

## Former suits MAP and skin

VC999 has launched the RS Compact 4 rollstock thermoformer with a film width of 421mm. It enables the production of wider and larger packaging, says the company.

This allows the production of vacuum packaging, MAP and skin-film packaging or can be used to seal products.

It is designed for rigid and flexible films, as well as rigid trays and flexible packaging. Various packaging formats can be achieved by changing dies.

Skin-film packaging and MAP can be produced with the same tool by changing the dies and the sealing plate, considerably reducing changeover time.

Features include: individual tool design with rapid format change; a compact footprint 2.5 sq m; 70 per cent less compressed air consumption than previous models; plus rollers for mobile application.

Suitable for companies entering the portioned packaging market for fresh food, as an addition to existing large packaging systems or as a substitute system for smaller packaging tasks, says VC999.

It is suitable for fresh meat and cold cuts, poultry, fish and seafood, fruit and vegetables, bread and bakery products.

T: +44 (0)1604 643999

E: info@vc999.co.uk

### MACHINERY FINDER

Can't find the machinery you are looking for?

Consult the PPMA machinery finder service

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

# Sigpack takes the heat out of sealing ...

New ultrasonic sealing technology from Sigpack Systems, a Bosch Packaging Technology company, is a cost-effective and efficient solution for horizontal packaging of solid products in pillow packs, it says.

The technology means the seals at the longitudinal and transverse seams are narrower, so less material is required.

Additionally, compared with conventional heat-sealing, thinner material can be used thus reducing energy costs.

The ultrasonic sealing process prevents contamination of sealing jaws common with hot sealing, thus reducing maintenance and downtime.

Sigpack claims that the quality of the hermetically sealed joints protects moisture- and oxygen-sensitive products and there is no deterioration of product quality during the packaging process.

Another positive side-effect is the improved hot-tack



Ultrasound Sealing Technology for horizontal flow wraps - a packaging solution for temperature, steam and oxygen sensitive products

performance on the pillow packs, which means they can move to the downstream processes on the packaging line more quickly.

A wide range of films are suited to ultrasonic sealing,

making it viable for a broad range of applications.

"Ultrasonic technology provides a very precise, non-harsh and leak proof seal," says Andreas Graf, head of system integration at Sigpack Systems.

## ... and the pain out of pick & place

LDx a new Delta robot platform from Sigpack Systems is suitable for use in the pharmaceutical, food and confectionery industries.

Made up of compact cells with integrated Delta robots the platform can be adapted to suit a variety of applications.

It comes in two versions - standard steel and stainless steel. Meeting the latest EU hygiene standards, the stainless steel versions consist of food compatible materials.

The bearings in the arms are made of ceramic and are non-wearing, as are all other major

drive components of the robots, says the Bosch company.

The exposed structure of the robot cells means that there are no enclosed spaces. Smooth, angled surfaces allow detergents to drain off residue free, making the cells easy to clean.

Its standard components (basic cells) can be combined to meet specific customer requirements.

It can be configured as a MonoPacker (LDM) for packing one product type in each container, an AssortmentPacker (LDA) for producing mixed packs, or as a FeedPlacer (LDF)

for loading pillow-pack machines or side loaders. The output and speed of the system depend on the number of robots used.

The robots can handle a large number of products - blister packs, tubes, sprays, cookies, fragile baked goods, chocolates, pizza or fish and meat dishes.

Regardless of whether the process uses vacuum suction, airstream grippers or finger grippers, fast-action couplings mean that the robot arm can be quickly modified to suit different production requirements.

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



# Trayless fresh produce handled with care

Ilapak has launched a version of a Carrera electronic flowwrapper to pack unsupported fresh produce such as tomatoes, avocados, kiwis, peppers, leeks and spring onions.

The PC1000 reduces packaging materials waste and weight by eliminating the need for an acetate tray. This enables producers to cut packaging costs while improving production line efficiency.

Re-engineered to handle unsupported fruit delicately, the PC1000 reduces the extent that the fruit moves around during the packing process.

Even with wide variations in the size of the fruit, the product control system allows the

packers to use its standard, no-product-no-bag, misplaced product detection features and a 64 programme memory for maximising efficiency, claims the company.

Speeds of between 15 and 120 packs/minute can be achieved, depending on the size and type of product.

Pack presentation is improved by automatic pack gusseting to produce tight, neat seals. The flowwrapper uses most types of heatsealable film including biodegradable and compostable films.

For ease of cleaning, the Carrera 1000PC has a cantilevered design making it easy to strip down. All contact

parts are stainless steel and a fully stainless steel model is also available for damp or humid environments.

Ilapak's managing director Guy Levy said: "By removing the need for the tray, we have solved the problem of jamming, which often happens when using increasingly thin and flimsy acetate trays.

"Plus the excellent product control has helped packers improve production efficiency, while also achieving considerable cost savings by removing the tray which additionally helps minimise packaging waste."

T: +44 (0) 20 8797 2000  
E: sales@ilapak.co.uk

## Trouble free agitation

K-Tron's ActiFlow is the latest advance in mechanical hopper agitation, it claims. The smart bulk solids activator prevents bridging and rat-holing of cohesive bulk materials in stainless steel hoppers. The no-product contact device, consists of a patent-pending vibratory drive and intelligent control unit. In applications involving difficult flowing materials, ActiFlow eliminates the need for mechanical agitators with secondary motors and gearboxes, plus the need for side wall agitation devices or aeration.

The patent-pending self-tuning algorithm implemented in the control module, monitors the system continuously adjusting the frequency and amplitude to maintain flow within the hopper, and bridges



and rat-holes are prevented before they can form.

ActiFlow simplifies the cleaning process during material change over and reduces headroom requirements. The device continuously activates the material inside the hopper with an optimised frequency.

T: +44 (0) 161 209 4810  
E: kb@ktron.com

## Better bagging with Rovema upgrades

The compact VPI-180, the latest addition to the Rovema VPI series of intermittent motion vertical baggers, can be utilised for a series of different products and pack styles, says the company.

Pillow style bags can be produced with a flat bag width from 50mm to 180mm, and gusseted pillow style bags and flat bottom bags up to a flat bag width of 220mm.

The VPI-180 has a speed rating up to 240 cycles/minute in

twin lane production. It can be set up with different feed systems on each filling tube, so one side can be volumetric and the other use an auger.

The latest VPL 260R is capable of running Doypacks on a vertical machine at 120 packs/minute with the pack formed in the film reel carriage ensuring a low drop height for the product. The machine can also run pillow packs up to 200 bags/minute and with change parts can run stabilo

bags, flexcan bags and Amcor Pushpop.

This bagger features: high product care via continuous motion and short drop height; product detection in jaws, with reject system; jaws run with the film so distance can be programmed on the display up to 200mm, allowing a wide range of thin and heavy films; and euro slot capability on the Doypack.

T: +44 (0) 1296 642060  
E: sales@rovema.co.uk

**CAP CODER**

The PPMA Show  
NEC Hall 5, Stand C100



User-friendly digital peristaltic pump



Versatile Filling and Capping machines



**Cap Coder Ltd**

Monument Business Park  
Chalgrove, Oxford OX44 7RW  
Tel: 01865 891466  
Fax: 01865 891292  
e-mail: sales@capcoder.co.uk  
web site: www.capcoder.co.uk

**new machinery**

# Cold wash winner

Big energy savings are now possible with tray washers following the completion of successful trials of a new cold wash process, says Industrial Washing Machines (IWM).

Developed by the company, in conjunction with a specialist detergent supplier, the process uses wash water at temperatures close to ambient, yet delivers results that are indistinguishable from normal high temperature washing, it says.

In a typical installation, with a machine that runs just 20 hours/week, the new process has the potential to cut energy costs by as much as £20,000/year, as well as reducing the environmental impact of the washing operations.

IWM carried out extensive trials in conjunction with A F Blakemore, a major user of distribution crates for the transport of packaged grocery items and loose vegetables.

Most of the crates selected for the trial had light soiling consisting of dust and traffic



film. However some heavily soiled crates were also tested. The crates were washed in a twin-lane T1500 machines, which has a capacity of 1,500 crates/hour.

A F Blakemore's general manager, transport division, David Higgs said "We're very impressed both with the washing performance and the potential for savings, as well as being able to reduce the environmental impact of our operations."

IWM's new cold wash process works at a nominal

wash temperature of 25°C. This means that minimal heating of the feed water is needed, with the temperature of the washing solution subsequently being maintained by heat generated from the machine's pumps.

The process affects neither the throughput nor the capacity of the machines that use it and can also be retro-fitted to existing IWM tray wash machines.

T: +44 (0) 121 459 9511  
E: sales@indwash.co.uk

## Bags show off thanks to stripper

Ishida Europe has launched a new Flexible Strip Pack Applicator (F-SPA) which produces ready-to-display strips of bagged products.

Suitable for snacks and confectionery, as well as non-food products, the applicator is easy to operate and will help retailers market products and special promotions, claims Ishida.

The F-SPA can be linked with any bagmaker for automatic production and operate as an integrated



component of an automatic packing line.

It can also be used as a stand alone unit, with bags hand-fed by an operator. Mix and match strips of different products is possible when used in semi-automatic operation with hand-fed bags.

The applicator offers speeds of up to 80 bags/minute for bags weighing up to 100g.  
T: +44 (0) 121 607 7700  
E: info@ishidaeurope.com

# Speedy container former cuts waste

Illig has developed a fully automatic pressure forming machine which helps end users to improve energy consumption.

The RDM-75K also enables end users to make significant increases to production speeds while improving product quality and reducing scrap, says the company.

It was developed for the high speed production of a wide range of thermoformed components, including containers and cups for food and beverage applications, using materials such as APET and RPET.

Capable of running off-line from roll materials, it can

also be run in-line with a flat-film extruder. It has a forming area of 735 x 465mm and is capable of running at speeds up to 38 cycles/minute.

Illig claims this is about 30 per cent quicker than the previous generation of machines and comparable competing systems, which typically run at under 20 cycles/minute.

Incorporating advanced computer and variable speed drive control of all process stages, the system also has a number of features designed to provide high levels of precision and efficiency, explained Illig.

These include a specialised multiple valve

configuration to control the flow of forming air to each mould cavity, while regulated water cooling technology provides accurate and consistent cooling temperatures by using up to four individually controlled cooling circuits in each mould tool.

Similarly, directly cooled and independently controlled downholders help to regulate material distribution.

A new stacking mechanism enables formed components to be cooled quickly and efficiently within just one machine cycle before being stacked.

Components can be produced with thinner wall dimensions and greater structural rigidity.

Thickness variations in the rim of typical containers can be reduced to just a few tenths of a micron.

Additionally, the volume of forming air required for each machine cycle has been cut by up to 50 per cent, offering energy savings.

T: +44 (0) 1767 310555

E: sales@illig.co.uk



# High speed palletising

The latest PL 820 series palletisers from newtec, of Belgium, are designed for high speed unit loads to manage rates of up to 400 layers/hour and 60 pallets/hour with automatic changes of product formats.

They can be used for a single production line, or for several lines says newtec. In

the latter case it is possible to connect several production lines to only one PL 820 machine.

Upstream of the palletiser the production from each line is accumulated on a table or an accumulation conveyor.

As soon as the number of packs corresponding to a complete pallet is reached,

the load is transferred automatically.

Various formats and types of empty pallet feeds can be accommodated and it is possible to handle all formats of cases, food trays, and multi-bottle packs, starting from fours.

T: +32 (0) 55 335757

E: alvey@newtec-group.com



## ES1000 Series

*A brand new range of labelling systems from a company with over 30 years experience*



*Simple, Touch Screen, Operator Controls.*

*Accurate and flexible labelling.*



*Outstanding performance*

## Espera Scales Ltd.

Unit 1, Stephenson Close  
Drayton Fields Ind. Estate  
Daventry, NN11 8RF

Tel: 0845 0567900

www.espera.com

Email: kettell@espera.co.uk



KUKA's KR 700 stacking 700 litre barrels

# Robots get heavy

KUKA showed off its latest high-performance palletising robots recently at Europe's leading forestry exhibition. Visitors saw what is claimed to be the world's strongest robot, the Titan, single-handedly erect a maypole weighing hundreds of kilos.

Based on the Titan, the new KR 1300 is designed for heavy-duty palletising tasks as it can lift payloads of up to 1,300kg. KUKA's other new palletising robots, the KR

300, 470 and 700, are capable of handling payloads from 300 - 700kg and offer reaches of between 3150 - 3320mm. They also feature new arm and hollow wrist designs for delivering very short cycle times, it claims.

The 700 variant offers the fastest throughput time in its payload category, says the company. It was demonstrated stacking a pile of 700 litre wooden barrels.

These new models join KUKA's series of palletising robots, which include smaller payload versions, such as the KR 40 and 180, for high-speed packing solutions.

T: +44 (0) 121 585 0800

E: sales@kuka.co.uk



## Integrated automation for a competitive edge.

A complete solution from B&R is not only based on perfectly coordinated products for all areas of automation. It also provides the advantages of an efficient, integrated machine controller with a uniform software architecture, which considerably increases productivity and drastically reduces costs.



*The Titan demonstrates its strength at LIGNA*

# TOSA palletiser rings the changes

Adpal, UK representative for the TOSA range of pallet stretch wrapping systems, now has the TOSA high-speed 125 'Ring Machine' available.

Designed for high speed requirements of up to 170 pallets/hour, it utilises a twin reel system.

Featuring a rotating film-reel, it can accommodate various palletised loads via different wrapping programs, making it very versatile, says Adpal.

The touch screen enables operators to interface with multiple program selections - the complete cycle, a downward/upward cycle only, or wrapping the top or the bottom only.

A 'Waterproof' top sheet



dispenser can be integrated into the machine.

The rotary ring design is machined and ground for balance when running at high speeds and can contribute to film savings. Heat sealing of the film tail away from the product ensures no loose tails of film

trail from the load after wrapping. If pallets go into high bay warehouses the film tail sealing prevents profile checkers from rejecting the loads.

TOSA's 125 can be installed and integrated into any existing packing line, says Adpal.

It is supplied complete with a top pneumatic presser, powered pre-stretch assembly, film hooking and cutting

unit, film sealing unit, perimeter safety-guards, control cabinet with PLC and the possibility to adjust the machine parameters. An automatic carriage locking system is installed for health & safety purposes.

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

## Automated moduline filler

The RFID Moduline filler from Optima now features fully automated processes to handle a diverse range of products, such as water filters and liquid cosmetics.

Round or square containers, spray pumps and screw caps, large or small filling volumes are all accommodated thanks to an RFID chip attached to the transport puck which actuates all format changes.

This chip signals the functions and parameters needed for the specific containers. Format change

requires neither manual intervention on the tooling nor selection at the operator panel. This translates into uninterrupted machine speed, claims Optima.

The machine can be fitted as a multiple function unit featuring: a micro chute for dosing very small powder volumes; an auger filler for powders and granulates; a pre-screw module; a control station for checking positioning of the closures; a dosing module with piston pump; an inserting station for spray pumps; a press-on

unit; and a control station for broken glass.

Output and gearing of the RFID Moduline can be adapted to market requirements due to its matched function modules and innovative conveyor system, says Optima.

This means that an output of 60 units/minute can be increased to 120 units/minute.

The system can be changed over to process liquids instead of powder.

T: +44 (0) 1962 620898  
E: info@optima-gb.com



Metal Detection Systems for a wide range of industrial applications



Simple Operation

Outstanding Reliability

Exceptional Performance



Fortress Technology Europe Ltd

Units 7/8 Beaumont Business Centre, Beaumont Close, Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX16 1TN, UK  
T: +44 (0) 1295 256266



info@fortresstechnology.co.uk  
www.fortresstechnology.co.uk

## Flexible bagger

The low height and the numerous retrofitting options of the new SVI vertical bagger series from Bosch Packaging Technology make it ideal for a wide range of food and non-food applications, it claims.

Models are designed to package powders, bakery and confectionery items, tea, coffee, fresh pasta, as well as pet food and non-food products such as detergents.

SVI series can produce a variety of standard bag styles including pillow bags, side gusseted bags and stand up block bottom bags by changing the adjustable forming set.

This allows shorter delivery times and offers producers a wide variety of styles, says Bosch.

The intermittent machines can produce bags with corner seals and Doypack style bags, with optional zippers. For corner sealing, the manufacturer can upgrade the machine with an additional modular unit.

The production of a Doypack style is achieved by turning the machine cross seal jaws to a 90° position, without the need to change or adapt the machine height or the dosing platform.

Two machines for packaging different bag sizes and lengths are available: the SVI 4020 packages bag sizes at a maximum 600mm in length; the SVI 2620 produces bag sizes of up to 400mm in length.

Both machines have an output ranging from 10 to 120 bags/minute.

T: +44 (0) 1332 626262

E: pagbbosch@bosch.com

# Checkweighers get heavy and fast...

Loma Systems has launched two additional products in its CW3 range of automatic checkweighers – the CW3 HeavyWeight and the CW3 DragLink.

Designed for heavier food items, the CW3 HeavyWeight checkweigher can weigh bags or cases up to 60kgs and can be easily integrated into high-speed lines with belt speeds up to 50m/minute. It has a capacity of up to 60 packs/minute, says Loma.

While the machine has a small footprint it can handle large products up to 850mm long and 600mm wide and is accurate to 1.6g, it is claimed.

Easy to clean, it has minimal bug-traps and the bead-blast

surface is water-repellent to stop cleaning solutions settling.

The HeavyWeight has been engineered with heavy-duty conveyor components, while the glass-free LED indicator stack gives clear red and green signals to show the machine is operational, ensuring under or over-weight products are always rejected.

Loma's CW3 DragLink checkweigher has been designed to help processors with high production packaging line speeds. It consists of two individual lanes, weighing products simultaneously while controlling both lanes from a single panel.

It can operate at belt speeds



up to 120m/minute and weigh a wide range of flexible and rigid packs sizes up to 6kg with an accuracy of 0.6g, at speeds up to 440 packs/minute, says Loma.

## ... while X-rays are pitch perfect

Loma's X4 SideShoot and X4 FinePitch are the latest additions to the company's X4 range of X-ray inspection machines.

SideShoot is a food industry system designed for accurate inspection of vertically oriented packages and products and can

inspect packs up to 2830mm high. The unit has the capacity to inspect over 600 packs/minute (90m/minute) and can easily be integrated into high-speed lines, says Loma.

FinePitch has been developed for maximum sensitivity, while producing

advanced image processing for customers requiring extremely accurate safety inspection. It is suitable for difficult applications, such as very small chicken bone splinters. It incorporates fine grain image processing, due to innovative diode arrays and other inherent design features, which amplifies the system's ability to find contaminants, says the company.

Both systems meet IP55 washdown specifications and have enhanced protection for high temperatures.

Reject systems provide separate signals for each type of non-conformity so that contaminated and improperly packaged products can be kept separate.

T: +44 (0) 1252 893300

E: uk.sales@loma.com

