

Packaging Society visit to FFP Packaging Solutions 4th October 2006

On the 4th October, members of the East Midlands section of IOP The Packaging Society had the rare treat of visiting FFP Packaging Solutions in Northampton. FFP is the leading British manufacturer of printed flexible packaging and lidding films for the food industry, specialising on the printed side in high quality flexographic print for branded and own label work, while on the lidding side of the business they own the market leading Esterpeel brand.

Following a presentation from Gary Tee, FFP's Business Development Manager, that covered the impressive growth of the business over the forty years since the present owners took over, we enjoyed a tour of the extensive, modern facilities. FFP are very active innovators, and we were able to see the manufacturing lines that have been installed specifically for production of such things as their Estersteam steam valve lidding films and award winning Qbag packaging for cooking directly on a barbecue.

FFP has a very strong reputation for innovation and quality, and we were able to see that this is well deserved. The print area was busy, with all five large printing presses either running or in the process of making ready for the next job. Flexibility and speedy response is an important part of the FFP service, and we visited the in-house repro and digital platemaking that help FFP to meet the needs of their very demanding customers.

After our tour, it was all back to the meeting room for a Q&A session and we discussed some of the latest innovations, including a new sustainable lidding film made from PLA which is easy peel and anti-mist into the bargain. A very pleasant buffet meal finished the evening off nicely before we all dispersed, better able to see how FFP have gone from strength to strength even in as competitive an environment as the UK flexible packaging industry.