

A CASE STUDY IN THE BENEFITS OF AUTOMATED PACKAGING



AUTOBAG INCREASED PACKAGING PRODUCTIVITY FOR BOC EDWARDS BY A STAGGERING 2250 PER CENT



Cutting costs of its seals packaging and labelling operation was a critical part of an ongoing productivity drive for greater operational efficiency initiated by BOC Edwards, a world leader in the production of high-vacuum pumps.

The company used a skin-pack-and-label system to package semiconductor components manufactured to medical standards which was replaced by an Autobag® semi-automatic print-pack polythene bagging and sealing system from Automated Packaging Systems. This new equipment allowed a packer to transfer pack data, using a scanner, from the master source to the Autobag system's own software via the

firm's main-frame computer, eliminating the risk of transcription errors and problems previously incurred using adhesive stickers.

Previously each item had to be unwrapped and cleaned by the customer before it could be taken into a clean room environment. By using the Autobag system in conjunction with piped filtered air to open the bag during packaging, the component remains totally clean.

This initiative increased BOC Edward's packaging rates from 80 to a staggering 1800 packs an hour. Because the equipment overprints as part of the normal bagging process the need for secondary printing is eliminated, saving both time and money.

The dramatic increase in packaging rates freed staff for other operations, while material costs were reduced substantially by using Autobag bags-on-a-roll. Renowned for its efficiency, the use of Autobag machinery meant minimal downtime meaning greater savings in costs and time.

Overall savings by BOC Edwards gave a payback on investment time of approximately 10 months.

Senior Manufacturing Engineer at BOC Edwards, Mike Dance, said: *"We have reduced the work-load for our customers and reduced packaging costs for ourselves. Our customers are delighted and order intakes have increased. We could not have asked for a better result in changing to APS equipment."*

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