

ON THE SIDE

SOCO SYSTEM has developed a 'plug-and-play' palletising concept - the 'Robot-In-A-Box'. Simple to operate it is placed at the end of the production line, connected to the conveyor belt, and is ready for use, claims Soco System.

When the first case arrives at the robot the case dimensions are automatically registered, the computer calculates the optimum pallet pattern, and palletising starts.

It is extremely flexible and it does not require running-in or special training, says the company.

The palletiser includes a height adjustable infeed conveyor for simple connection to the production line, computer control and touch screen.

It can be connected to wireless network, web cam, and a remote assistance hotline.
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Logopak International has updated its keg labelling machinery with a new range offering 10 per cent higher throughput and easier maintenance than previous units, it says.

The first two models in the range are the 500 Tkeg, handling up to 900 kegs/hour, and the 400 Tkeg, a compact unit giving speeds up to 500 kegs/hour for smaller breweries and lower speed kegging lines.

Both machines are smaller than their predecessors and use fewer parts.

The new keg labellers can be run as standalone units with product data held in memory for automatic calculation of consecutive numbers, production dates, best before dates and shift identifiers or can be connected directly to a host system to receive labelling data in real time.

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Wine wins with new filler

A new generation of **OPTIMO FILL** filling machines for wines, alcohols and spirits has been launched by Newtec filling systems, the filling division of the Newtec Packaging Group.

The new filling machine, which can achieve rates of 3,000 - 20,000 bottles/hour, is the result of research and development studies to meet the needs of oenologists for conservation of the bottled product, says the company.

The system has eliminated the stage in which the product is pumped back into the tank, thus running the risk of contamination by dissolved oxygen and has the advantage of operating without the need for a partial vacuum in the vat,



thus preserving alcoholic strength.

There is no joint in the run-off circuit; and the transmission construction components have been simplified so that the liquid feed is synchronised by an electronic shaft.

The machine is equipped with new filling systems with a racking cock fitted to a level detector which directly monitors

the pourer closing system to give a consistent filling level. The racking cock drops down into the bottle and filling begins.

Once the required level is reached, the detector passes on the information and the filling operation stops.

This **OPTIMO FILL** uses an independent motor to drive the

various components of the single-unit system (rinsing machine, filling machine, corking machine and capping machine).

The single unit becomes a synchro-unit, which simplifies the mechanical construction of its transmission system by doing away with the spiral bevel gearboxes and universal joints.
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Load and lid combo for shelf ready packs

Cermex has developed the **BC50** combined tray packer and lid fitter in direct response to the growth in demand for shelf ready packaging.

The **BC50** benefits from a monobloc construction which allows a smaller footprint. It can perform product collation, tray forming, tray loading and lidding operations.

The lower tray magazines provide a better ergonomic position for the operator when reloading trays. And the cantilever design allows improved access to the machine.

It is able to handle cartons, tubes, cans and bags, as well as other pack styles, with the same quality of squaring, even when the product batch provides no

counter pressure, says **Cermex**. The loader/lidder is also flexible with options to handle full wrap-around cases with short flaps, trays with ledges, tray only and tray plus lid.

All types of lid can be handled, including U-shaped,

cross lid, glued or inserted. Lids can be both internal or external.

The company says the machine is a high speed solution capable of running at upto 26 trays/minute.
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Faulty labels exit at speed

A Faulty Label Removal (FLR) System that responds to demands from the pharmaceutical sector for a system that reliably and efficiently removes labels prior to container application has been developed by Newman Labelling Systems.

The key to this significant technical advance is the removal of faulty labels prior to being placed on a container, rather than the wasteful method of waiting and rejecting both the label and container.

Claimed to be an improvement on existing systems for faulty label removal,

the FLR (patent pending) module removes faulty labels recognised by its PLC control at production speeds.

If the system does not receive 'good signals' from the scanning devices in use (including bar code reader, missing overprint detector, OCV camera and 2D matrix code reader) the faulty label is efficiently removed from the label web prior to application onto the container.

Faulty labels are then transferred to a paper roll for batch reconciliation and inspection.

It can handle both paper and clear labels that can be validated

at speeds up to 550 containers/minute, states Newman.

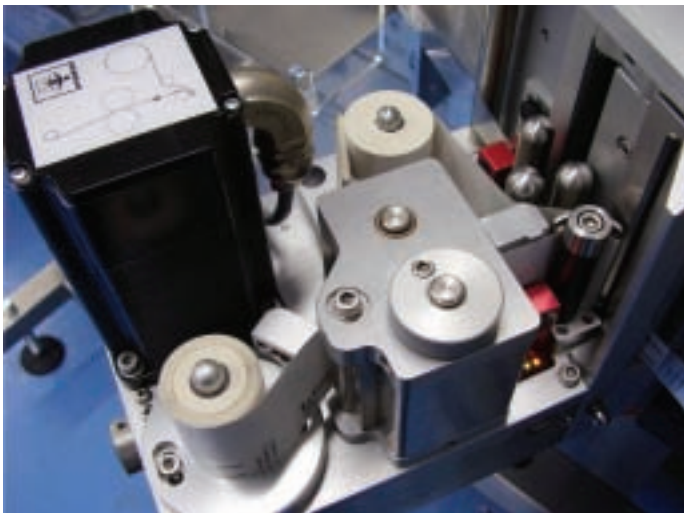
"The system is already proving popular and several leading pharmaceutical suppliers have placed orders. We have one system already installed at Wyeth Pharmaceuticals," said Chris Lindley-Smith, European sales manager.

Newman Labelling Systems' managing director John Clayton said: "Newman isn't the first to introduce a system to remove faulty labels, but we have spent longer in R&D and designed a system that we believe is superior.

"The problem with systems currently in the market is that many have to slow down the labelling machine to remove the faulty label prior to application and some systems accumulate faulty labels on top of each other on a sleeve, making physical reconciliation impossible."

Available for use on Newman's full range of pharmaceutical standard labelling systems the FLR System meets the highest GMP Standards.

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ON THE SIDE

The latest addition to KIEFEL's speedformer range for plastic packaging, the KMD 60 B Automatic Pressure Forming Machine, provides a smaller alternative to its existing models.

The KMD 60 has a forming surface of 580 x 440mm with tooling space of up to 600 x 460mm in size, and the forming surface is optimised at 580 x 440mm. It can run through all movement sequences at a dry-running rate of up to 80 cycles/minute.

Represented in the UK by Anchor Plastics Machinery.

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Mecaplastic has introduced the S 3000DPL double step automatic tray sealer, which has been developed for in-line production.

It is equipped with two independent tooling systems which can work simultaneously or separately, while two vacuum and gas systems and the ability to supply different gas mixes, ensure throughput is maximised, says the company.

It is suitable for use with a variety of accessories such as de-nesters, feeders, depositors and marking units.

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Packaging machinery exports from the US increased by 9.5 per cent in 2008 to \$950m, according to PMMI.

The increase on 2007 figures is attributed to growth of consumer packaged goods in emerging markets.

Exports to China rose 38.29 per cent, while exports to India increased by 45 per cent.

However, the slowdown in the domestic market began to affect imports, which rose by only 0.27 per cent to reach \$2bn.

www.pmmi.org

Hot Rod superseals but saves power

Proseal has launched a high-efficiency, water-protected tool heating system which is claimed to meet the demands for lower seal times while delivering a 25 per cent reduction in electricity consumption.

Developed to maximise production throughput yet maintain seal quality, the Hot Rod is particularly suited for use with smooth wall foil trays which are extensively used in food markets. Many foil tray designs make sealing difficult as the

aluminium draws heat away from the sealing areas.

The major innovation, explains Proseal, is that the heat is able to remain focused on the tray rim so that sealing can take place quickly and efficiently. This reduces seal times to give faster tray throughput.

Plus, as a result of this accurate control of the heating area, the wattage of the Hot Rod is half that of conventional heat systems, says Proseal. As well as being specified for new

tooling, the system can also be retrofitted into existing tool sets.

Another advantage is that the main body is resistant to water. This facilitates cleaning and minimises downtime due to accidental water damage. Proseal also claims that the robust construction of the new tooling system means that the life of the tool will be at least double that of existing heat delivery sources.

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