With a depth of expertise and a long heritage in high quality speciality papemaking, Mitsubishi HiTec Paper Europe is continuing to follow its path of innovation and investment with the Barricote range. Here, we talk to Dr Dieter Becker about the new product line.

Mitsubishi HiTec Paper Europe has an enviable reputation for quality, consistency, customer service and care for the environment. It has now brought its expertise to the packaging market, where it offers Barricote, an innovative and environmentally friendly barrier paper approved for food packaging and food contact. The totally paper-based product combines sustainability – essential in today’s market – with effective barrier protection providing our best barrier capabilities.

Contact. The totally paper-based product where it offers Barricote, an innovative and environmentally friendly barrier paper approved for food packaging and food contact. The totally paper-based product combines sustainability – essential in today’s market – with effective barrier protection providing our best barrier capabilities.

Reducing waste
Dieter continued, ‘Our new barrier papers meet the demands for reduction of unnecessary packaging waste and use of environmentally friendly materials. Barricote papers are based on the renewable and biodegradable raw material pulp. In production we only use fresh fibres. The effective barriers are achieved by aqueous coatings, which protect against mineral oils, water and water vapour, grease and oils, oxygen and aroma – and can even be combined. All this without the use of plastic films, aluminium, extruded polymers, varnishes or laminates – and of course without fluorocarbons.’

Mitsubishi HiTec Paper has long been known as a pioneering company that brings to market papers that really answer the needs of the industry, with innovative ranges such as the respected and trusted groform carbonless papers, jetscript inkjet papers and thermosensitive thermal papers. This experience proves invaluable when it comes to new products.

‘As a specialty paper manufacturer, our core competence is the coating of paper and everything that goes with it: production of the base paper, pre-coatings, functional and protective coatings etc. We can choose from a total of six different coating technologies at our two German locations in Bielefeld and Flensburg,’ said Dieter.

‘For the Barricote papers in particular, the efficient “Curtain Coater” technology is decisive. It derives its name from a curtain, because similar to a curtain, absolutely defect free coatings are applied evenly to the paper. The highest level of uniformity in the coating is indispensable for barriers in the food and non food sectors.’

So this means that Barricote can be used safely as food packaging? ‘Yes, all Barricote products are approved for direct food contact,’ said Dieter.

‘We work with well known manufacturers and already deliver our Barricote products to a number of international name brand customers in the food industry and we see strong interest in all our Barricote products.’

Green packing
Right now, and undoubtedly, the hot topic is the environment, so we have to ask – how does Barricote measure up when it comes to its production and the environment? Is it made sustainably? And are Barricote papers recyclable?

‘First of all, the whole production is certified in accordance with a combined management system (environment, energy, quality) as well as being hygiene certified. Secondly, Barricote is made from renewable and biodegradable fibres. Thirdly, our barrier papers are coated with aqueous dispersions of various components, including a very large proportion of renewable raw materials.

‘Of course we are working hard on further innovative and especially environmentally friendly new developments,’ said Dieter. ‘But we are also working on further improvements of existing products, especially with regard to the use of materials based on renewable raw materials. For example, the compostable portion of our Barricote papers is already around 90%. In our laboratories we are constantly working to improve this value even further.’

Heat sealability
Barricote also offers heat sealability. ‘The heat sealability is an important feature for the production of inner bags or stand up pouches without the use of extrusion coated materials,’ said Dieter. ‘Knowing this, we have developed and offer several heat sealable Barricote products.’

Mitsubishi HiTec Paper Europe understands the needs of today’s – and the future – packaging market very well. This is why it brings to market new products such as Barricote, which answer those requirements.

‘Too much packaging waste, plastic waste in the oceans, micro-plastics in animals and humans, migration of mineral oil in food-stuff – these issues move consumers as well as the trade and packaging industry,’ commented Dieter. ‘That is why the packaging market is seeing a change to sustainable concepts and materials, especially in the food sector. “Packaging cannot always be avoided; often packaging has important functions. But nowadays it is about more than protection of the packaged goods. It is about protecting the consumer and protecting the environment. With Barricote we perfectly meet all those demands.”’