From refill packages for laundry detergent to conventional instant food bags to resealable beverage packaging, sealed-edge pouches or doypacks are becoming more and more popular for consumer goods. However, these bags provide challenges for the manufacturers of machines that combine the individual packs into larger batches. The material used for this purpose generally is very soft, so the bags have no defined dimensions. However, as one of the leading international manufacturers of special packaging machines, Meypack has been an expert in such applications for years. The latest innovations from the German company include a new generation of highly flexible machines that perfectly pack sealed-edge pouches into wraparound cartons or trays.

In a new machine generation, the packaging specialist Meypack relies on a comprehensive standardization concept from Siemens for the automation and drive technology. The new approach helps achieve synergies that impress both the project managers and the end customers.

Comprehensive standardization concept

The key features of the new generation of machines are an innovative network topology and the use of energy-efficient drive technology based on the comprehensive Optimized Packaging Line (OPL) standardization concept. One of the first packaging machines using the new concept is the Meypack VP 453. The machine packs sealed-edge pouches into display trays with lids partially inserted on the long side of the tray and secured against slipping with glue dots. Before the sealed-edge pouches are packed in the trays, they pass through a vibrating conveyor. There the content of the bags is precisely weighed and distributed as evenly as possible. Then the bags are...

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Klaus M. Vogel, Export Sales Manager, Meypack
stacked horizontally and, after reaching the desired quantity, pushed to the tray section in such a way that no bag can fall over in the process. After being packed, the display trays are conveyed out of the packaging unit.

**Increased energy savings potential**

In order to perform these highly motion-controlled processes efficiently and with the lowest possible plant lifecycle costs, Meypack relies on the comprehensive OPL standardization concept for automation and drive technology. Based on the hardware and software topologies provided by Siemens for this specific case, Meypack decided to use the energy-efficient and flexible Motox gear motors as well as the matching regenerative and distributed Sinamics S120 drive technology. With this intelligent drive technology, brake power can be used again and, if necessary, fed back into the mains – virtually without unwanted feedback, thanks to the new active line module (ALM). Because the Meypack VP 453 also includes Sentron PAC multifunctional measurement devices, operators benefit from full transparency in terms of consumption, network quality, and demand peaks.

Potential energy savings of up to 40 percent result from the hardware configuration alone, representing an enormous economic advantage, as energy costs constitute up to 70 percent of the lifecycle costs of a machine. The technologies used have a positive effect not only on power consumption but also on the quality of the power grid, so that transformers and network components can be better sized according to actual requirements. Intelligent planning tools such as Sizer have made it possible for the company to eliminate overdimensioning during engineering, which enables additional energy savings and cost reductions. “The way in which Siemens has generated savings through the optimization of consumption and mains quality using OPL is absolutely compelling and constitutes a valuable sales argument for our new packaging machines,” says Klaus M. Vogel, export sales manager at Meypack.

**Considerably reduced operating costs**

The Meypack VP 453 is characterized by its standardized drive technology, flexibility of processes, and innovative energy management. While performance remains the same, this ultramodern packaging machine helps minimize energy consumption and thereby consistently reduce lifecycle costs. In other words, with the Meypack VP 453, those who look beyond just the initial investment costs of acquiring a packaging machine for sealed-edge pouches can benefit from considerably lower operating costs over the entire service life of the machine.

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