

# Solutions in Action

## Tripack



The MSA 300 Applicator from Tripack



Allen-Bradley® MicroLogix™ 1400  
Programmable Logic Controller



Allen-Bradley Kinetix® 300  
Indexing Servo Drive



### PACK EXPO 2011

Booth C-249

**Tripack** delivers innovative, versatile shrink sleeve applicator equipment and product handling systems to major manufacturers in food and beverage, dairy, nutraceutical and pharmaceutical, personal care and industrial products, including top household brands such as Procter & Gamble, Hershey Foods, Johnson & Johnson, and Maybelline. At PACK EXPO 2011, the Florence, Ky.-based machine builder will showcase two new state-of-the-art solutions that demonstrate flexibility, reliability and efficiency – the **MSA 300 Applicator** and **HSA 300T high-speed shrink sleeve system**.

Both machines feature the widest range in lay-flat widths for shrink sleeve solutions – 40 to 400 millimeters. The machines are also suitable for products between one and 10 inches in diameter, providing flexibility to accommodate diverse application needs. In addition, Tripack engineers have tested both machines with corn-based films, which are more sustainable than other petroleum-based materials.

Engineered for moderate to heavy production schedules, the **MSA 300 Applicator** applies shrink sleeves on twin and multipacks by taking filled, labeled products and collating them into twin or multipacks. It then drops a film onto each pack, which travels through a heat tunnel to shrink the film onto the pack as a sleeve. Customers can use the MSA 300 for other applications, including labeling and tamper evident safety shrink banding.

The machine uses an Allen-Bradley MicroLogix 1400 programmable logic controller (PLC) and Allen-Bradley PowerFlex® 4 AC drives from Rockwell Automation for a fully integrated control solution. The PLC delivers powerful processing in a compact, cost-effective and easy-to-configure design, which is essential for the applicator's small size.

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The HSA 300T High-speed Shrink Sleeve System from Tripack

The machine delivers motion precision and accuracy with an Allen-Bradley Kinetix 300 EtherNet/IP™ indexing servo drive, which precisely manages all the machine's motion axes, including film cutting and application. It also provides increased flexibility for speed adjustments and different shrink sleeve sizes. An Allen-Bradley PanelView™ Plus 600 touch-screen human-machine interface (HMI) allows operators to easily access information about machine activity and productivity, and quickly identify and troubleshoot problems.

Also on display is the **HSA 300T high-speed shrink-sleeve system**, which is engineered for speeds of up to 600 bottles per minute. The unique system applies sleeves, neck bands or labels onto twin pack bottles after they are filled and capped upstream. Tripack engineers customize the system to create a variety of unique cost-saving packaging methods. For example, in a recent customer application, one head of the HSA 300T applied a tamper evident shrink neck band onto one bottle, and a second head applied a printed sleeve on both bottles to create the twin family pack. The customer can also redeploy the system as two individual standalone units if desired.

Tripack engineers used an Allen-Bradley CompactLogix™ L43 programmable automation controller (PAC) from Rockwell Automation to control machine functions. Using the CompactLogix PAC, customers receive the functionality and reliability they need for high-speed applications in a compact size. The controller is tightly synchronized via SERCOS to Kinetix 2000 servo drives for high-speed motion synchronization. A PanelView Plus 700 Compact HMI is connected via the EtherNet/IP network to the CompactLogix PAC and provides a user-friendly interface between the machine and operator monitoring the shrink sleeve process.

Allen-Bradley Guardmaster® products—including safety switches and relays—helps the HSA 300T adhere to the highest safety standards, a top priority of Tripack customers.

Tripack standardizes on a Rockwell Automation control platform to allow customers to take advantage of a familiar design and programming environment, and a strong global network of local support for maintenance and troubleshooting.

“Rockwell Automation has the most recognized and accepted automation platform,” said Dave Himmelmann, senior electrical engineer at Tripack. “Our customers are familiar with Rockwell Automation controls, which help them integrate Tripack packaging machinery with existing equipment upstream and downstream.”

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