

Boise Inc. completes 50,000-ton linerboard expansion

In March 2008, Boise Inc. completed a 50,000-ton linerboard expansion at its mill in DeRidder, Louisiana. The installation of a shoe press on the linerboard machine both increases capacity and reduces fuel use at the mill.

"We are pleased with the execution of this important project, which we expect will further enhance our competitive position in packaging markets," said Alexander Toeldte, president and chief executive officer. "The expansion at DeRidder underscores our continued commitment to growing our packaging business and further improving our cost structure at what is already a low-cost facility.

The \$23 million investment allows the mill to convert more pulp into linerboard, which is used to make corrugated packaging.

The shoe press looks like a traditional press: A paper sheet runs between two large rolls that press out water. The difference is a hydraulic shoe that increases the net pressure and the effectiveness. As a result, less energy is needed to dry the linerboard.

During the early weeks of operation, employees were able to run the paper machine at preinstallation speeds but reduce steam usage by 50,000 pounds per hour. Eventually, they'll be able to speed up the machine to make more paper with available steam.