



Barry le Roux is understandably proud of the new Nordmeccanica Simplex SL 1300, which cuts an impressive figure in M-Tech's North Riding (Johannesburg) plant.

## Lamination laments a thing of the past

SUSAN UNSWORTH calls on M-Tech Plastics to see the new Nordmeccanica laminator put through its paces.

**OUTSOURCING can be a godsend, but can also bring its own set of problems. Barry le Roux of M-Tech Plastics knows this all too well, having until recently sent out tons of laminating work to a converter in Durban. Now, however, a new Italian-made Nordmeccanica Simplex SL 1300, recently installed at the company's North Riding (Johannesburg) operation, is proving well worth the investment.**

'Outsourcing costs a great deal, particularly when the company is in a different part of the country,' Barry reports. 'Dependency on an outside party also plays havoc with delivery lead times. We were just another customer for our supplier and had to take our place in the queue. But the most crucial aspect is that quality control was, to a large extent, out of our hands,' he adds.

'Now, having brought everything in-house, we can offer a more efficient service and the flexibility that customers associate with smaller converters. We can turn an order around, from raw material order through printing, slitting and laminating, in as short a time as two weeks. And we can be absolutely confident about quality,' Barry stresses.

The Simplex SL (supplied in South Africa by Conequipt) is one of the new wave of machines using solventless adhesives to satisfy health, safety and environmental considerations and regulations governing packaging products destined for food packaging.

It features shaftless unwinders and winders and a rapid change system. Maximum width is 1 330mm and top speed is 350m/min.

Using Rohm & Haas solvent-free adhesives, M-Tech has achieved rapid curing times and superior bond strength, says Barry. 'To maximise the investment, we have recruited staff with proven expertise in lamination and the combination of knowledge and technology is a winner. We are extremely pleased with the machine's performance and are sure it will open new doors for us with the multinational food companies.'

*[Editor's note: See article on Rohm & Haas laminating adhesives on page 25.]*

The Pelican Solomark eight-colour rotogravure press installed late last year (see **PACKAGING & Print Media** New Year Issue 2007) is also delivering the goods, he adds. The press, supplied by Adex Plastics & Machinery, has a capacity of 150m/min and a web width of 1 250mm, putting it among the largest of its kind in South Africa.

This investment is the latest move in M-Tech's drive to convert flexographic customers to gravure. 'The results we are achieving with this press speak for themselves and we're confident that gravure printing will become increasingly recognised for the superior quality it offers,' Barry insists.

**Adex**  
**T +27 011 5240095**  
**Conequipt**  
**T +27 021 9818120**  
**M-Tech Plastics**  
**T +27 011 8013000**  
**Rohm & Haas**  
**T +27 031 7165900**