# Issue 1, Volume XXXII, January/February 2021

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## **INSIDE**



#### **NEWS**

Head of R&D at Mettler-Toledo David Barber is now the new chairman of the PPMA Group of Associations, taking over from Domino's Tim Paul after his successful two year stint

#### **NEW MACHINERY**

Six-packs of drinks bottles packed in cardboard sleeves are handled automatically, gently and without leaving any marks by a new gripper to deliver operational gains Find out more on page 29

#### **INSTALLATIONS**

An egg producer is using a cij printer to mark 180,000 eggs an hour, cutting costs by at least 20%

#### **PLUS**

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PUBLISHED BY







## January/February 2021

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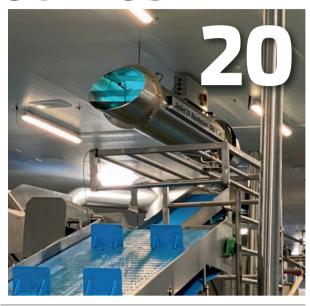
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## **PPMA** matters



ay I take this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year. As the new chairman of the PPMA Group of Associations, I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Tim Paul – my predecessor – for spearheading the Group through an unprecedented period of economic uncertainty during his two-year term.

It is quite poignant that this first issue of *Machinery Update* in 2021 includes a retail feature that covers information about eCommerce amidst a global health pandemic and a third lockdown for much of the UK.

While there is still plenty of mileage for physical events to rise to the fore once restrictions have been lifted, there is a growing need for businesses to transform the way they do business, in some cases, at the flick of a light switch or click of a button. And while the live events industry has certainly had to bear much of the brunt during the pandemic; most notably interpack, the PPMA Show, and MACH, if there's one thing that has been reinforced, it's the imperativeness for businesses to have a 'Plan B'.

# Machinery innovation is going to be pivotal in delivering 'new normal' productivity demands

Like me, many of you will have attended numerous webinars and virtual events to help keep abreast of new innovations, product launches, and legislative changes. It's fair to say that without the ability to move things online, we would all be in a very different place to where we are today.

Indeed, the advancement and greater adoption of eCommerce will influence, and in some cases revolutionise, the way companies demonstrate and sell certain equipment; whether directly or through e-auctions. It may also encourage more companies to carry out factory acceptance tests (FATs) online, a number of which have been covered in this magazine.

It was interesting to read, but nevertheless unsurprising to learn, that the buying habits of UK consumers have been permanently altered by the coronavirus lockdowns.

This trend will cross-pollinate to the business to business (B2B) sector too, culminating in a drive for greater productivity in the end to end (E2E) supply chain and logistic processes, namely: speedier order picking, efficient use of valuable warehouse space, track and trace, and security – to name a few. And I believe innovation in machinery is pivotal to supporting the required productivity improvements needed across every sector, whatever the sales channel.

# IMPROVE FOOD PRODUCTION LINE EFFICIENCY

#### High pressure washdowns

SKF Food Line hygienically designed bearing unit







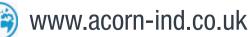
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### **News**



Southgate raised £5,000 for NHS

#### Special rainbow tape initiative delivered for the NHS heroes

Southgate Packaging has run a promotional campaign with customers by providing an alternative 'rainbow' packaging tape to its usual version and then donating a percentage of each sale to the NHS. The company chose its local NHS Trust. the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in King's Lynn, and donated £5,000 to the site.

The campaign was inspired by a project the company had worked on with a client that had replaced its packaging tape with a rainbow tape on gift packages sent to key workers across the UK to make them feel very personal.

## The PPMA welcomes a new chairman to deliver further success

he PPMA Group of Associations appointed David Barber as its new chairman in December, succeeding Tim Paul after his two successful years in the role. Barber, who was elected to the PPMA board of directors in 2017 is the head of R&D for multinational metal detection company Mettler-Toledo Safeline.

"David has significant experience of implementing successful projects and embraces the Group's strategic objectives in how it reaches out to even more members," says former chairman Paul. "Under David's chairmanship, and with the continued support of the PPMA board of directors and PPMA staff, I believe that we're in a strong position to run our flagship PPMA Show this year, as well other bespoke industry events to benefit members."

While Barber believes that



David Barber is the new chairman

the PPMA should always remain true to its roots in being able to stage world-class events, he thinks the trade association needs to be an enabler to support members; whether through live or virtual events, business information, or lobbying-type activities in conjunction with associated third-party organisations. www.ppma.co.uk

#### C-19 has wreaked havoc on early 2021 exhibition staging

Major global exhibition interpack and components was one of the first exhibitions to cancel this year. Already postponed from 2020 to a new date in February, the organisers said the uncertainty among companies due to high infection numbers proved too great for it to go ahead. The global event will not now take place until May 2023.

In the UK, organisers of Foodex (that was due to take place in April) have postponed the event until 5-7 July this year following the latest lockdown and rollout of the vaccine.

Andrew Reed, md for events and exhibitions at organisers William Reed said: "We look forward to the summer as a time of great celebration, of new ways of thinking, new products, new attitudes and a new start for our industry."

Meanwhile, other exhibitions that have been cancelled include Anuga FoodTec which will now take place from April 26-29, 2022 while drupa has moved to 28 May to 7 June in 2024.



**PFIZER COVID-19 VACCINE IS USING ECOPLAT PLUS** 

### Wrapping the vaccine safely

Robopac, part of the Aetna Group, has worked with Pfizer in the US to help guarantee the vaccine's packaging and transport safety for the first shipment of 3 million frozen doses and beyond. The Ecoplat Plus advanced wrapping turntable uses stretch film to guarantee maximum protection of goods due to its reliability, strength and ease of use. www.aetnagroup.com

#### **Moving location has** delivered expanded facilities for an HQ

Grote Company, an industrial food slicing and assembly equipment manufacturer, moved its European office from Wrexham to Deeside in December. The new location accommodates growing staff and manufacturing capabilities, which includes the company's rapidly expanding robotics division.

The newly refurbished 25,000sq ft building is over double the size of the old location and features large manufacturing and assembly spaces, as well as improved demonstration and testing areas, and conference facilities, with room for future growth.



#### **Guidance for food** hygiene is updated

Campden BRI has updated guidance on the design, implementation and control of cleaning and disinfection of food factories. This revised version will help food and drink manufacturers ensure their factories are cleaned and disinfected effectively so that they can maintain high hygienic standards for safer products.

### News

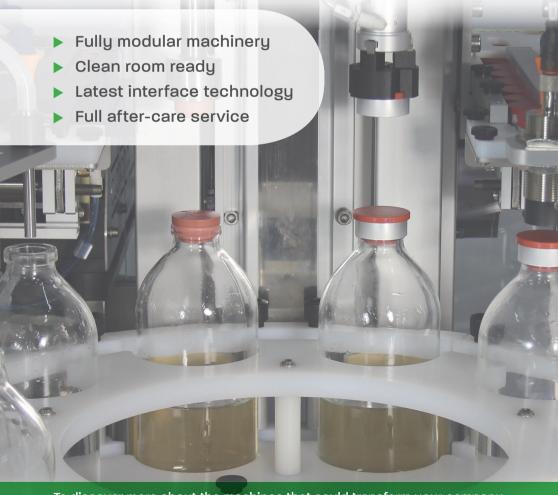
# A new UKCA technical advisory service is offered to meet change



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ÜV SÜD UK has launched a UKCA technical advisory service to help businesses meet the new conformity assessment requirements for goods being placed on the UK market from January 1, 2021.

Although the UKCA mark will replace the EU's CE marking, different rules apply to different products and UK nations. For example, some goods will have to apply the UKCA marking immediately, whereas others have a year's transition period lasting until January 1, 2022. Likewise. while the UKCA marking will apply in England, Scotland and Wales, CE marking will continue to be accepted in Northern Ireland.

#### **PROPER PREPARATION**

"For businesses supplying the UK market there are still a lot of unanswered questions and misleading information," says Mary Grigsby, head of TÜV SÜD UK's Product Service division. "It is therefore vital that they are properly prepared if they still want to be selling products on the UK market.

"Our team operates across many industries and has an in-depth understanding of UKCA technical and commercial requirements and so we can help businesses to understand the rules that apply to different products and support them through the steps to compliance.

As TÜV SÜD holds dual accreditation as a UKCA Approved Body and CE marking Notified Body, it can therefore continue to support manufacturers, importers and retailers to maintain CE certification for EU markets, as well as gain UKCA approval.

www.tuvsud.com/uk

#### **Process solutions** firm celebrated its 45th birthday in 2020

Moody Direct has been serving the liquid process industries for 45 years supporting a multitude of industries including dairy. beverage, food, brewing, chemical and pharmaceuticals during this time.

Founder Paul Moody handed over the reins to directors David Tomlinson and Ken Wild five years ago and in this time, the business has continued to grow. The company is confident that with its loval workforce, many of whom had received their 10, 20, 30 and even 35 years long service awards, the company will weather the storm of COVID-19.



1985: Moody's very first service van



The new facility is allowing Gripple Automation to streamline its procedures

## Larger premises will benefit client service

ripple Automation has expanded rapidly in recent years to become a multi-million pound business which is why it has moved into new premises that are over double the size of its original production site.

Its new 13,140sq m facility in Sheffield provides a cleaner modern environment, a dedicated proof of principle area, more machine build areas and a larger in-house machining department. These new services combined with more space are allowing

the automation specialist to streamline its standard operating procedures while taking full advantage of new opportunities provided by the expanded factory.

The facility houses new equipment as well as new people with four new starters last year, in design, production and manufacturing as well as a new apprentice. Meanwhile, business remains brisk, with several machines delivered last December and a number of new machine builds having started in January.

#### Internship scheme is delivering future packaging designers

Antalis approached Nottingham Trent University with an internship opportunity for its BA Product Design students to help it keep up with demand for new packaging solutions. After pitching the internship to about 200 university students, the company received 38 applications from which Zoe Donaldson was one of the first interns selected.

The investment Antalis is making in providing its packaging design internship is paying off for both parties. Now back at university to complete the final year of her degree, Zoe already has a job offer from Antalis.



Zoe Donaldson was selected

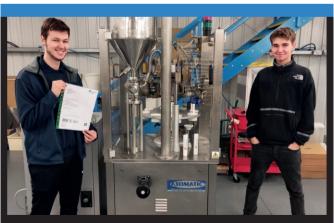
The RMGroup will offer this range

#### Partnership delivers stretch hood units

Robotics and automation company RMGroup, has announced a new partnership with Lachenmeier which will see it become the preferred supplier of stretch hood machines in the UK. As part of the agreement, RMGroup will also be able to provide Lachenmeier's UK customers with service and support for the stretch hood.

#### The MTC is helping more firms to adopt automation in UK

To help companies take the first step on their automation adoption journey, the MTC is offering a free of charge initial engagement. This includes a line walk, a tour of a business's operations and facilities, providing an initial understanding of a business's operations and challenges. From this, it can provide guidance as to the best route forward. By engaging with the MTC, businesses can benefit from its experience covering automation and robotics as well as digitalisation and technology implementation. **E** automation@the-mtc.org



**INVESTING IN YOUNG PEOPLE BRINGS NEW ENERGIES** 

## Apprentices bring benefits

Excel Packaging Machinery has hired 16-year old Thomas Pym as its latest apprentice to bring some new perspective to the business, following its successful experience with 22-year old George Bretherton who has grown in confidence in his three years with the company having completed his Level 3 Engineering Apprenticeship qualification.

## Regulations

# Taking out risk in assessing safety



Paul Taylor HEAD OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS (UK)

This January, the UKCA mark will be applied to machinery that meets safety standards rather than the EU's CE marking, but risk assessment remains a vital step in ensuring compliance

espite the new Brexit deal that was thrashed out between the EU and UK, the actual process for manufacturing compliant products will change little from a legal perspective. As the EU Directives are transposed into National Law, the UK already has a legal system in place that applies. EU harmonised standards will therefore simply be carried across as UK designated standards, in order to maintain a single model. Going forward, the UKCA mark will be applied to compliant machinery, rather than the EU's CE marking.

All machines supplied in the European Economic Area (EEA) must comply with the Machinery Directive (2006/42/EC) and be safe. The Essential Health and Safety Requirements (EHSR) lay down the minimum compliance criteria. The preferred way to comply with EHSRs is by risk assessment and the application of harmonised EN standards.

Risk assessment is therefore a vital step in ensuring compliance and a fundamental starting point for designers of machinery under the Machinery (Safety) Regulations. Some useful references include the standard EN ISO 12100 'Safety of Machinery - Risk Assessment', which defines risk assessment as "a series of logical steps to enable, in a systematic way, the analysis and evaluation of the risks associated with machinery".

EN ISO 12100 goes on:
"Risk assessment is followed,
whenever necessary, by risk
reduction. Iteration of this
process can be necessary
to eliminate hazards as far
as practicable and to
adequately reduce risks by
the implementation of
protective measures."

A hazard analysis/risk assessment must therefore be carried out to examine any potential hazards associated with the machinery. This provides information for a risk evaluation, in which a decision is made on the safety of that machinery,

into operation. Problems can then be rectified with the manufacturer, so that they or the machinery owner no longer run the risk of a prosecution under the Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations or the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER).

The first step in the risk assessment process is to identify anything that has the potential to cause harm. Secondly, an assessment must be made of the likelihood of a person coming into contact with these hazards and how much damage it would cause.

will experience some form of deterioration. An internal process must therefore be set up, which is overseen by an individual who is capable to ensure that risk assessments are carried as required. Taking this simple approach ensures that risk assessment is swiftly integrated into the everyday working practices of an organisation, and it is never neglected.

The person who decides what the assessments cover and how they are done, must of course be competent to do this. While the exact definition of a competent person is not currently regulated, the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) definition is: "Someone who has sufficient training and experience or knowledge and other qualities that allow them to assist you properly. The level of competence required will depend on the complexity of the situation and the particular help you need."

The machinery risk assessment process can be complex and once completed, may result in significant changes to the workplace environment. Just because a machine carries the CE marking or UKCA mark, it does not necessarily mean that the machinery owner doesn't need to take any further action.

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

# Risk assessments must be carried out at appropriate intervals and then integrated into everyday practices

so that risks can be reduced where necessary.

EN ISO 12100 outlines the hazard analysis/risk assessment procedure as follows:

- Determination of the limits of the machinery
- Hazard identification
- Risk estimation and risk evaluation.

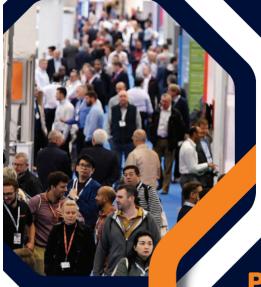
EN ISO 12100 also provides guidance on the safety of machinery and the type of documentation required in verifying a risk assessment. To immediately identify any issues, a thorough and correct risk assessment should be completed before any new machinery goes

A risk assessment would normally be carried out for each hazard identified. Control measures can then be applied to mitigate the risk. Once these have been implemented, a re-assessment must then be actioned to ensure that they provide an adequate level of safety. The process is repeated until an adequate level of safety is achieved.

Section 6 of PUWER requires that inspections must be repeated 'at suitable intervals' if machines are exposed to conditions that may lead to deterioration. This means that risk assessments must therefore be conducted at appropriate intervals as every machine

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# Intelligent bagging unit launches at online event

he new Hayssen ISB (intelligent sanitary bagger) from BW Flexible Systems made its debut at the PACK EXPO Connects online event in November. It has been designed to provide best-in-class hygienic design, modern industrial machine intelligence and intuitive operation for vertical form, fill and seal (VFFS) packaging ranges.

To develop the Hayssen ISB, BW Flexible Systems conducted customer interviews in target markets that included fresh produce, frozen/individual quick freezing (IQF) and cheese. "What we heard in those conversations was a need for an unparalleled hygienic design that was easy to change over, flexible and intuitive to operate," says Ed Haarsgaard, BW Flexible Systems' sales leader for new machinery.

The entire machine is high-pressure washdown capable, including its humanmachine interface (HMI), which would typically require



The VFFS machine can have cellular network capabilities to talk to tablets so training does not disrupt production

protection due to its sensitive components. This VFFS has earned an IP66 rating and a NEMA 4X rating for enclosures. Other hygienic features include its frame, which is an open-channel design with sloped surfaces built to have no more than one square-inch of surface-to-surface contact between components. Furthermore, the Hayssen ISB uses standoffs and flanged fasteners to

eliminate secondary hardware like washers, and the bagger's film rollers are fully removable without tools and come completely sealed with lifetime bearings. In addition,

In addition, vacuum belts, a potential source for contamination

and pathogen growth, have been eliminated in favour of friction belts.

Changeovers on the Hayssen ISB are toolless except for the sealing jaws. The machine features passthrough film threading, and its entire unwind and film path has been engineered to provide immediate film tracking adjustments.

- 0115 967 8787
- www.bwflexiblesystems.com



**OBCC** provides export options

#### New gas analyser software helps all quality managers

The new OBCC software from Witt is designed to make life easier for quality managers in the food sector. The Windows application enables professional data management, from rapid data analysis to complete digital archiving and a free 30-day trial version is available to download for customers.

OBCC is billed as the ideal complement to a Witt gas analyser in the OXYBABY 6.0 and PA series. The core of the application is the clearly arranged dashboard, on which all data is shown. At a glance, a quality inspector can grasp the analysis results and the master data from the connected analyser.

The graphical presentation of the results allows easy data analysis for all users.

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# Compact flash pasteuriser now handles all standard containers

he flash pasteuriser machine developed for small to medium-sized breweries by KHS four years ago is now able to handle a greater range of packaging.

Initially used for keg racking, the new version of the Innopro BoxFlash is now compatible with the glass, can and PET container segments. Its compact design on a frame means that users benefit from lower logistics costs and also faster installation.

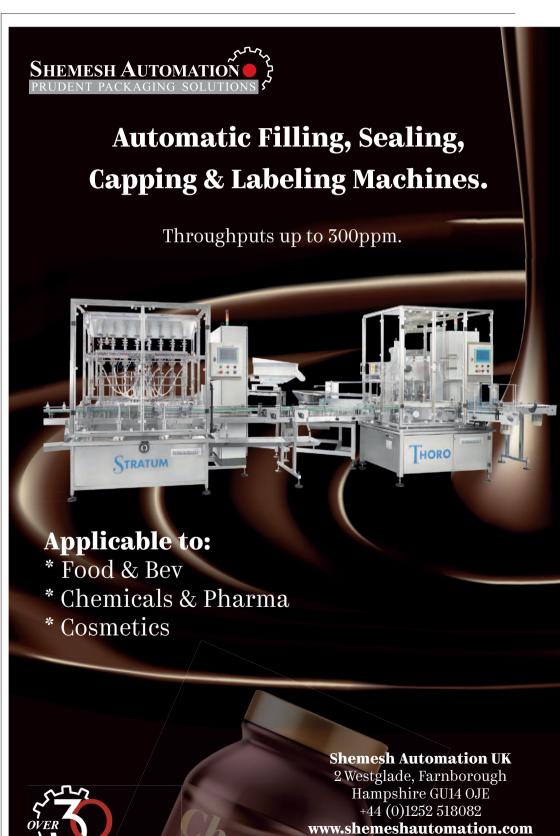
Pasteurisation temperatures range between 60 and 75deg C and the heat retention period is 30 seconds. "The Innopro BoxFlash combines optimum, safe product treatment with an extremely small footprint, plus it's effective and saves on resources," explains Gerold Tandler, process technology product manager at KHS.

In combination with a KHS Innokeg CombiKeg, the new unit can also be equipped with the optional OnBoard CIP module. Two keg parking stations and dosing pumps for the CIP media are designed into the system for this purpose. This means that following a production run, both the flash pasteuriser and the filler can be cleaned internally which readies the machine for the next run quickly.

**1**0121 713 6900 www.khs.com



KHS' Gerold Tandler outlines the gains



sa@shemeshautomation.com

# Upgraded platform brings further benefits for machine builder use







The new IXON Cloud 2 includes a clean intuitive interface, IXON Studio and Role-based user management for fully customisable access and control rights

XON, the provider of solutions for remote machine service and maintenance management, has launched the new IXON Cloud 2 platform.

The completely redesigned IXON Cloud delivers improved collaboration features and allows users more freedom to customise and set up the platform to best fit their specific needs.

These changes are the result of customer feedback and are designed to allow for a more streamlined IXON experience.

The company wants to

stimulate and accelerate the IIoT transition among machine builders by providing a secure cloud environment with all the technology needed to make IIoT directly accessible for every machine builder around the world. This IoT platform is designed to allow machine builders to create their own IoT portal, connect machines, collect data, create alerts and remotely troubleshoot as if they were on-site – with just a few clicks.

New features of the IXON Cloud 2 platform include:

• Clean intuitive interface to

eliminate distractions and bring focus to your daily tasks:

- IXON Studio for portal customisation and dashboard building;
- Role-based user management for advanced, fully customisable access and control rights.

"Collaboration is the central pillar of IXON Cloud 2," says Willem Hofmans, ceo of IXON. "Collaboration to allow a machine builder to maintain relationships with its customers for decades.

We are on the eve of

a significant transition where machine builders start using all their knowledge and skills not only in the development, construction and installation of a machine, but where their knowledge and skills are of great value throughout the entire life cycle of a machine," he tells *Machinery Update*.

Current users of the existing IXON platform can choose to switch over to IXON Cloud 2 via a migration wizard free of charge, apart from some specific features.

- **1**00 31 857 441 105
- www.ixon.cloud/new

## New distributor for all things stitching

Friedheim International is now the exclusive distributor of Hohner stitchers & stitching heads. The company will be providing a dedicated service and spare parts supply for all Hohner requirements, a global brand that has developed narrow stitching heads, saddle binders and wire stitching machines. "The Hohner range complements our existing manufacturers perfectly," explains Friedheim's

Mark Bristow. 101442 206100

www.friedheimpackaging.co.uk

# New operating unit for multihead weighers is easier to operate in harsh environments

The new BDE-16 operating unit, which has a larger 18.5in full HD display to allow operators to see multiple items at once, is now available on multihead weighing equipment from Multipond.

The new larger screen is not only more convenient in operation, but at IK10, it achieves the highest possible impact strength class. This corresponds to protection against a mechanical impact of 5 kg from a fall height of 40 cm.

In terms of hygiene, the new operating unit has been completely revised and now conforms to the hygiene standards of the Multipond J Generation. This hygienic design guarantees simple and safe cleaning for users. To improve access security and operating convenience, an RFID reader is integrated on the front side as standard.

Production staff can be assigned various authorisation levels, so unintentional changes to recipes or weigher



The BDE-16 has a stronger screen

settings can be avoided.

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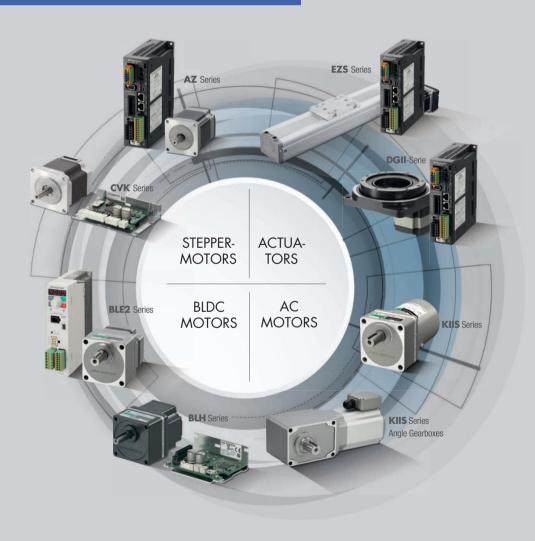


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## **Oriental motor**

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ndustrial automation company Sewtec is launching its own standard equipment ranging from case erectors to robotic palletising systems.

Sewtec manufactures automated machinery from its new facility in Silkwood Park, Wakefield and this will be the first time the bespoke manufacturer has released a range of standard machines, targeting end users across the packaging industry. This range is made up of six different standalone machines including a case erector, case closer. top loader, picker cell, pallet loader and palletising system. Each module can be easily integrated into a full production line which the company says provides the customer with a cost effective. future proofed automation system from a single supplier.

#### **FLEXIBLE PERFORMANCE**

"We made the decision to launch our own range of packaging machines as we believe other systems currently available were simply not hitting the mark in terms of functionality, performance, safety, and quality," says Sewtec managing director Mark Cook. "We want to offer the same Sewtec-quality, engineerdesigned machines that our customers have grown accustomed to with the bespoke solutions we provide.

"With a simple operator interface, each of our machines are equipped with an outstanding software architecture to secure complete control of the production line."

Sewtec has appointed a new technical sales manager, Olivia Collyer, who will specialise in these standard products.

101924 494047

www.sewtec.co.uk

# Field to fork traceability is delivered by new unit

inebea Intec has launched the new outer case marker weigh price labeller which offers complete field to fork traceability and 24/7 on site service support.

The company says it has brought its experience in checkweighing to the labelling market with a new outer case marker which is specifically designed for the meat, fish, dairy, fruit and vegetable markets. The new WPL-S is a manual weigh price labeller best suited to low volume and products not suitable for automatic labelling. It boasts an array of features including an hygienic design, field to fork traceability to adhere to government guidelines, integration with other hardware and open source software, automated reporting, a 2 year warranty and 24/7 on-site service support as standard.

"Outer case labelling isn't an area we've worked in previously but requests



product combined with our levels of service was huge," explains Colin Maher, country manager at Minebea Intec. "We've taken our renowned weighing technology and combined it with labelling solutions that can be configured to the customers exact requirements."

The WPL-S produces labels for a variety of purposes including calculation of price based on weight. calculation of best by date

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.

Minebea Intec is showcasing the new WPL-S as part of its virtual demonstrations.

- 0121 779 3131
- www.minebea-intec.com/en/ services/virtual-showrooms/



No costly commissioning time

#### Wi-Fi-free AMR communication ensures efficiencies

As most robotic conveyor transport solutions on the market today rely on Wi-Fi communication for their operation, any instability in the connection can cause operational inefficiency. A new introduction from RARUK Automation for its range of MiR autonomous mobile robots (AMRs) eliminates this risk. Developed by ROEQ, GuardCom uses proven sensorbased technology to remove the robot's reliance on Wi-Fi.

GuardCom connects directly with any model of ROEQ top roller modules from RARUK and to the stationary conveyor station to allow safe, fast, reliable and cost-effective handling and transfer of goods between conveyor stations.

- **1** 01462 670044
- www.rarukautomation.com

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# Robotic microdosing is delivered for pharma

omaco Macofar's
MicroRobot 50 is a
robotic microdosing
machine that is specially
designed for filling potent and
cytostatic medicines which are
often used for treating cancer
and auto-immune diseases.

The technology is particularly suited for dosing sticky or hygroscopic pharmaceutical powders with irregular shapes.

During the production process, three anthropomorphic robots transport the vials under an isolator to the dosing, stoppering and capping stations. Since the robots work independently of specific formats, the product change times are significantly shorter.

The servo-driven transfer system generally reduces the concentration of particles in critical areas and with it the risk of contamination.

And thanks to the clearly structured system concept, the MicroRobot 50 is readily accessible and easy to clean as the robotic grippers can



On this latest machine, vials are individually weighed before and after filling

be equipped with cleaning guns in order to validate the cleaning processes.

The Macofar MicroRobot 50 achieves a maximum total output of 50 vials per minute including one-hundred-percent in-process weight control, in other words each vial is individually weighed both before and after filling. If necessary, the filling volume is adjusted automatically. Numerous control systems

ensure a reliable process and a very low waste rate with these high-priced medicines. For instance, if a stopper is missing, the filled vial is fed back to the station in question, where the process is repeated, rather than simply removed. This same process also applies to missing caps.

This ultra-compact machine is less than four metres long.

- 101252 444334
- www.pharmamachinery.co.uk

# Non-contact web cleaner meets needs of low tension webs

Meech International launched its CyClean-R non-contact web cleaner for webs running in low tension after it became aware of the need for an advanced web cleaning system that can be used on a web that sits around a roller.

An extension to Meech's non-contact CyClean range, CyClean-R incorporates advanced computational fluid dynamics that allow converters to thoroughly clean low-tension webs.

Ideal for use in a wide variety of applications, including narrow, mid and wide web, CyClean-R is available as a single-sided and double-sided web cleaner. From its position on the web roller, it delivers optimal, consistent removal of dry, unbonded contamination from any web material (particle removal to 0.5 micron is achievable).

"As it's a non-contact cleaner, there is no risk of surface damage, or interference with web tension and tracking," says Adam Battrick, sales director at Meech.

101993706700

www.meech.com



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- Installed and commissioned with after sales support
- Linear style case erector



### A.M.J. MATERS

# Infant formula is processed safely



These functional lids ensure maximum reliability in the production process

ptima Consumer has developed a solution concept for the fully automated evacuation, gassing and seaming of infant formula containers. The OPTIMA EGS is designed to make processes safer and more efficient.

"The OPTIMA FS filling machine and the OPTIMA EGS enable us to supply the centerpiece of infant formula production lines from a single source," says Christoph Held, managing director of OPTIMA consumer. "The OPTIMA EGS is our response to today's

market demands." The first **OPTIMA EGS** is operating successfully at Elb-Milch

These needs include a compact design so the space requirement has been reduced by more than 40% compared to conventional post-gassing systems. And as all of the functions evacuation, gassing and seaming - are contained within this small area. the operating costs for a clean room are lowered.

- **1** 01962 620898
- www.optima-packaging.com

### New financing options for robotics are now available

Robotics and automation systems integrator CKF Systems has partnered with Academy Leasing to offer quick, simple and competitive finance to help customers purchase new equipment.

Academy can now offer customers a finance solution to suit their needs for any orders of £1,000 plus VAT or more. The company was established in 1987 and has grown to become one of the UK's leading providers of equipment, vehicle and

invoice financing. It covers the whole of the UK and has facilities to suit all customers. from start-up ventures to PLCs, says CKF Systems.

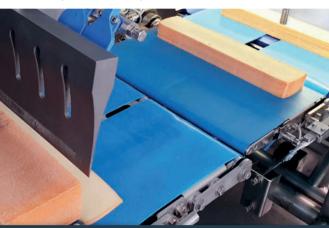
Leasing may be classed as a revenue item for budget purposes which may make it easier for companies to obtain authorisation for expenditure. The approval process only takes one phone call and an approval is usually provided within 24 hours.

- **1** 01452 728753
- www.ckf.co.uk



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# Disinfection system is delivering safe benefit

ood processing plants and other industrial manufacturing facilities can help protect employees from the on-going threat of coronavirus and ensure business continuity during the pandemic with JenAct UV's new GRU-V Jet ceiling mounted UV air disinfection unit.

The system, which is ideal for cold storage areas as well as production lines, treats high volumes of air with UV-C light, providing a significant dose to disinfect 99.99% of airborne SARS-CoV-2 in a single pass.

Designed to be mounted horizontally approximately 500 mm from the ceiling where they can disinfect up to 3,500m³ of air per hour, air is pushed through the GRU-V Jet by a custom made industrial fan while four high power UVC lamps are optimally placed to expose all the passing air to maximum UV intensity.

"As HSE and other agencies make clear, fresh air is desirable to minimise aerosol transmission of viruses,"



This ceiling mounted UV air disinfection system can be installed anywhere

says Dr Jarek Bilek of JenAct. "However, in food factories this is rarely possible, and so our systems are designed to produce 'virus fresh' air in the working environment."

With the health and safety of workers a priority, JenAct's GRU-V Jet's inlet and outlet louvres ensure anyone in the production area is protected from UVC radiation, without the need for additional PPE.

A combination of stainless steel construction and ozone-free shatterproof lamp coating make the system ideal for a wide range of production environments.

The standalone GRU-V Jet incorporates a fan and control which means it can be installed anywhere with no need for existing HVAC systems.

- 1 01256 892194
- www.jenton.co.uk

#### FMCG suppliers saw customisation options first-hand

Atlantic Zeiser used the PACK EXPO Connect virtual forum in November to demonstrate its late-stage customisation, in colour, of preprinted folding boxes that are ready for shipping, while also presenting an efficient method of controlling the sales channels of branded products to help inhibit gray market activity.

#### **INLINE COLOUR PRINT**

Built by Atlantic Zeiser, DIGILINE Versa Inline Pro is a digital inline colour printing system for flat or erected and filled folding boxes. With a view to harnessing the benefits of digital technology, it was developed specifically as an add-on to existing conventional packaging lines.

In operation, it enables consumer goods manufacturers to maintain their established workflows while also customising some of their prepacked products.

The company also discussed its new GMC Pro Gray Market Controller software that allows serialisation with code linking based on a special algorithm. 101908 327271

www.atlanticzeiser.com



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#### Latest low payload robot range offers low operating costs

With the KR Cybertech nano, KUKA is now offering a flexible multi-functional tool for industrial production, which can master handling and welding tasks, even in harsh environments.

Whether for handling, welding, palletising or adhesive application, the wide range of models and equipment in the new KR Cybertech nano ensures almost unlimited application possibilities. In the low payload category between 6 and 10 kg, KUKA says the process robot delivers speed and precision while keeping investment low.

"With the new robot, we are making industrial applications fit for the future," says Markus Hollfelder-Asam, portfolio manager at KUKA. "Due to the flexible application potential combined with high performance, the investment pays off quickly and the robot immediately delivers top results in all areas."

01215059970

www.kuka.com

# **Entry-level automation** is designed for bakeries

lma Packaging UK has designed a new entrylevel automatic line with a reduced layout in response to more SME bakery businesses seeking ways to integrate automated solutions to improve speed and drive costefficiencies on the packaging

When combined with the FR 200 machine, even more flexibility for bakeries is gained

The line has been designed to save space on the factory floor and reduce manual handling. To do this, the line includes a receiving conveyor to automatically sort bakery products ready for even and continuous row distribution using a drop-down transfer conveyor.

line.

Baked goods can also be accumulated to allow for short breaks in production, with automatic re-feed, or can be rejected for various product fault conditions.

This new multi-conveyor

system is also designed with ease of change of conveyor belts in mind, optimising maintenance and cleaning time as part of the design.

#### **MANY SIZES HANDLED**

Using the proposed automation line solution with Ulma's compact FR 200 horizontal flow wrapper, the line has been shown to be highly flexible and versatile across a variety of product sizes. The flow wrapper is equipped to work with sustainable films.

which is increasingly important for the bakery sector.

"The benefits of automation have long been known, but for many SMEs in the bakery sector who are still unsure as to whether automation is a possibility, especially for smaller packaging lines, it was important for us to show this market the possibilities,' savs Steve Craddock, business manager for automation projects at Ulma.

**1**01909 506504

www.ulmapackaging.co.uk

#### **Areas are sanitised** with efficient speed by fogging machine

The new sanitiser fogging machine from Industrial Washing Machines is described as a versatile piece that applied chemicals cover all areas, leaving a thin coated film of disinfectant on all surfaces. 10121 459 9511

#### of equipment that uses a highly pressurised pump (60 Bar) and atomising jet nozzles to reduce energy requirements and also water consumption. The unit ensures

www.indwash.co.uk

### Vertical spindle attachment handles narrow rolls of film or film with large core diameters

The latest fully powered 6 in (152 mm) vertical spindle attachment was designed by Packline Materials Handling in response to a customer requirement in the pharmaceutical industry to handle very narrow rolls of film or foil with a large core diameter.

This new lifting solution has the additional advantage of a small footprint ensuring easy manoeuvrability in a confined space. The fully powered lifting and rotating

attachment eliminates the need for operator manual handling, making life easier for operators.

The solution encompasses a fully powered 6 in vertical spindle lifting and rotating attachment which is fully motorised to provide powered drives for both the roll gripping and release, as well as the roll rotation to and from the vertical to horizontal orientations.

At the same time, the lifter has been designed with

a narrow frame to easily access small spaces and improve manoeuvrability in narrow production lines. The frame legs have been narrowed from the standard width of 500 mm to 440 mm to create this smaller footprint.

The lower lift height capacity for vertical spindle has been increased to 176 mm enabling the attachment to grip and lift smaller diameter rolls.

**1** 01202 307700

www.packline.co.uk

# Self-check software offers a cost effective quality control solution

o provide food manufacturers with a reliable, accurate and auditable testing procedure, Fortress Technology has unveiled the latest version of its Halo digital testing. Available on its full range of digital metal detectors, the self-check software is a failsafe and cost effective solution to ensure your system is meeting quality control standards.

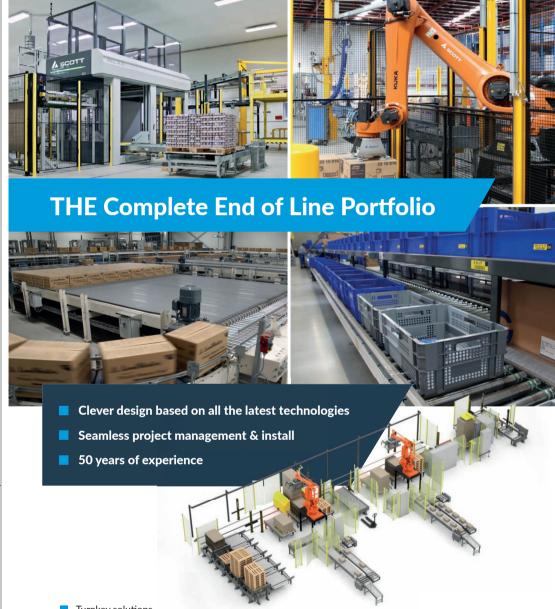
There are two major components of a metal detector Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) audit: the physical inspection of the machinery and a documentation review. By utilising Industry 4.0 principles, Halo digital testing gives food firms the flexibility they need to manage and maintain important data.



Automatic or manual tests available

Guaranteed to save food manufacturers time and money, Halo automatically and independently checks for all metal materials ferrous, non-ferrous and stainless steel, says Fortress. The system also checks the performance of the reject system, forming an important part of manufacturing due diligence. Traditionally installed on throat, pipeline and gravity metal detectors that inspect loose or freefalling products on bagging lines, in addition to reducing operational costs, digital testing also reduces waste and product rework.

- 1 01295 256266
- www.fortresstechnology.co.uk





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# Mobile sack tip and AMC combo helps manual sack voiding

Spiroflow's mobile sack tip unit and Aero Mechanical Conveyor (AMC) combination is a fully independent and versatile solution designed to make manufacturers and processors jobs easier. The system is made up of a sack tip hopper, mounted on a mobile frame with heavy duty castors, into which bags of raw materials can be 'ripped and tipped'.

Connected to the hopper is an AMC, which elevates raw materials directly into the mixer, thereby providing operator safety by reducing the requirement for manual handling. Being able to handle a vast range of different powders and capable of feeding multiple mixing vessels at different locations to reduce batch delivery time, the mobile unit provides a highly efficient method of conveying materials.

01200 422525

www.spiroflow.com

# New grader is offering enhanced performance

shida Europe has enhanced its FLEX-Grader for fresh poultry and meat with the introduction of a new high accuracy weighing platform which allows for more accurate grading and improved Overall Equipment Effectiveness (OEE).

The Slack Belt weigh bed incorporates a single belt mechanism which eliminates product transfer issues to and from the weigh bed. This creates a more stable weighing environment for even greater accuracy. In addition, the weigh bed features a scraper that removes any product debris, which ensures a more consistent and accurate auto zeroing of the load cell.

Equally important, the Slack Belt's hygienic construction to IP68 certification is fully protected against water ingress, making it ideal for harsh, high care environments; the belt can also be easily removed for cleaning. A wind shield is provided as standard to



Ishida has now enhanced the FLEX-Grader to allow for more accurate grading

ensure protection against environmental factors during the weighing process,

"Working closely with customers is key to understanding their specific challenges, in particular tackling areas of production inefficiencies," explains Ciaran Murphy, Ishida Europe's business manager EMEA – quality inspection control. "For the FLEX-Grader, our focus was to develop a solution that helped to minimise the impact of product giveaway and food wastage, while maintaining hygiene standards."

The Ishida FLEX-Grader offers a high-speed and accurate solution for the grading of fresh poultry and meat to a variety of different specifications, including specified weight, minimum weight and also number per pack.

It can incorporate between four and 32 collection bins in a variety of configurations including single, double and twin line layouts, handling pieces from 100 mm up to 400 mm in length at speeds from 175 to 500 per minute.

- 0121 607 7700
- www.ishidaeurope.com

# Fully automated case packer system helps snack processors automate in tight spaces

A fully automated case packer system launched by Endoline Automation is assisting snack processors and packers automate within compact spaces.

The case packer, which combines case erecting, packing, and sealing technology within one system, has been engineered to pack a range of different snack products – from pillow bags to flat bottomed bags/pouches and also PET bottles.

An all in one system, the case packer is described

as a cost effective alternative to installing a trio of individual machines, and has been launched in response to rising demand from snack manufacturers who are looking to automate their packing lines with a reduced footprint, and to move away from manual labour.

With precise product handling at speeds of 12 cases per minute, the equipment receives single products from an infeed conveyor and groups them according to the programmed pattern on a loading platform, before lowering them into a formed case below. This filled case is then automatically closed and sealed on the top and bottom with tape.

Suitable for packing multi-bags of crisps, pouches of dried fruits and nuts, and PET bottles of drinks – the case packer system can be customised to suit specific customer demands.

- 1 01767 316422
- www.endoline-automation.com



Snacks and drinks can be handled at 12 cases a minute on the case packer

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# Partnership launches rapid and cost effective food processing



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olmach is launching a new range of cooking systems powered by OAL's Steam Infusion Vaction technology. Named the Perficooker, the machines range in size from 300-3000  $litre\,cookers\,and\,can\,incorporate$ evaporation, homogenising and an optional jacket system that will allow in-vessel cooling, should temperatures need to be quickly reduced for gelling or crystallisation.

Steam Infusion is a direct contact heating process whereby steam condenses on the surface of a liquid, gently yet rapidly cooking a range of food and beverages up to a temperature of 140deg C (284deg F). The patented Steam Infusion Vaction Pump rapidly heats, mixes and pumps food ingredients and products.

#### THE DEVICE CAN HEAT

of product from 15deg C to up to 90deg C in under 10 minutes with no particulate damage

By varying the steam pressure and flow rate through the pump, the processing conditions change, from gentle cooking to intense mixing and pumping with a homogenising effect.

In partnership with Perfinox, who has recently completed a major expansion to its factory near Porto as well as a full testing and tolling facility alongside, the vessels are built in-house and can be shaped to fit in with existing installations. Perfinox is planning to show a range of the machines at FOODEX'21 in Birmingham this April.

**1**01780 749097

www.holmach.co.uk

The new solution for core temperature measurement is believed to be a first

# Temperature is checked safely

ME along with Industrial Technologies have signed a worldwide licencing agreement under which CME will launch an automated core temperature measurement system designed to improve food safety standards and cost in the cooked/ready to eat segment.

The traditional method for checking and recording the core temperature of food products during production is entirely manual. An operator is required to remove a product from the line, manually insert a temperature probe and wait for a pre-determined time before recording the temperature by hand.

Whereas this new system will eliminate the need for training operators to use and calibrate these temperature probes – a major headache and cost reported to Industrial Technologies when carrying out surveys of existing methods. The new fully automated solution for core temperature measurement, believed to be the first of its kind, is designed to integrate seamlessly with existing production lines.

By taking control of the process through the use of automation, products can be

removed from the line at pre-determined and selectable intervals, and from all areas of the line to evaluate any cross band temperature variation. The automated process uses machine vision to ensure that the temperature probe will be inserted in the right position on the product.

#### **RELIABLE DATA SOURCE**

This probe will also be inserted to the correct depth and for the correct time to provide accurate and reliable data, which can be used to monitor any trends in temperature variation and also for traceability purposes.

Tested product can either be returned to the line or segregated as required.

The control and consistency of the automated process embraces the principles of HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points).

Additional features of this system include self-cleaning and calibration routines for the probe which further enhance the quality of the data being recorded by eliminating the potential variability of a manual process.

**1**01460 269500

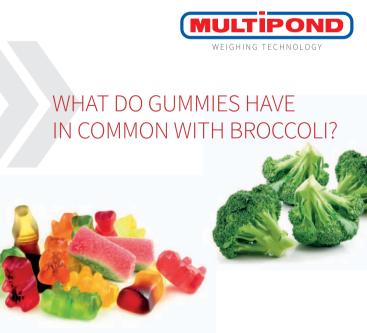
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# Paper structure has been developed for bags used across many markets



o meet the demands of customers wanting a more sustainable packaging style for their products, Schur is now offering a paper bag for processing on its Schur Star packaging machines.

Produced of pure, unbleached, and non-coated paper material so the bag can be recycled in paper streams, this specially developed raw material has a strong fibre structure to offer high puncture and tear resistance as well as excellent machineability.



The bag provides a sustainable profile

The Schur Star pure paper bag has a wide range of applications in both food and non-food segments where barrier functionality is not required. Confectionery is certainly an area that is suitable for this type of pack, especially organic products as it conveys a sustainable profile in an attractive way, says the company.

The Schur Star concept includes a packaging machine and premade bags that are linked on a string to deliver a flexible packaging process. It can be switched between bag size, bag construction and product in minutes.

**1** 00 49 461 99750

www.schur.com



#### Latest checkweigher offers a range of operational benefits

ixapack Global has launched its TG3-A checkweigher which is designed to allow precise weight control of all types of products (row or packaged products in boxes or cases) at up to 200 weighs per minute as well as offering precise ejection of any out-of-tolerance products in customer specified ways.

All of the company's checkweighers are equipped with a stainless steel frame, high precision statistical software and simplified recipe management, that allow for quick format changes as standard.

Available in single, double or triple lane versions, the checkweigher can also be combined with CEIA metal detectors or labelling systems (allowing conversion to a weigh/ price module). IP69K certified, it can be cleaned with a water and foam gun.

**1**0033549820580

www.ixapack.com

# **Drinks bottle multipacks** can be gripped with ease

ith Piab's new gripper, six-packs of drinks bottles packed in cardboard can be handled automatically, gently and without leaving any marks to deliver a more efficient operational system.

In this application, the special gripper utilises rectangular suction cups which take up the six-pack in only three places. The Piab team has also developed a corresponding load support as part of these cups to prevent the cardboard from being drawn in and therefore getting damaged.

The gripper is manufactured using a 3D printing process and can therefore be easily adapted to different six-pack sizes. The fastest way is via the exchangeable cheeks, which serve to stabilise the six-pack in



Automated handling without any damages

the gripper during handling on the line.

In addition to Piab's rectangular suction cups, the gripper contains powerful COAX vacuum ejectors integrated de-centrally for each square suction cup. This provides additional safety when handling, because each ejector works independently of the others. So, if one ejector fails due to contamination, the six-pack will continue to be held reliably by the other two.

#### **SPEEDY HANDLING**

The gripper has an automatic blow-off pulse to enable the six-pack to be put down quickly as well as cleaning the ejector, channels and the suction cup at the same time.

For customers who have Industry 4.0 interfaces on their lines, the gripper offers query options for vacuum process data.

- 01509 857010
- www.piab.com

## A 360deg gluing system that combines cobot technology with flexibility has automated slow, manual gluing work

Robatech has automated the often slow gluing processes that require high flexibility in the adhesive positioning by offering a 36odeg gluing system that utilises a collaborative robot from Universal Robots. The new system combines Robatech adhesive application systems via the UR+ integration kit with cobots to automate the manual gluing process.

Advantages delivered by this new system are listed as:

· Increased productivity

- through absolute reliability · Increased adhesive application quality through precise and repeatable
- execution Reduced error susceptibility and costs
- Protected personnel from fatigue and from injury
- Straightforward integration through the new certified integration kit
- Simplified programming and ease of use. Robatech's specially developed and certified UR+

integration kit is designed to perfectly connect the cobots with the adhesive application systems. The kit includes a holder for the application head and attachments for the heating hose on the robot arm. With the GlueBot software, the adhesive application process can be programmed easily. T 01268 490035

www.robatech.com

It is described as an optimum solution for very efficient adhesive application



# High-mix, low volume production speeds up with new control system

mron says it has taken human-machine collaboration to a level previously unseen on the factory floor, with its new Intelligent Cell Production Line concept.

Integrating sensing, vision and robotics, this example of an advanced production line control solution enhances the performance of both humans and robots as they learn from one another in operation. Accelerated employee training and knowledge transfer, zero defect production and enhanced workflow efficiency are just three of the direct benefits that manufacturers, including high-mix, low-volume operations, will glean from implementing this new approach, says the company.

As Omron UK's marketing manager Dan Rossek explains, this system is perfect for high value, specialist items such as surgical packs that require hygienic handling and are also personal to an individual.

"Higher value items in any market can benefit



The Intelligent Cell Production Line concept uses smart sensing in operation

from this system," he told *Machinery Update*.

The production line control platform has been tested and deployed at Omron's manufacturing factories in Japan and China with impressive results; at the Kusatsu factory in Japan, assembly time was reduced by half and productivity improved by at least 25% up to 200% in high-mix and variable production.

Antonio Farras, general manager at the Omron Automation Centre in Europe, explains the thinking behind the new line control concept: "Skilled worker shortages, social distancing measures and economic pressures are making it increasingly difficult to improve productivity and maintain quality when focusing on high mix, low-volume manufacturing," he says. "In this context, technological innovations such as AI and IoT offer huge potential for solving some of the problems faced by companies operating in these industries.

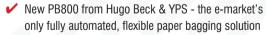
"We have harnessed these technologies to visualise a new manufacturing environment that combines the strengths of humans and robots," he continues. "Employees can be trained in almost no time and real time work checks, through sensors and automated visual tools, rapidly improve their skills while guaranteeing product quality."

During each step of the production or assembly process, sensors and automated visual tools ensure consistent product quality. Any mistakes or skipped processes are detected in real time, maintaining the pace of assembly. Cobots check the quality of the assembly and correct errors for zero defect production.

This also provides support, correction and training that improves the skills of employees without the need for intervention from human line managers.

- 101908 258258
- www.industrial.omron.co.uk

# Sustainable Paper Bagging For E-Commerce



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- Industry leading support with inclusive service contract











# Latest bagger offers layflat and premade bags on a roll to users

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**FILLERS** 

**PLUGGERS** 

**CAPPERS** 

**LABELLERS** 

**SLEEVERS** 

**ROBOTICS** 

**UNSCRAMBLERS** 

**PHARMA COUNTERS** 

udion Elektro has released its Speedpack Hybrid 400 to allow for its smallest label bag to date. This machine can work on a next bag out process which, says the company's system sales manager Lewis Robinson, is key in any packaging industry line moving forward.

"Gone are the times of having to work around the machine and its current bag type and now is the time to work in an efficient way that suits the direction of your company," he says.

Being able to use layflat tube grade material on the machine allows the operator to alter the next bag length on the fly. The machine can also be set up with preprogrammed sizes, XS, S, M, L and XL to eliminate any operator error. Typically, a bagging machine can only operate using premade bags on a roll which doesn't allow much flexibility when packing different items, says Robinson.

#### **MORE USER OPTIONS**

This Speedpack line, however, can operate premade bags on a roll and layflat tube giving users more options. This in turn reduces lost time in material changeovers and reduces the total spend on packaging materials.

The company has just delivered a project where its customer had over 100,000 different items to pack and so versatility was key. Each bag required a unique barcode referencing the item that was entering the bag. The Speedpack 400 order fulfilment has allowed the customer to form a bag as small as 200 mm with a label applied from the lower axis.

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Increased retail flour demands

# New robotic palletiser meets needs

A new robotic palletising solution from Endoline Robotics is delivering significant productivity gains for UK-based Carr's Flour Mills. With unprecedented demand for flour during the COVID-19 pandemic, Carr's doubled its production for one major supermarket chain, from 120 to 250 tonnes per week.

Installing an Endoline Robotics' palletising system, powered by a Fanuc M710 robot, has enabled the flour miller to efficiently manage an output of 167,000 bags of flour per week, and has also provided greater flexibility to run the line 24/7.

Having met Endoline Robotics, the strategic partner of Fanuc in the UK, at the 2019 PPMA Show, Carr's had placed the order for the palletising robot, just ahead of the pandemic.

"We had always planned to automate the line, however, faced with the unprecedented rise in demand we employed a further eight manual workers on a short-term basis, until Endoline were able to quickly install the robot," explains Ben Clark, operations director for Carr's.

At a speed of 74 bags per minute, the system gently palletises the flour, as well as placing interlayers for increased pallet stability.

01767 316422

www.endoline-automation.com

# Fast response filling for COVID-19 testing kits

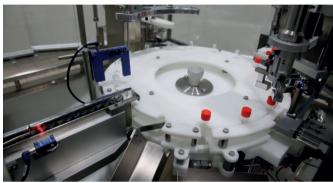
xcel Packaging
Machinery has stepped
up the supply of its latest
pharmaceutical vial filling
and capping machines,
working closely with the NHS
to meet the huge demand for
COVID-19 testing kits in the
UK during the current
global pandemic.

In conjunction with its Italian partner Omas Tecnosistemi, Excel has already delivered one line and has orders for a further eight automatic lines, which are all being supplied within a fast three-month turnaround.

Meeting this challenge has required much focus on streamlining standard processes to fast track orders and satisfy strict customer deadlines.

The fully automatic Omas G250 monobloc provides a complete filling and capping operation for the vials into which swabs are placed after samples have been taken from patients.

In operation, tubes are delivered from the Omas bulk



Excel Packaging Machinery has been supplying Omas cappers and fillers

feeder with soundproof cover to the machine star wheel. The filling station incorporates a micro volumetric pump system designed for ease of dismantling for autoclave cleaning. Meanwhile, a cap sorter distributes the caps to the closing station where a pick and place device places them onto the filled tubes.

A servomotor driven closing system provides total cap control to ensure each closure is correctly torqued. Tubes can be transferred to a bagging machine or to a conveyor for subsequent labelling.

Filling speeds are up to 90 tubes per minute.

In addition, Excel also offers the Omas GCR 500 puck monobloc, a semi-automatic solution featuring a more compact design where vials and caps are inserted into the machine by an operator. This version is capable of filling at speeds of up to 40 tubes per minute.

To view the G250 monobloc in action, visit https://youtu.be/Y1gC7HUVXKY.

**1**01865 400489

www.excel-packaging machinery.com

# Robust, reliable miniature optical sensors are designed for automatic hand sanitisers

Miniature optical sensors supplied by Baumer are being used in non-contact hand sanitisers that have been playing an important part in the battle to combat the spread of COVID-19.

The sensors ensure reliable and safe hand detection at switching distances from 15 mm up to 300 mm, at any angle of incidence, even when the viewing window is soiled and for the entire lifetime of the device. Adjustable switching delays also

prevent multiple or unwanted spray bursts to reduce wastage. Also, thanks to the high immunity to ambient light, there are no restrictions to the sensor functions, even in very bright environments.

The wide range of sensor designs available from Baumer is said to ensure easy integration into dispenser housings.



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## **Installation News**



#### **Inkjet printer cracks** egg coding challenge for Spanish producer

A Spanish egg producer is using a continuous inkjet (cij) solution from Markem-Imaje to mark 180,000 eggs an hour, while cutting operational costs by at least 20%. The cij solution allows the company to change consumables without stopping the printers and reduces the number of printhead cleaning operations, while still meeting its traceability obligations with a code on each egg.

Huevos Guillén chose a specially configured version of the 9450 cij coder that is capable of coding up to 250,000 eggs an hour, it uses a constant flow of ink, sprayed from nozzles directly onto the egg surface, at whatever angle is required. Intelli'Jet technology controls, measures and adjusts the speed of the jet, in light of environmental conditions, to ensure perfect drop placement, quality and code consistency, says Markem. 0161 864 8111

www.markem-imaje.co.uk

# New tampons are made safer by inspection unit

DS has helped revolutionary start-up menstrual care business Daye with its new product quality and safety systems. Founded by Valentina Milanova, London-based Daye uses extracts from hemp that boost both absorbent fibres and pain-relieving properties to produce the world's first CBD-infused tampon.

Following several welldocumented product recalls linked to contamination in a number of feminine hygiene products, the need for a supremely accurate metal detection system has never been more important. It was on this basis that Daye approached MDS for its expertise.

MDS worked collaboratively with Daye on a solution which not only provided a high level of finished product protection but also enhanced



The CEIA MS21 MultiSpectrum has delivered gains

its brand's reputation for safety and quality.

"We decided to buy an MS21 conveyor based system to work on a stop-upon-detect basis initially," explains Milanova. "This allows our operations team to stop the line in order to identify any problems and minimises waste.

"We also have the ability to upgrade this same system in the future as demand increases, so that it The first CBD-infused can have an autoreject mechanism and

fail-safes built in as well," she says.

The CEIA MS21 MultiSpectrum metal detection system is working to a level of detection of o.6mm ferrous. o.6mm non-ferrous and also o.8mm stainless steel.

As an extremely fast turnaround time was required, MDS used its

exclusive distributor partnership with CEIA to ensure that it could manufacture, deliver and commission the metal detector within just four weeks.

"We are delighted with our product and the service we have received from MDS," savs Milanova, "It gives us great confidence that our revolutionary menstrual care products will be safe for our own clients and we will be recognised as a high quality supply partner."

0161 286 8755

www.mds.org.uk

## The latest mixing and dilution unit has delivered savings at a Polish producer of cosmetics as well as cleaning products

tampon is introduced

When a Polish producer of cosmetics and household cleaning products was looking for a solution to dilute its SLES foaming agent that was more flexible, took up less space and reduced energy consumption, it turned to Tapflo.

The company's new SLES mixing and dilution unit was due to be exhibited at the PPMA Show last autumn, and is an all-round solution allowing end users to continuously prepare SLES in a cost effective way.

Previously, the customer was diluting 70% SLES in a reactor tank which required constant heat and a mixer which meant there was a poor quality of dilution, in some instances not being diluted at all. This loss of product was expensive as was the cost of the heating and mixing.

For installation of this SLES unit, Tapflo specialists were on site during start-up when they offered training for operators and advised the customer on how to

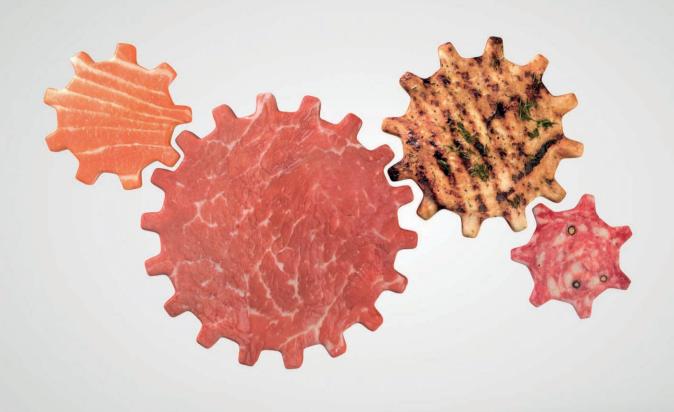
prepare the pipework for installation. Since the initial start-up, Tapflo has offered the customer assistance remotely by phone and by using a control card for remote online program support.

023 8025 2325

www.tapflopumps.co.uk

Tapflo says its system helps users to secure their process lines while also saving money in the long run by being able to buy 70% SLES rather than the costly prediluted product





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## **Installations**

# Adhesives specialist enhances its offer with a label printer upgrade

dhesives, sealants and bonding solutions provider Bristol-based Ureka Global (formerly Alansons), has replaced its in-house label printer so it can handle all of its labelling requirements in-house at the right quality for customers.

For the past five years, Ureka has printed labels in-house for orders of about a thousand or less, with anything higher outsourced from a lithographic printing company.

"Whether we're buying unlabelled products or decanting them from larger volumes, the labelling of our own brand is of course really important to us, and the capability to do our own in-house label printing and not be governed by manufacturer's stipulations is a key added value for us," says Alex Nunn, managing director at Ureka.

Ureka's in-house label printer was providing it with a series of issues that it was keen to remedy.



The Epson ColorWorks printer has delivered high quality labels for Ureka

"The stock wasn't the right paper, the ink was expensive, and it wasn't drying properly, but the biggest issue was the lack of support from the company we were dealing with," he continues.

Ureka met label solutions company AM Labels at the PPMA Show, who pointed them towards the Epson stand and its latest line-up of 8-inch label printers, the ColorWorks CW-6500. AM Labels then brought a couple of Epson demo units down to Ureka's office to better understand its label printing operation and how the new unit could support the company.

"We needed an 8-inch colour label printer that provided good quality labels," explains Nunn. "We tried different types of label stock on the Epson ColorWorks printer, including polypropylene labels – which we went for in the end – and the quality of printed label was significantly better with this label compared to the incumbent printer.

"Not to mention, the ink dried properly and didn't come off in your hands.

"This all happened a week or two before the lockdown, which helped us meet our revenue targets as it meant we could develop and add labels in-house to the PPE (personal protective equipment) and hand sanitiser that, through sheer demand, we began selling over the period," he says. "Having the label printer ready in-house gave us the flexibility to develop labels for our own branded products as well provide short-run label requests for our customers.

"Our only major issue is that we only have one printer and since we're using it so much we're considering buying a second one," says Nunn.

0871 423 7766

#### www.epson.eu

# Double swing lid chamber machine has provided vacuum to an ethical meat producer to help its business expansion

Multivac has supplied a P 600 double swing lid chamber machine to ethical meat producer Abraham Natural Produce to pack a variety of meat products to help double its production output and increase efficiency.

To help drive the growth of the business, the company wanted to invest in a new packaging machine that would increase the output of its vacuum packaged meat products. When searching for a new machine, business



The machine is bringing gains to the producer

director Zeki Ismail discovered Multivac's compact packaging machine solutions by visiting the showroom facility in Swindon to view various machinery demonstrations.

The vacuum chamber machine he selected combines all of the advantages of Multivac's technology in a space-saving compact design; a key requirement for

the business to optimise its available floor space.

The flexibility of the machine also allows the business to pack a range of product sizes and batches from 0.5 kg to 10 kg which was an essential requirement for Abraham's product range.

The P 600 double chamber machine features a swing lid with two chambers allowing products to be packaged in the first chamber while the second chamber is unloaded and loaded again.

**1**01793 425800

www.multivac.co.uk



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# **Installations**

# New mobile delta robots deliver a host of benefits for sandwich firm

major sandwich maker has been the first to benefit from a mobile delta robot range developed by Steck Depositors that are targeted at the repetitive manual tasks often found in food production facilities.

This sandwich maker used the first two Steck DR2 robots to place a stripe of starch onto a wrap as it passed by at 60 per minute in two lanes on a conveyor. The robots had to cope with wraps not being a uniform size and not placed at regular intervals on the belt, which is why Steck uses a 'RuggedEye' vision system to pick out the wraps in real time and 'tell' the robot over the CANBUS Network where best to place the starch stripe.

So far, 11 million wraps have been starched, with only routine machine maintenance being provided by the customer's existing engineering team.

The next challenge presented to Steck by the same sandwich maker required a reconfiguration of the DR2



Steck Depositors is offering this range to automate tricky to handle products

to operate in a very restricted space available on the production line, and that's where the DR3 robot was launched. It uses all of the same control and drive train as the DR2 but comes with a reduced working area and physical size.

Steck says it is perfect for the tricky task of picking up half a cut sandwich and placing it neatly on top of the bottom half at 50 sandwiches a minute, a process known as 'match halving' in the sandwich industry. Previous attempts to use industrial robots in this process had been judged as a massive overkill of frames and guards and flailing robot arms that missed the finesse and flexibility required to accurately compensate for the misalignment and separation of the two halves of the sandwich.

After extensive development of the vision system AI algorithms, the first pair of Steck DR3s match half

application went online just as the first COVID-19 lockdown began last year and they have been online ever since, quietly getting on with their job. However, the next challenging installations are for 'wet lidding'; the process of assembling the top half of a sandwich that is already coated with a spread onto the bottom half. The end effector Steck uses for this is a patent-applied for device that grips and inverts the slice, utilising the high acceleration capability of the DR3 robot.

Again, the vision system is critical, as the bread and sandwich positions on the conveyor can vary considerably. A further 30 DR3 robots are on order, and currently being built and the first of them will go live shortly. This will also see the first application of Steck's latest vision-based safety system that will further reduce the size and complexity of traditional guarding required.

- 01293 873439
- www.steckdepositors.com

# Snack food manufacturer has optimised its processes and production by retrofitting configurable small controllers

To increase overall efficiency and safety, snack food manufacturer Poco Loco decided to optimise its tortilla chips production lines and processes which saw it retrofitting the configurable safe small controllers PNOZmulti 2 from Pilz.

Before this new project, the decentralised control of the plant led to difficulties because the interlinked production line was installed by different machine builders and the plant control was also a combination of various PLCs and safety relays. Every plant section, for example, had its own emergency stop circuit which led to the emergency stops at times shutting down safety zones independently of one another.

Following the Pilz retrofit, visualisation of the entire system is designed so that problems can be detected early and so do not have any major effect on the overall process. The small controller PNOZmulti 2 sees every safety

component assigned a unique DIAG address (Dynamic Information and Action Gateway address) via the software. Information can thus be transferred via a fieldbus system to the higher-level controller which means technicians can perform diagnostics immediately.

The new central control component ensures that downtimes decreases,



means technicians can Poco Loco has better control of its processes

and the production efficiency increases, says Pilz.

- **1**01536 460766
- www.pilz.co.uk

# Direct carton printing is saving £48,000 at a cut flower supplier

urope's largest supplier of cut flowers and bouquets Green Partners has reduced its annual carton printing costs by £48,000 by switching from hand labelling to using Rotech direct carton printers.

"The cost-savings have been significant for us," explains operations manager at Green Partners John Berry. "A price per print study was recently carried out in Holland where they use the same printers and it worked out at 2.6p per thousand prints."

#### **1.6 M BOXES EACH YEAR**

From its UK facilities in Spalding, Lincolnshire, Green Partners process and distribute in excess of 1.6 million boxes of flowers each year to supermarket chains throughout the UK. Its flowers are prepared and wrapped by hand before being placed in buckets, which are then boxed. ready for shipping – this allows the retailers to simply lift a bucket full of flowers out of the box and place it directly onto the display stand.

The process of applying outer labels to packed boxes of flowers was also previously carried out by hand, however, it was inefficient and becoming increasingly costly.

Rotech supplied a Seiko X72 printer with an adjustable frame to affix them directly onto each of the company's five lines. The printer uses the latest printhead technology to apply high-resolution, large area prints directly onto any porous surface such as cardboard, paper and also wood.

Since the first installation, Green Partners has installed a further two X72 printers, with simple integration, bringing the total to seven.

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# **Installation News**

# Fast freezing is increasing overall capacity for specialist dessert firm



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a second factory, it installed Air Products' Freshline multi-purpose tunnel freezer to not only increase the efficiency of its production lines but also allow it to react quickly to changing customer requirements. Temperature control is vitall important to keep ingredients

Patisserie expanded into

hen manufacturer of premium frozen desserts Indulgence

Temperature control is vitally important to keep ingredients costs under control and the Freshline freezer enables Indulgence Patisserie to adjust the temperature set-point, retention time and fan speeds within seconds. These settings can be saved to simplify production as well as for repeatable performance.

#### **EXCELLENT CONTROL**

"Instead of having to wait overnight for products to reach the correct temperature, the tunnel brings desserts right down to -1deg C in less than seven minutes," explains John Broughton, production manager at Indulgence Patisserie. "As a result, I can now run 10,000 desserts or more, through the tunnel every single day.

"The option to quick freeze layers gives us the opportunity to produce a dessert with many different flavours by building up layers, meaning we can offer real variety to our customers," he continues. "Some toppings need a harder freeze than others, so being able to produce desserts layer by layer overcomes any potential issues.

"The speed of the freezer allows us to complete each layer quickly and get it ready for its next stage of production without any delays in the manufacturing process."

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# **Custom built sieving station is** maintaining kitchen air quality

remium quality ready meal brand Charlie Bigham's approached Gough Engineering to devise a system that could provide high quality screening for powdered products while maintaining the air quality of the kitchen without installing an air extraction system.

In order to contain any air borne dust generated during the bag opening and dispensing phase, while meeting with the relevant HSE requirements for Control of Substances. Gough Engineering designed an enclosed rip and tip sieving station with integral dust

extraction system as a suitable alternative for the kitchen.

This freestanding station incorporates a vibratory sieve alongside an access and containment hood with hinged closure. An in-built dust extraction, capable of expelling the clean air into the surrounding environment, was also included by Gough in this custom designed unit.

The 'Rip and Tip' sieving station is accessed by opening a hinged front door within the hood enclosure, which is supported by gas struts. Bags are placed on support bars above the vibratory sieve before being opened and tipped. It is constructed

entirely from stainless steel, with 316 used for product contact areas and all other areas in 304L grade.

The hood enclosure includes an ATEX compliant integral fan assisted dust extraction unit complete with reverse air jet cleaning facility incorporating a number of removable pleated cartridge filters. The extraction unit is sized to take any airborne product up and through the cartridge filters prior to ejecting the air, ensuring no dispersal of particles into the surrounding workspace.

Controlled via a small PLC, which includes adjustable timer functions for both dust extraction and the compressed air filter cleaning cycle, the vibratory sieve is based on Gough Engineering's established range of batch sieves, and uses a single out of balance motor to provide the vibratory motion for efficient and consistent product screening.

A bespoke and simple



drop-in mesh design allows easy access and removal of the mesh ring, enabling quick cleaning for product changeover and causing minimum disruption to production processing.

01782 567770

www.goughengineering.com

# New compact robot palletising system has been delivering 'game changing' benefits for a personal hygiene company

Scott Automation supplied its compact robot palletiser in just 14 weeks to meet the needs of a personal hygiene company for an automated option that avoided manual palletising, reduced labour costs and increased operator safety on a newly installed production line. In operation, the system allows a full pallet to be removed without stopping the line.

The compact robot palletiser is a fully automated end of line solution that palletises

products in dual cells. Capable of palletising up to 30 cartons per minute with a maximum height of 2.4 m, the system was implemented quickly and with very little impact on the existing production lines.

With a range of proven gripper designs, this solution offers users the ability to handle display cases, SRP units, plastic crates and baskets," says Scott's system sales engineer Mark Tucker.

**1** 01384 210278

www.scottautomation.co.uk



Scott is an established integrator for KUKA robots which helped the project

# Feature: Retail

# **Packaging methods** are key across all the sales channels

There's a joke doing the rounds on social media at the moment which just about sums up the current rate of growth in the eCommerce sector and it goes like this: When we go into another lockdown, just train all the Amazon delivery drivers to give the vaccine. Entire population immunised by Saturday. Wednesday if you've got Prime.

As well as hopefully making you smile, this joke also demonstrates how eCommerce is dominating the retail landscape in this COVID-ravaged world. However, this 'new normal' brings opportunities for new technologies covered in this retail feature, as you will see over the coming pages. Whether it's vision systems, mobile robots, picking stations or complete warehouse systems, we have it covered in this feature.

We also cover retail ready packaging (RRP) and shelf ready packaging (SRP) systems that have been developed to allow retailers, mainly supermarkets. to get products from case to shelf in one smooth movement rather than decanting single units, therefore saving time.



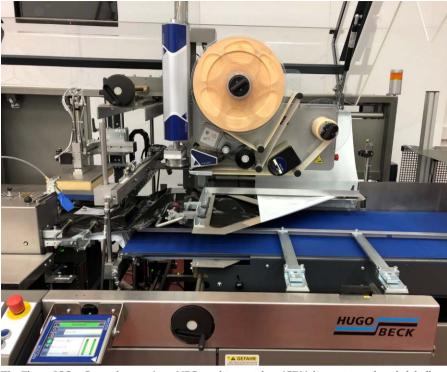
This case packer is packing cartons into SRP

# **Cartons and cases** handle shelf ready

ixapack Global offers two types of equipment that are designed to produce shelf ready packaging for manufacturers supplying goods to supermarkets - the iTC top load cartoner and iCP case packer.

These pick & place machines allow cartons and cases to be shaped from flat blanks before being filled and closed on the same machine at a speed of up to 70 cartons per minute for the cartoner and 25 cases a minute for the case packer. **1** 00 33 5498 20580

www.ixapack.com



The Flexo-600 e-Comm bagger from YPS combines with an ICE Vulcan print and apply labeller

# Delivering on sustainability

Three companies have combined to develop a sustainable eCommerce packaging solution

oding and labelling company Clearmark Solutions is working with shrink and stretch wrapping machinery business Yorkshire Packaging Systems (YPS) and automation and software integration firm Conveyor Networks, to provide manufacturers with a range of robust and sustainable eCommerce bagging and labelling solutions, to meet the needs of the growing number of environmentally conscious consumers.

The Hugo Beck Flexo-600 e-Comm bagging solution from YPS integrates with the ICE Vulcan print and apply labeller to print and apply an address label at speed onto the bag as it is created. This labeller from Clearmark Solutions is designed without any of the common wear parts which traditionally lead to downtime and maintenance. It also provides ultimate flexibility with communications possible across both Zebra and SATO protocols to interface seamlessly to customers Order Managements Systems (OMS) and

Warehouse Management Systems (WMS) with integration software from imio Software Solutions.

For customers looking for a more sustainable alternative, the special PB800 from YPS offers the capability to pack products in either paper or plastic film, delivering flexibility and choice in sustainable packaging styles and substrates - all from one unit. Automatically adapting the bag size to the dimensions of each product, the PB800 focuses on a paper-based alternative for the increasing eCommerce market without detriment to pack security or quality.

www.clearmark.uk

www.yps.co.uk

A paper-based bag and labelling solution offers eCommerce gain





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# Feature: Retail

The ToteTracker helps overcome challenges

# New tote bin tracking system reduces costs

Bytronic Automation has launched a new automated tote bin tracking system designed to simplify 'print to order' production, improve productivity and reduce costs. It has been adopted by an online retailer that has subsequently cut manual check costs by half and increased overall tote capacity by 50%. Indeed, this line is now considered a blueprint for print order production worldwide.

With more eCommerce retailers switching to print on demand for the cost, waste and space saving benefits, ToteTracker is a new, combined product ID and tracking system to help them overcome the biggest challenges of this new approach.

On a print to order line, there can be thousands of bespoke products being produced every hour. However, meeting this ability to customise every order requires huge advances in automation and performance which is why the new ToteTracker identifies every tote and tracks its journey from start to finish.

Using the tote's barcode, it assigns a unique code to each tote. This is then automatically scanned by a series of Cognex visual barcode readers fixed along the conveyor. That data is then processed through a FIFO (first in first out) operating system, showing real-time tote locations on a large screen.

Totes are colour-coded physically to match a colour coded system on screen, to help operators identify each one easily.

**1**01564 793174 www.bytronic.com

# **Multi-formats** meet demands

Many shelf ready, multi-tray pack formats are handled by Cama's secondary packaging units

eeping up with the demands of multiple petfood customers that have many products and also packaging formats demands flexible production processes, especially in secondary shelf ready packaging.

As Gunnar Hallmann, group strategic project manager at C&D Foods explains, to keep pace, we have to undergo

continual investment in our products, our people, our processes and, of course, our packaging machinery.

"And to maintain our hard-fought competitiveness, we need high speed, high technology, high flexibility

packaging solutions from machinery that we know will deliver all the time... without issue... and without downtime."

C&D Foods has seven machines from Cama

installed across Europe and one of its most recent investments in the Italian company's equipment has been for its Esbjerg plant in Denmark. This is to pack 300g alucups, shallow square round-cornered trays with foil lids. "The brief we gave to Cama was for a single-plant solution that would do the job of two older machines, but with greater throughput and far greater flexibility," says Hallmann.

Cama's solution comprised two of its IF series monoblock loading units with a box-forming machine and robotic loading unit. The IF series is based on the company's modular monobloc architecture and through the integration of each of the primary modules (forming, loading and closing), it can deliver

the flexibility demanded by the petfood industry, but within a reduced footprint.

This secondary packaging solution had to cater for multiple packaging formats, with different product counts (6/9) and rows (1/2/3), in a variety of tray only/tray plus external lid combinations.

In operation, cartons are formed and glued and passed onto an outfeed transport conveyor underneath the

> main line. At the same time, the filled alucups arrive on two independent lanes and are fed into two loading units. The products are phased at the infeed of each loading unit by two star wheels and are then moved into two pairs of independent vertical race-track pocket

> > conveyors,

product in each pocket: these pockets are moved intermittently based on the loading



configuration is reached.

The grouped products are then collected by a two-axis robot with a specially designed gripper and loaded inside the previously erected tray/hood cartons, phased by box-phasing units according to the loading configuration. Loaded packages are then transferred outside the loading unit (according to the loading configuration), where they are conveyed to a coupling/merging unit where the trays are glued together (two or three trays).

The coupled trays are then conveyed to the by-pass conveyor to the customer's palletising unit or to the lidding station.

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# Feature: Retail

# Making online efficient

### Secondary packaging system offers sustainable gains for eCommerce

candinavian online food retailer Matsmart has chosen BoxSizer unit from Westrock Automated Packaging Systems as its eCommerce packaging automation solution and it is currently operating two systems.

The retailer has a mission to reduce food waste, and this aim was challenged when it experienced rapid growth and an increasing volume of orders with high variability. From shipping a single item to

multiple grouped items, its existing box footprints required varying amounts of void fill from one order to the next and were typically too big for what it was shipping.

Meanwhile, floor space was constrained given the number of products the company must keep in inventory to fill orders, so increasing the number of packaging SKUs, or adding multiple machines to address these challenges was not possible. In keeping with its company ethos, it was also concerned with reducing waste throughout the packaging system and therefore improving its overall environmental footprint.

Having researched possible solutions,



Since using the BoxSizer, the food retailer is using 85% less void fill

Matsmart's leadership knew that BoxSizer was going to meet its sustainable and business needs. As the only stand-alone, multiple box footprint rightsizing technology on the market, BoxSizer allows the retailer to efficiently handle the volume of orders, significantly reduce void fill and waste, and achieve higher filling ratios on outbound shipments.

Using BoxSizer, Matsmart starts its packaging process by placing boxes preloaded with customer orders onto the conveyor. These boxes can be any footprint size and in any order. The technology scans the outside dimensions and internal void space, cuts and creases the box to a predetermined safe height above

the contents, folds down the flaps and closes the package with tape, thereby reducing the empty void and box height.

And the automation solution has delivered gains since installation.

"BoxSizer now provides us with the flexibility required to distribute multiple, random-sized orders automatically, while packaging savings show a 20% volume reduction per box and 85% infill

reduction, which means not only are we saving money, but more importantly, we are much kinder to the environment by not only using less material but also reaching a higher filling ratio on outbound transports," explains Martin Johannesson, CSCO at Matsmart. "That saves the environment."

In essence, the BoxSixer system has delivered:

- 20% package volume reduction
- 85% void fill reduction
- Increased throughput
- Reduced carbon footprint and optimised truckload utilisation due to right-sized packaging.
- 101493 257070
- www.linkxpackaging.com

# New belt conveyor system delivers the efficiency needed for co-packing plans

UPM Conveyors was chosen to design and install a new belt conveyor system for Lenham Storage in Maidstone, Kent, when the family-owned business decided to invest in a multi-million pound new co-packing facility.

The company submitted plans for an



The system made working practices efficient

ideal product flow design to incorporate all aspects of the co-packing operation, having previously installed a belt conveyor system which had operated trouble free 24/7 for some years at the storage company. Once installed, it delivered such levels of speed, flexibility and efficiency to working practices that Lenham's production and quality director Ian Rose commissioned another product handling system last year. This new system will interface with an automatic box erector and shrink wrapper, in conjunction with the existing labelling and coding operations.

01753 548801

www.upmconveyors.co.uk



Demand for out-of-home delivery is growing

# Latest smart locker

Kern has responded to demand for smart lockers by signing an exclusive sales and distribution deal that allows Meridian Digital Solutions to sell its range of smart terminal automated lockers in the UK.

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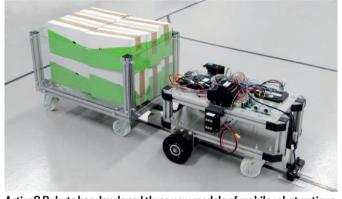
# Feature: Retail

# Keep it on the move

# AMRs are delivering time, cost and safety benefits to many industries

nce the preserve of businesses with deep pockets, mobile robots are becoming more accessible to many sectors as demonstrated by RARUK Automation delivering its MiR autonomous mobile robots (AMRs) to a Danish company and Active8 Robots developing its own range.

Since ICM, one of Scandinavia's leading suppliers of personal protective and technical equipment and work environment solutions has



Active8 Robots has developed three new models of mobile robot options

invested in three MiR1000 AMR robots three employees

now save several hours each on daily activities. They no

longer have to spend time manually moving pallets from a stacker to the aisles in the high-rise warehouse.

Instead, they can place the pallets on special MiR racks, from which the AMRs collect the pallets and transport them to the aisles inside the high-rise warehouse. The MiR robots leave the pallets at the end of the aisles to be collected by high-reach trucks that place them in the relevant racks.

"The high-reach truck operators automatically report when they have taken a pallet

# SIMULATION FOR **PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING** AND **PACKAGING**



According to USFDA 2012, about 65% of supply disruptions in the pharmaceutical industry are mainly due to production downtime. To ensure streamlined batch manufacturing, plan your production lines based on Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) principles.

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- □ steve.morris@visualcomponents.com
- **\*\*\*** +44 7970 722836



from a rack, so I can just press a button on the tablet screen and send one more MiR robot on a mission," explains Jesper Lorenzen, warehouse assistant and responsible for goods reception at ICM. "This way the robots ensure the high-reach trucks are always supplied with pallets."

Overall, the AMRs have saved approximately 40 hours a week at ICM, while logistics at the high-rise warehouse now proceed smoothly, using a modern mix of employees, AMRs and trucks. ICM's setup consists of three AMRs, four manned high-reach trucks, 10 manual stackers and 26 dedicated employees.

Meanwhile, Active8 Robots has now developed its own mobile robot solutions, available in three models. The entry-level option is a ready-to-assemble mobile robot kit comprising a comprehensive and fully compatible range of the core components needed to build and configure a working mobile robot from scratch. The mid-range option is a part-built solution but with several additional mechanical and electrical components, all pre-wired and mounted onto an aluminium baseplate to provide a platform ready for integration with a chassis.

The advanced option provides a fully functioning, fully configured and fully built mobile unit complete



AMR user saved 40 hours a week

with servo motors, sensors and batteries, pre-fixed to an aluminium chassis.

All of Active8 Robots offthe-shelf models are designed

to carry payloads from 1 kg to 1200 kg and can be easily integrated into existing warehouse management and ERP software to consolidate

logistics and production processes for optimum operational efficiency.

www.active8robots.com www.rarukautomation.com



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# Feature: Retail

# Meeting an eCommerce challenge

A major high street retailer saw online orders grow by over 80% thanks to COVID-19 lockdowns, restrictions and store closing and so it approached Antalis Packaging to help it adjust its packing procedures to deliver efficiencies.

The company had invested heavily in carton automation in recent years but the packing of smaller items, mainly into padded mailing bags, was still a manual operation. With the average packer packing 1.5 bags per minute, and with a potential of over 40,000 bags per day at the peak, the problem was huge.

Antalis is the exclusive European distributor for the PACJacket on demand bubble mailer system from PAC International which the company felt would meet the retailer's needs to speed up its operations. The system now handles 20 bags per minute on one machine and is run by one person who can handle over 60% of the peak volumes. The retailer has also seen a reduction in packaging materials as the machine adjusts the bag size in line with the contents, therefore removing excess packaging waste and reducing distribution costs.

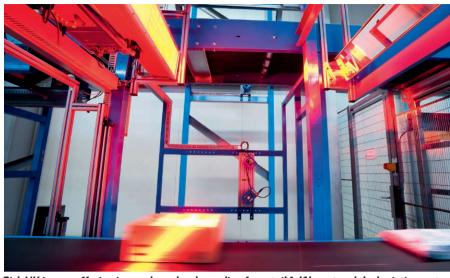
"Importantly, the packaging is made from recycled materials and so is easy for the end user to recycle," points out Stuart Bates, solutions sales manager at Antalis.

101530 505099

www.antalispackagingsolutions.co.uk



This high speed on demand bubble mailer system is delivering



Sick UK is now offering image-based code reading for retail fulfilment and the logistics sector

# Code reading meets demand

Are image-based code readers shaping up to be a key enabling technology of the 'new normal'?

he retail fulfilment and logistics sector has faced unprecedented challenges during the past 12 months and here, John Charlesworth, Auto-Ident product specialist with Sick UK looks at how image-based code reading technology has responded to the challenges.

Not that long ago, all an autoidentification system needed to do was get a good read of a 1D bar code. Now, operators want information about everything surrounding that read.

In the typical distribution centre of an omni-channel retail chain, a modern operation must break down and store smaller items for e-commerce fulfilment. At goods inward, it may want to cross dock certain goods, check the condition of incoming items, identify non-conveyables and intercept goods that need special handling (for example) because packaging straps may damage machinery, or are labelled as containing hazardous materials.

Packaging is changing too, as items no longer come in conveniently-shaped boxes with uniform dimensions and edges but could now be in shiny flat polybags Then, with increasing volumes, growing numbers of packages presented to a reader on top of each other, creates

the potential for the wrong package to end up in the wrong place.

Sick has responded with a next-generation family of code-reading vision sensors, the Sick ICR890-4, to help machine builders and end-users meet these challenges. Featuring a new 12,000 pixel quad line scan capability, the new code-reader achieves a 25% increased field of view, and a 25% increased image resolution. Providing Ethernet-based data transmission and a Linux-based software platform, ICR890-4 enables versatile integration in both new and existing machines.

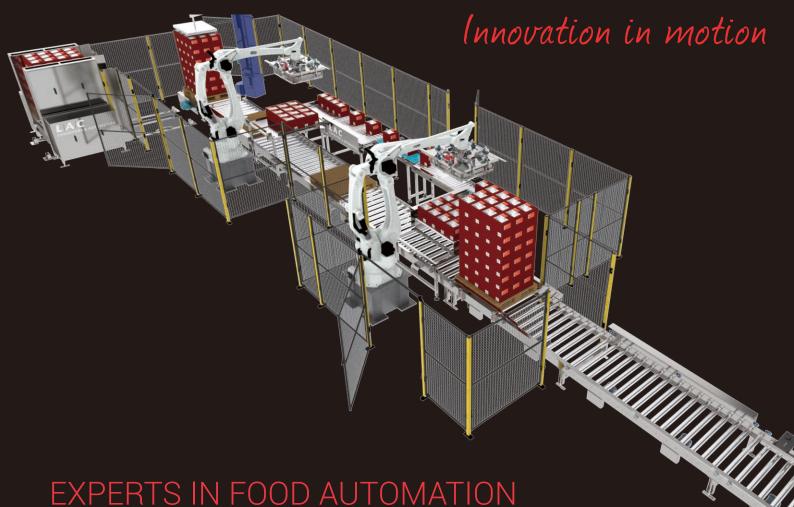
The robust Sick ICR890-4 captures images at up to 800 frames per minute and handles up to 18,000 objects per hour at speeds of up to 4 m/s. The digital Super Zoom capability provides 200 dpi image quality, complemented by a 60deg skew-angle capability for very high read rates. Image capture is available for Optical Character Reading, video coding and image archiving. Cloud-based Deep Learning services enable automated bag-or-box package classification and single item verification for example, where two packages are presented on top of each other.

01727 831121

www.sick.co.uk

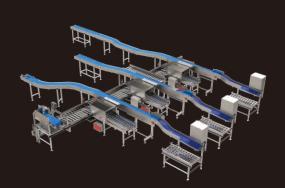


# **CONVEYORS & AUTOMATION**



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High Speed Pick and Place Cells







# Feature: Retail

# Making logistics a smooth operator

Two companies have provided technology to ensure warehouses deliver efficiencies for today's demands

nvestments in technology from two PPMA members have brought operational gains as well as cost savings to the warehouses of two German businesses.

Two Cognex barcode readers that have been mounted on forklift trucks masts have delivered efficiencies for the Flensburger brewery, while a German mail order business has converted its high-bay warehouse storage and retrieval machine from an old-generation frequency inverter to KEB Automation's new Combivert F6 drive controller.

Ageing handheld laser scanners were considered outdated technology by the

Flensburger brewery and so today, when its forklift drivers load trucks with filled kegs or beer crates, a Cognex barcode reader mounted on the mast recognises the pallet label and scans the barcode. This not only saves time, but enhances safety in congested forklift and truck traffic, and has proven its worth since the robust technology was installed.

#### **HARSH ENVIRONMENTS**

The forklift supplier says it chose to use the DataMan 360 series of barcode readers because the software is already integrated into the reader, the devices are robust, they are easy to install and are also simple to adapt to the

individual requirements of the application. In operation, the robust decoding algorithms in the readers are achieving consistently high read rates, even though the labels with the codes on are often creased or partially torn due to the harsh environmental conditions.

The readers were also equipped with a splash guard as they are used outdoors.

Meanwhile, the mail order firm was looking for a modern, cost effective retrofit solution that would not require the existing motors to be replaced. With the Combivert F6, users can operate KEB's own motors as well as a variety of other motor types from



DataMan 360 barcode readers

different manufacturers.

The high-bay warehouse currently comprises nine aisles. Each aisle has 106 positions along its length (on both sides of the aisle)





controller, S6 servo drive and a C6 industrial PC. As owner Manfred Vogel explains: "Using modern drives here is a win-win situation and it

is also clearly noticeable in the wallet.

"For many customers, loss of time is very decisive while operational safety was also a concern," he continues. "The bottom line is that the solution must fit the customer." www.cognex.com

www.keb-uk.co.uk

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and 28 positions in height (on both sides).

KEB Automation's regional industrial partner Vogel-Hemer assisted the customer by installing the new hardware in the warehouse, including the F6 drive



The warehouse is saving on costs

# Labelling, Coding and Marking

# Variable data printing meets pharma serialisation demand

omino Printing Sciences (Domino) has launched the new K6ooG a blister foil and web digital printing solution for product-level serialisation in pharmaceutical applications.

Developed in collaboration with Gallarus, and with engagement from life science industry experts SeaVision, the K600G is a high-resolution, digital printing solution.

The result of successful teamwork between leaders in digital print and life science experts, Domino believes the K600G promises to meet the needs of pharmaceutical manufacturers now and also in the future.

Over the last couple of years serialisation at pack level has become a global requirement in the pharmaceutical industry," says Craig Stobie, director of Global sector development at Domino. "In the future, it is likely that serialisation of individual pockets of a blister pack will become the new standard, in order to further



The K600G promises to deliver for the pharma industry

enhance patient safety and reduce medical errors.

"The K6ooG has been developed to provide manufacturers with an on-site solution for variable data printing, which includes coding at the item level, to meet these future requirements," he continues.

Using digital printing technology to customise product packaging within formed blister packs, and an integrated-line version developed for OEMs.

"Digital printing and flexible supply chains are beginning to play a much greater role in pharmaceutical manufacturing – and so the K6ooG is a necessary investment to keep up with future legislation and market trends," says Volker Watzke, EU medical devices sector manager at Domino.

When it comes to printing performance, the K600G achieves quality, reliable printing across a range of substrates – the printing module has a native resolution of 600dpi and excellent greyscale capability. Based on Domino's piezo drop-ondemand inkjet technology, the printer is also capable of building up imagery using multiple different drop sizes - this improves image quality and gives manufacturers more control over their ink consumption.

1 01954 782551

www.domino-uk.com

allows pharmaceutical manufacturers to react more or variations in product

easily to legislative changes labelling requirements, as it reduces reliance on external packaging providers.

degree of agility that

The new K600G includes a range of solutions that have been developed for different installation types, including off-line, near-line, top-of-line, sealed-blister-coding for printing directly on

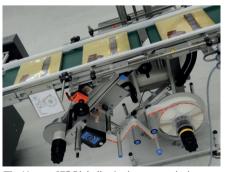
# A partnership that delivered a thin film wrap and tabbed sealing label has achieved shelf appeal for confectionery

For an international producer of premium sweets and chocolates, the film packaging machine specialist Kallfass joined forces with Herma's Labelling Machines division to develop a co-ordinated end to end solution involving a seal wrapper with a sealand-peel label. This solution both protects the product and keeps it fresh as well as delivering shelf appeal.

The Herma 652C labelling machine was selected to take care of the precision

top and base labelling of the confectionery boxes. The sealing label is generally applied to the base while promotional labels are applied to the top. Depending on requirements, the two functions can be performed independently.

And thanks to quick-change systems and touchscreens, the two



The Herma 652C labeller facilitates rapid job setup

integrated Herma 500 labellers facilitate rapid job setup.

The menu structure is designed in such a way that no more than three clicks are needed to reach the desired menu item. Favourite parameter settings can also be easily displayed directly on the start-up screen.

An hot-foil printer can easily be integrated for printing variable data, such as a best-before date, on the sealing label.

1 01440 763366 www.hermalabellingmachines.co.uk



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Contact us today to find out more.















# Components



#### **Communication is** expanded for closed loop stepper motors

The Oriental Motor AZ series of closed loop stepper motors are designed to offer precision with a high degree of accuracy and now, are also offering expanded communications options.

Today's production processes demand comprehensive communications systems and so it is essential that motors capable of delivering reliable, high performance operation are at their core. This is why Oriental Motor has expanded the communications options for its AZ Series of closed loop stepper motors, with the addition of EtherCAT and Ethernet IPcompatible drivers.

The addition of these two protocols extends the communications functionality available with the motors and enables the use of them in new and emerging sectors.

01256 347090

www.oriental-motor.co.uk

# Clean connector makes for quicker changeover

he newest addition to the Harting Han portfolio is the Han F+B, a range of connectors which have been specially designed to meet the needs of the food processing, bottling and packaging industries. All hoods, housings and seals are IP69K rated, so the connections are fully protected and resistant to the water jets used to clean food-grade equipment.

They also have large nooks and surfaces in accordance with the guidelines of the European Hygienic **Engineering & Design Group** (EHEDG) and the connectors are blue for easy identification and traceability. The range is also Ecolab approved and housings conform to the directives of FDA 21.

As well as hygiene concerns, Harting has also considered the impact of machine downtime and flexible production methods.

Customers are increasingly looking for solutions which allow them to embrace flexible schedules and smaller batch



A whitepaper on this new product is available for free download from the website

production runs, which means businesses must become adaptable to meet these new demands. As a result, the ability to quickly attach and detach connectors is vital to avoid production downtime.

With the Han F+B, operators don't need to open any cable glands on the control cabinet in order to decouple field devices, eliminating the complex disconnecting and reconfiguring of fixed wiring. This solution also allows for faster replacement of defective components and a more

efficient configuration when changing any components, allowing facilities to shorten set-up times and reduce any production stoppages.

The housings can be used with hybrid contact inserts for all types of industrial transmission, including data, signal and power, a versatile connector concept which makes it possible to configure future-proof machine design for processing units, including Ethernet.

- 1 01604 827500
- www.harting.com

# Safety solutions are designed to meet the needs of a range of industrial applications

Boplan designs, develops and produces durable and efficient fall and impact protection systems for the most demanding environments from high-performance polymer which is developed in-house. The modular safety systems from the company can protect numerous industrial halls, warehouses and production facilities and boasts a safety solution for every specific application.

For instance, the Flex Impact range provides



Safety systems for several industries

industrial-grade impact protection manufactured from thick-walled, reinforced polymer elements and includes safety barriers, handrails, safety gates, rack protectors, height restrictors, bollards, column and corner protectors, plinths and wheel stoppers.

The FE fence in particular is designed to protect pedestrians from machinery by creating a physical barrier between them and any equipment, while the TB Plus fence provides collision protection where there is a risk of impact from vehicles such as forklifts. 1 01902 824280

www.boplan.com

### **Enhancements meet** Industry 4.0 demand

Carlo Gavazzi has enhanced its existing product offering of the popular NRG series of solid-state relays with a new NRGC main controller, NRGCN proprietary cables and a new range of solid state relay RG..CM..N which meet all the needs of machine builders as well as Industry 4.0.

The NRG series suits any heating application where reliable and precise maintenance of temperatures is crucial to the quality of the end product.

01276 854110

www.carlogavazzi.co.uk





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# Components



The Rx3000 from ifm in action

#### **Shaft encoders offer** cost-effective gains in wet environments

With an IP67 ingress protection rating, the new Rx3000-series incremental shaft encoders from ifm electronic can be used even in the wet environments that are often encountered in the process, pharmaceutical and food manufacturing sectors. In addition, they are said to offer a superb price/performance ratio and feature a design based on advanced magnetic sensing technology which means that they are exceptionally robust yet easily able to match the accuracy of photoelectric encoders.

Rx3000 encoders have been designed with versatility, ease of selection and ease of use in mind. They can be readily programmed with resolutions from two to 10,000 pulses per revolution. 020 8213 0000

www.ifm.com/uk

# Latest dry claw pump is designed for robust vacuum applications

esigned especially for rough industrial processes, Leybold is introducing the uncomplicated, dry rough vacuum Clawvac pump. Besides

Clawvac can be used with new multiple pump systems

packaging and environmental technology applications, it is also suitable for drying and sterilisation processes.

#### **THREE SPEEDS OFFERED**

food processing,

The pump, which is offered in three pumping speed classes, is designed for continuous operation at every working pressure. Additionally, the special pump design avoids any oil coming into contact with pumped gases, that allows higher oxygen applications. At the same time, the Clawvac series can now be offered with a new multiple pump system.

The modular design allows

for quick dismantling, opening and cleaning of the pump essentials such as the pumping chamber and the silencer. An engineer can complete this operation in minutes. Except for the 20,000 hour oil & lipseal replacement, no further regular maintenance is required.

"Thanks to this pump characteristic, we have reduced the amount of servicing required and also improved the environmental balance," explains Niels Gorrebeeck, product manager rough vacuum at Leybold, Cologne.

1 01372 737300

www.levbold.com

# In brief

#### **NEW MARKET UPDATES**

uniVision, the configurable standard software for two- and three-dimensional image processing from wenglor, has received another version update. The latest 2.3 release enables guick and easy integration of Smart Cameras and control units in EtherNet/IP controls via the EtherNet/IP interface. New overlays in the web-based visualisation of results are another feature of the update.

www.wenglor.com

#### **NEW CYCLOIDAL GEARS**

RA Rodriguez (UK), the UK distributor for Nabtesco cycloidal gear heads and component sets, has released the Neco range of next-generation cycloidal gears. The Nabtesco Neco series comprises economical transmission solutions that deliver modular design combined with corrosion protection. www.rarodriguez.co.uk

#### **OUIETER ACTUATORS**

In an internal study, SMAC Moving Coil Actuators has shown evidence of a 50% reduction in decibels generated by moving coil actuators versus traditional pneumatic actuators.

Evolving moving coil technology is making strides in noise control/ reduction and while there are methods to muffle pneumatic actuators, SMAC believes few will reduce noise generated to the 40-60 dBA scope measured in its own range.

www.smac-mca.com

#### **CONNECT STANDARD**

The push-pull version of the M12 connector with inner locking from Yamaichi Electronics is the very first M12 push-pull design to meet an international standard (IEC 61076-2-012). This means M12 push-pull design-ins are now possible for M12 push-pull systems, without using proprietary solutions. www.yamaichi.eu

# Latest imaging platform is a powerful tool for use in a range of industrial applications

Specim, Spectral Imaging has released the SpecimONE spectral imaging platform for the industrial sorting market which is now available from Quantum Design UK and Ireland.

With SpecimONE, machine builders, vision systems integrators, and other OEM's can improve their time-to-market by taking advantage of SpecimONE's agile development practices and creating new sorting applications without coding



SpecimONE is the latest offering

or in-depth knowledge of hyperspectral imaging.

SpecimONE is compatible with major industrial standards and allows seamless integration with machine vision systems such as Halcon and Sherlock. When

combining hyperspectral imaging technology's flexibility with a simplified platform, end-customers can create unlimited amounts of new sorting applications.

"We want to make spectral imaging easy, and SpecimONE is a big step towards that," says Tapio Kallonen, ceo of Specim. "We are confident that it will answer market needs so that they can make their solutions faster."

**1**01372 378822 www.qd-uki.co.uk

# FDA-compliant cable entry plates provide hygienic advantage in use

■ cotek is introducing its new FDA-compliant cable entry plates called KEL-DPZ-HD that have been specially developed for the use in the food and pharmaceutical industries.

In adhering to the Hygienic Design (EHEDG) guidelines, icotek took great care to make the surface very smooth so that there are no dirtcollecting recesses on the visible side. And the outer contour radius of 6 mm instead of the required 3 mm exceeds the EHEDG specifications. The new KEL-DPZ-HD uses an FDA-compliant material in accordance with food approval 1935/2004/EG and (EU) 10/2011.



They are halogen and silicone free

Meanwhile, a clear visual colour recognition is given with the signal colour blue.

Cables and hoses with a diameter range of 3.2 mm to 22.2 mm are routed and sealed with IP65/66/67/68. Depending on the version, up to 35 cables can be routed.

The clamping area has a flexibility of up to 7 mm and offers variation options even during the assembly. The plates are initially available with a metric thread in sizes M<sub>32</sub>, M<sub>40</sub>, M<sub>50</sub> and M63. A major advantage over conventional cable glands is the significantly greater packing density.

**1** 0161 222 3454 www.icotek.co.uk



### INTELLIGENT AUTOMATION FOR RETAIL

# THIS IS **SICK**

Sensor Intelligence.

SICK are a global technology leader with cutting-edge solutions that help to increase the efficiency and quality of processes in the Retail, Manufacturing, Transport Logistics and 3PL industries, along the entire value chain. SICK bar code readers, vision systems, and sensors for detection, measurement and safety reduce the complexity of customer logistics solutions. Our customer support goes beyond product specification, to a comprehensive offering of life-time services. SICK's support team has a vast experience in installation and on-site support. If you would like to discover how SICK could work with you and your processes please visit our website or contact a team member today. Global Solutions - Local Support. www.sick.co.uk/gb-en-3PL



# Who What Where

# Who's done what and gone where...

#### Multivac



**Dr Christian Lau,** who has been with the Multivac Group for over ten

years, is now responsible for manufacturing within the company as the new executive vice president for manufacturing. He will be driving forward the supply chain strategy to the ongoing benefit of customers.

#### **Romaco Kilian**



Stefan Krömer has joined Romaco Kilian as the new managing

director and will be responsible for all operations and administration. He will run the company jointly with Jens Carstens who has been in the role since 2013.



Jens Carstens, already the managing director of technology at

the company, also takes on the responsibility for sales and customer service.

#### Romaco



Andreas
Detmers has
been appointed
as the first
sustainability

officer at Romaco and will be supported by experts at the company's four production sites in Germany and Italy.

#### **Valicare**



**Dr Christin Erbach** has joined Syntegon company
Valicare as a

senior GMP consultant to aid customers moving from the development phase to clinical manufacturing.

#### Campden BRI



Pete Headridge, who joined the Campden BRI Group in 2018 as director of

technology before advancing to chief operating officer, became the new chief executive in January following the retirement of **Chris Huscroft**.



Tim Foster has joined Campden BRI in the new role as scientific affairs director

to further develop the strategic scientific and technological skills base throughout the specialist organisation.

#### Shemesh Automation



Anna Kingsley has joined Shemesh Automation as chief

marketing officer as the company expands its executive team in response to the increased demand for its equipment. In her new role, she is tasked with expanding the machinery brand globally.

### **Apex Dynamics**



Ian Dooley has joined Apex Dynamics as technical sales engineer

bringing more than 20 years in B2B technical sales roles and also account management experience to the role. He also has a specific background in industrial gearboxes and electric motors.

#### **Sewtec Automation**



Spencer Whale has joined Sewtec Automation as technical sales

manager for its cosmetics and personal care division, bringing 21 years' experience in engineering and packaging sales to his new role.



Maisie Garner-Currie is Sewtec Automation's first marketing executive and

joins from convenience chain operator Bestway Retail. She brings six years of experience to her new role.

# Diary Dates

28 - 30 SEPTEMBER

#### PPMA Show 2021

NEC, Birmingham www.ppmashow.co.uk

25 - 28 MAY

#### **AUSPACK 2021**

Sydney, Australia www.auspack.com.au

8-10 JUNE

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Cape Town, South Africa www.propakcape.co.za

14 - 18 JUNE

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

5 - 7 JULY

#### Foodex 2021

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**15 JULY** 

# Machine Vision Conference

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

8-10 SEPTEMBER

#### PROPAK MYANMAR

Yangon, Myanmar www.propakmyanmar.com

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Lagos, Nigeria www.propakwestafrica.com

27 - 29 SEPTEMBER

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**28 - 30 SEPTEMBER** 

#### FACHPACK 2021

Nuremberg, Germany www.fachpack.de/en

#### **Domino UK**



In November, Domino's UK manufacturing plant became the first to deliver 30,000 of its Ax-Series continuous inkjet printers, making it the fastest selling product in the company's 40-year history. "I'd like to thank our entire team, who have maintained such a strong ambition for growth, and all collaborated so effectively, despite the essential changes to working practices to keep everyone safe," says **Chris Haycock**, Domino UK's operations director and global head of manufacturing excellence.

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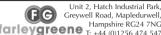
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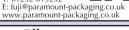
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