 bottles an hour.

The preform in-feed, the preform transfer systems, and blowing nozzle will be specifically focused on the chosen neck design. This will

ensure optimum efficiencies that do not place any stress on the preform neck.

The preferential heating function will permit the complex shapes that may be required for customers seeking customised bottles.

High quality standards are a critical success factor for Esterform, so it is essential that all new equipment incorporates the latest quality features.

The new blower will include a Pressco camera system. This will identify and reject any faulty bottles.

WATER AND SOFT DRINKS.

Esterform has a comprehensive range of preforms and bottles for the water and soft drinks sector.

Key points regarding this preform range are:

- 28 mm necks with BPF and PCO finishes.
- 30/25 neck finishes .
- 43 mm MTE neck preforms*.
- Preform weights ranging from 17g to 130g.

Features of the bottle range include:

- An extensive line of

standard bottles, available off the shelf.

- Standard bottle sizes include:

- Single serve (250—330 ml)
- Extended single serve (500 - 750 ml)
- 1 litre - 1.5 litre.
- 2 - 3 litre (28 mm)
- 3 - 5 litre (43 mm)*

- Customised bottle designs for individual customers can also be created by the in-house design team.

The wide range of standard



bottles available off the shelf offers customers a choice in selecting the ideal bottle for their products.

* - See article below.



JUICE AND DAIRY BEVERAGES

The juice and dairy sector has always been an exciting development area for Esterform.

With the acquisition of Pet Plas the product group for these markets has been significantly extended.

Three neck types are included in the preform/bottle range. These are the 38 mm UCS neck, the 38 mm Affaba & Ferrari (A/F) neck, and the 34 mm Twinseal neck.

Current preform weights include 20g, 23g, 25g, 26g,

29g, 38g, 39.5g and 40g. An 18g preform is also planned.

The A/F neck range is especially suitable for blowing bottles for aseptic filling. However, super clean filling for chilled line products is a significant market area for the product group as a whole.

A varied range of off the shelf bottles for juice and dairy beverages is available.

This includes 250 ml, 330 ml, 500 ml, and 1 litre bottles in 4 different styles.

New smoothie bottles have



recently been introduced as a standard.

This product group as a whole remains a central area for development in the future.



BULK BOTTLES

Wide neck (43 mm MTE) preforms and bottle designs are an important part of the new, combined range.

Preform weights include 85g, 95g, 105g and 130g. Handles and closures are supplied in conjunction with the preforms, so that customers have the complete package needed.

3 litre and 5 litre bottle designs at varying weights, are available on an off-the-shelf basis.



Lightweight 5 litre bottle

HOUSEHOLD BOTTLES

Esterform has a well-established product group of household bottles.

Neck sizes are primarily 28-410 and 28-415. Bottle sizes range from 250 ml to 2 litre in volume.

Our customers fill products such as white spirit, antiseptic, and varnish. Trigger spray bottles in particular are suitable for a very wide range of household fluids.



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Stop Press: The current Esterform Packaging website has been superseded by the acquisition of Pet Plas. Approval has been given to develop a new integrated site, to include the product offering from both companies.

CUSTOMER CONTACT POINTS AT ESTERFORM

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