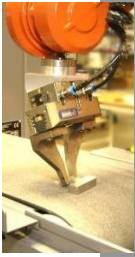


# news

ADVANCED AUTOMATION

## In this issue

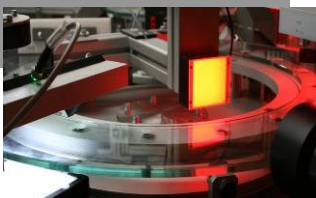


1. **NICK HUDSON PROMOTED TO OPERATIONS MANAGER**



2. **RNA CONTINUES ENGINEERING EXPANSION**

3. **ROBOTIC PACKAGING SYSTEM PACKS FILLER CAPS**



4. **RNA HEAD QUARTERS STEPS UP EXPANSION**

5. **RNA UK ONWARD AND UPWARD**

6. **NEW LINEAR FEEDER FOR MULTI-TRACK AND PHARMA APPLICATIONS**

## Nick Hudson Promoted to **Operations Manager**

RNA are pleased to announce that the promotion of Nick Hudson from Project Manager to Operations Manager. Nick has over 15 years of experience in the automation and engineering field, and has been with RNA since 2016. Over the past two years, Nick has taken on the lead management role for most of the largest projects.

In his new role, Nick will be responsible for directing the company's core operations which include production, engineering, health & safety and quality control.

He will work with the existing management team to ensure resources are effectively deployed across the company, and high quality standard of product production and delivery are maintained.

Stuart Brettell, Managing director of RNA said: 'We are very pleased to promote Nick in to his new role as Operations Manager. Nick's broad experience across all areas of operations make him a real asset for the company. The



appointment strengthens the management team and help further accelerate our growth and development.'

## RNA Continues **engineering expansion**

With the start of 2018 we have had the pleasure of welcoming new members to RNA due to continued expansion of our well-established business.

**Andy Baker** joins as Controls Engineer where he will be taking on a number of responsibilities such as electrical and control design, PLC & HMI programming and robot programming. Andy has a strong engineering background and brings with him valuable experience in automation and industrial robots that will become a strong asset to RNA.

**Gary Wilkins** joins RNA as a new addition to the design team, bringing with him years of experience in industrial design, engineering drawings and CAD modelling in Solidworks. Gary's technical skills and project management experience also make him an ideal fit for the RNA team.

**John Evans** joins RNA in the role of development engineer. John has more than 30 years of engineering experience in mechanical development and brings a wealth of expertise in automation, electrical

engineering and process engineering.

**Dan Rudkin** joins the sales team to fill our open position in sales department. Dan has worked in the area of industrial engineering and automation for a number of years. In his most recent position, Dan worked as Motion & Robotics Sales specialist in Schneider Electric. He brings a wealth of experience in a wide range of industries from packaging to agricultural machinery.

## Robotic Packaging System Packs **Filler Caps**

RNA developed an automated robotic packaging system for packaging 2 different types of filler caps. The system utilises a machine mounted Nachi MZ07L robot with a bespoke gripper system to suit the filler cap and the corrugated interleafs.

To begin the cycle, the filler

caps are transferred from the pad printer out-feed conveyor and orientated and queued up ready for the robot to pick and place. The robot cell picks a filler cap when a signal is received from the end of the conveyor system saying one is ready. The robot palletises the

caps in the box to a standard pattern. When the box is complete the operator removes the box and replenish with a new box and four interleafs. The cycle then repeats.

The robotic packaging system has a two-position loading area for the box and corrugated

## VACANCIES

Project Coordinator/Engineer

(Continued)

interleaf sheets, which is an operator managed area. The operator loads the box and four interleafs onto the shuttle table and then slide the draw into the machine.

A bespoke pneumatic gripper is machined to match and profile of both the filler cap and interleaf.

### Key features

- ⇒ Nachi MZ07L Robot complete with controller and teach pendant
- ⇒ Robot gripper system to suit the filler cap & interleaf
- ⇒ Sliding shuttle station to suit the box and interleaf

⇒ Conveyor system and location tooling



## RNA Head Quarters steps up expansion



The parent company of RNA UK, Rhein-Nadel Automation has pushed the button on a major factory extension.

Due to recent expansion of the business in Germany, Rhein-Nadel Automation are building additional factory and office space at the Head Office in Aachen.

The new production area will be 2,160 square metres and will be used for final assembly and as a storage facility for parts and sub-assemblies to be used for jobs in assembly.

There will be an additional 685 square metres of offices on 3 floors, which will be for Research and Development, Designers, Customer area and Management.

Under the new Three-Year Expansion Plan, the Aachen Headquarters will cover a total area of 10,565 square metres, an increase of around 40 per cent.

establishing the business in 1986, RNA has expanded 3 times on its existing site, but now needs additional space to cater for the continuing growth of the business.

The new site is less than half a mile from the existing facility and will comprise around 25,000 square feet of modern factory and office space.

The construction of the new facilities is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2018.

## RNA UK onward and upward

In the UK, RNA are following suit with a move to a completely new location. After



## New Linear Feeder for multi-track and pharma applications

RNA linear feeders are used to handle irregular supplies of component parts from upstream equipment, creating a buffer store and smooth flow for further processes. The new RNA linear feeder series SLC500-400 is the latest addition to the compact range and is particularly suitable for the secure transfer of elongated vials in the pharmaceutical industry.

The holding fixture for vibratory superstructures of this linear feeder offers a 400mm centre distance and is additionally equipped with a total of 6 spring packs and stronger magnets for operation at 50Hz. This is then suitable for multitrack accumulation lines with a total width of approx. 500mm and length of 1,000mm. The SLC500-400 also provides a solid basis for vibrating hopper systems with high load weights.

### Key features

- ⇒ Transport behaviour is easy to set;
- ⇒ Compact type of construction (lowest construction height, shortest possible length);
- ⇒ Very high load capacity possible (approx. 60-70 kg);
- ⇒ Large outlets are possible on the discharge side (approx. 500 - 700 mm);
- ⇒ Low vibration transfer into the base frame at high amplitudes due to the drive weight;
- ⇒ Buffer arrangement (8 pieces);
- ⇒ The spring arrangement with counterweight combination also enables a gentle running performance (e.g. transporting glass bottles in standing position);
- ⇒ Adjustable spring angles.

