

NEW & NOTABLE

TEA & COFFEE REPORTS BREWING WORLDWIDE

All4Pack Highlights a Host of New Packaging Technologies

The All4Pack Emballage Paris fair took place after a four year break due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The 2022 edition recorded an attendance of nearly 45,000 professionals from 80 countries, with 1,100 exhibitors and brands present. The packaging show for equipment and products highlighted new production models to reduce products and packaging waste.

The value of the French coffee market in supermarkets and hypermarkets is €2.71 billion EUR. That of pods in 2022 was €1.62 billion, a decline of 1.6 percent. Roasted coffee, valued at €1 billion, rose 5.2 percent. The big winner is the coffee bean grinder segment, which increased by 33 percent.

The four leaders in the capsule sector (in value sales) are (in descending order): Nespresso, Senseo, Dolce Gusto and Tassimo (per IRI supermarket channel sales data from August 2021-2022).

No doubt, the popularity of coffee in capsules is not denied by French consumers. However, the success of grinding machines has increased the demand for coffee to grind. This is probably a sign that consumers are becoming more aware of the waste they generate. In term of volume, the big names in the sector continue to offer aluminum capsules, emphasising the preservation of coffee, the recyclability of aluminum and the percentage of recycled material in the capsule itself.

Brands and suppliers are multiplying



Self warming/cooling on-the-go packaging from Bopak.

initiatives to optimise their end of life: sorting and recovery of materials, compostable or reusable capsules. With its Farmers Origins range, Nescafé® is proposing capsules with 80 percent recycled aluminum in supermarkets. Norden Alu technology started manufacturing new aluminum single serve packaging three years ago under the name Alu Caps. Its capsules, which are compatible with Nespresso machines, can be recycled indefinitely. The German coffee brand Tchibo has developed a bio-sourced capsule. Today, it is made of 70 percent of second generation organic waste (tall oil, fast food grease, or cooking oil).

Menshen is a German manufacturer of aluminum and plastic capsules, both compatible with Nespresso and Dolce Gusto machines. To guarantee oxygen barrier properties, the polymer capsules are made of PP-Evoh-PP, considered a mono-material, easy for recycling. But the other proposal from the German group is a capsule that can be home or industrial composted. They are great for all types of coffee or grinding, which is a must as the capsules compete with aluminum or conventional polymer. Pricewise, the latest are the cheaper option, even with the increase in material price.

Vegeplast, a French company, is proposing a 100 percent bio-sourced capsule, which has just been certified for home composting. The company produces its own capsule material. For the moment, Vegecap is only sold to Cafés Richard and Café Launay roasters because specific equipment is required for filling and sealing.

French start-up Caps Me has developed the concept of reusable capsules. Capsules can be filled in ten seconds with the proper dose and tamping, without losing too much ground coffee. A starch-based lid just needs to be glued on the capsule. The capsules are compatible with Nespresso machines sold after 2010. The start-up is now working on a capsule box

adapted to Dolce Gusto machines and on a home compost lid. To date, 10,000 boxes have been sold and three million lids.

The CoffeeB Globe solution was also in the news at All4Pack. The compressed and packaged coffee ball is offered by Swiss roaster Delica, a Migros Group company. The ball is coated with a thin layer of 100 percent alginate. Derivatives of alginic acid, they are polysaccharides obtained from brown algae. Their colour varies from white to yellowish brown. Eight varieties of coffee are available and once the package is opened, the aromas are guaranteed for three months.

The 'on-the-go-coffee-in-pouch' premiered at a show from 'Shake it', an Italian trademark of instant coffee. Bopak, a French company that specialises in equipment for Doypack, presented a self-warming/cooling pack technology. The pouch is equipped with two hermetically separated chambers: one contains the product to be consumed, the other a specific solution, either exothermic or endothermic solution in a capsule surrounded by water.

The reaction occurs when the water capsule inside is broken and comes into contact with the active products. There is a safety valve, which is essential to avoid any accidents since the heat can reach 100° Celsius. "There is a huge potential in beverages, meals or other liquids, as it is able to self-heat or cool down in a very short time," explained Jean-Philippe Henriët Bopak's owner and MD.

Dominique Huret



Aluminum single serve capsules that can be recycled indefinitely. Image (s) credit: Dominique Huret