

### Optimised thermoformer

A smaller thermoformer – KMD 60 B – has been added to the SPEEDFORMER range of thermoforming machines manufactured by KIEFEL.

Its forming area provides space for tools of up to 600 x 460mm in size, and the forming surface is optimised at 580 x 440mm. Thanks to its high operating speed, the KMD 60 B can run through all movement sequences at a dry-running rate of up to 80 cycles/minute.

By utilising the latest drive technology faster and more precise movements of the SPEEDFORMER machines are ensured, claims the company. They are designed for high economic efficiency in industrial scale manufacture of packaging parts.

KIEFEL has also introduced the SIMOTION PLC system, which has already been used successfully with the KMD range, it says. A main characteristic is the position control system and SPC, which are directly linked to the drive systems. It is a system solution designed to provide short cycle times, they say.

KIEFEL is represented in the UK by Anchor Plastics Machinery.

T: +44 (0) 1895 824301  
E: info@anchor-pm.co.uk

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## Slicer cuts times too!

Interfood Technology has launched the latest high speed slicer from Weber. The 905 features a wide cutting throat and a speed of up to 2,000 slices/minute.

It is capable of slicing six 100mm logs or four 135mm cooked hams simultaneously with optimal results and exact portion weights. These are achieved through its six-track check-weigher, which controls the weight of every portion.

In combination with the Weber Food Robot, the portions can be hygienically and automatically loaded into a packaging machine.

Its high capacity slicer is loaded with sausage, cheese or ham products up to 3,200mm in



length. Logs, as well as sensitive or difficult shaped products, are fed automatically side by side or separated. Short loading times and the 2,000 cuts/minute make the new 905 the most productive slicer in its class, claims Interfood.

Other features include a movable idle cut head which assists in maintaining high yield

and minimum give-away. Fully adjustable blade head housing and shear bar enables the slicer to continuously cut slices without wedges, tear-offs or feathering, even if the blade is in intensive operation. It can also accommodate greater product temperature variation.

The doors can be opened easily and safely via a pneumatic locking mechanism while the stainless steel construction of the 905 features an hygienically sealed body and improved product transport. Belts are easy to change and the machine is prepared for cleaning in minimal time, says the company.

T: +44 (0) 1844 217676  
E: info@interfoodtechnology.com

## Casepacker handles flexpacks

To complement its range of machines for case packing, ready meal trays and sleeved containers Apsol has developed a new feed system for its RCP casepacker for packing flexible packs into cases.

It was designed and built by Apsol of Porto Mantovano, for packaging all types of food and non-food products in flexible packaging – such as sachets, Doypacks and flowpacks – into a wide range of cartons, display boxes, trays and shelf ready packs.

The robotic pick and place cartoner is based on a twin axis robot with a speed of up to 25 cycles/minute.

It is a modular machine, based on a common platform, able to accept a range of different options for feeding and delivery, including multiple

picking heads to load up to 6 cases/cycle.

Machine functionality uses a flexible race track, designed for fast, tool-less changeovers. Flexible packs are delivered to the casepacker via the robot, using either vacuum or mechanical picking heads.

As flexible packages do not easily accumulate Apsol designed a

complete system, which is placed at the exit point of the customers' packaging line (either horizontal or vertical), delivering the end product already packed in cartons, display boxes or shelf ready packs

without human intervention. The simple and clean design of the RCP makes it particularly suitable for applications in the food industry, the company claims.

Apsol will be represented by its UK agents Integrapak, at the PPMA Show on stand D60.

T: +44 (0) 1420 593680  
E: integrapak@integrapak.co.uk



# Fast and flexible pal for stretch hooding

Adpal, UK representatives of French end-of-line machine manufacturers Thimon, has introduced the Cover-Pal 6000 stretch hooding machine to the UK market.

Already used for applications across diverse industrial sectors, such as glass, building, chemical, agricultural, food and beverage, the Cover-Pal 6000 system provides a solution to handling very unstable loads and weatherproofing requirements, it is claimed.

Compact in size it uses Thimon® patented technology to create up-to-date automatic stretch hooding modules. Providing 5-sided wrapping of pallet loads, the unit optimises film characteristics to achieve strong stable loads and offer efficient environmental protection against dust, water and shipping damage.

In contrast to hooding systems that only function on a fixed series of pallet sizes Cover-Pal is capable of operating at high speeds on products of different sizes, says Adpal. Its stretch hood system features a strong, welded

frame, and supports a gusseted film unwind system, an advanced hood sizing module and a hood stretch and application system. Up to two film rolls can provide the ability to hood multiple size pallet loads on the fly. Multiple infeed, wrap area and exit conveyors are available for a variety of applications.

The film threading circuit is accessed at ground floor level so that reel changeover is simple, only taking a few minutes and contributing to reduced film loss, explains the company.

Parallel hood creation and hood wrapping processes improves the cycle time.

The newly heat-sealed plastic hood has one full machine cycle to cool and cure before being stretched onto the pallet.

This ensures a higher level of film stretch capability than is typically found in other machines. In addition a patented method of film stretching



ensures gentle handling of the load. Its mechanical hood opening system which uses mechanical grips rather than vacuum plates, provides a positive pull on the film gussets for the correct opening of all hoods.

It is possible to run varying film widths for different sizes of pallets and to wrap half pallets, moving long face leading, without having to turn them.

T: +44 (0) 1282 607707  
E: sales@adpalco.com

## One, two, three ...

Cama Group is now able to offer an automatic line for packaging 100 trays/minute of precooked food for the ready meals sector.

The flexible system comprises an electronic sleeving machine, a wrap-around case packer and a lidding machine.

Products can be packaged with a wrap-around sleeve and then loaded vertically in a wrap-around tray with the relative lid in different formats, or loaded flat into a wrap-around case.

A third option is to package the product without a sleeve in the preceding configurations. Cama has already supplied the system to one of its major customers.

T: +44 (0) 1793 831111  
E: cama3@camagroup.com

## Belting idea!

To complement Wire Belt Company's existing range of Flex Turn Units it has launched the new Series 580 to bring the available range of models to 5, with 11 sizes and angles between 45°-180°.

The 580 series features an 800mm inside radius small pitch belt, ideal for handling small or delicate products across the full width of the belt, says the company.

The pitch is 6.5mm at the inside radius and up to 10.5mm at the outside radius with a wire diameter of 1.6mm.

Hygienically designed, the unit features an easy to clean design using stainless steel belting and support surfaces. Initially it will be available in belt widths of 400, 600, 900 and 1,000mm.

T: +44 (0) 1795 421771  
E: sales@wirebelt.co.uk

## Nuclear option for wrapper

In cooperation with QADOS of Sandhurst, CSS Packaging Machinery has developed a special version of the Micro flow wrap machine to over wrap TLD cards, used within the nuclear and medical industries to monitor personal radiation dose levels.

Overwraps for the cards feature specially developed packaging material used to over wrap the TLD cards that mimics the characteristics of the human

skin layer, thus any radiation that passes through this membrane will be registered on the TLD card and will be picked up in the monitoring process

TLD cards are automatically fed into the Micro for wrapping via a stack feeder at a rate of around 30/minute. This steady rate ensures that the bar code, which is printed onto the TLD card, identifies the particular card to a particular member of

staff, is read accurately and is then printed onto the packaging material in the correct place. The bar code on the TLD card is also printed onto the outer packaging membrane.

An Interactive Coding Equipment thermal transfer printer is used to print the bar code onto the packaging material.

T: +44 (0) 1603 721357  
E: info@cssmachines.co.uk

# INSIGHT into pharma



## Gripping tale

Chronos Richardson has developed a range of innovative pneumatic and motorised grippers for the Kawasaki robot arms used with its palletising systems.

The grippers are designed to help end users 'make the most' out of their palletisers for differing products and functions.

Pneumatic grippers available include versions for cartons and boxes; pails, buckets and sheets; bags only, and for bags and pallet. Motorised grippers: bags only; bags and pallet; pallet and slip sheets.

Recommendations are based on palletising output, format, multi or single product, infeed and accumulation, outfeed and pallet magazines. T: +44 (0) 115 935 1351 E: info@servicechronos.com

LOCK Inspection Systems previewed its INSIGHT metal detector atACHEMA 2009.

To be officially launched at the PPMA Show in September, it addresses the trend within the pharmaceutical industry to increase integration of production and inspection machinery to enable safe production and packaging of potent preparations.

INSIGHT is offered with advanced plug and play architecture featuring an array of new communications options

– USB, Scada, wireless and standard Ethernet – to meet the requirements of both the systems integrator and manufacturer.

Design and constructed in stainless steel throughout it meets NEMA 4X / IP66 standards and is compliant with 21 CFR Parts 210 and 211.

Compatible with all leading tablet presses and de-dusters, it detects metal at up to 30,000 units/minute. Contaminants are rejected via options including Wash-In-Place and Dust-Tight.

Performance enhancing features include an Integrated Digital Head and advanced PTIX software, combined to deliver improved sensitivity to metal, stability to vibration and complex product signals. INSIGHT incorporates an all new user friendly HMI incorporating DDS (Direct Digital Signal) viewer. It is operable in a 21 CFR Part 11 environment upon delivery. T: +44 (0) 161 624 0333 E: marketing@lockinspection.co.uk

## Ready meals counter for singles

A new S5R option (individual head reject system) for automatic multihead weighing from MULTIPOND is designed for single piece weigh counting.

It can weigh a small number of pieces or, alternatively, small target weights, claims the company.

Ideal for today's complex ready meals industry, the S5R is available on a number of the company's multihead weighers from 16 to 36 heads. Based on a standard twin memory hopper

weigher, the outer memory hopper is replaced by a second pivoting funnel which can either deposit product into a 'good combination' or alternatively divert it to a reject position.

There is no loss of weighing efficiency, states MULTIPOND, as rejects are evacuated on an individual head basis while the rest of the weigher continues weighing, resulting in no missed cycles.

Ready meals lines are becoming more complex with a


single meal consisting of one or two main components and several expensive ingredients, which are often hand placed. But now the S5R offers a fully automatic weighing solution, the company claims.

Rejected product can be manually or automatically fed back into the system. The S5R can also be fitted to a section of the weigher for mixture applications.

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# Cost CUTting cartoner ...

Bosch Packaging Technology has developed a small footprint CUT 150 cartoner with enhanced efficiency and new feeding technology, based on its CUT 120 machine.

It is suitable for packaging products in the pharmaceutical, cosmetic and food industry, for single or multiple package operations, says Bosch.

Modular in design the CUT 150 facilitates the packaging of vials, bottles, blister sachets, and pillow packs or inserts such as spoons or folded leaflets, and can handle



large carton formats. The speed of the new CUT machine has increased from 120 to 150 folding boxes/minute. Its screw

feeder and pick-and-place feeding achieve an output of 450 packs/minute.

For enhanced production security the system features a track and trace system for mass serialization with a 2D matrix code, allowing clear identification and traceability of the entire box and content and modern servo-design simplifies format changeover. One CUT

combines the usage of different folding box modules (track-in, hot-melt, safety and combined closure).

# ... and speedier capsule filling

A fully automated capsule filling machine, the GKF Capsylon 3005, has also been developed by Bosch.

Designed for economical filling of powders, pellets, and granulates, its dosing station can fill sticky and fine grained powders accurately.

An height adjustable metering disk allows for quick adjustment

between product formats or filling amounts.

The filler features time synchronized modular stations and is designed for high outputs of up to 175,000 capsules/hour. It is suitable for big batch runs or frequent product changes.

Meeting GMP standards, the GKF 3005 allows quick changeover and cleaning using

few tools. All product contact parts are easily accessible for quick operator cleaning.

A particular feature, says Bosch, is the ease-of-use making the machine a cost efficient solution for a co-packer in the nutraceutical and healthcare industry.

T: +44 (0) 1332 626262  
E: pagbbosch@bosch.com

## New CIP elastomer

A new fluoroelastomer (FKM) sealing material that is both solvent and clean-in-place (CIP) steam resistant has been developed for pharmaceutical and food machinery.

Precision Polymer Engineering (PPE) claims the material fills the performance gap between traditional FKM grades and high end perfluoroelastomers (FFKMs).

V70SW is steam-resistant, with high levels of chemical resistance, excellent mechanical properties and temperature stability up to 200°C, says PPE.

Commonly used elastomers, such as HNBR and EPDM, lack adequate chemical resistance to oils and solvents and do not offer high temperature capability, limiting their use in some food and pharmaceutical applications, according to the company.

Ideal for O-rings, gaskets, sanitary pipe couplings and ball segment valve seals, V70SW can be used for all applications requiring FDA and USP Class VI compliance. [www.prepol.com](http://www.prepol.com)



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