

A CASE STUDY IN THE BENEFITS OF AUTOMATED PACKAGING



A PRODUCT OF AUTOMATED PACKAGING SYSTEMS

AUTOBAG® SPRINT™ BOOSTS MEDICAL KIT PRODUCTIVITY BY 470% FOR REMEL



Remel, a division of Apogent Technologies is a global leader in laboratory diagnostic and analytical test products and operates in a dynamic marketplace that is very competitive. To compete successfully, the company needs dependable equipment and supportive suppliers.

Traditionally Remel's products were packed by hand. A worker would open a bag, drop in the kit of components and then seal the bag using a hand sealer. As product demand grew, this time consuming process became a constraint.

As Remel was hoping to double production, an automated method had to be found. "At Remel, we provide a kit with multiple components to doctors, clinics, and hospitals," says Susan Snead, Remel's Production Manager. "Medical

personnel receive the kit, collect the specimen, return each component to the bag and send it to a lab for analysis. This meant we required a bag that was reclosable."

Automated Packaging Systems reviewed the application, paying particular attention to the current packaging methods and the final end use of the product. Their analysis recommended the Autobag Sprint bagger.

The Sprint system presents an open bag moving in a continuous mode through the loading section of the system. Two operators stand in front of this section and load the kit components into the bags along with a material handler and a box closer. Once the bags are loaded, they are sealed and detached. A separate process then places them into a carton. Because the bag is loaded upside down the reclosable zipper and the tamper evident perforation are always intact.

The Autobag Sprint bagger indexes a continuous web of pre-formed reclosable zipper bag at speeds of up to 70 bags per minute. This high level performance resulted in the output of the department steadily increasing with the introduction of the new system. After six months, output had increased by over 470% compared to the old process.

"Initially, we expected to double our manual output, but our production people worked with Automated Packaging Systems to integrate some additional software and improve efficiency with the Sprint bagger to a point where I think we're running at optimum capacity now," Snead says.

"Everyone here is simply astonished with the results."



©™ Autobag, Excel, Sprint and Precision are registered trademarks of Automated Packaging Systems Limited, Enigma Business Park, Sandy's Road, Malvern, WR14 1JJ

www.autobag.co.uk

© Copyright Automated Packaging Systems March 2004