Founded in 1988, the German manufacturer of bag packaging machines has long since been dominating the international markets. Especially in Asia. With five subsidiaries, WOLF has a strong presence there. A commitment paying off: Meanwhile, 60 to 65% of the company’s turnover is generated in Asia. “As there are clearly more things to be packed than in Europe, particularly these small single portions,” Sebastian Wolf, managing director, explains. WOLF is particularly specialised in vertical machines, whereby the VPD 250 and the VPC 250 are the bestsellers of the company headquartered in Lich-Birklar.

The WOLF bag packing systems have mostly dealt with dry or powdered products so far. But the launch of the VPC-L 250 is about to change this immediately. Presented to a broader public for the first time at Interpack 2014, the so-called Liquid Master shall open up new fields of activity. In this regard, Sebastian Wolf considers packaging of liquid detergents, various sauces or even sauerkraut, just to mention some examples. Inside the Liquid Master, a successfully proven combination of Rockwell Automation components was used yet again: CompactLogix + Kinetix 6500 + PanelView Plus 1000. “Rockwell has already been our technology
partner for 20 years now and our perfect collaboration is really very successful. Super service, great support and when we actually need assistance, one call is enough,” Sebastian Wolf compliments on the on-site support within 24 hours. Rockwell Automation and in particular their Solution Partner NemaSystems were involved in the development of the Liquid Master from the beginning. A most constructive collaboration that ended up in a particularly customer-friendly sealed seam which is guaranteed to be free from any product.

The control and drive technology used with the Liquid Master has to coordinate a total of eight axes. By way of example, two EtherNet/IP enabled servo drives of the Kinetix 6500 series provide for exact pull-off lengths of the film. “It is important that the motors of these so-called pull-off belts are able to be controlled precisely. Processes have to be repeatable at 100 percent - with millimetre accuracy,” Sebastian Wolf points out. Since the Liquid Master is designed for continuous and non-interruption operation, the processes within the overall system require synchronicity. The up and down movement of the sealing tool that has to be synchronous with the film drive speed is a good example. “The same applies to the sealing tape in the course of cross-sealing that has to be adjusted to the speed and the control of the film pull-off,” the managing director of Wolf Verpackungsmaschinen GmbH reveals, where Kinetix servo drives are used and adds, “The overall system of the vertical bag packaging machine requires perfect teamwork between the single axes.” The Liquid Master communicates via EtherNet/IP.

According to Sebastian Wolf, a VPC machine - a 75% new development - will also be presented at Interpack; it is equipped with Rockwell components too - however with a CompactLogix, Kinetix 5500 servo drives and a PanelView Plus 700 - and is mainly designed for food packing of sweets and snacks. What is new: A very low drop height allows packaging at higher speed and is particularly gentle to the product as well. “This plant produces 150 to 180 bags per minute. This is already a high-speed output,” the managing director, Sebastian Wolf, proudly presents his second trade fair highlight, whose impressive performance is also due to the competent support provided by Rockwell’s Solution Partner NemaSystems and Rockwell Automation products.

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