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MACHINERY update

The machinery only journal for processing and packaging

Cost pressures mount for pharmaceutical suppliers

inside

MACHINERY update
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Putting the value back into education

If I had a pound for every time that I have heard a business colleague lament about the difficulty of recruiting skilled staff that actually want to work, I would be writing this column from my private yacht.

The problem is far from new. In every business survey that the PPMA has undertaken over the past few years, the biggest single inhibitor to business growth has been the shortage of suitably qualified staff with an acceptable work ethic.

Recognising this discontent in 2004 the Government commissioned Sandy Leitch to undertake an 'independent' review of the UK's long term skills needs. Ahead of the launch, government skills envoy Lord Sir Digby Jones, then Head of the CBI, stated that the lack of basic skills in Britain was a "shameful and unspoken secret". At the time, the then shadow minister for vocational education John Hayes said: "It is hardly surprising that so many employees lack literacy and numeracy skills when over 40,000 people leave school each year functionally innumerate and/or illiterate!"

To analyse the entire Leitch report would be somewhat belated. However, several things concerned me about the review. The Government is responsible for the near demise of the apprentice schemes and has lowered educational standards to the point where employers no longer take formal paper qualifications seriously. Further it has devalued scientific and engineering based 'hard' subjects so far that university departments are either closing or surviving on imported overseas students.

It then decided that the onus is on employers to rectify the situation and allocate their sparse resources to a new 'skills pledge' designed to encourage firms to make voluntary commitments to improve the skills base of their staff!

Dr Mary Bousted, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, said "We are keen to see employers investing in the training of their staff rather than expecting taxpayers to pick up the tab!" This is naïve and at best laughable, at worst offensive! British industry is among the Government's primary sources of tax revenue! It is not unreasonable to expect government to spend some of the 'swag' on educating tomorrow's workforce!

Let's have the 'guts' to face reality and put a few 'stakes in the ground'! General education in the basic life skills is the responsibility of government and the teaching profession – not industry! Industry is already busy building a successful economy. Educational standards must be set at a level that enables industry to compete on a world stage. The ever evolving technology upon which our whole economy now relies; computers, transport, power generation, food production, our own processing and packaging machinery, were built by hard working science and engineering graduates with high quality qualifications.

Let's get back to evolving educational standards and provide industry with the high quality graduates it needs and deserves.

Chief Executive, PPMA

Yorkshire home for Europe's first specialist Robotics Centre

The long term sustainability and profitability of the UK food and drinks industry will be best served by investment in robotics, said Michael Taylor, operations director for Fosters Bakery and chairman of CenFRA at the official opening of Europe's first facility for Food Robotics and Automation (CenFRA).

The Centre, near Doncaster, will bridge the gap between industry and academia and provide automation audits, while its dedicated research facility will develop cost-effective robotic solutions for the food sector.

Taylor said: "CenFRA will provide impartial advice. And with robotic solutions now costing from less than £20,000, there is no reason why productivity and performance within the food and drink sector should not increase significantly."

CenFRA's new facility was opened officially by Simon Hill, executive director of business, Yorkshire Forward, the principal sponsor of the £2.8m centre. It is also supported by Northern Way (a collaboration between the north's three Regional Development Agencies) and was developed in partnership with experts in robotics and automation from Salford University.

(Left to right): John Sorsby, food & drink manager; Yorkshire & Humber Regional Development; Michael Taylor, chairman, CenFRA; and Nigel Hall, executive director of business, Yorkshire Forward

Speaking on behalf of the British Automation and Robotics Association (BARA) its chairman Mike Wilson emphasised the growing overseas competition, rising energy costs and labour shortages being faced by the UK food industry.

Wilson said that robot density* in the UK was just 44 compared with Germany's 171, France 84 and Spain 89. He said: "UK manufacturing is in decline and unless the food sector invests in new technology it will go the same way."

The Centre will encourage more investment in automation and provide control technology audits. It will also focus on the future needs of the food industry both regionally and in the rest of the UK. Taylor added: "CenFRA is keen to support companies with impartial advice and guidance on the wide variety of automation solutions available and to assist them identify and quantify the significant cost benefits."

**Density: the number of robots installed per 10,000 production workers employed in manufacturing industry*

www.cenfra.co.uk

Germany dedicated to the UK

The giant German international technical service provider TÜV Rheinland has set up a dedicated machinery division in the UK to cope with the increasing number of enquiries from machinery manufacturers that are faced with a welter of international legislation.

TÜV Product Services' division will assist companies by providing information to answer all industrial and machinery related regulatory queries. Supporting the complete machinery production process the division will focus on the impending Machinery Directive revision.

The division, based in Dudley, will help ensure legislative compliance by helping to guide machinery manufacturers quickly and cost-effectively from initial concept through to the production line, said TÜV's project leader Clare Rochford.

Rochford said: "An essential part of the service is supporting manufacturers and retailers to make certain that their products conform to relevant national regulations and respective technical standards for national and international markets."

TÜV services in the UK include: Identifying the relevant safety requirements; risk assessments; proof of compliance to Essential Health and Safety Requirements; guidance on creating Technical Construction Files and their review; and independent expert opinion.

NEWS BRIEFS

Kern has signed up to ABB's Robotic Partner Network to identify and develop new opportunities for deploying robots in mailroom and packaging systems.
Kern, a well-known systems provider for mailrooms, is now turning to robotic technology to help it meet the changing needs of the market, as well as to support its solutions for the packaging machinery industry. The ABB Global Partner Program helps partners identify and build opportunities with like-minded companies looking for new ways to automate their processes.
T: +44 (0) 1908 350 300
E: robotics@gb.abb.com

Klikwood Corporation, the parent company of Kliklok Corporation, Decatur, GA, USA and Kliklok International, Bristol, UK, has announced that a majority interest in Kliklok International has been acquired by its senior management team: Robert J. Morley, managing director; David L. Williams, finance director; and Nigel J. H. Fox, business development director.

...stop press...stop press...stop press...

"New" UK Packaging Machinery Regulations published

Coming into force on December 2009, there is no transition period.
Full details page 33.
Don't miss the PPMA Seminar "New machinery Directive", Marriot Hotel Northampton.
September 11, 2008.
To book call:
+44 (0) 20 8773 8111

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NEWS BRIEFS

The Department of Health has commissioned CCFRA to conduct a survey about health information on alcoholic drinks labels.

This follows an agreement between the UK alcohol sector and the Government to introduce a voluntary code to cover the drink's unit content, recommended sensible drinking guidelines, the website address for the Drinkaware Trust, and a message on alcohol in pregnancy.

The survey of up to 500 products types will cover bottles, cans and cartons. The results of the survey will enable the Department of Health to gauge the extent to which the agreement is being followed.

T: +44 (0) 1386 842291
E: s.keenan@campden.co.uk

UPM has been selected for a Queen's Award for Enterprise in the Outstanding Innovation category for its Infra-red drying equipment which can reduce drying times in PET packaging applications from hours to minutes.

It is claimed to offer circa 60 per cent energy saving and has been installed in over 50 locations worldwide.

T: +44 (0) 1753 548801
E: sales@upm.co.uk

Isopak has been appointed by MG2 as the sole sales representative in the UK and Ireland for its range of capsule filling machines and capsule weight control systems.

The company specialises in dosing micro amounts of drugs, which can be powder, pellets, tablets or micro-tablets, or a combination of these, at rates between 6,000 and 200,000 capsules/hour.

T: +44 (0) 1780 410093
E: mail@isopak.co.uk

Domino flourishes in global markets

Despite uncertain global economic conditions Domino Printing Sciences showed strong revenue growth of 12 per cent to £125.9m in the half-year to April 2008 compared with the same period for 2007 (£112.0m).

Four per cent of the growth was attributable to favourable currency movements but chairman Peter Byrom commented, "The fundamental strength of our business has led to increased demand for our products across all geographic regions with underlying profits increasing by 11 per cent to £16.8 million."

Operating profit grew 8 per cent to £15.7m and pre tax profit by 9 per cent to £15.9m.

Volumes in Domino's established continuous ink jet (CIJ) and laser business both grew by over 10 per cent and, although behind expectations, revenues for Track and Trace opportunity also increased.

Nigel Bond, group managing director, Domino, "While we are not immune to the slower rates of growth in some of the major world economies, the fundamental strength of our business gives us optimism about the future."

Growth was strongest in the developing economies, reflecting the continuing trend of migration of manufacturing businesses. But Domino says its worldwide sales and support infrastructure positions it favourably to benefit from this trend.

Volumes of CIJ and laser printers both grew by 10 per cent, while in its newer businesses sales of Print and Apply Labelling Machinery and Thermal Transfer Overprinters increased significantly.

Byrom added: "Research and development expenditure has been increased by 19 per cent to £6.4 million."

IMA target customer partnerships

On the back of a consolidated turnover of €454.5 million for 2007 IMA has reorganised its business structure.

Designed to help IMA act as partners not just suppliers, the sectors are: IMA Flavour (Tea & Coffee Packaging Solutions), IMA Active Division (Solid Dose Solutions), IMA Life (Aseptic Processing & Filling Solutions) and IMA Safe (Packaging Solutions).

IMA Flavour supplies machines to pack tea and herbs in filter bags, and coffee in filter paper pods.

IMA Active provides processing and production equipment for solid dose products, coating systems, checkweighers for capsules and tablets, and powder handling and washing systems.

IMA Life, formerly IMA Libra, produces machines for washing and sterilising pharmaceutical vials, filling and stoppering machines for aseptic environments, filling and closing machines, micro-dosing machines for aseptic powder filling, and freeze-drying machinery.

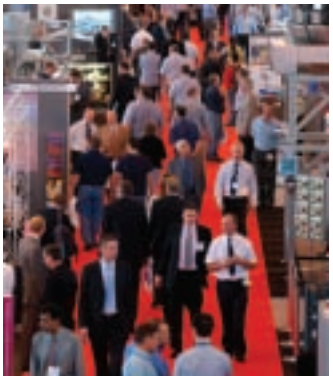
IMA SAFE offers blister machines, counting machines, horizontal and vertical cartoners, and tube fillers for the pharmaceutical and cosmetics industries.

T: +44 (0) 1789 767330
E: hotdesk@imauk.co.uk

New boys hang out at the PPMA Show

The PPMA Show, taking place from September 30 - October 2 at the Birmingham NEC, will welcome 40 first time exhibitors.

Showing a variety of new equipment from cappers to cookers, on to robotic systems for a variety of sectors, these include: ADG Packaging Systems, Berger Tools, DC Norris & Company, Habasit Rossi, Jokab Safety UK, Landfill Alternatives, Newtec Packaging, Scaime, SMC Pneumatics (UK), Smiths Detection, and UPM Conveyors.



The PPMA Show will be co-located with Interplas, the UK's leading exhibition for the polymer sector, will incorporate the Inspex feature for the quality control and measurement industries.

Online registration and details: www.ppmashow.co.uk

Exports on the up as confidence grows

Exports of UK packaging and weighing equipment are on the rise underlining the resilience of the sector in the face of the much vaunted economic slowdown, according to figures gathered by PPMA from the ONS.

The figures provide support for Orgalime's upbeat view on trading conditions in all areas of engineering for the first quarter of 2008 in the EU 27. Production volume rose by 5.8 per cent in 2007 and early official data sees the trend continuing during the early months of 2008.

Orgalime Secretary General, Adrian Harris said: "Overall, order books are above average, confidence is high, employment is up by some 250,000 and investment plans are still positive. This means that 2008 has started off well for European engineering, the largest manufacturing sector in Europe."

Chris Buxton, CEO, PPMA, said: "These figures bear out the views I expressed in the last Machinery Update that a recession in manufacturing is more apparent than real. Some companies are undoubtedly having a tough time and the PPMA continues to support them but the UK has a well-differentiated product base and the majority of companies are well equipped and experienced in trading in these tougher conditions."

Orgalime members report that business has been supported by increasing demand from Asia and other emerging markets. EU growth and intra trade were also high, especially in the Central and Eastern European countries.

Possibly helped by the drop in the value of Sterling, exports of packaging and weighing machines from the UK rose to £64.46m in the first quarter of 2008 a £21.6m rise on the same period of 2007. And with processing equipment* exports standing at £31.1m total exports for packaging, processing and weighing reached £95.6m in the first quarter of 2008.

At the same time imports of packaging and weighing equipment were flat, dropping by some £2.6m to £80.53m. The overall balance of trade for the first quarter including packaging, weighing and processing shows a negative difference of £20.34m in favour of imports.

Orgalime's Mechanical Engineering sector, of which processing and packaging equipment is a part, represents almost 9 per cent of the value of the EU's industrial production and in 2007 the sector showed growth of 10 per cent with production volumes up 8 per cent thanks in part to strong intra-EU trade. At the same time employment grew by 3 per cent to 3,608,000 employees.

**Comparative data for processing is unavailable.*

Constellation success for Krones

Europe's largest bonded warehouse and dedicated "world-class" bottling facility for Constellation Europe will include two complete wine packaging lines from Krones.

Designed to operate at 24,000 bottles/hour and valued at almost €30 million, the installation is due to come on stream in early 2009 and is one of the first turnkey projects in the UK to incorporate both process and packaging elements. Krones is also providing 84 tanks, each with 50,000 litres storage capacity.

Constellation, which markets over 250 brands globally, has invested considerably in training for this project, is also using the Krones Training Academy to provide extensive operator and engineer training for its staff.

Nigel Leah, technical sales engineer, Krones UK and Andrew Wilson, managing director, Krones UK

Watch out for the full story in the next issue of Machinery Update.

T: +44 (0) 1942 845000
E: sales@krones.co.uk

NEWS BRIEFS

DAN-Palletiser A/S has been sold to Consolidated Holdings A/S, owned by Ib Kunøe, of Denmark.
T: +44 (0) 1908 211800
E: sales@dan-palletiser.dk

Wright Machinery has joined forces with PPM Technologies, a US-based manufacturer of thermal processing, product handling and packaging equipment.

Mark Eaton, chief executive officer of PPM Technologies, will lead the company and James Walsh, CEO of Wright Machinery, becomes Chief Operating Officer.
T: +44 (0) 20 8842 2244
E: general@wright.co.uk

Balluff GmbH, has acquired SIE Sensorik Industrie GmbH, based in Viernheim, Germany. SIE are providers of capacitive sensors for factory automation.
T: +44 (0) 161 282 4700
E: sales@balluff.co.uk

Pack Expo 2008 (Chicago November 9 – 13) will feature an RFID Pavilion highlighting solutions and technologies to upgrade conventional packaging lines to RFID enabled lines.

Also featured will be a Brand Protection Pavilion focusing on technologies to counteract tampering, counterfeiting and product adulteration.
www.packexpo.com

PPMA SHOW & PACK EXPO PREVIEWS

Machinery Update's previews will appear in the September/October issue. Don't miss out - get news of your exhibits to us by **August 6 LATEST**.

publishing@ppma.co.uk

MACHINERY BITES

PIAB has introduced the Vactivator vacuum-handling cylinder featuring automatic stroke control. The simple design and precise tolerances of the Vactivator, says the company, make it a low-energy option that is ideal for fast and accurate control in graphic and packaging applications, such as paper and blanks feeding, carton erecting, and pick-and-place procedures.

The Vactivator provides a reliable, cost-effective vacuum solution with a lifetime of over 30 million production cycles under average industrial conditions. Its piston rod stops and returns instantly when the suction cup contacts the object which means no positioning units are needed.

The cylinder is available in models V10/50 with a stroke of 0-50 mm and V10/20 with a stroke of 0-20 mm.
T: +44 (0) 1509 814280
E: info@piab.co.uk

ECOLINE-D from **S+S Inspection** utilises Sesotec GLS coil technology which requires a very small metal free zone allowing the length of the unit to be kept to a minimum.

Three standard conveyor widths, 200, 300 & 400 mm, combined with 300 mm aperture height make the ECOLINE-D suitable for a wide range of metal detection applications.

The conveyor belt can be changed easily and quickly by one person, without the use of tools. Supplied with the Sesotec Sensity control unit, it is suitable for detecting ferrous and non-ferrous metals in most packaged and unpackaged products.

More sophisticated detection capability can be met with the Genius or Primus control units.
T: +44 (0) 1489 553740
E: info@sesotec.co.uk

Sienna waves the flag

Hailed as the flagship model in its range of automatic horizontal form fill seal flowwrappers, Ulma Packaging has introduced the Sienna "inverted" for fresh produce, cheese and meat.

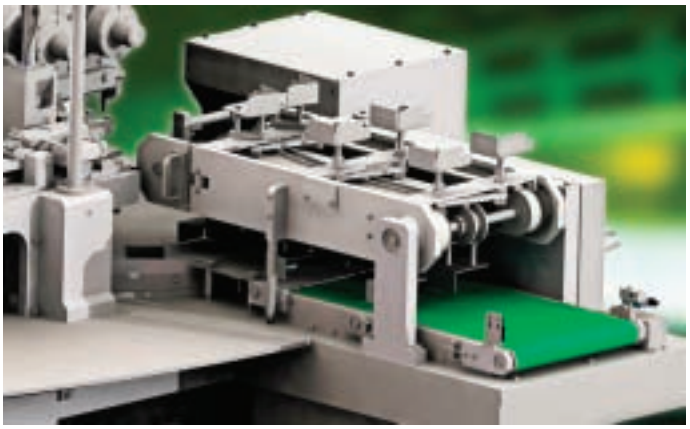
This high speed model, operating at speeds up to 70 packs/minute, combines the benefit of advanced performance with hygienic design and much simpler operation, says Ulma.

Suitable for medium to high volume food applications, it features a new electronic platform powered by independent servo motors controlling the 400mm-wide box motion cross sealing jaw, film feed and two-metre long in-feed conveyor.

Designed by the company to meet stringent food industry hygiene requirements, the Sienna "inverted" is easy to install, set-up, operate, clean and maintain, says Ulma.

It features a touch screen control panel with parameter settings for each product including bag length, speed, sealing and time. The machine can work with a variety of films including BOPP, P-Plus, and LDPE.

It also offers motorised height adjustment for longitudinal sealing and the sealing head is equipped with an independent motor for optimising cycle time and production of minimum length packs.
T: +44 (0) 1909 506504
E: info@ulmapackaging.co.uk



The Multipack 8000 from OYSTAR Benhil

Buttering up the spreads market

The world's highest output machine for wrapping butter, margarine, lard, and similar products in packs of 100 - 500 grams, is claimed by Oystar Benhil for its new Multipack 8000.

The company says that the double-cell rotary table for this filling and packaging machine handles up to 250 packs/minute and can adapt to a number of different formats and materials. Claimed advantages over the previous model (Multipack 8362) include smaller external dimensions and conversion times of less than 45 minutes.

Changes to pack height can be made in five minutes, without the operator having to swap parts, says the company, and its modular structure allows physical separation of the drive and product-packaging areas. This, claims Oystar Benhil, makes it easier to access components during operation and maintenance.

Servo drives are used for carton assembly and to meter products. No-drip, cycled metering via elevator cells is said to guarantee optimal filling consistency, even for different filling profiles. The dispenser features clean-in-place.
T: +44 (0) 2131 995533
E: info@oystar.benhil.de

Winners from Schubert

A new automated method for coupling tools to Schubert's TLM robots is claimed to eliminate time-consuming, hands-on plugging and unplugging operation when a tool change is required.

Schubert estimates that the new feature will reduce machine resetting time by up to eight minutes and eliminate the risk of control failures caused by loose contacts.

The tool's coupler is programmed with a pre-set code so that the robot can check the tool matches the correct application.

Schubert has also introduced the TLM-PK system featuring an integrated Fuji form fill seal machine.

The company now offers fully integrated components into TLM packaging lines from partner companies .

A new extended warranty is also available on all Schubert machines and covers more than double the number of service hours under the previous guarantee, says the company.
T: +44 (0)1676 525825
E: contact@schubert-uk.co.uk

MACHINERY BITES

New to the UK and Ireland market is the **SUNX** a range of laser markers that require no on-site maintenance.

The Laser Markers are air cooled, have a low power consumption and can mark at a consistently high quality for 30,000 hours, says the company. The FAYb technology developed by SUNX provides an extended life for quality marking when compared with equivalent YAG technology, it is claimed.
www.SunxLaserMarkers.co.uk

Ancholme's new Series 8000 Volumetric Doser can be supplied in single-head and multiple head versions.

Suitable to work in partnership with VFFS machines and baggers, dosing heads can be set up for baggers, cartoners or trays and pots.

A new installation for a Quad machineis filling four different products into separate compartments at the same time. And a twin head machine is being used for dry rice filled into trays at 60/minute.
T: +44(0) 1652 657521
E: ancholme2@aol.com

Sealpac and ANL Plastics has developed technology to seal the APET Dome lid on the VisiOPac, a domed pack for ready-to-cook meals combining a protective atmosphere with good product visibility.

Also recently introduced is the SEALPAC A5 for entry-level packaging of fresh and frozen convenience foods, which supports its TraySkin® for transparent barrier film that hugs the product. InsideCut technology ensures secure and clean sealing, it is claimed.
T: +44 (0) 1189 773400
E: sales@sealpac-uk.com

Zippy solution raises a smile

Improved product freshness is promised with the launch of a high speed multi-die flowrapper for zip packs from PFM Packaging Machinery. Aimed at the food sector, the BG2800 Zip has already attracted advance orders from leading UK cheese producers, claims the company.

The BG2800, produces three-sided hermetically sealed packs with longitudinal zips as well as standard 'pillow packs' and 'easy packs'.

The Zip flowrapper produces gas flushed packs with airtight seals at speeds of up to 150 packs/minute. The mechanised zip feature allows different types of flexible wrapping materials to be used increasing the choice of pack style that can be produced, says PFM.

A free standing frame carries a reel of zip which is fed into the zip applicator. It is mounted adjacent to the former where a

series of rollers transfer the zip profile to the film. Heater bars are mounted beyond the roller feed and seal both the film and the zip as they travel towards the end multi die crimp seal unit.

The system offers improved flexibility and pack appearance, as well as faster changeover times, states PFM.

BG2800 Zip features accurate control, rotating multi die crossways sealing systems, with prolonged sealing times and a longitudinal linear sealing assembly, which provides smooth sealing. The rotating multijaw system gives airtight seals and high wrapping speeds.
T: 44 (0) 113 239 3401
E: alisond@pfm-ltd.co.uk

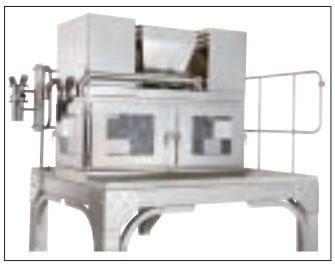
Meaty developments from Ishida

Weighing and packing of fresh meat is set to benefit from two introductions from Ishida Europe.

Its range of Screw Feeder multihead weighers are said to allow automatic handling of fresh meat for the first time.

Ishida has also launched a Weigh-Batcher for fresh and frozen meat, and fish products. The Screw Feeder weighers are suitable for sticky meat and poultry products, which cannot be moved by feeder vibration and when manual feeding is not economically viable.

The weighers utilise a traditional circular multihead design but incorporate a rotating corkscrew to replace traditional radial feed troughs, explains Ishida. The screw feeders provide a powerful, controlled and automatic product feed to the pool



Ishida's Cut-gate Weigher

hoppers. Three-litre anti-stick hoppers with stepper motors enable the handling of large (including on-the-bone) pieces.

Speeds of up to 80 weighments/minute, is claimed to be about 15 per cent higher than the best linear systems can achieve. Ishida's Weigh-Batcher is also designed for fresh and frozen foods such as meat, poultry and fish and enables packers to work efficiently with a single multihead weigher to optimise product arrangement and presentation, says Ishida.

Operators can produce a handcrafted presentation of tray contents before sealing, at typical speeds (with eight operators) of 90 packs/minute with, it is claimed, product giveaway of less than 1g/pack.

Another introduction from Ishida is the Cut-gate Weigher which it claims provides accurate weighing and gentle handling of granular products. The gentle handling preserves particle size and structure, and reduces dust emissions. Compared with auger or volumetric cup fillers, the operation of the Cut-gate also dramatically reduces product damage and minimises product giveaway, says Ishida.
T: +44 (0) 121 607 7700
E: torsten.giese@ishidaeurope.com

Plug-and-play with Elau

ELAU has introduced the Robot P3+, a complete delta 3 robot solution that packaging systems providers can embed in their machinery, which is claimed to be the first plug-and-play robotic solution.

It provides three degrees of movement for pick & place solutions, while a fourth axis is possible by integrating a rotary axis at the tool centre point, says the company.

The package comprises all mechanical, electronic and software components required for fast integration with a packaging machine.

Equipped with Intelligent Servo Modules instead of conventional servo motors and drives, Robot P3+ is connected with a single quick-connect hybrid cable drop between servo modules and common power supply, says Elau.

The standard Robot P3+ has a payload capacity of up to 2.5kg, which is over double its predecessor, the P3.

A single cabinet-mounted power supply can handle multiple robots in addition to the servo drives in the packaging machine. Using I/O option modules, up to 24 distributed I/O points can be supported at each robot.

Like its predecessor, Robot P3+ is fully embedded in the architecture of ELAU's automation system.

Optimised robotic motion profiles ensure high machine cycle rates, while the tool centre point programming gives gentle product handling at high speeds.

It also allows easy integration with vision systems.

The work envelope has also been expanded, with diameters up to 1200mm to allow applications such as conveyor tracking on wide conveyor belts.

All enclosures are made of stainless steel in IP67-optimised configurations and are easy to clean.

T: +49 9391 6060
E: info@elau.co.uk

CheKed with sensitivity

AdvanCheK Plus a new Safeline X-ray from Mettler-Toledo is claimed to be a fast, reliable and economical way to introduce x-ray inspection into food production lines.

It combines contaminant detection with gross mass measurement, for guaranteed product safety and quality, says Mettler-Toledo.

The compact system detects foreign bodies such as metal, stone, glass, bone and high density plastic, when product is wrapped in foil or metallised film, at a standard inspection speed of up to 500 packs/minute.

Depending on pack size,

faster line speeds are possible without compromising sensitivity or reliability, says the company.

Niall McRory, European sales and marketing manager, Mettler-Toledo Safeline X-ray, said, "The AdvanCheK Plus offers contaminant detection and mass measurement simultaneously on every pack from one simple and easy to use colour sealed industrial touch screen and intuitive interface."

Communication via USB or ethernet, or via the OMAC-compliant OPC server is available.

T: +44 (0) 161 848 8636
E: safeline.info@mt.com

MACHINERY BITES

MecaPlastic has introduced a tooling design for the sealing stations for its range of tray sealing equipment for food including MAP, vacuum, and gas flushing.

The station also includes cutting and is suitable for both semi and automatic machines and will benefit users through reduced change-over time, says the company.

T: +44 (0) 2476 351300
E: administration@nutripack.co.uk

Walsall Engineering Group has been appointed UK sales and engineering partner for ABCO, of Canada. ABCO provides food processing solutions for fruit & vegetable, seafood & meat, beverage, and speciality food plants.

The ABCO range includes blanchers utilising its energy efficient Heat/Hold technology, which has recently been extended by a Blancher/Cooker/Cooler for ready meals.

The company's new steam and chilled air technology - LT3 - extends the shelf life and quality of fresh cut fruit and vegetables and is a particular area of interest for food processors currently.

T: +44 (0) 1922 405355
E: sales@weg2001.co.uk

Chronos Richardson has introduced a range of electronic weighing modules - the BULK 3000, BULK 8000 and the high-capacity BULK 9000. Each controller meets the accuracy classes 0.2, 0.5, 1 and 2, in line with MID Directive.

The user-friendly modules feature multi-lingual menus for simple operation, with error and status messages in plain text.

T: +44 (0) 1159 351351
E: info@servicechronos.com

INSTALLATION SNIPPETS

Kliklok Woodman is to install a Celox® high performance end-load cartoner at a major frozen food manufacturer to pack both single and twin pack ready meals.

The cartoner will be integrated with a TRACi product handling system to collate and transfer two meal trays side by side prior to cartoning at 150 cartons/minute.

T: +44 (0) 1275 836131
E: m.tatum@
kliklok-woodman-int.com

Pinguin Foods UK has turned to **Proseal** to pack a new range of ready meals at its factory in Boston, Lincs. The company needed to upgrade its packaging system to meet production targets.

Proseal supplied an AP60-500 tray sealing system to meet the throughput target of 100 packs/minute.

The AP60-500 is easily incorporated into fully automated turnkey production lines, says Proseal. It is designed to run in conjunction with auxiliary equipment at speeds up to 160 packs/minute.

T: +44 (0) 1625 856600
E: info@prosealuk.com

ICI has fully automated the end-of-line packing operations at its Hull print and dye factory using **Endoline** equipment.

Previously 4kg tubs of dye were packed into cases and sealed manually. Endoline designed a bespoke system using a Type 221 Mk3 case erector, Type 311 pick and place machine and a Type PF6 case sealer.

Since being installed the speed of packing has risen to 20 tubs/min, an increase of 250 per cent.

T: +44 (0) 1767 316422
E: sales@endoline.co.uk

Swirl without the twirl!

Oystar Hassia has recently installed three new vertical form fill seal (VFFS) machines at Campina Deutschland's plants in Heilbronn and Elsterwerda.

The Hassia TAS 32/80 machine for cups is claimed to be the first aseptic VFFS system to use a doser able to make swirled products. The doser twists two different products into the cups. Previously the effect for Campina's pudding products could be achieved only with pre-made cups which were rotated during filling.

To ensure the same pattern is achieved on each fill the doser's movement is servo driven, allowing synchronisation. The machine also achieves greater sterility and longer shelf life because it uses saturated steam, heated to 150^{o}C instead of H_2O_2, explained Hassia.

Up to 53,760 cups/hour can be deep-drawn, sterilised, filled and sealed depending on product profile, pack geometry and filling level.

Oystar Hassia has also supplied a THM 32/80 FFS machine for combined dairy and cereal products and a TAS 16/80 is about to be commissioned to aseptically fill stirred and fruit yoghurts, using up to three components, into different pack sizes.

T: +49 6041 810
E: info@oystar.hassia.de

Fresh pasta the PFM way

UGO Foods, makers of fresh pasta products, commissioned PFM Packaging Machinery to supply a complete feeding, weighing and distribution system for its filled pasta ranges.

It comprises a C2 series MBP 12 head multihead weigher, a conveyor system and vibratory feeders. The equipment was custom designed to fit around existing machines at the Hertfordshire facility. This was a particularly important aspect of the installation according to Paul Ugo, managing director, UGO Foods. "We are now experiencing reduced downtime and increased accuracy, efficiency and throughput to meet increased demand for our products," he said.

Changeover times and maintenance intervals have also improved, says the company.

A feature of the system is ease of cleaning, particularly on the conveyors, where built in access points eliminate the need to break down the entire conveyor.

T: 44 (0) 113 239 3401
E: alisond@pfm-ltd.co.uk

High speed tray-less tomatoes

English Village Salads (EVS) will be one of the first produce growers with the ability to supply tomatoes in tray-less packs, according to Ulma Packaging, which has supplied a specially designed Atlanta E horizontal form fill seal (HFFS) flowwrapper.

An integrated feed system is designed to automatically load graded, loose tomatoes onto the unit's high speed infeed conveyor. The fruit is orientated in groups of six and held captive as it moves through the machine to be wrapped at speeds up to 120 packs/minute.

Colin Howard, operations manager at EVS commented, "The Atlanta E system was the fastest machine available and we benefited from Ulma's experience of wrapping loose fruit."

The machine features left to right operating direction, rotary cross sealing jaws, a two metre long in-feed conveyor and touch screen controls able to store parameters of up to 25 different products.

It can also work with a variety of films, including BOPP, PVC, polyester and cellulose as well as complex laminates.

The size range is 90-450mm x 10-250mm.

T: +44 (0) 1909 506504
E: info@ulmapackaging.co.uk

Bonduelle gets the Schubert treatment

The Bonduelle Group has ordered a second automated Schubert packaging line to pack a range of delicatessen salad products at its factory in Lille.

The line will place resealable lids onto film-sealed and labelled salad bowls while being transported and packed into transit trays at about 80 packs/minute.

Packs are fed into the Schubert system from filling, sealing and labelling operations where they are transferred to a grouping chain. Once grouped, Schubert's TLM-F2 robots apply the lids, which are firmly pressed into position and then transported to the filling station.

At the same time, the transit trays are erected from blanks by another TLM-F2 robot, which puts them on a vacuum conveyor leading to the transit pack filling station where the salad bowls are configured into several layers.

As well as packing the bowls into trays, the system's filling robot folds and locks the stacking flaps on the transit cases.

The system is housed in a low-maintenance steel structure and operates at low noise levels and minimal power consumption.

Schubert will be unveiling its latest technologies, including its new time-saving tool changeover feature, at the PPMA Show at the NEC Birmingham from September 30 – October 2 2008.

T: +44 (0) 1676 525825
E: contact@schubert-uk.co.uk

INSTALLATION SNIPPETS

Russell Finex has supplied two self-cleaning Russell Eco-Filters® to waste recovery specialists Veolia Environmental Services to provide better filtering and a reduced filtering time for the company's secondary liquid fuel (SLF), prior to pumping it into delivery tankers.

The SLF is made from a combination of waste materials, including thinners, paint, oils and solvents as well as waste fuel. The production process leaves debris in the resultant fuel which must be removed through filtration. Filling time for a standard 28,000 litre tanker has reduced from between 1.5-2 hours to around 25 minutes.
T: +44 (0) 20 8818 2000
E: sales@russellfinex.com

SLG Beauty has acquired a DSP3 metal detector from **Thermo Fisher Scientific** to inspect its range of applicator products, such as make-up brushes, powder puffs and sponges, both as individual items and in multipacks.

The purchase is part of an on-going project by SLG to up-grade its quality control and end-of-line operations following the move to a new facility.
T: +44 (0) 1788 820300
E: sales.wi.uk@thermofisher.com

Trigon Snacks, producers of Planters and Big D brands, has purchased 11 **Domino** V100 high-speed thermal transfer printers, to increase the flexibility of its operations.

Installed as a rolling order, the V100 printers will be used primarily for printing weights and bar codes onto packs in the Big D nuts range, which has been redesigned to create a new look.
T: +44 (0) 1954 782551
E: enquiries@domino-uk.com

No cause for alarm at Tetley

Tetley GB, part of the Tata Group, has signed a Remote Service Agreement with ABB to help reduce robot downtime, which was seriously affecting production, at its sole UK tea production facility in Eaglescliffe.

ABB established that the problems were caused by spurious alarms causing the robots to trip out and stop production. Colin Trevor, Tetley's plant maintenance manager, said: "We were not sure where the fault was so our engineers spent a lot of time re-setting the robots."

The agreement covers both ABB equipment and robots supplied by other makers.

Remote Monitoring Technology (RMT) uses a service box and system infrastructure installed in the control system of the robots. This can collect data on wear and tear and the productivity of individual robots as well as fault finding.

"In over 50 per cent of cases where RMT is installed we are able to bring robots back on line remotely without the need for further intervention," claims David Pownall, Lifecycle Services Manager for ABB's robotics business. "Downtime at Tetley's has reduced dramatically," said Trevor.
T: +44 (0) 1908 350300
E: michelle.heydon@gb.abb.com

Machine and material marriage

Sealed Air has combined its machinery and materials expertise to equip a Hungarian magazine publishing house with an improved packaging solution at its distribution facility.

A Shanklin® F-5 automatic, side-seal wrapper has increased throughput from just 12 to 75 packs/minute. The customer has also been able to change from a 25 micron PE film to Sealed Air's 13 micron Opti®-400 polyolefin, reducing pack weight significantly.

There is also 77 per cent more film on each roll, reducing storage space needs and changeover frequency.

Adjustable product spacing and end seal placement on the machine allows easy handling of different shaped products or pack sizes, says the company.
T: +44 (0) 1274 260870
E: packagingsolutions@sealedair.com

Snappy system for Heinz

H.J Heinz is now packing Snap Pot products in Retail Ready Packs (RRPs) at its Kitt Green site in Wigan using a purpose built case packer from Smurfit Kappa Machine Systems in conjunction with a six axis Fanuc robot for accurate product handling and loading.

The System 2200 machine was developed to use robotics within the case packing system allowing the company to significantly reduce the number

of components within the machine and so reduce the manufacturing time required to produce equipment with innovative pack handling concepts, it claims.

The installation is part of an on-going strategic partnership between Smurfit Kappa and Fanuc. The case packer features Smurfit Kappa's automatic hot melt refill system which is capable of holding over 50kg of adhesive, enough for several shifts of production.
T: +44 (0) 1454 328660
E: machine.sales@smurfitkappa.co.uk

Thorntons opts for pick and place

Thorntons, the premium chocolate manufacturer, has chosen a MGS iSys pick and place tray denester, supplied by Partners in Packaging to place pre-formed plastic trays into high quality cartonboard trays.

The twin lane machine is automatically fed with the plastic trays which are picked from the magazines and loaded into the board trays, which arrive from the upstream erector and are then momentarily stopped to receive the plastic trays.

Quick, repeatable size changes are made using MGS's patented Kwik clip system of pre-set size parts and a full changeover can take less than two minutes says the company.

T: +44 (0) 1706 369000
E: sales@partnersinpackaging.com

Flexibility at a premium

Growing demand for premium quality products from major European retailers at Laila's Fine Foods has resulted in a second order for a depositing machine with low mount hopper from Riggs Autopack.

The investment will help increase flexibility, improve reliability and speed up production, claims Riggs.

The Model 1000 is designed to handle food products containing particulates up to 30mm cubed without damage, minimising waste and helping to cut costs.

The equipment, which has been retrofitted onto the customer's existing production line, is depositing components

for ready meals in 300g to 1500g portion sizes.

The equipment can deposit food products as diverse as curry, beef bourguignon and layers in lasagne, creating scope to develop Laila's product range, claims Riggs.

T: +44 (0) 1282 440040
E: riggs@autopack.co.uk

pharmaceuticals, medical & healthcare

Vision of the future

Blister packaging continues to be the predominant pack style for solid dose forms in the pharmaceutical sector accounting for 75 per cent of global production, according to recent estimates.

However 'times they are a-changing'. The greatest developments in the pharmaceutical industry are in the field of bio-tech products with 45 per cent of new drug approvals incorporating bio-tech components.

With active ingredients in bio-tech products frequently being too unstable for solid dose forms, well over 90 per cent of products are packaged as liquids in syringes, ampoules and vials. This alone presents plenty of challenges for the machinery suppliers.

However the demand for sophisticated packaging solutions is driven by other factors as well as security and stability of the product: child resistance, senior friendliness and tamper evidence. Not to mention greater regulation from increasingly powerful health authorities and the threat from counterfeiting.

What of processing? With these more volatile products and much stricter production parameters, together with the need for new counterfeiting measures, spurring developments such as **Oystar Manesty's** Nano-Trust® single tablet code recognition system; levels of containment and validation for example are higher than ever before.

This would all seem to point to a booming market for pharmaceutical processing and packaging machine builders and, indeed, at a recent press conference given by **Bosch Packaging Technology's** President Friedbert Klefenz, he announced the last two years as being highly successful for the group and cited pharmaceuticals as the strongest sector with 41 per cent of orders received of which 88 per cent was exported, half of them to countries outside the EU.

However, despite this and other up-beat assessments and some record results in 2007 for major pharmaceutical companies (AstraZeneca, for example, up 9 per cent and Shire also improving turnover by 36 per cent) there is a sense of gloom over the industry with GSK revenues flat, new drug approvals stalled for many companies and profits and share prices set to decline according to some forecasters.

A recent ABPI/CBI survey of 100 UK pharmaceutical companies found over one third expect to reduce R&D spending and half say the number of clinical trials will drop and, overall, 83 per cent were pessimistic about the future.

Klefenz sees this as a result of hardening competition, particularly in generic drugs, fierce regulatory issues, counterfeiting and capital markets expecting better returns from the pharmaceutical giants following another round of consolidations.

Cost pressures are mounting - what does this mean to the pharma sector? See pages 20-21.

PHARMA FACTS

- Two major studies on the pharmaceutical sector look at Supply Chain issues and current and future Trends, and Strategies and Issues surrounding the sector. Datamonitor's Supply Chain report covers an assessment of how big pharmaceutical companies are looking to cut distribution costs and improve overall supply chain management.

- Pharma producers want to take control of distribution of drugs, which is often 'circuitous' and involves many parties as well as increasing the potential for the introduction of counterfeit products. Pfizer, for example, has implemented direct distribution to pharmacies. Will others follow? How will this impact on production and packaging?

- A Strategic report, also from Datamonitor, looks at the impact of increasing competition in generic drugs, tougher regulations, clampdowns on healthcare spending and changing demographics.

  The major drug makers are looking at different ways to cut costs and improve ROI. A swathe of job cuts could mean better business for machine suppliers, but machinery suppliers are also in the spotlight.

- According Datamonitor the effective use of inhalers, regarded as the best means of delivering drugs for asthma and COPD sufferers, is being hampered by the plethora of delivery systems on the market and calls for better standardisation.
  More information:
  www.datamonitor.com

pharmaceuticals, medical & healthcare

Goodbye to bells and whistles - low cost rules

What do mounting cost pressures within the pharmaceutical sector mean for the machinery sector? Andrew Manly examines the trends

A new culture of low cost sourcing for pharmaceutical equipment seems to be upon us. The days of pharmaceutical companies buying the best technology available with all the 'bells and whistles' is over.

Loyalty to a particular supplier has also "gone out of the window", according to many suppliers. Tendering is now fiercer than it has ever been and issues such as Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) are major factors in purchasing decisions.

In the past, lines packing patented drugs would often run at no more than 50-60 per cent capacity as the value of the product meant costs were not a critical factor. Today all the resources are expected to 'sweat' so machine flexibility, quick changeover, cleanability and efficiency are as important as in the food production industry.

But low cost sourcing can bring its own problems. Multi-national pharma companies can now look outside the traditional technology sources of Western Europe, USA and Japan for alternatives in India, China, Korea, Brazil, and other parts of the world.

Asian challenge

India, for example, has a burgeoning pharmaceutical machinery sector boasting about 800 companies. This has shadowed the development of India's huge pharma industry which now employs more than four million people and exports US$6bn of its drugs annually. But because its machinery market has been artificially protected by high import tariffs the equipment is often made to local not international standards, and problems have arisen when it is rolled out to sites outside Indian and other Asian markets.

This has not prevented the major Western machinery companies responding to protect the 'entry level' markets in both their home territory and in the emerging 'E7' economies.

Both Oystar and Bosch have recently launched basic or intermediate blister machines. But Bosch's Friedbert Klefenz sees Asian competitors gaining strength and closing the gap each year.

He believes the answer is to offer scalable automation: a price/performance ratio improved by modular design and customised service packages.

The myriad of pharmaceutical products available further complicates the cost pressure equation. Alan Isaacs, until recently managing director of Doyen Medipharm, explains: "Short runs can mean as few as four packs and many batches are often a few hundreds or thousands. This can present enormous issues as companies must clean and validate the machine for each product."

He also believes that some machine companies merely pay lip service to validation and are more interested in the process than the integrity of the machine."The quality and integrity of equipment must go up a level," he says.

Derek Moore of **Oystar IWK** thinks differently about validation. He feels most of the major machine suppliers do a good job in this area and have designed machines which can be cleaned, changed and ready for use both efficiently and effectively. "But what is the point of making a machine ready in an hour if the documentation takes two hours?" he asks.

Further he considers that there is less room for compromise on quality for processing machines. "The process has to be 100 per cent accurate and verifiable, not 99 per cent. So the compromise,will be with the filler, blister machine or cartoner."

Andrew Longworth, managing director of the UK arm of **Körber Medipak**, agrees the average production run for non-generic pharmaceuticals is decreasing. "An average packaging lot size of less than 5,000 is not unusual. Increasingly segmented product ranges, simplified dosage regimes and minimised stock holdings all contribute to this

PHARMA FACTS

- Health Secretary Alan Johnson has approved new guidelines on drug prices which should cut the costs of many medicines. The Pharmaceutical Price Regulation System could see drug prices fall by an average of 5 per cent. The ABPI says this is causing uncertainty and pessimism in the industry.

- But a new report published recently by Business Monitor International (BMI) claims the pharmaceutical sector in the UK will continue to develop strongly, achieving a value of of US$35.2bn by 2012. BMI says the UK has one of the most technologically advanced drug markets in Europe.
  www.businessmonitor.com

- A Health Compliance Packaging Council (HCPC) conference in Trieste, November 5 - 6, will explore ways that packaging can improve compliance with taking prescribed drugs. HCPC estimates that in Germany alone the overall cost of wasted drugs exceeds Euro10bn and is increasing by Euro500m annually. The EC and NHS will speak alongside Novartis and AstraZeneca.
  www.hcpc-europe.org

pharmaceuticals, medical & healthcare

The new Ultraclean System from OYSTAR Hüttlin and the Pilotlab fluid bed system which has the ability to open the metal filter during CIP cleaning

trend." He adds: "New pharmaceutical formulations may require novel delivery systems or specific systems may be required to ensure dosage compliance.Such systems directly influence the packaging needed. As a result equipment must have a high degree of flexibility and adaptability. Packaging material suppliers too must support these novel solutions, often for relatively short production runs."

This is where development of techniques such as Late Stage Customisation (LSC) help to accommodate requirements.

Even the traditional blister packaging system is having unusual demands placed upon it. Longworth explains: "The blister packaging of extremely friable oral dispersable tablets (ODT) brings very special challenges. So a new generation of blister machines must be capable of configuration to meet bespoke requirements as well as more traditional applications."

Process flexibility

For processors the challenges are the same although cost pressures may not be as high as for packaging equipment. But flexibility, adaptability and speed of cleaning and changeover are as familiar to processing as packaging.

Several developments, such as vacuum injection in mixers, computerised raw material dispensing, more efficient CIP systems and new coating technologies (for example the new AccuSpray system from **Oystar Manesty**) are all geared towards improving productivity and versatility. Additionally the volatility and toxicity of more and more active ingredients means tighter health and safety regimes, hence advances in containment and transfer technologies.

How high up the agenda are environmental concerns in pharmaceutical packaging and processing? The truthful answer is probably: "Not as high as it is in other sectors." Where the prime concern is to deliver a complex, fragile and often very expensive product in the right formulation with the correct dispensing component, dosage information and storage capabilities, environmental considerations may be deemed secondary. However, reduced use of materials in packaging is not being ignored and several advances in the process area have the effect of better use of chemicals, energy and water, particularly in CIP systems.

All commentators agree that innovations such as 'Track & Trace' and on-line printing are positive developments and continued improvements in drives, controls and inspection are all helping to meet the demands of the pharmaceutical giants.

Another bright spot is that the development of nutraceuticals or 'Conf-Med' products is enabling companies like Bosch and Oystar, which have expertise in both the food and drugs sectors, to transfer technology used in one to the other.

But concerns exist that attempts to drive prices down and specifications up will lead to casualties and have the effect of inhibiting growth in the emerging markets where companies relatively new to pharmaceutical manufacture rely on the 'know-how' of established, specialist machinery manufacturers to improve their production regimes and quality of products. This expertise simply does not exist inside local machinery manufacturers.

As well as bio-tech products the sector is also being driven by demographic changes in the developed economies and rapid growth in the emerging ones. The last word goes to Friedbert Klefenz, of Bosch: "Companies are focusing on efficiency, output levels, multi-functional installations and optimisation of investments. In technology terms key components are barrier systems, precision checkweighing, auto cleaning and disposable filling systems."

One thing is certain. The rapid development of pharmaceutical products using bio-tech and nano technologies will place increasing demands on processing and packaging equipment suppliers to develop new technologies to bring to market safely, reliably and in repeatable formats by cost effective means.

PHARMA FACTS

- India, China and Turkey are the fastest growing pharmaceutical markets and, overall, the E7 (largest emerging economies) will see their markets grow at a CAGR of 11.5 per cent between 2007 and 2012 to a value of $116bn, compared with 4.95 per cent for the G7 economies.

  Markets for drugs in India, China, Russia and Indonesia are dominated by generic products.

  There is less penetration in Brazil, Mexico and Turkey. With generics, IPR and counterfeiting still remain significant issues in the E7. (Source: RNCOS)

- By 2012 the E7 countries will account for half the world's population and demand for chronic therapies will grow more strongly than for acute therapies.

  Cardiovascular, cancer and other chronic diseases have overtaken communicable diseases as the biggest killers in these countries. (Source RNCOS)

FURTHER INFORMATION

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pharma - packaging & processing

Wind of change set to blow in from the East

While keeping more than one eye on competitive equipment from the East, established manufacturers of processing and packaging machines for pharmaceuticals must respond to new demand patterns in the sector. The development of bio-tech products is seeing an increase in liquid dose processing but solid dose forms still dominate the market, and tablet making and blister packing innovations are still of major importance. But batch sizes are coming down and cost pressures are going up, at the same time as regulations tighten, so the demands placed on machinery makers are high. How are they responding? In the following pages Machinery Update looks at some of the latest developments we have uncovered…

Integration is the magic ingredient

A maximum output of 1000 packs/minute can be achieved on its new, fully integrated processing and packaging line for pharmaceutical strip tablets, says Romaco.

StripTabs™ can now contain active pharmaceutical ingredients for use in the treatment of conditions such as migraines or even cancer, rather than simply for oral hygiene applications. The wafer thin strip tablets have a thickness of between 60 and 100 microns, are taken orally providing rapid distribution of the active ingredients through the body, claims the company.

Mixing of dry and liquid ingredients to form a homogeneous, dense solution is undertaken on a FrymaKoruma machine, which provides extremely accurate dosing of the active ingredients, says Romaco. Continuous circulation, recirculation and heating of the liquid keep the viscosity and concentration of the mixture constant during processing.

The solution, with a thickness tolerance of one micrometer, is then passed to a OPTIMAGS coating plant where it is applied to a carrier foil prior to being passed through several drying units, after which it is rolled up.

Cutting and packaging takes place on a Siebler HM2/500 hot-seal machine where the roll material is unwound and perforated into small rectangles (20x30mm). The StripTabs™ are then delaminated from the carrier foil and placed on the primary packaging foil via a shuttle system. They are then sealed in air-tight soft aluminium foil packages which can be peelable.

"The high dosing accuracy of StripTabs™ is achieved through the perfect interaction of different machine systems in a fully automated production sequence," according to Martin Grau, product manager at Romaco Siebler.

T: +44 (0) 1733 367300
E: uk@romaco.com

Siebler HM2/500

EU-system for identification

The European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA) has called for measures to tackle the growing threat of counterfeit medicines, including a ban on repackaging medicines, a harmonised EU-system of identification, and heavier penalties for trafficking in counterfeit medicines.

Ten different systems coexist in Europe today (using different types of barcodes and with or without unique pack identification).

This fragmentation increases the difficulty to track and trace medicines effectively at a European level and constitutes a substantial cost for the pharmaceutical industry. EFPIA recommends the implementation of a standardised and unique coding system for medicines in Europe.

Proposals for tougher EU legislation are expected before the end of the year and EFPIA is recommending a ban on all forms of medicine repackaging as a prerequisite for an effective anti-counterfeiting strategy.

Additionally security features must be developed for packaging through unique identification codes to verify the origin of a medicine.

EFPIA is making plans to launch a pilot scheme of a unique bar code system, which will enable the pharmacist to verify each medicine pack before dispensing it to the patient.

This pilot will be launched before the end of 2008. The technology will use the 2 dimensional data matrix and could be used as an EU standard, says EFPIA.
www.efpia.org

PHARMA FACT FILE

- **Oystar IWK** has launched the BP5 flatbed blister machine for intermediate outputs. Key features are extremely fast changeover and format changes without tools, says the company. This machine complements the SC5 cartoning machine, also for low to intermediate outputs for both cycled and continuous operation, (up to 200 units/min). The modular design makes it extremely versatile, says the company.

Also from IWK the FeedCell is a new, flexibly configurable, universal feeder which can collect, group and transfer a wide range of different products.
T: +44 (0) 1252 732210
E: info@oystar-iwk.co.uk

pharma - packaging

Giant is just in time

The Giant1 blister line from IMA is designed for larger pharmaceutical companies and contract packers where small to medium batches or just-in-time production is required, for outputs up to 350blisters/min and 175cartons/min.

By limiting the number of size parts and reducing their weight, changeover times have been reduced to 'unprecedented levels' claims the company. 'In the time it takes to changeover a super-high speed machine Giant1 will have completed 3 more batches'

The line is equipped with the new Touch & Change system, or Small Format Adjustment Drive developed by SICK-Stegmann in co-operation with IMA, for fully automated adjustments.

Also from IMA is a new rotary tablet press with wash-in-place, (WIP), capability, designed to meet the demand for automated cleaning and greater operator safety, says the company. With the Kilian Synthesis 700 WIP system the process area is completely isolated from the mechanical area through the use of Viton seals which separate the die table from the cover segment and lower machine. A silicon band isolates the die fixing screws, while rubber bellows seals protect the punches. Spray nozzles are located in each part of the process area and also inside the aspiration system. Water use is limited to the process area to avoid moisture contamination on mechanical parts and enables reduced water usage.

Other recent developments are the Hermetica banding machine for tamper evident sealing of capsules and the Perfima 500 perforated pan for tablet coating.
T: +44 (0) 1789 767330
E: hotdesk@imauk.co.uk

pharma - packaging

Dynamic motion for tube filler

The MT1000 rigid tube filler, launched by the Marchesini Group is claimed to be ergonomic, innovative and revolutionary.

Tubes are conveyed in holders using synchronised dynamic motion, while tablets are inserted using a positive pick and place system. A primary advantage is that both tube and tablet feed system are now more compact.

After orientation by screw feeder the tubes are picked, and loaded onto two parallel belts, each having its own independent motor. This synchronised dynamic motion, says Marchesini, cuts out unnecessary stops for the tubes between operations, making the process both smoother and continuous.

The tablets are picked up by suction cups in rows of 12 at a time and are then turned through 90° before being placed directly into the tube. This pick and place technique prevents the tablets being subjected to rubbing, friction and pressure, so preventing damage. Counting procedures are also facilitated by this method, says the company.

Marchesini also now offer a complete syringe line covering all operations from plunger application to palletising. It is comprised of a MP100 denester made by Co.Ri,M.A. which picks and checks the already filled and closed syringes. Handling is very precise, says the company, to avoid damage. Plungers are then applied, as well as labels and safety devices using an APS Combi, also from CoRi,M.A.. They are then sent to a Farcon FBZ320 thermoformer for packing into trays. This machine uses eleven servo motors and is in full compliance with GMP standards.

The MT1000 rigid tube filler

Finally the trays of syringes are transferred to a MA302 cartoner, followed by a Neri BL 400VTE labeller prior to palletising on a MCP840 vertical case packer/palletiser.

T: +44 (0) 1525 216201
E: sales@marchesini.co.uk

World's fastest line?

The blister packer B1660 MTI, with speeds up to 700 blisters/minute, is a newcomer to Uhlmann's range. In tandem with the C 2504 cartoner the company believes it is the world's fastest integrated line, packing up to 500 cartons/minute.

It can operate with all common types of forming material and controls the discharge of waste and heat to ensure a proper clean room atmosphere.

Among the claims made for the new blister packer, are: +20 per cent operating efficiency; +50 per cent cleanability; -50 per cent noise emissions; -40 per cent changeover times and -30 per cent life cycle costs.

A feature of the machine, says Uhlmann, is the blister transfer to the cartoner. Blisters are pushed in an upward direction and suction devices gently place them onto the vacuum conveyor where they are moved to an intermediate position. The blister lanes are then centred before loading into the product chain. This new form of transfer means it is unnecessary to have an additional product chain in the cartoner, saving both space and money, it says.

The company also claims to make the world's fastest single lane packaging line – the Blister Express 500, an integrated blister machine and cartoner with production capability of batches between 30,000 and 150,000 pvc/aluminium blisters.

Also new from Ulhmann's VisioTec quality control division is the VisioNir in-line system for contact free monitoring of active substances.

T: +44 (0) 1252 743120
E: info@uhlmann.co.uk

PHARMA FACT FILE

- **groninger** has several new developments for the pharmaceutical sector, including an enhanced method of dehydrogenising and silicone fixation in vial processing by means of single in-feed, hot air and cooling modules. Also available is the compact DFVN 1000 V nest filler featuring process steps, filling and stopper insertion identical to those used on a high speed line. With patented vacuum technology it is ideal for test runs or small batches up to 4800 syringes/hr, says the company. Two other machines, the MFCS 202 QL, capable of filling and closing up to 72,000 bottles/hr and the compact KVK 310 B fully automatic closer which can crimp caps at a maximum capacity of 36,000/hr are also new to the market.
  www.groninger.de

- **Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc** and Pharma Polymers (part of Evonik Industries) are to co-operate to advance the hot melt extrusion process in the pharmaceutical industry by combining formulation and polymer expertise with equipment from Thermo Fisher Scientific.

  The aim is to develop a solution that will overcome process challenges, such as solubility, and improve time to market. The teams will work together at the Pharma Polymers facility in Mumbai, India and will provide feasibility and trials for pharmaceutical manufacturers mainly in Asia.
  T: +44 (0) 1788 820300
  E: sales.wi.uk@thermofisher.com

PHARMA FACT FILE

- **Newman Labelling** has supplied a NV2 fully automatic self adhesive labelling system to Abbot's Mexico City plant.

  The machine is being used in the tabletting area for labelling plastic containers of vitamins at speeds up to 150cpm.

  The NV2 was supplied on castors to facilitate moving between lines.

  The machine can be used on cylindrical, flat and square containers from 10mm to 150mm.

  T: +44 (0) 20 8440 0044
  E: sales@newman.co.uk

- **Packaging Automation** has entered the medical market with a range of machines developed specifically for packing medical devices and surgical instruments including implants, diagnostic kits and wound dressings.

  The machines incorporate special features, says the company, such as a direct pressure transducer to record that the seal force is within pre-set parameters and a thermal printer to provide data on seal force, seal time and other information for security and traceability.

  The equipment also offers identification on the base sealing tool by the machine software, using RFID, to allow auto selection of process parameters.

  The range meets the stringent requirements for hygiene, pack validation and seal security, according to PA, which offers its facilities for trials and testing of pack designs and materials.

  T: +44 (0) 1565 755000
  E: info@pal.co.uk

pharma - packaging

Blistering developments

The new CP500 blister machine from Körber Medipak has been developed specifically for packaging blisters with deep draw depths for ampoules, vials and syringes.

However the MediSeal machine is also suitable for the production of tablet blisters, especially products which require aluminium blisters with deep pockets and is ideal for small batch production, according to Körber.

A base storage bin has been incorporated which greatly reduces foil changeover times, says the company. The flexible pocket design, with an optional special forming depth of 35mm enables not only non-standard items to be packed, but also ampoules, vials, syringes or other medical devices. The CP500 can be switched from one format to another in less than 30 minutes.

Körber has also introduced a high performance stick pack machine to its MediSeal range. The fully GMP compliant LA600 SP can operate up to a maximum of 16 lanes and is capable of producing more than 1000 sticks/minute for both pharmaceutical granulates and liquids.

Its 6m2 footprint makes it extremely compact, while the machine also features a simple tube removal system and its modular design lends itself to expansion as production requirements increase.

Late Stage Customisation is now being offered on all Körber Medipak's MediSeal blister machines enabling serial processes such as packing, printing and cartoning to be run in

parallel achieving time saving and greater flexibility, says the company. Small, country specific, batches can be combined on one machine, it claims.

The heart of the concept is a logistics module, the BIB-BOB, which allows blisters to be taken from the packaging line and stacked in a bulk magazine. These blisters can then be transferred at a later stage back into the cartoning process. This says the company can improve line efficiency by up to 30 per cent.

The inline printing facility, which has been developed by Atlantic Zeiser, enables blisters to be coded immediately prior to being cartoned. A 2D matrix code can be applied as a unique ID for individual blisters, guaranteeing pharma security, says Körber, even when the production process is de-coupled. Other identity features such as an RSS code can also be applied in-line.

T: +44 (0) 1753 754865
E: info@uk.koerber-medipak.com

Sliding into pharmaceuticals

Bosch Sigpack Systems has developed, in conjunction with its British designers, an automated line for the Burgopak style of carton,

particularly for use with pharmaceutical products such as OTC drugs packed in blisters.

Until now some 25 million Buropaks have been hand assembled for use with products such as DVDs and cell phones. The machine uses specially developed feeding-wheel technology.

The slide mechanism holds both the blister and information about dosing in position for each use. The carton is designed with open ends and access to the product is achieved by pulling on one side, causing the product carrier positioned opposite to extend and show usage instructions at the same time.

The pack is also tamper evident.

T: +44 (0) 1332 626262
E: ukenquiries@boschpackaging.com

PHARMA FACT FILE

- The patented Gentlewing mixing device from **Oystar Hüttlin** does away with the problem of products sticking to side panels and incomplete emptying, it claims.

  It will produce excellent mixing quality even at slow speeds. The device has been incorporated into two new high-shear mixers, the lab-scale Mycromix, for batches between 0.5 and 2Kg and the Pilotmix, pilot-scale, granulator which features the same geometric container as the existing top-drive system. Both have bottom drive technology.
  www.oystar.huettlin.de

- The new Cyberfill aerosol filler from **Oystar Aerofill** can be configured as a single head machine for semi-automatic operation or as an in-line system for higher speed. It features a 'bottom up' filling technique. The company's new Flexipak machine features a patented change-part-free container handling system.
  www.oystar.aerofill-dawson.com

pharma - processing

Bosch gets clinical ...

The FX2050 syringe filling line for pre-sterilised syringes from Bosch Packaging Technology (BTP) has been developed for processing liquid pharmaceuticals during clinical trials.

The line replicates the same process parameters used in mass production, enabling producers to determine feasible parameters and optimum validation processes so avoiding risks when production is scaled up, says BPT.

The line is fully automated to reduce manual operation and keep the risk of contamination to a minimum. It comprises automatic bag and tub opening systems, as well as an automated filling volume control. Rotary piston filling pumps are servo driven for accuracy. Sampling or removal of individual syringes for testing is also automated.

The FX2050 is designed with a small footprint to ensure mobility and can be operated under class A clean room conditions by integration into a Restricted Access Barrier System.
T: +44 (0) 1332 626262
E: ukenquiries@boschpackaging.com

... and highly protective

Bosch has extended its GKF series with the HiProTect, a fully integrated containment capsule filling system for processing potent substances. The design prevents contact between the operator and potent materials, eliminating the need for air suits, masks and other safety equipment, says the company.

The filling station processes powder, tablets, pellets, liquids and combination formats. Additional filling units are easy to install without extensive downtime, it claims.

The no-cap/no-fill function prevents product loss and contamination inside the machine.

GKF HiProTect fulfils various Process Analytical Technology requirements. A statistical gross and net weight control or 100 per cent control ensures improved end product quality. Even slight changes in product weight are reported to the filling station so that errors are caught early and production downtime and product waste is minimised. An integrated wash-in-place or clean-in-place system comes as standard.
T: +44 (0) 1332 626262
E: ukenquiries@boschpackaging.com

pharma - processing

Eco-friendly and economical

Oystar division, Hüttlin, has recently completed an eight month installation of a fluid bed system to recover organic solvents at Ferring Pharmaceuticals of Switzerland.

The "environmentally-friendly" HKC 400 DJ is based on patented disk jet technology and, claims the supplier, has increased levels of automation, shortened process and cleaning times, decreased wear and tear, enabled faster filling and discharging and reduced nitrogen consumption at the Ferring's plant. The plant makes products for reproductive medicine, urology, obstetrics, endocrinology and gastrointestinal inflammation.

Ferring Pharmaceuticals

The disk jet generates a specific Torodial current which distributes the gas evenly to ensure complete homogenisation. Depending on process gas conditioning the solids can be dried, heated, moistened, cooled or agglomerated by the injection of excipients. Particles can be spray coated.

A brine cooled condenser and low temperature condensation unit with liquid nitrogen in a closed loop enable the organic solvents to be almost completely recovered. This makes the installation both eco-friendly and economical says Hüttlin.

The spray nozzles are cleaned with pure organic solvent during the actual process enabling them to remain in operation for long periods.

www.oystar.huettlin.de

Pharma threesome from GEA

GEA Pharma Systems (Niro) says its latest Buck®Valve MC is a new concept in high containment valves, making the transfer of active pharmaceutical ingredients or chemicals between IBCs (Intermediate Bulk Containers) easier and less expensive.

The new system uses only passive valves (no drive units) which are compatible with valves fitted to most IBCs.

Up to now it has been necessary to use split valve technology to discharge products for IBC safety. This is suitable for process line situations but not between one IBC and another, says GEA Niro. And it is no longer necessary to use an active to active unit. Few moving parts and no lubrication are other claimed advantages, while product touching parts can be released manually, without tools.

The simpler method of transferring bulk chemicals allows docked, half passive valves to be driven from the shaft area giving smoother movement and eliminating the need for vacuum between the discs. Reducing the number of moving parts and standardising components enables Buck®Valve MC to reduce costs, says the company.

GEA Courtoy has introduced the PERFORMA™ P tablet press, a single sided, high output machine featuring an exchangeable turret with an increased number of punch stations, ideal, says the company, for applications where long runs and few changeovers are required.

The turret incorporates a central die disc which is easily detachable from the upper and lower turret sections and so can be exchanged as a separate unit. The Exchangeable Die Disc (EDD) eliminates the need to duplicate the punch guiding modules and is an economic alternative to a completely exchangeable turret, says the company.

The EDD is available with conventional dies or Die Shells which are thin walled and allow an increased number of stations, leading to higher outputs, reduced tooling and less risk of tool damage, the company claims.

GEA Collette has developed the CONSIGMA™ high shear mixing and granulation system. Its small size, less than one quarter that of a conventional system, makes it ideal for R&D operations. Its modular construction means it can easily fit into an existing tablet production room, says the company.

T: +44 (0) 2380 267131
E: info@geapharmasystems.com

PHARMA FACT FILE

- **Oystar Manesty** has continued its innovation surge with three new developments. The Xpress Wash-in-Place system will clean all substrates from the tablet press and is capable of using different water types, detergents or foams. Fully programmable, it can be linked to cleaning systems for ancillary equipment such as de-dusters. Productivity can be increased by 30 per cent, claims Manesty.

  The XL™ Cota 350 is a new tablet coating machine with an improved system for inserting solutions into the drum. It is suitable for medium to large scale production with a standard drum capacity of 500 litres (95-440kg). A new 4 – 10 station tablet press, the XSpress enables the operator to study and adjust key compression data as the machine is not fixed to a compression cycle. It can produce single, bi-layer or tri-layer tablets, which is a first, according to Manesty. Mounted on wheels it can be moved to different production zones for small batch output.

  T: +44 (0) 151 547 8000
  E: info@oystar.manesty.com

- **Chronos Richardson's** CHRON-WEIGH™ E55 NXT precision weighing system is equipped with state-of-the-art loadcell technology and significantly improved cleaning access, says the company. The weigh hopper incorporates stainless steel contact parts as standard and is suitable for hygienic bulk weighing across all industries, it claims.

  T: +44 (0) 1159 351351
  E: info@servicechronos.com

pharma - inspection, weighing & counting

Tulip bulbs, capsule counting and gemstones

Cremer Speciaalmachines B.V, which started life in counting with a tulip bulb counter, has introduced the latest version of the CF series, the CF425, a new generation modular machine concept and with a small footprint, says the company.

It comprises a flexible, modular system with fixed side panels and a single main frame to accommodate a variable number of counting modules. These can vary from 3 - 10 for typical outputs of up to 300 containers/minute on a 100 count.

Other features include minimal change parts; short, tool-less changeover; easier cleaning and reduced maintenance with simple operation and 100 per cent accuracy based on Cremer's micro processor controlled counting concept, it claims.

Cremer has also added to its range of counting machines for products measuring 30mm upwards with the TQ-Z mini counter which focuses on smaller items such as fasteners, washers and gemstones. The machine can be configured with 1, 6, 12 and 24 channel counters and uses the standard linear separation principle with vibratory plates.

The machine's reduced footprint means it is ideal for use with a small bagger, says the company.

T: +31 (0)252 419038
E: sales@cremer.com

Quick time release

RNA Automation has teamed up with MVT to produce a tablet feeding and inspection system for a major pharmaceutical contract packer. The packer was experiencing problems including 'twinning and tripling' tablets, and excessive 'flash'. Conventional feeding mechanisms have limitations with this type of product due to high rates of contamination, leading to lengthy cleaning routines, claims RNA.

The company installed a 'quick release' bowl feeder coated with an FDA approved polyurethane skin. The use of a single tool and semi rotation means it can be removed, cleaned and replaced quickly eliminating unnecessary over filling and contamination of potentially reclaimable material, says the company. It also ensures the efficiency and integrity of the inspection system.

T: +44 (0) 121 749 2566
E: rna@rna-uk.com

Tubular balance

Mettler Toledo has launched automated versions of its MX5 microbalance and UMX2 ultra microbalance for precision weighing of small tubular samples.

These are used to weigh coatings and check thicknesses of medical devices such as stents, catheters, tubes and springs in R&D and manufacturing processes.

The new models can reduce working time by as much as one third, says the company.

The sample to be weighed is placed in the sample lift and requires no further manual input, according to Mettler. A smaller weighing chamber, with automated lid improves precision and eliminates draught while the lift has been specially designed to keep the sample in the correct position.

The microbalances can be incorporated into automated manufacturing processes.

T: +44 (0) 116 235 7070
E: enquire.mtuk@mt.com

pharma - coding, marking & labelling

All sorts of extras

Pago has developed the Pagopharma labelling machine standard and introduced three models in the range: P525 is for all round labelling of cylindrical bottles with a version for vials; P514B provides vignette labels for folding boxes; P580 is a high performance system for combined folded box and vignette or Braille labelling and twin-seal security labels.

Features include auto label sort-out and pre-removal of defective labels. The modular concept facilitates integration into existing production lines and additional 'bolt on' functions mean customised solutions can be achieved via later modifications, says the company. For example hot embossing, thermal transfer printing and special monitoring devices can be added.

A stainless steel version with a breakage-proof Macrolon protective housing is available and software meets GAMP 4 standards. With the OPC module Pagomat Pharma can integrate easily into wider control concepts, says Pago, including compliance with 21 CFR Part II.

T: +44 (0) 1206 755206
E: machines@pago.co.uk

Pago's P580

It's the animal in them!

Sunala (UK agent Travtec) has launched a new version of is Pharmacarton coding station for in-line, high resolution printing of lot, expiry and bar codes for pharmaceutical and medical cartons. The station now incorporates the latest Wolke M600 thermal transfer ink jet printer.

Pharmacarton III is designed around animal health regulations for mass serialisation using Datamatrix codes to meet ECC 200 and proposed similar changes to EU pharma traceability requirements.

The station resolves the issue of printing high density codes and 2D codes in-line, according to Sunala, by controlling the carton during the printing and vision process. Once printed the codes are verified by an OCV character verification system.

The equipment is able to print in real-time which accords with Track & Trace requirements for animal health products. An Ethernet portal allows remote data input.

T: +44 (0) 1942 677664
E: info@travtec.co.uk

Designed with Asia in mind

A new, low cost, tray to tray labelling system is designed specifically for unstable containers such as ampoules, vials, syringes and cartridges, say the makers, Newman Labelling.

The 4VAL can apply both clear and paper, self-adhesive labels to a range of cylindrical containers at speeds in excess of 200 containers/minute. The machine is constructed in stainless steel to cGMP quality standards, but features have been kept to a minimum to appeal to export markets in Eastern Europe and Asia.

Standard features include interlocking guarding, stepper motor drive for label web, straight label arm adjustable in all axes and hand wheel adjustment. Optional extras include missing overprint and label detectors, bar code reading systems and hot foil, thermal, laser and ink jet printing.

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"New" UK Machinery Regs coming into force

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We have been writing in *Machinery Update* about the third amendment to the Machinery Directive - the so-called "new Machinery Directive" - for the past eight years, so it is with a certain amount of relief that we can now report that the Regulations to introduce the new Machinery Directive into UK law have been published.

The Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 2008 (SMR) will not come into force until December 29 2009, but at that time the current Regulations (SMR 1992 and 1994 amendment) cease and the new Regulations start without any transition period. Machine manufacturers and machine users who create assemblies of machines, need to think of the next 18 months as the transition period and prepare.

What are the differences between the new and old Machinery Directive?

The area of most obvious change is to the scope of the Directive which now makes it clear that lifting accessories, lifting chains and ropes, and "partially completed machines" are in scope. Household appliances intended for domestic use, audio and video equipment, information technology equipment, ordinary office machinery, low-voltage switchgear and control gear, and electric motors are **excluded** from the scope of the Directive and have to comply only with the Low Voltage Directive (LVD).

For most manufacturers this has simply clarified what they already thought they knew but for many companies making catering equipment that have been claiming conformity to CENELC "household or similar appliances" standards and only claiming conformity to the LVD, this has come as a bit of a shock - they now have to comply with the Machinery Directive as well.

Use of the Declaration of Incorporation (DOI) has always been an area of confusion but the new Directive makes it clear that the DOI should be used only for partially completed machines and anything other than a partially completed machine should be supplied with a Declaration of Conformity whether or not it is to be incorporated into a process plant or packaging line.

The old Machinery Directive had an implicit requirement for machine makers to carry out a risk assessment which many manufacturers failed to realise. However the new Directive leaves no room for doubt:

"The manufacturer of machinery or his authorised representative must ensure that a risk assessment is carried out in order to determine the health and safety requirements which apply to the machinery."

Subtle changes

At a first glance the essential health and safety requirements (EHSRs) of the new and old Directives look very similar with the same numbering system and many requirements seemingly unchanged. But there are **very few** EHSRs that have not been changed.

Some changes are quite subtle for example the rewording of headings to clarify their content. EHSR 1.2.5 has been changed from "Set up mode" to "Selection of control or operating modes".

Other subtle changes are more significant for instance "EHSR 1.3.1. Risk of loss of stability" now requires machinery and its components and fittings to be stable enough to avoid "overturning, falling or uncontrolled movements" not only during operation but also during "transportation, assembly, dismantling and any other action involving the machinery".

Some clauses have been completely rewritten. EHSR "1.3.8 Choice of protection against risks arising from moving parts"; **this now makes sense!**

EHSR "1.2.4 Stopping" has been restructured and a new clause "1.2.4.2 Operational stop" has been added for machines with servo drives where it may not be desirable to disconnect power to the drive. "Where, for operational reasons, a stop control that does not cut off the energy supply to the actuators is required, the stop condition must be monitored and maintained."

On the face of it there are some entirely new EHSRs like "1.1.6 Ergonomics", "1.1.7 Operating positions", "1.1.8 Seating" and "1.3.9 Risks of uncontrolled movements", although in the case of 1.1.6 these clauses have simply been rearranged and grouped under a new heading. In the case of 1.1.7; 1.1.8 and 1.3.9 these clauses have been moved from the specific requirements for mobile machinery so that they can be applied "where the equivalent hazard exists" to all machinery.

The application of the hygienic design clause EHSR 2.1 has been widened from just machines handling food to machines that handle cosmetics and pharmaceuticals.

Consternation

Generally the changes to the EHSRs are helpful as they clarify the text and make it easier to read, but the addition of one sentence to the EHSR 1.4.2.1 on fixed guards has caused consternation: "Their fixing systems must remain attached to the guards or to the machinery when the guards are removed." The logic of doing this for fixed guards which are removed regularly is clear, but the additional cost for guards which are rarely if ever removed seems unjustified.

For machine purchasers the most visible evidence of change is the Declaration of Conformity. In addition to having the new Directive number 2006/42/EC this will now have to include not only the name and address of the manufacturer but also the name and address of the person authorised to compile the Technical File and this person must be resident in the European Economic Area.

In summary manufacturers have quite a lot to catch up with in the new Machinery Directive. Machine importers need to establish with their Principal who will be nominated to compile the Technical File .

So don't miss the PPMA training course on the New Machinery Directive on September 11 2008.

To book:
T: +44 (0) 20 8773 8111
E: administration@ppma.co.uk
www.ppma.co.uk

IN BRIEF

A new entry-level version of the Wolke m600 thermal ink jet printer has been introduced to the UK by **Sunala**.

The new compact m600 Basic has been designed for users that require fast, quality coding without some of the more sophisticated features of the m600 advanced printer.

It can drive up to two print heads with printing speeds of up to 300m/minute with a maximum resolution of 600dpi.
T: +44 (0) 1942 674440
E: info@sunala.com

Linx Printing Technologies has expanded its range of inks for the IJ600 large character in jet printer with several pigmented inks.

Red, green and blue inks, all of which are formulated and micropigmented, have been designed for use with the Linx IJ600.
T: +44(0)1480 302100
www.linxglobal.com

Zanasi, represented in the UK by **Cobalt I.S**, has introduced the compact Z101 drop-on-demand ink jet printer which features a micro-valve print head. This means that five print sizes from 7-24mm can be achieved.
T: +44 (0) 1606 42500
E: sales@cobaltis.co.uk

Sato has introduced a compact printer with scan and print functions – the CX410.

Particularly suited to small labelling volumes and compact spaces, a scanner can be connected directly to the CX410.

Bar code applications include retailers, point-of-sale, and courier services.

It can be supplied with label cutter, label dispenser and an enhanced memory.
T: +44 (0) 1255 240000
E: enquiries@sato-uk.com

Pepsi-Co over the moon about energy savings

Pepsi-Co is being helped to meet its corporate sustainability goal by a new energy saving feature on the Markem-Imaje SmartDate 5 thermal transfer coder.

Known colloquially as the 'Sleeping' SmartDate, the power saving feature is claimed to reduce power consumption by 50 per cent and is now included as standard on all new units and can be easily retro-fitted to existing ones, says Markem-Imaje.

Pepsi-Co has embarked on a project with Markem-Imaje to upgrade all its existing coders with the new function and roll out its use across many of its sites.

Steven Brooks, Pepsi-Co regional packaging manager for Europe and the Middle East said: "Globally we have over 2,000 SmartDate coders installed on our packaging lines. Our largest areas of energy usage in packaging are electricity and compressed air, and our goal is to reduce our energy consumption in these areas significantly over the next three years."

The SmartDate function means the coder switches into sleep mode if the parent packaging machine is powered down, says Markem-Imaje. It can also be programmed to sleep for a predetermined length of time if the line is unused. A small moon graphic is displayed while in sleep mode and, when the line re-starts, the coder powers up in less than one second.

UK engineering director for Pepsi-Co, Martin Miller, added: "The challenge to our equipment and instrumentation suppliers is to find ways to decrease the amount of power that their products consume. Although the power saving on each SmartDate 5 may not be dramatic in its own right, the cumulative effect will help us meet our overall targets."

The latest SmartDate 5 also offers a choice of control options – including a new full-colour touch-screen – plus extra performance and efficiency to increase factory productivity.
T: + 44 (0) 161 333 8400
E: lholden@markem-imaje.com

Logopak uses its loaf

Flexibility of supply to major supermarkets has been achieved with the help of five purpose-designed high speed print & apply labelling machines installed by Roberts Bakeries, of Cheshire.

Supplied by Logopak UK, the Series 515 machines allow individual loaves fed from different lines to be identified at a central point for automatic or manual loading into trays.

The machines print & apply small bar code labels measuring 50 x 50mm to loaves wrapped in branded film, while larger labels with ingredient information are placed on loaves wrapped in plain film for the sandwich trade. Each machine can label up to 60 loaves/minute, says Logopak.

Space on the individual production lines is at a premium so the labellers have been designed to operate from above, attaching labels to the top of each loaf.

The blow-on label applicator can swing through 30 degrees, following the loaves in continuous motion as the label is attached.

Following the supply of the first five units, Roberts Bakeries has ordered a further three Logopak 515 machines.
T: +44 (0) 1904 692333
E: salesonweb@logopak.net

Compact and customer-led

A customer request has led Weyfringe to introduce a compact version of its RTL label print and apply system.

The RTL Compact has a reduced chassis size allowing it to be positioned within spaces which traditional labelling systems will often not fit, says Weyfringe. It features remote control operator modules and diagnostic display options.

Suitable for network or stand alone operation the RTL Compact is available in standard and wide label models.
T: +44 (0) 1642 490121
E: sales@weyfringe.co.uk

COMPONENT CLIPS

Witt Gas has launched a digital gas control processor, the Gas Control 100 for use with gas mixers metering and analysing equipment.

The first gas analyser to be fitted with the new processor is the MAPY-4.0 multi-functional O^2 and/or CO^2 unit for use in MAP functions for the food packaging sector.

Main features include on board data logging, providing comprehensive storage of measurements and process data and control of the analysis processing and mixing. The unit comes with numerous interfaces to facilitate its incorporation.
T: +44 (0) 1925 234466
E: carl.long@witt.co.uk

Variohm EuroSensor has launched a compact range of heavy-duty rotary potentiometers from the German sensor manufacturer Novotechnik for precision angle measurement in extreme environmental conditions.

With a choice of IP67 or IP69K protection ratings, the hermitically sealed and durable IPX series is available in single or true redundancy output versions with a choice of 120º, 200º or 350º electrical ranges and with independent linearity to ≤ ±0.1%.
T: +44 (0) 1327 351004
E: graham@variohm.com

Pilz has a new range of operator terminals, from a compact diagnostic unit to larger, PLC compatible models. The PMI m309diag is designed for use with safety related control systems.

For greater functionality the PMIvisu can also be used with leading makes of PLC for plant visulaisation and diagnostics
T: +44 (0) 1536 460766
E: sales@pilz.co.uk

Controlled intelligence a record breaker for ELAU

More than 220 machines exhibited at interpack 2008 were automated with ELAU machine and motion control technology, an increase of 60 per cent compared with 2005, says the company.

Heralding interpack 2008 as the most successful trade fair in the company's history, ELAU, part of Schneider Electric, launched its Intelligent Servo Module technology which, it claims, simplifies and increases the potential flexibility of packaging systems. The module technology facilitates a more compact machine design even when many servo drives are

ELAU technology in action

used. These would previously have had to be mounted in a conventional cabinet, which made some designs impractical.

With the company focusing development on distributed solutions it also introduced the Intelligent Line Shaft (ILS) patented software which, says ELAU, enables an increase in maximum clock rates by 10-20 per cent without requiring modification to the machine programme or mechanical components.

Dr Thomas Cord, CEO, ELAU AG said "We leverage innovative technology to consistently reduce engineering and commissioning times, reversing the industry trend towards increasing complexity and longer lead times."
T: +49 9391 6060
E: info@elau.co.uk

Making sense of safety

The latest Allen-Bradley Guardmaster GuardShield PAC Type 4 safety light curtain from Rockwell Automation features a muting function that allows objects or materials – but not personnel – to pass through the sensing field without stopping the machine.

The muting function is generally employed in conveyor processes on hazardous machinery to provide point of operation, as well as perimeter and access guarding.

The GuardShield PAC is a multiple beam, short range (0.3 - 16m) Type 4 safety light curtain and when used with corner mirrors can provide two or three-sided protection.

Also from Allen-Bradley is the new CENTERLINE 2500 MMC motor control centre for ease of installation, operation and troubleshooting outside North America, says Rockwell.

The equipment is designed to meet global standards IEC 60439-1 and IEC 60529 and offers real-time MCC diagnostics and monitoring over DeviceNet, ControlNet or Ethernet.

Strategic partner, Endress+Hauser, has introduced a new density calculator for food, beverage, pharmaceutical and chemical processes.

The FML621, used in combination with the Liquiphant M limit detection switch can be used to monitor the quality of liquids in-line for many manufacturing processes.
T: +44 (0) 870 242 5004
E: aburt@ra.rockwell.com

Lateral thinking comes easy

Bosch Rexroth has expanded its range of products in the VarioFlow and VarioFlow S chain conveyor equipment with a new lateral guide system.

The components, which consist of supports, clamping heads, profile rails and profile cover rails, can be inserted in both aluminium and stainless steel systems. The supports and clamping heads can be assembled quickly using a single tool, according to the company, and spacers with integrated stainless steel cores enable stable system expansions.

The clamping heads are provided with a scale (metric and linear) to enable easy position adjustment, while a reducer helps to clamp industry or customer specific components, such as proximity switches, to the chain conveyor system.
T: +44 (0) 1480 223200
E: info@boschrexroth.co.uk

Safety first with BARA

BARA, the British Automation and Robot Association, is running a conference on machine safety September 30. It is aimed at specifiers and designers of machinery and safety-related electrical control systems, as well as managers and engineers responsible for machinery safety.

The conference is run in association with Drives & Controls and sponsored by the Laidlers, IET, IMechE and MachineBuilding.net. It will provide a comprehensive overview of machinery safety standards, covering current and emerging standards, applicable technology and will examine practical application through case studies. Sessions will include safety-related networking and emerging robotic safety standards.

Contact Richard Piggin on:
T: + 44(0)7720 807707
or visit www.bara.org.uk

//// BOOKSHELF ////

Pepperl+Fuchs, in conjunction with the AS-Interface Association and the AS-Interface Academy, has published a booklet to help users install & commission AS-Interface networks.

The booklet guides the reader through aspects such as network design, topology and configuration and is the ideal companion for anyone designing, installing, commissioning or maintaining an AS-Interface network.

Free copies available
T: +44 (0) 161 633 6431
E: sales@gb.pepperl-fuchs.com

Who's done what and gone where ...

Schubert's new sales executives Mark Jocelyn, (left), and Peter Munroe

Ferdar Automation Technology

Ferdar Automation Technology, which recently opened offices in the UK, has appointed ***Mike Wilson*** as its general manager. Mike is President of BARA and joins the company with over 25 years experience as both a user and supplier of robotic systems.

Ferdar has also joined ABB's Robotic Partner Network to identify and develop automated systems to meet new market opportunities in the UK.

Ferdar has systems in operation at Dairy Crest, Next, Argos and Wieneberger. Wilson said: "Our objective, in addition to supporting existing customers, is to develop new business based on the extensive experience and expertise of Ferdar in an expanding market for robot-based automation."

Schubert

Schubert has doubled its UK sales team to meet demand for its high-performance automated packaging systems.

New sales executive ***Peter Munroe*** has joined the Meriden-based company from Bradman Lake and will be responsible for developing new business in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and Eire.

Mark Jocelyn is Schubert's new sales executive for SE England and has extensive knowledge of robotic packaging technology and applications, having worked for ABB.

Both men will be working alongside Schubert's sales director, David Maddern, and northern England sales executive, David Drury.

Other appointments include ***Edward Lee*** as a service engineer. Lee will be responsible for the installation, maintenance and servicing of Schubert machines alongside fellow engineer Simon Lowe.

Beci Gilpin is Schubert's new customer service manager in charge of after-sales service. ***Karen Welby*** has taken over Beci's previous role of customer service executive while ***Jillian Reeves*** joins as office manager.

Safeline X-ray systems van on the road again

METTLER TOLEDO Safeline has been on the road with its X-ray systems van giving food and pharmaceutical customers hands-on experience of its x-ray technology for contamination detection. The van contains the economical AdvanCheK x-ray inspection system that detects multiple contaminants such as metal, stone, bone, glass and dense plastics. Also on board is the InspireX R20 which scans, detects and rejects contaminants, plus missing and broken products, package voids and checks fill levels to ensure product and package integrity.

The van is now off to Europe.
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DATES FOR THE DIARY

11 September
New Machinery Directive
PPMA Seminar
Marriott Hotel, Northampton
www.ppma.co.uk

15-18 September
Taropak 2008
Poznan, Poland
www.taropak.pl

18-21 September
Indiapack 2008
Mumbai Bombay Exhibition Centre
www.expomediagroup.com

30 September - 2 October
PPMA Show
NEC, Birmingham
Including the PPMA's 21st birthday celebrations
www.ppmashow.co.uk

30 September - 2 October
Interplas
NEC, Birmingham
www.interplas.co.uk

7-11 October
Tokyo Pack
Tokyo, Japan
www.tokyo-pack.jp

9 - 13 November
PACK EXPO International
Chicago, USA
www.packexpo.com

17 - 21 November
EMBALLAGE 2008
Paris, France
www.emballageweb.com

20 November
Machinery Risk Assessment
PPMA Seminar
Marriott Hotel, Northampton
www.ppma.co.uk