

→ **LUBRICANT OIL SECTOR**

BLENDCOR (PTY) LTD.

Durban, South Africa

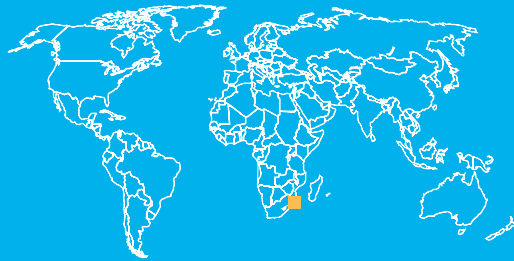


VIDEO

→ Wrap-around case packer LWP 30 ERGON

→ DV 500 S divider ERGON

→ Conveyor belts



WITHOUT A SHADOW OF A DOUBT, IF YOU ARE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND STOP AT ANY SHELL OR BP GARAGE TO BUY ENGINE OIL OR LUBRICANT, YOU WILL FIND THE BLENDCOR PRODUCTS, THE JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN SHELL AND BP FORMED IN 1992 AND EXCELLENCE IN THE PETROCHEMICAL SECTOR.



BLENDCOR

EXCELLENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY: WELCOME TO DURBAN

Located on the coast of the Indian Ocean, 350 miles southeast of Johannesburg, in one of the most beautiful stretches of South Africa, Durban, the country's third largest city and the flagship of KwaZulu-Natal, is a tropical urban jewel. It is a powerful and vibrant cocktail of contrasts: a surfer's paradise with fantastic spots to ride the waves, a centre for import/export in southern Africa and a major port city with the largest sugar terminal in the world, as well as being a centre of excellence. In Durban, excellence is a way of life, teamwork and continuous innovation to achieve a single goal: customer satisfaction! This is the main concern of Blendcor (Pty) Ltd, a company at the forefront of the production of lubricants, oils and greases, which operates at Island View

in the city's port, a strategic area for trade and economy in South Africa. In this area of great industrial importance, Blendcor's production facilities make use of the latest generation technologies to achieve maximum efficiency and quality. Among these, the solutions provided by SMI to the South African company for the secondary packaging of 5 L jerry cans of lubricating oil in wrap-around boxes stand out. Blendcor has recently installed a case packer of the LWP ERGON series with a DV 500 ERGON divider/channeler and conveyor belts, to which will soon be added a new line supplied by SMI for the packaging of 0.5 L and 1 L HDPE shaped bottles in wrap-around cardboard boxes.



A CITY FULL OF HISTORY

The beautiful coastal and trading city of Durban was discovered on Christmas Day 1497, by Portuguese navigator Vasco da Gama, who landed along the coast and named the landing site Natal, later Port-Natal. From 1823 to 1835 the city was a major trading port and in 1835 it was renamed Durban in honour of the then Governor of Cape Town, Sir Benjamin d'Urban. Today it maintains the distinction of being the largest sugar trading port in the world and stands out from other cities in South Africa for its incredible ethnic richness, with more than half of the inhabitants of Zulu origin and the presence of the largest Indian population on the continent. Thanks to its beautiful beaches, Durban is an established tourist destination in the Transvaal and, in recent years, has hosted several important conferences, such as the World Conference against Racism organised by ONU.



▶ THE PORT OF DURBAN

Thanks to its strategic location along the major routes of world trade, the port of the city of Durban is the largest shipping terminal on the African continent, open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It handles over 30 million tons of cargo annually, is visited by 4,500 cargo ships each year, and has 58 berths, serviced by over 20 terminal operators. The distance from one side of the port to the other is 21 km, while there is a total of 300 km of rails within it. Among the most strategic points of the port is Island View, where the Blendcor company is based.

EXCELLENCE COMES FROM CUSTOMER SATISFACTION AND TEAMWORK



As an operating unit of Shell and BP, two of the world's largest oil companies, Blendcor is obliged to comply with the international standards set by the two companies, as well as all legal, local, regional and national requirements. The company has obtained important certifications such as SABS ISO 14001 (environmental management system), 45001 (occupational health and safety management system) and IATF 16949:2016 (process-oriented quality management system that provides for continuous improvement, defect prevention, etc.). Blendcor is constantly striving to ensure the satisfaction of its customers and the training of its staff, carefully chosen to ensure diversity and inclusion.



➤ INDUSTRIAL LUBRICANTS MARKET OVERVIEW

The increasing industrialisation of manufacturing processes around the world, and the consequent increased demand for machinery and equipment, is creating significant growth opportunities for the industrial lubricants market. In fact, machinery needs lubrication to function properly. There is also a growing demand for high-performance lubricants that can reduce friction and wear on plant and equipment, thus leading to further consumption within the fuel market. The significant growth of the manufacturing and motor sector in South Africa, and the consequent increased demand for motor oils and greases, gives a vital role to Blendcor, which has the largest direct-selling blending plant in Africa. The Durban-based company is constantly striving to operate effectively and maintain a leading role. In this regard, it adopts a five-year strategy with development plans that focus on sustainability, automation to promote operational efficiency, people and cost competitiveness.



SMI SOLUTIONS

→ VERSATILE AND EFFICIENT MACHINERY FOR PETROCHEMICAL PACKAGING

The petrochemical industry is particularly demanding and requires precise and safe packaging in the packaging process of jerry cans, drums, oil cans and lubricants, especially in the presence of flammable materials.

Focused on automotive, mining and energy-related products, Blendcor plays a primary role in the smooth running of the industry as a whole in South Africa, keeping businesses moving and thriving, enabling continued opportunity creation and keeping the country's lights on.

The Durban-based company believes in achieving excellence through customer satisfaction, innovation and teamwork. In addition, as an operating unit of Shell and BP, two of the world's largest oil companies, Blendcor is obliged to comply with the international standards set by these two companies, as well as all legal, local, regional and national requirements. All factors that contribute to the achievement of the highest quality of the products.

FOR BLENDCOR

The need to increase productivity and ensure efficiency and quality within the packaging lines of rectangular 5L PVC jerry cans containing lubricating Castrol oil, led Blendcor to invest in the purchase of new wrap-around case packers with advanced technological content.

SMI, thanks to the support of its local partner Caltech Agencies, provided the customer with a functional and competitive packaging solution, consisting of a DV 500 series divider, an LWP 30 ERGON wrap-around case packer and conveyor belts serving the two machines.

To monitor and improve the production efficiency of the plant, SMI also provided a dedicated software that manages the communications between the DV 500 divider, the weight controller and product evacuation system installed upstream of the divider. Thanks to this management, the lubricant jerry cans that do not fall within the weight parameters defined by the South African company are automatically conveyed to a third row of belts, so that the operator can subsequently pick them up and reject them, to avoid them being packed in cardboard boxes. The jerry cans that have the correct weight are distributed on the two rows of conveyor belts at the infeed of the LWP 30 ERGON case packer, to be packed in wrap-around cardboard boxes in a 2x2 format.

→ WRAP-AROUND CASE PACKER LWP 30 ERGON FOR PRODUCTIONS UP TO 30 PPM

Processed product: 5 L PVC jerry cans.

Processed packages: 2x2 wrap-around boxes.

Key features:

- secondary packaging solution suitable for the protection of lubricants in 5 L jerry cans
- the wrap-around packaging system forms the cardboard box and encloses the containers inside with the use of a single machine: the case packer
- machine suitable for packaging various types of containers, cylindrical or shaped shapes such as the Blendcor products
- corrugated wrap-around boxes are very resistant to impacts and are therefore the ideal solution to preserve the integrity and quality of the products they contain
- wrap-around packages are more stable
- the cardboard die is folded and carefully wrapped around the products at the same time as they are grouped into the desired format, without any downtime
- versatile, efficient and cost-effective solution, compact and suitable for any logistics configuration of the production plant
- the wrap-around box is a great marketing tool, thanks to the possibility of graphic customisation of the packaging.





➤ DIVIDER - LANER DV 500 S ERGON

Function: it divides the 5 L PVC jerry cans into two lanes, which are packed in 2x2 cardboard boxes in the LWP 30 ERGON case packer.

Key features:

- compact and flexible system for dividing the containers into several lanes and laning them towards the wrap-around case packer
- continuous-motion divider, whose regular operation is ensured by the control of the availability of the product at the machine infeed, which automatically manages the working speed, and from the machine stop device to ensure the smooth and consistent packaging process
- the divider supplied to Blendcor has software for communication with the weight controller and product evacuation system, installed upstream of the divider. The overweight jerry cans are conveyed to a third row and picked up by the operator, while those of the correct weight are divided into two lanes and then processed by the case packer.

➤ CONVEYOR BELTS

Function: conveying 5 L bulk PVC jerry cans out of the DV 500 divider-laner to the LWP wrap-around case packer.

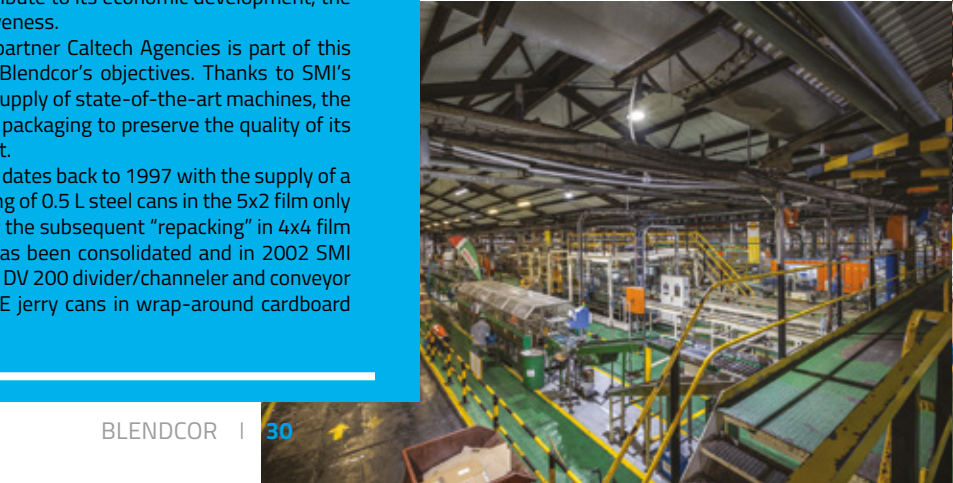
Key features:

- smooth and steady, smooth handling of containers entering the LWP
- use of high-quality components and wear-resistant materials, which reduce friction and noise, preserving the quality of the transported packages
- high reliability of the system, thanks to AISI 304 stainless steel structure and components
- the modular structure and the high compatibility with other systems allow for extremely simple installation, start-up and testing operations
- simplified maintenance operations.



FOCUS ON BLENDCOR

Owned by international oil giants, Shell and BP, Blendcor (Pty) Ltd was established in 1992 and from its 53,000 m² headquarters in Island View, Durban, continues to strive for excellence in the production of lubricants, oils and greases, to ensure the smooth running of vital motor, mining and industrial sectors. However, the origin of Blendcor dates back to 1956, when the company Fraser and Chalmers built a blending plant in the port of Durban with a production capacity of 50,000 tons per year. Just one year later, in 1957, the factory was modified to increase capacity to 80,000 tons per year. Today, more than seventy years later, with a workforce of over 285 people and an annual production capacity of over 200 million litres, Blendcor continues to play a key role in the production of a wide range of greases and lubricants (motor and industrial). It is currently a joint venture in which the two giants Shell Southern Africa and BP Southern Africa each own a 50% stake.



THE ROLE OF PARTNERS

Blendcor attributes a key role to all partners who, by working with the company to maintain high quality and safety standards, contribute to its economic development, the creation of the value chain and market competitiveness. The direct collaboration with SMI and the local partner Caltech Agencies is part of this context and contributes to the achievement of Blendcor's objectives. Thanks to SMI's long experience in the field of packaging and the supply of state-of-the-art machines, the Durban-based company ensures the appropriate packaging to preserve the quality of its products and their competitiveness on the market. The first collaboration between Blendcor and SMI dates back to 1997 with the supply of a shrinkwrapper of the APET series for the packaging of 0.5 L steel cans in the 5x2 film only format and an AF 432 B model shrinkwrapper for the subsequent "repacking" in 4x4 film only formats. Over the years the collaboration has been consolidated and in 2002 SMI supplied a WP 300 XL wrap-around case packer, a DV 200 divider/channeler and conveyor belts to process 3 different types of 5 litre HDPE jerry cans in wrap-around cardboard boxes in the 1x3 and 1x4 format.

BLENDCOR'S ROLE IN THE LUBRICANTS MARKET

Blendcor plays a key role in the lubricants industry in South Africa. It is the largest mixing company on the continent that sells directly to the market and meets the needs of an ever-growing industry. The Island View location, in the port of Durban, is strategic for both imports and exports. The company continuously reviews its development strategies to improve competitiveness and safety standards. Among the main pillars of Blendcor's five-year strategy is sustainability. Equally important are the other pillars: automation to drive operational efficiency, cost competitiveness and staff well-being. This last aspect has a strategic relevance for this company, which puts the growth of people, their skills and their potential first.

