

# Jabil ventures into sustainable product packaging

Jabil makes a lot of things, including packages for consumer goods like bottled water and beauty products. Now it's launching an initiative to make those containers more environmentally friendly.



Jabil is launching an initiative to offer new lines of sustainable product packaging, such as plastic bottles made from resins engineered for more easy recycling, composting and biodegradability, to companies that sell a wide range of consumer goods. (Times file photo)

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**ST. PETERSBURG** — Jabil is launching an initiative to offer new lines of sustainable product packaging, such as plastic bottles made from resins engineered for more easy recycling, composting and biodegradability, to companies that sell a wide range of consumer goods.

As a global manufacturer of electronics, data centers, medical devices, appliances and more, Jabil might be better known for products that go inside the box, but it has an entire division devoted to packaging, including a packaging innovation center in Tortosa, Spain. This week that

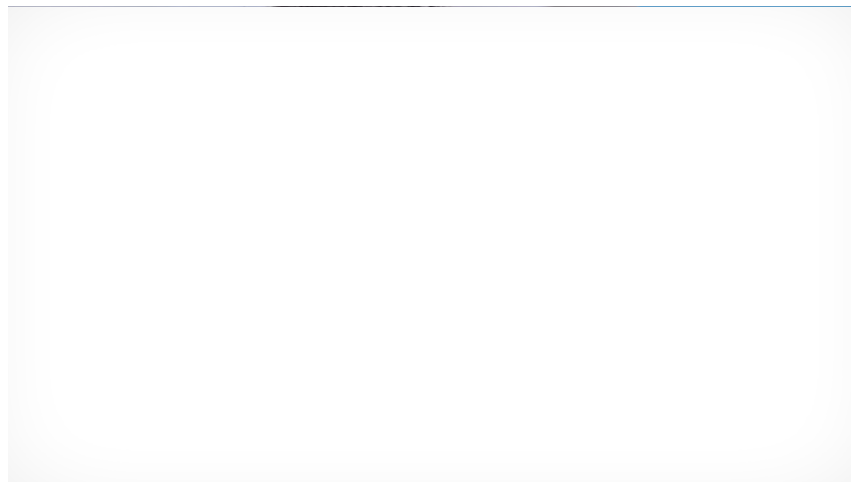
division unveiled a new suite of sustainable packaging services to help companies that sell packaged products from food to shampoo respond to consumer and regulatory demands for packaging that is less harmful to the environment.

To do this, Jabil, which is headquartered in St. Petersburg but has more than 200,000 workers in 100 facilities spread across in 29 countries, is working with companies like Danimer Scientific in Bainbridge, Ga. Over more than a decade, Danimer has developed a biopolymer that can be used to make plastic products that are biodegradable and compostable. It does this by feeding vegetable oil to soil bacteria in a fermentation process that takes about two weeks.

"The beauty of this whole process is that the micro-organism is the factory," Danimer Scientific chief executive officer Stephen Croskrey said during a conference call. "The way it works, the bacteria consumes vegetable oil and converts it for stored energy reserves when it's had enough to eat. ... I explain it as bug fat. It's just like when we eat too much, we have stored energy reserves in our fat. So when we break the cell wall open and extract that stored energy reserve, that is the plastic resin. We do nothing to it after that other than to clean it up."

**'FEELS LIKE HOME': [Jabil opens R&D innovation center as part of \\$67 million St. Petersburg campus expansion](#)**

For companies producing consumer packaged goods, "there has never been a bigger challenge than the transition to a truly sustainable business model," Jabil Packaging Solutions vice president of technology Jason Paladino said. To make the shift will require "a new level of partnership and collaboration across the supply chain."



So Jabil Packaging Solutions is offering three new services focused on:

- Designing packaging products.
- Assessing factors like a product's carbon footprint and recyclability along with its production requirements, and
- Sourcing materials in a way that takes into account price, performance and supply chain optimization.

Jabil aims to provide a single source of expertise in all areas of sustainable packaging development to a market that includes food and beverage, home care and personal care customers. That, the company says, should reduce the complexity of working with multiple suppliers and design houses, speed up the time it takes to conceive, create and deliver new products to the market, and reduce the risk that new package formats will fail to meet industry design guidelines.

"We will partner with our suppliers to develop the most optimized solutions to bring the most cost-effective and the best-performing solutions to the market place," Paladino said.

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