

Aetek UV Systems provides pioneering UV solutions for canmaking

Aetek UV Systems, a division of American Ultraviolet, stands at the forefront of UV technology innovation within the canmaking industry, catering to the evolving needs of manufacturers worldwide.

Established in 1960 and part of American Ultraviolet since 2005, Aetek provides custom solutions to successfully cure UV inks, varnishes, laminating adhesives and coatings. Over the years, Aetek has maintained a commitment to quality and reliability, evident in the company's diverse product offerings and bespoke solutions.

Based in Lebanon, Indiana, USA, Aetek operates from an expansive 70,000-square-foot facility, where the team design, fabricate, assemble and test UV systems. This centralised approach ensures meticulous control over production standards, allowing them to consistently meet stringent industry demands.

Aetek prides itself on supporting the legacy systems its customers depend on while simultaneously helping them to embrace new, advanced technology. "Our engineering and production teams have unmatched experience and expertise in not only the production of reliable UV curing systems but also the repair and refurbishment of the UV curing systems they have produced over the last several decades," says Meredith C Stines, President and CEO of Aetek UV Systems. "Our goal is to empower our customers to operate seamlessly – whether they're using decades-old equipment or cutting-edge UV LED technology."

Aetek's product range includes the UltraPak and UVXL equipment lines, renowned for their robustness in label and narrow web printing applications. These systems are engineered for high-speed curing, incorporating modular designs that facilitate swift maintenance and minimal downtime. Such features are crucial for can manufacturers striving to maintain continuous production without interruptions.

Mr. Stines continues: "We manufacture many custom systems to fit UV technology to the canmaking press, showcasing our unmatched design adaptability in the industry. We offer both UV Mercury systems and UV LED systems. The Mercury systems can be mercury, iron, and gallium doped, operating up to 600 watts per inch with fully selectable lamp power levels. Integrated systems include a PLC with touchscreen controls. When UV technology first emerged, many systems operated at only 200 or 300 watts per inch, insufficient for curing inks and coatings at the speed required by can lines. Aetek responded by offering 500 and 600 watts per inch systems capable of handling these increased speeds."

Alongside state-of-the-art modern systems, Aetek also provides comprehensive refurbishment services, ensuring that older systems can be revitalised to perform like they are brand new. This commitment to longevity aligns with the company's philosophy of enhancing operational efficiency and reducing long-term costs for clients.

Innovation remains a cornerstone at Aetek, particularly evident in its integration of UV LED technology. This advancement not only enhances energy efficiency but also reduces environmental impact by eliminating the need for exhaust systems and minimising heat exposure to substrates – a critical consideration in the canmaking process. "We're constantly adapting to industry trends," Stines notes. "With advancements like UV LED, we're poised to revolutionise how UV technology supports canmaking operations, paving the way for more sustainable and efficient manufacturing practices."

Looking ahead, Aetek and American Ultraviolet are committed to further enhancing UV technology's role in canmaking processes. By leveraging their combined 125 years of expertise, they aim to set new benchmarks in reliability, performance and environmental sustainability. "Our journey is about pushing boundaries and setting new standards," concludes Stines. "UV technology will continue to evolve, and we're excited to lead the charge in transforming the canmaking industry."

To learn more about Aetek UV Systems, visit www.americanultraviolet.com/aetek-uv-systems.cfm.