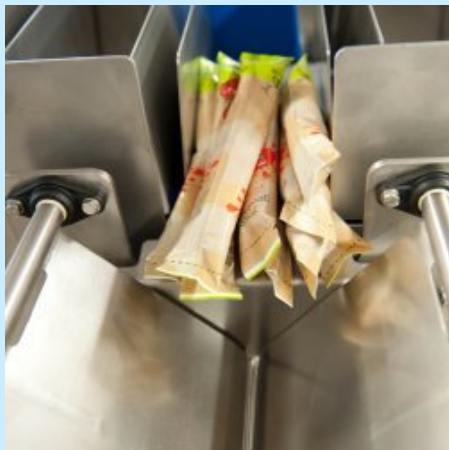


# CONVEYING NEWS

December 2011

## Stick Pack Collating



WMH is not a company to shy away from challenging handling applications. One recent project, is a system to automate the collation and loading of stick-pack yogurts into an inline continuous motion cartoning machine.

The twin lane unit collates product from the outfeed of two tube filling machines, one six lane and one nine lane, into defined pack quantities before loading these into the infeed pockets of an auto-cartoning machine. The servo-driven collators are designed to load either collations of single flavours or to collate a mix of up to 3 flavours. The collation unit is designed to run at a rate of 630 stick-packs per minute or 105 cartons per minute.

With the latest twin lane ready meal conveyor order under way WMH are continuing to lead the development of production equipment to meet the exacting standards set by the industry.

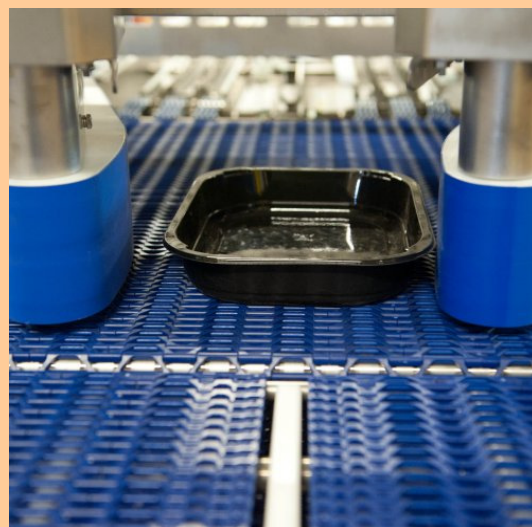
The latest order for two large twin lane conveyors brings the total to five that have been produced to export to a North American customer.

The latest design features further ensure that the equipment performs exceptionally well in genuine "high care" environments withstanding all the rigors of intense hygiene regimes.

Special features include independently controlled assembly tracks with continuous or indexing operation. The single point operation for side guide adjustment allows for quick product change with reliable guiding of carriers. Menu selection from a HMI console ensures that different recipe dish make-up parameters are easily repeated with minimal set up time.

The control system enables ancillary equipment to operate as part of a single line with electrical and pneumatic connections conveniently accessible along its length.

Designed with safety and good ergonomics as a priority these lines are very factory friendly and therefore help maintain efficient production standards and high throughputs.



# WMH

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## Crisp Conveyors



Over the past two years WMH have worked closely with a Plymouth based premium crisp manufacturer to help them expand their business.

WMH have supplied a number of conveyors throughout the production process the latest of which included high level modular plastic belt and swan-neck incline conveyors.

## And the Winner is....

WMH were recently nominated in the Robotics and Automation category of the annual Food Processing awards for their innovative use of servo drives in the control their batter depositors.

The servo based system irons out inaccuracies of batter pumping in traditional systems whilst increasing throughput. Using peristaltic pumps, product delivery is now accurate to +/-0.1g and incorporates anti-drip functionality to high throughput multi-lane depositing systems.

WMH depositors are currently being used for depositing batter, oil, pork pie jelly, egg custard, caramel and gravy.

Sadly on the night of the awards WMH were beaten to the winning spot by Pacepacker Services.



## Automated Storage System Reduces Handling Costs

A fully automated storage facility will reduce handling costs and improve traceability for an international blue chip pharmaceutical company.

Engineers at Western Mechanical Handling, have developed an in-line storage system which will automatically load trays of blood collection products, hold them for an ageing period of 3 hours then release them for further processing. The store is the second unit that WMH have built and incorporates tray and batch monitoring technology to enable stringent quality controls to be met within the production process.



The current method employed within the factory requires trays to be manually loaded onto pallets and stored on the production floor which is both labour intensive and runs the risk of batches being further processed out of sequence.

Once installed the new system will seamlessly integrate into the existing production line and will run 24/7 processing 400 trays every 3 hours. At 300 tubes per tray "that's a lot of tubes" said Geoff Eastmond, Design Manager at WMH.

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