

Solutions in Action

AFA Systems, Inc.



DSSC Case Former from AFA Systems



PACK EXPO 2010

Booth S-1236

AFA Systems, Inc. is a leading provider of innovative, reliable automated packaging solutions to many well-known manufacturers of consumer products and pharmaceuticals worldwide. With more than 60 years of experience, the Brampton, Ontario-based company offers unique, custom solutions to fit a wide range of product-handling and packaging automation needs.

AFA Systems delivers a complete line of packaging solutions, including horizontal and vertical cartoners, carton and case formers, top and end load case packers, carton, case, and tray erectors, tray feeders and denestors, accumulators and palletizers, robotic systems, and machine rebuilding and retrofitting.

On display at this year's PACK EXPO is the new **DSSC Case Former**, one of AFA Systems' end-of-line packaging solutions. This machine provides a simpler and more sustainable solution to replace traditional case erectors that use RSC corrugated boxes. For its new case former, AFA Systems developed a new type of flat blank corrugated box, the patent-pending DSSC, as an alternative to the more traditional RSC. Using a DSSC can provide up to 25 percent cost savings over using a RSC. The machine erects each box from a vertical orientation, which allows the machine to occupy less floor space than case formers that erect each box horizontally. The smaller footprint makes AFA Systems' new case packer easier and less expensive to transport. The DSSC Case Former also simplifies the case forming process while reducing materials used.

The DSSC Case Former relies on an Allen-Bradley CompactLogix programmable automation controller (PAC) from Rockwell Automation to manage overall packaging functions. The multidisciplinary controller combines discrete and motion control into one platform, resulting in reduced maintenance and lower operating costs.



The MK-BIB Bag in Box Cartoner from AFA Systems

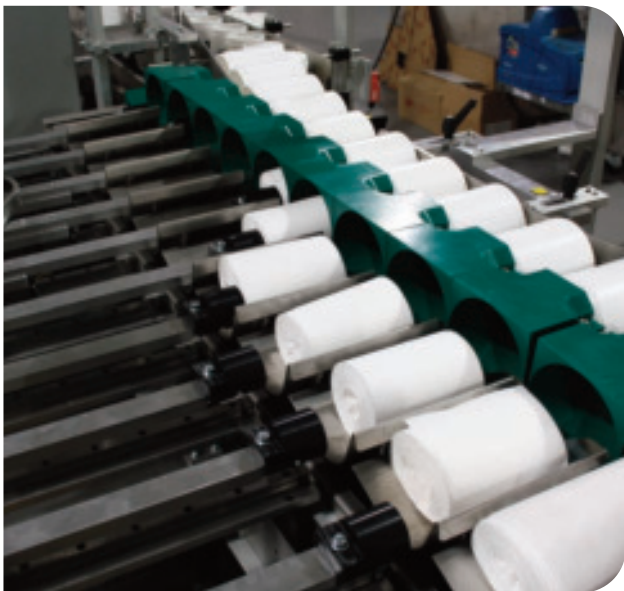


Allen-Bradley® CompactLogix™
Programmable Automation Controller



Allen-Bradley Kinetix® 300
Indexing Servo Drive

LISTEN.
THINK.
SOLVE.®



Barrel Cam Loader

The machine delivers motion precision and accuracy with an Allen-Bradley Kinetix 300 EtherNet/IP indexing servo drive. Using a servo drive, the machine provides increased flexibility and fast changeovers to accommodate different box sizes. An Allen-Bradley PanelView™ Plus 700 touch-screen human-machine interface (HMI) allows operators to easily access information about machine activity and productivity and quickly identify and troubleshoot problems.

"The Allen-Bradley Kinetix 300 indexing servo drive and PanelView Plus 700 operator interface allow the end user to initiate a changeover with the touch of a button," said David Langen, electrical engineer, AFA Systems.

Also on display in the booth is a **MK-BIB Bag in Box Cartoner**, which fully automates the process of filling boxes with bags. The machine is used for applications with a bag in the carton such as breakfast cereals, rice, cake mix and confectionary products. The MK-BIB Bag in Box Cartoner relies on an Allen-Bradley ControlLogix™ programmable automation controller (PAC) to manage overall packaging functions.

An Allen-Bradley Kinetix 2000 low power multi-axis servo drive and MP-Series™ Low Inertia (MPL) servo motors provide precise motion control. The simple modular design of the servo drive lowers wiring costs and helps achieve a smaller footprint. The servo-driven MK-BIB Bag in Box Cartoner provides the flexibility to accommodate many customer needs, such as adding a leaflet feeder.

"Our customers are very familiar with the Rockwell Automation control system, which helps simplify maintenance and lower operating costs," said Langen. "Plus, our partnership with Rockwell Automation helps us continue thinking outside of the box to deliver innovative packaging solutions."

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