Solutions in Action

Founded in 1964, Viking Masek Global Packaging Technologies, based in Vlasim, Czech Republic and Oostburg, WI, USA, designs, manufactures, sells, and services flexible packaging equipment for a variety of industries. Global markets include food and beverage, pharmaceutical and nutraceutical, and hardware, among others.

Viking Masek offers versatile and economical intermittent motion vertical baggers, high-speed continuous motion VFFS machines, stick and sachet packaging equipment, and premade pouch fill and seal machines. This equipment lineup can produce a variety of bag styles, from the simple pillow bag to the premium Doypack and everything in between. Viking Masek also offers carton packing and case packing solutions.

Viking Masek has capabilities to provide full packaging line integration, in-house engineering and design, and can act as a single-source supplier for ancillary packaging equipment needs like infeed systems, product fillers, and conveying equipment.

Two of its machines, from its extensive range, that deploy Allen-Bradley control and motion solutions from Rockwell Automation, are the high-performance ST 800 Multilane Stick Pack Machine and the MS400 Continuous Bagmaker. Both machines – which can be custom adapted to suit a customer’s precise requirements – are capable of packaging at more than 100 cycles per minute. Other primary customer benefits, alongside their high-speed, high-performance operation include high efficiency and their ability to cater for a wide range of new and unique bag styles.
The ST800 features pharmaceutical construction (with IQ/OQ) and offers multi-lane volumetric, servo auger and servo liquid fillers backed up by easy change-over parts™ and a stainless storage cart. The machine uses a robotic pick-and-place unit and can incorporate easy-open features like tear notch or micro-perforation coupled to various seal patterns and shapes. In operation it provides automatic stick pack length adjustment, individual discharge chutes, empty stick detection and rejection and film edge trimming and suction. For decoration and identification it offers hot stamp, inkjet or thermal transfer printer coupled to embossing along the longitudinal seal.

The MS400 is designed for multiple packaging needs, meeting the most demanding criteria. Exceptional speed and repeatability through a quiet, servo driven jaw, this bag-maker is perfect for packaging snacks, candy, coffee, fresh and frozen fruit, and many more. Capable of processing multiple bag formats, it can handle bag sizes from 100 x 100 mm up to 400 x 600 mm. It features a robust stainless steel construction and sanitary design and its servo-driven jaw and pull belt actuation contribute to its quiet running speed up to speeds of 150 bpm. Offering minimal maintenance, it exhibits a short film path which helps deliver an overall small machine footprint.

Both machines deploy a Rockwell Automation Integrated Architecture solution, which includes the use of Allen-Bradley ControlLogix® or Allen-Bradley CompactLogix™ programmable automation controllers, Allen-Bradley Kinetix® 6000, 6500 and 5500 servo controllers, Allen-Bradley PanelView™ Plus HMIs and Stratix switches for the EtherNet/IP network infrastructure. Safety components also form part of the overall solution.

The Rockwell Automation Integrated Architecture helps both Masek and its customers in multiple ways. As well as streamlining the design process, the use of a single programming environment (Logix 5000) means that programming efforts can also be significantly reduced. In addition to minimised installation and start-up times, troubleshooting operational problems is also easier, training is simpler and the customer has significant scope to adapt the machines for future demands thanks to the inherent flexibility of the EtherNet/IP-based Allen-Bradley solution.

According to Lukas Masek, Vice-president for sales and operation at VikingMasek: “We always get really good technical support, which makes our lives a lot easier. It also benefits our customers as they can call upon the worldwide support offered by Rockwell Automation. With many of our customers in the Americas, Allen-Bradley is the natural choice for this market and with the capabilities offered by the range we are able to use the same control solutions across multiple machine variants; simplifying many facets of the design, build and installation process.”

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