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new machinery

A new angle to detect contaminants in fluids

FluidCheK x-ray inspection system has been developed by Mettler Toledo Safeline to meet the needs of packers and manufacturers of beverages and other liquids for efficient detection of contaminants in fluids.

Billed as "a significant breakthrough in the detection of contaminants in fluids", the system is equipped with image-scanning software and employs x-ray beams at an angle for total quality control. It can detect dense contaminants including glass, metal, stone, plastics such as Teflon and rubbers such as Viton. It inspects glass bottles and jars, metal cans and plastics bottles as well as containers with a domed base.

The FluidCheK x-ray inspection system takes a fresh approach to the



The FluidCheK x-ray inspection system takes a fresh approach

detection of contaminants in liquids as it focuses inspection on the base area rather than on the entire container. This approach is effective because contaminants are usually denser than the surrounding liquid, so they will always sink to the bottom.

The advantage of this is that the x-ray generator can be moved much closer to the product, reducing the distance the x-ray beam

must travel to the detector.

This increases the quality of x-ray image and, as the beam inspects the container base at an angle, blind spots are prevented.

The FluidCheK is best located at the end of the production line as the final product inspection step to ensure that no contaminant has entered the product during production or sealing.

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Flexible blisters at pace

To meet the needs of pharmaceutical companies and contract packers for smaller batch volumes of medicines, Uhlmann has introduced its Blister Express Center 300.

This integrated system is geared to frequent and quick format changeovers and comprises a blister and a cartoner module. Head of marketing at Uhlmann Oliver Naucke says the machine "offers a remarkable price-performance ratio based on reliable Uhlmann quality."

Changeovers can be completed by one person in 20 minutes and the unit is said to offer excellent

payback options. Also, the format area has a maximum blister size of 95 x 145mm and a carton format of up to 115 x 90 x 150mm to allow a wide range of applications to be handled.

Up to 300 blisters and 150 cartons a minute can be produced on this servo-driven line which is barely 8m

long. The transfer of blisters to the cartoner module is direct and dispenses with the need for any format parts. The manual filling of the counting magazine is also unnecessary as the line only requires 12 small format parts in total.

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Blister Express Center 300 handles small batches

Sachet system is integrated

A vertical flat pouch system from Sigpack Systems, a Bosch Packaging Technology company, offers an integrated solution for the primary and secondary packaging of powders, granulates and pellets.

“With flexibility and a modular design, the RNx is a highly efficient system for products as varied as pain relievers, blood thinners, coffee or baking ingredients,” says Holger Botsch, product manager at Sigpack Systems. “It combines reliability, quality and speed.”

The compact layout of the machine requires minimal space leading to a smaller footprint for overall reduced operating costs. With an output of up to 1,000 sachets a minute, the system “efficiently and reliably delivers high quality pouches”. It can also be customised.

Capable of handling the entire

Compact unit saves space

Cama has developed a compact monobloc loading system that has a reduced footprint of less than 4m in length and 2m wide.

The monobloc loading unit is designed to handle products in primary packs such as flow wraps, flexible bags, cartons, trays, tubs and tubes. These packs can then be loaded into top load cartons, open trays – including plastics RTP crates – and top loading corrugated board cases.

Two different versions are offered – to achieve either 50 or 100 packs a minute - both of which are fully servo-motorised. The system incorporates the new IFeel panel which offers intuitive preventative maintenance and training solutions for line operators.
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dosing and packaging process while meeting pharmaceutical industry standards, the RNx ensures product quality through gentle handling. With its dosing module, the RNx offers the

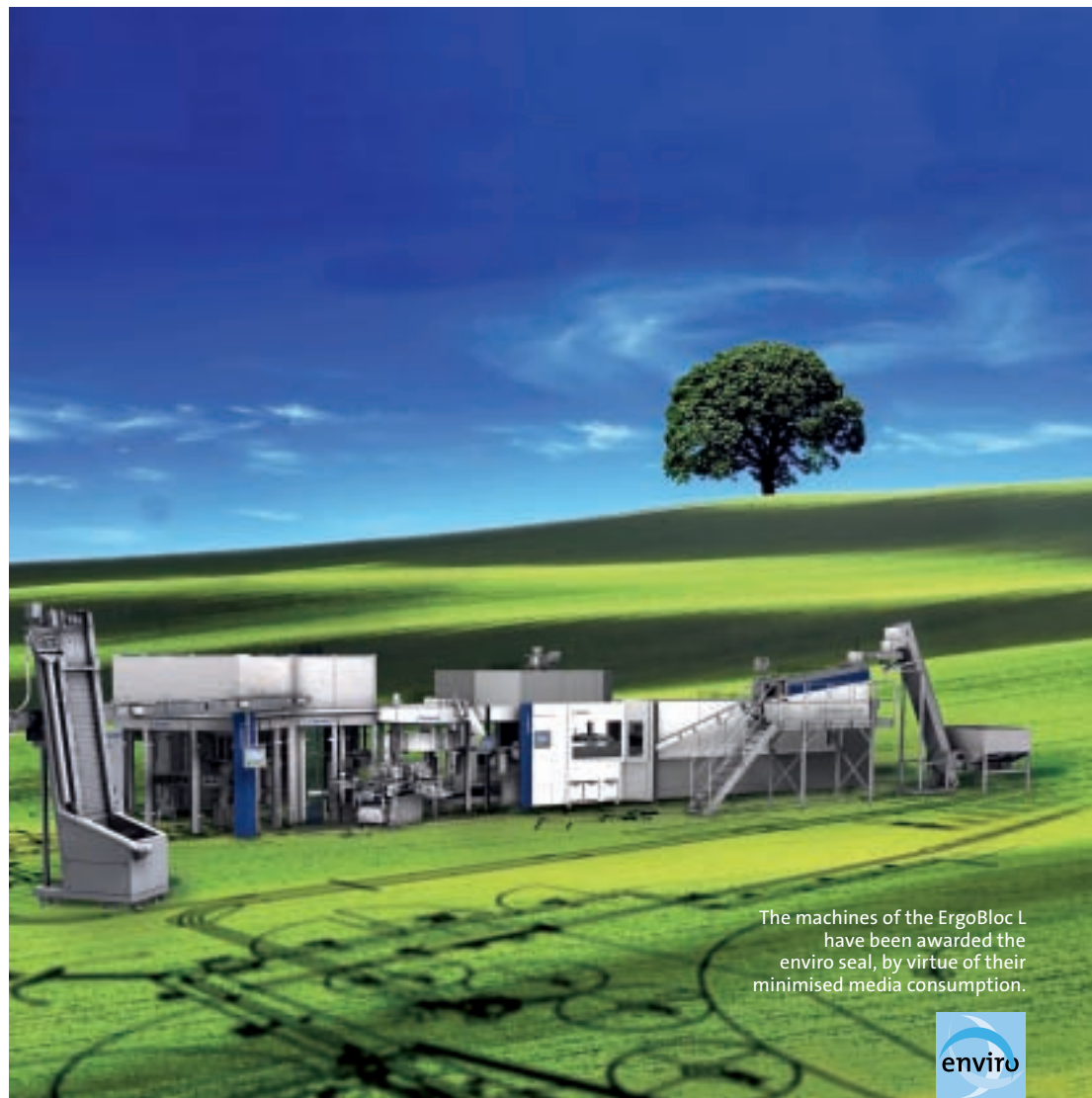
options of auger fillers for difficult flowing powders and granulates or a tipping filler for free flowing products.

Extended sealing times in the sealing module creates reliable

seals while sealed pouches are accurately positioned by grippers in the stacking unit, ready for secondary packaging.

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The machines of the ErgoBloc L have been awarded the enviro seal, by virtue of their minimised media consumption.



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Robots are smarter and faster

Kawasaki Robotics has introduced the 'Y Series' robot designed for fast pick and place operations particularly aimed at packaging and sorting process applications.

The Delta Picker is ideal for the movement and placement of low weight products and offers short cycle times, typically 0.27 seconds for 1kg and 0.45 seconds for a 3kg payload. With the work envelope of 1300mm diameter, this equates to a maximum work rate of 175 picks a minute.

The robot offers 4 axis operation but can have an optional 5th axis for the picking up of two parts in one cycle. This function is particularly suited to applications in the food, electronics and solar industries.

This robot was launched at the MACH show at the NEC in June along with the new 'R

Series' for which Kawasaki has "achieved higher speeds and longer reach in an ultra compact design robot that exceeds industry requirements across a wide range of applications."

The new lightweight arm of the R Series robot combined with the high output, fast response small motors and other design innovations is said to provide industry leading acceleration and high speed operation. The RS20N is the first robot of the new series offering payloads from 3 to 80kg and is controlled with the latest versions of the E controller. This uses the latest CPU technologies including a user friendly operation system and faster file handling together with a USB port for external communications.

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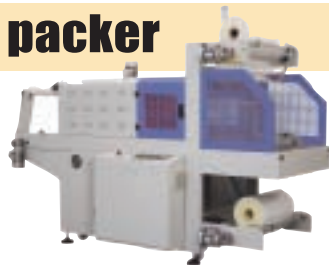
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The Y series is designed for fast pick and place operations

Flexible bundle packer

Audion Elektro has launched the BE-MATIC 29 semi automatic combination bundle packer with tunnel that can be used for shrinkwrapping and bundling various packaging formats in a wide variety of collations. Glass and PET bottles, boxes, jars, cans and cases can be handled by the machine which is available in the UK and Ireland from agent Friedheim International.



The BM29 from Audion Elektro

Straightforward operation characterises the equipment.

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Banding is in the loop

ATS, represented in the UK by Jenton International, has launched a coil-banding machine for securing cable coils, hoses, tubes and closed products such as hangers, gaskets and frames.

"This new machine extends the concept of paper and film banding to a whole new range of products," explains Richard Little, managing director at

Jenton. "Previously, bands had to be around the external dimension of a product whereas now we can offer banding through closed sections and through loops.

The banding machine – US-20000RD-V – has an adjustable table to allow the product to be positioned precisely for sealing.

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