

# A CASE STUDY IN THE BENEFITS OF AUTOMATED PACKAGING



## AUTOBAG® SYSTEMS IMPROVES PRODUCTIVITY FOR SHELTERED WORKSHOP



Torbay Industrial Services is one of four sheltered workshops operating under the umbrella of Devon Industrial Services, providing employment for people with a wide range of disabilities. Competitive pricing and responsiveness is critical to securing packaging work for the organisation.

The workshop pack desiccant sachets for British Telecom and they require simple to operate yet highly productive equipment that could be easily and safely used by its disabled workforce, while remaining productive, and therefore competitive.

Automated Packaging Systems (APS) provided the solution and seven Autobag systems were installed, four of them 'print and pack' units. These units combine the packaging speed and flexibility of the Excel™ autobagger with the capabilities of the AutoLabel™ Precision™ thermal-transfer printer, overprinting barcodes and variable text directly onto the bag.

Risk assessments were carried out and the ease of using the system allowed all employees to master the operation of the machinery safely. Because of the nature of the varied operator disabilities, reliability of the systems was extremely important. APS also provided maintenance training to reduce disruptions from potential downtime supported by a telephone service help-line. Larger reels of bags were also designed to meet the requirement for minimum changeovers, specific to this type of sheltered workshop operation.

By using Autobag machines and cost-effective bags-on-a-roll there was an immediate saving on downtime and material wastage and an increase in throughput exceeding the needs of the customer.

*The workshop manager, Kev Turner, said: "We completed all the necessary risk assessments to ensure total operational safety. The ease of the Autobag system allows all our staff to master the machinery operation with peace of mind. By using Autobag production has surged to 30,000 bags per shift, a staggering improvement of 75 per cent on previous rates."*