

150 countries. In South Africa, brands such as Baby Soft, Kleenex and Huggies hold either number one or number two market share positions in their respective categories.

'We're changing the landscape of the bath tissue category,' concludes Garth. 'With the new Fabio Perini J2 tissue converting line K-CSA continues to bring winning consumer solutions to the market.'

Kimberly-Clark South Africa  
[www.kimberly-clark.com](http://www.kimberly-clark.com)  
 Fabio Perini  
[www.fp.kpl.net](http://www.fp.kpl.net)



The latest J2 technology from Fabio Perini is doubling production capacity at Kimberly-Clark's Enstra Mill in Springs.

## APL Cartons converts to **Maxiflo**

Energy savings of 15% and a substantial reduction of carbon emissions were recorded after APL Cartons converted its Medesa corrugator to the Maxiflo ejector system, reports KAREN STRETCH.

**APL Cartons, a corrugating plant situated in Worcester (Western Cape), prides itself on its commitment to quality and R&D, and providing leading-edge packaging without compromising its environmental responsibilities. As the Boland is 'the cradle' of South Africa's fruit industry, Worcester is the ideal location for APL Cartons, which specialises in supplying durable corrugated packaging for the fruit market.**

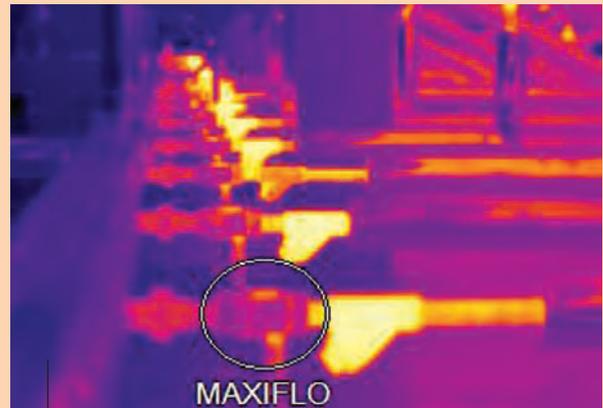
According to the company's operations director, APL Cartons constantly evaluates the latest technology to improve its energy efficiency; and in August 2009 the factory engineer initiated the company's investment in a Maxiflo ejector system from Industrial Steam Products.

APL Cartons' Medesa corrugator and surrounding steam lines were converted over a shutdown weekend, and minor modifications made to the steam showers at the same time. Impressively, the plant was ready for the usual Monday morning start-up.

During the following months, APL Cartons recorded a steam saving of 15% thanks to the Maxiflo conversion; and the company is quick to point out that APL Cartons' production levels are as high as they were before the conversion – and is still saving steam.

Earlier, APL Cartons had upgraded its condensate removal system (to Baviera spiral traps), which enhanced the plant's energy efficiency. Now, the Maxiflo system has been able to reduce its steam consumption still further.

There's a misconception that Maxiflo ejectors can only offer steam savings if existing steam traps are worn out. 'Not so,' says Danie Nell, regional manager for Maxiflo operations in the Western and Eastern Cape. 'What's unique about Maxiflo is that it uses kinetic energy from steam to eject condensate from heating surfaces, faster than any steam trap,' he explains.



A thermal image of Maxiflo ejectors on hot plates at APL Cartons. Steam, presented in yellow, is held back in the equipment by the continuous discharge of condensate, presented in maroon.

'This improves the equipment's thermal efficiency and means less energy is required for production. What's more, the controlled exhaust steam used by the Maxiflo system is so minimal that it compares very favourably with new steam traps,' Danie adds.

A further advantage is that the Maxiflo system is low maintenance, with no moving parts, and has been established for 20 years in South Africa.

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