



"The symphony of three corporate Rajoo-Kohli-Multigraph will foremostly demonstrate to the industry the thought-provoking leadership; product leadership is bound to follow, an industry first," highlights Khushboo Chandrakant Doshi, in dialogue with POLYMERS Communiqué.

Khushboo Chandrakant Doshi
Executive Director
Rajoo Engineers Limited, Rajkot

High Impact Alliance Between Rajoo Engineers and Kohli Industries to Change the Market Dynamics of Extrusion Coating and Lamination Machines

Q. Congratulations on your recent alliance! What was the rationale behind the alliance for extrusion coating and lamination machines?

The flexible packaging industry's demands were clear; their needs of extrusion coating and lamination machines were growing, and growing fast. They were looking beyond the available solutions at reasonable price points. The best-in-class extrusion and proven web solutions needed to integrate to provide a system that would meet industry's needs of today and be versatile enough to be adapted for future requirements.

Rajoo Engineers (well known for bringing in world-class extrusion technology at affordable prices and have developed India's first three-layer feed block and 1,600 mm extrusion coating die with internal decking to reduce edge bead) and Kohli Industries (leaders in rotogravure printing and laminating machines for the flexible packaging industry with a footprint in over 30 countries), comprehended this industry need, and in the best interest of the industry, joined hands to create a formidable alliance to build and maintain one of the most advanced and versatile extrusion coating and lamination machines.



L to R: Deepak Kadam, General Manager, Multigraph Machinery Company Limited; Rajesh N. Doshi, CMD, Rajoo Engineers Limited; Kaku Kohli, Managing Partner, Kohli Industries; Sunil Jain, President, Rajoo Engineers Limited and Hiten Mehta, President, Multigraph Machinery Company Limited.

Q. What will be the manufacturing approach for this co-branded product?

The Rajoo-Kohli co-branded LAMEX series of extrusion coating and lamination lines will be assembled at Rajoo's facility in Rajkot complying with the highest standards of design and manufacturing that Rajoo is known for. The result being a wide range of solutions to suit varied applications.

Q. How is the product going to be marketed?

As good a product, it needs to reach out to the converters of the flexible packaging industry and there comes in Multigraph Machinery Co. Ltd. (promoted by owners of Manugraph - world's renowned offset machine producer) to promote the sales of this first-of-its-kind alliance product on a PAN India basis.

Q. For the benefits of the readers of POLYMERS Communiqué, please highlight what exactly is an extrusion coating and laminating machine?

In an extrusion coating and laminating machine (ECL, in short), a water-based lacquer is coated on a primary substrate through the gravure process, followed by a deposit of PE / PP based molten polymer from a T-die and then combined with yet another substrate to form a composite laminate. This technology is rapidly replacing many a solvent-based and solvent-less laminating applications.

The Rajoo-Kohli LAMEX solutions will be truly versatile while ensuring uniform deposition and bonding, it is universal in:

- Materials: Adaptable to a range of substrates -

CPP / BOPET / BOPP / woven fabric as primary substrates laminated by molten PP / LDPE / LLDPE / EVA / EMA and other exotic polymers with films / paper / Al foil.

- Co-Formats: Available as variants with speeds ranging from 200 m/min to 400 m/min and widths from 1,000 to 1,600 mm.
- Configuration: Mono-extrusion, co-extrusion and tandem.

Q. What are the broad applications areas where ECL is used...

This machine is extremely versatile and can be configured for producing various kinds of laminates for packaging materials. Typical applications are aseptic packaging, packaging for snack food, soups, condiments, milk / juice cartons, PET food packaging (woven sacks being one of the substrates). Paper-based laminates for paper cups and plates can also be produced. Medical packaging is another growing application area. Laminates produced by tandem extrusion (two stations) are used for toothpaste and pharmaceutical tubes.

Q. What are your thoughts on signing this alliance?

We are excited at this alliance as each one of us would bring in key technology and skill sets for this business to succeed; working to our strengths is the need-of-the-hour. The symphony of three corporate Rajoo-Kohli-Multigraph will foremostly demonstrate to the industry the thought-provoking leadership; product leadership is bound to follow.

Q. How soon do you believe that the industry will witness these new machines?

Though Rajoo introduced its own version of extrusion coating and lamination machine, the first machine is up and running since last 4 months; this alliance will provide unparalleled expertise, technology and service to the flexible packaging industry. The industry will truly see 2019 as a happy new year. Within the next 120 days, the first Rajoo-Kohli machine will roll out to make its mark, as excellence will go beyond extrusion, into the web converting solutions as well.

Happy New Year! Stay blessed! ■■