CUSTOMIZATION AND MODULARITY, MICROLINE'S WAY TO INNOVATION

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From Emilia to non-European markets, high quality automatic packaging speaks Italian

ocated in the province of Bologna, the heart of the Italian packaging valley, Microline is a company specialised in the design and manufacture of automatic end-of-line packaging machines. The long-time experience of a staff of professionals, combined with a management that keeps an eye on the future, provides customers with the assurance of a solid know-how that goes hand in hand with the driving force of technological innovation.

What sets Microline offerings apart is no doubt the concept of modularity. With the aim of responding to the needs of a whole variety of sectors and products, the Bologna-based company has devised solutions which simultaneously offer utmost versatility, safety and efficiency; thanks to modules that can be assembled and combined based on customer requirements, Microline machines - besides ensuring high performance and excellent quality – are easily customisable.

It is precisely the modular conception - together with the synergetic collaboration among manufacturers, customers and our engineering department - which overcomes every logistical challenge and enables the arrangement and composition of machines to be varied over time according to need.

As a result, Microline can offer extremely specialised, customised systems for each area of activity.



For example, for the food industry we offer complete turnkey lines including conveyor belts, collation and shrink-wrapping machines (secondary packaging) and palletisers for packaging coffee, tea, sugar, rice, pasta, milk, yogurt, ice-cream, etc. This is all achieved on the basis of three key concepts for Microline: quality, after-sales service and innovation. Among the products making up our vast range of offerings, shrinkwrapping machines and case packers occupy a prominent place.

The range of shrink-wrapping machines features models with fixed and mobile seal bars in sizes from 600mm to 1500mm, while output speeds range from 6-30 bundles per minute.

The models offered, according to the packaging requirements of each individual product, basically differ in terms of the type of infeed: it in this phase that the bundle is prepared. The different types of available infeeds are the following: in-line infeed; right-angled infeed; "Z"-flow infeed; infeed with integrated stacker and infeed with cardboard slipsheet insertion;

The same machine models exist in different versions, which are selected based on the dimensions of the required bundle.



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Moreover, there a variety of optionals enabling the machines to be customized and tailored to the type of product to be handled; the most noteworthy ones include:

- automatic shrink-wrapping tunnel evacuation unit (for inflammable products)
- unit for removal of residues inside the shrink-wrapping tunnel (for products that may leave residues, such as coffee, sugar, flour, rice, grains, etc.).

The range of automatic case packers is divided into two types:

- horizontal case packers (ROM), suitable for large-sized cases of products which have a defined shape and are stackable;
- vertical case packers (RVM), with a high output speed, suitable for products that are regularly or irregularly shaped, soft or hard (grains, pasta, biscuits, coffee pods ...) and are not stackable.

This type of machine has also enjoyed considerable success in different sectors, including that of food products in boxes and pillow bags (in particular in the pasta sector). The choice of machine is dictated by the requirements of individual products and the configuration inside the case requested by the customer. Different types of loading systems have been designed precisely to enable different product sizes and configurations to be handled by the same machine, thus making it extremely versatile.

A variety of optionals are also available for case packers, including case closure with hot-melt glue (a device for closure with adhesive tape is supplied as a standard feature), automatic case loader (increase in blank storage capacity), case erector (for ROM horizontal case packers), automatic lid applicator for display cases (for ROM horizontal case packers) and remote service modules.

To complete its end-of-line range, Microline also offers motor-driven conveyor belts, lifting systems, vertical lowering systems and different models of palletisers that can manage one or more lines.

Microline therefore offers highly compact machines based on a modular conception. They feature solutions that make size changeover extremely simple, thus reducing

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machine downtimes and enabling the operation to be carried out by non-specialised personnel. They are equipped with high quality commercial technical components that are readily available in the market.

Microline manages all the various stages of work, from design to software programming, and this means an immediate solution to problems: relying on the experience of our technical staff, we can offer telephone or on-site support, as well as training to personnel where necessary.

In order to provide "turnkey" service, Microline directly guarantees a spare parts service.

The company's drive toward innovation can also be seen from the resources invested in sustainability, in addition to the recent implementation of a remote service system.

From the standpoint of sustainability, today Microline adopts machines that can guarantee both cost advantages and a low impact on the ecosystem. All Microline shrinkwrappers use up 100% of the wrap or reel, without creating trimmings or scraps of material: reduction in the packaging material used, reduction in the electricity consumption of heat-shrinking devices and elimination of waste disposal costs.

The new remote service system enables Microline technicians to remotely check, monitor and modify all the main electronic devices present on the machines, thus offering a costeffective and practical advantage to customers who receive qualified service remotely.

Reliability and competence are thus at the basis of Microline's success, enabling us to offer extremely specialised customised machines and systems to meet all the demands of our different target markets.

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