

**NEWS RELEASE  
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**FPA/PMMI Publishes *Best Practice: Transitioning Flexible Materials Report***

*The report is intended to be used by brand manufacturers as a guide to ensure the process of transitioning flexible materials in packaging operations is efficient and successful*

**Annapolis, MD: July 6, 2023** – The Flexible Packaging Association (FPA), the leading advocate and voice for the growing U.S. flexible packaging industry, is pleased to announce that its newest report, the [FPA/PMMI Best Practice: Transitioning Flexible Materials Report](#), is now available.

As the focus on sustainability continues, many flexible packaging manufacturers and consumer packaged goods companies (CPGs) are looking to incorporate more sustainable options into their packaging. These options may include incorporating post-consumer recycled (PCR) content, using biodegradable or compostable materials, transitioning to a mono-material structure vs. a multi-layer structure, and switching from a plastic structure to a paper structure. Incorporating these changes often requires a transition between flexible materials which may result in operational challenges.

To help identify the key challenges experienced by CPGs when transitioning between different flexible materials, the Flexible Packaging Association (FPA) partnered with PMMI Media Group Custom Research to develop best practices to address these challenges. The main objectives of the project were to uncover the key operational challenges and barriers to switching between flexible materials in CPG production lines; and to create a best practices document as an industry guide for CPGs, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), and materials suppliers/converters on the most effective way to transition between flexible materials.

The best practices document that was developed can be used as a tool to educate customers on how to use the OEMs' products or services. It can provide guidelines and tips on best practices for installation, operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting. By using the document, OEMs can ensure that their customers are using their products or services in a standardized and consistent manner which can help to reduce errors and improve overall quality and performance.

The sponsors of the best practices document include FPA, The Association of Packaging and Processing Technologies (PMMI), and the OpX Leadership Network. PMMI is a trade association of more than 900 member companies that manufacture packaging, processing, and related converting machinery in North America; including machinery components and packaging containers and materials. Facilitated by PMMI, the OpX Leadership Network is a community of manufacturing, engineering, and operations professionals dedicated to operational excellence. Through open dialogue between CPG manufacturers and OEMs, the OpX Leadership Network provides a forum to identify and solve common operational challenges and apply best practices and innovative solutions to the real-world context of manufacturing.

The report is available on the FPA website, [www.flexpack.org](http://www.flexpack.org).

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#### **About the Flexible Packaging Association (FPA)**

The Flexible Packaging Association is the voice of the U.S. manufacturers of flexible packaging and their suppliers. The association's mission is connecting, advancing, and leading the flexible packaging industry. Flexible packaging represents over \$42 billion in annual sales in the U.S. and is the second largest and one of the fastest growing segments of the packaging industry. Flexible packaging is produced from paper, plastic, film, aluminum foil, or any combination of those materials, and includes bags, pouches, labels, liners, wraps, rollstock, and other flexible products. Learn more at [flexpack.org](http://flexpack.org).

#### **About The Association of Packaging and Processing Technologies (PMMI)**

PMMI is a trade association of more than 900 member companies that manufacture packaging, processing, and related converting machinery in North America; machinery components and packaging containers and materials. PMMI's vision is to be the leading global resource for the packaging and processing supply chain, and its mission is to improve and promote members' abilities to meet the needs of their customers. Learn more about PMMI and the PACK EXPO trade shows at [PMMI.org](http://PMMI.org) and [Packexpo.com](http://Packexpo.com). The report was facilitated, analyzed, and executed by [PMMI Media Group Custom Research](#), the proprietary research arm of PMMI.