



ANKUSH GOKHALE
TAPPI JOURNAL
EDITORIAL BOARD



PETER A. GELLERICH
GUEST EDITOR

Design considerations for developing high-quality flexible packaging laminates

The global flexible packaging industry has constantly evolved by developing new materials, film design, polymer processing techniques, and machinery to overcome challenges posed by consumer demands, regulation, and societal pressure. While achieving superior quality and improved mechanical film attributes has always been the cornerstone for new technical developments in this industry, the end-of life shortcoming for most plastic films has driven the value chain to strive harder to design and develop sustainable packaging structures.

The focus on sustainability and the circular economy was evident in the recently concluded European PLACE Conference held in Munich, Germany, this past May. The conference focused on traditional topics that add to the fundamental understanding of materials, structure, and property. It also gave an opportunity to feature presentations that aim to solve age-old materials and converting problems by showcasing technical breakthroughs.

This special issue of *TAPPI Journal* features curated technical content from the 2025 European PLACE Conference. The issue was organized by Ankush Gokhale, *TAPPI Journal* Editorial Board Member, and Peter Gellerich,

Technical Program Chair for the European PLACE Conference. All of these papers underwent additional peer review for publication here. Besides technical content, this special issue also features a summary of important topics covered at the 2025 European PLACE Conference.

Curated technical content in this issue

Here is a brief overview of the peer-reviewed technical papers included in this special issue:

- Gellerich and co-workers (p. 332) study buckling defects in the seal areas of pharmaceutical blister packages. Contaminants may enter the package as a result of these defects. The authors provide some useful strategies validated by model calculations and heat seal tests to avoid these defects.
- In their work on material substitution of virgin polypropylene with post-consumer polypropylene recycle, Lange and co-workers (p. 345) apply data and process conditions generated during forming of virgin material for thermoforming applications that involve post-consumer recycle. This work may help to reduce the iterative trial-and-error method often used in thermoforming experimental setup.
- In their work on use of primers in the flexible packaging industry, Zheng and co-workers (p. 359) discuss case studies where poor adhesion associated with certain biodegradable materials could be solved by using an appropriate water-based primer.

The ongoing evolution of flexible packaging

Flexible packaging has long advanced beyond its core competency of providing protection to the enclosed product. It has ventured into areas where unique combinations of materials, processes, and equipment have produced sev-

We hope that through this special issue, readers will gain valuable understanding of the intricacies involved in designing a flexible packaging film. We hope that these findings will spark new ideas to overcome existing challenges and help grow our industry.

eral key attributes. These attributes have added to convenience and package aesthetics and have greatly influenced consumer buying habits.

We hope that through this special issue, readers will gain valuable understanding of the intricacies involved in designing a flexible packaging film. We hope that these findings will spark new ideas to overcome existing challenges and help grow our industry. **TJ**

Ankush Gokhale works as a lead scientist at SABIC Innovative Plastics and has been a member of the TAPPI Journal Editorial Board since 2023.

Peter A. Gellerich is a Ph.D. student at Technische University Dresden and worked at Uhlmann Pac-Systeme GmbH & Co. KG as process engineer until June 2025. He joined the European PLACE Committee in 2023 and was Technical Program Chair of the 2025 conference.

ABOUT THIS PAPER

Cite this article as:

Gokhale, A. and Gellerich, P.A., *TAPPI J.* 24(7): 324(2025). <https://doi.org/10.32964/TJ24.7.324>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.32964/TJ24.7.324>

ISSN: 0734-1415

Publisher: TAPPI Press

Copyright: ©TAPPI Press 2025

[About this journal](#)



2026 TAPPI FlexPack PLACE Conference

April 19-22, 2026

Norfolk Waterside Marriott • Norfolk, VA

Call for Presenters and Session Developers now open

Share your expertise with leaders,
innovators, and experts in the flexible
packaging industry

For updates, visit:

events.tappi.org/events/FlexPack

