



# NEWS

World leaders in handling and feeding technology

## NEW PRODUCT

## Sachet Handler reaches **UK market**

RNA has introduced a high speed component handling system designed to eliminate the problems associated with handling irregular packaged products.

### Key features & benefits

- ✓ A truly flexible system "future proof" can handle a wide variety of pouches and sachets
- ✓ Fast changeover times with no mechanical intervention required
- ✓ Based on a standard system with world wide back and support
- ✓ Simple HMI control panel
- ✓ Robust design ,heavy duty rollers and standard components ensure a long operating lifeline
- ✓ High feed speeds, up to 300 parts per minute
- ✓ Food and pharmaceutical design ,suitable for wash down environments
- ✓ Simple integration via a harting plug & socket for robotic systems and process lines.
- ✓ System can be moved from production line to production line
- ✓ Low start up costs normally associated with special purpose machinery in line with short pay back periods

RNA has launched a high speed feeding system designed to eliminate the problems normally associated with handling sachets and pouches.

*SpaceFeeder* provides a long-needed solution to the handling of flexible packaged products, which are now growing in importance, especially in the food & snacks and process packaging sectors.

*SpaceFeeder* has been developed by Swiss friction feeder specialists Rontech and will be marketed by RNA in the UK and Ireland. The revolutionary design is capable of feeding at speed of up to 300 parts per minute and boasts quick and simple changeover between differing products. The capacity to easily accept changed or new products provides a genuinely

future-proof investment.

Each system is constructed of stainless steel and food grade materials, suitable for full wash down environments. Bulk parts are simply loaded into a storage hopper and gently elevated and fed onto the upper level of the system, where separation and singulation begins.

Intelligent servo driven roller sections progressively space the product until the desired "gap" between products is achieved. Each roller segment is controlled independently, precise spacing of up to 1mm can be consistently attained, before onward transfer to the downstream processing line.

The high speed system has been designed so that the roller

- 1 Large holding container for bulk material with low, user-friendly loading edge
- 2 Ascending conveyor
- 3 Multilevel roller system
- 4 Touch panel
- 5 Heavy duty rollers ensure flexible use
- 6 Transfer position to packaging machine

Welcome to the April issue of RNA newsletter

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### Forward

If you have friends or colleagues you think would like to receive a copy of e-News, subscribe their names and email address to us via [rna@rna-uk.com](mailto:rna@rna-uk.com)

We will forward them the latest issue and add them to our quarterly distribution list.



RNA Specialist handling of sachets and pouches

Continues ►

segments have no critical guarding issues and noise emissions are kept at low levels. *SpaceFeeder* is fitted with a compact HMI for control of the desired distance between products.

RNA Managing Director Stuart Brettell commented, "we are delighted to add the *SpaceFeeder* to our range of premium products. We know from conversations with our customers that there is a real demand for this solution. The speed, flexibility and simplicity of the system, is ideally suited to current day requirements and the ability to handle short production runs and multi-bag operations is a key benefit. Typically this system would replace manually intensive operations and customer pay back results have been very impressive".

If you are interested in more details of *SpaceFeeder* or have a process that needs improving please contact Andy Perks (andyp@rna-uk.com).



## RNA EVENTS

### SP Technology Open Days

29th - 30th April 2009

Venue: SP Technology Dundee

Click [here](#) see details

### PACKEX Toronto 2009

5th - 7th May, 2009

Venue: International Centre,

Mississauga (Toronto), Canada

Click [here](#) see details

Visit us at Booth 3241

### NPE 2009

22nd - 26th June, 2009

Venue: McCormick Place,

Chicago, Illinois USA

Click [here](#) see details

Visit us at Booth 58066

## VIEWPOINT

# Focus on Flexibility in Pharmaceutical Packaging

In the pharmaceutical industry, today's packaging needs are driven as much by the demands for flexibility and consumer choice, as they are by the traditional requirements for safety, hygiene and traceability.

High levels of competition have led to innovation in drug delivery devices and a move to satisfy the demand for individual portion packs and single-dose packaging. The effect of this has been a multiplication of the product offering and consequent reduction in batch sizes. To accommodate the additional packaging styles, production lines are now required to be highly flexible.

It is to meet these requirements, that RNA has developed the *Quick Release Bowl Feeder*. This feed system allows rapid and tool-less changeover of bowl top in a matter of seconds, through a specially designed pneumatic clamping mechanism. In cases where there are different batches or sizes of component a traditional bowl feeder has sometimes proved to impractical, particularly in a clean room environment.

Ease of cleaning and quick change over of components which almost eliminate downtime are key features of the system. Cross contamination of batches is greatly reduced and new products can be added to the production line at a later date. Another benefit is the ability to switch to a spare bowl during the autoclaving process; again with very little impact on production downtime.

The increasing use of *Vision Guided Robotic Systems* is another potential solution to the need of flexibility. These are increasingly used in small-batch pharmaceutical packaging lines. Generally the need is for a "tried and tested" modularised or near standardised system. RNA can meet this challenge through their association with SVIA, leaders in

providing solutions in this field of technology.

Once again, ease of changeover between products and components is a feature of the system. The operating and control system has been developed over many years and its simplicity is such that operator training is relatively minimal, when compared to other systems on the market. In a world where the life time of products is diminishing, the SVIA range has the capability to handle significant changes or new products with minimal set up changes, thereby protecting the value of the investment going forward.

Within the pharmaceutical production and packaging industry, many operations between process steps are still performed manually. Increased use of automation is a key opportunity to bear down on costs and RNA has been a ready participant in providing both bespoke and standardised solutions to the industry. Our back catalogue of applications demonstrates expertise in handling many pharmaceutical products, including syringes, blister packs, medical devices and tubes and bottles. The *SpaceFeeder*, mentioned above is another option which can be used to handle the pouch and strip pack formats in the pharmaceutical industry.



▲ RNA Quick Release system feeding 3 sizes of plastic pharmaceutical bottles

▼ RNA SVIA Vision Guided Robotic System

