

## High-speed aerosol palletisers installed in Korea

Clevertch has installed a range of automation and palletising equipment at South Korean aerosol can and end manufacturer Sun Group.

For can conveying, Italy-based Clevertch installed three fully-automatic high-speed robot palletising islands. The islands each have two infeeds and operate at up to 800 cans a minute, producing around 70 pallets an hour.

Each island is connected to the full pallet handling line, using a shuttle system, where pallets are strapped by two strapping machines, also supplied by Clevertch. In total, more than 60 metres of conveying equipment is included in the project.

A key advantage offered by the Clevertch equipment is the floor space saved by the compact lay-out of each palletising island and the innovative design of the robotic palletising heads, says the company.



For aerosol top and bottom domes, Clevertch installed three wrapping machines connected to two joined snake palletisers. The equipment details were developed jointly with the technical team at Sun Group, and the system operates at up to 500 ends a minute, per infeed.

Also supplied were six unwrapping machines, video inspection equipment, and more than 40 metres of in-feed and out-feed conveying systems of varying designs.

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## Identify damaged slip sheets to prevent jams

An inspection system for detecting damaged slip sheets, said to be the first of its kind for the industry, has been developed by Applied Vision and Sardee Industries.

The plastics slip sheets used in handling beverage and food cans (as pictured above) are prone to damage over time, which can lead to a range of problems. The edges of the sheets can become split when a platen is moved underneath, which may prevent the sheets from being automatically fed into a palletiser, which may jam or cause cans to upend. The surface of the sheet can also be ripped, torn or creased during fork-lift handling, says Applied Vision.

To counter these problems, the slip sheet inspection system combines a Sardee handling machine which feeds returned sheets from pallets into the Applied Vision multiple high-resolution camera unit, before automatically removing any damaged sheets.

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## Reduce roller change-outs with versatile compound

Illinois-based Finzer Roller has developed a rubber compound for rollers on coaters that is said to improve performance compared to alternative products.

Called Ultra-Can, the compound is suitable for both inker and coater rollers in the two-piece and three-piece canmaking industries.

The product was developed following

the appearance of a gap in the market, says Finzer's Randy Apperson: "Finzer started developing the Ultra-Can compound in response to EI DuPont's announcement that they were shutting down their Hypalon manufacturing, which was one of the rubber compounds used by many metal decorators."

"Field tests have shown extended run times between roller change-outs, which over time will reduce the cost per roller."

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## Speed and accuracy from printing plate engraver

Lüscher recently launched its XPose! 4Flex 230 computer-to-plate system, said to combine a high output with accurate plate engraving.

The range uses a combination of internal and external drum technology, to produce various benefits. The internal drum enables the machine to image a static plate, removing the need for dynamic balancing, eliminating vibration and giving a consistent duty cycle with any plate dimensions. This improves stability, accuracy and reliability, says Lüscher.

The external drum holds the optical equipment, enabling the system to use multiple sets of lasers and boosting productivity.

The drum set-up also enables plates to be loaded without clamps, taping or magnetics.

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