

MACHINERY

UPDATE

Issue 6, Volume XXXI, November/December 2020

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Facilitating a recovery

Our pharma feature sees us report on packaging technology that is helping to pack C-19 test kits and also facilitate faster vaccine thinking as well as the state of play on the EU MDR

INSIDE



NEWS

Although there are now 2.7 million industrial robots operating around the world, sales last year were 12% down on the previous year due to changes in sectors

NEW MACHINERY

Dubbed a soft drinks factory in a box, the Seltzer System is a new turnkey unit for processing seltzers and then filling them into cans and/or bottles at a cost of 10p a can. Find out more on page 13

INSTALLATIONS

Pearlwater has improved the efficiency of its production line as well as bottle quality by upgrading its palletising



PLUS

Machinery Update's latest e-Bulletin includes a new ink jet printer designed to meet the needs of SMEs www.machineryupdate.co.uk

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November/December

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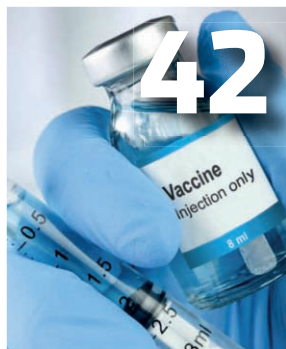
Ten pages of new kit is featured including equipment that would have graced the PPMA Show

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There's been no shortage of new installs, as our eight pages show

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MACHINERY UPDATE

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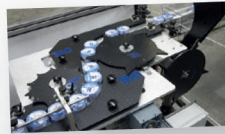
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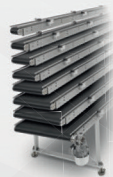
Robotics



Infeed



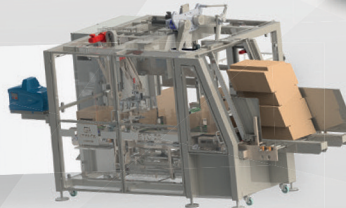
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PPMA matters

No more false starts for the UK, we hope!



Tim Paul

CHAIRMAN, PPMA GROUP OF ASSOCIATIONS
(INCORPORATING PPMA, BARA AND UKIVA)

Whether we like it or not, we need to be prepared for a new normal on 1 January 2021. Whatever platitudes and dramas might unfold between the UK and EU Council members between now and 31 December 2020, one thing is for sure: change is upon us.

But are the changes really that bad? Through my global account director role with Domino UK and chairmanship of the PPMA Group of Associations since 2018, I have experienced the operational challenges of COVID-19 and Brexit first-hand. And while it could be argued that things remain “predictably unpredictable”, irrespective of your political allegiance and geographical standing, sometimes you need to force the hand that feeds you.

Different does not mean indifferent, it simply means that we will be governed by a new set of circumstances.

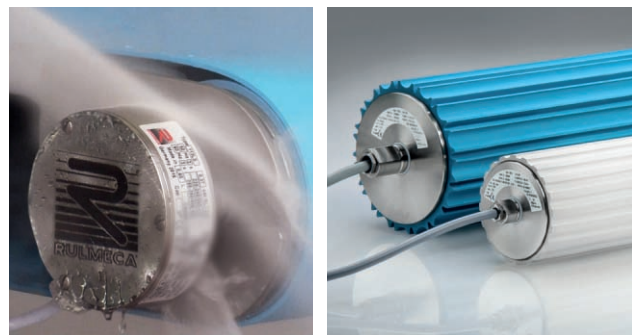
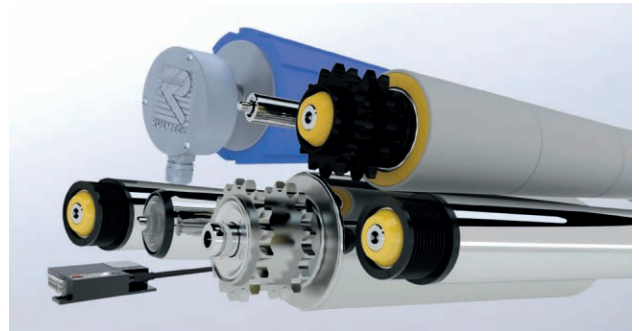
Multiple domain names and social media accounts have been taken down for selling C-19 ‘cures’

There are so many issues and connotations to Brexit, you can end up going full circle and come back with more questions than you have answers. Although the genuine hardship felt by many in this C-19 year cannot be ignored, in the main, I believe Brexit and the pandemic have created a series of opportunities that have been brilliantly disguised as problems and challenges, particularly for those serving the food and pharmaceutical sectors.

However, where there is an issue of supply and demand comes opportunism, and those that are unfortunately willing can often exploit others. Therefore, deal or no deal, the implementation of things like the Medical Device Regulations (MDR) legislation in May 2021 can only be a good thing for consumers in the UK and our European counterparts (learn more in our special pharmaceuticals feature that starts on page 42).

There is also the requirement for placing medical devices on the market, along with other cross-border manufactured goods, with different rules for Great Britain and Northern Ireland at the end of the transition period. Recent updates to conformity assessment now mean existing CE marking will continue to be recognised in Great Britain until 30 June 2023. Similarly, UK Notified Bodies will not be able to issue CE certificates, other than for the purposes of the CE UKNI marking (valid in Northern Ireland) and will become UK Approved Bodies from 1 January 2021.

Undoubtedly, the road ahead will be bumpy, but UK manufacturing must stand as one to bring about new-found prosperity. It is time to make it happen. ■



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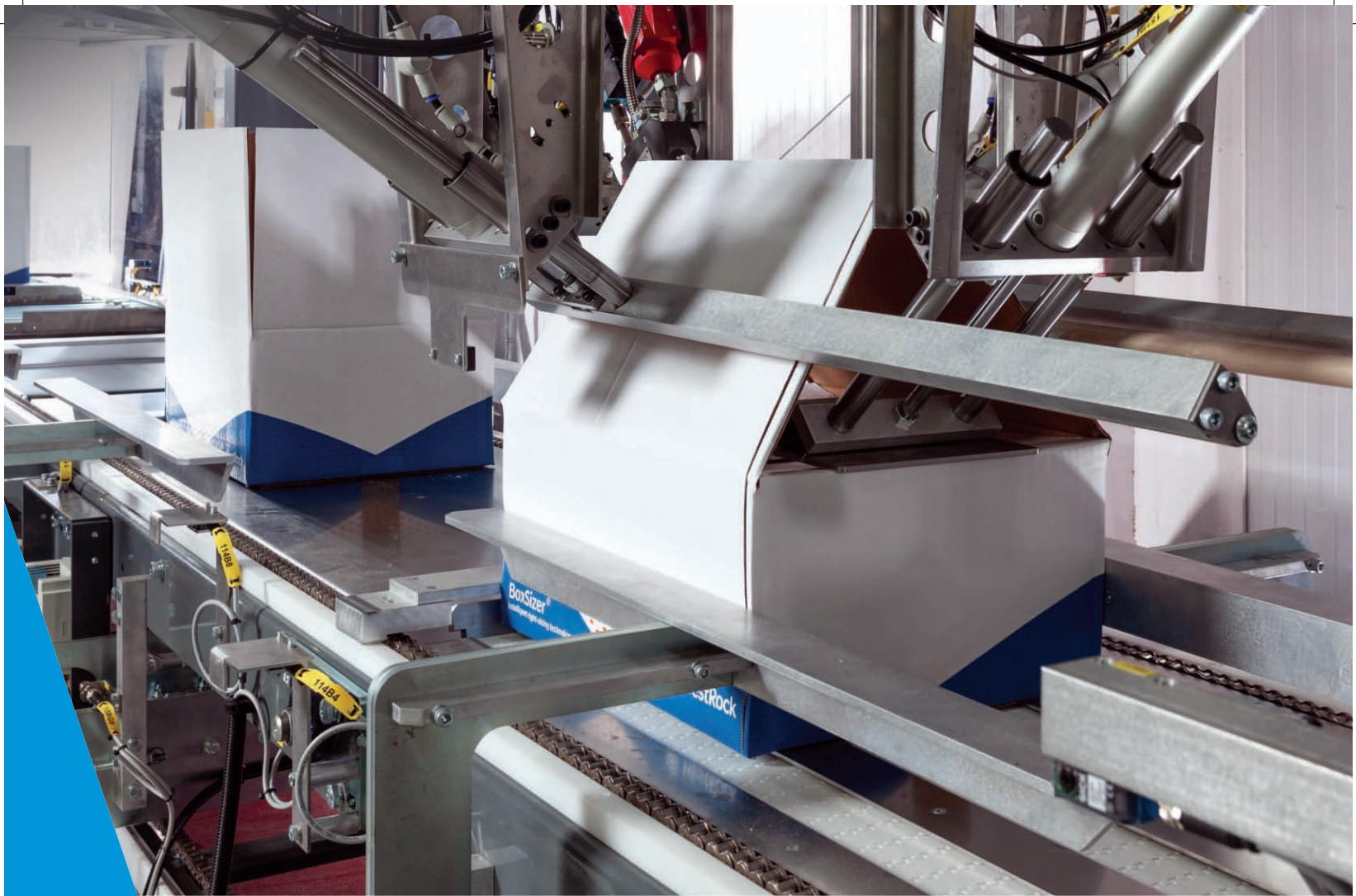
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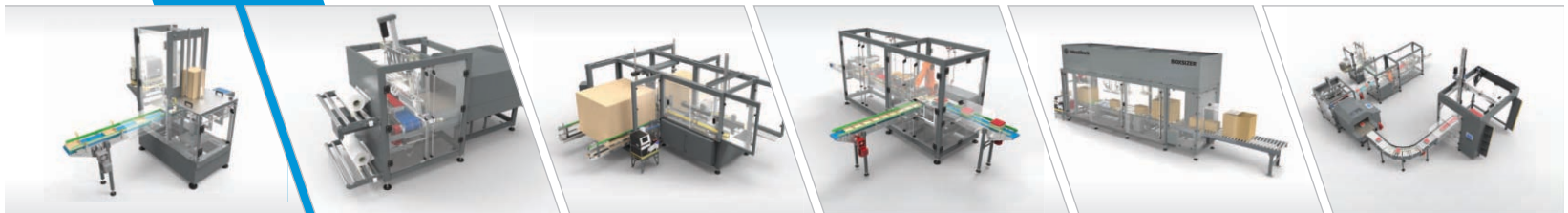
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News



The Solihull site is being expanded

UK operations are being expanded to meet client demand

German company Minebea Intec has announced plans to expand its UK operations and begin manufacturing from its current UK and Ireland headquarters based on Birmingham Business Park in Solihull from January next year. Work to expand the current premises is underway to facilitate the production of UK built equipment supplied to the food, pharmaceutical and chemical industries.

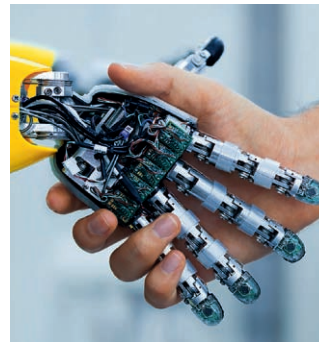
"This brings a new level of competitiveness and security for our customers in the face of Brexit and while other companies are downsizing their operations," says Colin Maher country manager for the UK, Ireland & Russia.

Increases in robot use are tempered by C-19 and industry changes

The new World Robotics 2020 Industrial Robots report shows a record of 2.7 million industrial robots operating in factories around the world – an increase of 12%. Sales of new robots remain on a high level with 373,000 units shipped globally in 2019. This is 12% less compared to 2018, but still the third highest sales volume ever recorded.

"The stock of industrial robots operating in factories around the world today marks the highest level in history," says Milton Guerry, president of the International Federation of Robotics. "Driven by the success story of smart production and automation this is a worldwide increase of about 85% within the last five years (2014-2019).

"The recent slowdown in sales by 12% reflects the difficult times the two main customer industries, automotive and electrical/



Automotive is changing dynamics

electronics, have experienced," he continues. "In addition, the consequences from the coronavirus pandemic for the global economy cannot be fully assessed yet."

He thinks that 2021 will see recovery, but it may take until 2022 or 2023 to reach the pre-crisis level. "Globally, COVID-19 has a strong impact on 2020 – but also offers a chance for modernisation and digitalisation of production on the way to recovery," he says.

In brief

PARTNERSHIP FOR AMRs

LAC Conveyors & Automation has been awarded the exclusive rights to sell and promote the wide range of autonomous mobile robots (AMRs) designed and manufactured by US-based Prime Robotics. LAC believes this new range will grow its market share of automation projects within the logistics and also the general manufacturing sectors.

BAGGING DISTRIBUTOR

Jenton has been appointed as exclusive distributor in the UK and Eire for the range of bagging equipment built by Pronova Packaging Systems in Sweden. At the same time, the company has also been appointed agent for the range of Joker bags and pouches that are manufactured to run on the machines by the Whitby-based Supreme Plastics.

COBOT PROJECT PARTNER

Omron has appointed system integrator Reeco Automation as a specialist partner for collaborative robots (cobots), the first company in the new Omron network that aims to develop and de-risk complex automation projects. The partnership will see cobot solutions developed for markets where interest in the technology is strong.

STRATEGIC CIJ PARTNERS

Macsca ID UK has agreed a new strategic partnership with Codetronix to offer its Citronix continuous ink jet (cij) printers complete with a 30-month warranty as well as Intrex label applicators. In addition, Codetronix will offer Macsca ID's laser marking systems. The two businesses will also utilise each other's service and sales functions going forward.

LATEST DISTRIBUTOR

Alfa Laval has appointed Moody Direct as its latest plate heat exchanger distribution partner in the UK which means Moody can support the light industry customers of Alfa Laval.



NEW SPECIAL ROUTE INTO AN ENGINEERING CAREER

Apprentices are still the key

Kieran Haith is a new apprentice mechanical fitter at GIC, one of several apprentices recruited by the company over recent years, including this C-19 one. He is attending the Humber Engineering Training Academy for a full year to complete all his college studies, and then he will be based at GIC full time to complete the apprenticeship.

A new rental scheme for customised coding equipment is launched

Markem Imaje has launched a global rental scheme which gives manufacturers a cost effective way of benefiting from turnkey coding ranges.

The new programme gives customers the flexibility to build a coding solution that meets their particular production challenges and business goals while adapting easily to changing market demand. All hardware, software and consumables needed to code products, cases and pallets are covered by the new service, with no upfront investment, only a fixed, periodic fee.

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The newly launched Manufacturing Engineering Degree Apprenticeship, which is run by the University of Northampton's team, sees the Government cover the costs of training an apprentice, via its Apprenticeship Levy.

Benefits for the employer include:

- The ability to attract and retain good-quality candidates with the potential to progress with the company
- Develop job-specific skills and competencies that meet the needs of the business
- Apprenticeship Levy payers can use their Levy to pay for their apprenticeship
- Non-Levy payers can get 95% of the cost of tuition and assessment funded through the Levy
- The chance to develop other opportunities in the organisation by engaging existing staff as they provide mentoring and support
- A reduced payroll bill – employers of apprentices under the age of 25 are not required to pay secondary Class 1 Employer National Insurance contributions on earnings up to the upper earnings limit.

“Given the demand for highly skilled engineers and access to Levy funding, apprenticeships have changed for the better,” says senior lecturer, Stephen Hillyard. “They are designed to give more control and greater opportunities to address the ever-increasing skills shortages in the engineering sector.

“The University of Northampton is proud to be offering this newly validated L6 Manufacturing Engineering Degree Apprenticeship,” he says. www.northampton.ac.uk/courses/engineering-hnc

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Relocation into one central site

Despite the current global pandemic adversely impacting many businesses, Sewtec Automation has relocated its entire operations from eight separate sites into a single 75,000 sq ft design and manufacturing facility in Wakefield, West Yorkshire.

Sewtec Automation was classified as an essential manufacturer early in the pandemic which enabled operations to continue throughout and, despite some customers delaying order placements, the company has achieved strong financial results.

At the same time, the company relocated its business from eight sites across Yorkshire to one building in Wakefield, just two minutes off junction 40 of the M1. The business relocated progressively over a six month

period with minimal impact to its operations.

The major upgrade to the building costing £2 m, has created a facility comprising office space, assembly areas and a machine shop with fabrication bays for in-house manufacture.

“While the pandemic has created a uniquely challenging environment for manufacturers worldwide, it was essential to implement our relocation plans,” says Sewtec md Mark Cook. “This enabled us to bring our staff together under one roof, improve operational efficiencies and create a working environment that truly show-cases our capabilities to customers, suppliers and to attract quality new recruits,” he explains.



The brand new 75,000sq ft facility

New premises are for client benefits



The Excel team in front of its new, larger building with more client facilities

Excel Packaging Machinery has moved to a new larger head office and factory facility that will enable the company to provide enhanced levels of customer service and support.

The company manufactures and supplies a wide range of machinery including filling, capping, bagging, tube filling, bottle unscrambling and e-liquid filling systems. Its new premises in Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire are now double the size of the company’s previous headquarters.

This has created space for an expanded manufacturing operation, as well as a larger spare parts department and

a new demonstration area for product trials and pre-installation testing of customer machines and complete packing lines. In addition, the company will be able to hold a comprehensive stock of new machinery for quick delivery.

“A fast response and flexibility have always been key elements of the Excel offering, and these have become all the more critical in recent months with the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic,” explains Excel director Andy Skittrall. “Our new expanded facilities will ensure we are able to react even more speedily to meet individual customer requirements.”

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Connecting the entire industry remains relevant at the PPMA

Departing chairman of the PPMA Group of Associations gives an update on how the organisation has stayed true to its goals this year, and how it plans to adapt to the 'new normal' in 2021

As chairman of the Processing & Packaging Machinery Association (PPMA) Tim Paul prepares to step down from his two-year stint, he tells *Machinery Update* that he is very proud of the way the Group of Associations has not only survived this year, but also continued to thrive.

"Many people think that we are just about the PPMA Show and not much more," he says, "but this year has proved that there is actually significant value in what we offer to members and end users that is way beyond our successful exhibition."

This year, many PPMA members who serve the food and drink, life science and pharmaceutical industries have been busier than ever, while many other members have converted their manufacturing facilities to making face masks and ventilator parts. There's also been an upsurge in equipment handling hand sanitisers, too.

In this way, Paul believes that the PPMA, UKIVA and BARA members have a massive impact beyond our industry and therefore should be seen as key workers in their recent endeavours to keep the country running. "We are definitely the unsung essential workers," he says.

Paul has been on the main board of the PPMA Group for

thirteen years, culminating in his two-year tenure as chairman (although his 'day job' is global account director MNCs & OEMs at Domino).

He believes it is the PPMA Group's foresight that has allowed the association to sustain a year without revenue from a successful exhibition.

"We went from a record-breaking show to no show, but we have continued to connect with the customers of our members," he says.

For example, through this magazine and its complementary e-Bulletin as well as the continued work on the Group's Machinery Finder services, whether through its continually updated website and App or via the printed Directory or even contact with its office. The organisation's charitable arm PPMA BEST has continued to attract and also support the next generation of engineers coming into the sector (which is also



Tim Paul has been on the board of the PPMA for thirteen years



Last year's inaugural conference gathered a range of high quality speakers

to the benefit of everyone).

In more normal times, the inaugural PPMA Conference was held last year, at which Paul was overwhelmed with the quality of the speakers. This was another event aimed at connecting members with their customers and was well received and attended.

Last year also saw a record-breaking PPMA Total Show which garnered incredibly positive visitor feedback from end users. "PPMA exhibitions are the most important shows to attend as the range of working demonstrations

are second to none," was a typical visitor response. During the three days, visitors had access to 450 exhibitors representing nearly 2,500 brands, and all of them showcasing the latest innovations in smart manufacturing, processing equipment and packaging machinery solutions.

This year, of course, the exhibition had to be postponed and has subsequently been rescheduled for September 2021 (Tuesday 28 – Thursday 30), with the signs for this show already extremely positive. "We are working now to deliver a best-in-class PPMA Show next September so visitors will get the chance once more to see working machinery demonstrations first-hand," says Paul. At the same time, however, Paul acknowledges that there is also scope for other PPMA events to be virtual, as we all adapt to the 'new normal'. May be for seminars or training, for instance.

"We have always been about connecting our members to their customers, and this will continue in whatever way works best for everyone," he says.



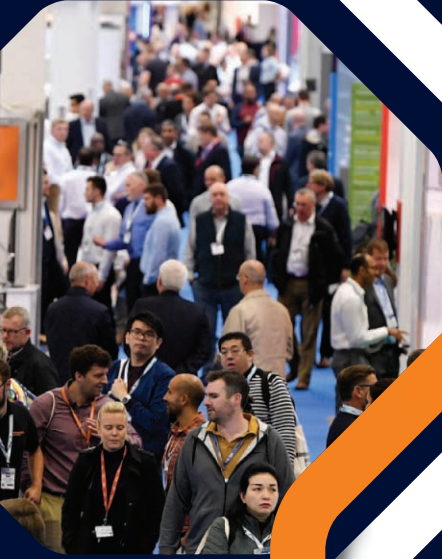
The first PPMA Conference

We went from record-breaking show to no show, but we have kept connecting members to end users

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New Machinery

Modular vertical machine has redesigned benefits

GEA's new SmartPacker TwinTube vertical packaging machine has been redesigned as a future-proof modular system with increased functional efficiency to deliver higher operational uptime and ease of use. The updated version reduces operational costs and energy use thanks to sealing technology advances, says the company. Also, it can handle plastics as well as functional papers for bag production.

The TwinTube is a continuous motion vertical machine, suitable for packaging small-sized food products such as confectionery, dried fruits and nuts in pillow bags of different sizes. The machine is part of a complete packaging process with upstream and downstream equipment.

It operates with two parallel forming tubes, achieving combined speeds of up to 500 bags per minute (weighing 10 to 18 g each). It is also possible to run a different film reel for each tube, meaning packs of different widths or designs



Bags produced on GEA's latest SmartPacker vertical packaging machine

can be filled simultaneously. A new machine feature is the Jumbo Roll, which allows film reels of up to 100 kg to be used for long production runs, which is designed to boost operational efficiency.

The new TwinTube has a modular construction to allow customers to add new options and machine upgrades, easily. In addition, the new model boasts increased ease of use for operators as tool-less adjustment features help to achieve shorter change-over

times and proven error-free machine set-up.

"This includes printers, labellers and the vertical sealing unit," explains Martijn van de Mortel, product manager, vertical packaging at GEA. "With these new updates, GEA can meet customer demands in terms of automated process control, less operator dependence, more uptime and greater operational efficiency."

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Software offers compliance gains

Safeguarding food with new real-time record keeping

Contact Reporter is a robust automated record keeper developed by Fortress Technology to help food processors keep track of and record logs for all metal detector events, such as rejects, faults, quality performance verifications and more. Available on all Fortress digital Stealth and Interceptor metal detectors, and compliant with HACCP food safety management systems and principles, each event is automatically time stamped.

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A soft drinks factory in a box, for seltzers

Ambro Systems is the sole UK distributor of the Seltzer System, a turnkey solution for processing carbonated soft drinks that incorporates the mixing of flavoured powders and syrups into water and then filling them into a variety of cans and bottles.



Lead time for delivery is four months with a three day install

As well as producing the consumer demand-led seltzers at about 10p a can, this skid-mounted unit can also be customised for liquid foods such as yogurts, soups and sauces. It allows processors to add a twist to their usual ranges by taking full advantage of its modular design, which means almost any additional kit, different recipes and dosing points can be accommodated.

Devised from a similar system for the brewing industry, the flexible Seltzer also offers soft drinks manufacturers NPD opportunities as the modular set-up gives customers free access levels to the system's software. This can change

ingredients or increase recipes at the touch of a button as and when required.

Dubbed a soft drinks factory in a box, the system is also space efficient. In operation, it can fit in a 20 ft container which means it will even work on a mezzanine area, and it is also portable – it can be moved within a factory or transported to another facility.

“Easy to operate and ideal for short or long production runs, the cost of the Seltzer is roughly half of its main competitor on the market,” says Ambro's director Edward Scott.

T 0117 440 4000

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Italian sleeve sealers offer high speed options to UK food and drink makers

Yorkshire Packaging Systems (YPS) is now offering SMI's range of high speed sleeve sealers to its UK customer base.

The new ASW machine range boasts flighted bar functionality, negating



YPS has already sold two machines for foodstuffs

the need for traditional sealing jaws which delivers higher speeds and lower maintenance. The single-lane variations can run at speeds of up to 80 packs a minute while twin-lane configurations can see 160 packs a minute achieved. Although ideal for a wide range of applications, the range is particularly well suited to food, beverage, dairy and bottling plants which require high-volume, high-demand solutions. Cardboard trays or pad inserts can also be easily accommodated on this compact range of equipment.

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New Machinery

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Case Sealers & Erectors



The Thermo Scientific Sentinel 1000 Selectscan metal detector system features two technologies intended to help food and personal care manufacturers achieve a higher level of safety and product quality.

The new detector enables users to select the appropriate frequency, from 50 to 1000 kHz, and is designed to optimise the probability of detecting ferrous, non-ferrous and stainless steel foreign objects. Autolearn rapidly guides the user through product set up to ensure operational efficiency and detection performance to support plant production goals. Combined, these features are said to raise the bar for safety, reducing the risk of costly contamination events, scrap, rework and recalls.



The new Selectscan metal detector

“Quality assurance personnel are the first and last line of defence to ensure consumer safety and protect against a product recall,” says David Lamprey, senior product marketing manager with Thermo Fisher’s product inspection business. “Rapid changeovers are commonplace and the new Autolearn feature allows them to be up and running quickly.”

In addition to providing enhanced metal detection, the Sentinel 1000 Selectscan also has an IP69K rating.

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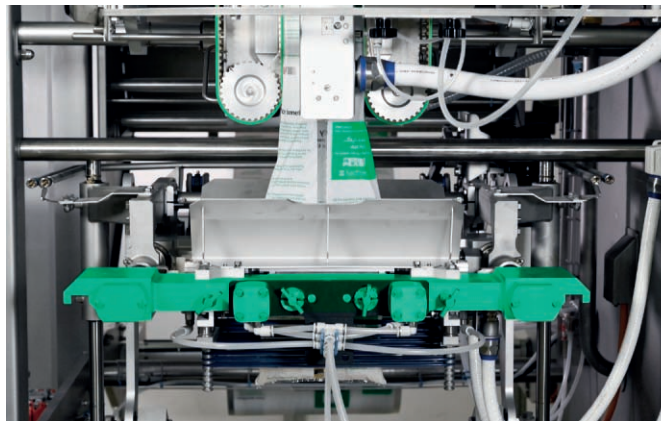
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Maximising film yields at much quicker speeds

Syntegon Technology and SABIC, a specialist in diversified chemicals, have developed a sustainable packaging concept for the frozen food industry with substantial material reduction potential. This solution comprises the new PHS 2.0 sealing technology from Syntegon and the brand new 20 micron thin biaxially oriented polyethylene (BOPE) film from SABIC.

The companies believe brand owners can now substantially reduce material consumption and increase their output rates by replacing conventionally used low density polyethylene (LDPE) films with BOPE sealed on the PHS 2.0 equipment.

Throughout the frozen food sector, pillow bags are the pack style of choice, with the majority currently made of LDPE. However, Syntegon joined forces with SABIC to find an alternative to these LDPE films to deliver sustainable benefits to customers. "Our concept



The new sustainable packaging concept demonstrates the value of working with stakeholders throughout the supply chain, says Syntegon Technology

enables the use of thinner films at higher speeds, while offering the same sealing quality and product protection as with LDPE," explains Pierre Hamelink, director business, market and sustainability strategy at Syntegon in Weert, Netherlands. "By switching to BOPE, manufacturers can reduce film thickness to 20 microns which offers a potential packaging material reduction of 35 to 50% compared to blown PE films

such as LDPE, and a cost saving potential of up to 30%."

Tests run on Syntegon machines show that the new material outperforms or performs just as well as conventional polyolefin monomaterial films. The PHS 2.0 sealing system includes servo-driven sealing jaws, an active knife and two-sided heated sealing strips for more consistent, high-quality seals.

T 01332 626262
W www.syntegon.com



This latest LR Mate offers gains

Compact industrial robot strengthens the complete range

Fanuc has expanded its LR Mate series of multi-purpose industrial robots with the introduction of the strong yet compact LR Mate 200iD/14L version.

Building on the success of the 6-axis LR Mate series, the 200iD/14L benefits from a solid weight-to-payload ratio, weighing just 27 kg, but is able to handle workpieces up to 14 kg. By doubling the maximum load capacity in comparison to its predecessors, the LR Mate 200iD/14L is able to support a range of high-productivity applications.

Crucially, its slim and compact design means the improved capacity is achieved without impinging on factory floorspace.

T 02476 053000
W www.fanuc.eu

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New Machinery

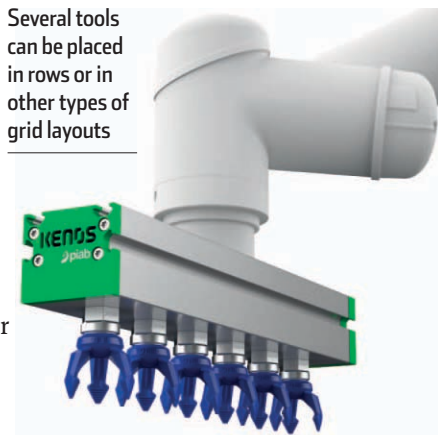
Gripping tricky foods with ease

A new smaller size of its soft gripping tool has been developed by Piab for the food and chocolate sectors. The vacuum-based soft gripper will grip sensitive and lightweight objects of odd geometries and/or an unusual surface.

piSOFTGRIP has three gripping fingers and a sealed vacuum cavity, all made in one piece, which results in a robust, yet simple product. In operation, the gripping force is easily adjusted and controlled by the applied vacuum level.

Manufactured in detectable silicone approved for direct contact with food, the gripper allows the chocolate industry to extend its food handling to include a wider range of products. For instance, delicate food items and chocolate pralines can be handled without risk of crushing or spoilage.

Several tools can be placed in rows or in other types of grid layouts



Wash-down fitting options as well as a sealed vacuum cavity makes it easy to clean and keep functioning in these challenging environments, explains the company.

The soft gripping tool has been designed to be as easy to control and install as a suction cup. It can be used in multimode applications by placing several piSOFTGRIP's in rows or in other grid structures to support various picking patterns.

T 01509 857010
W www.piab.com

Leasing contracts give robotic gains

To minimise the outlay costs and level the playing field for companies of all sizes, Omron Industrial Automation has developed a range of new leasing options. These are designed to make life easier for manufacturers that want to develop their own fleets of mobile robots or collaborative robots (cobots) but who need to keep their initial capital investment costs low.

The cashflow flexibility that the new leasing options provide is an important consideration in these days of economic and business uncertainty.

To help companies to decide on the best leasing solution for their particular needs, Omron has developed useful leasing calculators for both mobile robots and cobots which can be accessed from the relevant page on the company's website. This tool enables a



The lease service takes away any financial burdens

manufacturer to gain a quick idea of the monthly costs of leasing according to the number of robots required and the length of the leasing period in question.

"Our leasing solutions enable companies to acquire our latest technologies, so that they can continue to maintain a competitive edge and increase their return on investment," says Dan Rossek, regional marketing manager at Omron Industrial Automation Europe. "The complete lease service package takes away much of the initial financial burden and enables them to focus on their core business activities."

T 01908 258258
W www.industrial.omron.co.uk

A new form, fill and seal pouch machine is a speedy to set up, change and operate unit

Penn Packaging is now offering SN Maschinenbau's new FM E 50 form, fill and seal pouch machine that has been designed as a plug and play option for users. From delivery, positioning, installation and first pouch commissioning, this sequence can be performed within just 30 minutes.

The FM E 50 is available for a pouch range from 50 - 170 x 70 - 210 mm which can be produced from the compact footprint unit that measures

just 3,700 x 1,180 mm. Suitable for dry products and powders, the machine can produce up to 80 pouches per minute.

EASY TO OPERATE UNIT

This easy to operate pouch machine system provides reliable form, fill and seal pouch production with a quick format change, from sachet to sachet within 15 minutes, and from sachet to stand-up-pouch in approximately 30 minutes.

To ensure fast changeovers, most components have been

fitted with quick release handles that can be operated without the use of tools. This includes the side sealing/cooling beams, bottom sealing beams and also the central carousel segments.

Basic machine features include a knife design akin to more advanced pouch machine systems and a de-centralised control structure for all servo motion drives.

T 01473 893990
W www.penn-packaging.co.uk



Extra options such as gas flushing or zipper insertion can also be offered

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New Machinery

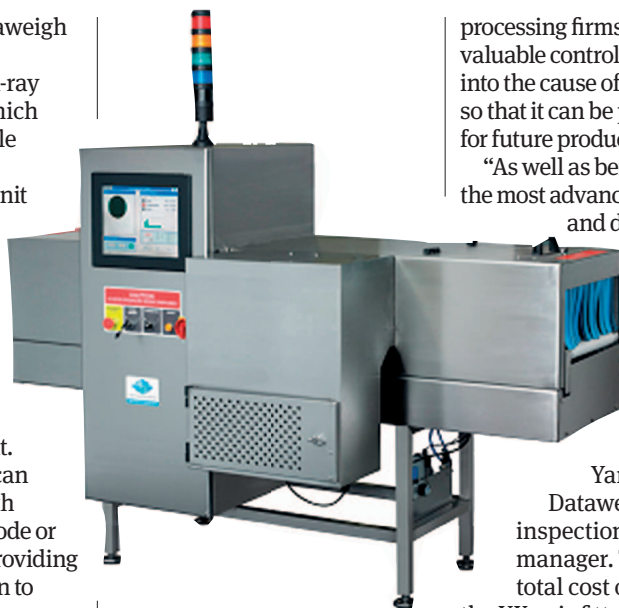
A high resolution x-ray increases food accuracy

Yamato Scale Dataweigh has unveiled its most advanced x-ray inspection machine which is designed to be flexible across all formats.

This COP compliant unit can be programmed with unique algorithms that can accommodate special and one-off applications, and its high-speed and wide-format widths suit any production environment. Additionally, the YX20 can be fitted as standard with either a 0.8 mm pixel diode or a 0.4 mm pixel diode, providing a much higher resolution to produce clearer images.

This, in turn, increases accuracy in the identification and removal of contaminated items, helping food producers avoid expensive, reputation-damaging product recalls while also reducing waste and increasing productivity.

It can also be fully integrated with a checkweigher, enabling manufacturers to gain



The YX20 x-ray inspection machine is a flexible option across formats

complete COP compliance.

Integrating the YX20 with a Yamato Stats option will provide a fully automated data collection system, running from a server or PC, ensuring manufacturers have a complete inspection and data collection package. This allows food

processing firms to have valuable control and insight into the cause of any problem so that it can be prevented for future production.

“As well as being one of the most advanced inspection and detection

machines on the market, the YX20 has a low total cost of ownership,” says Mark James,

Yamato Scale Dataweigh’s global inspection general manager. To reduce the total cost of ownership,

the YX20 is fitted with a sealed-for-life, maintenance-free x-ray generator unit, which encases the x-ray tube and high voltage electronics in an oil bath. This means the temperature remains constant, automatically monitored and temperature controlled.

T 0113 322 1546

W www.yamatoscale.co.uk



Spindle attachment can handle narrow, large diameter rolls

Packline Materials Handling has designed its clamping vertical spindle in response to a customer requirement in the food industry to handle very narrow, large diameter rolls of PVC film that can telescope during handling.

Designed for the meat processing industry, this bespoke handling solution lifts and transports the rolls from the pallet to the labelling machine. It incorporates a single clamping arm with nitrile rubber pads to ensure that the roll is held securely in position.

The clamping vertical spindle attachment is suitable for very narrow rolls (120 mm) with large diameters (1250 mm) and is ideal for confined spaces.

T 01202 307700

W www.packline.co.uk

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Bulk bag conditioning system can break down solids with efficiency

Spiroflow's bulk bag conditioning system efficiently breaks up solid ingredients and can be configured to meet operational requirements. The system uses either fixed or movable masts and can be integrated into an automated bulk bag discharging system, or as a manually operated free standing piece of equipment.

Its design includes a robust frame structure with hydraulically actuated conditioning arms mounted on two opposing sides. The bag is usually placed between the two conditioning arms using a forklift, integral hoist, pallet truck or a motorised conveyor. The conditioning arms then apply pressure in a squeezing motion, typically 2-3 squeezes to opposite sides of the bag, thereby breaking up the solidified material and allowing greater product flow during discharge.

A SAFER BAG OPTION

An additional benefit is that the conditioning arms move up and down the bag to loosen material, with the bag itself staying at ground level. From a safety perspective, this is a clear advantage when compared to alternative systems that hoist the bag into the air and move it up and down past 'squeezer' arms to break up material.

As an added bonus, the unit is supplied with an integral turntable as standard, although this can be removed as an option if required. Once the bulk bag is placed on the turntable, it can be spun 360 degrees to facilitate all round pressure from the conditioning arms to any part of the bag, thereby ensuring that no large lumps of material are missed.

T 01200 422525

W www.spiroflow.com

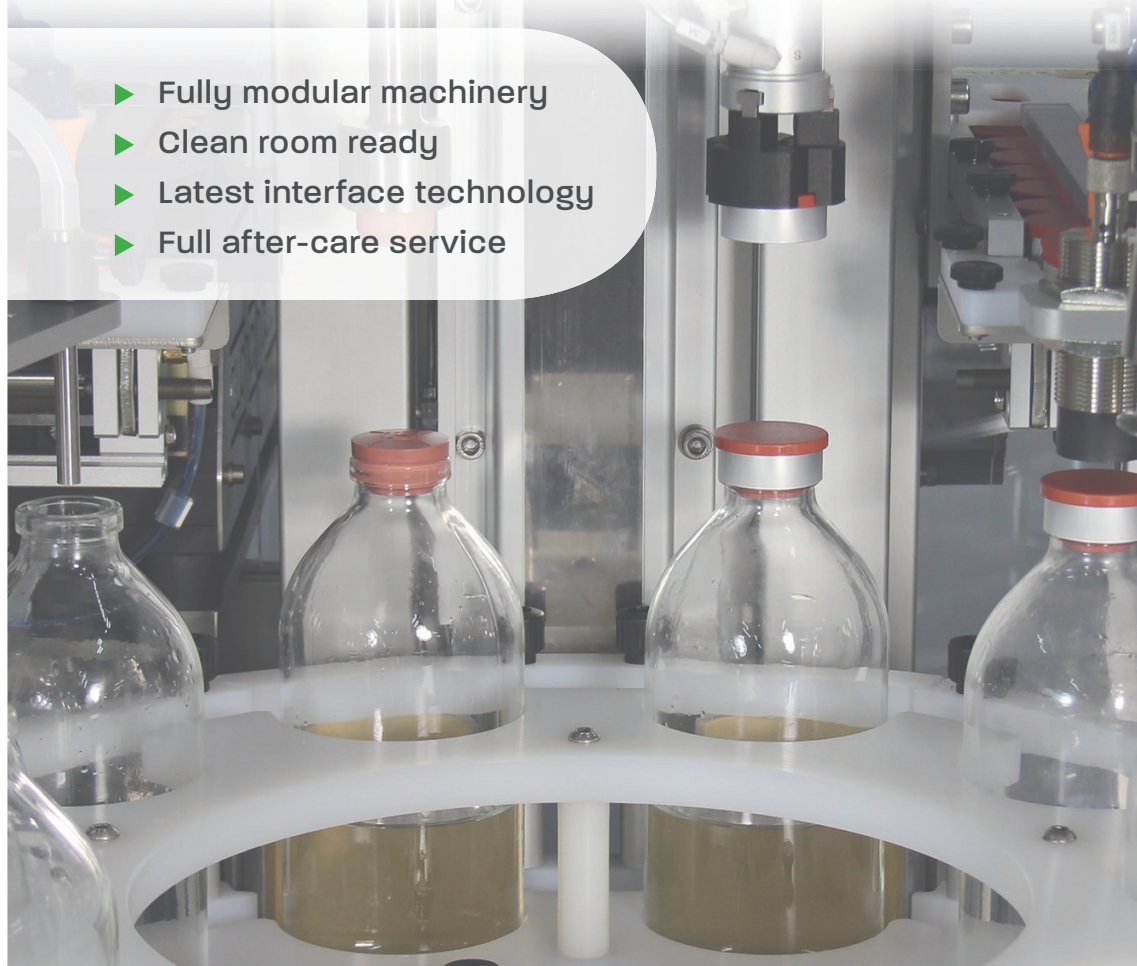
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New Machinery



New forming set advancements

Forming set makes new baggers easy

BW Flexible Systems' design and engineering teams have introduced TruFORM which it describes as the next generation of forming set technology for the flexible packaging market. Re-engineered from the ground up, TruFORM is both lighter and more adept at handling various films and so offers users superior performance.

The forming set is an integral part of flexible packaging equipment as the machine wraps film around the set to form it into bags, while simultaneously delivering product through the set into the newly formed bags.

FORMING UPGRADE

With updates to packaging machinery and new types of film in the market, the forming set was due for an upgrade.

Because forming sets are handled frequently in many locations to meet increasing changeover requirements, TruFORM leverages the strength and durability of previous BW Flexible designs, but it is approximately 30% lighter. The updated technology also improves film handling, allowing users to reduce wasted film, effort and time during operation.

TruFORM is available now as an upgrade for existing Ultima vertical bagger installations and with new Ultima machines.

In the future, TruFORM will also be a standard forming set on new Hayssen flexible packaging equipment.

T 0115 967 8787

W www.bwflexiblesystems.com

Quick Ship Programme across inspection range

Mettler-Toledo Product Inspection has launched a Configure-to-Order (CTO), 10 - 15 (working) day Quick Ship Programme for Garvens' C33 checkweighers and Safeline X33 and X34 x-ray systems. Effective immediately, the programme significantly improves product inspection equipment lead times.

The C33 Quick Ship checkweighers function in dry production environments and are available in six configurations to help meet specific weighing needs quickly. The programme allows manufacturers to add a new checkweigher to their line (or replace an existing weighing solution) within a streamlined, rapid design and delivery process.

The X33 and X34 Quick Ship Programmes are ideal for manufacturers requiring a fast, efficient solution to inspect their small and medium sized packaged products at a throughput rate of up to 300 products



The new service aims to deliver equipment like this X33 x-ray system quicker

per minute. Highly sensitive detection capabilities ensure that each package is inspected for contaminants including shards of metal, glass, mineral stone, calcified bone and high-density plastics and rubber. Simultaneously, both systems perform quality and packaging integrity checks to ensure brand protection.

"This year, the Coronavirus pandemic has impacted demand for food products in an unprecedented manner," explains Mike Pipe, head of global sales & product management at Mettler-Toledo Product Inspection.

"As such, we have designed our Quick Ship programmes to help manufacturers quickly respond to product demands thereby ensuring that all goods leaving their facilities meet stringent food safety compliance requirements and are safe for consumers."

The Quick Ship Programmes offer manufacturers a high level of flexibility of check weighing and x-ray inspection system specifications and the configurable options.

T 0116 235 7070

W www.mt.com

T 0161 848 8636

W www.mt.com/metaldetection

Turnkey filling line for canister wipes will be the fastest ever produced in this sector

In the second half of next year, Shemesh Automation will unveil a 200 ppm (packs per minute) turnkey filling line for canister wipes. Called the TKS-200, it is an extension of the proven TKS-60 and TKS-120 models and is designed to run at a consistent speed of 200 ppm and a maximum of 220 - 240 ppm.

As well as higher speeds, the unit is designed to also offer production consistency, accuracy and user satisfaction. The first demonstrations of



Shemesh Automation's new machine for canister wipes will be very speedy

this new unit are planned to take place in the US.

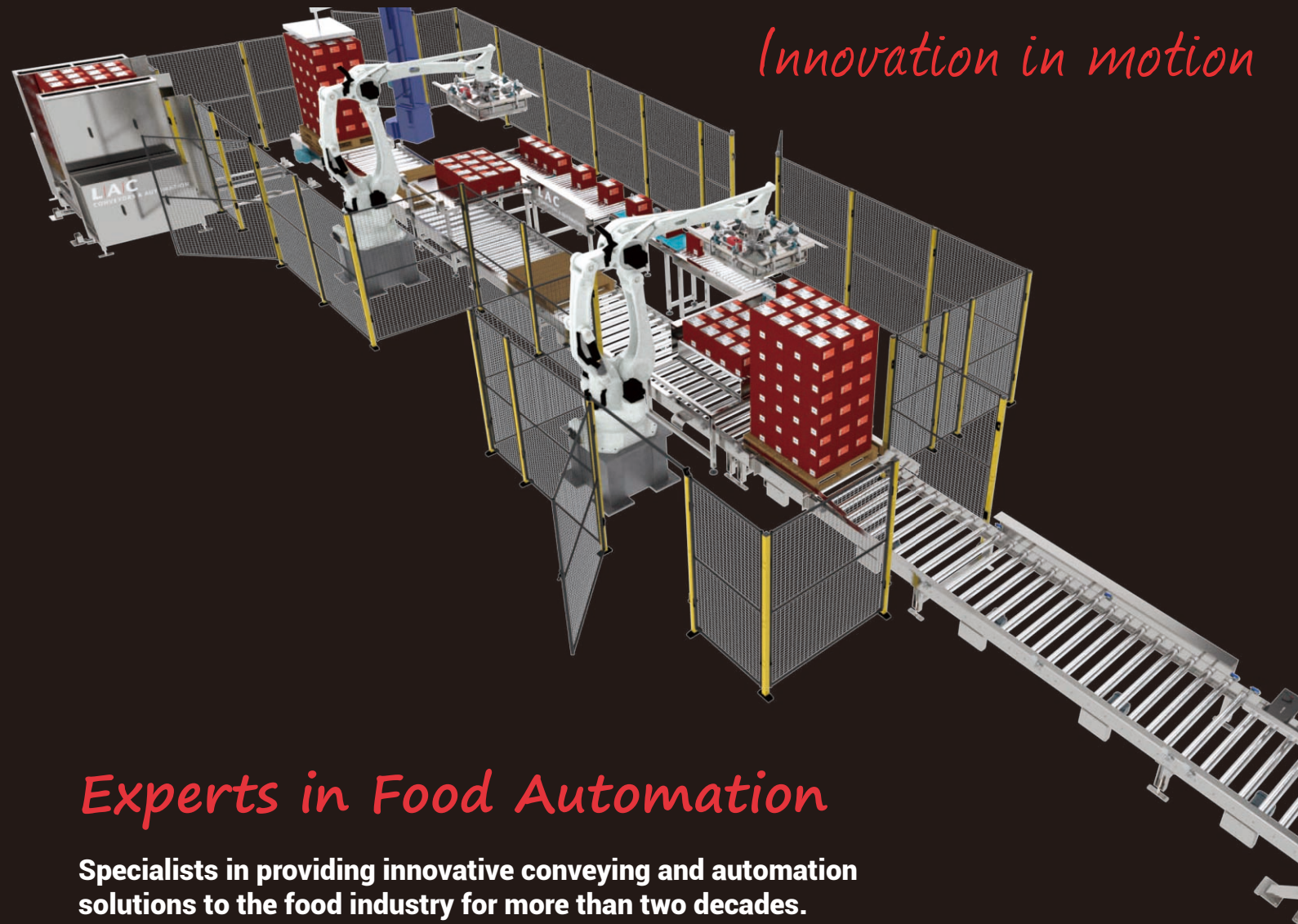
T 020 7887 6004

W www.shemeshautomation.com

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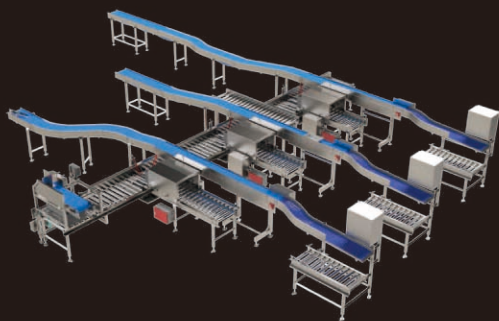
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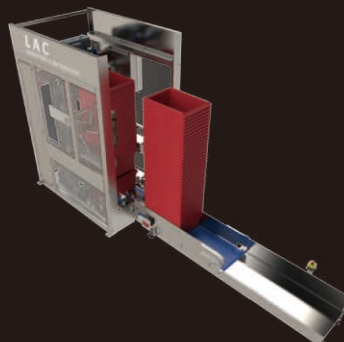


Experts in Food Automation

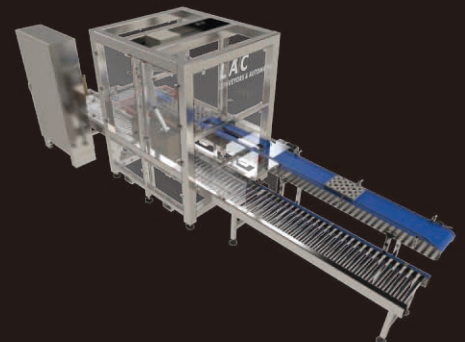
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New Machinery

Continuous liquid filler saves costs and labour

Cabinplant's continuous liquid filler (CLF) which is now available from Sealpac UK & Partners in the UK, offers increased efficiency with less labour required for difficult-to-fill products into a variety of containers.

These high-speed filling machines rely on vibration to distribute product into containers safely and efficiently. Their vibratory rotary tables are available with 14, 18, or 24 filling stations to match specific needs for speed and volume.

The CLF machine provides reliable and precise filling of liquids such as tomato sauce, oil and brine, soups or marinades. It is fitted with a specially designed filling valve which allows liquid to flow into the container opening while avoiding any spillages. Final filling is even precise enough to allow on-the-fly adjustments to the dosage to ensure each container reaches its target volume.

A high capacity of up to 300 glass containers per



Sealpac says the CLF is a highly flexible and economical choice for users

minute for a single processing line is offered, and it is also capable of handling liquids containing small particulates. A mobile version of the CLF is also available.

Sealpac UK & Partners is now the sole distributor of Cabinplant products for customers across the UK market.

"Although previously just known for traysealers and thermoformers, we are expanding the range to offer

full-line production solutions, to also include Cabinplant's multihead weighing and high-speed liquid filling equipment," explains Kevin Witheford, managing Director of Sealpac UK & Partners. The packaging company is investing in full line automated solutions which aim to optimise production efficiency.

T 01202 413633
W www.sealpac-uk.com



Handheld barcode readers cope with challenging work

Cognex has just launched its DataMan 8700 series of handheld barcode readers that are built on a redesigned platform to combine performance and ease of use with no tuning or operator training required.

"Cognex specialises in reading the most difficult barcodes at the highest speed and accuracy," says Carl Gerst, Cognex senior vice president and business unit manager of identification products. "With the 8700 series, we've developed the world's fastest line of industrial handheld readers, offering unprecedented response times and durability right out of the box."

Featuring advanced image formation and quick processing, the 8700 series can instantly read challenging direct part mark (DPM) and label-based codes, even when vital elements of the code are missing or damaged. Designed with oil-resistant and waterproof plastics, the readers are built to last in the harshest manufacturing environments.

T 0121 296 5163
W www.cognex.com/dataman-8700

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Food traceability software, delivers

Sparc Systems, in close collaboration with Fortress Technology, has developed the only known paperless audit software featuring unlimited pre-programmed Codes of Practice (COP).

Available on Sparc's full range of checkweighing, x-ray and combination inspection systems, this new software provides food factories with automated equipment performance testing, capturing all the data required to guarantee absolute traceability.

For checkweighing, x-ray, metal detection and combi systems, Sparc's latest release automates the entire testing process while providing due diligence reports, removing the need for human intervention. In particular, the solution is useful for High Care production environments where COP compliance and food safety assurance are integral to productivity.

Given most food businesses supply multiple retailers, every test is pre-configured by retailer and product being inspected. A visual reminder occurs five minutes before every test is due; if not achieved by the deadline, the inspection system either stops operating or sends

an alert to the factory's QA or technical manager.

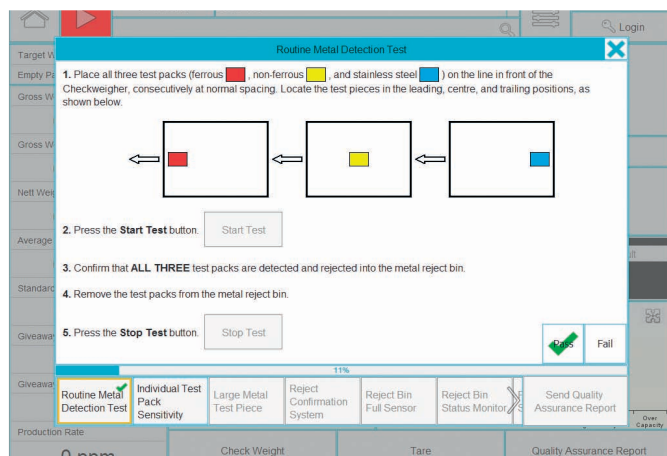
"By using automation to follow the test principles, it's impossible to bypass a step in the test process, significantly reducing labour time and increasing the productivity and transparency of machine performance audits," emphasises Sparc's European sales manager Charlie Graham.

Besides complying with industry standards and saving valuable time, reducing the frequency of manual tests also helps to eliminate the risk of human error and maintain workplace wellbeing at critical control points on a manufacturing line. Sparc's solution incorporates an easy-to-use, single swipe touchscreen, permitting users to bring to the foreground the most relevant parameters to their operation.

No matter where the panel is positioned, all of the inspection data and test parameters are stored and made accessible from one place.

"Rather than burying valuable statistical information away in a menu, users simply select and drop the parameters that they regard as most important," says Graham.

T 01684 310000
www.sparc-systems.com



Paperless testing and data collection is now offered by the inspection software



SKF R1U seals deliver good lip tracking ability despite any eccentricities.



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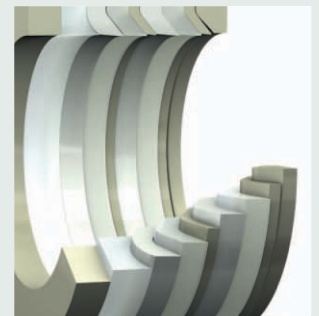
SKF rubber radial shaft seals offer protection even in highly corrosive environments.



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The profiles offer user stability

Modular profiles are used to create screens and shields

Antalis has launched Alugrip6, a set of modular aluminium profiles and accessories which can be used to create screens and shields.

The Alugrip6 profile range is a set of aluminium profiles and accessories which used together can create numerous screening and shielding applications to service office, retail warehouse and leisure environments. The system can be used in conjunction with rigid sheet materials, including acrylic, glass, PETG, foam PVC, polycarbonate as well as proprietary Xanita and Katz boards.

The range has been designed for the manufacture of a wide variety of screens and shielding structures required.

T 01530 505099

W www.antalispackaging solutions.co.uk



One of the key items for the dispersion of gel is Carbolol

Mixing it up to make hand sanitising gels

Ytron Quadro has helped Jonarve in Flint to repurpose its production facilities to manufacture hand sanitising gel using a Ytron ZC to disperse Carbolol.

T 01494 792898

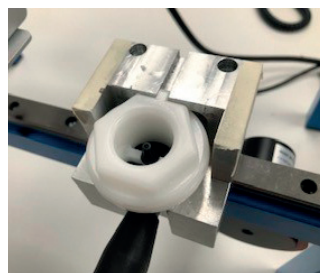
W www.ytron-quadro.co.uk

New coding system was installed remotely in the first lockdown

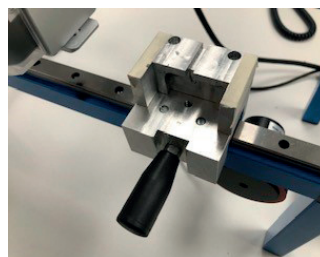
Leaffield Marine, a designer and manufacturer of valves and inflation systems for products including life rafts, inflation boats and marine evacuation systems, has installed the Sojet Elfin 1 printer they had been shown by Timbermark at the PPMA Total Show last year. It was installed during lockdown.

“The E1 printer appeared to provide the level of solution appropriate to our relatively low volume, non-automated production station,” explains Leaffield’s operations director Ian Mountain. The order came through to Timbermark as Britain was locking down to prevent the spread of Coronavirus, and with new COVID regulations in place, there was no chance of a site visit. Instead, Leaffield was assisted in installing the printing system remotely.

“Setting up the system was relatively simple once the operating process was understood,” says Mountain. “Within a couple of hours playing with the printing



Leaffield replaced manual marking



The Sojet Elfin 1 was easy to set up

system, parts were being marked successfully. What was once a significant time consuming experience has been transformed into a quick, in-line activity, easily paying back the cost of the system in a few months,” he says.

T 0870 803 1877

W www.timbermark.co.uk



Bowl feeders offer bespoke designs

Automated feeding units meet demand for C-19 testing kits

RNA Automation has been working with diagnostics manufacturers in increasing their production capacity to help them meet the global demand for COVID-19 test kits and antibody test kits. These kits must be produced quickly, but most importantly, be manufactured without any outside contamination to be safe and effective.

RNA has been supplying various bowl feeder systems to help meet current needs. These have included feeders with a white FDA approved polyurethane coating for test tubes, a unit that feeds two variants of glass syringes, and multi-lane systems to provide a higher output rate.

T 0121 749 2566

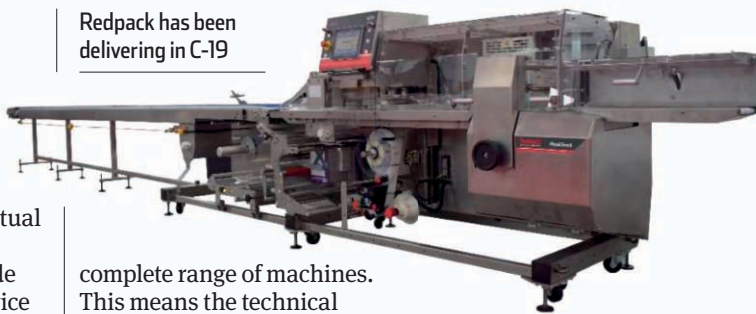
W www.rnaautomation.com

Latest virtual reality and remote support is helping customers to save time and money

Responding to the crisis, Redpack got multiple machines out the door in a matter of weeks to pack wipes, sanitisation kits, face masks and hygiene packs and it is currently rolling out HoloLens, a virtual reality piece of kit.

Obviously, C-19 has made it more difficult for its service engineers to be on site as much as pre-pandemic, but to overcome this challenge the company now installs remote support as standard across its

Redpack has been delivering in C-19



complete range of machines. This means the technical support team can log on to the machine remotely to support customers, if required, and make any adjustments to the machine settings.

The HoloLens is designed to add to this type of service.

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Regulations

To ATEX or IECEx or both, is the question

Lee Ray

OPERATIONS MANAGER FOR INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS (UK) AT TÜV SÜD



Manufacturers of equipment and systems used in hazardous industrial environments must ensure that their products meet the enhanced requirements of applicable regulations and standards

Equipment and systems (both electrical and non-electrical) manufacturers must ensure that their products meet the enhanced requirements of applicable regulations and standards for hazardous workplaces.

Within the EU, compliance with the ATEX Directive (2014/34/EU) is required, and in other markets the voluntary IECEx Equipment Certification Scheme applies. Although similar in scope and intent, the ATEX Directive and the IECEx Scheme have different requirements and assessment approaches, complicating the regulatory approval process.

The ATEX Directive provides a detailed overview of the essential health and safety requirements applicable to equipment used in hazardous environments.

Annex II addresses design and construction requirements for equipment and protective systems. However, the specific technical requirements to demonstrate compliance for various types of equipment and operating environments are found in nearly 100 individual harmonised standards. Depending on the equipment and its intended use, this means that more than one harmonised standard may be applicable to the evaluation and certification process.

Annex I identifies three equipment categories, which depend on the environment in which this equipment

is to be used:

- Cat 1 - areas which have an explosive atmosphere present continuously, for long periods or frequently.
- Cat 2 - explosive atmospheres likely to occur in normal operation occasionally.
- Cat 3 - where explosive atmospheres are not likely to be present in normal operation but, if it does occur, will persist for a short period only.

Cat 1 and 2 electrical equipment must be tested and certified by an EU Notified

under the IECEx scheme.

Equipment certification under the IECEx Certified Equipment Scheme is based on a compliance assessment with the technical requirements found in the IEC 60079 series of standards (electrical products); the IEC 80079 series of standards for non-electrical products; and the application of quality systems which have been developed by the Technical Committee (TC) 31.

The IECEx Scheme classifies equipment according to the hazardous environment areas where specific equipment can

process provides a

certification route for a broad range of equipment. It also offers significant latitude in the technical assessment of non-conventional equipment through the use of a technical construction file. This can be especially important to manufacturers of customised equipment, or equipment specifically designed for unique applications.

Under the IECEx Scheme, equipment must be tested and certified by IECEx-approved Testing Laboratories and Certification Bodies, and evidence of prior testing conducted by an EU Notified Body is not acceptable.

However, EU NBs located in IECEx member countries are required to accept test reports generated by IECEx-approved Testing Laboratories in support of an ATEX certification submittal.

The preferred conformity assessment path for many manufacturers therefore involves first obtaining equipment certification under the IECEx Certified Equipment Scheme. The IECEx testing data can then be submitted to an EU NB as part of the ATEX certification process. This will still require that certain ATEX-specific requirements are met, but the effort involved is relatively little.

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

Having two different approaches complicates the overall regulatory approval processes for everyone

Body (NB), and an NB-certified quality system must also be maintained. Cat 2 and 3 non-electrical equipment do not require NB involvement, but technical documentation must be stored with an ATEX NB.

Equipment certified in connection with the voluntary IECEx Certified Equipment Scheme meets the regulatory requirements of more than 30 countries. The IECEx conformity mark is intended to provide greater assurance for governments, safety regulators, customers, industry and end users operating within explosive atmospheres. Self-certification of products is not accepted

be used. Equipment Protection Level (EPL) Ga/Da and Gb/Db corresponds with the ATEX Categories 1 and 2 respectively, while Gc/Dc corresponds with the requirements of ATEX Cat 3.

Meanwhile, the IECEx conformity mark is evidence that a manufacturer's products have been independently assessed against the additional requirements of the IECEx conformity mark licensing system. The mark license number is issued to a manufacturer by an accepted IECEx certification body (ExCB) that has entered into a mark license agreement with the IEC.

The ATEX Directive's conformity assessment

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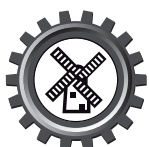
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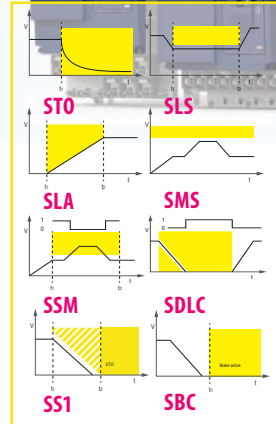
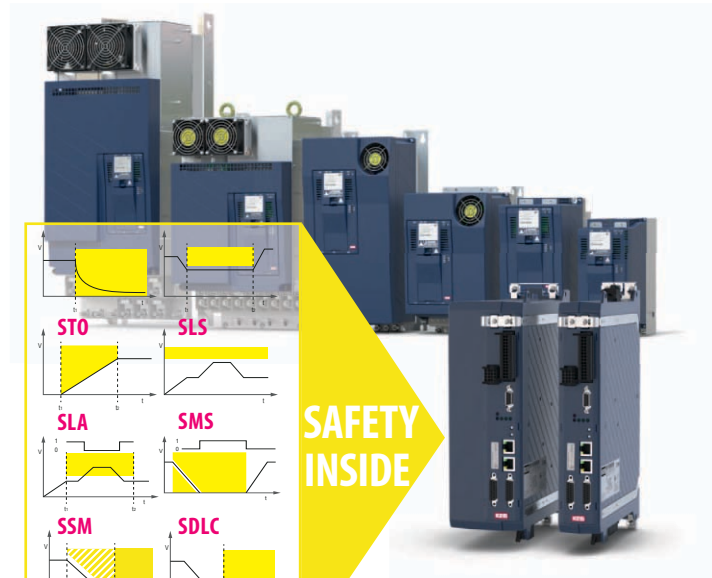
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Installation News



Refrigeration contractor = GEA

New chiller is an eco-friendly option for ice creams

As part of a £4.5 million project, the luxury ice cream brand Mackie's of Scotland will replace existing freezing equipment at its Aberdeenshire facility with GEA's ammonia-based, low carbon, energy efficient refrigeration system that incorporates an Absorption Chiller. This solution will help Mackie's to meet its 'green' targets of CO2 reductions of 90% and energy cost savings of 70-80%.

Mackie's green initiative involves replacing the gases used in its refrigeration plants from HCFC to ammonia, an environmentally-friendly refrigerant that has no impact on global warming or ozone depletion. GEA has teamed up with German company AGO to supply the Absorption Chiller for Mackie's manufacturing plant. **T** 01908 513500 **W** www.gea.com

Bagging system delivers gains in malt production

When Crisp Malting needed to increase not only its bagging line capacity, but also its flexibility, it had a goal of bagging 20 tonnes of whole malt per hour, an almost threefold increase from its previous bagging rates. It also wanted to improve worker conditions.

A new OML Series high speed open-mouth bagger, an HPL Series high level bag palletiser, and a stretch wrapper from Premier Tech Chronos was the answer, while to finish out the line, the company has also used an APW weigher that it had purchased earlier from the equipment supplier.

The new system's flexibility allows Crisp Malting to change from one recipe to another within three or four minutes and also avoid contamination. "As we produce so many different types," explains Jake Lambert, maltings and site manager, "we have a complex transfer system and we run through that APW weigher



The new bagger ensures neater and safer pallets

so we can batch transfer." Crisp Malting has also connected the APW scales to its SCADA system, which sends a pulse back to the computer every time the weigher drops a 50 kg increment.

"We can then take data from that to be able to see how much we've transferred through into our bins, so in

that way it works really well," says Leon Smith, dry goods manager and product manager.

Once the bags are filled, they're stitched closed, sent through the in-line checkweigher, and then transferred to the high-speed palletiser.

"The HPL works really well, with bags automatically feeding into the palletiser and we're then also able to stack up to ten high with our bags," says Smith.

Product settlement

in the bags can make the pallets look unsightly, so Crisp Malting uses the stretch wrapper – set to its highest setting – to not only increase pallet stability, but also to leave its customers with a solid first impression every time they receive their malt orders into their plants.

T 0115 935 1351 **W** www.ptchronos.com

A series of bespoke packaging lines are making a difference for Danish Crown as it expands its meat operations in China

Ishida Europe has designed and installed a series of bespoke packing lines for specialist meat producer Danish Crown's new greenfield factory located in China.

Ishida has supplied its own and ancillary equipment for the four lines which are handling a variety of products including minced and diced pork, ribs and steaks, as well as quality control for thermoformed packs of pork.

The factory is now in operation and will have

a capacity for 14,000 tonnes of meat to be processed and packed each year when it is up to full speed.

Ishida's ability to devise complete solutions in line with customer requirements and efficiency and throughput targets, along with the performance and



A comprehensive range of units have been installed

reliability of its equipment, were key reasons for the

company's selection by Danish Crown.

"We felt that Ishida offered the most relevant experience and the best solutions," explains Nicolai Linde, senior manager projects, production and supply chain at Danish Crown. "In addition, the company has an office in China which ensures a fast response in terms of service support and spare parts."

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Installation News



Robot palletiser can handle a range of packaging formats

When British Sugar needed to palletise its boxes of icing sugar in various formats and box sizes, it approached RMGroup who devised a robotic box handling system that included an ABB IRB 660 4-axis robot being integrated with existing pallet conveying and pick up conveyor.

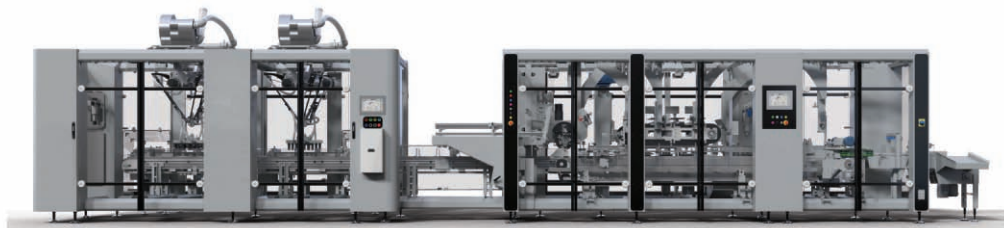
The new system has achieved a packaging throughput of 22 pallets an hour over 8 hours for the 388 x 253 x 191 mm 10 kg boxes and 17 pallets an hour over 8 hours for the 300 x 188 x 165mm and 308 x 195 x 158mm 5 kg boxes.

The system was also designed to fit into an extremely limited footprint, while the bespoke, multifunctional end of arm tooling can handle boxes, pallets and also slip sheets when required.

T 01686 621704

W www.rmgrouppuk.com

Pet food lines must be flexible and adaptable



Cama's dynamic box phasing device ensures gentle pack handling combined with fast product loading for its clients

The Cama Group was recently approached by the pet food division of a large multinational confectionery and lifestyle brand as one of its US pet food plants saw the advantages that an automated approach would deliver to the secondary packaging of dental sticks for dogs.

Indeed, this customer already had a couple of Cama lines, but nothing in relation to automated cartoning or secondary packaging which was still carried out manually by transient workers.

The company has now installed two of what will be six lines, with the other four being planned in parallel

positions. "Our ability to cater and mould our designs to the available space available was another defining factor in the customer's choice," explains Davide Di Lorenzo, sales engineer manager in the US. Cama's ability to modify its machines – not necessarily in terms of their method of operation – but in accommodating the internal product flow, was also important in this project. In this case, a bypass function to allow pouches to be packed individually was required

which was then integrated into the system.

The initial two-line solution comprises a CL Series cartoner equipped with a delta robot loading system to collect the products in different variations, which in every case is highly tailored to a customer's unique requirements, while also delivering flexibility for future format variations.



One pouch at a time

In parallel is an AV series RSC case erector, while both lines feed into an IT series case loader.

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Taking control over specialist finishing services has paid off

Luxury printed packaging company Curtis Packaging has reported that its investment in a new Kama ProCut 76 Foil punching, embossing and finishing machine has allowed it to take more control over its specialist finishing services.

Purchased through Friedheim International, which distributes Kama technology in the UK market, the Kama ProCut 76 Foil is now running alongside two Heidelberg cylinders at the company's facility in Redhill in Surrey. The decision to invest in the new machine was in response to customer demand, with a large number of its clients using hot foil to enhance their cartons. For many years, the company sent this process out to a third-party.

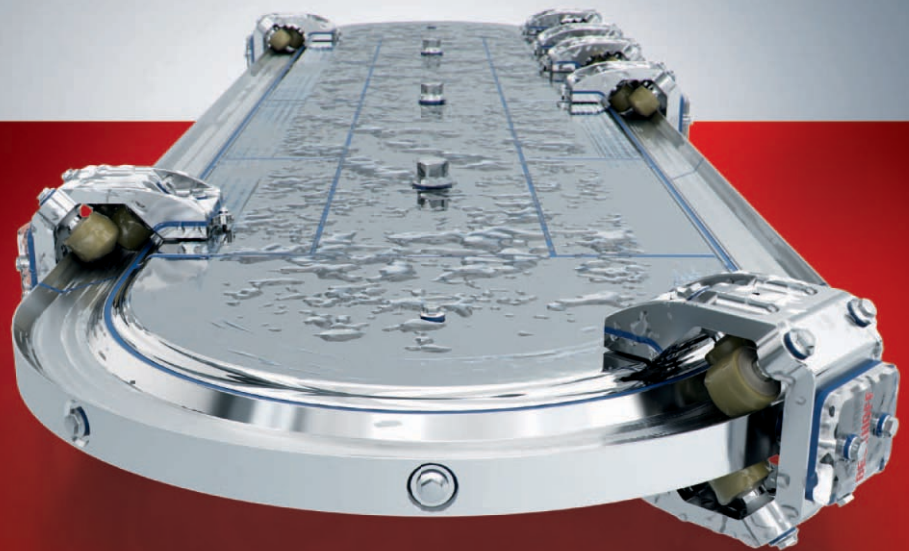
MEETING THE DEMAND

While the company brought this finishing process in house through investment in two older Heidelberg cylinders, such was the level of demand that James Williams, managing director at Curtis, said the business needed a faster solution. "Though these machines are great, they are slow and as the business grew the need for a faster machine became apparent," he says. "We find that smaller-format foiling and embossing allows us greater quality control and the size of the Kama suited us perfectly." He also explains that its sheets-to-floor average now stands at 3,000 per hour, compared to 1,000 per hour when using the older cylinders. Williams also praised the camera registering system and how this will assist with its quality control.

T 01442 206100

W www.friedheimpackaging.co.uk

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Installation News

End of line purchasing decision has paid off in these C-19 times

Premium Snacks manufacturer Burts Snacks has just completed the installation of a complete end of line pack handling and Alvey palletisation solution from Scott Automation.

Producing a wide range of bag sizes and multipacks, in a diverse range of regular cases, display packs and SRP cases, Burts needed to increase individual line efficiencies, reduce manual handling, reduce extensive internal pallet movements and increase pallet stack quality through the supply chain.

The project's objective was to provide a palletising solution for the rapidly filling Roberough site, with a phased installation that did not disrupt production. The technology had to ensure operator and packaging materials access to each line while minimising the transport distance of unwrapped pallet loads.

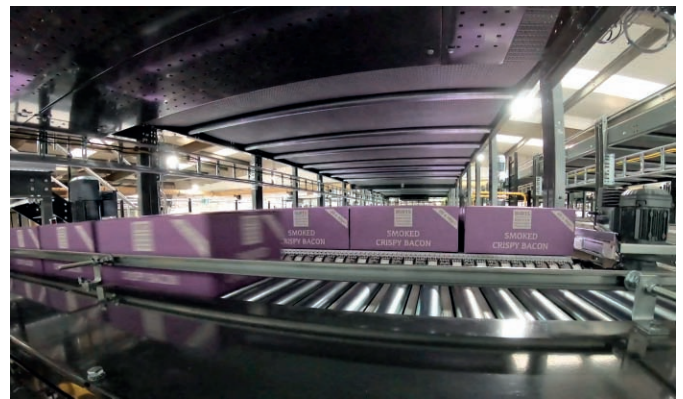
"From my perspective the food safe approach to

installation facilitated a seamless install and the ease of maintenance from a hygiene perspective post install is excellent," says Maxine Stringer, group technical manager at Burts Snacks.

Eight production lines producing up to 2,400 cases per hour are linked to the system with planned expansion for two more lines seen for the future. And as Burts is a multi customer producer, the solution handles multiple case sizes, empty pallet types, and various stacking patterns to deliver an output of up to 40 pallets per hour.

In operation, cases are collected from each production line, merged onto high level transport conveyors and delivered to a central sortation, buffering and palletisation area based on the Alvey Multi-line principle.

Each specified empty pallet is dispensed for the high-level Alvey palletiser to build each SKU at four layers per minute. Completed pallet stacks are then carefully wrapped,



The system has coped with the huge operational changes needed this year

labelled and delivered to the on-site warehouse. The system was installed in a small area at the back of the empty pallet and packaging store, with all the sortation and buffering at a higher level on a mezzanine floor.

"After many months of careful consideration, looking at robots and layer solutions, we felt the Scott offering gave us what we needed," explains Burts Snacks' operations manager, Stuart Watkins. "Once the final design was completed, the Burts Snacks'

on-site team worked closely and collaboratively with the Scott project and installation team throughout.

"The successful end result was achieved with the complete buy in from the Burts Snacks' operational team with a significant up lift in output and reduced supermarket returns," he continues. "And with the huge operational changes required this year, the decision to install Scott's Alvey Multi-line was hugely beneficial!"

T 01384 210278

W www.scottautomation.co.uk

An extra-wide pallet stretch wrapping machine has ensured load stability for insulation board while being operator safe

Yorkshire Packaging Systems (YPS) has supplied and installed a rotary arm pallet wrapping machine into Xtratherm's Co Meath factory in Ireland that has been specially developed to handle insulation board economically and safely.

For many years Xtratherm has wrapped its pallets of insulation board by hand but were looking to automate the process with a stretch wrapping machine. The challenge was to find a



YPS supplied this wrapping unit from TOSA

system large enough to handle its entire product range,

the largest of which measured 1200 mm x 3000 mm, while keeping the wrapping costs per pallet low.

To meet these needs, YPS supplied its extra wide automatic rotating arm stretch wrapping machine built by TOSA. Its larger frame meant that the film dispensing arm could completely encircle every size of pallet with ease,

while the pallets could remain stationary during the process to guarantee load stability. The perimeter of the machine was fully fenced for operator safety and a light curtain sensor was integrated to detect any human entering the machine, which would initiate an emergency stop.

The equipment also boasts a high stretch capability of 250% to achieve more coverage from each roll of pallet wrap.

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Installation News

Automated processing system is delivering for premium sausages

Multivac UK has supplied a complete, fully integrated processing line for the automated production of high quality sausages to one of the largest producers of premium sausage in the UK.

The manufacturing site was looking to upscale production of its premium sausages with the use of processing automation equipment to increase volume at greater efficiency. The previous manual production required standalone grinding, mixing and cutting processes all of which were labour intensive and provided limited output.

Multivac supplied a solution from Laska, an exclusive processing partner in the UK, to meet all the requirements in a limited footprint with varying ceiling heights and four production rooms.

“The challenge within this project design was to provide a high output solution that also catered for intermittent small batches throughout multiple rooms,” explains



Multivac is an exclusive processing partner for Laska equipment in the UK

Liam Smith, product manager at Multivac UK. “The high output, large batch range flexibility yet small footprint of the Laska machinery enabled us to provide a bespoke solution specific to this requirement.”

Several pieces of machinery were installed to provide a complete processing production line. It begins with the Laska control system, which is used in synchronisation with the raw material infeed for the sausage recipe selected through the

HMI screen. This system enables the processing line to work automatically as a unit and provides complete traceability of the raw material source, weight and lean meat composition.

The sausage recipe selected by the operator will enable the correct meat to be called which travels via transport conveyors to be inspected and then into the Laska Super Grinder. Once the meat has been ground to size, it travels into the next production room via Laska

incline conveyors to arrive at the Laska Bunker system, a meat storage area with a total capacity of up to 12,000 litres. While in the Laska Bunker, the Laska Paddle system gently oscillates the product to keep the meat mix even but maintaining product texture, quality and aesthetics.

The meat then travels via transport conveyors to the next production room to arrive at the Laska tandem Mixers to be blended with ingredients specified in the particular sausage recipe.

The Laska system provides full traceability of each individual sausage providing information of the raw material supplier, ingredients batch, temperature control and the date and time of manufacture through the touch of a button. This traceability is paramount in modern factories to provide information throughout the process to ensure the highest product quality.

T 01793 425800

W www.multivac.co.uk



The floorless operation of the high-speed doors is vital to Budweiser Budvar

Brewer has 32 speedy doors

Efaflex has installed 32 high-speed doors at the recently completed logistics centre for Budweiser brewery. “Part of the brewing process relies on our products being cooled,

meaning that any kind of door malfunction would result in an enormous economic cost,” says a representative from the site.

T 01952 582641

W www.efaflex.co.uk

Automated fish filleting has given quality and efficiency

Fish manufacturer Seafood Parlevliet has achieved a 75% reduction in manual labour and up to five times the speed with a new automated production line that includes control and vision systems from Omron.

Once thawed, the herrings go through the automated filleting process in several steps which also includes adding the diced onions, as well as placing the fillets into their final packaging ready for consumers. The line includes

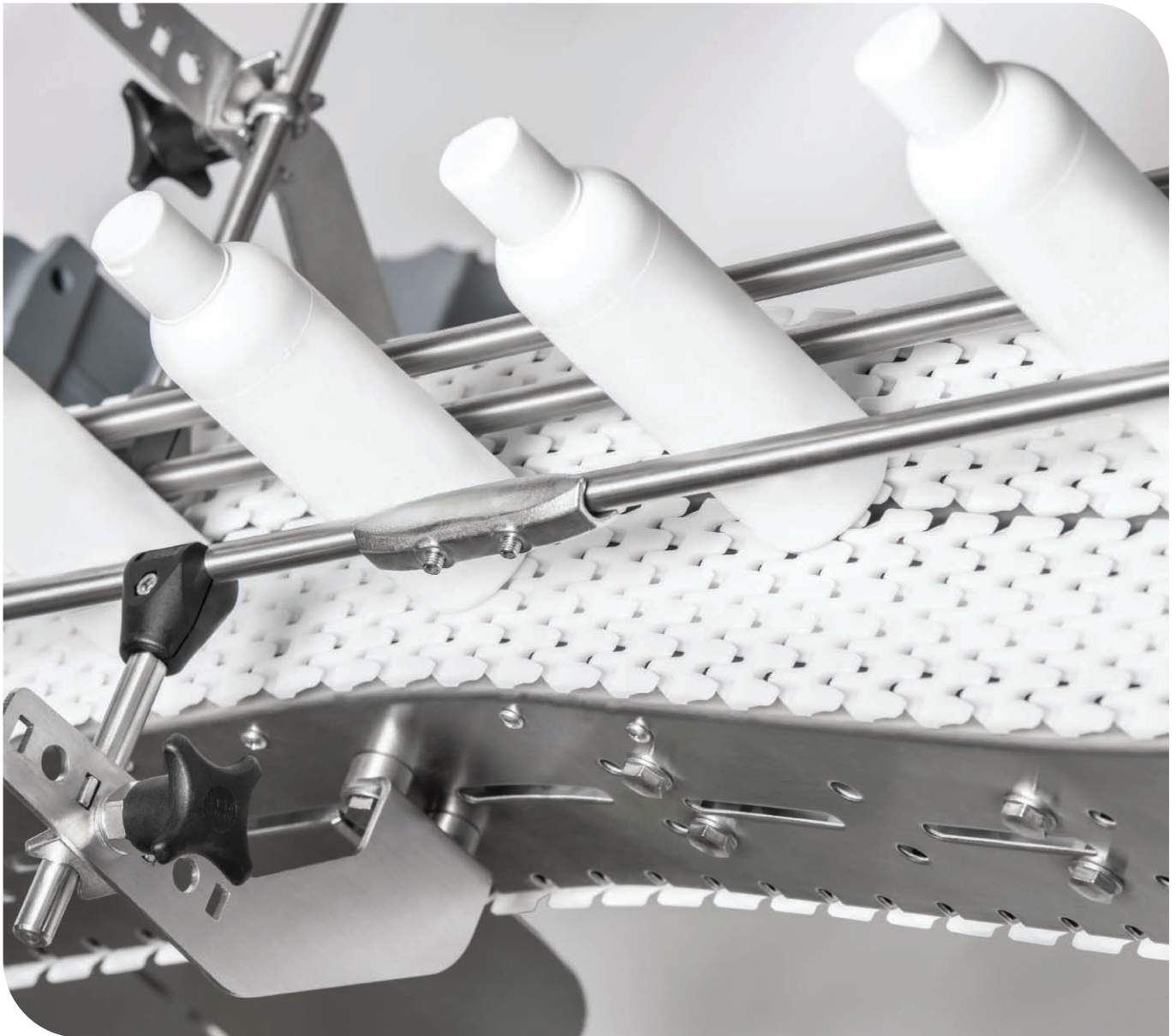
various Omron components such as frequency regulators, servo drives, feeding solutions, safety blocks, as well as the panel solution.

VISION SYSTEM USE

In addition, Omron FH vision system and cameras, paired with lighting and bespoke machine vision software, were implemented to carry out several vision checks during the entire process.

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Installation News



The two new VFFS units in use

New VFFS technology gives gains

Over the last six months, potato packers IPL, part of the ASDA family, has seen throughput increase by 25% after investing in vertical form, fill and seal (VFFS) equipment. In February, the company doubled the number of GIC machines operating at its Scottish factory and has since seen productivity increase by 15% and mechanical downtime reduce by 2%.

IPL acquired its Inchture site in Perthshire in 2015 and soon found the existing VFFS machines to be inefficient and unreliable. In 2018, the company invested in its first two GIC8000 machines which can comfortably pack 80 bags per minute, an increase of 33% compared to the previous machines.

"Introducing the two new GIC machines to our line at IPL Inchture in February has been incredibly successful," explains Kirsty Reid, factory manager at IPL Inchture. "We now operate four GIC8000s and as a result, the tonnage we can handle each hour has increased, and we've seen a reduction in downtime, with productivity rising beyond expectation.

"Sustainability is a fundamental part of IPL's strategy, and we are committed to minimising our impact on the environment," she continues "As well as being more efficient than our previous machines, the GIC8000s use less film than the ageing machines we replaced, which is another positive."

T 01427 611885

W www.gic.uk.net

End of line upgrade is better for water brand

Pearlwater Mineralquellen AG (Pearlwater) has improved the efficiency of its production line as well as bottle quality by upgrading its PalKombi Gripping palletiser's performance installed by Sidel in 2011. The company was able to increase the palletiser's reliability and flexibility for the handling of various PET pack sizes (from 500 ml to 1.5 litre) and improved overall line efficiency by 5% with better pack and pallet stability.

After analysing the performance of the line, Sidel's engineers proposed enhancing bottle positioning of the small bottle packs on the palletiser with a new pack conveying and rotation system called the 'Electronic Spacer'. "The upgrade for Pearlwater's PalKombi Gripping palletiser focuses on a new packs inlet module made of modular chain conveyors on which the packs are smoothly transferred and rotated to form rows before being pushed onto the pallet," explains



Pearlwater and Sidel have worked together to improve the end of the line

Danny Bollnow, service sales manager at Sidel.

This new system increases palletiser performance through maximised uptime, the packs produced and the overall pallet quality as well as reducing changeover times for new format handling. The system reduces bottle impacts and scrap between packs when they are spaced to generate correct rows. There are fewer falls leading to bottle damage which minimises downtime as manual intervention to

reposition the packs correctly is no longer required.

With electronic spacing principles, smaller packs are smoothly positioned to form correct rows, ensuring pallet accuracy for more reliable production, says Sidel.

"We are very satisfied with the project execution, follow-up, and the great collaboration we had with the Sidel team," says Pascal Collaud, head of production & logistics at Pearlwater.

T 01707 292820

W www.sidel.com

Sandwiches are now stacked quickly using robotic system

Growing production demands coupled with a major labour shortage provided motivation for a large-scale sandwich producer to automate its high-speed sandwich stacking operation using robotics. To resolve the challenge, TechBrew Robotics, a Kawasaki Robotics preferred integrator based in Canada, designed a custom solution using Kawasaki's R series robots and F60 controller.

After sandwiches are halved in the cutting machine,

the robots need to pick up and then rotate to stack one half on top of the other, making them easier for human workers to package manually further down the line. TechBrew designed a custom gripper specifically for this application with the pneumatic end effector controlled directly by the F60 controller, to allow for quick movements.

The cleanroom version of Kawasaki's 5 kg payload RS005L general purpose robot was used in this application.



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Seal system inspects all dog food pouches

Brazil's Special Dog Company has invested in a 100% inline seal inspection system called SealScope from Engilico to guard the quality of the pouch seals for its wet dog food range.

"The main benefit of 100% seal inspection is to have a good night of dreams, instead of dealing with quality nightmares," says Octávio Soberón, manager of the Wet Pet Food Division. "The sealing of flexible packages is a critical phase in the packaging process," he continues, "which is why we invested in 100% automated seal inspection."

The company uses a Toyo Jidoki rotary pouch packaging machine for its wet pet food. SealScope vibration sensors are retrofitted on the sealing jaws of this dual-lane rotating unit at two stations in the carousel to check the seals.

During the closing of the sealing jaws, the vibration response is measured and compared to a reference model of correctly sealed packages. When the deviation is higher than a user defined limit – whether the cause is from product in seal, wrinkles, or folds in the seals

– the package is rejected.

As every single package is inspected, manual inspection can be reduced or drastically reduced. "The non-destructive seal testing made directly on the sealing bars greatly improved our effective line efficiency from previous manual inspection methods," says Soberón. "Special Dog Company is now delivering a 100% inspected product, which means satisfied consumers."

As SealScope inspects every product, it also serves as a continuous monitoring system, not only for the sealing process but indirectly for the complete packaging line.

T 00 32 16 498 130

W www.engilico.com



The SealScope system has delivered multiple gains for pet food

Healthy fresh salmon is now marketed in skin technology based on tray sealers

When G Mondini UK approached seafood company Mowi with a breakthrough in skin packaging, it presented an opportunity for both parties to establish a skin packaging technology based on tray-sealing that extends marketing opportunities and design.

This system for fresh fish now delivers a whole new range of business benefits – expanding the opportunities

for vacuum skin packaging within the industry.

"Our ongoing, well-established relationship with G Mondini UK has allowed us to apply our knowledge of the fresh salmon sector to innovations in technology that help drive the seafood market forward to meet the growing demand for fresh and healthy meals," explains head of operations at Mowi Consumer Products UK, Gary Paterson. "Our business has continued to grow, and we look forward to continued innovation with G Mondini UK."

T 01785 812512

W www.gmondini.com

 **Seafood company adopts Darfresh on tray**

A film-free beer multipack is stable, yet easy-to-separate

With its current project, the KHS Group together with Martens Brewery in Belgium has adopted a more sustainable packaging option for a German food store chain to help the retailer meet its 'green' strategy. Karlskrone beer is to be sold as a film-free KHS Nature MultiPack of six – in redesigned 500 ml PET bottles made entirely of recycle. FreshSafe PET, the patented KHS Plasmax coating process, also provides optimum product protection and a long product shelf life.



No film is used to create multipacks

Martens fills its beverages on a number of KHS machines – into cans, glass bottles and – as in this case – PET. The brewery invested, among other things, in an InnoPET Blomax stretch blow moulder and an InnoPET Plasmax that coats the insides of the bottles with a wafer-thin film of chemically pure glass.

This existing line has now been extended by an InnoPack Nature MultiPack machine and currently, up to 40,000 PET bottles an hour can be processed as Nature MultiPacks. The new system joins beverage bottles together not with shrink film but with dots of adhesive to form a stable yet easy-to-separate pack.

T 0121 713 6900

W www.khs.com

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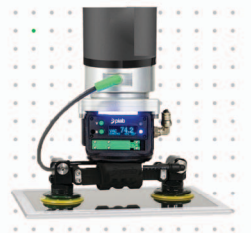
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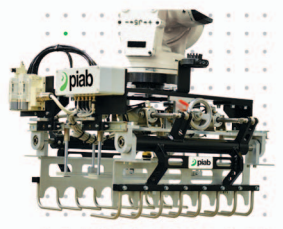
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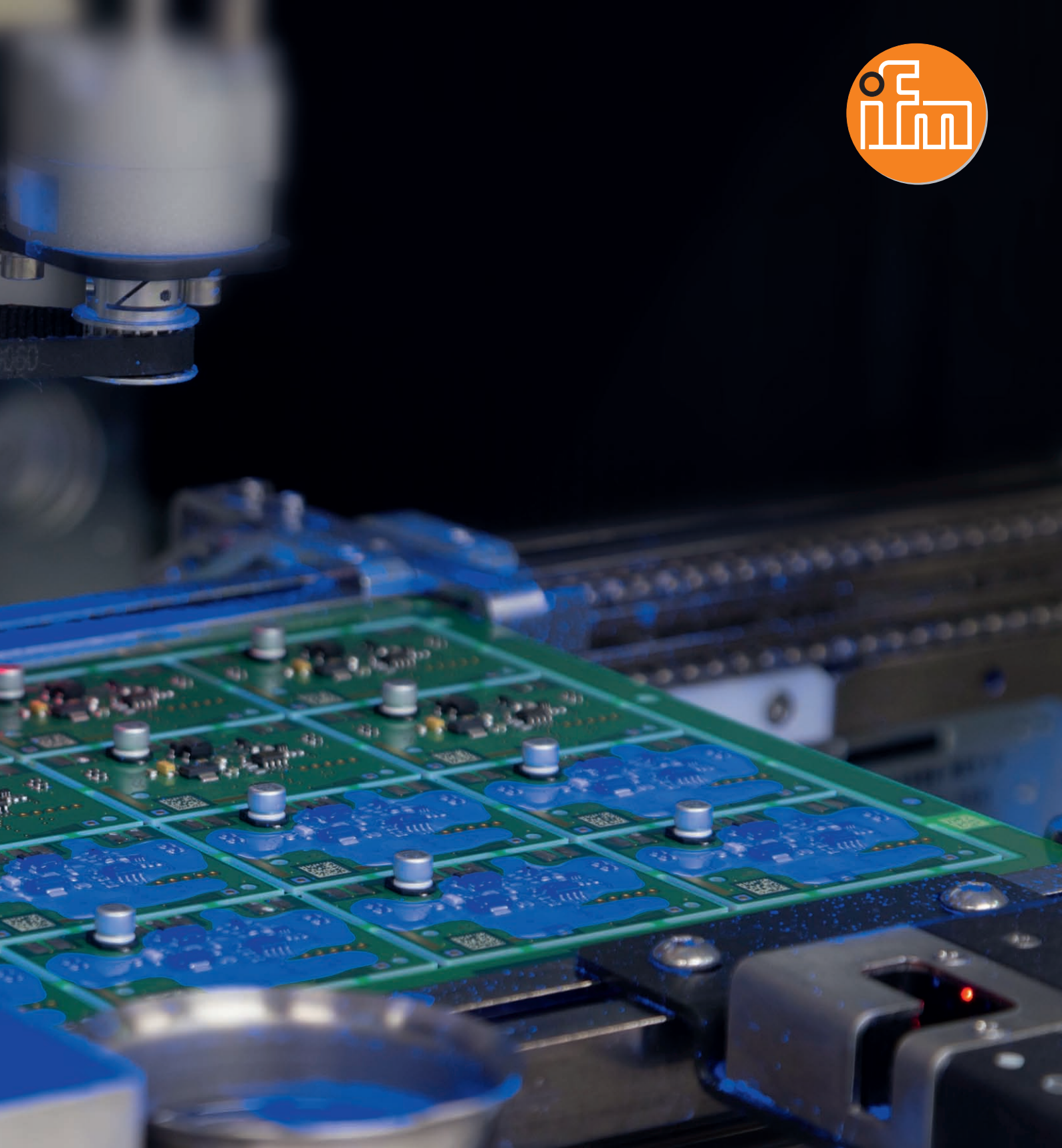
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Feature: Pharmaceuticals

Technology that's helping in the race to conquer COVID

No pharmaceuticals feature written in 2020 can fail to mention the collective endeavour to discover an effective vaccine against COVID-19 and equipment from across the board has been installed to help meet this goal, as well as packing C-19 test kits.

For instance, OPTIMA is supporting Catalent with fast track delivery of a new high-speed vial filling line for a C-19 vaccine programme and Minebea Intec's products have ensured reliable weighing results, precise dosing and rapid transmission of the measured data during the production of the first batches of potential vaccine at the biotech company CanSino.

In terms of testing, initial discussions in March, closely followed by multiple machine orders placed, has seen Paramount Packaging Systems install three Fuji systems specifically for packing rapid antibody lateral flow tests, with a further three to be installed by the end of the year. It comes as the UK's lateral flow device manufacturers scaled up their production capacities in response to the dramatic increase in demand which meant more efficient lines were needed to process a higher volume of packs at significantly faster rates.

RAPID ANTIBODY TESTING

All six Fuji packaging systems will be used for the packing of rapid antibody tests, which identify the body's response to coronavirus after the onset of infection, in less than 20 minutes.

In addition, another wrapper was supplied to an existing customer who manufactures respiratory care products, to be used in critical care units in hospitals. In response to the increasing capacity demands, Fuji increased its level of European stock machines, enabling the UK company to react quickly.

Meanwhile, three custom feeding



Helping the global goal

Equipment to pack the vaccine and the all-important test kits at speed is an important piece of the fight against COVID-19 jigsaw

and counting systems that were designed to help make test kits for COVID-19 have been supplied by Longford Europe in double-quick time.

Specialist diagnostics company LumiraDx UK had already installed a custom-designed system a couple of years ago but had an urgent need at the beginning of lockdown to boost the manufacturing and R&D facilities at its Stirling, Scotland site. The company contacted Longford at the beginning of the UK lockdown and had the new, bespoke systems installed in under four months.

Counting is an important part of the all-in-one process with high throughput achievable, and the system utilises a side to

side shift catch tray which allows the operator to manually load cartons while the system counts the next batch.

"We are pleased yet humbled to play a very modest role in helping LumiraDx in its endeavour to beat this horrific illness, the kits it makes will help tremendously in this cause," says Graham Collisson of Longford Europe.

Finally, Cobra Biologics and Watson-Marlow Fluid Technology Group (WMFTG) discussed the challenges of vaccine production and how to accelerate large scale vaccine manufacturing on a Webinar in September. Strategies for vaccine production, while maintaining critical quality standards were discussed and further details can be found on WMFTG's website.

www.longfordint.com

www.minebea-intec.com

www.optima-packaging.com

www.paramount-packaging.co.uk

www.wmftg.co.uk

More pharma technology and advice on meeting EU MDR regs is on the following 15 pages



Printing and labelling across your production line

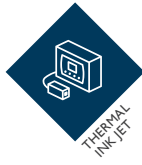
Product identification ◆ Brand protection ◆ Industry 4.0



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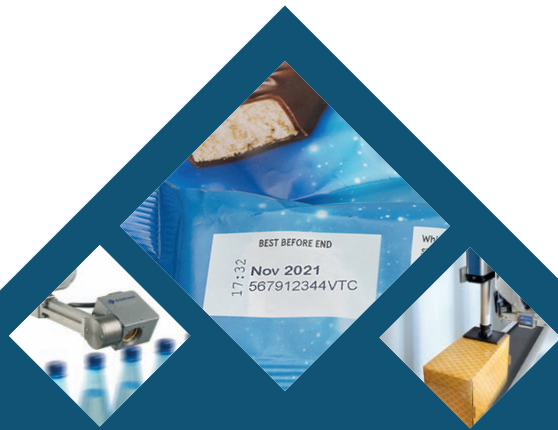
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Feature: Pharmaceuticals

Vacuum is provided for glass syringes

At Nipro, Germany, the previously used single-stage ejectors have been replaced with piCOMPACT vacuum pumps from Piab on two lines producing single-use glass syringes with cannulas.

These are based on Piab's multi-stage COAX vacuum technology, which minimises energy consumption and offers a secure and quick hold due to the high initial vacuum flow. In this way, the four piCOMPACT vacuum pumps per system at Nipro, which have been in continuous operation since February this year, ensure significantly higher process stability and thus less waste and idle time due to machine downtime when replacing the pumps.

A LARGER WORKING RANGE

"In addition, the piCOMPACT has a much larger working range and is also less sensitive to fluctuations in compressed air than the single-stage vacuum ejectors we have used so far," explains Daniel Schmitt, project & plant engineer at Nipro Pharma Packaging Germany.

"This is particularly important because our production is clocked and so not running continuously," he continues. "The vacuum ejectors from Piab have been in operation with us for almost half a year except for the holidays at Easter and Pentecost and have driven five million cycles without any problems during this time."

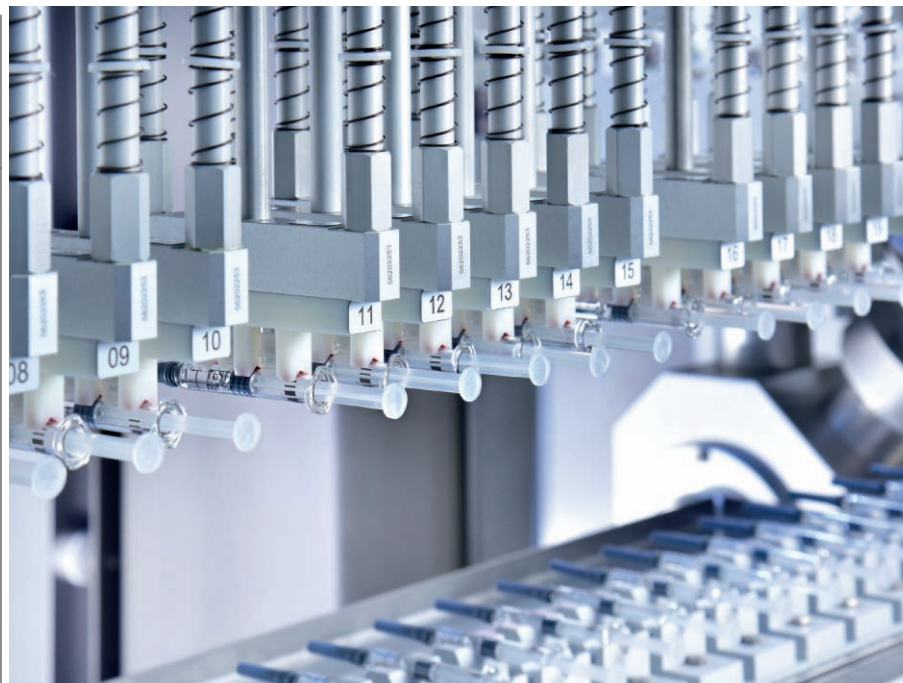
In addition, Piab says its COAX ejectors are up to twice as fast as other ejectors and deliver three times more flow than conventional vacuum ejectors with identical air consumption.

T 01509 857010

W www.piab.com



Four Piab piCOMPACT's supply the vacuum



Products are placed into transfer chain flights at defined intervals by means of star wheels

Handling has to be gentle...

A global supplier relies on **Schubert-Pharma** to pack its flu vaccine syringes with no fuss

With powerful star wheels and robotics, Schubert-Pharma's infeed system enables high outputs with extremely gentle product

handling for each year's new vaccine to immunise people against current mutations of the influenza virus. Speed is of the essence in production, as due to the lead time required to adapt the vaccine to new strains of pathogens, there is not much time between the development of the appropriate drug and the emergence of the flu epidemic. To ensure that the flu vaccines can be produced quickly, safely and reliably, a global pharmaceutical group with over 70,000 employees decided to collaborate with Schubert-Pharma.

One of the most important requirements for the new packaging machine was to provide a gentle packaging process for the fragile glass syringes containing the valuable vaccine doses. The various syringe types consist of 1-millilitre-long syringes with a 16 mm

cannula and a soft cap, tip cap or hard cap, as well as 1-millilitre standard syringes with a soft or hard cap. In order to package the drugs securely, the syringes already filled with the vaccine are placed into trays for feeding. The loading sequence requires every second syringe to be rotated by 180 degrees so that the syringes are always in opposing directions.

This saves space and therefore packaging material. Before this can take place, however, they must be pre-grouped from a hanging, loose feeder into a lying position with defined distances between each individual product.

A group of four trays, each with a total of 40 correctly aligned syringes is then fed by a conveyor belt to a Schubert camera system, which finally checks the correct length, filling and alignment of the syringes and also ensures that the plunger rod, label and protective cap are present.

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Feature: Pharmaceuticals

Wrapping a mask range

ixapack Global has supplied a wrapping line for a surgical masks manufacturer in France. On the line, a loading module detects the position of the masks on the conveyor via a vision system before tripod robots form groups of masks to be fed to the AF300 flow wrapper. Packs of two, five and ten are then wrapped at up to 180 masks a minute. The TG3-A checkweigher controls pack weights.

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ixapack has responded to demand for masks

Labellers are very popular



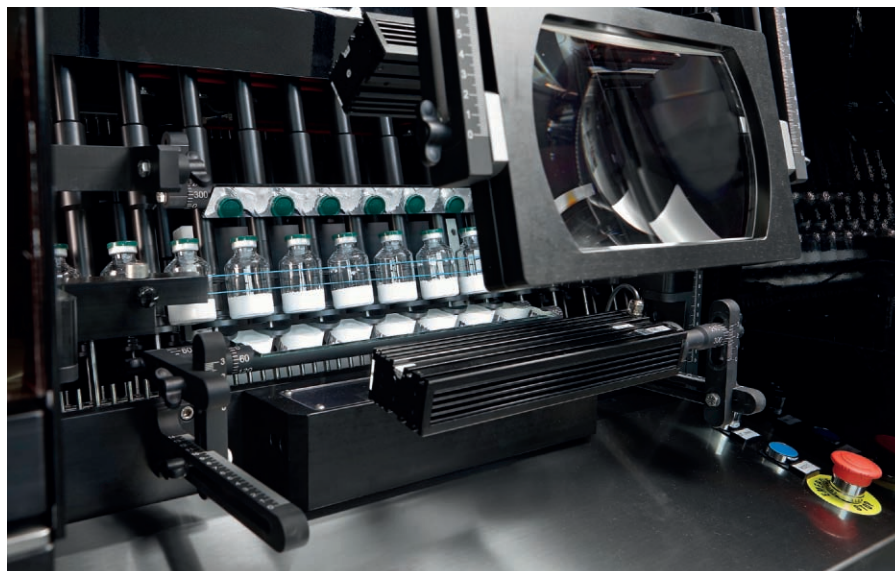
Fuji Seal company Pago is offering a range of label technology to the sector

Specialist in pharmaceutical labelling systems Pago reports an increase in orders this year. The company offers advanced servo technology for the labelling of vials and ampoules and injectable pens for vaccines at speeds up to 800 per minute.

Also, its multiple all-in-one shrink label installations which are described as versatile linear systems, can run at 30, 90 and 160 bottles per minute.

T 0796 747 7335

E barry.chadwick@uk.fujiseal.com



The inspection area on the Model SV is operated manually and involves an operator looking through the lens to inspect the container for cap presence, cracks, impurities and fill levels

A one stop shop is now available

Inspection systems now form part of the range at **Marchesini** to help complete its total service

The Marchesini Group has recently acquired a series of companies which have allowed it to further enhance its range of complete pharmaceutical processing and packaging lines.

One of these is the acquisition of a majority share in CMP Phar.ma, a company specialising in the production of container inspection systems for the pharmaceutical industry.

In 1982, CMP was the first company in the world to introduce an automatic x-ray inspection machine for ampoules, a range which has subsequently been developed to provide inspection for vials, pre-filled syringes, infusion bags and freeze-dried products using automatic and semi-automatic inspection machines.

The range also includes stand-alone machines through to high speed fully automatic units which can be integrated directly into Marchesini filling and packing lines, growing the total solution concept available from the group.

"We are also working on new inspection machine models to complete our range, in order to keep us at the

forefront of a global market which has become fiercer than ever requiring all our efforts," explains Luigino Pilastro, general manager of CMP Phar.ma.

Moreover, CMP Phar.ma is entering new markets including the UK, North America and China, where Marchesini has dedicated sales and service divisions.

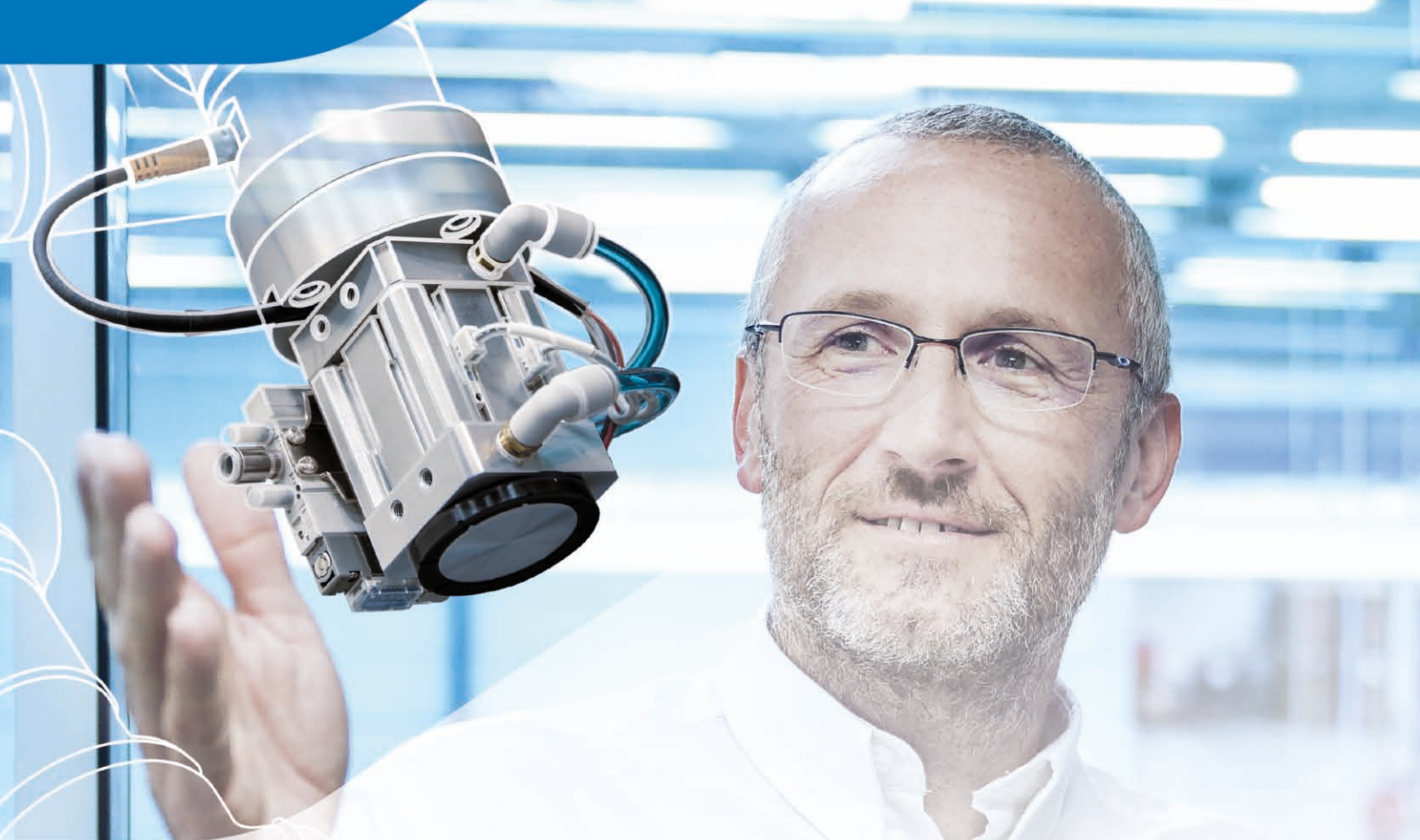
"With the acquisition of CMP Phar.ma, Marchesini Group has further consolidated itself as a manufacturer of not only single machines but complete lines," says David Wills, sales manager at Marchesini in the UK. These are able to carry out and monitor the entire packaging process for pharmaceuticals, the various forms of active ingredients (such as liquid, solid or powder) are packaged in a given product (either ampoule, syringe or blister pack) which in turn is inserted in a box, a carton and then palletised. Formerly, this process would have had to include a third-party inspection system. "Now, the group is able to provide a total solution from one easy to deal with supplier," says Wills.

T 01525 216201

W www.marchesini.com



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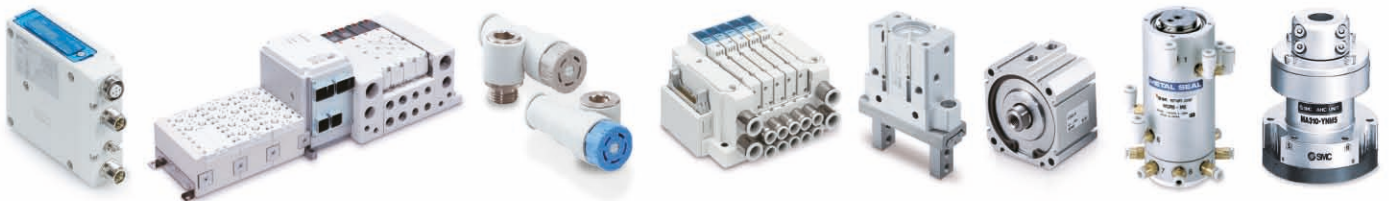
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Feature: Pharmaceuticals

In April, when the European Parliament voted to delay the implementation of the EU's Medical Device Regulation by a year, some medical device manufacturers may have breathed a sigh of relief. But now, the EU MDR has made its way back to the forefront of public discussion, as the European Commission has vowed to deploy the first of six sub-modules of the EUDAMED medical device database by the start of December – enabling manufacturers to acquire a Single Registration Number (SRN) which is needed to create device certificates.

With the new go-live date on the horizon, and the deadline for EU MDR compliance fast approaching, PPMA members offer medical device manufacturers advice on how to make use of the time remaining.

The Medical Device Coordination Group (MDCG) confirmed the European Commission is ready to move ahead with the EUDAMED module, a structure of six interconnected subcategories, ahead of its earlier March 2021 deadline. With the go-live date now on the horizon, MDCG is strongly encouraging manufacturers and other organisations to use the module to obtain a Single Registration Number (SRN).

“With almost 18 months between the introduction of the module and the full EUDAMED launch, organisations now have more time to get the SRN they need to use other features of the database,” says Volker Watzke, EU medical device sector manager at Domino Printing Sciences.

Having received the SRN, manufacturers, authorised representatives, or importers are then able to proceed with the second step and submit information related to the device as well as the Unique Device Identifier (UDI) data, a unique numeric or alphanumeric code that



By working with a partner such as Domino, medical device manufacturers can get sound advice on MDR status

Countdown to the MDR

Medical device manufacturers need to get their skates on to meet the **EU's Medical Device** regulation rules

must be provided on product labels and packaging. At this stage, in the majority of cases, all necessary steps to begin marketing the device will have been completed.

SYSTEM VALIDATION

Watzke believes the most reliable suppliers will be proactive in ensuring whole system validation reflective of the changes required for the EUDAMED and the MDR. “A dedicated, GAMP V trained expert will know exactly what is needed to achieve validation in a pharmaceutical production environment, including validating any additional systems’ integration – such as a labelling or ERP system – and will provide the validation pack to support

that so manufacturers don't face any penalties,” he tells *Machinery Update*.

“By working with a partner such as Domino who can conduct a thorough risk assessment and provide the necessary validation documentation, offer automated product coding and vision systems, and work together with other companies and integrators easily and efficiently, organisations can readily mitigate the risks of modern production processes and maintain productivity and quality to ensure compliance,” he says.

Managing director of Olmec, Robert Pounder offers some more specific advice on the UDI.

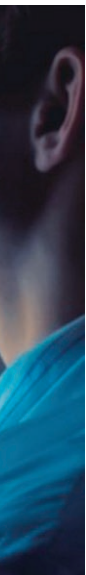
“The application of a UDI necessitates the end user to introduce a level of control

on their production process which can bring unexpected complications and errors; carefully managed though, it serves as an opportunity to enhance the product, the process and the quality,” he explains.

At a high level, some key considerations for a UDI project include:

- How will the information be entered and when is optimal within the production process?
- Are the correct components being labelled (primary and secondary packaging)?
- Are artwork changes required to enable UDI application?
- Validation of the code quality via in-process quality checks as well as offline verification





- How to control user access, system changes and the audit of the data?
- System support and ongoing compliance.

The introduction of the UDI, which will be scanned through the product lifecycle, means the inherent data must be correct; it must match the human readable text and it must be of an acceptable quality. The manufacturer is responsible for ensuring both the integrity of the data within the code as well as meeting the minimum recommended grade (1,5) which provides confidence in the codes' ability to be read whilst in the supply chain.

"Incorporating both in process code checks (using barcode readers or cameras) and offline verification (Validated Verifier) provides a robust method to achieve this goal," he says.

LATEST UDI SOLUTIONS

Olmec works with customers to provide a turnkey UDI solution. "Our software and technical expertise supports UDI projects from inception through to completion including specification, design, commissioning and validation," he says.

Sewtec Automation has been working with medical device manufacturers for almost 10 years and is keen to offer advice on compliance which it says requires the more granular approach to serialisation and aggregation that many of its systems already deliver.

Jeff Jones, coding and tracking business manager at the company says that the EU MDR requirements could mean certain types of machinery are no longer suitable for handling medical devices in a compliant way. "Firms across the industry will need to use the transition period to audit their machinery to ensure compliance," he says.

Meanwhile Cobalt, a company that partners with

NiceLabel barcode labelling software, says this is ideal for use in medical device and FDA regulated companies and is fully CFR.11 compliant,

giving the full audit trail required. Earlier this year, Cobalt became NiceLabel's only UK integrator partner in recognition of the expertise of

Cobalt's technical staff.

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Feature: Pharmaceuticals



Acrovision says its Validator product offers an 'off-the-shelf' solution



QUBBER Inspection Systems has three solutions for pharmaceuticals

Inspecting for qualities

Machinery Update looks at the latest inspection options that are designed to provide safety and quality standards across a range of pharma products

Product and packaging safety is of course essential in pharmaceuticals and especially in the case of highly sensitive new vaccines, for instance.

Injection vials from which they are administered parenterally, usually intramuscularly or subcutaneously must be free of cosmetic defects such as dirt, chips and cracks and also must not contain metal splinters, glass particles, hairs, fibres as well as other foreign matter. This is where the latest Spotter II PHS vial inspector from Heuft comes in.

These standards also apply to the oxygen content of the headspace of such a full vial which can trigger oxidation and severely impair the effect of the pharmaceutical product. Heuft's new module for laser-based headspace analysis works in this area, and it can now also be integrated into the further developed vial inspector.

The risk of an overdose can be avoided by using prefilled syringes in which the vaccine can be packaged as a single dose. And according to Phil Cooper of Heuft in the UK, manufacturers of prefilled syringes and pharmaceuticals are relying on the company's Syringer unit for this application.

Meanwhile, QUBBER Inspection Systems offers three ideal solutions for different products in the pharmaceutical industry. Its Q-PHARM BLA detects missing ampoules and ampoules without labels in blisters which minimises human error while preventing any cartoner jams on a line.

The company's Q-PHARM CRA is a cost-effective solution for bottlers inspecting closures in PET collyrium containers in various sizes and colours. It provides improved safety for the supply chain (storage, transportation and distribution) as well as delivering safety to the end consumer, while avoiding any costly production downtime.

Finally, Q-FLEX provides optical inspections around the factory floor and can be easily adapted to suit different products passing down the same production line.

Acrovision has created a suite of in-line package and label inspection systems to monitor and control production lines to ensure 100%

correct product in the correct packaging with the correct date. According to managing director Paul Cunningham, its Validator product offers a cost effective solution more or less 'off-the-shelf'. In operation, it can either be a standalone single system of a complete network of systems on multiple lines controlled by a central management control unit.

"The true power of Validator is in its ability to make the front-end and the usability as simple as possible,

but with the complex vision tools and processing happening in the background, making it a robust and reliable solution the customer can trust," explains Cunningham. There are several versions for users to choose from, depending on product requirements.

UPGRADED METAL DETECTOR

Meanwhile, Loma Systems says its upgraded IQ4 Lock-PH pharmaceutical metal detector is assisting both pharmaceutical and nutraceutical manufacturers maintain production

efficiencies and compliance, while increasing their quality control.

The upgraded metal detector is capable of inspecting up to 30,000 tablets or capsules per minute. Typically installed after

the tablet press and de-dusting processes, the system's improved stability and its ability to move around, ensures easy integration with tablet presses, de-dusters, polishers and encapsulation equipment as it can be located on virtually any production or packaging line without disrupting the plant layout.

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Feature: Pharmaceuticals

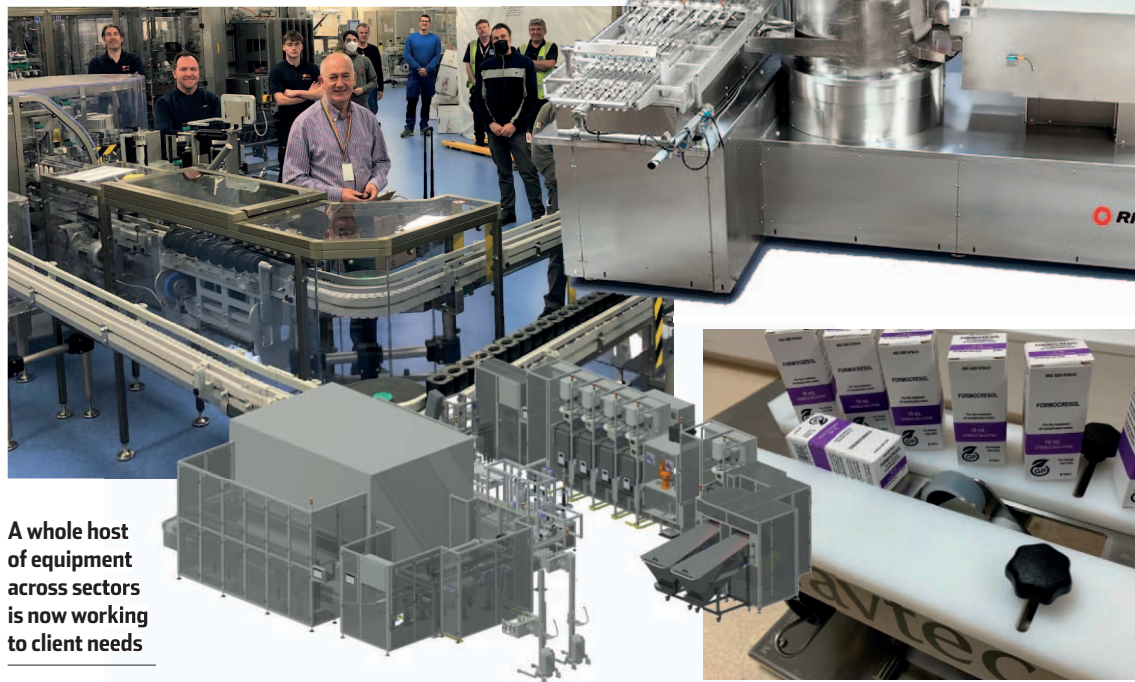
PMA members have been busy this year meeting the varied needs of the pharmaceutical industry. For instance, Scotland's new Medical Manufacturing Innovation Centre will soon take delivery of CME's Just In Time (JIT) Clinical Trials Manufacturing System, a disruptive technology which will reduce the time taken to bring new medicines to market.

Once delivered, this system will provide the MMIC with the flexibility to fill pill bottles with different types of drugs, in tablet or capsule form, without the risk of cross contamination, while maintaining traceability throughout the system.

The multi-million pound turnkey system, designed and manufactured by CME, comprises a number of individual stations each of which is used to perform discreet operations including: handling, filling, sealing, weighing, marking, labelling and packing. A special feature of this system is its ability to meet the stringent pharmaceutical hygiene and cleanliness standards without the complete system being located in an ISO class clean room environment.

During the most difficult time of the COVID-19 pandemic, Marchesini delivered a new automated packaging line to GSK UK to handle three different auto-injection devices for key new products. Products include a new Biopharmaceutical product used to treat patients who suffer from severe eosinophilic asthma and another Biopharmaceutical Injection for treatment of Lupus.

When Marchesini won the tender from GSK UK to supply a complete line for packaging the three devices, at a speed of 140 per minute, the company devised a solution consisting of six machines and five Marchesini robots, capable of



A whole host of equipment across sectors is now working to client needs

Bespoke units deliver benefit

PPMA members have answered the call to deliver a range of technologies to meet pharmaceutical needs

handling two different sizes: single device laid flat or four devices positioned next to each other.

In this tough year, Shemesh has been supporting the pharma sector by speeding up its production and enhancing the specifications of its range. Its SAMBAX-Z monoblock machine for packing containers and vials was supplied to Durisan for its hand sanitisers which are being handled at 100 a minute. The US-based company was so impressed with the equipment that a second order, this time for a complete sanitiser filling line, has since been placed.

A multi-lane bowl feeder called FlexType M has been installed in a clean room

by RNA Automation that permits the use of 'laminar flow'. Extended covers of all substructures and the entire base frame prevent the air that flows in under laminar flow from swirling in said substructures.

'ALTERNATING FEEDER'

In operation, protective sleeves are oriented in ten lanes and then buffered in an accumulation line. Output is 600 parts per minute given that 60 parts a minute are handled on each line. The special feature of this installation is the 'alternating feeder element' that serves to feed a second type of protective sleeve.

Meanwhile, Audion Elektro's

new Magvac Plus vacuum impulse sealer has been successfully installed during this year. It features a touchscreen control pad which, says Audion, no other company offers. The machine gives the customer 50 seal parameter recipes, all of which allow storage of vacuum time, sealing temperature, gas flush time and sealing pressure.

PFM Packaging Machinery has expanded its UK stock of equipment at its Leeds facility this year to help it supply pharmaceutical companies more quickly. For customers wrapping surgical gloves and face masks, ventilator and IV bags to blister packs, wet wipes and sanitisers, fast turnaround has been essential, says PFM. ▶



Macsa ID has recently supplied a D-5005 Duo green laser marking system and iLaserBox 450 workstation to Germany-based Röchling Medical for the high speed, accurate application of scale and measurement markings onto the different coloured plastic components of a patented new syringe delivery system.

Other coding equipment suppliers offered UV lasers but recommended the installation of two machines. However, Macsa ID's model achieved the desired results within just one system, representing a significant cost saving.

A specific labelling requirement from a Latvian pharmaceutical packer was the driving force behind the development of Travtec's recently launched TinyTampino Micro labeller.

The Latvian company packs 10ml bottles and the outer carton for this required a tamper-evident label but at the time, there was no labelling machine available that could handle such a small size.

Travtec was able to make a number of adjustments to the original machine design, creating a new model that could apply label seals down to 12 mm in width compared to 25 mm for the larger version.

Meanwhile, Stonhard, sister company to Kemtile, has completed a flooring installation at AstraZeneca's global manufacturing site in Macclesfield, Cheshire. A high performance flooring system was designed and installed as part of a refurbishment of

an existing warehouse and packaging facility. A total of 6500sq m of epoxy systems was supplied throughout the new pharma production

facility and cleanroom.

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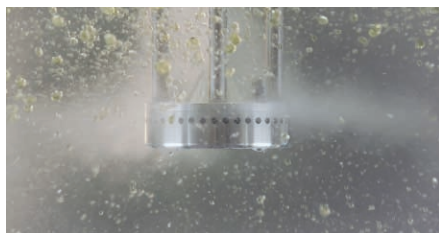


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Latest Magvac Plus impulse sealer

Feature: Pharmaceuticals



An emulsion must be stable, with no separation

Best mixing is important

Creating a stable emulsion can be a challenging task, even with the use of emulsifiers, but it is a critical stage in the production of many pharmaceutical products as the efficacy, quality, texture, shelf life and appearance of products are very much dependent on its stability.

Conventional mixers and agitators, which are suitable for basic liquid/liquid blending, are unable to form a stable emulsion, but high shear mixing subjects the liquids to intense high-energy which reduces the droplet size sufficiently and allows the two phases to combine, resulting in a stable emulsion which will not separate once the shear energy has been removed.

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Milling and screening

Offering milling flexibility and improved powder processing efficiency, the Fitzpatrick Company and Quadro Engineering Corp introduced the SDx Series – Smart Drive Exchangeable Platform that is billed as the world's first production-scale milling and screening platform offering three distinct powder processing solutions on a single, common drive. They include Fitzpatrick's FitzMill, hammermill, Quadro's Comil conical screen mill, and FlexSift Security Screening technologies.

The new platform affords operators the ability to quickly and easily interchange the three heads to fulfil specific processing requirements, improve production efficiencies and reduce bottlenecks. It is available from Ytron-Quadro (UK).

T 01494 792898

W www.ytron-quadro.co.uk

Metal removal is quality gain

A new modular conveyor inspection system has been launched by CEIA for demanding products

The new THS/MBB modular conveyor inspection system from Ceia is the latest metal detection system designed specifically to address

the demanding requirements of the pharmaceutical industry, as well as food applications. This high sensitivity metal detection system is ideal for the automatic elimination of metal contaminants in flacons, bottles and other packaged products.

In operation, the system offers learning and tracking of the product effect to optimise detection sensitivity to both ferrous and non-ferrous metals.

"This is carried out from a single transit that is equal in precision and efficiency to hundreds of conventional transits – an unprecedented development," explains

David Hale, sales director at MDS (the authorised CEIA representative in the UK).

In addition, an automatic testing function continuously monitors and checks the sensitivity of the system to ensure maximum production safety.

Among its various other distinguishing features, the detector is highly immune to environmental interference, including common radio frequencies, due to many cross-platform studies conducted by Ceia engineers. In addition, new diagnostic tools for measuring the environmental

compatibility of the metal detector are built into the device itself, where previously additional instrumentation was required.

The system has also been designed with the user/operator in mind.

The interface contains an easy-to-read, high-contrast graphic display, a stainless steel keyboard, and a quick access function whereby frequently used functions can be activated simply by pressing a dedicated key. The digitally adjustable belt speed is one of numerous controls for line speed and rejection. And with Bluetooth wireless communication connectivity, the maintenance technician no longer needs to worry about physically accessing the interior of the detector or using unwieldy connection cables.

"As always with Ceia, the system complies with all relevant food and pharma sector regulations," says Hale. This includes the rigorous criteria prescribed in FDA Code Title 21 part 11 regarding access to programming and computer data protection.



Inspection is made easy by the unit

The System Administrator, which is username and password protected, controls the programming and managing of individual user profiles and user functions.

In addition, all system events, including detection, ejection and program operations, are automatically recorded in a data log.

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W www.mds.org.uk

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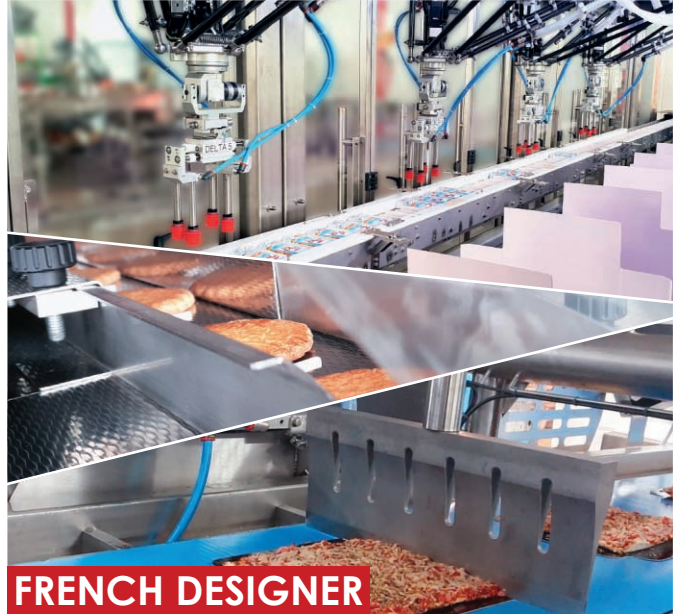
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Feature: Pharmaceuticals



'Uhlmann powered by pester pac automation' is the new brand in which Uhlmann offers four new end of line packaging machines for pharma use

End of line is complete

Uhlmann offers new end of line packaging machines with its partner

Nine months after announcing their partnership, Uhlmann Pac-Systeme and pester pac automation are offering new end of line packaging machines for Uhlmann pharmaceutical packaging lines. 'Uhlmann powered by pester pac automation' is the new brand under which a stretch-banding machine, an overwrapper, a case packer, as well as a combined unit integrating a case packer and a palletising module are now available.

The two companies have jointly developed new models and integrated them into Uhlmann lines, forming solutions that meet current pharmaceutical packaging needs.

Pharmaceutical companies can now make use of the new stretch-banding machine ES 60 as a downstream extension to Uhlmann lines. It is suitable

for multi-layer bundles at a high production speed. Assisted by a positioning device and stacker, cartons can be moved to form a variety of bundle configurations. The tear control function monitors both the top and bottom film to ensure high process reliability, while the film splicer allows an automatic film reel change, so production continues uninterrupted.

Ease of use, transparency, and fast format changeovers are also offered by the EW 60, a machine for the automated overwrapping of single or multiple bundles in heat-sealable film. Accurate dispensing of the film is controlled by a servo motor, and format and film changeovers are quickly completed due to the small number of plug-in format parts.

Meanwhile, the case packer EC 12 uses the side-loading principle to efficiently

package cartons or bundles in cases ready for dispatch. It can handle a wide format range – small to large cartons and cases and can also be fitted with a labelling unit if required.

Any company that also requires a palletiser now has the option of the ECP 12. This space-saving combination of a case packer and a palletising module merges two packaging steps into one productive unit – for integrated and automated end of line packaging with case handling, labelling, monitoring, and palletising.

This, says the company, ensures special product protection as identification, marking, and inspection systems are integrated into each process step. Two pallet stations means that a pallet can be replaced during ongoing operation – so the line does not stop.

T 01252 743120

W www.uhlmann.de

Quicker, safer and hygienic doors are offered for a variety of cleanroom use

The cleanroom series of doors from Efaflex caters for a spectrum of budgets, with door blade designs that include fabric curtain, and turbo spiral door for



The cleanroom series of doors meet needs

both interior and exterior applications. The company realises that purity, air tightness and prevention of undesired air exchange are vital in these pharma applications and so its high-speed doors can open at a rate of up to four metres per second, which when combined with their thermal insulating properties, makes them a product of choice for many key players.

To combat the spread of bacterial infection, the company has introduced a contactless door activator. Users simply wave their hands in front of the sensor to open the door.

T 01952 582641

W www.efaflex.co.uk



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Labelling, Coding and Marking



The 752C offers fresh flexibility

Labeller is accurate for clamshells

Herma is offering a versatile labelling machine – the 752C – which is designed to wrap a single label around the top, front, and bottom, as well as optionally the back of a pack in one pass, thereby also sealing it.

For three-side labelling, the label is dispensed at the front side of the product into the split conveyor belt and applied onto the top and bottom of the packaging as it passes through. In doing so, the label not only performs sealing and information functions, but also contributes to the stability of the thin and consequently unstable plastics packaging. When four-side labelling is required, the label additionally wraps the back of the clamshell packaging.

Due to the length of the sealing and identification labels, precise dispensing is guaranteed – particularly with four-side labelling, so that no spiral misalignment occurs.

“As fresh snacks don’t have any additional outer packaging, the perfect positioning of the labels plays an important role,” says Ulrich Fischer, head of product management in Herma’s labelling machines division.

T 01440 763366

W www.herma-labellingmachines.co.uk



Wrap labelling in one label pass

Minimising rework with label inspection system

Mettler-Toledo Product Inspection has launched two new product data check technology options that are designed to be integrated into existing C-Series checkweighers.

These new vision inspection add-ons allow manufacturers to incorporate fully integrated smart camera technology into their production lines to verify the presence of correct labels. As a result, users can reject incorrectly labelled packaged products, helping to minimise the risk of product recalls plus protect brand integrity and profits from avoidable product loss.

The new product data check technology options can verify different-sized packaged product labels on the same line across a wide range of food and pharmaceutical applications. For example, manufacturers producing different ice cream flavours or various baby food products can now check each label against specific product data and reject non-conforming labels.



Labelling errors are caught early before the pack reaches the next secondary stage

Label checks performed by the new technology include Optical Character Recognition (OCR), and Optical Character Verification (OCV), alphanumeric text and 1D and 2D code identification. The Product Data Check inspects a wide range of languages and checks for bolded listed ingredients, such as allergens, to ensure food safety and compliance with the EU Labelling Directive 2000/13/EC.

“Recalls and rework due

to mislabelled products is an easily-prevented issue,” says Jürgen Kress, head of checkweighing and vision inspection at Mettler-Toledo Product Inspection.

“That is why we wanted to give manufacturers an easy way to add product data verification to their existing Mettler-Toledo equipment to provide extra quality control with minimal use of production line space.”

T 0116 235 7070

W www.mt.com/ci-vision

Thermal inkjet technology has given savings of up to a third on the batch coding process

Premium car care company Autoglym, has installed thermal inkjet technology (TIJ) on its bottling line, which has resulted in cost savings of about 33% on the batch coding process.

Supplied and installed by Rotech Machines, the TIJ technology has increased output, reduced labour costs and also gives Autoglym greater coding flexibility.

“Since installing the new printer, we’ve increased output by a third and no longer need



TIJ technology has delivered speed

any additional labour to label bottles,” says Autoglym’s project manager Damien McKenzie. “The printer is so simple and effective – it sits

neatly on the conveyor and requires little intervention, other than changing the settings on the software.

“This single printer has solved all of our previous issues and delivered some significant cost savings.”

Previously, the batch and date code labels were printed and applied to the bottle by hand using a ticket gun, requiring additional labour and slowing down production.

T 01707 393700

W www.rotechmachines.com

Printing, labelling & vision system for alcoholic drinks sales in Russia

Macsa ID has developed a high speed, automatic printing, labelling and vision system to help alcoholic drinks producers, processors and packers increase operating efficiencies while also meeting the specialist track and trace requirements of Russia's stringent Automated Unified State Information System (EGAIS) anti-counterfeiting legislation.

The EGAIS legislation is designed to track the production volumes and turnover of every alcoholic product available on the Russian market, including foreign imports.

LABELS ARE APPLIED AT

8,500

bottles per hour by the automatic MLA PR label applicator

Macsa ID's high speed printing, labelling and vision inspection model applies labels with a unique datamatrix code and EGAIS identifier to the cap of each bottle. These are scanned by an advanced 360deg vision system and linked to the EGAIS identifier by the Macsa ID's Integra software.

The 2D barcodes are used to print the box and pallet grouping labels which when scanned, will provide information about the contents of each box loaded onto the pallet. This automatic aggregation of the codes significantly improves operating efficiencies as there is no need to unpack pallets or boxes to scan the official EGAIS label on each bottle individually.

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Components

Smart servo axis brings new smarter efficiency

Lenze has introduced a new motion control concept that reduces complexity and provides modern, intelligent functions for IIoT to create benefits for OEMs and machine operators. This smart servo axis achieves up to 20% faster cycle times, says Lenze.

The company has designed its smart servo axis as a powerhouse with high scalability. The combination of i950 inverter, g700

planetary gearbox and m850 synchronous motor covers high-precision positioning tasks as well as dynamic handling and assembly applications, robotics, or conveyor solutions.

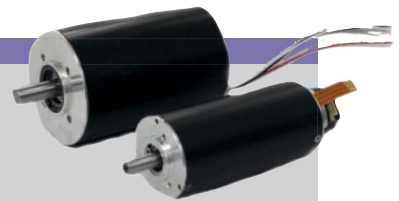
At the same time, the i950 is a comprehensive data source for the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) and service models based on it, indeed the smart inverter makes the use of additional sensors unnecessary.

The adaptation of different tasks and concepts in industrial automation requires high computing power on the one hand combined with intelligent functions with which the requirements of Industry 4.0 can be efficiently implemented. Lenze says its i950 inverter is designed precisely for these requirements.

One example is its unusually dynamic control performance. The inverter's optimised kinematics consider both the drive axis itself and the control path behind it. This means that faults and deviations are corrected much faster than with standard inverters. As a result, the target value is restored in less time, and the deviation from normal operation of the servo axis is only minimal.

During operation, this pays off twice over. For instance, with the high precision in positioning, as well as in the higher speed that can be driven.

T 01234 753200
W www.lenze.com



New high-torque brushless motor is the latest range

SMAC Moving Coil Actuators has released its new high-torque brushless 3-phase DC motor (BLDC). The HT35 is the first model in a series from the manufacturer best known for its programmable, electric actuators.

The HT35 has a 35 mm diameter and peak torque 0.5 Nm at 48VDC, 4 Amp and this new proprietary design is founded on how the magnetic circuit is designed and built. "A combination of SMAC's patent-pending design and printed coil technology achieves higher torque/amp ratings than competitive solutions in the same 35 mm form factor," claims SMAC's marketing and PR manager John Miewald.

This product series has grown out of the development of SMAC's direct drive robotic finger. To simulate the human finger, a high torque is required, except at a much lower servo motor speed.

T 01293 520147
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Lenze says it can now deliver factory automation that has been future proofed



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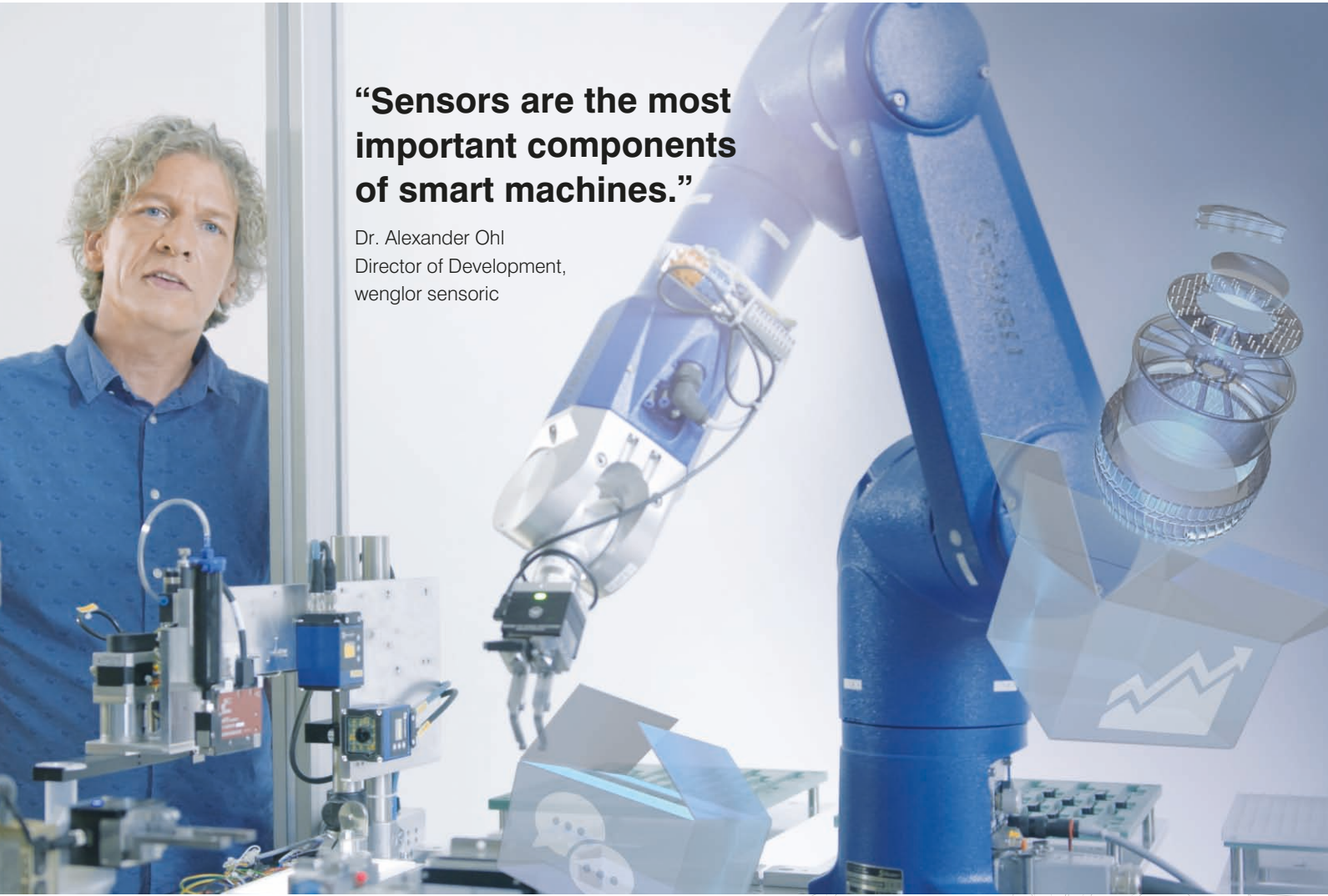
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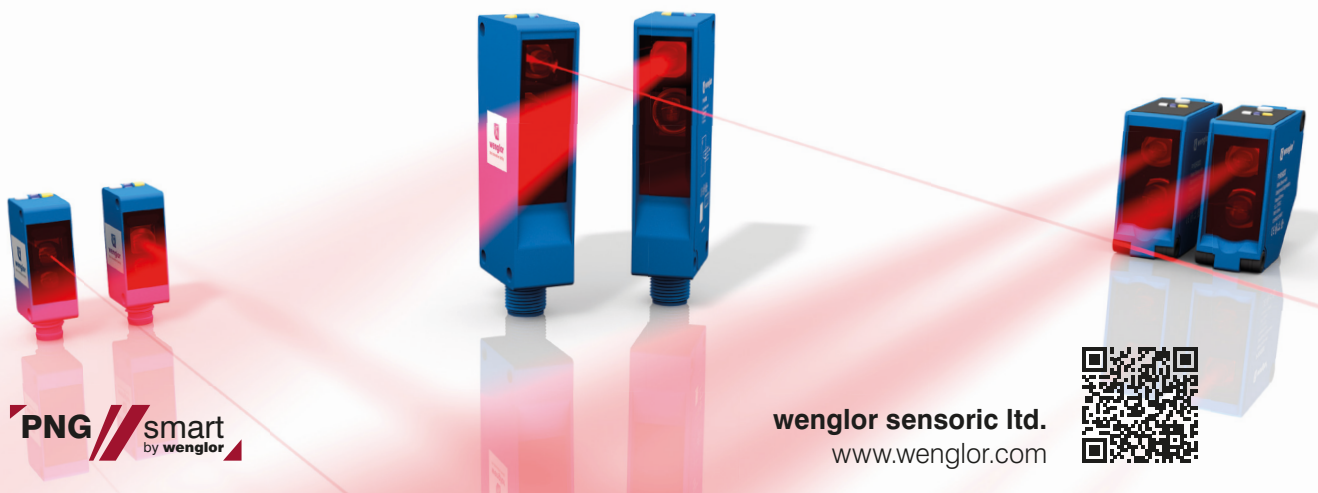
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Components

Safety interlock can benefit food packers

Euchner has launched a new range of compact and highly secure interlock switches ideally suited to applications in manufacturing, processing and packaging industries, with special variants for hygienic areas in food and beverage plants.

The interlocks feature high-level coding using transponder technology and an advanced diagnostic capability that provides excellent resistance to misuse, especially where motivation for defeating the safety systems on the equipment is likely. Information, such as number of operations and operating temperature can be used by the control system to ensure the maximum up-time of the equipment.

At just 120 x 36 x 25 mm, the CTM switch is one of the smallest locking devices of its type, says the company.

"The locking ball actuator on an elastomer bearing allows some degree of flexibility which enables the CTM to be used on smaller access doors with extremely small pivoting radii, right



down to 150 mm," explains David Dearden, Euchner's UK&I country manager. "This helps to reduce the cost of the overall equipment as it allows for lower cost swing-type doors and flaps to be used where more

complex sliding access solutions had to be used previously."

The design means that additional holding magnets and clips are eliminated as

the switch-actuator has a 'holding' force preventing the doors or flaps opening unintentionally while the equipment is in use and 'unlocked'. Also, the interlocks feature clear multi-angle indicators giving an 'at-a-glance' vision of the switch status.

This new CTM transponder-coded safety switch with guard locking is ideal for the protection of medium-weight guarding used on manufacturing and automation equipment.

T 0114 256 0123

W www.euchner.co.uk

The range is used in processing and also used in packaging



Latest barcode line scanners can read a 1D code on a flexible technology range

wenglor says its new barcode line scanner sets new standards in the reading of one-dimensional codes. Thanks to the increased scanning area, the stationary scanner can be used even more flexibly – at manual workstations and in fully automated systems.

With the integrated CCD line, the BLN series barcode line scanner sets itself apart with its high reading performance. The large scanning area



The BLN series sets new standards

is 20 to 200 mm or 30 to 520 mm depending on the model, which greatly increases flexibility in system design and installation. The compact design (29 x 60 x 52 mm) also enables installation in tight spaces such as complex intralogistics facilities. The BLN scanner reliably reads 1D codes with a very high density of over 0.075 mm.

T 01536 313580

W www.wenglor.com

Latest flow sensors are keeping an eye on costly industrial gases range

Accurately measuring the usage of expensive industrial gases such as argon, nitrogen, carbon dioxide and helium is easy with the new SD range of high-performance flow sensors from ifm electronic. And because they maintain high accuracy over their full measuring range, the new units also function as an invaluable aid to leakage detection, says the company.

Typical applications include bottling and packaging machines in the food industry and welding, cutting or soldering processes in which protective gases are used.



The SD flow sensors are from ifm

An important benefit of the new monitors is that, in addition to flow rate, they measure flow quantity, pressure and temperature. In many applications, this means that they eliminate the need for additional sensors, saving money, minimising complexity and reducing the number of control system I/O channels needed.

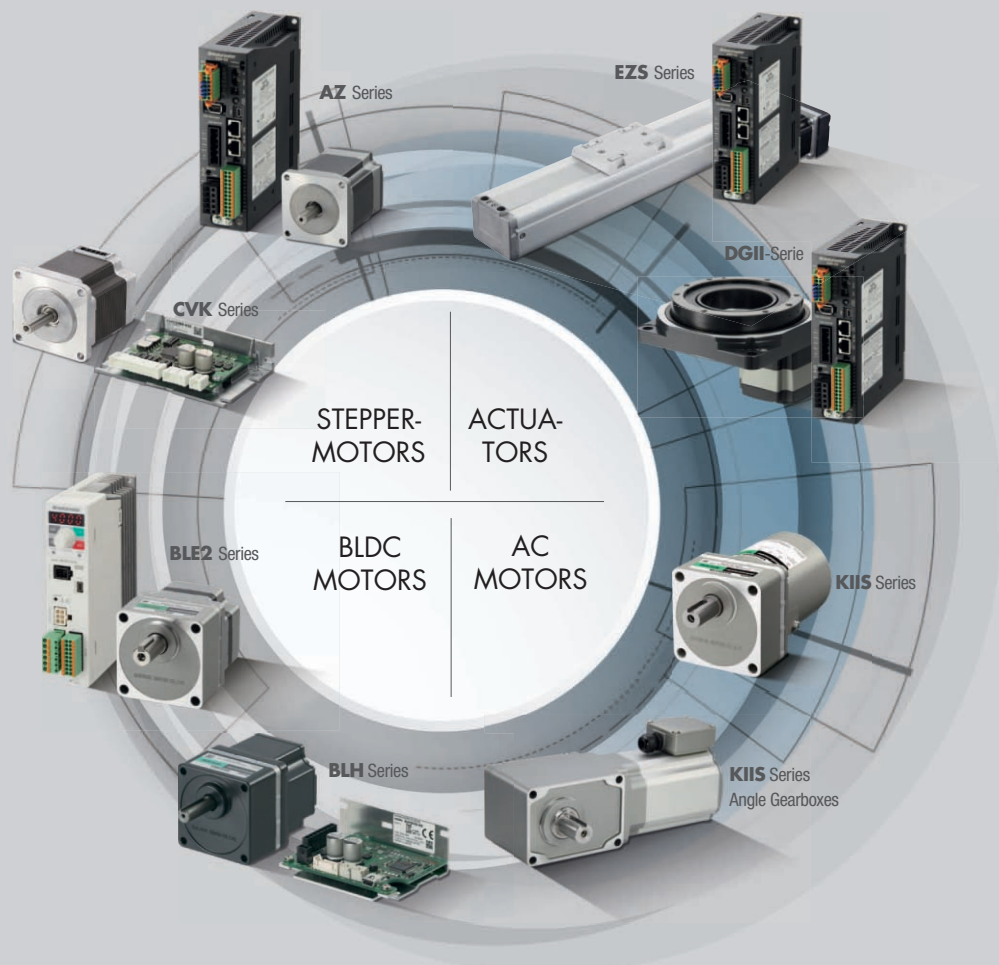
The sensors feature an I/O-Link interface which provides access to all measured values and which can also be used for parameterisation and for simulating the operation of the sensor before putting it into service. A colour display provides a convenient indicator of the measured values.

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Who's done what and gone where...

Uhlmann



Dr Matthias Niemeyer is taking over the chair of the executive board

of Uhlmann Group Holding and of Uhlmann Pac-Systeme, succeeding Norbert Gruber who was CEO for many years and sadly passed away in the summer. As CEO of Uhlmann Pac-Systeme, Niemeyer will be responsible for the cross-divisional management of the company, working with current managing directors **Michael Mrachacz** and **Tim Slomp** as well as new CFO **Alexander Schöllhorn**.

LAC Conveyors



Mike Hilton has joined LAC Conveyors & Automation as its new sales

director where he will be responsible for supporting the on-going business transformation and will directly manage the sales team across the logistics and automation division.

Advance Automated



Dave King has joined Advance Automated Systems as a sales project

engineer having formerly been a machine shop manager looking after a team of 25 people as well as leading continuous improvement projects.

interpack



Thomas Dohse is the new leader at interpack in his capacity as project director, taking over

from **Bernd Jablonowski** who has been promoted to Messe Düsseldorf's managing board.

CKF Systems



Steve Spencer has joined CKF Systems as technical sales manager

bringing over 30 years of industry knowledge to the role where he will help deliver cost effective, robotic and automated solutions to customers, helping them increase their productivity, reduce costs and improve health and also safety.



Jade Overthrow has joined the sales and marketing team

at CKF Systems as the new sales administrator.

RNA Automation



Mark Daniels has joined RNA Automation as machine shop supervisor

from Bentley Motors. In his new role, he will lead the manufacture of tooling used for the company's bowl feeders, special purpose machines and also automation system builds.

Romaco Group



Thirteen new trainees have just joined Romaco – the new recruits include eight future industrial mechanics, mechatronics fitters, technical product designers and machinists. The company currently employs 34 trainees in total at its production sites in Karlsruhe and Cologne, while also providing training to university students (so-called dual students) in the fields of engineering and business administration. In the 2020/21 winter semester, five undergraduates chose Romaco.

ULMA Packaging



Adrian Severn joins ULMA Packaging as a project engineer serving

to enhance its technical capabilities. He has worked in the packaging machinery industry for 13 years. The team of four new sales managers will be responsible for all of the following:



Charlie Craig will be supporting customers in a range of end user product sectors.



Oliver Earley will help showcase ULMA's thermoforming and also tray-sealing ranges.



Andrew Hayward will be responsible for managing a specific region

across the UK.



Russell Morgan will continue to advance innovation's from ULMA's sustainability initiative.

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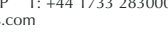
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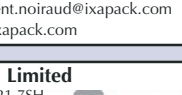
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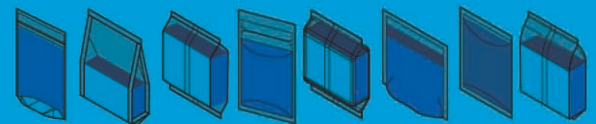
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