



Evonik

Partners in reliability



Antwerp / **BELGIUM**

Established in **1970**

Employs approx. **1,000** people

One of **Evonik's largest**
production sites

The site houses 11 production facilities, including **the world's largest plant** for producing methionine



Redefine the possible sm

Evonik:

The creative power
of specialty chemicals



“Markem-Imaje has never let me down. I’m pleased with the solution they came up with and the service they deliver. It’s a really good partnership.”

◀ **Jean Van der Vreken**, Plant Engineer
(Evonik)

Evonik’s 109-hectare site in Antwerp is home to a range of production facilities, including the world’s largest plant for producing methionine, an essential amino acid used in animal feed. This methionine unit has recently been equipped with state-of-the-art Markem-Imaje coding technology. “We produce 260,000 metric tons of methionine per year,” explains Jean Van der Vreken, Plant Engineer for the facility.

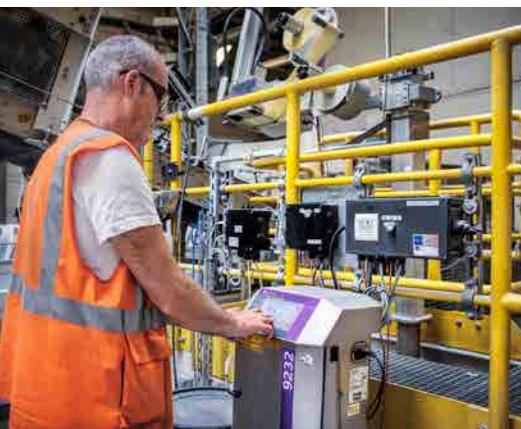
“Every bag has to be marked with traceability information.” To achieve this, several Markem-Imaje solutions have been integrated into the site’s two production lines. Each line includes a bagging system equipped with a 9232 inkjet printer that prints the lot number on the side of every bag. A second system adds a customized label on top of selected bags for certain customers. At the end of the line,



▲ The Antwerp facility
produces and ships 260,000
tonnes of methionine per year

the bags are palletized and stretch wrapped, and two 2200 Pallet systems label each pallet with four identical labels that include a barcode for shipping. “We wanted two systems as a back-up to ensure that if one wasn’t working, we don’t have to stop the line.” The plant also packages methionine in large 1,000 kg bags. This area is equipped with two Markem-Imaje 2200 label print and apply systems.

“The main thing we wanted to accomplish was high reliability,” explains Jean Van der Vreken. “If there is a situation when no label is printed or the information is incorrect, time is lost in resolving this. Since the installation of this new system last year, our error-free rate is more than 99.9%.”



CoLOS software solution

to reduce errors
and optimize logistics

Today the entire process from bagging to shipping is controlled by CoLOS software, which is integrated into Evonik's in-house ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) software. The operator uses CoLOS Insite to set up the label layouts, which are automatically transmitted to the printers. CoLOS Pallet controls the pallet printers, and CoLOS Shipping tracks when the pallets are labelled, allowing warehouse operators with a CoLOS application on a handheld terminal to signal when a pallet is loaded for shipping.

"Previously we had to manually enter orders and shipping information in our in-house ERP, and this generated a lot of errors," says Jean Van der Vreken.

"Today with the new automated system, this type of issue has been reduced by a factor of thousands – that's a big improvement."

The CoLOS solution has not only optimized logistics and production time, but ensures improved regulatory compliance and customer satisfaction.

"We have a good relationship with Markem-Imaje that goes back at least 15 years," concludes Jean Van der Vreken. "We contacted them to help us because we knew they could build what we needed and make it work with our existing ERP. We also knew that we could depend on the reliability of the printers; and if something does go wrong, they are there to help us find a solution right away."

For more case studies:
www.markem-imaje.com

◀ Bag and pallet traceability
is ensured by CoLOS software

Evonik's methionine unit wanted to increase marking reliability through automated data transfer. This was accomplished with a Markem-Imaje solution controlled by CoLOS software customized to interface with Evonik's ERP software. The system has significantly reduced errors and optimized the process from bagging to shipping.

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