

Packwise GmbH

Factsheet – everything important at one glance

The Problem

All over the world companies use so-called Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBC), large containers made of plastic or stainless steel, to ship their products. Especially in the chemical and food industries, they are standard for transporting mainly liquid goods. However, during their journey, information about where exactly the IBCs are located and to what extent they are filled is still missing. This makes logistics processes non-transparent and means high administrative costs for the companies. IBCs currently stand around unused for around 80 percent of their lifetime. In view of the resources used and the CO2 emitted during container production, there is also an environmental problem. The Dresden-based Packwise GmbH has developed a solution.

The innovation

The start-up company invented the Packwise Smart Cap. The palm-sized cap is quickly and easily attached to the container. As a kind of digital twin of the IBC, the plug & play device enables the location of a container and its movements to be recorded. The IoT solution can also be used to measure the fill level. The information is clearly prepared for the user in the specially developed Packwise Flow software. These insights open up new possibilities for companies in production planning and in the design of business models. The optimisation of logistics also allows for a sustainable use of containers. Companies can thus reduce their container fleet. In November 2019, the contract with Diehl Connectivity Solutions GmbH for the series production of hardware with IoT technology was signed. The availability of the Packwise Smart Cap is therefore guaranteed in large quantities for the market launch in April 2020.

The users

Together with several pilot clients from the chemical and food industries, Packwise has been testing the Packwise Smart Cap under real conditions since the end of 2019. So far, further advantages of the new container management system have been demonstrated. Using the plug & play device not only results in cost savings and improved logistics and production planning. Because the filling level of containers at the customer's premises can be monitored in real time, customers can be supplied as required and production can be planned in advance. In the future, this will open up opportunities for automatic reordering or data-driven business models, such as pay-per-use or consignment warehouses. All this contributes to an increase in customer service and better customer loyalty.

The founders

The idea for Packwise GmbH arose from the former activities of co-founder and product developer Felix Weger at a leading group of companies for industrial packaging. There the problems faced by industrial companies when it comes to efficient IBC logistics became apparent. The founding team in 2017 included, in addition to him, Managing Director Gesche Weger and IT developer René Bernhardt. The team currently comprises six employees.

Packwise aims to make processes relating to the reuse and overall organisation of industrial packaging more efficient and resource-saving. This is made possible by their integration into intelligent cycles.

The second financing round was completed in summer 2019. Lead investor is the Technologiegründerfonds Sachsen+ (TGFS+). Packwise also convinced two family offices with industry expertise. In total, the investors provided one million euros for the further expansion of the company's activities.

Further information and printable photo material can be found at: www.packwise.de/presse

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