Issue 2, Volume XXXII, March/April 2021

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Lockdown Veganuary

This issue we take a look at the growing phenomenon of free-from foods in all its guises, not just plant-based, and report on the technology delivering the NPD to the sector



INSIDE



NEWS

The RMGroup has become the first integrator in the UK to be accredited under the RIA/BARA Robot Integrators' Certification Scheme, to assure customers it has the skillset for projects

NEW MACHINERY

A collaborative robot (or cobot) portfolio is expanding with the new GoFa and SWIFTI cobot families to offer higher payloads and speeds, and to complement the YuMi variants from ABB Find out more on page 13

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PLUS

The UKIVA's Machine Vision Conference and Exhibition will take place on Thursday 15 July this year in Milton Keynes www.machinevisionconference.co.uk

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MACHINER

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PPMA matters



s political wrangling continues over just about everything, one thing that cannot be disputed is that we have all been through a hell of a lot in the last 12 months. The country itself; the businesses we work for; and our general well-being have probably been tested like no other generation in peacetime.

However, it feels like some of the measures announced in the March Budget, along with the extraordinary numbers being delivered by our very successful vaccination programme, are providing cause for a little more optimism about the way out of COVID-19. There was, for instance, the welcome news for the manufacturing sector of the supertax-deduction and the extension to the furlough scheme until September.

Hopefully, the introduction of these deductions will encourage much needed investment across all manufacturing sectors, allowing businesses to offset the cost of new equipment against tax, plus an additional 30%. I feel sure that our 550 plus PPMA members will be more than willing to talk about how they can help with any new, or now brought forward, investment plans across all of the technologies our trade association represents!

Some feel the Budget did not go far enough in lifting the dark clouds that remain around Brexit

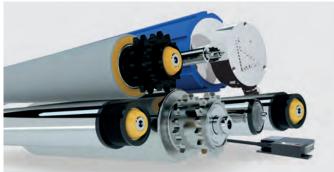
And the extension to the furlough scheme will surely help firms that have been decimated this year, to keep going until the whole economy opens up, once again.

Importantly, there was also the increase in incentive payments for employers to recruit apprentices that went up to £3,000 in Rishi Sunak's budget, but no change to the Apprenticeship Levy.

One market sector that has seen much new development, and therefore investment, during this global pandemic is the 'free-from foods' market which you can read about in our special 14-page feature in this issue (starts on page 48). Replacing ingredients such as meat, gluten and dairy, or concentrating on plant-based products, demands processing and packaging changes that are being delivered by our membership.

With all this positivity comes some caution as to the fine print of these measures and the importance of making clear how manufacturers can access the new support. And let's not forget that the ongoing issues of dealing with C-19 and also Brexit, still present significant challenges to UK manufacturers.

It may be too early to say we are definitely seeing green shoots, and we are right to be cautious after three lockdowns, but let us hope these shoots are at least about to break through...









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ROVEMA offers comprehensive solutions for multi-variant premium product

Sustainable ideas can currently be found in most industries. It is the consumer who demands modern, recyclable solutions. The coffee industry is no exception. Few would like to do without coffee itself, but many would like to do without unnecessary packaging – be it the disposable take-away cup or the aluminum outer packaging of the coffee beans from the supermarket.

Sustainable alternatives for the coffee industry – POS strength of bags remains a differentiating feature

We have investigated a variety of alternative packaging materials for coffee and other fatty products. There are now some promising alternatives. Not all of them offer flexibility in bag design that has been possible so far, but the issue of product protection seems to be solved even with the sustainable variants!



Coffee beans in polypropylene (PP) with EVOH oxygen barrier



Ground coffee safely packed with particularly thin PP packaging material



Coffee powder in PE Mono material



Coffee powder packed in polyolefin composite with sealing medium made of 85% renewable raw materials





More about Coffee Packaging

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Service provision is recognised by an end user customer

Ulma Packaging UK's ability to adapt its service offering to meet 2020s pandemic-influenced working conditions has seen it honoured by a biscuit brand.

Chosen from 22 companies. Ulma was named 'Engineering Service Provider 2020' by the engineering department at Border Biscuits. This annual award is given for excellent and consistent service levels and Ulma's remote support, along with its existing offering, saw it recognised.

"During a time when it would have been understandable to cut back on support, Ulma did the opposite and made a huge commitment to service provision," says Craig Penman, who is the engineering manager at Border Biscuits.



Support adapted for C-19 protocols



The audit process confirmed that the group meets all performance criteria

UK has named its first certified robot integrator

MGroup has become the first integrator in the UK to be accredited under the RIA/BARA Robot Integrators' Certification Scheme.

The company was awarded its certified status in January following a successful audit at its headquarters in Newtown, Wales, to meet a rigorous set of national and international standards to ensure business compliance and capability.

The certification scheme is the benchmark to assess robot integrators' technical knowledge and safety practices, and this UK scheme was born out of the need to standardise integrator quality and workmanship, plus recognise effective safety controls to help give companies a competitive edge.

"We are delighted to be the first integrator to achieve certification in the UK," says Rosie Davies, director of RMGroup UK. "It demonstrates RMGroup's ability to deliver systems as per the required technical expectations and also assures end users that our expert programming team has the skillset to undertake a variety of integration projects." www.bara.org.uk



UKIVA's machine vision event is now taking place in July

The 2021 UKIVA Machine Vision Conference and Exhibition will take place at the Marshall Arena in Milton Keynes on Thursday 15 July this year.

The event will feature keynote speakers and a technical seminar programme covering eight different themes, supported by an exhibition of the latest vision technology; all in an environment that safely encourages networking with some of the world's leading machine vision experts. "As part of the UK Government's roadmap out of lockdown, they will be running pilot events (such as conferences) from April," says new UKIVA chairman Neil Sandhu. "There are also plans for an

enhanced virtual event should the need arise."

www.machinevision conference.co.uk



DELIVERING THE VACCINE IN BATTLE AGAINST C-19

Bowl feeders meet demand

RNA Automation is supplying vibratory bowl feeders that handle syringes, plungers and glass vials used for C-19 vaccinations, to help meet the increased demand for these products. The company is also supplying feeding systems to handle plastic vials, swabs and test tubes that are used for C-19 test kits as well as antibody test kits.

PPMA members have won an engineering award for ventilator

PPMA members Jenton International, B&R Industrial Automation and Festo, along with Dero Fabrication and Shearmans have been recognised in the COVID-19 response category of The Engineer's 2020 awards for the work they completed on an emergency ventilator.

Despite having no previous medical expertise, Jenton felt compelled to answer the government's call to action for help, relying on the company's knowledge to underpin the creation of an emergency ventilation device.

Partners produced a working prototype in just three weeks.



Sandhu takes on the UKIVA role

UKIVA has named its latest chairman

Neil Sandhu (product manager for imaging, measurement, ranging & systems at Sick (UK)) was appointed chairman of UKIVA during the vision association's on-line AGM in January. He takes over from Allan Anderson (the md of ClearView Imaging) who had completed his two-year stint.

News

Start-up company is representing two overseas machine producers

IIoT Maturity Journey

From digitalisation to intelligent machines

Computerisation

The journey starts when industrial machines and operations are controlled by software via PLCs, Sensors, Cobots and HMI screens.



Connectivity

Devices are connected to the internet and made accessible from outside the factory. Secure VPN access and web platforms make remote control and maintenance of machines more efficient.



Data Analysis

Machine data are collected and stored securely in the cloud. A data strategy is set out to visualize and analyse data for machine and process improvements,



Predictive Capacity

Sophisticated analytics lead to best-practice patterns, and are used to inform service and operation teams when the need for machine maintenance is near or if operations are down.



Adaptability

Connected services and integrated platforms result in smart capabilities like machine learning and artificial intelligence.



now representing the bagging, sachet and stickpack machinery manufacturer Mespack and compact cartoning equipment developer U-E-T Bernd Siebler in the UK following the formation of Acer Machinery Solutions.

new company is

Emma Ridgway, who sold this equipment during her 16 years at Springvale Equipment, set up the new company last summer, and a new office development is underway and further recruitment is planned. She has worked with Mespack since 2009, being its sales manager at Springvale for the last six years and has been working with U-E-T since 2005, and its sales manager for the last 12 years.



Emma Ridgway set up the company

"My company ethos is 'Your Project, Our Solution'," she tells *Machinery Update*.

"With an extensive portfolio of packaging machinery from the represented manufacturers, we strive to provide customers with a solution that will not only fulfil their requirements but will also improve efficiencies, provide longevity and with an extensive knowledge base we can introduce features that had not previously been considered," she says.

www.acermachinery solutions.co.uk





Make UK has 2,000 young people ready to be an apprentice

Make UK used this March's World Engineering Day to call upon employers in the Midlands to offer the next generation of engineers the opportunity to shape their careers.

"Make UK has over 2,000 young people in its talent pool looking for apprenticeship opportunities," says Stephen Mitchell, director of apprentices and technical training at Make UK's Technology Hub in Aston, Birmingham.

"Even if employers are not in a position to take on apprentices immediately, we would encourage them to start the conversations now," he says. **■** asrecruitment@makeuk.org



Take on apprentices in the Midlands

Wrapping specialist has invested in a new site to meet demand

orkshire Packaging Systems (YPS) has moved into its new 30,000sq ft premises in Brighouse, West Yorkshire that will serve as its new offices and national distribution centre. However, the company's recent growth will see it retaining its existing site in Dewsbury for additional storage. This development means that the full footprint of the YPS business will now total over 50,000sq ft.

The newly renovated site in Brighouse incorporates a showroom and demo centre. bright, modern offices and meeting rooms, an expansive warehouse and a spacious workshop with a fitted floor-to-ceiling storeroom. A sweeping mezzanine floor has been installed overlooking the demo centre to offer customers a 360 degree view of the wrapping machinery systems on display.



New site will keep lead times short

"The key benefit of becoming a two-site operation is the capacity for greater stock holding," says YPS md Glyn Johnson. "Our sales have doubled in the last three years so space for more stock is critical to allow us to fulfil more customer orders without extending our lead times.'

In brief

INSPECTION IS ACQUIRED

AutoCoding Systems has been acquired by JBT Corporation, enabling it to continue its expansion and growth within the food and beverage industries. The acquisition of AutoCoding Systems for £12.5 m extends JBT's capabilities in packaging line equipment and associated devices, including coding and label inspection and verification. www.autocodingsystems.com

NEW UK DISTRIBUTOR

Sealpac UK & Partners has been named the official UK and Ireland distributor for the range of seafood and fish sector equipment manufactured by Danish company Carsoe to enhance its ability to provide full line automation solutions. Sealpac will also provide spares and engineering support for all existing machines in the field which allows customers to avoid importing spares under new, tricky Brexit regulations. www.sealpac-uk.com

VISION PARTNERSHIP

Multipix Imaging has been appointed as the new JAI partner for the UK and Ireland and will be responsible for marketing, sales and support of JAI's complete portfolio of industrial area scan and line scan cameras across the region, and across complete vision system projects. www.multipix.com

DISTRIBUTOR DEAL

Global manufacturer of efficient and sustainable process technologies Pentair has signed an authorised distributor agreement with Moody Direct which will allow the UK-based company to officially supply Pentair's Südmo valve range. www.moodydirect.com

NEW SAFETY APP

A new safety management App is available from the British Safety Council to allow readers to see news on-the-go and make it easy to stay abreast of change.

Global exhibition has now moved its next outing to 2023

The next interpack will take place from 4 to 10 May, 2023 at the Düsseldorf Trade Fair Centre. Organisers Messe Düsseldorf set this date in agreement with its partners and committees and exhibitors who were approved for interpack 2021, which was cancelled due to the pandemic, are able to reserve their stand positions for 2023. These exhibitors can rebook when they register online at www.interpack.com from the end of March/beginning of April. The components exhibition will take place in parallel with interpack.



AWARD-WINNER PROMOTES ENGINEERING TO WOMEN

Natural engineering abilities

Davina Kaur from RNA Automation won LeicestershireLive's Apprentice of the Year Award 2020 in recognition of her consistently outstanding performance and commitment to her own professional development. The first female engineer on the shop floor at RNA, she is now rotating throughout departments before starting work in the development of bespoke automation cells. The 19-year-old also promotes careers in engineering to youngsters.

Regulations

Keeping machinery compliant post-Brexit

Paul Taylor
HEAD OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS (UK)

Now that the UK has left the EU, machinery end-users will start to see a UKCA mark appearing on compliant products and here, we cover what to look out for, and action, post-Brexit...

oday, the vast majority of UK law is made through Statutory
Instruments. The European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 and the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement)
Act 2020 allow Statutory
Instruments to be made which rescind and amend legislation which originally emanated from Europe. These Statutory
Instruments are referred to as the 'EU Exit' Statutory
Instruments.

Now that the United Kingdom has left the EU, machinery end-users in the UK will slowly start to see a UKCA mark appearing on compliant products. UKCA marking was specified in the original EU Exit Statutory Instruments and indicates that a product placed on the market meets the UK's new regulatory requirements. For most products this is defined in UK Statutory Instrument 2019 No 696, with the original CE marking regulations being amended rather than replaced.

SAME STANDARDS

While references to "harmonised standards" have changed to 'designated standards', for now the UK standards remain the same as EU harmonised standards and have simply been carried across as UK designated standards in order to maintain a single model. This means that in the UK, procedures have changed very little from the CE marking structure. However, while initially these

requirements will align with the CE marking ones that they replace, overtime divergence is still possible.

The CE marking will of course remain in the EU. In both jurisdictions the same rules will apply for designers, manufacturers and importers – everyone must understand their legal duties and their responsibilities.

Since the EU exit transition period came to an end on 31st December 2020, the UKCA marking is now required for new machinery placed on the market for the first time in Great Britain (England, essential health and safety requirements (EHSRs). These are detailed in the UKCA Regulations and include the provision of sufficient instructions in the language of the end user. A technical file for the machinery should also be available.

Machinery will additionally require a UK Declaration of Conformity, or in the case of partly completed machinery, a Declaration of Incorporation. This will need to list UK legislation and UK designated standards for compliance. For specific higher risk machinery that requires

location of the manufacturer. UK companies exporting CE marked equipment into the EU must appoint a responsible person that is authorised to compile the technical file, and they must be physically located within the EU.

SELF-DECLARATION

The manufacturer is still allowed to self-declare a product's compliance where applicable. This responsible person or entity is the same requirement that has been applied for many years to any other country outside of the EU. This is reciprocated for EU entities importing into the UK. Quite simply, post-exit from the EU, the UK is operating a separate regulatory regime just like the rest of the world.

Despite this additional time, the introduction of the new UKCA marking presents machinery manufacturers with the challenge of ensuring compliance with a new conformity assessment mark within a relatively tight timescale. As UKCA markings are a visible sign that a product complies with all the relevant UK regulations, it is essential that machinery endusers understand both their responsibilities and those of their machine's manufacturer.

■ For more information contact ■ www.tuv-sud.co.uk TÜV SÜD is the PPMA Group's technical and legislative partner

New UKCA marking presents machine builders with the challenge of complying in a tight timescale

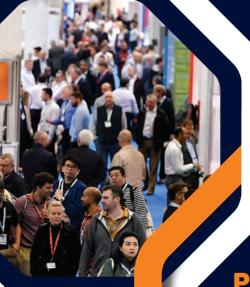
Scotland and Wales), but CE marking will continue to be accepted in Northern Ireland. However, machinery manufacturers do have 10 months grace in the form of a further transitional arrangement for the acceptance of CE marking until 1st January 2022. After this time any machinery sold in the UK, irrespective of when that model was first placed on the market, must carry a UKCA marking.

It is therefore vital that machinery end-users are aware of what their suppliers should be doing. This means that all machinery should meet all relevant type-examination by a certification body, a UK Approved Body will be required. From the 1st January 2021, UK-based EU notified bodies automatically became UK Approved Bodies for their previous scope of EU accreditation, allowing UKCA certification work to commence.

As we do not have an EU/UK Mutual Recognition
Agreement (MRA), UK-based approved bodies will no longer be recognised in Europe for CE marking, and EU-based notified bodies will not be recognised as UKCA approved bodies after the 1 January 2021. However, the most significant impact has been on the



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New Machinery

Semi-automatic weigher billed as a productivity boosting unit



amato Scale Dataweigh has launched a semi-automatic weigher which it says is ideal for reducing costs and boosting productivity. The versatile TSDN3 can be used for a number of applications and is especially well suited for the processing of wet items such as meat, poultry and fish, delicate products such as fruit and vegetables, and ready meals including noodles and also pasta.

The IP67 compliant TSDN3 has been designed to provide enhanced levels of hygiene with its stainless steel construction and easy, toolfree removal of conveyors to enable fast and efficient cleaning and sanitisation.

THE 14-HEAD SEMI-AUTO WEIGHER OPERATES AT

50

weighments per minute and is suitable for both mixing and counting applications

It is fitted as standard with a 10.4 in colour, touch-screen control unit which provides real-time data that can be stored on a central computer. It is also compatible with Yamato Stats, a fully automated data collection system, running from a server or PC, that provides manufacturers with a complete inspection and data collection solution.

This allows food processing firms to have valuable control.

"The semi-automatic function of the TSDN3 increases yield and productivity, while also time reducing labour costs," explains Ian Aitchison of Yamato Scale.

1 0113 322 1546

www.yamatoscale.co.uk

Two collaborative robot ranges are designed for post-COVID demand

BB is expanding its collaborative robot (cobot) portfolio with the new GoFa and SWIFTI cobot families to offer higher payloads and speeds, and to complement the YuMi and single arm YuMi variants in its cobot line-up.

These stronger, faster and more capable cobots will accelerate the company's expansion in high-growth segments including electronics, healthcare, consumer goods, logistics and food and beverage, among others, meeting the growing demand for automation across multiple industries post-COVID.

GoFa and SWIFTI are intuitively designed so customers need not rely on in-house programming specialists. This will unlock industries that have low levels of automation, with customers able to operate their cobot within minutes of installation, straight out of the box, with no specialised training, says the company.

"Our new cobot portfolio



ABB explains that these new cobot ranges will meet an increased need for automation brought on by the pandemic

is the most diverse on the market, offering the potential to transform workplaces and help our customers achieve new levels of operational performance and growth," says Sami Atiya, president of ABB's Robotics & Discrete Automation Business Area. "They are easy to use and configure and backed by our global network of on-call, on-line service experts to ensure that businesses of all sizes and new sectors of the economy, far beyond manufacturing, can embrace robots for the first time."

ABB's cobot portfolio expansion is engineered to help existing and new robot users accelerate automation amid four key megatrends which are identified as consumer personalisation, labour shortages, digitalisation and uncertainty.

GoFa and SWIFTI are engineered to help businesses automate processes and to assist workers with tasks including materials handling. machine tending, component assembly and packaging in manufacturing, medical laboratories, logistics hubs/

warehouses, workshops, and small production facilities.

"With this expansion. we are making cobots easier to use and deploy, with real-time support to help speed their adoption in businesses that may have not considered their use previously," Atiya continues.

ABB says users comfortable with operating a tablet or smartphone will be able to program and re-program the new cobots with ease, using the fast set-up tools.

- 1 01908 350300
- www.abb.com

Dry filling and sealing technology is part of a portfolio of equipment as well as partnerships to supply complete lines

Grunwald has added dry filling and sealing technology to its established wet product equipment portfolio.

The company has increased and effectively supported customers with a wide variety of dry filling demands by incorporating granular, powdered and other dry filling systems onto its filling and sealing machines. It has also delivered equipment for non-pumpable and dry products using a selection of third party partnerships.



Grunwald is now working with several new partners

These have delivered accuracy in dosing and filling the perfect ratio mix to meet customer product recipe requirements, says the company.

The new working arrangements have seen Grunwald working with a multihead

weighing partner to deliver a high speed linear machine

filling soap capsules and a high speed rotary machine that has an auger partner filling system combined with a Grunwald servo filling system to make microwavable ready meals and porridge.

Another recent development is a linear machine combined with two third-party multihead fillers, a powder filler and a sachet filler to deliver a multi-layered dry ready meal.

- **1** 01529 414999
- www.grunwald-uk.com

New Machinery

Seals on rigid packs can now be inspected in-line

ngilico, specialist in non-destructive in-line seal inspection, has introduced a new seal inspection solution for plastic trays, pots and other thermoformed packs which is now ready for on-line demonstration.

The HyperScope inspection solution uses hyperspectral imaging technology to detect contamination with high contrast in the sealing area of rigid packages, even with printed plastic foils. Customers are invited to remotely follow a live, interactive demonstration of the new system with their own packaged products.

Contamination in the sealing area causes important issues for food companies as it may lead to leakage and consequently reduced shelf life, health issues and even expensive recalls with potential brand damage.

As such, automatic detection of contaminated seals is important for both food safety and packaging automation.

Hyperspectral cameras



The in-line system extends the scope

capture information from a large part of the electromagnetic spectrum including infrared wavelengths that penetrate through thin plastic films. The particular strength of hyperspectral cameras is that contamination in the seal can be reliably detected with a much higher contrast than traditional vision cameras, even through printed plastic films.

"We are very excited to broaden our application scope with the new HyperScope solution," says Engilico's managing director Olivier Georis. "For seal

inspection
of flexible
packs such
as pouches,
flow wraps
and VFFS
bags, we have
our SealScope

in-line, 100% seal inspection solution using sensors on the sealing bars.

"But many – and often the same – food manufacturers also use rigid trays, pots and other thermoformed packaging, and they have a similar need for seal inspection for these packaging types," he says.

100 32 16 498 137

www.engilico.com



No specialised training is required

Industrial robots can be programmed in just minutes

ABB has launched its Wizard Easy Programming software for its IRB 1100 industrial robot to allow first time users to introduce robotic automation into their production lines without the need for specialist programming skills.

Based on simple graphical blocks, this programming makes it easy for non-specialists to automate their applications. The blocks represent actions such as 'move to location', 'pick up an object', and 'repeat movements', making it easy and intuitive to build a series of processes for the robot to perform in minutes.

It is available for free and can be installed as an add-on, and it will be preloaded on the FlexPendant of every new IRB 1100 model.

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New design of slicer/applicator offers clean and easy operation

ndustrial food slicing and assembly equipment manufacturer Grote Company has released a new version of its slicer/applicator which emphasises sanitary design, easier and repeatable set-up, and a reduced total cost of ownership.

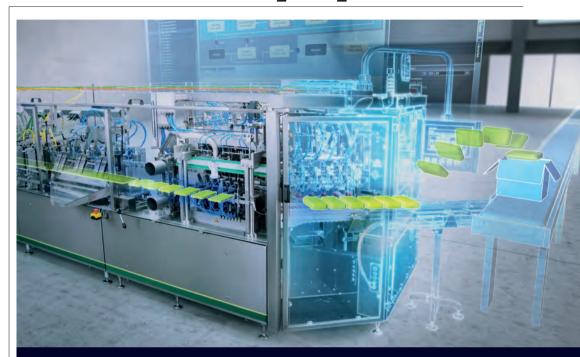
The slicer/applicator slices and applies a wide range of food products directly onto processing lines with precise targeting. It is used in the production of well-known products around the world such as: sandwiches, bread snacks, jerky as well as frozen and to-go meals such as lasagne.

The latest option focuses on:

- Sanitary Design: It features an open channel frame with no hollow tubing, a watershed electrical enclosure, IP69K motors, and easy access for maintenance and set-up via telescopic guarding
- Easier and Repeatable Set-up: An updated blade guide mounting system allows for quick changeovers and sanitation, resulting in consistent performance and less downtime
- Reduced Total Cost of Ownership: The AccuBand blade system has been completely redesigned to improve blade and blade guide life.

"The slicer/applicator was our second slice-and-apply machine over 30 years ago and we are proud to continue its tradition with this new, superior design," says ceo Bob Grote. "We optimised and improved several components of the slicer, all to increase performance and sanitation, while decreasing downtime and total cost of ownership over the many years it will run." 1 01978 362243

www.grotecompany.com



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New Machinery



High lift is achieved for film rolls

New fast speed and high lift roll handling equipment was designed by Packline Materials Handling in response to a customer requirement in the food processing industry. The rolls are lifted at speed to an increased height to reach a very high loading point on the packaging machine.

The extra tall lifter frame of 2500 mm enables the rolls to be lifted to the increased height to access the high load point on the processing machinery, while the faster lifting speed is achieved by a modified frame column lead screw. This has a wider pitch and faster rotation, lifting the roll at double the speed of a standard lifter.

This ensures that the rolls are lifted from floor height to the packaging machine load point in just 15 seconds.

The vertical spindle attachment has been designed to suit the lifting and rotation of reels of film and foil which have a core diameter of 76 mm. This attachment is fully motorised and provides powered drives for both the roll gripping and release as well as the roll rotation to and from the vertical to horizontal orientations.

These drives are operated via a hand-held 'pendant' control which provides precise and easy operation.

01202 307700

www.packline.co.uk

Integrating robots has made a cartoner adapt

— yntegon has expanded its secondary packaging portfolio with the Sigpack TTMD which combines core technologies of the TTM platform with one or more integrated Delta robot cells - hence the D in the product name.

The robotic solution's camera-based vision control system detects products on the infeed belt while the Delta robots pick single or multiple products arriving in random order and place them in cartons. trays or other containers according to specifications. To enable additional packaging flexibility, the new topload cartoner can also simultaneously pack different products from several infeed processes.

The Sigpack TTMD uses the proven tool-less format changeover concept from the TTM platform, enabling a vertical restart after each format change.

"Since its launch ten vears

SYNTEGON Delta robots add flexibility in the product feeding process ago, the TTM platform for integrated topload cartoners has proven its worth at manufacturing companies all over the world and has been continuously developed further," says Michael

> Each cartoning machine can be equipped with one or more Delta robot cells.

The pick rate of the robots depends on the type of product but typically, it's between 60 and 90 products per minute, but can reach up to 120 products per minute.

The Sigpack TTMD cartoner also increases presentation options at the point of sale: as it can insert products either flat or on-edge into the carton. Since products from several process sources can be fed into the TTMD, a selection of different products, such as small bags containing different snacks, can also be packed into one carton.

- 1 01332 626262
- www.syntegon.com

Haas, product manager for secondary packaging at Syntegon. "Thanks to the integrated Delta robots, even more product and pack style variations are now possible."

Latest leak testing equipment is designed to detect micro-leaks in MAP food packs

The new Leak-Master Pro 2 from WITT is designed to find micro-leaks in MAP packs in a quick, reliable and also non-destructive way.

With the new unit, the leak test is carried out with CO2 as the tracer gas. The test chamber, made of acrylic glass, is evacuated and the pressure difference between

the test product and the



This option offers improved performance and easier operation

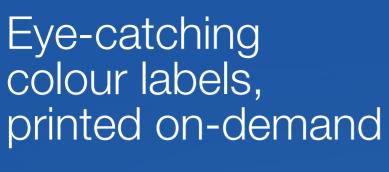
chamber causes gas to be extracted from the packaging in the event of a leak. Highly

sensitive gas sensors detect this gas within a few seconds.

"The optimised function and userfriendliness raise the Pro 2 to a new performance level," says Martin Bender, managing director at WITT. "It saves time, enables the detection of even smaller leaks

and is easier to operate."

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New Machinery

Medium payload range gets new six-axis robots

hree new Stäubli sixaxis robots for the medium payload range are making their debut. The TX2-140, TX2-160 and TX2-160L extend the current TX2 generation and brings the total to nine models. The company says their rigid structure and smart design make them the ideal choice for a variety of applications in ambient conditions ranging from harsh to sterile.

The TX2-140 has a reach of 1,510 mm and the TX2-160 of 1,710 mm. They both have a load capacity of 40 kg. The TX2-160L, a long arm version of the TX2-160, has an impressive reach of 2,010 mm with a load capacity of 25 kg. With these new models, Stäubli says it has now closed the gap between the compact TX2 90 and the large TX200.

Stäubli bills these robots as extremely accurate and specifies the repeatability of all three machines at $\pm\,0.05$ mm. Taken in combination with their dynamic values this



The six-axis robot is designed to be easy to integrate into any production line

means that the shortest cycle times can be achieved. Furthermore, the use of Stäubli's proprietary drive technology has significantly increased the stiffness of the wrist by comparison with the RX160 predecessor model; it is now also used on axis 5.

Another feature of the new machines is their compact design, which has been streamlined for cleanroom compatibility but works equally well in standard applications and for use in any sensitive production environments.

Stäubli believes it has met the wishes of many integrators and end users for an easy-tointegrate six-axis robot with a footprint small enough to permit the realisation of production cells and lines within a minimal area.

- 101952 671917
- www.staubli.co.uk



The unit was developed in-house

Layer palletiser is offering improved handling options

To meet the different palletising needs of its customers, ixapack Global has developed a new roller gripper that allows the palletising robot to pick up smaller carton sizes per layer, to offer customers greater flexibility on a line.

This allows the unit to pick more case or carton formats, while also offering direct palletising of the units, without being packed by a case packer beforehand. Cutting out this step allows a cost reduction in the overall product packaging process while still guaranteeing carton/case stability.

Minimum dimensions of cases that can be handled are 250 x 140 x 110 mm.

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Latest sous vide for foodservices

ecognising the need for industrial-grade sous vide cooking technology that fits a smaller kitchen footprint, DC Norris is now manufacturing the CT-1, a 250 litre (water capacity) electric sous vide cook tank.

While adopted on both the industrial scale for food manufacturers and on the small, even in-home, scale; DC Norris felt there was no sous vide machinery designed especially for foodservice. That is why the company is now shipping Model

CT-1, a 250 litre gross capacity, fully automated, stainless steel sous vide cook tank with HMI control panel to restaurants and small scale food manufacturers throughout the world.

"There has been an unmet need in the industry for commercial sous vide cook tanks of this capacity for quite some time and now we find ourselves in the midst of a global pandemic, where needs are changing," explains David Norris, managing director at DC Norris.

Product

control

is offered

"Schools and restaurants are having to adapt to meet new guidelines with a shrinking labour pool and a volatile supply chain, and our healthcare facilities have an ever-increasing need for safety, and so sous vide provides an ideal solution."

The fully automated CT-1 gives foodservice complete control over finished product quality by eliminating the possibility of human error which cuts operational expenses and waste. Additionally, this commercial-scale sous vide cooking equipment allows restaurants, schools and

hospitals to serve more nutritious foods as the cooking technique reduces the need for preservatives and additives.

Perhaps most important, the sous vide method provides a biological barrier in its packaging, preventing many opportunities for contamination during cooking, cooling and distribution/ serving, says the company.

01767 677515

www.dcnorris.com



The sous vide method provides a biological barrier; preventing contamination









New Machinery

Latest static control monitoring meets automated industry needs



eech has launched SmartControl Touch: the latest static control monitoring solution for modern automated industries. An advance on Meech's SmartControl device - the new unit allows users to monitor, control and adjust the performance of multiple connected Hyperion ionising bars and sensors via an integrated touchscreen; or remotely via a mobile phone, tablet, or desktop.



The new SmartControl Touch

"SmartControl Touch has been designed in line with the growth of Industry 4.0 technology, which is helping businesses maximise productivity and quality of output," says Adam Battrick, sales director at Meech International. "It's an advanced monitoring and controlling device that includes a 10 in integrated touch screen and data logging, as well as being compatible with Meech voltage and distance sensors so monitoring the performance of our Hyperion static control bars is easier than ever before.

"It has the capacity to connect up to six devices, with an additional 12 per expansion unit. In total, up to 30 devices can be monitored and controlled," he says.

Fast and easy installation means it can fit in seamlessly with operations and is simple to use for operators.

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Loss-in-weight depositor stops dry inclusion waste

parc Systems has launched a loss-in-weight depositor that is designed to help meat, fish, bakery, fresh produce, dairy and confectionery manufacturers save money by eliminating waste, while presenting consumers with exciting and consistent looking products.

Providing layers of taste and texture to a variety of products, the depositor scatters and weighs dry inclusions with accuracy and precision. Called Hera, the unit can help spice up ovenready chickens, add toppings to ready-meals, nuts and seeds on wafer bars, dried fruit into porridge pots, decorative sprinkles on cake tray bakes and insert confectionery into ice-cream.

Hera can help numerous companies to automate these processes and cut inclusion waste by over 50%, says Sparc. In some instances, saving hundreds of kilograms of added ingredients per week.

From a food retailer's perspective, Hera ensures



Sparc's Hera calculates ingredient weight dispensed to the exact milligram



Gentle vibration is key to dispensing

the best products, featuring exciting flavours, textures and nutritional value, are consistently presented to shoppers in their stores.

Rather than sieving or scattering dry free-flowing products onto applications manually or using waterfall style dispensers, Hera deploys simple yet advanced technology. Comprising a loss-in-weight control system and feeder featuring a vibrator sitting on top of load cells, Hera is typically integrated onto processing lines prior to packaging and contaminant inspection.

Two Hera machines can also be integrated with a single control weight station and used as a salt and cure depositor for bacon.

- **1**01684 310000
- www.sparc-systems.com



Speed and safety are offered by new door models

ASSA Ablov Entrance Systems has launched the HS7040 high speed door that has been designed to increase productivity in the manufacturing, logistics and retail industries.

According to the company, the standard frequency converter control system provides one of the fastest and smoothest door speeds which helps to regulate the flow of traffic and goods. Equipped with a break-away system, the door curtain absorbs the impact and releases itself from the side frame, then automatically resets itself on the opening cycle which results in reduced downtime. Meanwhile, the soft bottom profile limits damage to the door and surrounding areas.

Digital print can be applied to the door curtain, if required.

- **1** 0330 094 5620
- www.assaabloyentrance.co.uk



New Machinery

Slicing without Inspection range crust freezing

EA has developed a special saw-tooth edge for involute blades that guarantees quality slicing without the need to first crust freeze products such as cooked sausage and ham. By saving energy costs from the very first cut. GEA says this machine upgrade delivers a direct and sustainable improvement to the process's energy footprint.

It is the advances in GEA slicing technology combined with the company's new purpose-designed blade, that does away with the need for crust freezing. Slicing with a saw-tooth edge reduces the cutting force exerted on the product to provide a 'clean cut'. This means little or no



Cooked sausage and ham benefits

jenact@jenton.co.uk



The new blades offer cutting gains

crust freezing is required to form a crust on the product which prevents it from deforming during slicing.

This results in savings in energy and time. At the same time, GEA's new involute blades with saw-tooth edge reduce wastage and ensure a high proportion of on-weight portions are produced.

Another benefit is that no retrofitting is required to take advantage of this slicing technology. All that is needed is for users to exchange their blade to the new range of involute blades that are available in various sizes.

101908 513500

www.gea.com

expands smartly

ortress Technology has expanded its new range of intelligent inspection systems for food manufacturers developing IoT lines, including an XL version for bulk applications.

With three models now in the family, the 'smart' Raptor checkweighing series uses digital process monitoring technology to advance inspection efficiency, target operational inefficiencies and slash product giveaway.

The Raptor series now comprises a compact modular Raptor combination metal detector and checkweigher, a single frame high-spec checkweigher, and an XL case weighing version for ingredients and large applications.

To assist operatives working alongside these smart machines, Fortress has devised numerous advanced time-saving features.



This latest conveyor helps with belt loosening

These include 'no-tool' maintenance, automated COP conformance checks, a special conveyor motor release for ultra-fast machine sanitation, plus secure remote access.

Guaranteeing traceability and consistent weighing results, the Raptor captures sample readings of individual packs by the millisecond. Only possible by using the most advanced ARM processors, the company says this data capture and analytics is a game changer for food factories concerned about product waste and product giveaway.

1 01295 256266

www.fortresstechnology.co.uk

Jenton International



New generation of cameras can deliver optimised performance

ikrobot has launched the CS series of second generation industrial cameras that are used across automation, fmcg, packaging and pharmaceutical sectors. The new series is optimised and upgraded in structure, electrical design and algorithms to provide customers with stronger functions, more stable performance, and lower power consumption.

It adopts a new hardware platform, optimises the logic resource, reduces power consumption, and ensures a -30 to 60deg working temperature across image-based inspection, measurement, positioning, robot guidance, OCR or barcode reading.





This new product offers user benefits

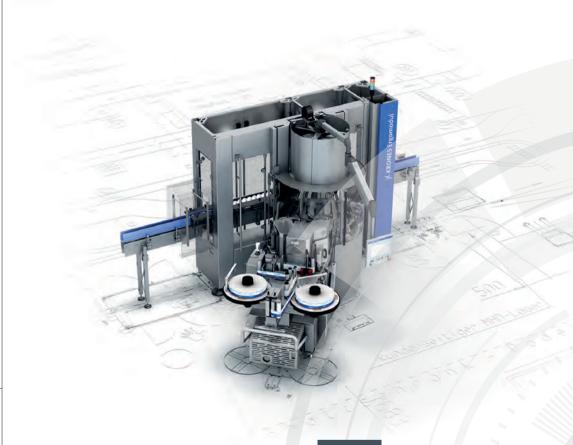
With a new appearance and structural design, it supports 4-sided installation and delivers higher precision of sensor alignment.

Among the CS series, the -PRO models support High-Bandwidth data transmission to break through GigE network bandwidth limitation. Meanwhile, with the same sensor and data interface in the CS series, the maximum framerate is increased to 30.7fps, says the company.

With build-in algorithms, the camera processes rich functions, including Event, LineStatus, PTP and CCM (especially 2D denoising and LSC for -PRO models).

In the UK, this new product is available from distributors Multipix Imaging Components.

1 01730 233332 www.multipix.com



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New Machinery

Powders are discharged without any segregation

atcon has launched the manual cone valve (MCV) to help customers in the food, beverage and chemical sectors overcome the problems of mix segregation that are commonly associated with butterfly valve intermediate bulk containers or IBCs.

This manually operated cone valve promotes mass-flow discharge of free-flowing powders, preventing segregation of powder mixes and ensuring product quality. It is tested and proven as an effective butterfly valve alternative, overcoming the issues of core flow and particle rolling that can be experienced with standard butterfly valves.

The design means it can be easily retrofitted to any existing flanged IBC outlet, providing a cost effective way of delivering superior powder handling capabilities to an entire IBC fleet. A typical example of discharge time achieved when discharging 1,000 kg of salt from a 1,000 litre IBC is only 90 seconds.



The MCV is designed to help customers in food, beverage and also chemicals

In operation, the valve is positioned in the IBC outlet where the cone is lifted by pushing on a lever handle. As the cone valve rises inside the IBC, an annular gap is created, enabling powders to exit under mass-flow.

As the powdered material moves simultaneously, there's no particle rolling and hence no mix segregation. Bridging and rat-holing, which are common problems with butterfly valve IBCs, are also eliminated, says Matcon.

The operator can lock the lever in the open (100 mm height) or closed position with a locking handle, or at any intermediate position in between, depending on the product discharge flow rate that is required.

Each unit has a nominal internal diameter of 250 mm and is designed to fit a vessel or process with the same outlet size for discharging free-flowing bulk materials.

- 1 01386 769000
- www.matconibc.com



Custom options can be handled

Dolly/crate loader helps agri-producers with pack flexibility

Lan Handling Technologies has designed a flexible and fully automated solution to respond to the increased packaging variety demanded by the agri-food sector.

The new dolly/crate loader offers benefits to processors of onions, carrots or potatoes in small packs ranging in size from 250 g to 3 kilos in bags or nets who have to cope with custom options for different product carriers. "As a result, a handful of employees are needed every shift to pack these small packs into crates or dollies, but our compact dolly/crate loader delivers this custom work with only one machine", says Dino Boot of Lan Handling Technologies. **1**00 31 2040 72040

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Set up was seamless for Tastily

Tray sealers deliver for a food service

Packaging Automation (PA) helped new subscription-based meal delivery service Tastily to launch at the height of the pandemic last summer.

The new food company capitalised on the impact COVID-19 was having on the public, including their relationships with supermarkets and restaurants – given social distancing – and also the lockdown restrictions. Following extensive research, the company approached PA to help it reduce packaging costs but achieve an extended product shelf life of 7-days plus.

The PA Test Kitchen demonstrated the benefits of heat sealing when trialling all the different available options to the start-up business and the EC182 tray sealer was chosen for the job. Designed as an easy to use unit, with quick and easy tool changeovers, the sealer delivers outputs of up to 40 packs per minute. Meanwhile, the option to incorporate modified atmosphere extended the product's shelf life.

Tastily has been delighted with the machine and the service it has received. According to its founder and ceo William McDowell, PA has been integral to the successful launch by not only delivering a great piece of equipment, but also "the support and guidance given to ensure we made the right decisions for our business".

■ 01565 755000 ■ www.pal.co.uk

Flow wrapper is provided from stock to deliver sales

large-scale baker in Ireland has installed an additional Fuji flow wrapping machine to keep up with increased demand as a result of the coronavirus pandemic which was supplied and installed by UK Fuji distributor Paramount Packaging Systems.

It comes as the bakery giant was under increased pressure from European supermarket chains to ramp up its production capacities. In response to the everincreasing capacity demands placed on the food industry during the pandemic, Fuji increased its level of European stock machines which allowed Paramount to react rapidly to its customer.

Keen to get the ball rolling, the client delivered the required packaged product and film to Paramount's HQ in Fleet, Hampshire which allowed Paramount's team of engineers to swiftly assemble, modify and set up the newly-imported machine with the customer's products.

Once complete, virtual training was performed to ensure the client was comfortable with the machine's functionality before it was shipped, ready to go, to its factory.

After a rapid turnaround

to configure the machine specifically for the client's need, the unit was delivered to the client's site in Ireland: however, given the strict travel restrictions at the time and COVID measures in place, Paramount generated step-bystep installation instructions, including the services connections required and the parts to be reinstalled after shipping. Once in position, the set up was completed virtually over Zoom, giving the client's technical team clear instructions on how to commission and test the wrapper prior to running



European supermarkets increased their bread orders

it in production.

Five months on, the Fuji FW3410B flow wrapper has been running at full capacity, offering the speed and reliability required with minimal engineering intervention.

Interestingly, the baker has an 8-year-old Fuji machine installed in its factory which, says sales director at Paramount Aaron Bessell, is still running at the same capacity as it was when it was first installed all those years ago.

01252 815252

www.paramount-packaging.co.uk

Smart working has maintained component support across sectors, including medical

Last year, Elesa (UK) ensured it carried high stock levels throughout in order to maintain supply chains and support the economy.

Ethical supply of standard machine components to the medical sector continues to be paramount, initially as the Government built new hospitals in preparation for soaring hospital admissions – and now for the second wave. With many shortages and a lack of availability in the marketplace, Elesa has stepped

up to urgently provide high volumes of product, vital for hospital beds and ventilators.

NIGHTINGALE UNITS

The support Elesa provided towards the manufacturing of hospital beds and ventilators was widespread across the whole of the UK.

The company was soon recognised by the medical equipment sector when it was challenged by a large manufacturer of laboratory equipment to supply specialist

machine components. A notable example being its LS.A levelling foot series in specialist material, combined with VCT Lobe Knobs.

And going forward, Elesa's managing director Nigel Pritchett says the company will adapt further to meet customer needs and assist in a new normal, ensuring the medical sectors are as well supported and equipped as possible in the future.

01526 322670

www.elesa.com

Laser coders are provided for high speed C-19 vaccine lines

leading pharmaceutical manufacturer has upgraded its Linx laser coders from 30W to 60W to meet increased throughput requirements for the COVID-19 vaccine from its Belgian production facility. The existing Linx laser coders were coding medicines on already highspeed lines, but the huge demand for the vaccine saw a further significant rise in production volumes that necessitated an upgrade to the coders to cope with the higher throughput.



Each Linx CSL60 laser coder marks four lines of human readable code onto a paper label which is then applied to ampoules at a rate of 400 items per minute. The laser operates while the line is static, taking only 90 milliseconds to code each item, with each production line running two shifts a day, five days a week.

Meanwhile, another line uses the Linx laser coders to mark a data matrix code and four lines of human readable code onto the carton boxes. Operating at speeds of 40 metres per minute, 250 cartons are accurately coded every minute, and these also operate on a double shift pattern, five days per week.

The Linx CSL60 is a 60W, CO2 scribing laser coder that offers reliable coding for faster and more demanding operations and has therefore enabled the customer to increase its capacity.

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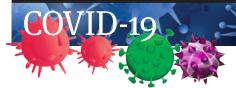
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New cameras offer remote support

Remote services range is providing customer support

Marchesini has consolidated its remote after-sales service so it can continue to offer full assistance to customers.

A unit called X-CARE was set up to co-ordinate all the remote testing procedures required which has resulted in a complete kit of services that will remain in operation once the current COVID-19 crisis passes. Also introduced is a new service called MIMO which is a system of video cameras installed on a machine that permits recording of errors throughout the production process at the moment they occur.

It is supplied inside a case with the installation hardware and is supported by an app that guides users through the correct installation process.

01525 216201

www.marchesini.com

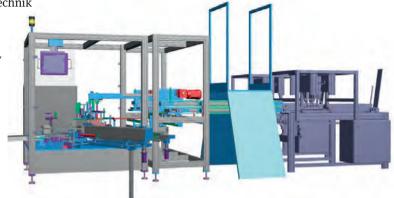
Cartoner meets payback requirements for masks

W Verpackungstechnik has developed a special Mask Cartoner to meet the payback and delivery requirements of this initially, very volatile market.

Although there has been a huge surge in demand for disposable masks since the outbreak of COVID-19, at the beginning, mask manufacturers could not be sure of the longevity of this spike in sales. This is why the German mask manufacturer needed a machine priced for a fast payback and with a short delivery time.

To meet this need, JW has developed a special feeding system for its cartoner to allow fully automatic packaging of face masks from two lines. The company simplified various design elements to meet the tight budget and to deliver a suitable payback.

And to allow fast transition



The cartoner is made in Germany but it is available from Raupack in the UK and Ireland

from manual packing to automated packaging, the cartoner erects 100 mm x 200 mm x 55 mm sized crash lock cartons. In this first application,

two manufacturing lines are feeding a single cartoner to produce 25 or 50 masks per carton at up to 100 masks



per minute. Batch code and expiry dates are then printed on the carton face before the upper carton flap is closed.

In the UK,

this mask cartoning equipment is available from UK and Ireland agents Raupack.

10115 875 9846

www.packline.co.uk

www.raupack.co.uk

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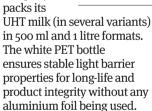


Delivering milks during lockdown

elgian milk producer Inex has selected Sidel's aseptic PET packaging line to help meet a growing demand for locally produced milk which was prompted by the COVID-19 restrictions last year. Thanks to Sidel's new and sustainable packaging line, Inex plans to boost production capacity by supplying ultrahigh-temperature (UHT) milk products in PET bottles.

To help Inex better understand the benefits of

moving from cartons to white PET, Sidel supported Inex with case study material and also by visiting a similar installation. Today, the company



Sidel worked closely with the preform supplier to guarantee the preform injection

quality and validate the bottle neck and cap tightness with its special B₁80 test, ensuring no leakage from the bottle when horizontally stored in the fridge. "The new PET bottle contains a minimum of 25% recycled PET, is 20% lighter than other plastics (PE) bottles and therefore has a 20% lower CO2 footprint," explains Steven Dierickx, ceo of the milk producer.

Commercial production on the aseptic line was originally

> scheduled to start mid-March last year. However, due to COVID-19, the demand for milk from the local market increased rapidly and the company needed to produce the extra volume.



Thanks to close cooperation between the Inex and Sidel teams, production was able to start three weeks early.

"Fast line ramp-up ahead of schedule meant we could manage an increase in production," says Dierickx.

101707 292820 www.sidel.com

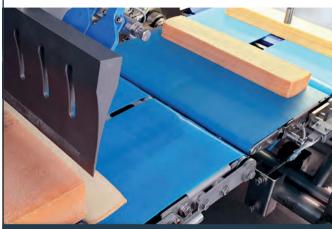


The Belgian Queen visited lnex to learn about sustainable food production



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A 25,000 plus range is secure

Components made on-site are meeting tight client deadlines

John Marshall, technical support manager at WDS Components says the global C-19 crisis has placed exceptional strains on supply chains, particularly for designers and OEMs who are relying on imported parts or materials. "The reassurances provided by working with a supplier who manufactures and stocks standard parts and components in the UK have never been more important and faster availability and greater assurance of product quality are just some of the advantages," he says.

To service its customers that have seen accelerated demand in sectors such as medical care and food production, the operation of WDS's Leedsbased manufacturing facility has continued at normal capacity without placing staff on furlough.

0333 043 5443

www.wdscomponents.com

New service for remote identification of issues

ettler-Toledo Product Inspection is now including remote Augmented Reality (AR) customer support for its range of inspection units. The new service enables remote identification of the cause of product inspection equipment issues and facilitates its engineers to instruct on-site manufacturing staff, irrespective of knowledge, how to rectify the problem.

This helps to maximise production line uptime, save costs and also complies with COVID-19 social distancing requirements.

This latest service allows manufacturers to securely connect remotely to the Mettler-Toledo service team to deliver diagnostic and repair services for both hardware and software. In addition, it can be used to support the delivery of Remote User training and equipment start-ups. AR works by enabling the users to interact with real-world objects by placing virtual spatial markers, highlighting aspects



Mettler-Toledo says customers will benefit from significantly less downtime

and adding text annotations to a live video stream of the product inspection equipment.

Manufacturing staff do not need any prior knowledge or engineering expertise about the product inspection equipment as the Mettler-Toledo service team will demonstrate what is needed to rectify the issue in a step-by-step way.

"No-one has ever considered remote support to be life-changing, but with our new Augmented Reality customer support offering, that is about to change," claims Fabian Kramer, service product manager at Mettler-Toledo Product Inspection.

"This is a really slick, intuitive and interactive tool that will set new standards in fast break-fix support times, putting our engineers right there, next to our customers, wherever they may be in the world," he continues. "Most importantly, customers will benefit from significantly less downtime, helping them to operate at peak performance for longer."

0116 235 7070

www.mt.com

A powder coating extruder was commissioned in India but started remotely by UK-based engineer

A new powder coating extruder at a factory in India has been commissioned and started-up remotely by Baker Perkins' engineers based in the UK.

This is an extension of existing capabilities where, with the customer's permission, Baker Perkins is able to log in to a machine regardless of location and, providing there is access to the internet, carry out fault-finding and software updates.

This feature has allowed the UK company to modify

equipment functionality, including the options to add upstream and downstream equipment to the existing extruder control.

These alterations can be made with minimal cost, as the engineer does not have to leave their office in the UK.

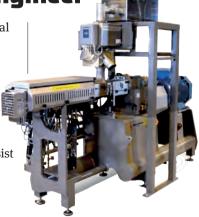
The MPX50 extruder in India is now in full production: a video link allowed step-by-step guidance from the technician in the UK to the customer's engineer on-site. Remote support was

achieved using an Industrial Router mounted in the extruder control panel, which enabled remote PLC access via a Wi-Fi VPN connection.

This unit is setup to connect to a specific WiFi access point which allows technicians to remotely assist during commissioning/ start-up, and then provide ongoing technical support when required.

01733 283000

www.bakerperkins.com



Fault-finding as well as software updates are also done remotely

A new standard is launched for all face coverings performance

SI, in its role as the UK's National Standards
Body, has published a new standard for community face coverings to help UK manufacturers, testing houses, retailers and consumers, to ensure single-use and re-usable face coverings are safe and fit for purpose.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, people are wearing face coverings to reduce the projection of exhaled air and the spread of infection. They are designed to offer a level of protection for those around the wearer, but they can also limit penetration by respiratory droplets from another person into the wearer's nose and mouth.

A face covering can also minimise the amount wearers touch their nose and mouth.

The new standard, called Community Face Coverings – Specification, concerns safety and fitness for purpose, and aims to provide:

- minimum performance requirements for manufacturers with regard to filtration and transmission and use of materials intrinsically safe for face coverings
- general information on single and multi-use face coverings, plus cleaning requirements for multi-use coverings
- a method of test for testing houses, and
- reassurance for retailers and consumers.

The new specification does not cover PPE or medical face coverings, nor does it address DIY coverings or transparent face coverings.

Version 1 of the standard is available now and is open for comment. It is available for free download: BSI Flex 5555 v1.0 Community face coverings — Specification.



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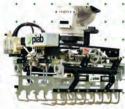
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Latest COVID-secure scanners

Making the warehouse C-19 secure

As warehouse equipment is often touched by many people, OEM Automatic is now supplying Datalogic's range of COVID-secure barcode scanners.

Notably, the HandScanner which allows a worker to scan freely with the back of the hand and the Gryphon 4200 series which is flexible and disinfectant-ready. Both are COVID-secure, says OEM, and all their features lead to improved productivity and a positive improvement to the bottom line.

The HandScanner has a small footprint and is held on the wrist to minimise any potential virus transmission. In addition, it is unobtrusive, is more resistant, and is not exposed to bumps and knocks as well as being ergonomic, comfortable and light. In operation, it delivers high 1D and 2D bar code scanning accuracy which reduces scanning times by about 4 seconds per scan.

It can cover a full working shift and the 2-slot charging station charges the battery in only two hours. A charged device can be used for up to 15 hours and 10,000 scans. Model choices include a standard HandScanner which is made for a closer scanning range of 10-80 cm (3.9 to 31.5 in), while the mid-range version covers a wider range of 30-150 cm (11.8 to 59 in).

www.oem.co.uk

Partnership builds on an UV-C range of products

appointed as a value added partner by Signify, (formerly Philips Lighting) for its range of UV-C disinfection products. This new partnership will extend the range of Jenton's JenAct brand of UV-C products that are now being adopted by many users in the fight against COVID-19.

enton has been

"This is great synergy," says Richard Little, managing director of Jenton. "We already put Signify lamps into our own equipment and the Signify range of passive upper air disinfection systems will sit alongside our own, established active systems.

"Signify also offers a range of UV disinfection cabinets to complement the UV conveyors that we manufacture."

JenAct UV equipment has seen an increase in demand in the battle against COVID-19 and food companies have a wide range of demands and

To speed up the delivery of

available in the UK from Jenton

applications for disinfecting
both surfaces and in the air.
But, advises the company, it is
vital to approach the issue in a
scientific way. There is a vast
body of evidence that links the
dose and irradiance of UV-C to
its effect on moulds, bacteria
and viruses and JenAct
has developed modelling

Last year, Signify sponsored research carried out at Boston University which confirmed the efficacy of UV-C on SARS-CoV-2 and this data is included in the JenAct models.

software that allows confident

predictions of performance.

"There are many UV-C solutions on the market," explains Little "but potential users should check that there is empirical evidence that UV-C will do what's required in each application – either by using validated models or by carrying out direct tests, for instance using surrogate bacteria".

JenAct also supplies UV-C monitoring equipment, BMS connectivity and data management for validation and control.

101256 892194

www.jenton.co.uk



Continuous labelling speeds pharma production capacity

products such as COVID-19
vaccines, Herma is

Herma's
pharma
labeller

proce
wrap
the 13
Nev

offering a continuous labelling process on its pharmaceutical wrap-around labeller called the 132M HC.

New EasySplicer and EasyCutter modules have

been devised as add-ons, and these allow label reels to be changed and the backing paper disposed of without the machine having to come to a standstill.

■ 01440 763366 ■ www.herma-labelling machines.co.uk



Real-time streaming video is used

A virtual service is helping client base

To keep in touch with clients, powder handling and dry solids processing company Spiroflow has extended its virtual interaction from machine demos via its test bay facilities to predelivery inspection and site tours.

101200 422525

www.spiroflow.com



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Installation News



Natures Way will have 29 units

Efficient and film saving salad units

GIC has been asked to supply a further sixteen of its GIC4100 salad specification machines to Natures Way Foods.

All of the GIC4100s ordered will feature the company's special Leaf Salad Assisted Drop (LSAD) functionality, which speeds up packing and reduces the chance of salad leaves being captured in the seal (that can lead to contamination and downtime). GIC says this LSAD feature also allows food companies to reduce their film use in operation.

This new order will take the number of GIC machines at Natures Way Foods to 29.

Nathan Bennett, project manager for Natures Way Foods, placed the order with GIC as he has been impressed with the efficiency and reliability of the existing machines. "We have a very good relationship with GIC, and their machines are first class," he says. "They cut down on re-work of product, run faster than our previous machines and require very little maintenance, so there is minimal downtime, which is crucial to our operation."

The GIC4100 with LSAD, is capable of packing up to 60 packs per minute and accepts all suitable heat sealable materials including laminates and polyethylene.

101427 611885

www.gic.uk.net

Two new systems deliver proven levels of efficiency

o pack its growing product range quickly and with the flexibility it needs, food company Kühne is using two robot-assisted TLM machines from Schubert for the first time and the company has already achieved 20% more output than its previous packing methods.

With a connection to the networked GRIPS.world platform and simple format changes, the equipment now packs barbecue sauces, remoulade and vinaigrettes into cartons in eight different formats efficiently, and also sustainably.

To maintain its leading position and the favour of buyers over the long term, Kühne is also increasingly focusing on production and packaging processes that are sustainable and efficiently controlled. The commissioning of two robot-assisted packaging systems represents a further step in this direction. The almost identical lines have been packaging barbecue sauce bottles and remoulade jars into cartons quickly and flexibly since July last year, where the sensitive glass packs are now grouped by pick & place robots instead of the usual grouping chain.

Due to the high noise level and risk of breakage, the production managers at



Robot loads two boxes with 8 bottles



Working in counterflow, the machine handles the various bottles and cases

Kühne wanted an alternative to the grouping chain as well as quicker format changes. The new flexible solution now manages the changeover in a maximum of 20 minutes,

rather than the previous two shifts. Grippers of the F4 robots for the products (with bayonet lock), magazine plates, box folding frames as well as the Transmodul

pick-up plates are all changed.

After the changeover, the system then simply continues to run immediately and without ramp-up times, says Schubert.

Due to two different performance levels of the upstream filling stations, Kühne ordered two packaging lines at the same time, with the only difference relating to handling remoulade jars, which required two more F4 robots. The other line currently packs six formats of the 'Made for Meat' barbecue sauces in various sizes, as well as round glass bottles of salad dressings (vinaigrettes).

On both lines, the packaging process takes place in

counterflow. Two carton blanks are destacked, erected and placed on the Transmodul at a time. Pick & place robots take two bottles at a time from the product conveyor and place the

desired number of bottles or jars to be packed on the Transmodul with the erected boxes.

The Transmodul moves to the next station, where the two finished bottle or jar formations are



Meanwhile, Schubert's GS.Gate gateway on the machine evaluates all machine data and networks the Kühne lines through the GRIPS.world digital platform while adhering to the highest security standards. Based on the current production data and reports that are generated automatically on a weekly basis, optimisation potential for the entire packaging process is now being identified.

□ 01676 525825 □ www.schubert-uk.co.uk

Metal detectors are delivering safety in a growing soft fruit packing house

hen the Summer Berry Company made the decision to purchase a number of CEIA Multi-Spectrum MS21 metal detectors to inspect its retail trays and boxes containing strawberries, raspberries, blackberries and blueberries heading to UK supermarkets, MDS installed the equipment in five weeks.

Following a site visit, sensitivity levels, speed, set-up and user adoption were established so the productspecific level of sensitivity available on the MS21 was selected as the optimum solution. Once the systems had been delivered, MDS commissioned and validated the units and also provided on-site training to maximise the equipment's performance.



BRC and supermarket codes are met

"The scoping and implementation of the CEIA metal detectors was made easier through MDS and allowed us to move quickly on upgrading our capability to meet customer expectations," explains Richard Bonn, chief commercial officer at the Summer Berry Company.

Having all products grouped together on the detectors in just a few pre-sets on the operator's controls is saving considerable time on the production line while still ensuring maximum levels of protection from any metal contamination.

0161 286 8755

www.mds.org.uk



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Installation News

Traceability for meat is offered

&J Yorkshire's Finest Farmers and Butchers is using the Minebea Intec WPL-S weigh price labeller combined with Partner Phoenix software to increase productivity levels and reduce cleaning times in its factory.

This weigh price labeller offers complete traceability, hygienic design and a 2-year warranty, while reducing cleaning and downtime to a minimum. "We considered alternative products but decided on the Minebea Intec WPL-S because of the quality; it's a much superior product to its counterparts because of the design, usability, hygiene, durability and we really preferred the connections and plug-in ports as well as the IP waterproof rating," explains Ryan Atkinson, managing director of R&J.

The WPL-S produces labels for a variety of purposes

Eye Ointment



The WPL-S weigh price labeller is delivering gains

including calculation of price based on weight, calculation of best by date based on product, packaging, fresh or frozen and calculation of cooking time based on product, size and weight. It is highly configurable, and customers can choose from a wide variety of components; different screen sizes, printers, scales, scanners, indicators and endless software possibilities.

R&J also has a Minebea Intec flat-bed scale IF which is suitable for a wet environment and two indicators Combics.

0121 779 3131

www.minebea-intec.com

Coffee packing gives eco gains

inlay Beverages and Rovema have partnered to produce a high-speed coffee packing facility capable of handling the recyclable

and sustainable materials currently being demanded by coffee drinkers.

Rovema handled the project from the dual infeed auger and multihead weigher system through to its latest flexible EW-TI case packers. All three lines were delivered as turnkey, on time and to the exacting standards demanded by the coffee maker.

The Rovema BVC 260



Equipment handles latest materials

Rovema has worked on Finlay Beverages brands vertical form, fill and seal machines (VFFS) were also utilised in this project for their accuracy, flexibility and precise sealing system.

These deliver gas tight, Stabilo packs with consistently high presentation, says the company.

Meanwhile, the integration of the Rovema SDH auger doser delivered the high speed and accurate dosing requirements required for this project. The auger is connected with the VFFS through the latest Rovema P@ckcontrol HMI.

Rovema says it continues to optimise its processes and solutions to deliver a more sustainable, high value future for its customers.

101296 310490

www.rovema.com





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Installation News

Quality of chainsaw is 'seen' to be great

uality assurance is integral to STIHL's production process for its range of chainsaws and as part of a recent upgrade, STIHL worked with Matrox Imaging to devise a fully automated solution for visual quality assessment in which deep learning technology was utilised.

The inspection that STIHL sought to enhance focuses on the production of gasoline suction heads as a component of a chainsaw. Each suction head features four footbridges that must be assessed independently after the injection moulding, and before each part proceeds to the next step in the manufacturing process.

The inspection process of each part involves looking at four distinct footbridges, and the machine processes 60 parts per minute, so inspection takes place at a rate of 240 images per minute.

To achieve this, STIHL's new vision system uses Matrox Design Assistant X vision software running on a Matrox 4Sight GPm vision controller, selected because of the I/O capabilities, PROFINET connections, and Power-over-Ethernet (PoE) support. The system also includes a PoE line-scan



Matrox Imaging has devised a system to inspect components

camera, a rotary table, an encoder, and ultra-high intensity line lights (LL230 Series) from Advanced illumination.

With support from Matrox Imaging, STIHL successfully navigated the challenge of establishing a correct and repeatable presentation of the footbridge to facilitate taking images for training the convolutional neural network (CNN).

The Matrox Design Assistant X's deep-learning-based classification tools have had a positive outcome on STIHL's quality-assurance measures and plans are already underway to develop a second, similar system going forward.

1 00 1 514 822 6020

www.matrox.com/imaging

Handling, sortation and palletising of cartons will be happening at -28deg C

Following an order for a lamb automation system, Scott has been awarded a second large contract by Alliance Group, this one to design and build a carton handling, sortation and palletising system that takes place in a frozen environment (-28deg C).



The Alliance Group has awarded another contract

The new system will increase product handling efficiencies by allowing more flexible, high speed carton sortation and management and the project will utilise technology developed by Scott Europe (Alvey) and deployed with other European customers. The company will also utilise equipment from Savoye, a company that designs, manufactures (in Europe and the US) and integrates automated systems for intralogistics, following the recent signing of a global partnership agreement between the firms.

01384 210278

www.scottautomation.co.uk

Four open curd tables are providing benefits for a cheese maker in India

n line with the company growth plans to expand manufacturing and sales internationally, Sycamore **Process Engineering has** secured an order for four open curd tables for a cheese manufacturer in India.

Sycamore designs, builds, and delivers these tables to effectively perform curd conditioning, whey drainage, curd salting and mellowing for milled cheddar and stirred curd type cheeses. This new order comes after the Somerset-based company signed a global distribution agreement with a leading food packaging and processing company who will help bring its products to the global market. These tables are currently being built and will then be shipped to India this March.



The table will be installed this March

"We have a robust and competitive offering and we're absolutely thrilled to get the global agreement signed," says Paul Manning, project director at Sycamore. "The team have been working hard on the design updates and improvements over the past few months and our tables are available in a range of different sizes and options, producing up to 2450 kg of cheese on the largest model we manufacture."

101963 441405

www.sycamore.uk.com



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Installation News



The mixers are in a new facility

Large jet mixers are ensuring whole batch mixing for yoghurt

Ytron-Quadro (UK) has supplied three of the largest YTRON-Y directed jet mixers to the Crewkerne facility of Yeo Valley Farms Production with these 55 kW mixers installed in 45,000 litre and 100,000 litre vessels containing a highly viscous yoghurt base.

Computational Fluid Dynamics simulations were created to ensure the size, design and installation position of the YTRON-Y mixers were optimised for efficient and effective mixing, and today, the mixers ensure an homogeneous mix throughout the whole product batch.

Due to the size of the mixers, a special design has been used to allow maintenance of the seals without the need to remove the large/heavy motor.

01494792898

www.ytron-quadro.co.uk

Line delivers consistency at speed for sauce maker

Texas sauce maker has taken delivery of a filling, capping and labelling line from Shemesh Automation to provide the speed, product consistency and hygiene required to meet increasing customer demand.

Yellowbird is famous for packing its product with fresh fruit and vegetables to create sauces that are smoother but also more viscous than standard sauces. A dramatic increase in demand for its fresh tasting spicy condiments soon necessitated an increase in production and so equipment capable of achieving product consistency at a high throughput was sought. Shemesh delivered a sauce filling, capping and labelling solution that offered Yellowbird an enhanced throughput of 100 packs per minute while also ensuring product consistency, hygiene and efficiency.

The line includes Shemesh's flagship duo; the STRATUM II liquid filling machine and the THORO II double station



Many product viscosities are handled

capper. The capacity and speed of each unit offered Yellowbird the ability to seamlessly fulfil each product range with minimal downtime between runs, thus reducing costly capital outlay, space and utility consumption associated with multi product production lines.

STRATUM's empirical ability to negotiate a wide

range of viscosities meant the Yellowbird sauces retained their smooth mouth feel and famous fresh punchy flavour, says Shemesh.

The line also included
Shemesh's labelling machine
- the LWA series – which
delivers wraparound
labelling to apply the finishing
touch to Yellowbirds famous
sauce bottles.

"Enhanced production capacity is important but even more so is the integrity of our product," explains Kevin Uplinger, COO of Yellowbird. "Ensuring that our selected manufacturer understood the importance of maintaining the quality of our sauces throughout the packaging process was absolutely paramount for us.

"I'm delighted to say that we made the right choice as Shemesh has delivered on all fronts – from the efficiency of the process to the quality of the final product, we couldn't be happier," he says.

01252 518082

www.shemeshautomation.com

The hygienic design and use of a full service package on a thermoformer is providing production gains for salted fish

When processor of dried salted fish Cawoods wanted to upgrade its 15-year old thermoformer, it went back to original supplier ULMA and chose to install a TFS 300 hygienic design thermoformer for its plant.

The TFS 300 thermoformer was installed as it met the fish company's need for presentable, hermetically sealed packaging as an hygienic film barrier is provided over the product to protect the salted fish from spoilage by

any moisture.

In addition, the equipment needed to withstand the harsh salt environment. Because the

TFS 300 lacks edges that can retain any product remnants, it is easier to clean. The internal elements are designed to support a high degree of resistance to water and dust with an ingress



Machines have to cope with a harsh environment

protection (IP) rating of 67 and 69. These attributes make the equipment ideal for deepcleaning using high-pressure water to meet worldwide food safety standards. Since its introduction at Cawoods, production has increased from 21 packs a minute to 36 a minute.

"It's not an option for our machines to take unscheduled downtime," says Matthew Hudson, accountant at Cawoods. "As such, knowing that we not only have a machine that improves our production speeds, and that ULMA are on hand to fix or service our new TFS 300, is great."

1 01909 506504

www.ulmapackaging.co.uk

Using RFID with vision for fruits

XV Global, parent company of Crest Solutions, together with partner Aucxis has automated the traceability process for strawberries at Belgian fruit and veg auctioneers Coöperatie Hoogstraten through a machine vision and RFID technology combination.

The company distributes over 7 million trays and 56 million punnets of strawberries each year and attaches great importance to the traceability of its products throughout the supply chain, where food safety is playing a significant role. As the strawberries originate from some 200 strawberry growers, this process is logistically complex to achieve.

CXV Global was approached for machine vision and partner Aucxis for RFID



Sorting out traceability across some 200 strawberry growers is complex

technology to help the company with traceability while also handling its switch to new cardboard punnets. The expertise of both parties in their own speciality enabled Coöperatie Hoogstraten to quickly find an efficient solution.

At early stages of the project, Aucxis recognised that both

QR and RFID scanning were required to link the punnets and trays with strawberries to the pallets carrying them. Aucxis was responsible for the RFID part and established the required links, while CXV Global took care of the OR code reading by using vision technology. The fine-tuning between both technologies

was the strength as well as the challenge throughout this project.

Today, cardboard punnets of strawberries are placed in trays and equipped with a unique QR code with the grower data, after which an operator puts them on a pallet. The pallet is then transported to the labeller through a roller conveyor. In order to enable the tracing of a pallet of trays and punnets, Aucxis provides an RFID label (pallet ID) grouping all trays on this pallet. This pallet label is then scanned along with the OR codes of the travs in one of the two vision tunnels of CXV Global, establishing the link between the pallet label and the corresponding travs and punnets.

101536 560275

www.crestsolutions.co.uk



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Installation News

Simulation brings automation gains

hen an Eastern
European dairy
manufacturer wanted
to optimise the performance
of its plant through an
automation project, it
contacted a Russian-based
IT consultant and reseller
of technology from Visual
Components.

The project involved working on two robot cells at Savushkin's plant. In cell one, the dairy product producer needed help with generating the robot program for a recently installed Kawasaki robot in a palletising cell handling boxes of yoghurt pots, while in the second cell, the company wanted to automate a process for mixing and packaging single-serve yoghurts for the first time.

With the use of the 3D manufacturing simulation package form Visual Components, Savushkin programmed the robot cell which is now operating at full capacity. The IT consultant, called Concern R-Pro, also trained staff on the use of this



Yoghurt is now mixed in just seconds

software package to perform offline programming, so they can now handle any future projects internally.

Meanwhile, the yoghurt mixing and packaging process in cell two was transformed from a totally manual process, to a fully automated system. The cell consists of incoming and outgoing conveyors along with a robot equipped with a special gripper.

"We helped the customer to reduce the cycle time of this process from two minutes, to two seconds," says coo at Concern R-Pro Victoria Litun.

- **1**00 358 9 252 40800
- www.visualcomponents.com

SCARA robots are ordered for tricky assembly process

TM Robotics
has won a large
contract to supply
a substantial
number of
THE600 SCARA
robots (along with
accompanying
TS5000 controllers)
to work in a
complex process
of robot placement
of parts onto an
electronic board to

a global electronics assembly plant in Mexico.



▼ 01707 290370 ■ www.tmrobotics.co.uk

Cheese blocks handled by vacuum technology

iab's piGRIP configurable suction cups and vacuum ejectors have been used in a gripper developed by TGW Robotics to handle large blocks of cheese wrapped in film for the wholesale and retail markets.

Mature cheese blocks of up to 25 kg are shrink-wrapped and vacuum-packed and because this film can be wrinkled, or not be completely sealed, automated handling can be very difficult. Indeed, there is the potential for the blocks of cheese to be dropped during transfer due to leaking air unless the gripper system can compensate for these potential problem issues.

This means that the performance of suction cups and vacuum pumps are vital to ensuring the automatic handling of the cheese blocks continues without any problems while ensuring the vacuum lifting process itself does not cause damage to the packaging, which can ultimately lead to product spoilage. At the same time,



Piab's suction cups help to pick up eight blocks of cheese simultaneously

the size and weight of the vacuum ejectors must be small enough to integrate directly onto the gripper.

Also, the need to reduce energy consumption is a major focus in manufacturing today, and Piab's low-energy three-stage COAX technology can meet these demands.

Before the blocks continue to the final processing stage, the integrity of the film on each block is checked using a Kenos gripper from Piab before it moves on to the final process and is palletised using the TGW gripper. If the block of cheese cannot be lifted by this process, it is automatically rejected from the line.

"We chose to work with Piab because they were able to put together exactly the suction cups and vacuum systems that fulfil all tasks and requirements from their broad portfolio," explains Maximilian Schaletzky, construction engineer at TGW.

- **1**01509 857010
- www.piab.com



The new CoBo-Stack in action

New stacking option is saving time and money at a printer

Commercial printing business Micropress says its recent investment in two MBO CoBo-Stack automated stacking machines has helped ease pressure on production and improve workflow. Purchased from Friedheim International and installed at the start of December, the two CoBo-Stack machines are operating as part of the wider Micropress production process.

"Despite having only been running for a couple of months, we have seen some benefits already, with the CoBo-Stacks freeing up staff to look after other work," says Paul Coby, director at Micropress.

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Installation News



Ten machines were purchased

New start-up invested in precision

New precision machining subcontract company EAG Precision invested in ten new Doosan machine tools from exclusive UK and Ireland distributor Mills CNC in its first three months of operation.

Not many new start-ups have the confidence or wherewithal to invest in ten new machine tools straight out of the gate, but says EAG's md Dave Graham, a great deal of preliminary planning was initiated and completed well before the company was set up in 2019.

"The strategic business plan we created, and which we used to help obtain funding for the new company, was both robust and ambitious," he says.

Although EAG canvassed the market looking for the best performing and best value machine tools available, the directors' previous positive experiences of dealing with Mills CNC and of using Doosan machines (gained prior to EAG being established), did put Mills in the box seat.

"We knew that owing to the depth and breadth of the Doosan machine tool range we would be able to find machines perfectly suited to our needs and requirements," explains Graham. "It was also a big positive (especially for a new start-up in terms of time and logistics) if the machines could be acquired from a single source."

1 01926 736736

www.millscnc.co.uk

Small batch processing for ice cream producer brings fruity benefits

olmach has installed a Roboqbo series 4 universal processing system at Mackie's of Scotland for the ice cream company to manufacture its fruit and sauce preparations in-house at its Aberdeenshire factory.

Holmach's solution was a QBO70 cut-cook-cool vessel which delivers the 45 kg batch production requirement. The Roboqbo delivers consistent products due to its recipe and process stage controls, while its ultra-fast processing times maximise product quality by retaining the

natural characteristics of the ingredients being used.

"Holmach's consultative approach to our brief included product testing at the Roboqbo facility in Bologna, Italy," explains Kirstin Mackie, director at Mackie's of Scotland "The machine took less than a day to install and commission

day to install and commission which enabled Holmach to focus the remainder of their time training the team on the production of our products," she tells *Machinery Update*.

101780 749097

www.holmach.co.uk



The system took less than a day to install which left time for product training



Fruit multi-packs are popular in store

Tray sealers have provided new market opportunities for fruits

Italian small fruits co-operative Sant'Orsola is preserving the freshness of its products on technology from G Mondini – notably, two Trave tray sealers.

The fruit company found that tray sealed products were perceived by consumers to be safer as it was protected in a retail store, particularly during COVID-19, but adopting this tray sealing technology has also allowed the co-operative to market fruit mixes in two- or three-product packs.

Packaging design is key for Sant'Orsola and so the flexibility of the tray sealers has been important in communicating the values of its brand along with the product characteristics.

01785 812512

www.gmondini.co.uk

Latest end of line solution meets the mono material demands of a dairy product brand

To help dairy products manufacturers meet the demands for paper and mono-material packaging, in ever-changing formats, Cama has developed new end of line solutions.

The challenge, says Cama, is that the main players in this sector don't want multiple fixed-cup-format machines, instead they are demanding end-of-line solutions that deliver the capabilities to handle different shapes of cups and pack clusters,

while being grouped in shelf-ready packaging (SRP).

The company has developed a solution that is applied on preformed cups.
What makes this solution different is that the customer the company has developed it for is launching the very first yoghurt cup made from a 100% mono material.
The cup, label and seal are all made from one material (PET), so this is a major breakthrough for the brand – from both a packaging

and marketing perspective – and its future sustainability targets and market standing.

DIFFERENT CUP SHAPES

This line has been designed to handle two different shapes of cups, with three types of pack configurations and designs without any significant adjustments or tool changes. Product changeovers can be achieved very rapidly, says Cama.

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Feature: Free-from foods introduction

Free-from foods

keep on growing, as does the NPD

hen an exhibition such as IFFA, which is billed as the leading trade fair for the global meat industry, announces that it will open up to alternative proteins from 2022, you know that free-from and plant-based is a thing!

"The market for meat alternatives is one of the world's booming sectors at present and we aim to depict this development at the next IFFA," said Wolfgang Marzin, president and chief executive officer of IFFA organisers Messe Frankfurt, when it announced this change. Including technologies and solutions for plant-based products and alternative proteins at the exhibition next year, is said to reflect a 'future-oriented international trend'. And who would argue with that?

Free-from aisles in supermarkets have been around for a few years now with Asda even introducing a vegan-only aisle across hundreds of its stores last year.

Growth across the gluten-free, dairy-free and plant-based sector continues, as does the new product development, despite the global pandemic. For instance, this Veganuary saw a host of new branded and own label product ranges introduced which included new desserts, pizzas and plant-based comfort foods, to name but a few. There's even been a new vegan protein powder launched recently by Cytoplan.

Keith Thornhill, head of food & beverage industry UK at Siemens Digital Industries acknowledges the growth in more health-conscious and ethically informed consumers and believes that food companies can react quickly to these trends by using digital tools. Not only to control the recipe management and scale up, but also for the whole production line.

"Simulating how the product interacts throughout production with finite modelling and how the



New sector processing

The White Rabbit Pizza Co has adopted the **B-NAT** bio-based shrink film supplied by Yorkshire **Packaging** Systems to pack its growing range of Italian pizzas and stonebaked bases. The polyolefin film contains more than 40% sugarcane ethylene

production machinery performs from end to end is essential," he says. "It is essential to understand production layout, capacity, and carbon usage virtually before the physical production modifications or new facilities are produced.

"Having the confidence of the simulated models helps to make more informative investment decisions, quicker," he continues.

"Simulating the whole manufacturing process helps to give the performance evidence and de-risks the investment process that enables companies to get their free-from foods to market quicker and more efficiently."

One thing that remains vitally important in all this NPD, is the processing of the alternative

proteins to either keep them intact during manufacture or, for instance, delivering the mouth feel demanded by consumers.

In this feature, we cover mixing and processing technology that is delivering the quality required for these new free-from products. We also report on equipment used by gluten-free bread, flours and energy bars, for dairy-free milks and ready meals, cooking techniques that texturise meatfree products such as burgers and sausages and how vegan minced meat is being packed in trays that combine cardboard and plastics in a clever new way.

And let's not forget that while plant-based is booming, this market is still very small compared to meat and dairy...

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Feature: Free-from foods

Free-from bakers invest to meet the customer demand

ccounting for an estimated 4% of the UK bakery market and rising, gluten and wheat-free bakers are using a plethora of equipment to meet these growing needs and are increasingly turning to automated dough weighing systems to maintain quality and eliminate waste.

Inspecting up to 12,000 dough pieces per hour, the Hestia dough checkweigher from Sparc Systems provides free-from bakers with weighing precision and speed.

Producing high quality and tasty gluten-free bread with comparable volumes and texture requires a degree of experimentation using different flour substitutes. When the perfect free-from dough and process has been achieved, the next challenge is maintaining a consistent weight and bake.

Repeatably delivering a weight accuracy of +/- 0.5 g, the automated Hestia can, says Sparc Systems, save specialist free-from bakers thousands of pounds every day.

Connected to an automated upstream free-from dough dividing line, if a piece of dough is under or overweight by as little as 0.5 g, the checkweigher automatically rejects it. Simultaneously, the machine's fibre optic controlled software communicates back to the dough divider in real time to adjust the position of the blade for the next batch being processed.

Aside from maintaining segregated production zones



Vortex has provided the reliability



Bakeries can save 'dough'

Dough that is +/- 0.5 g over or under weight is automatically rejected beneath the Hestia system for reworking to avoid cross contamination, understanding the processing formulations is critical. In free-from bakery products, a number of processing variables must be factored in to maintain batch-to-batch consistency.

"Free-from ingredients can cost over 150% more than conventional breads," explains Sparc's European sales manager Charlie Graham.

Meanwhile in the US, the North Monsen Company and Vortex has assisted the grinding and packaging processes at the flour mill of Wheat Montana.

The mill's bulk material handling system was designed by North Monsen Company in 1996. For the grinding and packaging processes, flour is pneumatically conveyed from four grinding bins toward four packaging lines, and within these processes, North Monsen recommended Vortex slide gates – which continue to be in service today.

"We have used these gates every day for the past 22 years, problem-free," says Wayne Fuller, maintenance engineer at Wheat Montana Farms & Bakery. "In that time, maintenance has been uncommon – and when it has been necessary, it can be easily done."

And the Vortex diverters sourced to pneumatically convey flour between the grinding and packaging processes, have been equally successful.

"The diverters have been in service for 12 years and 9 years, respectively – and just like the slide gates, the diverters have required very little maintenance," explains Fuller.

Finally, piFLOWf vacuum conveyors from Piab have been installed at an industrial bakery in Germany to better handle sunflower, pumpkin and linseed seeds in its bread making process. The aim of the installation was to make the process more ergonomic for employees and minimise bending and lifting. At the same time, the process has been made more efficient.

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- www.sparc-systems.com
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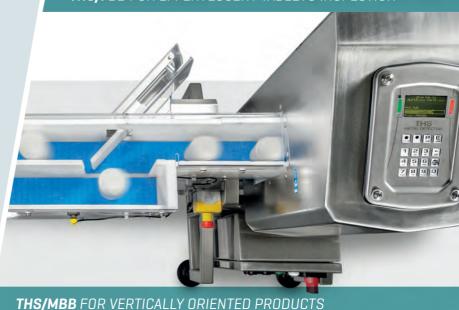
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Feature: Free-from foods

Safety assured for energy bars

Mettler Toledo's x-ray unit and checkweigher are delivering quality for Hornby Organic's products

ornby Organic produces a certified organic energy bar made with gluten-free oats and when the company began

installing automated machines to flow wrap and case pack its products, it realised it had to invest in new inspection and checkweighing equipment.

The company's 80 g bars can be purchased by the box of 12 units and, its organic, gluten-free, dairy-free, and soy-free ingredient profile has fuelled their popularity in Canada.

"We currently produce seven SKUs with the Chocolate Chip Peanut Butter being our most popular flavour," explains company co-founder Irah Vet.



Chocolate Chip Peanut Butter is a top seller

Vet knew he had to address the issue of product quality assurance for bars coming off the production line at much faster throughput rates than the company's existing manual

Lantech modular

visual inspection methods could possibly handle. Shawpak Systems is the Canadian distributor and integrator of the full Mettler-Toledo range of product inspection equipment and its staff took Hornby through an inspection crash-course that ultimately swayed Vet to place an order for an X33 series x-ray inspection system and a C31 series checkweigher.

"It was very obvious the customer understood the robust design for the North American market and ease-of-use from the start," says Nigel Turnpenny, Shawpak Systems' president. "The product they wanted to inspect is ideal for x-ray inspection due to the foil packaging and the different variety of ingredients

in the product.

"The X₃₃ allowed optimum detection of foreign material in the final product," he explains.

Meanwhile, the C31 series checkweigher offers reliable 100% inline weight control and is ideally suited to replace sample spot checks. "The checkweigher has allowed us to fine-tune our filling size, which has provided a noticeable

increase in batch yields, reports Vet, "as we can now review the weights and production data in real-time and we can make adjustments as needed, while controlling 100 per cent of the process with full confidence".

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Feature: Free-from foods

Depositor is delivering chef's meals

Celebrity chef Praveen Kumar has purchased a new sauce depositor from Riggs Autopack for his vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free and dairy-free dishes. He set up PraveenKumar.com to provide the same restaurant quality meals to eat from the comfort of a home in 2018.

These artisan meals for home delivery have less oil than traditional takeaways, they don't contain food colourings or additives and use 'beyond organic' vegetables and herbs from a market gardener in Couper Angus, Perthshire.

Production of the ready meals is focused on hand preparation and cooking in small batches; however, to cope with demand, Praveen required a semi-automated way of packing the product without compromising the quality of the artisan meals. He therefore approached depositor manufacturer Riggs Autopack for advice on a suitable semi-automatic depositor.

Following an initial consultation period, on-site machine trials were conducted under social distancing rules by Riggs Autopack's Scotland technical sales engineer Steve Burnham. Following the success of these trials, Praveen purchased a Riggs Autopack Series 2 tabletop depositor to answer his needs.

"It handles our sauces wonderfully, without damaging any of the whole components, like chickpeas in our Channa Masala, and has been a great addition," says Praveen. "Thank you to Riggs Autopack and Steve, for your time delivering and also setting up the machine."

101282 440040

www.riggsautopack.co.uk



The depositor does not damage components



Non-dairy milk processing with high shear mixers is being used across plant-based options

Non-dairy milk is in the mixers

Silverson outlines how its high shear mixers can be used for plant-based milk alternatives

onsumers are increasingly switching to plant-based alternatives to milk for a number of reasons and these are generally made from nuts, seeds, grains and legumes for which manufacturing involves mixing or homogenisation as well as thermal treatment to improve stability.

Although made from different ingredients, the common manufacturing requirement for all plant-based milks is a reduction in particle size. Particles must be reduced to below 50µm in order to prevent grittiness and to obtain a pleasant mouthfeel. A high shear mixer can be used alone, or in conjunction with other types of equipment in order to fulfil this requirement.

Nut and seed milks can be manufactured from whole nuts (roasted/ blanched/with skins) or seeds, pastes or powders. The concentration of nuts and seeds varies, but it is typically around 2% (but can go as high as 15%).

For whole nuts, a high shear mixer can be used as part of a two-step process; utilising in-tank equipment for the primary grinding operation and an inline step to further reduce the particle size. Most types of nut milk are filtered prior to bottling and therefore, the smaller the particle size achieved through mixing, the less raw material is wasted.

Some recipes call for processing via a high pressure homogeniser, if this is the case, a high shear mixer can reduce residence time in the homogeniser by creating a premix with a fine, uniform particle size.

For nut milks manufactured from pastes or powders, high shear mixers can be utilised to disperse and blend the raw materials with water.

High shear mixers can also handle oat and rice versions of grain milks.

101494 786331

www.silverson.co.uk

Packing in freshness

Shemesh is offering nitrogen-flushing on its sealing and capping units

As the consumer demand for no artificial chemicals and preservatives has grown. Shemesh Automation is offering its full suite of automatic capping and sealing machines with nitrogenflushing functionality to aid manufacturers in the production of free-from foods.

DELICATE PRODUCTS

While vacuum packing allows oxygen to be removed from products, it is not a solution that is applicable to delicate products, liquids, or jar-based products. This is where



Shemesh says its equipment meets the needs of free-from food ranges

Shemesh's range of nitrogenflushing sealing and capping machines come in. As food is

added to the packaging, this technology quickly removes all the oxygen from the pack and replaces it with nitrogen. Not only does nitrogen cushion the product. protecting it from damage during transit, but as it doesn't react with the food, it allows the product to maintain its freshness without any discolouration or any effect on taste or smell.

This process coupled with the use of high oxygen and moisture barrier packaging materials can act efficiently to replace any unnatural preservatives, says Shemesh.

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Feature: Free-from foods

Particle size reduction is delivered

Entering the emerging plant-based food manufacturing market or scaling up an existing process requires access to a partner with process knowledge and proven technology and, says ProXES, one of its core competencies is reliable and efficient continuous particle size reduction, which is crucial in plant-based food processing.

The production needs of new recipes and fast-evolving processes are a great opportunity for suppliers with flexible modular systems, and with strength in creating customer-specific solutions, says the company.

Many producers of plant-based drinks made from nuts, grains, seeds, or legumes use ProXES wet milling technology for the particle size reduction of base ingredients to reduce raw material costs and increase product nutritional values. Optimal processing of these base ingredients is also required for a variety of other plant-based products which aim to imitate formulations of ice cream, cheese or yoghurt.

As well as solutions for milling, ProXES offers multi-functional units for final blending, homogenising, de-aeration, and thermal processing in a wide range of sizes.

"At ProXES we are dedicated to continuously optimising our technology to increase the protein yield, and positively impact the manufacturing of a final product," says Andrew Strange of ProXES UK & Ireland.

101480 400684

www.proxes-group.com





The development of high moisture extrusion cooking has offered texture for meat-free products

Texturising is in fast growth

The growth of extrusion cooking to texturise plant proteins is helping food manufacturers

exturising plant proteins to make meat substitutes using twin-screw extrusion is advancing rapidly, enabling food manufacturers to capitalise on the surge of interest in plant-based eating, says Baker Perkins.

The company continues to extend its extrusion technology for both of the distinct markets for meat-free products made from texturised vegetable protein (TVP). Dry TVP produced by low moisture extrusion cooking (LMEC) has been used for many years but quality was always a problem as it failed to offer the firm, fibrous texture of meat. However, the development of high moisture extrusion cooking (HMEC) has addressed this issue and offers a much improved fibrous consistency.

The key characteristic of high moisture meat analogues (HMMA) produced by this process is the fibrous structure, which is achieved by developing the proteins in a twin-screw extruder then stretching and aligning them in an extended cooling die. Downstream processing such as mincing, mixing and forming can be done on standard

meat processing equipment.

HMMA is widely used to make both ingredients and finished products. Ingredients for prepared dishes include mince, chunks and strips, typically for curries, pizza toppings, pasta dishes and soups. Completely meat-free products include burgers, sausages and meatballs.

For dry TVP, a Baker Perkins SBX Master twin screw cooker extruder is used to form a melt that is extruded through a die and formed/cut into flakes, pellets or chunks before being dried.

These are usually supplied as bulk dry ingredients to manufacturers who rehydrate them before including them into meat-free products such as burgers, sausages, meatballs and prepared dishes.

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Latest twin-screw extruders are allowing plant-based to improve





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Feature: Free-from foods

Recyclable tray is flexible to handle

Vegan minced meat is being packed sustainably and securely in eTray, a MAP solution using less plastics

aced with the growth in numbers of vegetarians, vegans and also flexitarians in Germany, meat producer Ponnath has expanded its product range and adopted a carboard and plastics tray to market its new meat-free minced meat range.

The Vantastic Foods brand now includes vegan mince; it is made from sov proteins and other herbal ingredients, such as coconut fat and natural spices, but does not differ in appearance, sense or taste from traditional minced meat. Ponnath chose eTray as the optimal packaging solution for this new product as it offers excellent handling, separation

and recycling options. eTray is a joint development of system provider Sealpac and tray manufacturer Iaun-Neoform. It is suitable for modified atmosphere packaging (MAP) and consists of two components: a cardboard base, which can be printed on both sides, and a plastic inner layer to provide the sealing and barrier function for the pack.

STABLE SEALING EDGE

Thanks to the highly stable, uninterrupted sealing edge, each tray is reliably sealed under MAP to ensure the packaging process. The tray is suitable for denesting and allows for smooth transport

across the packaging line. Compared to traditional trays on the market, between 40% and 60% less plastics is used, depending on shape and size.

To create a resource-saving solution, the inner layer is produced from mono PP instead of PET. Therefore, the concept fulfils the latest guidelines in German food retail, which requires packaging materials based on polyolefins.

Meanwhile, the doublesided, high-quality printability of the cardboard base provides Ponnath with plenty of room for branding and also to explain how to separate and dispose of the various packaging components used.

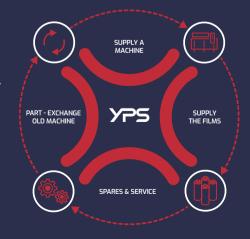


The eTray on the meat-free line

For reliable processing of its eTray in 190 x 144 mm size, Ponnath uses a Sealpac A7 traysealer with 5-impression tooling in its Freiburg plant.

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The tray was designed in such a way that after the product has been removed, the required separation of cardboard and plastic components is made easy as it just needs to be squeezed together. By doing so, both components break apart and can be disposed of in their appropriate recycling bins. This makes the eTray 100% recyclable.

0845 302 3056

www.sealpac-uk.com

This machine and tooling configuration allows the company maximum flexibility in production, because it can also be used to seal conventional plastics trays of the same size.

Trays are denested and filled fully automatically at speed, and due to the reliable sealing process and optimal barrier properties, which do not differ from plastics-only trays, eTray is said to deliver high product safety.



Materials can be separated easily



Feature: Free-from foods

Tray sealers give free-from benefit

Packaging Automation has delivered tray sealing equipment to Dragon's Den winner Kirsty Henshaw for her new gluten and dairy-free ready meals factory and Vibrant Vegan for its frozen vegan meals (one of which can be seen on our front cover).

For Kirsty, the company supplied an Eclipse SL2 automatic tray sealer and filling conveyor that is integrated with

a depositor from Riggs Autopack. The equipment seals ready meals at 36 packs per minute.

For Vibrant Vegan, an Eclipse 182 semiautomatic, two station, rotary table tray sealer was supplied which can be



Sealing for a new brand

used to seal reel fed film or pre-cut lids to pre-formed trays. Up to 40 packs per minute can be handled.

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Many functions are offered by these sensors

Latest sensors can withstand cleaning

Long range laser distance sensors from wenglor are now available in a corrosion-resistant stainless steel 316L housing and are therefore suitable for use in the food industry, including free-from foods.

"High pressure cleaning up to 100 bar and water temperatures up to 80deg C in the wash-down range are possible thanks to laser-welded IP69K housing and chemically resistant plastic parts," explains wenglor product manager Christoph Lang.

- **1**01536 313580
- www.wenglor.com

Less process is helping quality

DC Norris's Jet Cook process is delivering the product quality that a free-from food requires

he Jet Cook process from
DC Norris (DCN) is proving
a hit with manufacturers of
free-from foods as it treats
'alternative' products more
gently to keep the flavour, nutrients and
particulate integrity intact. It has been
working with customers across several
food sectors to overcome some of the
challenges that can be experienced when
producing free-from convenience foods.

Recently, the company put all this knowledge into practice when working with Dragon's Den

winner Kirsty
Henshaw who has
launched a new
factory which
only creates freefrom products.
She enlisted the
help of DCN's
Product and
Process team to
convert her recipes
from traditional
jacketed processing
methods to DCN's

Recipes such as Spanish Chicken, Ragu and Cottage Pie are now being cooked in reduced

Jet Cook unit.

processing times and with excellent finished product colour and taste. DCN says her new Cook Chill System (which includes a Ready-2-Cook Kettle, Heat Seal Pump Fill Station, Tumble and Recipe Management Software), has given her the flexibility to expand her product range using this one system.

"Setting up the factory was achieved on a really tight timescale and DCN's help was invaluable in finding quick and easy solutions which ensured we could keep the high quality and great taste of our meals that we have built our reputation on," she says.

One of the issues faced by free-from foods is that long processing times

can damage sensitive ingredients. With DCN's Jet Cook process, these issues are overcome as typically, a Steam Jacketed Kettle with 1000 kg of water will take 45 minutes to heat to boiling point and with Jet Cook this stage takes only 15 minutes, says the company.

There are also challenges when you remove standard key ingredients, for example dairy, flour and eggs. Ingredient replacements such as soya, whey proteins and vegetarian cheese are very sensitive



The special Cottage Pie at Kirsty Henshaw's new factory in manufacture

to heat and excess agitation which can damage the product taste, structure and also the appearance.

Free-from and vegan dessert products may require ingredients such as coconut, fat replacers, and protein powders which can be hard to distribute evenly throughout the batch, while removing high fat dairy products can have a negative impact on the taste and texture of foods. The Jet Cook creates smaller particle sizes due to its non-mechanical high shear function, and simultaneous heating and mixing which gives the mouth-feel of a more luxurious creamier product.

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Labelling, Coding and Marking



The ink is for the fmcg market

Virtually odour-free alcohol-based ink offers easy savings

Markem-Imaje says its new alcohol-based ink, particularly aimed at the food industry, as well as cosmetics, improves user experience, convenience and cost control, while still delivering excellent code quality.

Alcohol-based and virtually odour-free, the FB655 ink is far more pleasant to use for operators. A further advantage for food manufacturers is that the odour does not alter the organoleptic properties of products being handled.

At the same time, associated additive consumption with this ink is 50% lower than that of other, more traditionally used inks. And, unlike the previous generation of alcohol-based inks, this one does not require the installation of a pressurisation kit or the use of compressed air.

0161 864 8111

www.markem-imaje.co.uk

Coding and labelling is improved across ranges

hen manufacturer of California rice products Farmers' Rice Cooperative (FRC) faced a challenge to mitigate risks of coding and labelling errors across its vast range by streamlining processes and removing human intervention as much as possible, it turned to AutoCoding Systems.

FRC produces on average 750,000 packs of rice per month in 26 different variations, 51 different packaging options and 43 different size options. It's not surprising, therefore, that the potential to make mistakes with regard to date coding, labelling and packaging is high.

With so many different variants come a multitude of different date formats and labelling requirements as well as a legal obligation to add special markings and/or foreign language markings to products.

The company was looking for a solution that would comply with its operational goals and didn't want to be bound to one brand of hardware, and it needed to find a partner that would be willing to work on unique customisations as well as a solution that would integrate into its ERP system.

AutoCoding Systems' coding and packaging verification solution ticked all these boxes.

"We found AutoCoding
Systems' product to be exactly
what we were looking for;
it met all our operational
requirements and gave us
flexibility on our hardware
choices," explains Brad
Lint of FRC. "Ultimately,
however, our final decision
was based on the people;
their knowledge, service and
willingness to understand our
issues and work with us to
solve these issues which
made AutoCoding Systems



AutoCoding Systems has made a difference at a US firm

our preferred supplier."

Since implementation, the rice products company has seen a significant improvement with coding accuracy. Previously, supervisors or maintenance staff were required to set-up the printing equipment, but now line operators are selfsufficient. Additionally, due to the integration of the system into its ERP, QA personnel can more easily confirm the accuracy of the markings during the compliance inspection process.

- 1 01928 790444
- www.autocodingsystems.com

Latest compact pressure-sensitive labeller saves time and waste with easy changeovers and smart machine features

Accraply introduced the Sirius MK6, a heavy-duty, modular labeller designed for high-speed label applications at PACK EXPO Connects last year. With repeatable, tool-less changeovers, it reduces waste and saves time for users.

Designed for label applications with advanced machine capability requirements, the Sirius MK6 includes Accraply's SmartLink HMI, providing easy access to efficiency reporting, preventative maintenance



This unit is designed for high speed label application

alerts and self-diagnosing software. Through this nextgeneration smart HMI, overall effectiveness can also be measured, allowing operators to easily identify and order parts.

equipment

"The Sirius MK6's operator interface includes video tutorials to

walk users through set up, scheduling maintenance tasks to prevent breakdowns and using full servo integration to eliminate wear parts," explains Jamie Clark, Accraply's pressure-sensitive product line leader. Combined with the Comet series applicator, the Sirius MK6 provides precise, consistent label placement that is designed for the pharmaceutical, food, contract packaging, automotive and industrial manufacturers.

- **1**0161 848 4800
- www.accraply.com

Handheld barcode readers deliver traceability in industrial facilities

mron has launched the V410-H handheld barcode reader range for industrial DPM (direct part marks) and life sciences applications.

It is designed to provide a powerful, compact and easy-to-use solution for a number of applications. With algorithms that readily capture challenging codes, including DPMs and ultracompact symbols, the range's three models - the XD, the SR and the HC - deliver a solution for traceability throughout industrial manufacturing.

The V410-H operates on Omron's popular WebLink platform, and all three versions offer the intuitive WebLink PC configuration and run-time viewing utility that works with any Windows-enabled device.

This allows for simple cloning of reader configuration across multiple barcode readers.

With a high-resolution sensor, lightning-fast decoding, read ranges that extend from

> contact to as far as 1.1 metres and the The range ability to is an easydecode to-use most 1D, 2D ontion and DPM

symbols, the V410-H helps operators work quickly and avoid misreads. Usage in a hands-free presentation mode can help meet requirements for contact-free operation, while chemical resistance to alcohol-based cleaners ensures that the reader can withstand frequent cleaning procedures.

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components



Gear unit and motor now in one

With the IE5+ synchronous motor, Nord Drivesystems says it is setting new standards with regard to energy efficiency of drive systems in the food industry and intralogistics.

The company has now integrated this high-efficiency IE5+ motor in a single-stage helical gear unit and thus optimised system efficiency. Compact installation space, high power density and very low noise emissions are only some advantages for users in the intralogistics sector or in food and pharmaceutical industries.

This DuoDrive gear unit/ motor combination features high system efficiency and a consistent version reduction paired with a smooth, unventilated and compact design. Elimination of various wear parts results in lower maintenance. In combination with the simple commissioning of the complete solution via plug-and-play, a significant decrease of the Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) compared to existing drive systems is provided.

As a system, the compact DuoDrive concept achieves a significantly higher energy efficiency than the already proven LogiDrive concept where the IE5+ synchronous motor is combined with the NORDBLOC.1 bevel gear unit. With up to 92%, DuoDrive currently offers the highest efficiency of a gear unit/motor combination in this power class on the market and achieves very high systems efficiency in the partial load range, says Nord. 01235 534404 www.nord.com

A batch size one safety relay can be customised

ilz has developed digital technology that allows customers to configure and order customised safety relays online for orders that can be for just one device. These products can often be delivered, tested and ready to install in a control cabinet in 24 hours, and without any need for extra programming.

"For our myPNOZ product, we have done more than just develop a new relay hardware and the general way of handling a Pilz product is also completely new, both for us and the customer," explains Thomas Pilz, managing partner of Pilz.

"We are not reinventing the world of safe automation, we are designing it differently, to offer customers even greater convenience.

"myPNOZ offers users a wholly new customer experience with regard to the selection, ordering and installation of industrial components,"



myPNOZ is latest milestone en route to Industry 4.0

he continues. "Tool support using special assembly

> harboured within such an individualised product," he concludes.

The first step in this new process sees users record online via this

online myPNOZ Creator tool. Here, customers assemble the complete solution to meet their requirements from a wide range of options. Users then have a tailor-

made product: the logic operations for the safety functions are predefined via the plug-in sequence and no software knowledge is required.

Thanks to a continuous. automated workflow, the specifications and all the other information pass from order to production and then dispatch. The product is assembled from semi-finished products, fully configured and then undergo final tests either in the production plants or, if necessary, directly in the delivery warehouse.

- 1 01536 460766
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simplifies selection and ordering, helping to prevent errors. By providing the myPNOZ Creator, networking all the necessary production processes and, for example, benches, we have succeeded in mastering the complexity

their requirements

Latest pressure sensors are easy to install in tight spots

New customised device

Pressure sensors in the new PV70xx and PV80xx ranges from ifm electronic are easily accommodated even where mounting space

is restricted. yet says the company, these costeffective units provide

The PV70xx pressure sensor

two switch outputs with an accuracy of ± 0.5% or better and repeatability better than \pm 0.05%. This makes them

suitable for use even in demanding applications. Measuring just 66 mm long

and 19 mm in diameter across flats, a further important benefit offered by the PV8oxx versions is that they feature integrated temperature

measurement. This means that in many applications, one sensor can do the work of two.

1 020 8213 0000

www.ifm.com/uk



Mobile app allows gearbox sourcing

Planetary gearbox maker Apex Dynamics UK has developed a mobile phone application that helps engineers quickly find the ideal alternative to a Neugart gearbox from its own range of products. 0121 737 1170

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Components

Manufacturing can now be...multidimensional

ith ACOPOS 6D, B&R Automation says it is heralding a new era of manufacturing as magnetic levitation allows shuttles to move individual products freely through a machine. Gone are the days when conventional transport systems imposed rigidly defined timing on the production process which makes ACOPOS 6D ideal for small-batch production with frequent changeovers between products of different designs and dimensions.

ACOPOS 6D is based on the principle of magnetic

levitation: shuttles with integrated permanent magnets float over the surface of electromagnetic motor segments. The modular motor segments are 240 x 240 mm in size and can be arranged freely in any shape. A variety of shuttle sizes carry payloads of 0.6 to 14 kg and reach speeds of up to 2 m per second.

They can move freely in two-dimensional space, rotate and tilt along three axes and offer precise control over the height of levitation.

And this gives them six degrees of motion control freedom, explains the company.

"ACOPOS 6D offers up to four times the shuttle density of other systems on the market through the ability to control four shuttles on the same motor segment simultaneously," says Dario Rovelli, head of product management - Motion & Mechatronic Systems at B&R. The shuttles can also be used as axes in processing stations.

A shuttle carrying a workpiece could follow a CNC path, for example, allowing the processing tool to be mounted rigidly. Weighing stations can be eliminated entirely, since each shuttle can also serve as a high-precision scale. This also allows the design of a more

compact machine. ACOPOS 6D is fully integrated in the B&R ecosystem which allows the shuttles to be synchronised with servo axes, robots, track systems and machine vision cameras with microsecond precision.

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No on-site calibration is needed

Latest system offers flexible cable lengths of up to 15 metres

Micro-Epsilon has launched an active capacitive measurement system that incorporates a preamplifier within the sensor head to directly boost the signal. This provides end users with greater flexibility for cable routing and movement, especially in industrial automation, robotics, semiconductor production and machine building applications.

The capaNCDT 61x4 active capacitive system for displacement, distance and position measurements consists of a sensor with integrated preamplifier, a robust cable and a compact controller. The signal transmission remains stable with this sensor over a length of up to 15 metres.

Two sensors of flat design are available with extended measurement ranges of up to 4 mm. 0151 355 6070

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ACOPOS 6D is ideal for small-batch production with frequent changeovers

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- 1 cable input / output connector: M8 X 4 pin





Reverse-engineered bearing saves the day for a distillery

hen a potential issue was identified with a slewing ring bearing on a bottling machine at the oldest continuous gin distillers in the world. the company turned to RA Rodriguez (UK) and its reverse engineering knowhow to safeguard component availability and guarantee production continuity.

G&I Distillers' two Hartness Global Fill machines are integral to production at its Warrington site and "although

there are currently no issues with the slewing ring bearing, we did not have a serviceable spare," explains production manager Stephen

Swinney. "Our existing spare had been used at some point in

the past

Gin supplies are safe

and was visibly worn, so it was clear that reconditioning was required immediately as, without a replacement. machine failure could mean a shortage of supply to our customers," he explains.

As Hartness no longer produces this version of the machine and spares are unavailable, RA Rodriguez found that the slewing ring bearing was not a standard catalogue product from any manufacturer; it was bespoke. Initially the worn bearing was remanufactured but then a new bearing was produced to serve as future back-up for this vital part of the bottling line for drinks.

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Who What Where

Who's done what and gone where...

Interroll



Ingo Steinkrüger has joined Interroll to take over as ceo,

succeeding **Paul Zumbühl** who announced his retirement last June but who will be nominated as future chairman of the Interroll board of directors. Steinkrüger has more than 20 years of management and technical experience as well as a sales track record gained in the automotive sector.

Stäubli Robotics



Christophe Coulongeat has taken over the group division

management of Stäubli Robotics from **Gerald Vogt** who has become the new ceo of the Stäubli Group. He joined the company in 2018 as deputy division manager robotics, and in his new role, Coulongeat will also become a member of the company's Group executive committee.

BW Integrated



Eric Collier has been promoted to executive vice president of global

commercial operations for BW Integrated Systems in a role where he will be responsible for new equipment sales along with the go-tomarket strategy. He has been at the company for six years in various commercial roles.

AIPIA



Stéphane Piqué from
Accenture is
the new chair
of the Active &

Intelligent Packaging Industry Association's advisory board.

Herma UK



Chris Brock has been promoted to the role of sales manager for the labelling

systems division of Herma UK. He has been with the company for 13 years and will now be responsible for the existing sales team going forward.

Mills CNC



Martyn Jones has joined Mills CNC as business manager for the Birmingham

and West Midlands regions, bringing over 20 years of experience in the machine tools sector to his new role.

Loma Systems



Tyler Bryant is the new regional sales manager for South West England and

South Wales for Loma Systems, reporting to sales director **Mark Jackson-Nichols.** He has been promoted following four years in the UK and export aftermarket teams.

CME



Alex Stewart has joined CME as senior aftermarket manager to

help strengthen its customer support team.

Antalis Packaging



Jake Woolmer has been appointed machinery sales manager at

Antalis Packaging to support customers in the South of the UK on Lantech and Masterline machines as well as its wide range of consumables.

Endoline Machinery



Andrew Yates, md of Endoline Robotics which with its partner Fanuc

supplies robotic palletising systems in the UK, has also been appointed as managing director of sister company Endoline Machinery. He is the third generation of the Yates family to manage the business following grandfather **Ron** and father **Alan Yates**, who now becomes the chairman.

Gough Engineering



Andy Woodford has joined Gough Engineering as its new

sales manager following a 25 year career in the materials handling industry. He is tasked with developing the company's digital angle to better support customers in a changing world.



Carl Hodges
has joined
Gough as
its customer
solutions

engineer and the appointment of this software expert is described as further evidence of the firm's desire for digital transformation.

Harting



Simon Asbury, current director of sales and marketing at Harting, will

take over as managing director of the company in December when current md **Peter Hannon** will retire. Asbury has worked in the electronics and electrical sector since 1988 and joined Harting in 1997 as a sales engineer and has held a number of senior roles during his time with the company.

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ACHEMA 2021

Frankfurt am Main, Germany www.achema.de/en

5 - 7 JULY

Foodex 2021

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7 JULY

Machine Vision Conference

Marshall Arena, Milton Keynes www.machinevisionconference.co.uk

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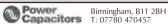
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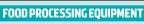
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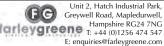
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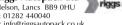
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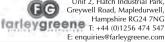
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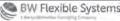


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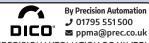




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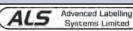
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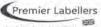


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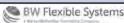


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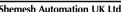
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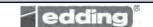
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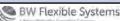
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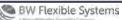
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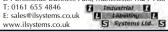
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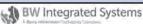


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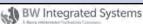


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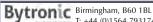
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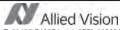
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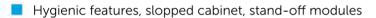


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