



**Left** An MCG F-640 seamer featuring the new patented seaming heads, enabling lower gauge cans to be packed

## Seamer redesign helps manage thinner-gauge cans

**The seaming of rectangular two-piece seafood cans with thinner steel or aluminium is possible with a redesign of the closing machines offered by Spain's Montajes Conserveros de Galicia (MCG).**

There's a risk of wrinkles forming with lower gauges, but the upgrade will enable fillers to process lightweight cans with fewer imperfections.

MCG has obtained a patent on the design in Spain, says commercial director Jose Lu s Ru z. The system can be installed in existing seaming systems without loss of productivity.

"Other machines on the market can only do this if they sacrifice the speed of their seamers by 25-30%," said Ru z.

"We have also reduced the wrinkle rate in the seams from an average 30% to 6-8% both in steel and aluminium cans. Machines equipped with this development will seam the next generation of cans manufactured with harder – or down-gauged materials – with no need for retrofitting."

Thinner gauges are able to be accommodated because the new design eliminates the flexing of the seaming arm, allowing for additional tightening of the seam. The new design of seaming heads has been applied to MCG's F-640 machine which runs at up to 400cpm.

"This development has opened the door to further downgauging on non-round food cans," Ru z said. "We have already tested a number of the more common rectangular food cans in Europe, those manufactured using thinner materials and the equipment is already in use with down-gauged materials in three-piece canmaking in France and North Africa."

**More information:**  
[www.mcg.com.es](http://www.mcg.com.es)

## Side-stripe powder coating from GST

**An electrostatic side-stripe powder coating system for welded cans has been launched by Italy-based GST, which also designs, builds and supplies in-line curing**

## ovens, metal sheet feeders and seam protection equipment.

Six months in development, VIPE comes with a number of new features, including updated powder control equipment, an electrostatic charging system, and a powder system specifically for 45mm-diameter tinplate cans.

"We are seeing strong national and international demand for VIPE because it produces a reliable high-quality application of the electrostatic powder on the welding area," said GST.

The company said the machine is compact and robust and easily integrated into existing lines run by canmakers.

"This concept requires a small change from the point of view of the infrastructure, but a real advantage in terms of quality of the final product," GST said.

"The market is constantly evolving, with the search for quality and a reduction in consumption the greatest drivers. This product innovation undoubtedly goes in this direction."

**More information:**  
[www.gstmachinery.com](http://www.gstmachinery.com)