

Metal detector launch is proofed for the future

Fast, accurate detection of metal contaminants and detailed data collection is offered by the Icon metal detector from Fortress Technology that has been specially designed to be future proof as well as easily retrofitted to older models from the company's Phantom series.

Launched at interpack in May, the Icon uses robust Quad-Core processing and features an eye-catching touch screen front panel with membrane interface that as well as being easy to use, can also stand up to harsh production environments.

Information gathered such as product configurations, rejects and faults is stored in an onboard database and is accessible via USB or wired Ethernet. All collected data can be exported as Microsoft Excel or Adobe Acrobat PDF file formats.

Custom designed icons and comprehensive menus allow users of all skill levels to easily set up products, perform tests and produce reports. These reports are generated by a



Fast, accurate metal detection is offered by the Icon from Fortress

mobile version of the company's contact communication software which has evolved to be an important part of day to day testing procedures and product verification for quality assurance personnel. It is also widely used for HACCP compliance.

This new product launch coincides with a total investment of £2 million in new manufacturing facilities in Banbury, Oxfordshire as previously, all machines were shipped in from the parent company in Canada. At a time when many UK businesses are

taking production overseas, this move also further reinforces Fortress Technology's commitment to its environmental policies.

"The hope is that our customers will benefit from increased flexibility, reduced lead times and extra production capacity as well as a strengthened ability to cater for European requirements and standards," says managing director of Fortress Technology Sarah Ketchin.

01295 256266

www.fortresstechnology.co.uk

Distributor agreement for Eastern Europe

Arpac Europe and the Arcon Group of companies signed an exclusive distribution agreement at interpack. Arcon will provide frontline sales and technical support for the full range of Arpac's end of line packaging machinery across all its Eastern European territories including Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro and Russia and CIS.

"These markets are dynamic and growing and sales in these geographical areas will be key to Arpac Europe's success," explains Tony Hacker, general



Arpac group president Rick Allegretti; MD of Arcon Richard Shaw and general manager of Arpac Europe Tony Hacker

manager of Arpac Europe. According to Richard Shaw, managing director of Arcon, "We had a few gaps in our portfolio and the Arpac range of machines is just what we needed."

Arpac group president Rick Allegretti told *Machinery Update* that if you are serious about supplying multinational

companies across the globe, you have to be able to service your equipment internationally, and that is what Arcon will provide for the US-based manufacturer.

The two companies will be together again at the Rosupack exhibition in June in Moscow.

01462 743002

www.arpacurope.com

Role changes at the UKIVA

Dr John Haddon has been appointed technical consultant for the UK Industrial Vision Association (UKIVA) following the retirement of Don Braggins. He will be the first point of contact for anyone requesting technical advice from the association as well as writing articles as part of the association's continuing objective to raise and maintain awareness of the capabilities of vision technology in manufacturing.

As this transition takes place, UKIVA is keen to acknowledge the outstanding contribution that Don Braggins has made since it was founded in 1992. His Machine Vision Consultancy was one of the founder members and in 1995, he took over the administration of the association. This was a role he continued, as well as providing technical support for the following 14 years, before overseeing the transition of UKIVA into a special interest group of the Processing & Packaging Machinery Association (PPMA).

Earlier this year, Jennie Harris retired from her position as administration assistant at UKIVA, and Janine Berriedale of the PPMA has taken over her responsibilities.

www.ukiva.org

Sad passing

As *Machinery Update* went to press we learned that former editor Mary Murphy had died suddenly at her home in West Sussex. We would like to offer our sincere condolences to her family and many friends – the packaging industry will be much poorer without her.

A full obituary will appear in the July/August issue.

Chain maker heads North

Ocean Engineering is the latest company to join Donghua's growing network of approved product partners and will become its North West distributor of roller chain products and provide the company's product partners and customers with access to a national network of service engineers.

Blackburn-based Ocean specialises in the distribution of chain to the OEM market and food industry. In addition, it contracts engineering labour and fabrication services across all sectors throughout the UK. 01902 866200 www.donghua.co.uk

Webinar for food safety

Some of the most popular misconceptions about x-ray inspection of food are tackled in a free fifteen minute, on demand webinar from Mettler Toledo that uses layman's terms to explain the basic principles.



Join the webinar at anytime

The online seminar, available to view at any time, begins by explaining why food manufacturers use x-ray inspection and goes on to explain what x-rays are. After explaining the difference between food irradiation and x-ray inspection, the webinar also takes a close look at the design of an x-ray inspection solution.

www.mt.com/pi-ondemand

Helping robot uptake

Leading UK manufacturers have attended the recent series of breakfast meetings as part of the British Automation and Robot Association's (BARA) Automating Manufacturing campaign designed to stimulate interest in automation across all industries. The campaign is also highlighting the recently won government support for automation (*Machinery Update* – January/February).

Manufacturers from food and beverage, automotive and electrical sectors attended the meetings held at automation advocates Landor Automotive (Birmingham), Harwin plc (Portsmouth), and the National Centre for Food Manufacturing at Holbeach where Graham Thomas from Greencore talked about his experiences of introducing automation at the food manufacturing giant.

The events, which form part of a larger two year BARA campaign to raise manufacturers' awareness of the benefits of automation, gave attendees the



Graham Thomas from Greencore

opportunity to have one-to-one discussions with industry experts, learn from the experiences from users of automation and review the automation in use at each of the host facilities.

"It's great to know that there's funding available for automation and to find out what other companies are doing," said attendee Martin Miller, chief engineer (manufacturing) at retailer Morrisons.

"UK companies invest far less in automation than their European counterparts and this

campaign gives us an opportunity to show them what they are missing," said speaker Mike Wilson, president of BARA. "An automated machine consistently produces a high quality product and operates reliably for every hour of every day for many years, allowing staff to be utilised where their skills are more effective.

"Manufacturers benefit from greater productivity and improved customer response and service, such that it increases a firm's competitive edge and reduces its costs," he asserts.

For Premier Foods' manufacturing manager Peter Davies, the event was an ideal forum to kick-start a project. "It was a fantastic taster of the benefits to be gained from automating," he said. "And the format of a short, sharp breakfast session packed with information and no hard sell was perfect."

A second series of events is planned for later this year. robots@hotmail.com

Managing food producing jobs

An MSc in food manufacturing is being offered by the University of Lincoln and is ideal for candidates wishing to develop a career in food manufacturing management.

This one year, full time course has a programme that integrates science, technology, business and management. It is designed to equip students with the expertise and ability to

undertake technical and production management roles in the food processing and manufacturing industries.

The course is taught at the University's Riseholme Park Campus, three miles out of Lincoln, while utilising the processing facilities of the National Centre for Food Manufacturing at the Holbeach Campus. Students will

undertake a research project either in industry or academia, which gives an opportunity to apply knowledge in a real life setting as well as meeting potential employers.

Applicants need at least a second class honours degree in pure or applied sciences or engineering.

01406 493000

www.lincoln.ac.uk/holbeach

Confectionery pavilion comes to Las Vegas

Show producer PMMI and the National Confectioners Association in the US (NCA) are bringing the confectionery pavilion to PACK EXPO Las Vegas later this year, following the success of the inaugural pavilion at the

Chicago event last year.

Totalling over 15,000sq ft, the pavilion will once again host a range of packaging and processing solutions focused on the confectionery industry. In addition, the show will feature the

first ever pharmaceutical pavilion.

PACK EXPO Las Vegas takes place 26-28 September, 2011 at the Las Vegas Convention Center and over 1,200 exhibitors are expected.

www.pmmi.org

Inspecting ESPE meets guidance



The ESPE periodic inspection and test service can be tailored to suit the requirement of individual sites across the UK

Safety Systems Technology has introduced a new standalone electro-sensitive protective equipment (ESPE) periodic inspection and test service that can be tailored to suit the requirements of individual sites.

This service accurately follows the guidance given in the Health and Safety Executive's HSG180 and includes inspection of the ESPE to ensure that it is the correct distance from the danger zone, ensuring that safeguards are in place to prevent access to the danger zone from directions not covered by the ESPE. Other tests include the response time and detection capability of the ESPE installation, inspecting any stopping performance monitor that may be fitted, and testing primary machine control elements to ensure correct functioning.

"Many employers are unaware that carrying out regular PUWER inspections may not be enough for them to meet their legal obligations in respect of machinery safety", warns Gary Trehitt of Safety Systems Technology, an engineering and electrical safety company. "In particular, special requirements apply to machines that incorporate ESPE such as light curtains, and these requirements

often fall outside the scope of routine PUWER inspections," he continues.

To address the increasing use of ESPE in modern machines, where it often takes the place of traditional guarding, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) published HSG180, Application of electro-sensitive equipment using light curtains and light beam devices to machinery. This publication is provided for guidance only but, because of the safety critical nature of the use of ESPE, employers are well advised to follow its provisions unless they can demonstrate very good reasons for doing otherwise, says the company.

The section of HSG180 that deals with inspection and test states in paragraph 118 that, "installations using ESPE should be inspected at suitable intervals". In paragraph 124, it goes on to explain that the recommended maximum interval between each periodic inspection and test is six months for type 4 ESPE and twelve months for type 2 ESPE, and that this interval will also depend on the equipment it is fitted to and the risk as a whole.

01333 123 7777

www.safetysys.co.uk



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Acquisition adds service

Mettler-Toledo has acquired the Smiths Detection Product Inspection division and will adopt the Eagle brand of food x-ray inspection systems. The Eagle business will continue to operate as a separate entity using existing sales and service channels but customers will benefit from a strengthening of service and support through a larger network of service technicians and application support.

"This acquisition is a positive step for our customers and our experienced team as we can bolster customer service while expanding our field support, application capability and market coverage," says Terry Woolford, general manager at Eagle. "As part of Mettler-Toledo, Eagle will be even more effective at helping manufacturers enhance quality, safety and productivity on their lines."

East Anglia expansion

ERIKS' Kings Lynn distribution branch has moved to a new, much larger facility to cope with fivefold business growth over the past four years. The new 12,000sq ft facility's workshop will be able to repair electric motors, gearboxes and pumps along with associated equipment, while the electronics repair cell will look after the more high-tech side of the business including inverter, PCB, HDMI board and power supply repairs.

Complementing the expanded shop floor and distribution operations is a training room where the company will offer training courses and seminars to local engineering businesses. 0121 508 6000 www.eriks.co.uk

Largest PPMA Show set for NEC triumph

This year's PPMA Show will provide the setting for the largest industrial gathering in the UK when it returns to Birmingham's NEC this autumn (27-29 September).

And for the first time, the show is going digital.

Already the largest ever show in terms of floor space, the exhibition will welcome more than 300 suppliers of processing and packaging machinery, each dedicated to helping visitors improve their manufacturing productivity and efficiency across a range of sectors.

Show organisers are launching an interactive social media campaign ahead of the event to provide exhibitors and visitors with the chance to share insights and keep up to date with show announcements,



industry news and product launches.

The aim of the LinkedIn group – www.linkedin.com – is to facilitate communication and ideas sharing between likeminded industry professionals. Members of the group will be regularly updated with relevant show developments, while the discussion forum will allow exhibitors and visitors to share insights with one another.

"We recognise that online networking is integral to our marketing communications and our aim is to make 2011 the most interactive PPMA show to date," explains Archana Sharma, marketing manager for the PPMA Show.

Interplas, the international forum for the plastics industry, will once again be co-located with the PPMA Show.

020 8271 2156 www.ppmashow.co.uk

Easy access health & safety

A new independent online directory designed to aid businesses that need help with managing health and safety by finding a suitable and well qualified consultant has been launched.

Called The Occupational Safety and Health Consultants Register (OSHCR), it has been established by a number of professional bodies representing general safety and occupational health consultants, with support from the Health and Safety

Executive. It follows publication of the Government-commissioned report Common Sense Common Safety, which called for improved competence in health and safety advice.

More than 1,600 consultants across the UK have signed up.

Before consultants can join the register, they must prove they can meet strict eligibility criteria; each must belong to a professional body; have a degree level qualification; at least two years' experience

and have demonstrated a commitment to continuing their professional development.

Many employers do not need external consultants to help them comply with their legal obligations but for those that do, using an OSHCR-registered consultant should ensure they receive sensible and proportionate health and safety advice. Consultants can be searched for freely by county, industry and topic.

www.oshcr.org

Companies invited to demonstrate excellence

Businesses of all sizes are invited to share their success stories and demonstrate how manufacturing and engineering companies are at the forefront of re-building the UK economy in

the EEF Manufacturing Future Awards. These awards will be judged in six regions across the UK throughout September and regional winners in each category will compete for the

national awards presented in London in January 2012.

The awards are free to enter and are open to all UK manufacturers until 31 July. www.eef.org.uk/awards