

„Lights Out Operation“ Connect and Walk Away

Astellas Ireland Company Ltd has been a Bosch Packaging Technology partner for years, utilizing capsule filling machines and associated peripherals. To meet the requirements of higher productivity, while reducing the total cost of ownership, it has turned to a new “Lights Out Operation” solution from Bosch, which delivers operator free, 24 hour production.

Simply connect and walk away

The lights out operation production at Astellas is achieved through the integrated line components of the Bosch Capsule Filling Line 5 (**CFL5**), with its associated User Management System, an automatic troubleshooting system (**ASB**) and remote control via tablet PC. The **CFL5** User Management System maps out the critical process parameters, has a line visualization function and lists

potential error sources. The production manager can now sit in the monitoring office and observe the production line, eliminating the need for an operator in an air suit to constantly be near the equipment. As more potent substances are filled and packaged at Astellas, a decrease in the use of air suits and decontamination facilities further minimizes the total cost of ownership. Additionally, the **CFL5** User Management System controls the line with ease and convenience through a wireless transfer of all component information to the

portable PC. It can be remotely operated and allows the user to see a visualization of the current status of one, or several, modules, as well as allowing remote system adjustments. This allows the user to monitor the system through a simple and easy interface, without being confined to close proximity of the production premises. In addition, the line also has an Overall Equipment Effectiveness function to forecast overall production potential/performance opportunities.

- 1|2 Capsule filling line **CFL3** – little brother of **CFL5**
- 3 Monitoring office for 100% production monitoring
- 4 Capsule flow of full automated capsule filling line **CFL5**





Achieving high performance

The **ASB** function enables the machine to perform several crucial tasks independently, without the need for an operator. It detects blockages caused by deformed empty capsules and automatically removes them. The **ASB** also includes a single capsule discharge that reduces product and capsule loss by not rejecting the entire capsule segment in the event of one failed capsule. This increases automation while lowering the frequency of machine stoppages.

“As soon as the operator starts the machine, we are now able to keep it running unattended, day and night, depending on the capacity of empty capsules,” says Rory McShane, Astellas Project Manager. “The lights out operation has not only enabled us to meet increasing market demand, but it also provides additional production capacity at virtually no extra cost.”

Maximum automation is also achieved through the automatic feeding of capsules and powder, automatic weight checking and regulation, and automatic product sampling.

Partnership boosts leadership

Through lights out operation, Bosch has provided another advanced development for efficient and profitable production. The partnership between Bosch and Astellas has also enabled Astellas to secure long-term, economically efficient production and cements its leadership in capsule filling in the pharmaceutical industry.

For more information please contact:

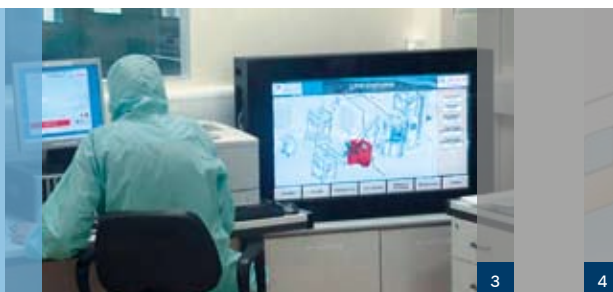
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2



3



4