

ABB launches five axis



**Delta
Robot** p8

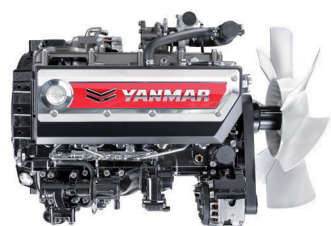


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Change of Management at BEUMER Group

Innovation from tradition

With Rudolf Hausladen, the BEUMER Group has a new CEO. What does this mean for the group of companies? And what is planned for the future? Together with Dr. Christoph Beumer, the new CEO answered questions about the industry and current topics at a global Media Meeting.

"I want to continue to lead the company in the same tradition and spirit of the BEUMER family," Rudolf Hausladen promises. He has been the new CEO since 1st of June 2022 and succeeds Dr. Christoph Beumer,

who has led BEUMER Group as CEO for more than 20 years and will move to the Advisory Board by the end of the year. Under the title "Change of Management at BEUMER Group", the group organised an international Media Meeting at the beginning of August.

Trade press journalists from five continents were represented, reporting to the cement and building materials industries as well as to sectors such as mining, intralogistics, packaging technology, chemicals and petrochemicals.

What is the market situation in the individual industries? What strategies does the BEUMER Group have, and what developments and innovations is the systems provider currently working on? Dr. Christoph Beumer and Rudolf Hausladen will deal with these important topics for the future.

Under the leadership of Dr. Christoph Beumer, the company has developed from a German mechanical engineering company into an international systems supplier and plant manufacturer. The focus is always on quality leadership in order to provide customers with the best possible solutions for their business. With now more than 5,000 employees representing the BEUMER culture worldwide, the business volume amounts of about 1.1 billion euros. Long-term and far-sighted decisions, such as anti-cyclical acquisitions, have had a lasting positive impact on the business. This also includes the acquisition of FAM Magdeburg. This expands the BEUMER Group's portfolio in bulk solids technology.

"We are only successful with a deep understanding of our customers' business and processes," Rudolf Hausladen is convinced. "This is the key to understanding their challenges and being able to offer the best solutions for them."

Rudolf Hausladen wants to use this knowledge and also strategically align the BEUMER Group's digital offering with the ever-growing market requirements. Customers should benefit from clear added value through smart software solutions. The aim is to achieve the best possible results in optimising customer processes, for example in e-commerce, in the CEP sector, in materials handling technology or in baggage handling at airports. Data analytics is playing an increasingly important role in generating further information in real time. "The demand for software solutions in intralogistics is immense and will continue to increase in the coming years," adds Hausladen.

www.beumer.com.

RTITB Instructor Academy appoints Laura Mack as Manager



The RTITB Instructor Academy is pleased to announce the appointment of Laura Mack as Instructor Academy Manager, following a recent team restructure.

In her new role, Laura will be managing the RTITB Instructor Academy's team of Instructors and customer support team. She will manage the coordination, preparation, and delivery of training activities, both at the Academy, and at employers' premises.

Laura has vast industry experience. She worked for eight years as a Freight Transport Agent and Freight Transport Supervisor with Securicor Omega Connect (which later became DHL Freight). Laura has now been working at RTITB for more than 11 years. First as an Operations Administrator, then Customer Services Administration Team leader, and Quality Assurance and Administration Manager.

"In my new role, my aim will be to give our customers a great experience, and to help the team be the best it can be," says Laura. "I enjoy a customer-focused role, and my strengths lie in effective communication,

supporting team members to succeed, and always aiming to exceed our customers' expectations."

As RTITB Instructor Academy Manager, Laura will be conducting regular quality checks to ensure compliance and excellent customer service and support. She will also be responsible for ensuring the Academy's Instructor competency procedure is fully implemented and making sure that policies and procedures are up to date and always fit for purpose.

"Compliance is a hugely important aspect of the RTITB Instructor Academy in terms of all accreditations and memberships the Academy holds," says Laura. "So, maintaining the policies, procedures, and accreditations for the Academy, will be a key focus, as well as facilitating the required audits."

Laura will also be rolling out the use of the MyRTITB TrainingFriend App within the Academy which will make part of the lift truck instructor assessment paperless, as well as reducing training administration time.

In her new role, Laura will be running Academy Standardisation meetings. She will also have responsibility for selecting suppliers, and allocating how resource is utilised. As part of this, she aims to identify and close any skills gaps in the organisation.

Laura's appointment follows a restructure of the RTITB Instructor Academy team to enhance support for customers.

With the new team structure, there is now a dedicated point of contact for customers at every step of the journey. From finding and booking a course, to attending the courses, and any support needed beforehand, during and afterwards.

Following the restructure, former Academy Manager, Simon Docherty, remains integral to the RTITB Instructor Academy, in his new role as Centre Manager. Simon will oversee the fleet, physical resources, risk assessments, and safe systems of work, as well as safety and compliance checks, and delivering Instructor courses.

For more information, visit: www.rtitbacademy.com.

APPOINTMENTS

Beaverswood appoints new Marketing Manager to support growth and International Development

Workplace visual communications and safety specialist Beaverswood has appointed a senior executive to oversee its brand development and product marketing as it invests further in growth and international expansion.

Lizzie Allen joins as marketing manager in a move that will see her working alongside the senior management team on planned strategic growth. Key responsibilities will see her involved in marketing planning, new product launches and integrated digital communications for the company's range of safety, visual communication and waste management solutions for industrial and office workspace environments.

Bringing more than six years' experience and expertise in the industrial safety products sector to the role, she will also be involved in developing Beaverswood's profile and reach across the DACH region (Germany, Austria and Switzerland), where the company is expanding its reseller network operations.

Lizzie Allen's appointment comes as Beaverswood continues to invest in resources and new product development to support business growth through its



resellers and generate end-user demand from warehouse, logistics and distribution centre operators.

In taking up her new position, she believes there are considerable opportunities for the company to build on its strong brand presence, both in the UK and internationally. She said: "I am very excited about the future potential of the business and look forward to developing ambitious marketing plans and initiatives to raise the company's profile and further strengthen its position in the market."

Steph Gentle, marketing director at IVS Group, Beaverswood's parent company, said: "Lizzie will be a great addition to the team as we continue to develop our activity across all markets. We are committed to hiring the best industry talent to support our growth and ambitions, so with her strong experience and track record in marketing and content creation, it's fantastic to have her on board."

More at www.beaverswood.co.uk or tel; 0118 979 6096 or sales@beaverswood.co.uk

ABB launches five axis Delta robot fastest for lightweight product picking, packing & re-orientation

- New FlexPicker® IRB 365 picking robot fastest-in-class for picking and packing applications up to 1.5kg
- Flexibility to be used in a range of applications, from shelf ready packaging to parcel sorting and bottle handling
- Commissioning time reduced from days to hours with ABB PickMaster® Twin software
- ABB is expanding its FlexPicker® Delta robot portfolio with the IRB 365. With five axis and 1.5kg payload, the IRB 365 is both flexible and the fastest in its class for reorientating packaged lightweight products such as cookies, chocolates, peppers, candies, small bottles, and parcels.

Responding to the rise in e-commerce and growing demand for shelf ready packaged goods, the IRB 365 has been developed for applications including food and beverage, pharmaceuticals and consumer goods, where production line speed and adaptability are essential.

“The IRB 365 can pick, reorientate and place 1kg

products at 90 picks per minute,” said Roy Fraser, Global Product Manager for ABB Robotics. “Our customers saw that the growth in online shopping was driving the demand for shelf ready packaged goods, so we developed a new Delta robot that would rise to the challenge. By handling more products per minute, the IRB 365 robot increases productivity, while saving time and energy to make production more efficient.”

From product reorienting, top-loading and secondary packaging, to bottle handling, unscrambling, 3D picking, feeding and parcel sorting, the IRB 365 meets a wide variety of applications. Powered by the OmniCore™ C30 controller - the smallest Delta robot controller on the market - the system offers best-in-class motion control, built-in digital connectivity, and 1000+ additional software hardware functions ready to meet future demands and requirements.

Through ABB's PickMaster® Twin software, the IRB 365 can be integrated into packaging lines

in a matter of hours rather than days, using digital twin technology, which also reduces changeover times from hours to just minutes. As the latest member of ABB's portfolio of robots for picking and packing, the IRB 365 can be paired with other robots including the IRB 390 to pick, handle and pack payloads weighing from a few grammes up to 15kg.

ABB Robotics & Discrete Automation is a pioneer in robotics, machine automation and digital services, providing innovative solutions for a diverse range of industries, from automotive to electronics to

logistics. As one of the world's leading robotics and machine automation suppliers, we have shipped more than 500,000 robot solutions. We help our customers of all sizes to increase productivity, flexibility and simplicity and to improve output quality. We support their transition towards the connected and collaborative factory of the future.

ABB Robotics & Discrete Automation employs more than 11,000 people at over 100 locations in more than 53 countries.
go.abb/robotics



IMHX Success leads to commitment in 2025



September 2022 saw the highly anticipated return of IMHX, the UK's largest intralogistics event, taking place at the Birmingham NEC. The exhibition featured some impressive stands showcasing a range of new products and technologies, conferencing seminars, a sustainability zone, entertainment, and most importantly, some major business.

"The 2022 IMHX exhibition proved a real success for B&B Attachments", comments Mike Barton, Managing Director at B&B Attachments. "The mood of the show was very upbeat, it was great to finally see our customers face to face again. We had an ideal stand position at the entrance to the show hall and the traffic on our stand was constant over the three days."

IMHX 2022 attracted senior executives from some of the leading names in the retail and

manufacturing industries. The show registered thousands of visitors, looking to source new solutions to improve their warehousing operations, stay up to date with the latest industry trends, and grow their professional network.

Mike adds, "We exhibited a wide range of forklift truck attachments on our stand that boost productivity, enhance efficiency, and improve safety."

There was a lot of interest in our new innovations, including electric handling solutions.

The KAUP electrically operated and electrically controlled fork positioner TI60BE, was a main talking point on our stand. This attachment, together with the unveiling of the Open Centre LayerMaster, our latest solution in layer picking and depalletising, created quite a buzz on the stand."

Mike continues, "The quality of the enquiries we received was of a very high standard. The visitors that came to our stand, came with a purpose to discuss the many advantages of our handling solutions, and were ready to do business."

"As an exhibitor we were able to capitalise on some brilliant opportunities and came away with many new prospects which our team are now following up. As result of the success from the exhibition we have already re-booked for 2025 and can't wait for another great show. Thank you to everyone that visited our stand and to Informa for organising a brilliant event."

For more information about B&B Attachments material handling solutions contact the team on 01670 737373 info@bandbattachments.com

www.bandbattachments.com

A snug fit - STILL e-forklift family welcomes the compact RXE 10-16C

STILL UK has launched the RXE 10-16C, a successor to its highly successful STILL RX 50, one of the best-selling electric forklift trucks in its class.

The new RXE 10-16C arrives as the smallest member of the electric forklift family, powered by lead-acid or lithium-ion batteries. It strikes the right balance between driving comfort, manoeuvrability and safety while moving loads of up to 1.6 tonnes in the tightest of spaces.

At a height of just under two metres and being less than a metre wide, the three-wheel counterbalance truck fits safely through doors or narrow aisles in the warehouse aided by very sensitive steering.

The RXE 10-16C does not lack for power either, having a top speed of 12.5 km/h when loaded. For safety, especially when manoeuvring in tighter spaces, Curve Speed Control assistance comes as standard equipment.

Jürgen Wrusch, product expert for electric forklift trucks at STILL GmbH, says: "Despite its compact dimensions, the RXE 10-16C lifts half a tonne to a height of almost seven metres without any effort.

"That is a very impressive accomplishment for a small forklift truck. This is made possible by the particularly low centre of gravity and the extra



rigid design of the slim lift mast."

The RXE 10-16C fits. Even when things get dynamic. This compact vehicle is equipped with the proven Curve Speed Control as standard.

Other safety features include protective roof bars that offer the driver the best possible view of people or objects nearby.

There are also equipment options available to enhance safety - from Safety Light 4Plus lighting, a lift height indicator, stability assistant or overload detection.

The new truck gets its power from a rear-wheel, three-phase AC drive in 24-volt technology,

based on the FM-X reach truck. A major advantage is that the steering chain has been replaced by hydraulic gear steering, reducing maintenance costs. The rear counterweight also now offers more space for the electrical system, including the drive control.

Charging access for an RXE 10-16C powered by lead-acid batteries is straightforward and, as with the RX 50, battery changes are from the side via a lift truck. Existing lead-acid batteries from the RX 50 can be used in the new RXE with just a change of battery plug.

Naturally, the RXE 10-16C is available with a Lithium-Ion Ready

option with integrated quick charging access. A STILL Li-Ion battery can also be retrofitted. Following RX family tradition, the RXE 10-16C has inherited from its bigger siblings the high ergonomic standards, innovative operating concept and the smart STILL Easy Control on-board computer, displaying all relevant information and performance functions.

That means operators can switch easily between different load classes because drivers are familiar with control functions across the whole series of STILL electric forklift trucks - RXE 10-16C, RX 20 and RX 60.

www.still.de



Linde Materials Handling

launches new electric 10-18-tonne forklift range as the answer to higher diesel costs



Leading materials handling solutions provider Linde has unveiled a new range of electric heavy trucks in response to the rising cost of diesel fuel and new restrictions on the use of red diesel in the UK.

Linde's new E100 – E180 electric heavy forklift trucks are available with lithium-ion or lead acid batteries. That extra flexibility means that customers pay only for the technology they need, reducing the cost of moving to an electric fleet.

The new range offers a lift capacity of 10 to 18 tonnes with a variety of lift masts and attachments and can operate at speeds of up to 25kph, making

them suitable for most heavy applications.

They have become an even more attractive option for UK users since the government's decision to roll back the longstanding rebate on red diesel for all but a few sectors from April 2022. The estimated cost increase is around 47p per litre.

For businesses who have come to rely on this historic subsidy, this poses a difficult question. Do they continue to use their existing fleet and take the hit of the increased cost of diesel – or pay a premium to switch over to EVs?

Until recently, EVs have not been suited to some heavier

applications. Many vehicles are also needed for longer shifts where there is not always time for 'opportunity charging' of their lithium-ion batteries.

Manu Patel, heavy trucks specialist at Linde Materials Handling, says: "The new Linde range addresses a lot of historic concerns around EV for heavy applications.

"Users will also benefit from lower levels of noise and no exhaust emissions. For businesses who have been used to diesel vehicles, going electric can have the bonus of dramatically improving the working environment."

<https://www.linde-mh.co.uk>



New Website for Forklift Attachment firm as it expands its Global Reach



One of the UK's leading forklift attachment firms is celebrating ongoing business growth with the launch of a brand new website, designed to improve access to its range of standard, economy, and custom-made products.

Contact Attachments, which is celebrating its 48th anniversary this year, has undertaken a complete redesign of its website to offer clients and prospective customers a more convenient, user-friendly experience.

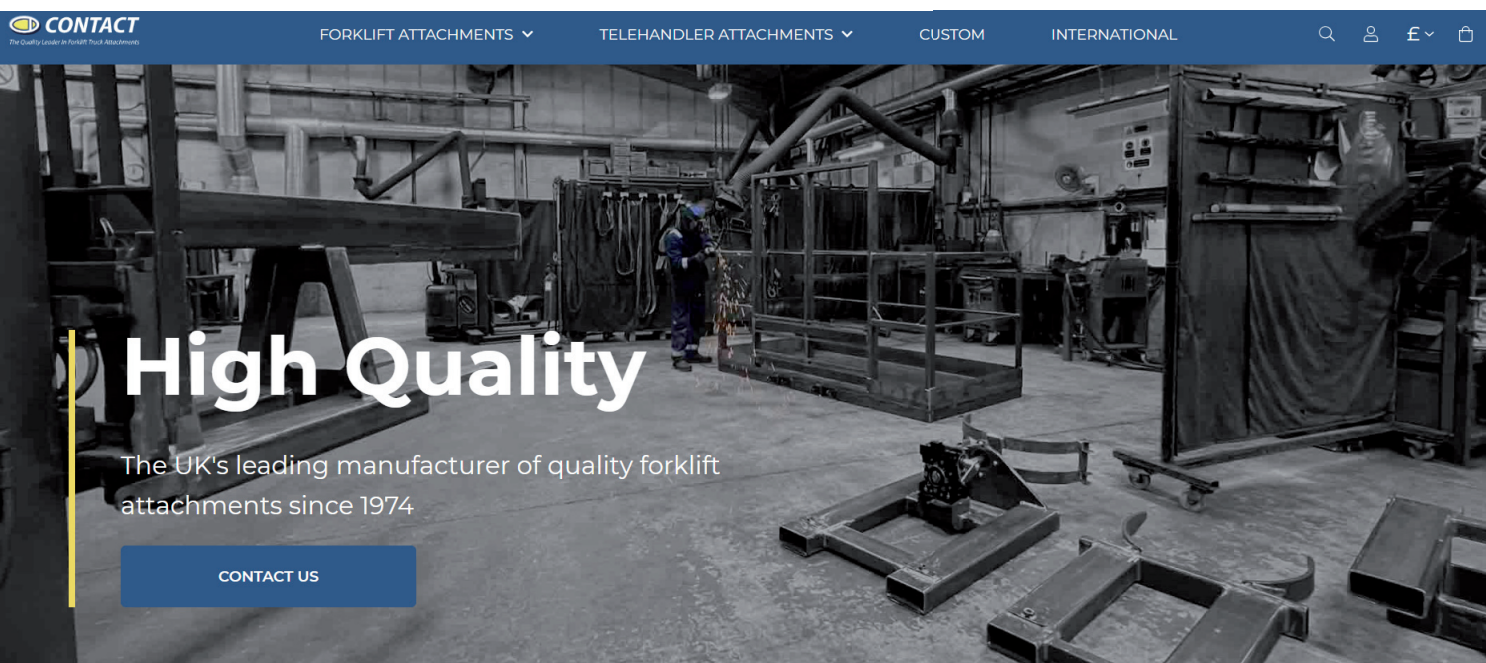
Jason Cadman of Contact Attachments, explained: "The launch of our new website couldn't have come at a better time as we continue to grow our market across the UK and around the world. The host of online functions we've added demonstrates our commitment to focusing on our clients' ever-changing needs."

"We're really proud of the new site which includes lots of exciting features to make it easier for customers to find products, choose from our standard, economy or bespoke range. It's also been made much more accessible for browsing on-the-go by being compatible with all mobile devices."

"To mark the new website launch after months of development, we're also pleased to be offering 15% discount on any online purchase with the discount code LAUNCH15 until the end of October."

Contact Attachments has been designing and manufacturing forklift truck attachments from its base in Newtown, Mid Wales, since 1974 and is recognised as the quality leader of truck attachments in the UK.

www.forklift-attachments.co.uk



Focus on people drives success for Utz Group

Celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, the Utz Group believes that – in addition to its technological innovation and local service – it is the company's culture of focusing on people and fostering a sense of community that drives its success.

With 1350 employees across 8 locations on 3 continents, Utz is the global market leader for returnable packaging. The company, which manufactures over 20 million products a year and is achieving annual growth of 10-12%, takes pride in promoting a sense of family.

"Our commitment to developing, recognising and rewarding talent," comments Russell Evans, General Manager of Georg Utz Ltd, "means that we are successful in retaining our creative and hard-working employees. With our clients seeking packaging solutions customised to their unique needs, the expertise and experience of our staff are highly valued. We offer a range of opportunities for professional development – including digital training through the Utz Academy – and ensure that we provide attractive financial incentives and benefits, including an annual profit-sharing scheme."

Family ethos

One of the UK subsidiary's long-serving employees is Shaun Batty, Maintenance & Facility Manager, who has just clocked up 15 years with Utz. When he joined the company as Maintenance Engineer, he was alone in the department but now leads a team of 11, overseeing day-to-day operations in maintenance and the toolroom. Seven technicians maintain and repair machinery at the company's



Russell Evans, General Manager of Georg Utz Ltd,

factory in Alfreton, Derbyshire – which recently took delivery of its tenth injection-moulding machine – while four employees in the toolroom produce and service tools to meet production requirements. "My role is interesting, challenging and very rewarding," says Shaun Batty. "I've been fully supported from day one in a company that holds family values close to its heart and has the utmost confidence in its employees. I think the fact that I've been here for 15 years speaks for itself!"

Apprenticeships

Training and professional development have always been a high priority at Utz. As the UK subsidiary has grown considerably since being established in 1990, it has relied in part on growing talent through apprenticeships. "Over the past seven years," explains Russell Evans, "we've participated in the scheme operated by the Automated Material Handling Systems Association (AMHSA)

in partnership with automotive manufacturer, Toyota. We currently have three apprentices who have just completed their studies, one who is yet to finish and a further two joining us shortly."

One of the apprentices at Georg Utz Ltd is Shaun Batty's son, Finley. Aged 19, he is working in the toolroom and completing his course through day release at West Nottinghamshire College. Finley has been with Utz for three years now and is really enjoying his apprenticeship. "It's great to learn new skills," he says, "and gain wider knowledge of both engineering and toolmaking. The best thing about working for Utz is definitely the people I work with – colleagues are always willing to help and share their knowledge. As a hands-on type of person, I've really learned a lot from training on the job."

Celebrations for 75-year anniversary

Utz recently held a group-wide conference to mark its 75-year milestone. Every employee was invited to the celebration, which attracted a total of 650 participants from around the world, including around one third of the UK team. Taking place over two days at Europa-Park, Germany's largest theme park, the event culminated in a huge gala dinner party with live music, entertainment and presentations.

Further celebrations will take place in the UK when Georg Utz Ltd holds a Family Fun Day in late August. Taking place at Derbyshire Cricket Club, the event will see employees and their families meeting to enjoy food, drink and entertainment. www.utzgroup.com

Stertil Koni SKYLIFT - 'Best ever' investment' says Avenley Engineering

Following the recent installation of a Stertil Koni heavy-duty vehicle lift at its premises at Tonbridge in Kent, Avenley Engineering has described the acquisition as the best investment they've made in the business.

Established 10 years ago, Avenley Engineering has earned an enviable reputation for its work on a wide range of unusual vehicles which include tarmac machines weighing up to 20 tonnes. Since the installation of the Stertil Koni SKYLIFT 250, the company has been able to increase production and ensure improved safety.

Stertil Koni's rugged and adaptable SKYLIFT 250 provides a safe lifting capacity of 25 tonnes and has been developed to offer a unique combination of efficiency, versatility and safety. Whether for working on tractor units or articulated bendi-buses, with available platform lengths from seven up to 14.5 metres, there's a SKYLIFT for most requirements. Even with the longest platform, only two lifting legs are required and each leg has its own measuring device, ensuring smooth and level synchronisation to within 15mm. Three options for lifting capacity – 20, 25 and

35 tonnes – increase the range of specifications available and the generous lifting height of 1.75 metres (reached in just 89 seconds) offers comfortable working conditions for operators. Perhaps the most significant feature of the SKYLIFT, though, is its ability to fit into narrow bays thereby enabling workshops to optimise their usable space.

In common with all Stertil Koni products, safety is paramount. The SKYLIFT has an independent mechanical locking system, which is always active - from when the lift is at its lowest level, right up to maximum height. The SKYLIFT's two lifting legs and its lack of crossbeams or base frame, provide unrivalled working space beneath and unobstructed access from all sides of the vehicle. Easily installed, the SKYLIFT requires minimal maintenance and can be recessed or surface-mounted, according to individual applications.

Operating throughout a daily 10 hour working shift, Avenley Engineering carries out extensive repairs, servicing and overhauls on a wide variety of vehicles including asphalt paving machines. Since its installation, the Stertil Koni SKYLIFT 250 has been in

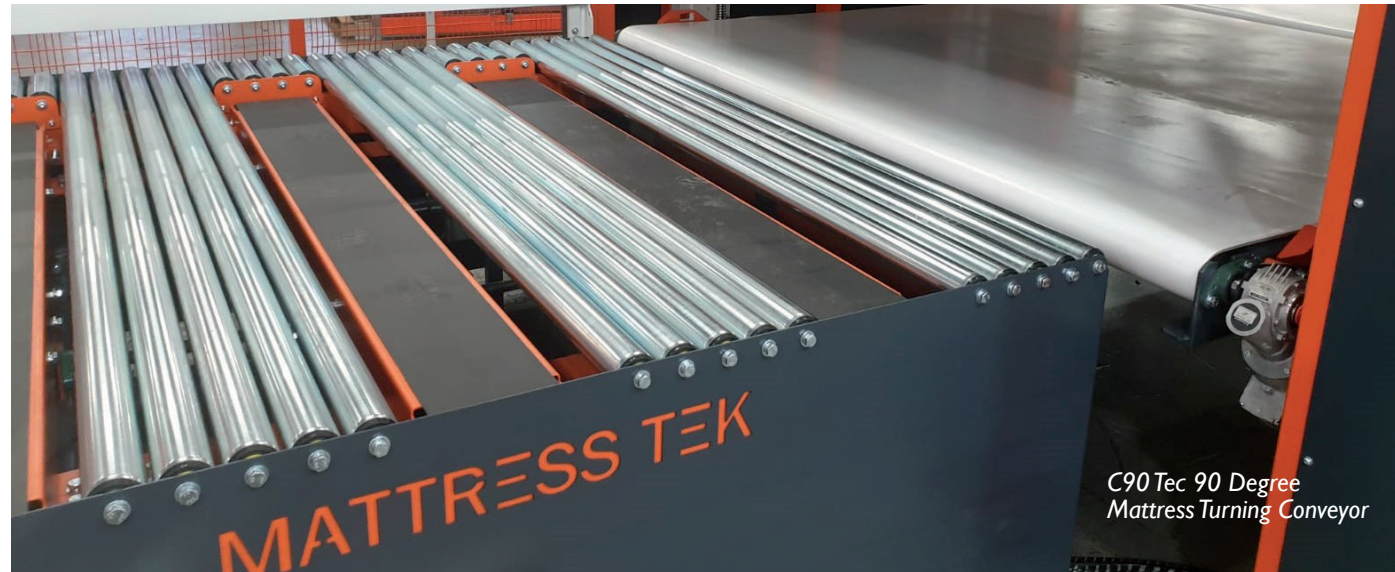
constant use and was specified with a range of options including modular, sectional approach ramps to accommodate vehicles of different heights and to prevent low clearance vehicles 'grounding' when accessing the lift. Full lighting and compressed air outlets were also specified and a jacking beam was supplied to simplify the lifting and supporting of components that need to be accurately positioned and bolted into position.

"Having used a Stertil Koni 4-post lift previously at one of our clients' premises, I was impressed by the lift's quality and ease of use," says Paul Hutchison, Director at Avenley Engineering. "However, we decided that a scissor type of lift would be more suitable for our requirements. We looked at competitors' scissor lifts but felt that, due to the fact that these were supplied and maintained by a third party, we wanted to just deal with one company. Stertil Koni not only manufactured and installed the SKYLIFT, they also provide a comprehensive after-sales service."

Stertil UK Limited
Tel: 01604 662049
Email: lifts@stertil.co.uk
www.stertilkoni.co.uk



Automation is the way forward for the manufacturing world



British machinery manufacturer MattressTek has established itself as a leader in the provision of machinery for the mattress industry, with successful export across the US, Mexico, Europe and Australia, and that also includes foam processing.

MattressTek Directors, Shaun Peel and Michael Birtwistle, have over 40 years worth of combined experience in the industry and are strong advocates for automation in production lines, supporting the inevitable transition to digital manufacturing, Industry 4.0, efficiency and sustainability, as well as dealing with the labour shortage the industry is facing.

“Automation is the way forward” Technical Director Shaun explains. “We are always keen to explore where we can reduce and prevent issues from occurring, in the early stages of our assessment of customer lines, as well as streamlining production, increasing capacity and saving time by speeding up the process.”

With a team made up from a mix of designers and engineers, its positioning as a provider

of quality, robust and reliable machines and conveyors has contributed to their success in America, Europe and even Australia, with installations of production lines for the bed industry and beyond.

“Innovation and problem-solving are at our core, and this has led to investment in a number of areas of the business. With a focus on minimizing downtime for manufacturers; preventing bottlenecks and ensuring the most efficient use of time and resources, we help to identify areas of improvement for our customers across the globe, whether that is a lack of space or reduced workforce.”

Fellow Director, Michael Birtwistle, highlights the benefits of their offering in supporting automation:

“There are a whole host of machines needed to help manufacturers to make their products - positioning, stuffing, stitching, sewing, unbaling, gluing, turning, flipping, inspecting and packing. Our machines meet those needs and allow seamless addition into any existing production lines, many

being built bespoke to specific requirements.”

“This means that there is minimal disruption during installation, which is also done by our expert fitters. Automating the production process also helps to deal with the labour lag the industry is currently facing.”

Michael continues: “We have developed and refined our machines, with regard to the design, hardware and programmable technology, allowing us to adapt them to fit into limited space at factories, as well as incorporating sensors to flag up when material runs out or threads break, for example.”

Some of MattressTek’s recently developed machines include its Stacker and Stuffer, as well as 90/180 degree turning and flipping inspection and straight-line belt and roller driven conveyors.

They are also working on a roll packing machine that will allow an operator to feed pocket springs or a complete foam mattress in, as it is pressed, rolled and wrapped, ready to pack or transport on a pallet.

Machines such as the Hot Glue Bridge, which applies glue to foam buns and layers mattress filling components before they are pressed together by the Tamping machine, are also getting attention, meaning they are ready to further meet the needs of their customers across the globe, driving exports, as well as satisfying their UK clients too.

Backed by its reputation for quality, servicing and the fulfilment of repairs, MattressTek’s development has also included expansion of its team in various areas including fabrication, installation and electrical, as well as supporting the design and build teams.

This has coincided with other internal investments too: “We have been able to attract local skilled workers, tripling our workforce over the last two years. Adding to this growth, we have invested in internal processes and systems to make it a safe, efficient and enjoyable place to work.

“We have invested in a Material and Resource Planning system to streamline, track and plan production and resourcing, which



will support the sustained global export of our range. We have also aligned our marketing to showcase the full product range and our development, taking on a full-time member of the team.”

Shaun said: “We have added the full range of machines and conveyors to our website and created downloadable technical product sheets for all of the products and a catalogue too. We are working to present case studies of previous and ongoing projects, in the UK and US, to show our versatility and the bespoke design and build offering.”

Although they are busy fulfilling

orders of our customers throughout the UK, 70% of their production is exported across the globe and this spread will continue to grow.

“Growth has been pretty rapid, attributed to the onboarding of staff members and the development of existing products and processes, along with the introduction and development of new machines. We will continue to export to our customers across the US, Europe, Mexico and the UK, as well as having a presence at bed industry, machinery, automation and manufacturing events too.”

www.mattresstek.co.uk

HellermannTyton launches 2023 products in new catalogue

Cable management specialist HellermannTyton has released new products in its latest product catalogue for 2022/2023.

The new catalogue showcases HellermannTyton's entire portfolio of industry-specific product ranges including Fastening and Fixings, Identification, Application Tooling, Electrical Installation and Insulation &

Protection, all of which feature tailor-made technologies designed to meet the unique demands of the various industries that HellermannTyton serves.

The catalogue also provides insight into HellermannTyton's latest product launches. This includes the Soft Grip Series which provides flexible fastening options for fluid management, the all-new HelaCon Plus Resealable

Connectors for electrical installations, and the EVO KR manual tensioning tool which works as an application tool to offer high vibration resistance ideal for the rail and automotive industries—to name just a few.

The comprehensive catalogue features a digital upgrade on its predecessors with QR codes and URLs at the bottom of each product page enabling customers

to visit a product's dedicated page on the HellermannTyton website as well as save their favourite products to their personal Watchlist to keep in mind for later purchases. To simplify the customer journey, customers can download their Watchlist as an excel list, add desired quantities, and request a quote.

John Banks, Head of Product Management and Marketing at HellermannTyton, says: "We are delighted to announce the launch of our latest product catalogue which gives our customers, both new and established, an insight into the products we are introducing across our product ranges.

"We have made digital advancements to this year's catalogue to improve the catalogue's useability which is an example of our commitment to improving our solutions to help our customers and make their jobs that little bit easier by using our products."

To view the catalogue as a digital edition please visit:
<https://www.hellermanntyton.co.uk/downloads/product-catalogue>

Or to order a print copy please visit:
<https://www.hellermanntyton.co.uk/contact-order-catalogue?contactref=/>



Fuel Hazards In The Workplace

All types of hazards within a workplace must be managed to ensure that both employees and customers are safe. Fuel is classified as a hazard in a wide variety of workplaces that may have the substance on-site for a variety of reasons, from refuelling vehicles or machinery, to storing fuel tanks for shipments. This article will look into why fuel is so hazardous in workplaces, how to regulate risk, and a few risks associated with having fuel on your premises.

Why is fuel a hazard?

There are many hazards that the storage and use of fuel within a workplace can create. Because of the flammable nature of a variety of different fuels, there are fire safety concerns. However, there are also potential risks to those who handle the substances or inhale the vapours.

Who regulates employers in relation to fuel safety?

Within the UK, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) regulates employers in order to prevent death, injury or ill health by publishing health and safety guidance, undertaking inspections and investigations, plus prosecuting offending employers

who break the health and safety laws. The HSE also enforces the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) legislation, which requires employers to safely manage the risks associated with having dangerous substances onsite.

What industries would need to adhere to COSHH legislation in relation to fuel?

The management of the risks associated with having fuel onsite or as part of a business's process would impact an array of businesses, for example:

- Agriculture – this industry is likely to use fuel for large farming machinery
- Engineering – this industry could use fuel within the manufacturing processes for operating machinery
- Offshore industries – this sector is responsible for extracting and the transporting and shipping of oil.

The above list provides a few examples of industries that are likely to use, refine or store fuel within their everyday operations, however, is not an extensive list. In fact, COSHH legislation is likely to impact most businesses in relation to fuel, at various times.

What type of incidents could occur in relation to fuel within the workplace?

Unfortunately, there are many types of incidents that could occur within a workplace that extract fuel, store fuel or utilise fuel within their operational processes. It's crucial that businesses are able to prioritise safety at work and minimise risk and harm. The following list provides possible incidents, as well as preventative measures that could be put in place to control or mitigate the risks.

Fuel spills or leaks can occur from a leaking tank or an accident when moving fuel between containers. Spills can cause many hazards from the risk of fire, danger to the environment depending on the size and location of the spill, plus the risk of causing slips or falls from those either unaware of the spill or attempting to clean up the spill.

The size and location of the fuel spill will determine the action needed to be taken, however, in the first instance, check the site protocols or the HSE guidance. Companies like Northern Storage Solutions have a variety of spill control and spill containment

solutions which can help to manage any fuel leaks or spills in the workplace which could be a hazard.

Chemical burns are another workplace hazard which employees have to be aware of when handling fuel on a regular basis.

Different fuel substances will have varying results should they touch the skin either directly or by seeping through inadequate personal protective equipment

(PPE). COSHH guidance should be followed when handling each type of fuel, however, in the scenario where chemical burns have taken place, seek medical assistance immediately.

Fumes from fuel stored or burnt incorrectly are just some of the workplace fuel risks that occur from storing or burning fuels. Guidance should be followed for the relevant type of fuel, which may include wearing masks, however, if there is any concern that fumes have been inhaled

and the individual is unwell, seek immediate medical help. Burns or damage to the eyes can occur depending on how the fuel is handled. Fuel will have different risks depending on its state, for example, when stored or when burning. The COSHH guidance should be followed when using fuels appropriately, which may include wearing appropriate workwear and PPE including goggles, however, should any substance reach the eyes in any state, seek medical assistance immediately.



Stertil Combilok ensures safety for global drinks supplier

Following a recommendation from its systems integrator, one of the world's leading drinks businesses specified the Combilok vehicle restraint system to improve safety and speed up operations within a loading bay at its distribution centre in Scotland.

Supplied and installed by Stertil Dock Products, the Combilok was installed within a loading bay supporting the handling of kegs into and out of the company's production and distribution facilities. All vehicle loading and unloading operations are undertaken by a fleet of fork trucks fitted with special keg handling clamps. During these operations, the Combilok eliminates the possibility of vehicle movement including 'creep' and careless 'drive offs' thereby preventing accidents and ensuring total safety.

Communication between drivers and distribution personnel in loading bays can be poor. The Combilok was developed exclusively to reduce the risk of unintentional vehicle movement on loading bays and offers a 'safety net' against poor communication by holding vehicles in one place until loading or unloading is completed. Not only does this improve safety, it also eliminates damage to expensive goods and equipment and helps guard against theft.

During operation, the Combilok is fully interlocked: the loading bay door cannot be opened until the Combilok is in position and the Combilok cannot be released until the door is closed again and it is safe to drive away. Totally automatic in operation, the Combilok also overcomes any language difficulties that may arise with drivers delivering from all over the world.

Providing unrivalled efficiency and reliability, the Combilok helps companies to fulfil their health and safety obligations in loading bays. The system accommodates most types of commercial vehicles including those with 'tail lifts' and its ease of assembly on smooth surfaces like stelcon plates means that it's ideal for both new and existing sites. Stertil Dock Products has also designed the Combilok system with a minimal number of moving parts thus making it safe, simple and inexpensive both to install and maintain.

Typically, the Scottish goods in/ goods out warehouse operates throughout 16 hours a day, five days a week, supported by the Stertil Combilok.

"Our Combilok vehicle restraint

system has been relied upon in busy loading bays throughout the world for over 25 years," says Andy Georgiou, General Manager of Stertil Dock Products. "In fact, such has been the success of the original model that we have recently introduced our latest generation, fully-patented Combilok G2 version which will ensure our continued dominance of the global loading bay equipment market by setting new standards of performance, reliability and safety."

Link to video of the new Combilok G2: <https://www.stertilcombilokg2.com/uk/>

For further details contact Stertil UK Limited
Tel: 0870 770 0471
Email: ageorgiou@stertil.co.uk
www.stertil-dockproducts.co.uk



Rite-Hite GmbH certified as a "Great Place to Work®"



Rite-Hite, a global leader in loading bay safety and energy management solutions, has been certified as a Great Place to Work® for its business in Germany, confirming its status as an employer of choice within the logistics industry.

Great Place to Work® accreditation is only awarded to those businesses that can actively demonstrate and measure excellence in how they treat and manage employees in a fair and respectful manner, and in creating a corporate culture that embraces openness, transparency and trust.

Christina Myschi, Head of Human Resources (HR) for Rite-Hite Germany, says that the satisfaction and motivation of its employees is the foundation of Rite-Hite's success: "Through their involvement in change processes and the introduction of lean management methods, our corporate culture has advanced significantly in recent years," she explains. "Our corporate values are based on trust, fairness and teamwork, among other things, and these are reflected in our management culture. Learning and continuous improvement are also key, and we want to become even better as an employer. The Great Place to Work® accreditation

is a testament to the progress we have made so far, but we are always striving to do more."

Great Place to Work® is one of the leading providers of employee surveys worldwide. In Germany alone, Great Place to Work® works with more than 700 companies of all sectors and sizes every year, which undergo a voluntary audit of the quality and attractiveness of their workplace culture by the independent Great Place to Work® Institute. Components include independent, anonymous feedback from employees as well as the analysis of HR policies and programmes. <https://info.ritehite.com/en/eu/>

Renovotec

forms partnership with Social Mobile

- Social Mobile's fast-to-market mobility solutions will support Renovotec's rapid expansion in doorstep delivery and field service markets
- Target sectors for the new partnership include transportation, logistics, healthcare, retail and hospitality

Supply chain hardware, software and services company Renovotec has formed a partnership with enterprise mobility solutions specialist Social Mobile, the two companies announced today. Renovotec says the move will support its rapid expansion in doorstep delivery and field service markets.

Social Mobile provides mobility solution design and manufacturing services that bring innovative, enterprise-grade devices to market quickly and efficiently. The US-based company is an Android Enterprise certified partner that has deployed over 11 million devices worldwide, and was recently named as one of the 'Inc. 5000' fastest growing companies in America. Social Mobile devices are all made exclusively for global enterprise and are Google Mobile Services (GMS) certified.

Target sectors for the new partnership include transportation, logistics,

healthcare, retail and hospitality, amongst others. Renovotec will distribute Social Mobile solutions in the UK and Ireland, providing support across the region.

"We select our partners for the value they bring to our marketplace and for the benefits of their products for our users" says Renovotec CEO Richard Gilliard. "Social Mobile is also notable for its strong focus on R&D and its speed of delivery from requirement to build."

"Renovotec is a leader in the enterprise mobility space" says Social Mobile founder and CEO Robert Morcos. "They are the ideal partner to propel us into new markets and strengthen our foothold in Europe, where we can be a reliable supplier of rugged, enterprise devices and private label solutions to their customers."

<https://socialmobile.com>.

www.renovotec.com



Union Industries

leads the way in combating supply chain issues

Union Industries, the Leeds-based manufacturer of high-speed industrial doors, has increased its stock levels even further to allow minimal lead times for production of its door range and replacement parts.

The driver behind this has been the 12% increase Union has seen in orders from companies looking to replace foreign made doors.

A common problem with some manufacturers of fast rolling shutter doors is the lack of spare or replacement parts with many having particularly long lead times – one recent customer citing 21 weeks for spares to arrive

into the UK from Germany. This problem has been increasing in recent years due to factors such as Brexit with some doors installed in the UK manufactured in Europe, it leads to both new and replacement parts being harder to source.

However, Union Industries prides itself on its low lead time and ensures there are sufficiently high stock levels to manufacture a minimum of 25 doors at any one time. Stock is replenished daily and spare parts for standard door servicing are always readily available for immediate dispatch.

Parts that require more bespoke

manufacturing can be entered into production within a matter of days, meaning that disruption can be kept to an absolute minimum.

Union's Operations Director, Tony Metcalfe said "We have seen an increase in orders to replace foreign import doors in the UK which this is mainly down to the long lead times for spares and repairs, along with more demand for our reliable and British manufactured doors."

"We maintain high stock levels to ensure we have a consistently efficient service line and can deliver replacement parts to our customers within 24 hours of the initial order in many cases."

Alan Hirst, Sales Director, Union Industries said "Our business has always tailored itself to the needs of our customer base. We pride ourselves on listening to what our customers' challenges are and helping them with the right solution, so this is a fantastic example of how Union Industries is yet again leading the way in the supply chain. We are proud to be a British manufacturer of robust and reliable industrial rapid roller doors that have the most minimal downtime due to the quality of the design and build as well as our ability to service and replace parts rapidly."

www.unionindustries.co.uk



Framo Morat develops gearboxes and drives for automated guided vehicles

Framo Morat hub gears and hub drives prove their worth in automated guided vehicles that ensure maximum efficiency and reliability in distributing goods, packages, and components in warehouses, package distribution centers, and production halls.

Flexible, efficient, and reliable. Today's intralogistics have to be all of these to be able to meet the requirements of shorter product life cycles, faster delivery times, and greater turnover rates with shrinking batch sizes. Many companies therefore rely on innovative automation solutions that ensure a standardized and automated flow of material around the clock. One example of such solutions is the automated guided vehicle (AGV), also known as the autonomous mobile robot (AMR). They are the cornerstone of an automated warehouse. Controlled by intelligent software and communication, they improve the efficiency of material flow and contribute to end-to-end optimization of the value chain.

The right drive

A central component of an automated guided vehicle is the right gearbox. After all, nothing runs (or drives) without it. Framo Morat is well aware of this. With 110 years of experience in developing custom drive solutions, the company recognized early on the need for gearbox designs for automated guided vehicles. Framo Morat knew they were the obvious starting point for entering the AGV market segment. This was based on numerous successfully implemented gearbox projects in the field of intralogistics as



Felix Kneipp

well as their own experience in modernizing their in-house warehouse and logistics concepts.

The NG250 and NG500 hub gears, which are available in single- and two-stage designs based on a modular system, were the result of this undertaking. The NG250 lends itself to smaller AGVs. The single-stage version has a total gear length of 62.5 mm and a standard wheel size of 125 mm, and it can handle a load of up to 250 kg per wheel. In terms of compactness, the NG500 also has an impressive total gear length of 64 mm and a standard wheel size of 160 mm. With a wheel load of up to 500 kg, this is meant for larger vehicles. When it comes to gears, Framo Morat has unlocked the maximum power density of the hub gears. They prove their worth, particularly in wheel drives for automated guided vehicles, thanks to their

favourable arrangement of the separate wheel bearings and the integration of the planetary gear in the PUR wheel.

From the first customer solutions...

Being the individual components they are, the gearboxes are just one part of the automated guided vehicle. As such, the logical next step was to work together with a longtime partner in motors to offer the first complete system for the drivetrain. "Depending on customer demands, renowned motor manufacturers have developed and established as standard either high-performance systems for transporting heavy loads or compact solutions that can be put in limiting spaces," Felix Kneipp explains with excitement. He is responsible for business development in the hub drive / intralogistics division at the Black Forest gear and drive

specialist. Framo Morat drew on its experience developing drives to adapt the solutions for seamless application in a variety of different motors. Thanks to the modular principle, economic efficiency can be maintained despite system differences.

...to their own system solution

Their own automated guided vehicle system solution was the obvious next step following successful customer projects. "Our focus was no longer just on a matched power density for the gearbox, but also for the motor and the electronics. We also wanted to develop a drive unit for which the load capacity and dynamic requirements were reliable for the entire service life of the AGV," explains Kneipp.

Out of this came a highly integrated and powerful wheel hub drive. Based on the NG500, it unites all the functional elements into an all-inclusive solution. The modular and scalable system is a true jack of all trades that features impressively high and targeted performance in the smallest of spaces. With this, AGV manufacturers have a system matched to the application, yielding either more compact vehicles with the same load capacity or increased usable installation space for batteries and electronics.

Furthermore, customizations on the load capacity, torque, interfaces, sensors, and control profiles can be made upon request. Through the high degree of in-house vertical integration for the gear components, freedom in defining the motor characteristics, and having their own assembly team, Framo Morat can also make short delivery times a reality for the wheel hub drives.

"The drive can be used in all different AGVs. Whether in automated warehouses, in production for distributing parts, packaging, and components, or as a drive unit for disinfection robots or vehicles for pharmaceutical



transport in medical facilities. All of this makes it interesting for vehicle manufacturers from all different sectors," says Kneipp.

Continued demand for custom developments

In addition to system solutions, there is also continued interest in custom AGV solutions. The acquired expertise in the market segment of hub gears and drives as well as their decades of experience in the development and production of individual drive systems for a multitude of customers and industries has been an advantage for Framo Morat. "Core competence is important in custom developments, especially for applications that can't be serviced by the typical systems," Kneipp explains. "That's why it's a given for us also to offer our customers individualized solutions upon request."

Their vertical integration allows Framo Morat to produce initial prototypes very quickly and economically. But Framo Morat is thinking even beyond custom developments. "We're always considering how we can draw on current market trends to create universal in-house developments so that other applications and big players in the intralogistics sector can also benefit," says Kneipp.

The latest example is the drive for lift trucks and small forklifts based on the speeroX gear. The system

consists of a high-performance electric motor, a helical-cut spur gear stage, and a speeroX gear set as an angle stage. Compared with existing systems, the new development has an outstanding efficiency, power density, dynamics, durability, and system performance. "This makes the speeroX particularly attractive to manufacturers of lift trucks and small forklifts," Kneipp says.

The speeroX gear is a proprietary development of Framo Morat that allows for a high gear ratio and power flow around the corner in just one stage. The gear set relocates the gearing of the wheel to the flat side.

The favorable spatial arrangement of the spiral-toothed wheel and as the modified worm gear allow for a markedly smaller installation space compared with conventional gear designs. The speeroX gear set is also quiet and features high efficiency with a long service life.

Future automated guided vehicle market

At Framo Morat, they know that automated guided vehicles are part of the future and that, in just a few years, they will be indispensable in intralogistics. That's why the company is continuing to focus on developing custom solutions as well as their own drive concepts for AGVs.

www.franz-morat.com

Fenton Packaging Solutions introduces sustainable alternative for bulk storage and dispensing

The UN bag-in-box (BiB) containers from Fenton Packaging Solutions offer a sustainable flatpack alternative to traditional rigid bulk liquid packaging. BiB provides all the benefits of a rigid container coupled with flexible sustainability in respect of transportation and storage requirements.

“Swapping to bag-in-box delivers major benefits, reduces costs, and improves a carbon footprint of a business,” says Fenton Packaging Solutions Sales Development Director Chris Warren.

“Prior to filling, BiB saves up to 40% in warehouse capacity and takes up 90% less transport space, when compared to rigid alternatives. In addition, BiB creates 60% less non-recyclable waste.”

“The plastic reduction is dramatic, as a typical 20 litre UN jerrycan weighs in at around 1,100 grams whereas a 20 litre UN bag with closure weighs in at just 110 grams – potentially offsetting some of the costs associated with the recently introduced 2022 Plastic Packaging Tax.

The advantages don’t stop there. BiB is lighter in weight and easy to handle, plus there’s less risk of spillage when pouring and when using a tap, it is drip-free.”



From left: Fenton Packaging Solutions Sales Development Director Chris Warren with Purchasing and Operations Director David Wilson

“The pallet quantity of bags changes the requirements for a business’s incoming logistics, moving and handling, warehousing, filling, and packing for onward distribution. Using BiB significantly reduces the time and cost associated with the handling of rigid plastic packs.

BiB is available in 5 litre, 10 litre and 20 litre sizes, but as a comparison, one pallet of 10 litre UN bags contains 3,000 bags which is very different to the pallet quantity for 10 litre UN jerrycans.

“It is the cost of acquisition that is interesting to companies adopting BiB products combined with the benefits available to their end customers when the pack enters its end-of-life phase.”

The sustainability advantages of BiB over rigid containers are clear. BiB packs consist of a cardboard box which is easy to recycle once the product has been emptied and a plastic co-polymer cube-shaped bag with gland and closure which weighs in at about 10% of the weight of the equivalent capacity jerrycan.

Cardboard goes into one waste stream and the bag will go into another recycling stream where it exists for the recycling of co-polymer containers. If the bag cannot be recycled it can be processed on the waste to energy ticket.

Exclusive in the UK

“Fenton Packaging Solutions is our chosen and exclusive partner in the UK market, to represent our flexible packaging and our special UN bag-in-box concept,” says CDF Corporation/Quadpak AB Sales and Marketing Director Helena Bysell. “Fenton Packaging Solutions has the knowledge and experience of bag-in-box packaging also for challenging products such as chemicals and other non-food applications, and with a nationwide sales team, the company provides excellent service, support and reliability to customers across the UK.”

BiB – from beverages to bulk

“Most people are familiar with the BiB packaging format, as it has been used in the food industry for many years, for milk, wine, beer and cider,” says Fenton Packaging Solutions Purchasing and Operations Director David Wilson. “BiB is also used in the foodservice sector to supply bulk quantities of product on a B2B basis. But industrial companies in

the detergents, oils & lubricants and more recently the coatings & inks sectors are now considering alternative packs to the traditional rigid plastic jerrycan, with UN BiB being viewed as an alternative to rigid plastics.

“As a consultative business, we are keen to direct our customers to more sustainable packaging solutions and we are recommending BiB as an alternative to existing, traditional rigid packaging.

“The high cost and difficulty of disposal of rigid plastic containers at our end-customers is driving interest, as swapping to BiB supports both the OEM and end-customers’ sustainability goals. Early adopters already include oils and lubricants companies, ad blue producers, professional detergent companies, and more recently manufacturers of coatings.

“UK-based filling machine producers exist, and production equipment is available to support both medium to large volume filling of BiB containers. We are receiving an increasing number of enquiries about BiB for industrial applications, where a UN container is required and as such are talking to companies in a variety of industry sectors.” <https://www.fentonpackaging.co.uk>

Global welding and cutting company WB Alloys first to use new 'Randex VR' system

- Virtual reality and BIM technology used to simulate optimum positioning and performance of Randex vertical storage system in WB Alloys' new, 5,000 SKU storage area
- 'Randex Compact Twin' system delivers higher storage capacity, smaller footprint, faster component retrieval from WB Alloys' one-stop pick face



Leading vertical storage lift company Randex has won the first user for its new 'Randex VR' virtual reality system, which uses digital models to simulate vertical storage space and performance. Global welding and cutting company WB Alloys (www.wballoys.co.uk), which works across the oil and gas, nuclear, marine, renewables, power generation and construction industries has used Randex VR to create a virtual twin of its new warehouse, populating it with virtual racking, office space and a 'Randex Compact Twin' vertical storage system, located in the company's 5,000 SKU storage area. Randex VR has enabled WB Alloys to plan for best machine fit and optimum picking speeds.

Following go-live Randex Compact Twin is now providing higher storage capacity with

a smaller footprint and faster component retrieval from AB Alloys' pick face – speeding the picking process and allowing inventory to be fine-tuned using Randex 'Compact Store' software, according to the company.

Commenting on its first sale of Randex VR, Randex director James Roberts says: "Planning with VR- and BIM-based digital models saves time and money by testing the space and performance of warehouse configurations before installation. This is especially true of vertical storage, whose proven space-saving and performance-boosting benefits can then be fully realised."

Compact vertical storage lifts save up to 90% of floor space compared to standard shelving and pallet racking say Randex. They can manage loads of up to

1.5 metric tonnes per storage tray and allow warehouse operatives to complete up to four times more picks than in a conventional warehouse environment, with goods automatically presented to the picker.

Compact vertical storage lifts can now be integrated with over twenty leading enterprise systems including IBM Maximo, SAP, JDA, Red Prairie and Blue Yonder.

Randex Ltd is the sole UK distributor for Compact Vertical Storage Lifts, manufactured in Sweden by Weland Solutions, a member of the privately owned, global group Weland AB. Randex customers include Bombardier, DHL, Fujifilm, Howdens, Hutchison Ports, Jaguar Land Rover, Ministry of Defence, P&G, Pfizer, Rolls Royce and Specsavers. www.randex.com

ABB wins Red Dot award for FlexPacker industrial Delta robot

ABB's IRB 390 FlexPacker® industrial Delta robot designed for ultra-fast packing has been chosen for the Red Dot Product Design Award - the second ABB robot to receive the prestigious award in two consecutive years.

The global Red Dot Design Awards recognize achievements in product design, with the jury – comprised of over 50 international design experts - testing and evaluating thousands of entries every year. In 2022, the Red Dot Award panel looked for products that showed design quality and a high degree of innovation – attributes that informed the FlexPacker's development from the beginning. The award reflects the importance of design in robotics as more automated solutions are rolled out to collaborate with humans and compliment skilled work to make production safer and more sustainable.

"I am delighted the IRB 390 FlexPacker received this prestigious award," said Marc Segura, President ABB Robotics. "We collaborated closely with our customers and developed a robot that could respond to the demand for more shelf-ready packaged products. As a result, we developed an innovative solution that combined speed, payload and dexterity to help our customers make their lines more flexible and able to handle the growth of low volume, high mix and higher payload production. With its clean, simple and modern aesthetic, the IRB 390 was designed to inspire confidence in users."

The FlexPacker Delta robot was designed specifically for ultra-fast, high payload picking and efficient packaging of goods up to 15kg. During its development, particular



reddot winner 2022



focus was placed on shelf-ready packaging, in which the products can be placed vertically, making it ideal for the food and beverage, pharmaceutical and consumer-packaging segments. Equipped with either four or five axes, the robot's 'tilting' axis enhances its flexibility, making secondary packaging is faster and more efficient.

The FlexPacker's appearance reflects its level of functionality, with its white painted coating making it both aesthetically pleasing but also easy to keep clean. Very few horizontal surfaces and a simple, geometric shape prevents the accumulation of debris, helping it maintain its operational speed and precision.

Praised by the judges for its 'clean design, quality and innovation,' the FlexPacker boasts two new joints, offering greater freedom. The result of a radical redesign of the standard Delta robot's parallel arms, these joints offer increased stiffness to withstand additional loads, allowing the FlexPacker to pick up more or heavier items, or use larger, more sophisticated grippers. The joints are sealed, making them maintenance free for the lifetime of the robot.

The FlexPacker Delta Robot

is the third ABB robot to win the Red Dot design award after GoFaTM collaborative robot in 2021 and YuMi® dual-arm collaborative robot won the award in 2011. With ABB leading the Delta robot segment for over two decades, the FlexPacker is the first industrial Delta robot to win the award and responds to the growing trend for pick and pack solutions, saving space by replacing two six axis robots with a single five axis unit.

ABB Robotics & Discrete Automation is a pioneer in robotics, machine automation and digital services, providing innovative solutions for a diverse range of industries, from automotive to electronics to logistics. As one of the world's leading robotics and machine automation suppliers, we have shipped more than 500,000 robot solutions. We help our customers of all sizes to increase productivity, flexibility and simplicity and to improve output quality. We support their transition towards the connected and collaborative factory of the future. ABB Robotics & Discrete Automation employs more than 11,000 people at over 100 locations in more than 53 countries. go.abb/robotics

It Pays for Pharmaceutical Manufacturers to (Re)Invest in Machine Vision Systems

By Daniel Dombach, Director of Industry Solutions, EMEA, Zebra Technologies



Did you know that eight in 10 patients now expect drug manufacturers to disclose how medications are manufactured, handled, transported and stored?

Not distributors, delivery companies or doctors – drug manufacturers. Moreover, 80% of patients say it's important for manufacturers to verify the sources of medication ingredients, including the country of origin and local standards for the medication itself. These expectations stem from distrust of the pharmaceutical supply chain, including those who manufacture, distribute, prescribe and dispense drugs, as revealed in Zebra's Pharmaceutical Vision Study report, which was published in late 2021.

To me, this patient feedback serves as a call to action to pharma manufacturers to more critically assess how technology decisions are being made and how all technologies are – or are not – being used in factories, warehouses, and other supply chain facilities today, starting with machine vision systems.

Why Machine Vision?

Whatever happens at the point of production impacts all supply chain stakeholders, to include distributors, healthcare providers and patients. The fact that four in 10 patients fear pharmaceutical supply chain issues pose a risk of illness or death is a big red flag that first-mile entities aren't doing enough to set up downstream

parties for the successful storage, distribution and dispensing of drugs.

For example, nine in 10 patients say it's important they be able to confirm temperature sensitive medications have stayed within the prescribed range. But how can manufacturers know for certain that temperature indicators have been properly applied to each bottle or package? Not by assigning a worker to conduct visual inspections. Our eyes often deceive us, even when we're diligently inspecting something.

If we have machine vision systems conducting first-line quality inspections in production facilities, then quality control operators can remain on standby to intercept rejected items and quickly investigate and resolve root issues that led to the rejection.

Seeing What Others Might Miss

Unlike the machine vision systems you may have used in the past, today's smart cameras and intelligent software platforms can be trained via deep learning neural networks to ensure fill levels are precise, media is free of foreign material, and both pills and their packaging have the proper marks.

In fact, today's machine vision systems can support the flawless decoding, inspection and sorting of every part and package moving through production, storage, and fulfillment. Better yet, a single system can be used to confirm pill

quality and quantities, validate the proper application of temperature indicators and ensure shipping labels are legible and compliant. You don't have to rip and replace hardware and software every time you want to adapt the machine vision system to a new workflow or add an application into the mix, either. The same cameras can be reprogrammed to critically analyse every detail and render objective and consistently accurate pass/fail decisions. In turn, it becomes easier to build internal and external trust in product quality and help ensure every item coming off the line is compliant.

However, the real beauty of modern machine vision systems, at least in my opinion, is they do more than just alert when there's a discrepancy and an item fails inspection. They tell you exactly why an item was rejected so a human operator can take swift and intentional corrective actions. No one is wasting time trying to figure out what's wrong or second guessing their observation. Nor is anyone missing key errors that could lead to noncompliance penalties, recalls, corrections, removals or other situations that could impact public health and further erode trust in your brand.

A Final Thought

A few years back, radio frequency identification (RFID) wasn't viewed as a viable track and trace solution for pharma, and now it's regarded as one of the best traceability solutions thanks to continued innovation around

RFID tags and readers. Similarly, machine vision technology was previously discounted by manufacturers due to its huge complexity or inability to capture data and inspect pharma products to high standards. But machine vision systems have advanced considerably, with powerful, intuitive toolsets and scalable software platforms powered by artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning algorithms.

They are now among the simplest industrial automation technologies to configure, use and manage. They are also one of the most valuable to anyone concerned about compliance or making skilled labour shortages a nonissue. Almost any worker can come in on day one and successfully operate today's machine vision systems, primarily because the decision-making process is completely automated. Someone just needs to be on standby to act when a discrepancy is flagged by the system.

RFID & IT

So, don't waste another minute worrying about whether your well-optimised pharma production operation will meet safety guidelines. Make it easy to trust that you're putting a quality product out in the market every day by taking the burden off workers to get it right every time. Look into the machine vision system options available today with an open mind and, once you find one that will be easy for your team to deploy, use and manage, get it online.

Your workers will be grateful, as they'll finally be able to move into their ideal quality assurance role – the one in which they can confidently say 'yes, this product is good to go' or 'hold the line, there's a problem, but we know how to solve it.'

To learn more about how modern machine vision systems can be used in pharmaceutical production and warehousing facilities, [click here](#).



Renovotec

launches fast-improvement manufacturing programme

- Identifies complementary RFID, FIS and MV technologies as having the greatest manufacturing impact, today
- “Our strategy of maintaining healthy inventory levels stands us in good stead as it allows us to meet customer sales and rental needs with greater speed and certainty” says Renovotec CEO Richard Gilliard



Supply chain hardware, software and services company Renovotec is launching a ‘fast improvement manufacturing programme’ designed to deploy those technologies that have the greatest impact on supply chain manufacturing, the company announced today. Renovotec’s latest move is a market response to its analysis of manufacturing user needs. Technology drivers for its fast improvement manufacturing programme include next-generation RFID (radio frequency identification), fixed industrial scanners and production line smart cameras.

“Next-generation RFID is cheaper to acquire and more flexible to deploy, while the latest generation of FIS fixed

industrial scanners and MV machine vision smart cameras can track manufacturing assets and processes with great speed and accuracy, thanks to sensor technology and data analytics” says Renovotec CEO Richard Gilliard. “In combination these technologies can enable productivity improvements of 30%.”

To help users deploy Renovotec will offer six months free support on FIS and MV products. Uniquely in its industry, Renovotec offers rental as well as purchase options on its chosen product portfolio.

Gartner’s worldwide user IT forecast for 2022 reveals a 5% drop in spending on devices, suggesting new potential for

rental according to Renovotec.

By 2025, new generations of RFID and/or electronic tagging will feature as a core component in 20% of technology solutions deployed across supply chain networks, according to Gartner in its report: ‘Adopt Next-Gen RFID Tags to Transform Technology Deployments Across the Supply Chain’.

In the 2020 Gartner ‘Supply Chain Technology User Wants and Needs Survey’ 59% of respondents ranked RFID and other forms of electronic tagging techniques as ‘important’. Gartner recommends that users should ‘adopt RFID as a viable technology option’.

www.renovotec.com

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A-SAFE provides maximum durability and ultimate protection with new StepBumper

A-SAFE, the global leader in industrial safety solutions, has launched its new StepBumper solution designed to provide unprecedented levels of heavy-duty, low-level protection from forklift truck related injuries in factories and warehouses.

Able to withstand impact from vehicles weighing up to 6,400kg, StepBumper is the ideal solution for facilities managers and

H&S professionals looking to strengthen safety protocols and minimise risk in busy working environments across a wide array of sectors.

Forklift truck related incidents in workplaces can lead to pedestrian injuries, damaged infrastructure and costly downtime. With the StepBumper, A-SAFE has pioneered a low-level barrier designed to add ground level

protection alongside pedestrian barriers by serving as a pallet-stop, eliminating injuries caused by vehicle forks diverting underneath the barrier.

Designed to meet increasing industry demand for protection which is suitable for a diverse range of applications, StepBumper is ideal for vehicle charging areas, goods holding areas, building and equipment protection and pedestrian walkways.

Manufactured from an advanced Monoplex material with a twin-layered structure, A-SAFE's StepBumper offers a unique strength and unrivalled recovery from impact through a built-in memory that allows it to repeatedly flex, cushion and reform upon impact.

Covering up to a 200mm impact height, it ensures vehicle bumpers and pallets will not ride over the product, and provides ample room for employees to step on when exiting and entering a vehicle.

StepBumper comes in three size configurations for users to

achieve their desired protection length, which includes dimensions of 1200mm, 900mm and 600mm.

Other features and benefits include an ergonomic design with no sharp edges; a water-resistant and easy to clean outer layer; a guarantee of minimal downtime for users during its quick 10-minute installation process, and a guarantee of significant return on investment through incident prevention and downtime avoidance, as bumpers do not require replacement or repair.

StepBumper has recently achieved recognition at the highest level, winning a prestigious New Product award from Occupational Health & Safety in the USA.

The awards recognise the latest innovations in workplace safety technology, with StepBumper earning recognition in the safety barrier category.

Anette Forster, Chief Marketing Officer at A-SAFE, said: "The StepBumper aligns with A-SAFE'S goal to constantly innovate and continue to design products that utilise new materials and

technologies, and which improve the end-user experience in the workplace with regards to safety and ease of use."

"We've taken the issue of preventing serious and potentially fatal injuries in the workplace caused by the need for high-quality, ground level protection, and turned it into a solution with StepBumper. We believe it will take safety to a new level within

the industry."

A-SAFE's StepBumper is leading the way for workplace safety – giving facilities managers a secure way to keep staff, equipment and vehicles safe at all times.

To find out more about the new StepBumper or A-SAFE's complete range of products, please visit www.asafe.com



Cromwell

secures and solidifies UK Manufacturing Future

Three years on from the addition of CPR Manufacturing to the Group's UK manufacturing operations Cromwell has made strides to increase their capacity to recover, reprocess and manufacture LDPE (Low Density Polythene) film and bags, furthering the organisations ambitions to stimulate the domestic circular economy of resources.

CPR Manufacturing has complimented Cromwell Polythene's operations tremendously. Commercial Director, Alex Lee said, "we're excited to be manufacturing high quality recycled polythene products right here in the UK, which is supported by our purpose built 7,000 pallet space warehousing and distribution facility". This effective combination is helping deliver quick, controlled, and strategic access to critical packaging film and sacks to Cromwell's trading partners.

An increasing amount of recovered material is being recycled on-site, in line with the WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme) guidelines, Cromwell's industrial and packaging customers are also benefitting from the avoidance of the £200/tonne Plastics Packaging Tax – a tax that HMRC representatives have uniquely stated they would like to see diminishing returns on



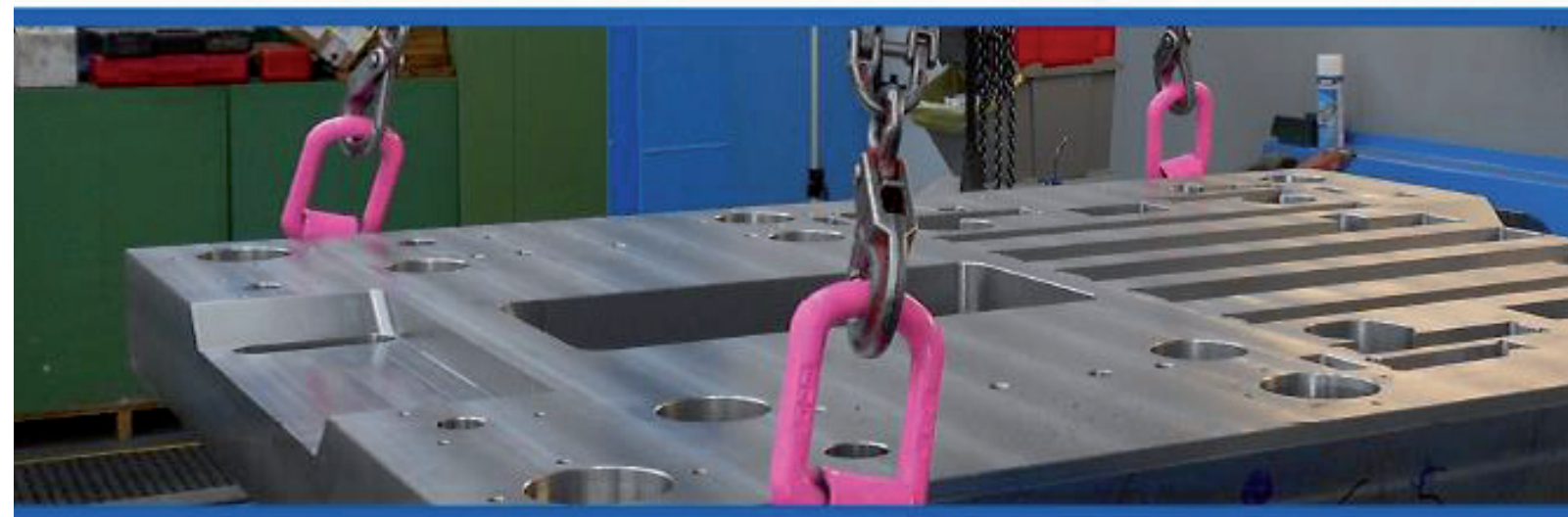
as everyone adopts ever higher recycled content in their plastic packaging.

The next logical step has been to acquire the freehold of the premises, ahead of the next phase of development and investment at the Derbyshire site. Alex elaborated that, "we plan to modernise the site, reconfiguring the spaces to maximise throughput efficiency and increase our output capacities. As a business which counts resourcefulness and sustainability amongst its core values, we can minimise our environmental impact – and that of our customers – by continuing

to promote the re-shoring of UK manufacturing.

Alex commented, "The Governments responses to the Covid-19 pandemic around the globe has put significant strain all along on the global supply chain, putting any previous concerns people might have had over BREXIT well and truly in the shade by comparison. Having a UK based manufacturing facility to shorten lead times and quickly react to spikes in demand has proven an invaluable buffer to Cromwell and its customers, helping to achieve a more continuous service level." www.cromwellpolythene.co.uk

LIFTING POINTS FOR BOLTING



Power Point Star Lifting Point

- Pivots 180°
- Turns 360°
- Operates to -40°
- "Clevis Fitting" allows 3 types of connections into the clevis; chain, hooks & master ring



VLBG Load Ring

- VLBG can be turned 360°
- Loadable in all directions
- Ultimate safety in lifting



VWGB Load Ring

- One of RUD's most popular load rings
- Suitable for loads that swivel & tilt
- Loadable in all directions
- 4:1 safety factor



INOX-STAR Lifting Point

- Offers 50% higher working load limit than DIN eye bolt
- No directional restrictions
- Can be set to direction of the pull
- Turns through 360°
- High resistance to corrosion



Star Point VRS Lifting Point

- Known as the star among eye bolts
- Swivels to direction of the load lift
- The working load limit is therefore always at the direction of the load
- Removes chance of bent eyes, backed out threads, or over-tightening



WBPB Hoist Ring

- 85-200 tonnes
- Heavy duty lifting
- Operates to -10°
- Suitable for lifting & turning of loads



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