Case Study 0382

Webster Griffin
packed with know how

PET FOOD

Case Palletiser for Topcliffe Mill





THE CLIENT

Wagg Foods is the leading UK manufacturer of quality dry pet food for dogs, cats and small pets. Wagg Foods started to manufacture pet food in the 1980's and is a second generation family business based in Thirsk, Yorkshire, UK. They have an annual turnover of £56 million. Their Topcliffe factory, Dalton, UK is dedicated to the production of foods for hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs, mice and rabbits.

Wagg Foods now operate four fully automatic Okura robots for palletising shrink wrapped bundles and 5-25kg bags.

THE SOLUTION

-Okura unique OXPA "self-teach palletsing patterns system with programming memory for 150 different palletsing programmes.
-pallet protection wrapping system 300 auto with further modification for combining mini-pallets.
-PLC Control system- purpose built allowing complete control of the entire system.
-Compacta Tubular Form Fill Seal Bagging machine- capable of delivering high speed, accurate bagging.
-Fully automatic pallet magazine with a capacity of up to 400kg.
-Bag conveyor system is complete with a bag flattener.
-Heavy duty check weigher with a capability of up to 1200bags an hour.

THE CHALLENGE

-To fully automate end of line palletising- Providing the possibility to add additional shifts without increasing their labour force.
-Flexibility- system had to be "self adjusting" for palletising different sizes of packs
-Shrink wrapped bundles must be handled carefully to protect their appearance and "shelf appeal".
-Fully automatic bagging which can achieve high speeds.
-Capability to produce varying bag sizes utilising Form Fill Seal technology to lower the cost per bag.

THE RESULT

Wagg Foods now benefits from increased packing line flexibility, it is able to respond to changing customer demands.
-Wagg Foods were so happy with the original solution that further production lines have since been installed.
-Reduced operating costs obtained by handling the production of two lines with one robot palletiser.
-Reduced labour required, providing perpetual cost savings and improvements in productivity.
-Open mouth bag filling with a throughput of up to 750 bags/hour.
-Strech wrapped weather protected pallets at a rate of 40 pallets/hour.
-Okura palletizer operating a throughput of up to 1500 bags/hour.

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