

Seeking new technologies to replace plastic packaging

WestRock is a global leader in sustainable paper and packaging solutions. WestRock manufactures and distributes containerboard and paperboard products such as corrugate materials, folding cartons, bleached paperboard, coated recycled paperboard, retail displays, and pulp products.

In our packaging business, we operate under two business segments : Corrugated Packaging and Consumer Packaging, offering a broad portfolio of differentiated paper and corrugated packaging products.

We are materials scientists, packaging designers, mechanical engineers and manufacturing experts with a shared purpose: Innovate Boldly. Package Sustainably.™

We use leading science and technology to move fiber-based packaging forward. With the current market focus on sustainable packaging and in particular, the replacement of plastic, the development of functionality to paper-based or pulp formed packaging is an important capability.

R&D challenges and priority areas:

Paperboard replacement of Plastics

- Shape formation
- Barrier functionality : keep the product in / keep the environment out
- Light weighting
- Puncture and Tear resistance
- Minimal water and energy usage
- Product visibility (clear paper)
- Consumer interactivity with the packaging

Looking for :

- New technologies
- New ways of using existing technologies from other sectors
- Adapting existing or finding new processes to take paper board manufacture and conversion into a new era.



Specific opportunities and approaches of interest:

Cross functional expertise is required to take paper based materials into the future as a truly competitive material to plastics.

External collaboration will play a major role in this development journey. An entrepreneurial view and new thinking will be imperative if we are to take a new look at our current portfolio and what customers will want from us in the future on a 3,5,10 year horizon.

Stages of development preferred:

- Pilot scale product through to commercialization ready

Types of collaboration preferred:

- Open to discussion

Out-of-scope:

- Oil based polymers

Recyclability is a priority over compostable

[SUBMIT OPPORTUNITIES](#)

