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NEWS RELEASE

Innomech develops high speed packaging system for global automotive supplier

Automation consultancy GB Innomech (Innomech) has developed a new high speed automated product packaging system that will help SG Technologies – a global leader in the production of high performance magnetic components – to more than double the production capacity for one of its highest volume products.

Innomech has designed the new system to automate a particularly labour-intensive and repetitive product packaging process for a series of components that are used within automotive fuel injectors. The new fully customised system gives SG Technologies the option to increase production throughput for this product line by 150%, while also improving its manufacturing process efficiency and reducing work in progress. It also means the company's skilled operators can focus on more varied and challenging manufacturing tasks such as short production runs of highly specialised parts.

The automated system eliminates all manual handling of finished magnetic components as they are being transferred from work in progress trays into specially-designed packaging trays ready for shipment. It has also been configured to handle two distinct product families, each containing multiple variants and without requiring any manual adjustment. The system works by gently sweeping the components onto a conveyor belt, a high speed laser micrometer verifies the height of each part to within a few microns, and then a Codian 'pick and place' robot transfers five components at a time into a packaging tray.

"Innomech has developed the ideal system to automate a potentially rate-limiting product packaging process and to provide us with increased flexibility and capacity to meet fast-growing and changing customer demands. The system also removes any risk of potential damage to products through manual handling which is critical in our drive towards zero defect manufacturing and even greater process efficiencies," said Stuart Hutcheon, commercial director at SG Technologies.

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Innomech was first appointed by SG Technologies to carry out an in-depth feasibility study and to recommend the most cost-effective way of automating the company's existing manual packaging process. The consultancy's automation specialists then built a working prototype to demonstrate key aspects of the system before proceeding with the design and development phase. The new system has been designed to operate 24/7 and took around 10 months to develop from initial concepts through to system build, test and integration into the client's existing production line.

Notes to editors:

About GB Innomech

GB Innomech (Innomech) specialises in automating highly complex and labour-intensive manufacturing processes to maximise outputs, improve product quality and boost business performance. The company works with major international manufacturers in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, medical devices and environmental, as well as earlier-stage businesses looking to bring breakthrough technologies or products to market.

Innomech has a growing market reputation for solving the toughest of manufacturing problems by the early identification and management of risk, often cross-fertilising technologies and techniques from a range of industry sectors. All projects from initial feasibility studies through to building production-scale machines are conducted to high specification pharmaceutical industry standards and are designed to comply with GAMP5, FDA and other international standards.

The company was founded in 1990, is based at The Innovation Centre in Witchford, north of Cambridge and was awarded The Queen's Award for Enterprise 2009 to recognise its sustained growth in international markets.

For additional information about GB Innomech please visit or contact:

- www.innomech.co.uk
- Press enquiries to Simon McKay on +44 (0)1353 741075 or email to simonmckay@innomech.co.uk
- All other enquiries to Tim Mead at Innomech on +44 (0)1353 667394

About SG Technologies

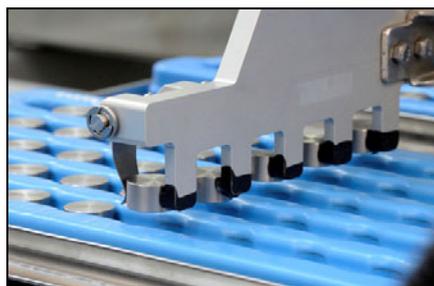
SG Technologies is a global leader in the production of high performance magnetic components and assemblies. The company specialises in the development of innovative magnetic materials and process technologies that allow its customers to improve efficiency and performance in their end product.

SG Technologies works with clients through all stages of the product cycle: from initial concept, through prototype production, all the way to high volume, zero defect manufacture. And is proud of being the trusted, long term partner for magnetic components for many of the world's leading technology and manufacturing companies including: Bosch, Delphi, Ford, VW and Caterpillar.

For further information please see www.sgtec.com

Photographs

Print quality JPEGs of the images below have been attached to the original email or are available on request from Simon McKay (details above). Alternative images can be supplied.



- 1 Innomech has designed and developed a new high speed automated product packaging system for SG Technologies, a global leader in the production of high performance magnetic components.



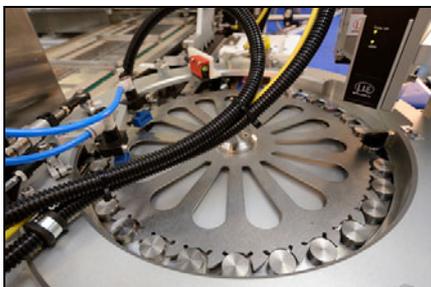
- 2 The new high speed packaging system eliminates all manual handling of finished magnetic components. A 'pick and place' robot (shown above) transfers five components at a time into specially-designed trays ready for shipment.



- 3 The automated process starts with the machine operator loading trays of components into the system, shown above. The system has been configured to handle two distinct product families, each with multiple variants and without requiring any manual adjustment.



- 4 A conveyor belt sweeps a regular stream of components into the system (from right to left in the image above).



- 5 A high speed laser micrometer (shown above on the right) verifies the height of each part to within a few microns. The indexed turntable moves components around before dispensing them onto a toothed belt ready for the robot to transfer them into packaging trays.

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