

SOLUTIONS IN ACTION

PACK EXPO 2008



The Axiom® Series Intermittent Motion Servo Case/Tray Packer from Douglas Machine Inc.

Booth No. S-2223

As food and beverage manufacturers continue increasing their expectations, packaging machine builder **Douglas Machine Inc.** innovates to exceed these demands. The market-focused, employee-owned company commits itself to researching and developing high-quality paperboard, corrugated, and shrink-film packaging solutions. Based in Alexandria, Minn., Douglas Machine delivers packaging solutions that target food and beverage customers around the world.

At PACK EXPO 2008, Douglas Machine will be showcasing its latest innovation: the **Axiom® Series Intermittent Motion Servo Case/Tray Packer**. The machine reliably and accurately packs cartons, bottles, cans, jars, and flexible packages at rates of 45 cases/trays per minute. Flexible infeed, metering, and accumulation mechanisms move the product gently and efficiently reducing damage.

The Axiom® case packer allows manufacturers to enact product changeovers in a few minutes without using tools. Plus, the modular design platform allows end users to add new equipment without extensive retooling. The machine's stainless-steel frame construction adds longevity and corrosion resistance while streamlining the sanitation process. The innovative, compact design also saves 10 percent to 15 percent in valuable floor space over similar mechanical machines.

To provide customers with the agility, speed and efficiency they demand, Douglas Machine partnered with Rockwell Automation. The Axiom® case packer features the Allen-Bradley® ControlLogix® programmable automation controller (PAC), which integrates discrete, motion, drive control, safety and information applications on a single platform.

"The machine allows our customers to compete in today's marketplace," said Joe Faust, electrical engineering manager, Douglas Machine Inc. "Its flexibility to adapt to ever-changing product life cycles gives the insight and performance users need to optimize production and respond more quickly to market demands."



Allen-Bradley® ControlLogix® Programmable Automation Controller



Allen-Bradley® Kinetix® 6000 Servo Drive

Solutions in action at Pack Expo 2008

The integrated platform allows the controller to work seamlessly with the Allen-Bradley Kinetix® 6000 servo drives. By using servo drives instead of mechanical functions, the machine can reliably and accurately pack cartons, bottles, cans, jars, and flexible packages up to 50 percent faster.

Servo technology also requires fewer parts and reduces floor space by approximately 30 percent.



From collating and loading products to closing the carton's flap, nearly all Axiom® case packer's motions are servo-controlled. The controller synchronizes these motions, running the servo drives at programmed velocities as well as acceleration and deceleration levels. Designed to make wiring, programming, operation and diagnostics faster and easier, servo drives add flexibility for demanding motion applications.

To shift from one product to the next, operators only need to press a button on the Allen Bradley PanelView™ Plus human-machine interface (HMI). As a user-friendly window to the case packer, the HMI enables the operator to control and monitor every aspect of the machine, easing troubleshooting and programming efforts. The HMI stores recipes, allows users to add pack patterns, and features multilingual diagnostics.

"As an employee-owned company, we take pride in our knowledge, innovation and high-quality service," said Faust. "Our suppliers need to understand this and arm us with the technology and dedicated support we need to convey these values to customers."

The Axiom® case packer will be shown with the Velocity® High-Speed Stacker, which rapidly and continuously collates products as they go into the case.

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