

The Summit

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Robots



"ANOTHER ONE FROM
THE SWEET FACTORY"

Robotic machinery has been used in the car and plastics industry for many years, largely for safety reasons. Now robotics is now moving into sweet production, mainly to save labour costs but also because it is easier for robotic machinery to meet increasingly stringent hygiene standards. Robotic machinery is ideally placed to deal with the many repetitive tasks involved in sweet production and packing and has the ability to treat with care delicate and hot sweets.

An increasing number of packaging companies in Europe are now also using robotic machinery to meet demands for flexibility in

packaging and to save costs. The success of the robots is mainly due to the software programs they work on rather than technological changes in the robotic hardware. Switching to different programs as the lines of sweets and packaging progress through various stages of production is quick and easy and means that production lines don't have to be stopped to accommodate different types of sweets. One packaging company in Germany has even produced what they call an Android designed to stack cases onto pallets. ?

Source Kennedy's confection

Tuk Tuk

A fleet of 12 motorised rickshaws have arrived in Brighton, easily recognised by the distinctive tuk tuk sound they make. The rickshaws are a local businessman's answer to congested roads. The rickshaws have been converted to run on compressed natural gas and produce virtually no emissions. ?

Source the Week

Boy on the Bike

Hovis is celebrating 120 years of trading. To commemorate the event Hovis is introducing limited edition packaging for its Hovis Original Wheatgerm loaf. The packaging will feature 'The boy on the bicycle' which will complement a return to the Hovis advertisement of the 1970's. The 'boy on a bicycle' advertisement was directed by Ridley Scott and it won many awards.

The original Hovis loaf was produced by Richard Smith a miller in Staffordshire who perfected a technique of baking tasty bread with wheatgerm.

Hovis is the number one bread brand in the UK and it is continuing to develop new loaves to go with current food trends. The company recently reduced the salt content of their loaves and continue to produce bread without any artificial preservatives or colouring.?

Source The Grocery trader

Sales Wilt

During the week of 3rd July temperatures in the UK soared, influenced by a humid plume of air from the Sahara. During this time the World Cup was being played out and Wimbledon was in its second week. A shopper survey during the weekend of the 1st and 2nd of July showed that numbers of sales were down by 11.6 per cent. So was it the sport or was it simply too hot to shop.

Whatever the reason, the John Lewis Partnership reported sales in the sales in their high street stores were down by between 7.5 and 11 percent. However sales of fans, trampolines and croquet sets helped to lift sales for the chain.

It was not all bad though, as you could probably predict sales of water butts increased at B & Q along with watering cans, barbecues, air conditioning units and fans. ?

Source The Times

Web site News

Our EU site is now live on the web. Aimed at the European market it looks slightly different from the home site and includes features such as business related articles and news. Have a look at our article on British regional food.

www.summitup.eu

www.whonu.com is a web site which helps you maximize the power of existing search engines. Whono promises to find you more quality and accurate results from your searches.

www.summitup.co.uk

Its tea but not as we know it

Austrian company Thurella have produced a new iced tea drink with a difference. Called C-Ice the drink will be launched in the U.K at the end of July at several launch promotions including the Notting hill carnival. The company is aiming the new product at health and specialist food

stores. The drink which comes in a bright orange carton has cannabis added to it in the form of hemp flower blossom syrup. The volume of cannabis contained in the drink is 0.0015% of the total liquid and the narcotic component of cannabis, tetrahydrocannabinol is not included. The company are not marketing their tea on the cannabis element but are simply hoping to tap into the growing market for soft drinks aimed at specific groups and tastes.
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Source the Grocer

Absent from Work

The BBC News has reported that absences from work in the UK are down this year again. This is the result of a survey among 1,000 firms by the chartered Institute of Personal and Development. The institute have said that absence among public sector workers is higher than for workers in private companies. The TUC retaliated and said that reports of higher instances of absences among public sector workers was 'Peddling the tired old myth' and the TUC Secretary Brendan Barber said recent research shows the private sector under reports absences. He went on to say 'this research ignores the fact that public sector workers are more likely to try to retain members of staff who have been off work whereas workers who take time off ill in the private sector run the risk of being sacked' Whatever the truth the Institute that undertook the research found that public sector employees had an

average of 10 days absence last year while the public sector had average absences of 7 and half days last year.

The biggest cause of short term absence was minor illness, but stress for non manual workers was also a big contributor as was back pain for manual workers. ?

Source BBC News

Web site News On Line Workshops

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