

A Special Attachment

Packline has designed a special attachment to fit onto their popular range of Compac stainless steel lifting machines. This has been designed to meet their customers' requirements to lift, transport and load rolls of shrink-wrap film onto a Muller Octopus stretch wrapper. The rolls of shrink-wrap film needed to be positioned on the shrink wrappers film carriage situated approximate 500mm from the access point and once at loading position the rolls of film needed to be tilted to locate on the carriage mandrel. The lifting attachment was designed with an extended arm to allow for the reach required, the clamping head arrangement and forward tipping mechanism ensured the reels of shrink wrap film could be easily manipulated and positioned onto the shrink wrappers film carriage mandrel. Chris Baker, Packline's Managing Director, said: "This is another example of the company's ability to provide custom handling solutions. The ability to work closely with customers and provide lifting and handling solution specific to their requirements is one of our strengths. Not only do we develop and manufacture the equipment but we also provide comprehensive documentation and technical support to back it up." For further information, telephone Packline on 01202 724138.



Reductions All Round

A new Bulk Bag Conditioner-Unloader System from Flexicon (Europe) Ltd. loosens bulk solid material that has solidified during storage and shipment, allowing the material to discharge through a bag spout. The integral configuration of the conditioner eliminates the time, labour and equipment needed for separate loading of bulk bags into a stand-alone conditioner. The design also consumes significantly less floor space than two separate pieces of equipment and requires less material and labour to construct, reducing initial cost. Two hydraulic rams with contoured end plates press opposing sides of bulk bags, which can be raised and lowered for conditioning at varying heights using an electric hoist. The hoist assembly also includes a motorised trolley to allow loading and unloading of bulk bags without the need of a forklift. The conditioner's controller and hydraulic pump can be mounted on the exterior of the unloader or remotely. Safety interlocks prevent operation of the conditioner when the doors of the unloader are open. For further information, telephone Flexicon (Europe) Ltd on 01227 374710.



Continuous Flow

Continuous container flow at high speeds is essential to boosting line efficiency and preventing product damage. Especially when moving from multiple to single lanes or the reverse, the gentle slide of bottles across ultra-flat, highly polished stainless steel Rexnord® TableTop® chain can contribute significantly to the quality of any beverage production line. Rexnord X-Line stainless steel chains with extreme precision flatness and superior sliding properties, together with polished hinge eyes, are ideal for pressureless combiners/inliners and for other applications requiring exceptionally smooth product transfers. This results in up to 75% fewer fallen bottles, higher line efficiency from decreased downtime, less bottle abrasion and broken bottles and up to five times longer chain life. For further information, telephone Rexnord Flat Top Europe on +31(0)174 445 147.



The Mini Pak'r

FP has announced the launch of the Innovative "Mini Pak'r" air cushion machine. The Mini Pak'r weighs six kg and has a footprint of 36x33x26cm.



Operating at seven and half metres per minute and utilising five different types of film combining Novus and Cell-O technology this machine caters for all your wrap, block and brace, void fill, interleave, corner and surface protection applications. The Mini Pak'r replaces traditional packaging materials such as bubble wrap, foam in place and paper. With minimal training requirements and RFID technology the machine automatically adjusts itself to the correct air fill and temperature settings. For further information, telephone FP Packaging Machinery on 01280 703161.

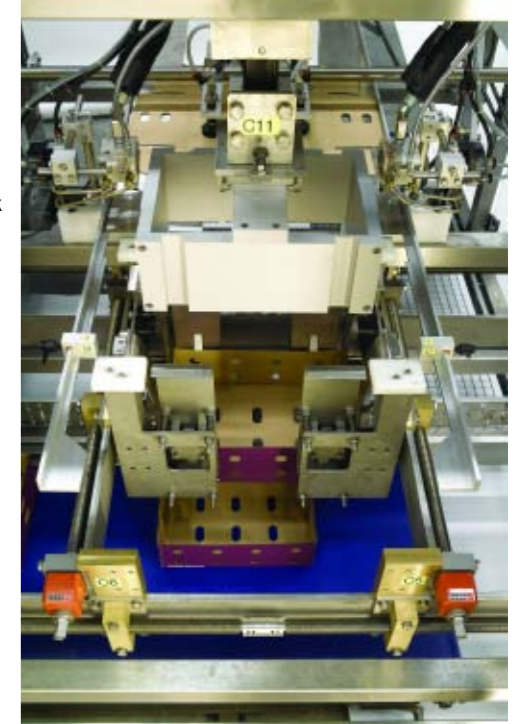
It's Gripping Stuff

A new folder-gluer system from Habasit Rossi, the Habasit Habidur range, guarantee a high and constant grip, whilst comfortably handling fast speeds, different materials and production jobs. They also ensure high folding quality and productivity. The good resistance of Habidur provides good abrasion resistance, high and constant grip over the belt's lifetime and now glazing out. The belts do not need to be re-adjusted and they have optimised traction layers combining flexibility, dimensional stability and robustness. For further information, telephone Habasit on 0870 8359555.



Designed Initiative

The TF1000 tray erector from Smurfit Kappa was designed as a result of an initiative by retailers for retail ready packaging and is capable of erecting a wide range of pack styles. The single head machine, featuring a low level magazine for ease of replenishment, will operate at up to 30 trays per minute using hot melt adhesive. The option of a dual head machine is also available together with the option to erect lock form style trays. Size changes are achieved in less than three minutes. All adjustments are on lead-screw with digital reference counters with values and sequences shown step-by-step for the operator access with full-length opening acrylic guard doors. For further information, telephone Smurfit Kappa on 01454 366128.



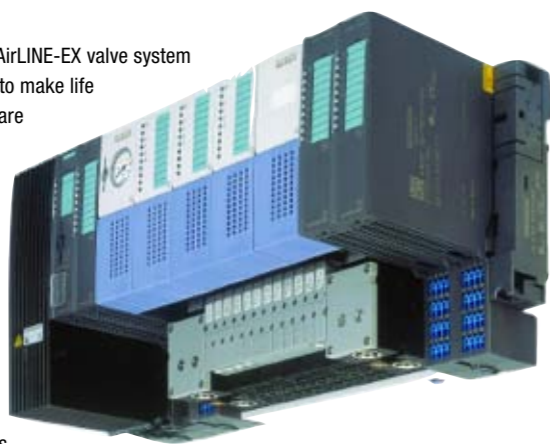
Simplicity is the Key

Lenze has taken out cost and complexity from vector based motor control in the new SMV frequency inverter. The IP65 enclosure allows use outdoors or in damp environments with protection against low-pressure jets. This suits machinery such as conveyors, food production and packaging lines and small HVAC systems. Sensorless vector operation gives fast dynamic torque response and impressive low speed orientation. An easy to use fascia keypad with a choice of on-board parameter sets ensure that the basic control and set up procedure can be completed in seconds. A programmable memory chip can be plugged under the drive cover to enable machine manufacturers to quickly copy across and entire operating set. For further information, telephone Lenze on 01234 321242.



Controlling Innovation

Burkert Fluid Control Systems' new Type 8650 AirLINE-EX valve system unites pilot valve expertise with ISP technology to make life simpler for the process control engineer. There are opportunities to considerably reduce design, installation, validation and operating costs in ATEX applications. The 8650 high flow valve system, with up to 48 valves per set, integrates directly into the Siemens ET200ISP Profibus DPV1 distributed I/O system, combining digital pneumatic output modules with electronic analogue and digital I/O and does not require additional wiring, as in normal intrinsically safe systems. This innovation supplements a huge range of process actuation products and systems for both safe and hazardous area applications, all aimed at simplifying pneumatic and electronic control of filling, dosing, mixing and many other fluid processes. For further information, telephone Burkert Fluid Control Systems on 01453 731353.



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FLUID CONTROL SYSTEMS

A Quick Response

Moog helped Coppice Alupack to restore production in five days, avoiding a potential six-week period of downtime following a machine breakdown, packaging company Coppice Alupack had to react quickly or be faced with the possibility of six-weeks of downtime. This is where Moog stepped in and helped fix the problem in five days. The machine in question is used to mould and shape Ovenable Board, a food-packaging medium that can withstand heat of 220C for an hour. James Lamin, Engineering Manager at Coppice Alupack, said: "Ovenable Board is made using a machine equipped with hydraulic equipment that has been in operation for a number of years. There are only two or three such machines in the country. We had a major breakdown, when the hydraulic controller failed and we faced a difficult situation as we could not get any quick support from the incumbent hydraulic equipment supplier and there where no spares available for several weeks. At this stage we went back to the original machine manufacturer who introduced us to Moog, who they regarded as a pretty responsive company. We were fortunate as Simon Furnell of Moog had in-depth knowledge of the original design of this machine." For further information, telephone Moog on 01684 278249.

