

## Berry & Spence celebrates

# 21<sup>st</sup> with added capability

**Reel-to-reel** – The new Günter machine at Berry & Spence perforates and seals bags, and winds back onto a receiving reel at speeds of up to 150m/min. The system, built in Germany and supplied locally by

Technimac, processes films up to 1200mm wide and can produce bags up to 8000mm long

### Cape Town filmbag manufacturer invests in 'Dynamic' reel-to-reel system

BERRY & Spence, well-known Cape Town film and bag supplier, has just celebrated its 21st birthday, but it hasn't had time for presents: the cash has been going the other way, in the form of a R2,4-million purchase of a reel-to-reel bag machine from Günter of Germany.

The new capability implies a fundamental shift for Berry & Spence. Up till now it has supplied bags in stacks. Stacking has its merits, but reels create better efficiencies and improved space management. The perforation capability on the new Günter SMR-L system, which can run a 1200mm wide film at up to 150m/min, is a much faster solution. With polymer prices going the way they have, this is a necessary advantage for the company.

The new Günter machine, acquired via Technimac of Johannesburg, is a high-speed system which is applied to punch holes in-line with a film extrusion process. This computerised electromagnetic punching system permits trouble free in-line punching either in parallel or in offset patterns, depending on customer requirement.

Berry & Spence has been in operation since 1987 and has steadily expanded. Although it employs just 20 people at its plant in Ottery, its efficiencies are good and per

employee-output is high.

It supplies specialised high quality extruded polyethylene (LD and linear low) tubing and sheeting for conversion into a wide and diverse range of agricultural, general packaging, stationery and baler bag products. Tubing and sheeting is available from 250-1700mm wide and 20-250 micron thick. The new machine now enables it to supply a better service to its bag customers. Supplying such a value-added service is uppermost in just about all manufacturers' minds, but doing so almost always involves investment.

B&S supplies the agriculture (mulch films, mini tunnel sheeting, nursery bags, heating tubing plus other products); stationery and general packaging (treated sheeting for printing and laminating, laundry, shrink, FFS and rubber release films) markets as well as baler bags for just about anything.

Berry & Spence is very conscious of the environment and is a signatory and contributing member to the Plastics Federation's Enviromark programme. It recycles all its production scrap using two in-house recycling systems.

MD Gordon Spence, founder of the company, has been involved in industry associations for the past 15 years. He was chairman of the PCA for several years and was also vice-chairman of the Plastics Federation for a number of years.

He believes installing the new reel-to-reel capability was a necessary step for the company that will allow for better utilization and less wastage by all of its bag customers.

For more info, call 021 703 9207 or visit [www.berryandspence.com](http://www.berryandspence.com).



**B & S team** – MD Gordon Spence with general manager Russell Mackintosh and production manager Lionel Bantam in the plant at Sunset Industrial Park, Ottery, Cape Town

**Punched!** – Berry & Spence has also installed equipment for in-line punching of sheet this year. Such sheet is used primarily in the agriculture sector for planting saplings, but other applications are appearing. Farmers previously used to do this manually, which is time-consuming and inconsistent.

