

Review of the Year 2007

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supplement



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QUIN SYSTEMS

Compact robot case-packer combines proven machines



Minimum footprint: Versapack requires no accumulation space

The concept of this machine was launched at the Total Exhibition in May 07 and will be demonstrated at Interpack and PPMA in 2008. The machine is a combined case erection and packing machine and has a very small footprint compared to an individual case erector and case packer. The high speed of the Rtheta head means that normally only one machine is needed to meet today's increasing product infeed rates. It was developed as a result of the co-operation between case handling specialist Endoline and robot manufacturer Quin Systems.

Applications include flow and roll-wrapped biscuits, wet wipes, ready meals and cartons.

The machine consists of an Endoline 220 case erector on which the Quin Rtheta picking head and a product infeed conveyor are mounted to give a particularly compact footprint of 1800 x 1750mm.

This is because of the speed of the picking head – up to 100 a minute depending on product weight and case size – which allows output to be maintained by picking complete layers and part layers as required.

The result is that a simpler and smaller product collating area can be used, with no need for multi-lane collation.

The Versapack can be supplied with a bespoke infeed system to allow products such as sachets to be easily overlapped to achieve a much tighter fit within the case.

In addition, the use of existing technology also saves space, points out Mike Webb, managing director of Quin Systems. "For example, the reliability of the dual opposing vacuum case opening system on the

220 erector means there is no need for a buffer, which means a smaller footprint."

Endoline managing director Tony Hacker says: "Unlike traditional combined machines designed by specialists in either case-erecting or case-loading, we believe the new system is unique as it is designed jointly by two of the leading companies in both fields."

Speed of the Versapack is up to 20 cases a minute.

The Rtheta pick-and-place system has just two axes of freedom which, points out Quin Systems, means that the arm itself, free of joints, is lighter, more rigid than other picking robots and able to operate at higher speed.

Drive is direct from two servo motors which not only eliminates any risk of positional errors due to backlash, but also greatly reduces maintenance. Repeatable accuracy is said to be better than 0.1mm.

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