

High-speed 6-pack erector and multipacker

Pearson Packaging Systems, the United States, offers DX150 Carrier Erector and S1150 Multipacker for packaging beverages. These units use continuous motion and servo-driven technologies to provide beverage manufacturers with systems that operate about 50 per cent faster than existing designs. In a typical beverage line installation, the new high-speed machinery reduces the number of lines needed to supply 100 cases/min from three lines to two. As such, the floor space is lowered by 30 per cent, equipment costs decrease by around 20 per cent and eliminates maintenance and operation of six machines. An optional lane diverter enables production of carriers sent to the multipacker to be maintained by up to 100 per cent redundancy, depending on line speed.

DX150 erects up to 150 carriers/min while S1150 packs 50 cases/min. Two DX150 units feed the S1150, loading 200 carriers/min into 50 shipping cases. *Contact: Pearson Packaging Systems, 8120, West Sunset Highway, Spokane, WA 99224, United States of America. Tel: +1 (509) 8386 226; Fax: +1 (509) 7478 532; E-mail: info@pearsonpkg.com. (Website: www.pearsonpkg.com)*

Robots boost pizza packing

A robot packaging system, developed by SIG Pack Systems of Switzerland, has enabled Wagner, Germany, to step up its pizza packaging functions. The new compact solution can handle up to 100 pizza boxes/min. Pizzas are now packed in threes on a SIG HBM pillow pack machine. The products are spread across three lanes and then transferred to the cartoning process, which comprises three SIG Delta robots. Each robot can place more than 100 triple pizza packs/min into ready-made pizza boxes supplied from the carton former.

Packages are detected through a vision system with image processing. This enables each robot to accurately locate each package and precisely place it into the carton. Each robot arm matches the speed of the conveyor belt to guarantee an accurately centred pick-up of the products. The system is designed to provide even distribution between packages and ensure equal workload on all three robots. *Contact: SIG Pack Systems*

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Solution to manage packaging

Technology group 3M has combined its packaging expertise with Microsoft products to develop and deliver a new integrated packaging management solution. The 'Integrated Packaging Tool' enables enterprise-level customers to effectively address critical issues like compliance, product surety, time to market and reduction of packaging costs. This web-based, data-enabled system, built using Microsoft.NET with Microsoft SQL Server as the back-end database, centralizes all the packaging data. It also allows users to capitalize on the existing IT infrastructure through the use of an XML-based Application Programming Interface. At present, 3M provides its packaging information management software and services to companies across several industries, including consumer packaged goods, food and beverage, life sciences, etc. *(Website: www.foodproductiondaily.com)*

End-of-line improvements

Wrapid Packaging Systems Limited, the United Kingdom-based end-of-line equipment specialist, offers an updated budget automatic packaging machine. Compacta Trend is reported to provide substantial cost savings over traditional chamber and semi-automatic solutions. It can operate at speeds of up to 20 packs/min, depending on the actual product, to provide a secure packaging seal. This makes the system ideal for applications where security and tamper evidence are crucial.

Compacta Trend features side sealing and can wrap items of almost any length. Typical applications include 7 m long profiles like pipes and guttering. This level of versatility makes it suitable for packing a wide range of awkwardly shaped items, including egg boxes and related items. The system also incorporates a Siemens PLC5 control system, which can be synchronized with other end-of-line packing machines as appropriate. *Contact: Wrapid Packaging Systems Ltd., 250, Thornton Road, Bradford, West Yorkshire, England BD1 2LB, the United Kingdom. Tel: +44 (1274) 220 220; Fax: +44 (1274) 736 195; E-mail: sales@wrapid.co.uk. (Website: www.wrapid.co.uk)*