

Pick & place with vision

Tekpak Automation has introduced the 'Packman Vision' robotic cell, a 4-axis vision guided cell for food and pharmaceutical applications.

The pick and place function uses Elau P4 robots with integrated, compact control systems panels and special vision conveyors, with back lighting or top lighting, which can handle packed or unpacked individual products and place them into trays or cartons at speeds of 120/minute per robot. Position repeatability is better than +/- 0.1mm, according to the company.

Featuring all stainless steel construction, including the arms, to avoid product contamination, a range of grippers, both vacuum and mechanical, is available.

Vision system software includes a correction facility to compensate for belt tracking errors when picking directly from existing conveyors. Packman Vision can track products and trays so that it can pick and place into moving trays.

Teach technology makes it simple for the vision system to recognise new products and to inspect for damaged or non-conforming products.

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Smart, versatile and easy to use first timer

Ilapak has introduced a versatile and easy to use flowrapper, designed to meet the needs of first time users of automatic packaging machines in a wide range of markets including food and non-food products such as bakery, fresh produce,

confectionery, toiletries and medical equipment.

Capable of speeds up to 100 packs/minute, the new Smart horizontal/form/fill/seal machine is PC controlled and has a colour touch screen interface.

Smart also offers no-product-

no-bag, misplaced product detection and automatic size change facilities. It has a 64 product memory capacity.

A fully adjustable folding box ensures maximum flexibility, allowing it to pack a wide range of products, explains Ilapak. Its cantilevered body and infeed are designed for easy cleaning and maintenance. And at only four metres in length, the wrapper is compact enough for smaller premises.

Capable of 15 to 100 packs/minute in the standard version it can operate at up to 200 packs/minute in twin jaw format.

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Palletising robot for tight spaces

FANUC Robotics' latest addition to the M-410i range of palletising robots claims to be the fastest robot in its class performing cycles in less than two seconds, says the company.

This makes it suitable for high capacity production requirements in bag and box palletising. Performing a standard industry palletising test - moving 400mm up, 2,000mm

horizontally and 400mm down - while handling a 60kg payload - the new M-410iB/140H performs 1,900 cycles/hour, claims FANUC. A slimmer arm and wrist design make the 140kg payload model the most compact robot in the range.

The articulated design is ideal for confined spaces and for operation in areas with low ceilings. The new slimmer

forearm and wrist is equipped with integrated cableways to speed up system installation and to avoid cable snags and breakages.

The robot can be either floor or plinth mounted to provide a cylindrical work envelope of 5.7m diameter up to a maximum height of 3.5m.

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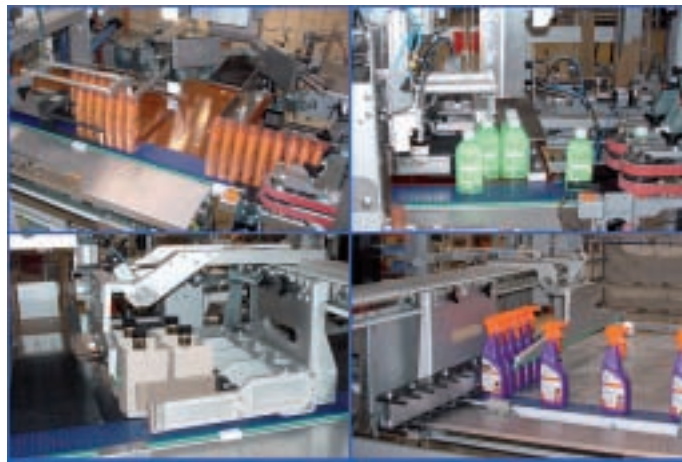
Handling made simple

High efficiency case packing that provides a fresh solution to product selection and batch preparation is claimed for ProSelex® a new handling module from Cermex.

The module replaces turning and spacing systems using scrolls when handling three or more product formats. Effective with all conveyable products, whatever their rigidity and thickness, ProSelex® can be integrated into gantry or robot packers as well as multi-function case packers, says Cermex.

It can be installed as an independent module or integrated into the product collating section of a case packer. ProSelex® is composed of a servo-driven comb moving at high speed on two axes to form batches of products that are fed in continuously from a conveyor.

Products are spaced out by servo-driven lateral bands, which can be adjusted to suit the product shape and resistance. Servo-driven



selecting starwheels are used for certain bottles.

The patented module can operate with food, alcoholic beverages, home- and personal-care products with all types of secondary packaging (RSC, wraparound blanks or trays) for both side and top loading applications.

ProSelex® has a capacity of 250 products/minute, or 300 products/minute when combined with a patented Electronic Phaser for

pre-collating several products in the same bucket. For format changeovers, two lightweight parts (less than 3kg) require changing (the comb and the counter-comb) and just two elements need adjusting (the spacing bands and product transfer guide).

It can handle bottles, containers, gift boxes, cartons, aerosols, film packs or cluster packs, without rubbing.
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May the seal force be with you

Proseal has launched a seal force system which can achieve significant energy savings and a hand operated, fully portable tray sealing machine for small scale usage.

EcoSeal, Proseal's new seal force system, increases the effectiveness of the sealing process while also achieving a major reduction in air consumption compared with traditional high speed tray sealing machinery.

Patented technology means the seal force can be increased by as much as 190 per cent over conventional equipment while consuming only 30 per cent of the air required for a



Proseal's T2 hand sealer

machine fitted with an equivalent standard pneumatic cylinder, claims the company.

It can be specified on all new Proseal GT series tray sealing equipment and can be retrofitted to existing models

including the F40 and F45.

Proseal's T2 hand sealer has been developed for trials and development work, smaller production runs or for use in food shops, it says.

Featuring a manual film feed system, it operates at up to six cycles/minute and is supplied with a flat seal profile and film cutting blade as standard.

It incorporates a simple tool change system allowing different tray sizes to be used and delivers the same seal force as a fully-automatic machine from the company's range.

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Grate cheese weighing

Multipond has combined a special version of its OZB multihead weighing system, a modified 'S2' funnel and a patented product transfer system (timing hopper DSE) to provide a solution for frozen food and grated cheese companies that require high-speed equipment.

Compared with a conventional split (2-way), 20-head weighing system, the concept permits up to 30 per cent higher speeds through use of a 16-head weighing system, claims Multipond. This means when weighing 100g of grated cheese, 120 weighs/minute are possible in combination with a vertical form/fill/seal machine (100 weighs/minute for 200g).

The average deviation is less than 0.1 per cent of the target weight, and the standard deviation is less than 1 per cent. By combining the weighing system and swivel funnel with the high-speed product transfer system up to 20 per cent higher speeds are obtainable, says Multipond.

Filling and transfer operations take place simultaneously, and the DSE rejects incorrect weights, before reaching the packing stage. Another benefit is the clean centred transfer of portions to the forming tube of the packaging machine.

This prevents contact between the portions and forming tube, keeping them compact as they are packed.
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