

MACHINERY BITES

The latest upgrade to Garvens XS series checkweighing software from **METTLER TOLEDO** offers enhanced automation and functionality that substantially improves the filling process, it claims.

Extended feedback control allows better control of fill levels to automatically ensure regulatory compliance. Greater control of fill level correction speed further optimises the process by reducing scrap, according to Mettler.

Statistical process control generates a 'real-time' visual indication of the performance of the production line on the user display, enabling quick identification and resolution of process control issues.

Binary output quickly communicates the current article number to the PLC. A change in article on the checkweigher will automatically change the settings of other equipment in the production line.

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GEA Pharma Systems has officially introduced its ConsiGma™ Continuous Tableting Line at a recent Food & Drug Administration symposium.

A patent is pending on the system which takes powder to tablet in just 20 minutes and that GEA says offers improved process control, higher tablet quality and higher process yield.

It is also claimed to satisfy the pharmaceutical industry's demand for continuous production, improved quality, flexibility and consistency for pharmaceutical processes. It was first shown at Achema 2009.

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Yes you can can inspection!

Mettler-Toledo Safeline has released two new x-ray inspection solutions: the InspireX R50S 400 AFD and InspireX R50SB 200, to address the need for improved detection at higher production speeds on can manufacturing lines.

The x-ray systems are able to inspect cans spaced rim-to-rim, allowing contaminant detection to take place at a rate of up to 1,500 cans/minute. The new x-ray technologies feature reduced focal length and improved beam angles to enable faster throughput, while maintaining quality assurance.

InspireX R50S 400 AFD (Adjustable Focal Distance) is an advanced single-beam solution able to detect contaminants on a wide range of can sizes. The system's focal distance (the distance the x-ray beam travels from the x-ray tank exit to the surface of the imaging detector) can be

automatically adjusted for each can size offering optimum detection and flexibility.

The InspireX R50SB 200 split-beam x-ray system has been specially designed for smaller metal cans - typically up to 400g/14oz in size.

"The small machine footprint, choice of fully integrated high-speed automatic reject systems and in-feed product handling options make them a practical turnkey solution for all sizes of metal cans on high-speed packing lines," says Niall McRory, product development

and sales manager, Mettler-Toledo Safeline.

These new systems include Mettler-Toledo Safeline's newly developed XTP contamination detection software tools.

The advanced x-ray technology can automatically synchronise the x-ray scan speed with the production line belt speed, keeping a one-to-one image ratio. No manual adjustments are required, ensuring maximum uptime of the production line.

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Conveying under control

X45 is a compact conveyor platform which allows easy integration with machines and space efficient filling, production and packaging lines, says FlexLink Systems.

The product handling is gentle and stable, contributing to high product quality standards and high line efficiency as well as offering long service life, low noise level and easy engineering it claims.

"The compact boundary dimensions and the ability to run in bends provides new opportunities to automate sophisticated flows in a simpler

way than before. The conveyor runs smoothly which is crucial in transporting standing vials in the pharmaceutical industry," says Fredrik Boberg, head of innovation management.

X45e is an intelligent platform for automated processes such as assembly, controlled filling and samples analysis. Advanced 24V drive units and puck handling modules with embedded controls, simplify controls engineering and enable high line efficiency, says the company.

Power consumption is very low due to the efficient PM motor and transmission. It is RFID



prepared, facilitating track & trace and automated QA capabilities.

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Simplifying speedy syringe production

Dara Pharmaceutical Packaging has developed a new rotary monobloc machine for syringe assembly and filling. The compact machine is capable of filling syringes from 0.5ml-50ml with outputs up to 11,500 units/hour with automatic filling, placing of the plunger and positioning of the plunger into the syringe. Dara is represented in the UK by POL Pharma Services.

The machine's filling station can be fitted with volumetric metal to metal pistons and rotary valves or with a peristaltic high precision Dara SpeedFill system, depending on customer requirements.

Servo motors enable a reliable and precise positioning of the plunger within the syringe. To ensure that it is correctly positioned the machine includes a plunger indexing system before the insertion funnel. This resolves



any plunger positioning problems, which is a key area for this type of application, it is claimed.

The starwheel allows the syringe to be spun around the plunger rod enabling it to be screwed into position. This system guarantees there is no movement during the positioning and screwing of the plunger rod, says Dara.

All production parameters,

including dosing volume, kinematics of the filling process and plunger position, vibration amplitude of the automatic feeders, production speed and kinematics and closing torque of the plunger rod screw can be stored in the control panel.

The machine has been designed in compliance with GMP and US-FDA regulations.

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Pipe detector is paste perfect

S+S Inspection has launched two new versions of its Liquiscan metal detection and separation system for removing magnetic and non-magnetic metallic contamination from pumped liquids and pastes.

Two models are available: Liquiscan VF+ for viscous material such as sausage meat and cheese and the Liquiscan PL for liquids and semi-liquid pastes. The VF+ version is supplied on a mobile, height adjustable stand and the PL on a tabletop frame. A range of reject systems is available depending on the application.

The VF+ can be supplied 'linker' drive compatible and with fittings to match all the major meat pump systems.

Both are available to fit a wide range of pipe sizes and use the latest Genius+ control system with an integrated menu driven validation system to monitor all standards including HACCP, BRC and IFS. A built-in password protected system log records complete documentation of all operating parameters.

Fitted with quick release pipe connectors, the new Liquiscan VF+ may be moved easily to different locations for wash



down and maintenance procedures, says the company.

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Flow wrapper for sliced foods

SynchroPACK is offering a new range of flow wrappers specially designed for modified atmosphere packaging (MAP) of sliced food products in trays.

A major feature of the new wrapper is that the bag has three seals on its perimeter.

The side location of the longitudinal seal has the main advantage of minimising the formation of wrinkles on the film, says the company, and therefore guarantees the hermetic seal of the bag at high speed rates compared with conventional 3-sided seal packs, where the longitudinal seal is placed at the bag centre.

The new 7 Series starts with the Pack 700, a servo-driven machine with industrial PC control, LTS (box-motion) sealing jaws and a 10 inch, full colour touch screen. The obtained outputs fit with existing highest capacity slicing lines.

Pack 700 may be equipped with accessories including: 'No product- No pack' and 'No-gap - No seal' features, thermal transfer and/or inkjet coders, plus a residual in-line oxygen analyzer.

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Record breaker

OYSTAR IWK's new TFS 80-8 tube filling line is claimed to be the fastest in the world at 750 tubes/minute, breaking its own world record with the TFS 80-6 which stood at 510 tubes/minute.

It is said to guarantee almost 100 per cent weight control thus reducing overfilling from 1 per cent to 0.5 per cent, a saving of 83,000kg of toothpaste/year.

www.oystar.iwk.de

Retail standard for conveying

Fortress Technology's latest Vector Integrated Conveyor System, complementary to its Phantom range of metal detectors, has been enhanced to meet new supermarket retailer standards.

For example, it now features an alarm, either audible or visual, to indicate when there have been metal rejects in order to help identify potential issues early.

It is fully compliant with British Retail Consortium and English European Food Safety Inspection Service specifications. Vector is a convenient and effective all-in-one solution, developed to achieve the most accurate detection results by optimising the performance of its Phantom metal detectors, claims the company.

Purpose built to integrate with standard rectangular aperture detectors, the conveyor offers reliable performance under harsh production environments, including washdown.

With easy cleaning and maintenance features, the machine has a fully modular design and is constructed to industrial specifications using a stainless steel frame.

A wide range of belt sizes is offered in standard or heavy duty configurations and it is available with a choice of reject options, including alarm & stop, air blast, pusher, divert/sweep and retracting band. Vector can also be custom-designed and configured to meet customers' specific application requirements, says Fortress.

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Wet packs merging

Jenton International has announced a new addition to its range of multi-lane switchable Packleader BCS pack convergers with the launch of a Wet Drive version to work with products that may either leak liquid or where packages may have surface water.

The Wet Drive offers a cost effective solution for converging a variety of thermoformed packs that may be wet on the line, such as those received from a chiller, packs containing liquid products or packs likely to burst.

Jenton convergers are constructed in stainless steel to IP67 for cleaning purposes but this system, using an uprated clutch arrangement, extends their usability.

The convergers can be configured to suit a variety of pack formats with electronic setting of pack parameters and switchability between formats. No change parts or physical



adjustments are required. Siemens controls and PROFIBUS connectivity are inbuilt into the new machines and controls are designed to minimise changeover.

Each unit has independently adjustable working and infeed height, quick change belts and long life clutches, a line length addition of only 1,100mm (net)

and can accept pack formats at up to 16 cycles/minute. A simple colour HMI touch screen system allows speed and pack separation settings to be set and stored, plus the system offers direct pack collection from thermoformers with no extra conveyor required.

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Five lane lidding at speed

A new five-lane lid placement and closure system has been launched by IXIA Packaging Systems. Incorporating a specially designed high speed conveyor gating device, the machine helps enhance production line efficiencies by automating a traditionally labour

intensive process, as well as further improving pack integrity and food safety, says IXIA.

Developed to fit thermoformed plastics lids to food trays of various sizes and shapes, the system is capable of handling up to 120 packs/minute. In addition, it can be customised to suit

different output requirements.

The new machine accumulates filled trays and, using a special star wheel gating device, passes five containers at high speeds into a controlled 'lug' belt system. The packs are then passed under the five-lane liddler where a lid is held and placed in position and clipped down onto the trays for final closure.

For added flexibility the lidding system incorporates the company's Snapdragon® quick change tooling, which is designed to allow the operator to change tray types and sizes in less than two minutes, completely tool free.

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