



DISCOVER THE NEW WP 1000 ERGON CASE PACKER

AT DRINKTEC 2025, SMI SHOWED THE NEW WP 1000 ERGON WRAP-AROUND CASE PACKER, DESIGNED TO ASSURE HIGH-PERFORMANCE UP TO 100 PPM, QUICK FORMAT CHANGES, AND GREATER ERGONOMICS IN BOARD PACKAGING.

The WP 1000 ERGON wrap-around case packer also meets the needs of companies that prioritise environmental protection through the use of packaging solutions made with sustainable materials, such as lightweight kraft cardboard. With the new SMI case packers, it is possible to produce board cases of various shapes and sizes using kraft board, 1.5 mm thick microwave

cardboard or standard 3 mm board, adapting the machine to various processes through simple adjustments from the POSYC® operator panel.

High Level Performance

The WP 1000 ERGON automatic case packer is the ideal solution for packing various types of containers of different sizes in multiple configurations of wrap-

around cardboard cases, wrap-around trays or completely closed cardboard boxes made from 0.7 mm kraft cardboard, at a maximum speed of 100 packages per minute (speed referred to aluminium cans in a 3x4 format).

Maximum Operating Efficiency and Speed of Format Change

The high performance of the system is also achieved thanks to the speed of the format change operations, made possible by an innovative automatic adjustment system for loose product guides installed at the infeed of the WP 1000 ERGON. Safety and precision of movements are the main 'pluses' that characterise this system, allowing the operator to optimally, flexibly, and extremely efficiently manage the format change operations, especially when there is repeatability in production cycles. Downtime, represented by machine stops to adapt to the new format being processed, is drastically

reduced, as the operator's intervention is limited to the simple selection of the desired format from the POSYC® control panel, where the operating parameters for the formats to be used are saved. The automatic format change at the machine infeed, in addition to speed, flexibility, and efficiency, also guarantees:

- Reduction of machine downtime and consequent reduction of costs (greater profitability of the plant)
- Guarantee of quality and efficiency of the repeatability operations of format changes
- Reduced risk of human errors and consequently greater precision and efficiency in production, thanks to the simple selection of formats from the control panel.

The reduction of format changeover times and, consequently, the improvement of the machine's operational performance, is ensured by an innovative top product separation system. The separation of the loose product flow is extremely smooth, fast, and efficient thanks to the presence of two opposing elevated bars that release the product group based on the set format.

The fully automatic device designated for this function is highly efficient, as it does not use traditional bottom product separation systems with pins, and it ensures that the products themselves can move smoothly and quickly on the conveyor belt; this is a factor that is extremely important in high-speed production processes. To switch from one format to another, it is, in fact, sufficient to disassemble the two plates that hold the separator pins from each of the two elevated

bars and install those prepared with the pins suitable for releasing the group of products for the new format to be processed.

The operation is very quick and precise and reduces the risk of human error since, thanks to the innovative quick release and locking system, it is possible to remove the plate that is no longer needed and insert the new one for the format in use. No screws and/or special tools are required to perform this unlocking/locking operation; therefore, any operator can easily and quickly make this modification, ensuring an increase in productivity and efficiency of the production line.

Another innovative aspect that contributes to the final quality of the package is the closure system for the flaps on the wrap-around box. To ensure optimal performance during the box sealing phase, which occurs at high speeds, the system is equipped with two opposing side locks made with chains capable of efficiently closing the pack; thus, the system ensures compression and sealing of the package at the highest quality levels.

Greater Ergonomics of the System

The ergonomic and functional design of the WP 1000 ERGON case packer, allows the operator to easily perform all activities related to the use and maintenance of the machine, while maintaining high levels of safety and efficiency. An example is represented by the Easy-load magazine, an innovative system that automatically loads cardboard blanks into the machine's designated magazine and provides optimised performance for high-speed packaging operations.

✉ info@smigroup.it
 🌐 www.smigroup.it
 ☎ +39 0345 40111

Krones Strengthens its Portfolio Through Acquisitions

With the acquisition of 60% of the shares in GHS Separationstechnik GmbH and the full takeover of the Dutch company Can Systems Worldwide (CSW), Krones is expanding its portfolio in both process technology and filling and packaging equipment.

Expansion of the Process Technology Portfolio

In early July, Krones acquired 60% of the shares in GHS Separationstechnik GmbH, based in Landshut, Germany. This investment secures access to decanter centrifuges a key product including associated process technology for solid-liquid separation. These systems are used in the processing of vegetable oils, juices, alternative food products and PET recycling. The company employs around 25 full-time staff and generated revenues of approximately €10m in 2024.

Strengthening Expertise in Can Handling

On 16 September, Krones also acquired 100% of the shares in Can Systems Worldwide Holding B.V. (CSW), a Dutch manufacturer and supplier of specialised machinery and equipment for handling can ends. From its headquarters in Deventer, Netherlands, CSW serves international customers in the beer, beverage and food industries. With around 35 full-time employees, the company generated revenues of approximately €20m in 2024. CSW will continue to operate as an independent entity and will maintain its established level of service and product quality for its customers.