

Automated secondary packaging system for the Caribbean

Sigpack Systems' successful TTL-i Toploader platform is entering the Caribbean to help Associated Brands with its packaging needs.

Already well established among the most important chocolate and confectionary manufacturers in Europe and the US, the TTL-i Toploader is asked for more and more in emerging markets such as Turkey, Iran, Mexico and many others.

Associated Brands Industries, Limited (ABIL) is the leading manufacturer and distributor of snack foods. The division, Charles Candy, manufactures internationally recognizable products to the highest quality that are sold in Taiwan, Ireland and the Caribbean among others.

The company's flagship brand "Catch", produced on a Sollich conbar line and packaged on a primary Sigpack flow wrapper, is one of many other products

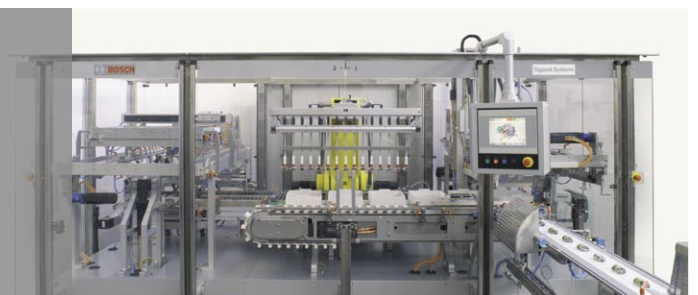
that will be packaged on this new TTL-i toploader.

A wide variety of tasty wafers

At the beginning of next year, at San Juan, Trinidad, a new Sigpack Systems TTL-i Toploader will package 14 different product formats in seven different tray sizes of wafers. With such a wide format variety, it is essential for Associated Brands to introduce a secondary packaging solution that makes child's



Integrated Toploader TTL-i including tray former and tray closer.





play out of changeovers. With a compact footprint, the TTLi combines three functionalities: tray forming, tray toloading and tray closing. The intelligent robot handling of the TTLi makes it possible to complete the handling and toloading of the trays in a compact footprint. All supply lines for vacuum, pneumatic air pressure and electrical sensors are integrated in a connecting plate, which holds the product gripper. This makes it very easy to change the gripper for a new product format, as the operator does not have to worry about the reconnection of additional cables and plugs.

Format changeover is child's play

As usual, the amount of change parts is kept to a minimum with the TTLi. The tray forming and closing tools are adjustable over the whole format range, so

operators do not have to disassemble the machine for a format changeover. This can also be completed tool free and all one needs is basic technical skills and the completion of a Sigpack Systems training course. This allows line operators to handle the format changeover without supervision, which saves time and money when compared to other units, where highly skilled maintenance staff have to reassemble the machine every time a format change is needed.

TTLi reduces tray variability

In moving away from manual secondary packaging, Associated Brands will also benefit on the logistics side by applying the new TTLi. Today, more than 14 different tray and blank sizes are necessary for the manual forming and loading of its wafer products. Sigpack Systems

engineers studied all the product and packaging formats and then optimized the tray dimensions. As the TTLi has the ability to toload products into very tight trays, a reduction in the number of tray sizes, from 14 to 7, will be possible. The printing of each tray format remains different, but the handling of less tray types will help to reduce the purchasing cost of the blanks.

Before it heads out to the Caribbean for installation and operation, the TTLi destined for Associated Brands will be exhibited at PMMI 2006, in Chicago.

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