

Summary Over the Wire

MANUFACTURERS

Essity has unveiled the world's first tissue machine operating wholly on geothermal steam at its production facility in Kawerau, New Zealand. The plant's annual CO_2 emissions have been reduced by two-thirds.

Metsä Fibre, part of Metsä Group, is moving closer to its goal of eliminating landfill waste from its production by 2030. In 2024, the company successfully used 95 percent of solid side streams, with only a small portion ending up in landfills.

Metsä Group plans to cease producing recycled pulp at its Mänttä mill in Finland and to shut down one of the mill's three tissue PMs, as it is at the end of its life cycle. The move away from recycled fiber is in line with Metsä Group's strategy to produce high-quality hygiene papers using wood fiber as the main raw material.

Norske Skog's new Golbey mill has begun producing recycled containerboard and started delivery of its first customer volumes.

Oji India Packaging Pvt Ltd, a subsidiary of Japan's Oji Group, has opened its fifth manufacturing plant in India at Sri City, Andhra Pradesh. The new facility is the largest of its kind in South Asia and will specialize in producing corrugated boxes and packaging accessories.

Saica Group, one of the largest European producers of recycled paper for corrugated packaging, plans to invest more than US$110 million to build its second corrugated plant in the US. The new 350,000-square-foot facility will be built in Anderson, IN, and is expected to start up during Q4 2026.

Sofidel took delivery of a new Yankee dryer for its tissue mill in Circleville, OH. The Yankee dryer will be installed on a new Valmet DCT 200 tissue machine, which will be the mill's third machine and is scheduled for start-up in the third quarter of 2025.

Stora Enso's new consumer packaging board line at its Oulu pulp and paper mill in Finland has started production ramp-up. The first customer deliveries are expected in the second quarter of 2025. Voith performed the full-line PM conversion.

UPM plans to permanently close its paper mill in Ettringen, Germany, reducing the annual capacity of uncoated mechanical paper by 270,000 metric tons during July, 2025.

SUPPLIERS

Alliance Machine Systems International, a global manufacturer of automated paperboard packaging equipment for production of corrugated boxes, plans to acquire Systec Corporation and Automatan, LLC. This strategic alignment will enhance paperboard packaging automation and material handling solutions for the corrugated and folding carton industries. Alliance is a part of Barry-Wehmiller.

Andritz:

- has received an order from Cartaseta AG to supply a combustion system upgrade for a tissue machine at its mill in Gretzenbach, Switzerland. Start-up is scheduled for Q3 2025.
- has started up a state-of-the-art recycled fiber line for N.R. Agarwal Industries Ltd. in its mill in Vapi, India. The new line comprises a four-layer paper machine approach system, a broke handling system, and a fiber recovery system to process a mixture of SOP, CBS, and high-bright paper.
- has signed an exclusive cooperation agreement with German recycling firm HolyPoly to provide a comprehensive recycling solution for used paper machine clothing to paper producers across Europe. The new service enables mills to recycle all forming fabrics and felts at the end of their service life, contributing to a more circular economy.

Buckman is being acquired by Pritzker Private Capital, a leader in family direct investing. PPC will invest alongside members of the Buckman family and management to provide additional resources to support the company's growth, product innovation, and market expansion.

Kemira will make a multi-million Euro investment in a multiple production line expansion of strength chemical agents for paper, board, and tissue at its Wellgrow site in Thailand. Implementation of the expansion project will begin in 2026.

Procemex, a member of the Andritz Group, has received an order from Billerud to supply a OnePlatform web monitoring and web inspection system with winder and re-winder controls for the board mill in Gävle, Sweden. Installation is scheduled for Q3 2025.

RunEco Vacuum System has started up on PM5 at Papirnica Vevče d.o.o., Slovenia. The delivery includes an EP600 Turbo Blower with EcoDrop Water Separator and EcoFlow Dewatering Measurement Systems for wire couch roll save all, press nips, and press uhle boxes.

Valmet:

- will supply two OptiWin Drum two-drum base winders to Wuzhou Special Paper's PM21 in China. This new order follows the customer's previous winder order in July 2024.
- will deliver a press roll for the TwinRoll wash press at the Mercer Rosenthal mill in Germany. The replacement roll will be delivered during Q2 2026.

Voith:

- has launched its ecosystem MillOne, the next step toward a completely autonomous paper mill. The new platform combines all relevant systems, optimizes processes in real time, and enables the intelligent connection of all production steps. Voith reports it has successfully implemented MillOne for the first customers.
- is modernizing and expanding its roll service center in West Monroe, LA. The expansion will be Voith Paper's largest, most recent investment in North America.

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