



Knight Warner Newsletter

December 2007

Mechanical Handling News

Retail Ready Packaging System

Walkers Snack Foods has recently taken delivery of the first in a new series of bespoke packaging machines. The machine which was fully designed and manufactured in house at Knight Warner, with the remit that it must meet in full the client requirements and business objectives; these were, achieve a high standard of design and manufacture, be a cost effective and flexible solution, be operator friendly, timely and efficient. Through the dedicated work of the in house design and production teams the project aims were clearly satisfied.

Client Quote

"Knight Warner Ltd partnered with Walkers Snack Foods to develop a new Retail Ready Packaging Solution. The project was delivered successfully against challenging timelines. As a partner, they delivered good levels of customer service both during and after the project, and we look forward to working with them in the future".



Semi-Automatic Debagger Undergoing Final Trials

Knight Warner was presented with a challenge from one of its customers to design a debagging machine capable of speeds greater than any current filling machine, and with a footprint no greater than their current slower machines.

Our innovative design team, with experience in developing equipment specifically to handle lightweight and delicate products, enthusiastically set about the task. *"Stability of a lightweight bottle was paramount"* said Mark Raynor, lead project engineer, *"so our concepts were all based around moving the bottles smoothly under control. To achieve both accurate and bumpless control we opted for servo drives on all main movements, a front retaining mechanism and vacuum to maintain stability while single filing, and still maintained a relatively small footprint of 1.8m x 6m"*.

The controls system was designed by Steve Rowland, and after careful selection Steve chose to partner Siemens, *"offering a good all round package was paramount for this application and Siemens offered the right solution for servo drives, PLC and HMP"* said Steve.

"With floor space being a premium, and integrating into existing lines, the design team have achieved their goal by designing the machine to size whilst achieving speeds in excess of any filler" commented Pete Warner, Sales Director. *"With the high output capability (6P/3Ltr 195bpm, 4P/2Ltr 313bpm, 2P/1Ltr 440bpm, 1P/0.5Ltr 528bpm) this machine will increase our customer's line efficiency and productivity."*

If you would like more information on how we can help you maximise your production objectives please contact us.



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Steve Rowland—Project Manager

Experienced automation engineer Steve Rowland who recently joined us from Drives & Automation has taken up the position of a Project Manager at Knight Warner, and is leading his own team of dedicated automation engineers.

Steve who holds an honours degree in mechanical and manufacturing engineering is now looking forward to further enhancing his management and technical skills whilst also undertaking projects for some of our high profile clients.



John Salisbury - Mechanical Projects Engineer

A mechanical design engineer/ project manager with a wide range of experience in: - project management, detailed design and development of engineering solutions including bespoke systems.

He is also a specialist in concept design and manufacture of special purpose machines, This includes a wide range of machines and equipment for production processes such as, mechanical handling, material processing, automatic assembly, testing and packaging. These machines include fully or semi-automatic machines and may incorporate hydraulics, pneumatics and PLC controls.



At Knight Warner we recognise today's production demands require innovative and cost effective but operator friendly solutions which we are capable of delivering.

Russian Factory Automation Project Nears Completion

A total new factory automation project undertaken in Russia on behalf of a global pet food manufacturer nears completion. The project which was designed around the Rockwell Control Logix platform utilises the Wonderware Intouch package for its SCADA system. The full plant automation encompasses all plant from the intake of raw product, blending, batching, extrusion, drying through to the packaging lines and also incorporates the product tracking and management of the recipes. The recipes, and process data are interfaced to the factory management system via a redundant server system running InSQL. The main process is controlled by 4 off Control Logix processors with around 3000 i/o points of which approximately 260 are analogues, the communications networks utilised from the processors to the VSD's, HMI's, operator stations, Flex I/O and servers are either Ethernet, ControlNet or DeviceNet depending upon individual devices.

Scott Walker who has recently taken on the role of project manager at Knight Warner, was responsible for the commissioning and implementation of the solution in Russia in conjunction with his dedicated team of engineers.

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