

# NEWS

World leaders in handling and feeding technology

## NEWS

### RNA expands its **Lean Thinking**

RNA has established a manufacturing consulting service, Rhein-Nadel Consultancy, providing expertise to manufacturing and production enterprises seeking to implement process improvement and sustainable change.

Veteran Entrepreneur Tom Farmer who built up the highly successful Kwik Fit brand was recently quoted as saying that the thing

that he has learnt over the years is that it is better to outsource specialist skills than to try to attempt in-house solutions. Provided that the business and the consultant are clear about the objectives, he found that specialist advice proves to be very cost effective.

At RNC we believe that our consultants (certified to Six Sigma & Lean Master Black Belt) have the practical experience to understand the key issues and to add real value to our clients business.

Stuart Brettell, managing director says, 'organisations often believe that 'Lean' is a set of tools, purely designed to reduce costs. The truth is that Lean is rather more concerned with addressing the key issues faced by a business, be that improving cash flow to secure the financial position, or enhancing on-time delivery to gain more customers. Nevertheless cost reduction is often a more than useful byproduct of tackling the headline issue. At RNC our long history and experience

leaves us well placed to identify the problems and offer rapid and effective outcomes. Of course embedding new techniques is also important and we are here to help develop teams of lean thinkers and a culture of continuous improvement within a business.

Improve cash flow

Increase operational efficiency

Improve quality

Generate new sources of value

Increase on-time delivery performance

Exceed Customer Expectations

Market Share

Profitability

### Lean Case Study **Product Lead-time Reduction**

A well-known Avionics business in the East-Midlands (UK) suffered continuing problems with late delivery of product to their customers. The business had introduced increasingly complex production tracking systems in an attempt to 'get to grips' with the problem. Despite the fact that these new systems informed management of where each order was in the production process at the end of each day, their delivery performance did not show any significant improvement. One unintended result of this micro-management approach was that morale on the production lines had shown a significant drop as staff were continuously chased for 'updates' and 'recovery plans'!

As a result of the frustrations caused by the above situation, a new approach based on Lean Principles was suggested. A RNC Lean specialist was invited to assess the current production operation and

determine the actions necessary to address their delivery problems.

#### SOLUTION

A 'current state' Value Stream Map (VSM) was invariably the starting point for applying Lean and this clarified the situation that the production team were experiencing. The VSM allowed all the individuals in a team to really understand the roles of their colleagues and how each of them has an impact on the performance of the whole team. The Lean specialist questioned the current state VSM and inspired the team that developed the map to determine potential improvements that they could make to the business process. The team have been given some education in Lean principles prior to the mapping session, RNC offered a 2-day 'Yellow-Belt' course to support the Lean process.

After careful and detailed examination of the processes

through VSM, the improvement opportunities were clearly identified. Each then were quantified to determine which offer the best and thus ought to be implemented first. A 'future state' VSM was then generated by the team that was used to show senior managers what their operation could be in a given period of time.

#### OUTCOME

The customer are now significantly better than their competitors and win many orders, at higher prices than their competitors, because of their vastly reduced lead-time.

*(The full case study is available at RNC website. To read this case study please click here)*

If you believe that your business could benefit from a similar programme of work, then do not hesitate to contact Roddy Kearey on +44 (0)1217 488708 or via [info@rnaconsultants.com](mailto:info@rnaconsultants.com)

Welcome to the November issue of RNA newsletter

#### In this issue

RNA expands its Lean Thinking

- Lean Case Study: Product Lead-time Reduction

RNA case study: Small footprint, great performance for large containers

Updates

Vacancies

#### Forward

If you have friends or colleagues you think would like to receive a copy of e-News, subscribe their name 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.

#### RNC Services

- Lean, Six Sigma & Supply Chain Optimisation
- Manufacturing Consultancy
- Feasibility & ROI Studies
- Project Management

TALK TO AN EXPERIENCED CONSULTANT

+44 (0)121 748 8708

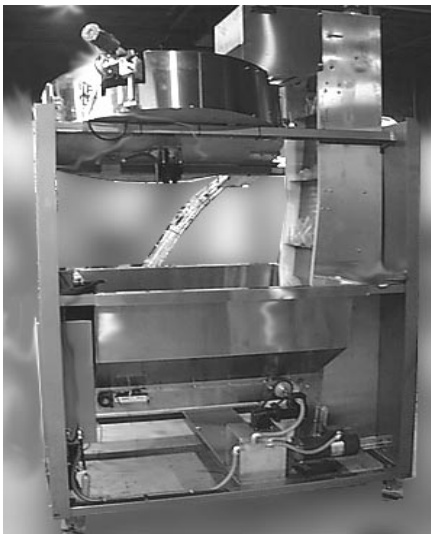
[rnaconsultants.com](http://rnaconsultants.com)

## RNA CASE STUDY

# Small footprint, great performance for large containers

RNA Automation has introduced a 'compact' style container unscrambler, the system has a small 'footprint' - without compromising on speed or efficiency and enhances the productivity and flexibility of bottle handling.

The 'Compact' model unscrambler has been designed and developed by RNA's United States partner



Palace Packaging and is marketed by RNA in the UK and Ireland. The major benefit of this revolutionary design is its small footprint due to the internal hopper.

The pre-sorter, orienting mechanism and hopper bin are all built into a single compact frame. As an example of floor space savings, the smallest 'compact' model has a footprint of just 1m x 1m (43"x43") with a 0.2 cubic meter (7 cubic foot)

internal hopper and can typically handle up to 240ML (8 oz.) containers. An external hopper with capacities up to 2.8 cubic meter (100 cubic foot) is available for handling larger containers up to 1.2L (40 oz).

Bottle contact points are of FDA approved materials, mostly stainless steel, excellent for clinical rooms, clean rooms, and restricted areas.

Bottles are simply loaded into a hopper bin and gently fed into a disc sorter, the bottles are lined up end to end neck or base leading. A proven 'starwheel' orientation system consistently and accurately pushes on the centre of the bottle and orientates the bottle all one way. The bottles are discharged directly onto a conveyor and into the indexing wheel of a mono-block filler or directly into pucks as required.

A unique auto reversing sorter disc allows trouble free and technician free operation. If there is a situation in the sorter where bottles are not exiting, it automatically reverses so that the paddle wheel can correct any stoppages.

The 'compact' model unscrambler has been designed to be safe to operate, simple to maintain and easy to understand, so that no tools are required for changeover. Fixed change parts make changeovers quick and easy and only takes 7-9 minutes.

Another additional feature of this system is the energy saving mode, which shuts down all drives and solenoids during prolonged conveyor backlog. The conveyor sensor



eye stops the starwheel then eventually goes into sleep mode. This reduces unnecessary wear & tear due to idle running on both the bottles and the machines.

The 'compact' model unscrambler can run a large variety of bottles at different speeds. It is a special purpose machine, with a small footprint, and ideally suited for the limited available space on factory floors.

## The system delivers flexibility and cost savings to customers with short pay back periods.

If you are interested in more details of this system or have a process that needs improving please contact Andy Perks ([andyp@rna-uk.com](mailto:andyp@rna-uk.com)).

## Key features & benefits

- HOPPER/ELEVATOR is inside the feeder's frame. Everything is on the one frame.
- Uses a proven "Starwheel" orientation system for consistent and accurate bottle discharge
- FIXED CHANGE PARTS make for easy and accurate changeovers. Just a few simple adjustments. All of the orientation takes place in the change parts.
- TOOL-LESS CHANGE OVER.
- Safe to operate, simple to maintain, & easy to understand
- Discharge onto conveyors & ramps, or directly into star wheels, pocket wheels, timing screws, and pucks
- Bottle contact points are of FDA approved materials, mostly stainless steel.
- Auto-reversing Pre-sorter and multi-purpose sensors make for trouble free and technician free operation.



## UPDATES

- ▶ RNA successfully exhibited at Pack Expo 2010. We thank all visitors and hope in a future cooperation with all of you!
- ▶ RNA have just taken its 20,000th order.

## VACANCIES

### Design/Project Manager Birmingham, United Kingdom

If this is of interest to you please send your CV plus a covering letter outlining your current position and salary to [rna@rna-uk.com](mailto:rna@rna-uk.com).