

Ingogroup finds LED success with Flint Group EkoCure[®]



Headquartered in the picturesque region of Girona, Spain, flexible packaging and self-adhesive label converter, Ingogroup, has emerged as a significant player in the Spanish food packaging industry.

Spearheaded by its CEO, Íñigo Pons, Ingogroup has been at the forefront of technological advancements, delivering innovative label and packaging solutions to its clients. Today, the company employs approximately eighty-five personnel and has a turnover of €14m.

Ingogroup's story began in 2007-2008, initially focusing on label manufacturing backed by a comprehensive graphic design service. Over time, the business strategically began to focus on the food industry. Today, roughly 90% of the company's revenue is derived from this sector. With Spain's thriving meat and beverage industries as its primary markets, Ingogroup produces labels for various products such as beers, hams, sausages, cheeses, and more.

In 2019, the company embarked on a journey to diversify its label printing business to add new product lines, whereby Ingogroup transitioned to short runs on narrow-mid web flexible packaging.

The company has now become one of the undisputed leaders in the Spanish food packaging market.

Ingogroup had some core challenges to overcome, including the agility to operate with traditional UV and UV LED curing systems depending on job requirements, reducing overall energy use and carbon output of the business, and reducing reliance on solvent-based chemistries.

With these challenges in mind and looking to invest in its performance and sustainability initiatives, Ingogroup recognised an ideal opportunity to switch to UV LED curing with Flint Group's support.

Selecting the right partner for this project was crucial, and the choice was clear: Flint Group and Flint Group's EkoCure[®] Dual Cure inks stood out as the perfect match for Ingogroup's ambitions.

Already impressed by their existing collaboration with Flint Group, Pons found confidence in the company's reputation, experience and track record in LED curing technology. The Flint Group team had a consistent track record of providing valuable support, reinforcing Ingogroup's decision to move forward with EkoCure[®].

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Íñigo Pons
CEO, Ingogroup



Pons clarifies the challenge by reflecting on the transition: “At the time, in 2019, it was all very new when we began this process. We knew we wanted to combine UV LED curing with flexible packaging and without solvents. There were very few businesses working like this and a small amount of data to learn from; it was like jumping into a pool with very little water.

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The transition from traditional mercury-based UV to UV LED ink brought numerous advantages for Ingogroup. Most notably, the UV LED technology offered impressive energy savings over incumbent UV systems and standard UV lamps. This allowed Ingogroup to work with only half the installed power, consuming significantly less energy. As a result, Ingogroup has seen energy savings of up to 70%, enabling cost control while supporting the company’s low-emission goals.

Furthermore, the speed and efficiency of UV LED curing have opened up new opportunities for faster production. Although the rapid curing times initially posed challenges in keeping the ink from drying prematurely, Flint Group demonstrated unwavering dedication, reformulating the ink to ensure smooth operation.

Ingogroup’s decision to use EkoCure® Dual Cure inks enabled the business to operate with conventional UV machines when needed, striking a balance between speed, efficiency, and quality.

Designed to cure equally well under both mercury-based and UV LED curing systems, the EkoCure® range is an ideal choice for printers and converters

updating their systems to include future-ready UV LED curing methods. This dual functionality means that printers are not left with ink inventory they cannot use, which ultimately becomes waste, and also means that the transition to UV LED curing can be made press by press and unit by unit.

The result of more than a decade of UV LED ink technology development, the EkoCure® range brings the quality, consistency and on-press performance expected of Flint Group products, all while helping printers be more agile in their operations. In addition, the EkoCure® range helps printers such as Ingogroup take full advantage of LED curing’s speed, with near-instant set-up and a lower operating temperature.

Ingogroup, in particular, notes the longevity of UV LED curing; the business has yet to need to change an LED lamp, despite the project starting four years ago.

Pons adds: “The most important thing when choosing a supplier, more so than quality, price or references, is the quality of its aftersales service. Get this right, and it means we can guarantee product supplies, technical support and customer service to our clients. Flint Group does ‘get this right,’ and its support extends far beyond product quality.

“Over the years, the relationship between Ingogroup and Flint Group has flourished, exemplifying a truly collaborative spirit. Flint Group and Ingogroup technicians have played an integral role in the transition to LED curing in our flexible packaging operations, providing responsive support and helping Ingogroup overcome the challenges and seize the opportunities that come with innovative technology.”

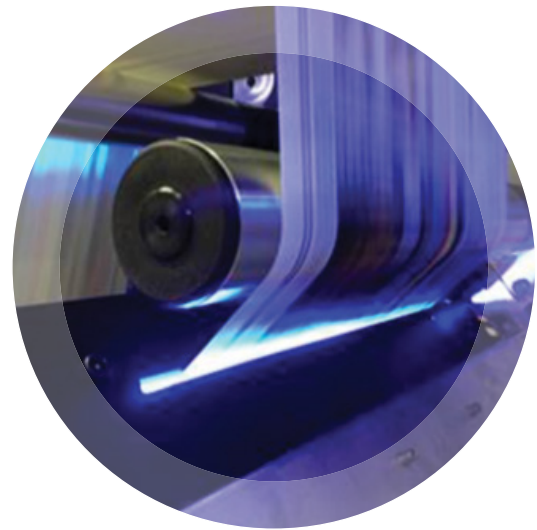
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Looking forward, Íñigo Pons remains enthusiastic about the future. He envisions further development and additional opportunities, strengthening the appeal of UV LED technology in the food sector. As the market continues to expand and evolve, the success of Ingogroup's transformation with EkoCure® Dual Cure inks stands the business in a good position for the future, driving energy savings and enhancing productivity.

As Ingogroup continues to innovate and boost its service to the Spanish food market, the company is a testament to the possibilities that emerge when businesses embrace cutting-edge solutions like Flint Group's EkoCure® Dual Cure inks. Their journey communicates a powerful message – a union of technology, vision, and support can shape the future of the packaging industry and lead the way towards a more sustainably-focused tomorrow.

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To find out more about whether **EkoCure® Dual Cure** could be right for your business, get in touch with our team by emailing info.narrowweb@flintgrp.com