

SMI GROUP Italy, through SMIG brings European technology to Australian manufacturing

Packers, fillers, palletisers, blow moulders, complete turnkey lines and AR Smart Glasses are products from SMI, supplied through Systems Machinery Integration Group (SMIG), to advance food and beverage processing. *Food & Beverage Industry News* reports.



The Systems Machinery Integration Group are the exclusive Australian market agents for SMI food processing machinery.

As the Australian agent for European company SMI, SMIG has been bringing cutting-edge technology to the market for 25 years.

SMI's line of equipment is produced in Italy and is supported worldwide by having long-standing relationships with locally based companies to provide a global network of sales, technical support, training, and spare parts.

SMIG's business development

manager, John Wolf, said the technologies being offered by SMI, due to continuous improvement and economy of scale, gives a competitive advantage within the Australian marketplace.

These advances include SMI in-house design, implementation, and manufacturing, continuous R&D, and protection against redundancy. This results in world's best practice within an affordable capital expenditure. All of this supported by AR

Smart Glasses.

The AR Smart Glasses and local SMIG support allow any customer to have access to expert help, in real time, by using the glasses to record a live feed to a consultant.

This is achieved by the cameras embedded on the sides of the glasses, and an AR interface for both client and consultant to see; troubleshooting can be done remotely as if both people were in the room together.

This results in a host of features

including saving on time and costs, efficient troubleshooting, ease of use and the capacity for immediate communication.

Another SMI feature applied to the range of equipment, is reduction of running costs and subsequently the carbon footprint.

This is achieved by in-house designed lower power consumption components and system design.

Regarding the equipment itself, SMI has removed many plastic

The suite of products from SMIG include packers, fillers, palletisers, and AR Smart Glasses.



“These are some of the benefits of the machines being smarter, along with being able to identify issues which could be damaging to the equipment,” said Wolf.

“If your maintenance team is watching over the machine and doing the daily, weekly, monthly checks, the functionality and efficiency of the machine will perform as expected.

“It’s like your car, you can put oil in it today and it will be great but then after 75,000km, it will run, but not at its best. Lack of involvement with equipment will ultimately break the machinery down quicker.”

Another feature of using SMI/SMIG palletisers and packers was the continuity between the customer interfaces and system architecture.

Knowledge base is shared across all the equipment supplied by SMI.

Once trained, the operators can easily move between all SMI supplied equipment with full understanding and ability to resolve issues.

Next, the quantity of spare parts held on site or locally supplied is reduced as the commonality is consistent among all the equipment.

Fault finding is another common area of the architecture that benefits

the end user. Having to identify and understand one architecture versus numerous architectures on site reducing frustration and saves time and money.

Another selling point of working with SMI and SMIG, according to Wolf, is the extent with which the two companies continue to support customers.

“We don’t look at a purchase order as the end of the relationship, but as the start of a long-term partnership,” said Wolf.

“Our factory trained technicians have over 45 years of SMI experience thus giving them the ability and skill to service, train, and trouble shoot your SMI equipment.

“And to answer the question, yes we do all of our own install and commissioning of new SMI equipment. That’s makes us different.”

With 80 per cent of SMI machines being developed and built from start to finish in-house in Italy, there will always be ongoing continuity on systems of the machine which means there are no “one-offs,” and thus ongoing support and familiarity is possible, therefore ensuring redundancy is not only possible but a basic building concept. **F**

components where possible on the equipment and replaced them with sustainable/recyclable materials.

According to a spokesperson from SMI, “the development of the advanced system controls means that the individual pieces or a complete line can adapt into pause mode when not being called upon to produce”.

This again, aids in reducing the carbon footprint by reducing energy consumption.

Additionally, it also reduces the wear and tear on the equipment, which in turn, reduces the ongoing cost of ownership and extends the life of the machine.

The machinery design has been aimed at ease of use and maintenance, with the HMI displaying the machine status on the main page while also indicating the exact location of the machine that requires attention, saving time and effort on the part of the operator.

Change-over times are minimised allowing equipment to be available for greater production times.

The machine has electronic torque control, which in basic terms means the machine will stop should the product get out of position and interfere with the normal machine operation. This minimises damage to the machine and products and excessive cleaning time.

The Ergon series of machines continuous evaluation focuses on product positioning and carton alignment during the operation cycle. Traditionally, older machines in production could not evaluate product was out of position, at time resulting in broken jars or bottles. The result?

The explosion of glass and contents.

“As anybody who has experienced broken glass will know, you will find pieces for a long time. SMI new machines minimise, if not eliminate, the prospect of those issues occurring, once again reducing downtime,” said Wolf.

SMI’s equipment has shown that the total costs of ownership has been decreasing, while inversely the technology and R&D within the company continues to be world class.



The machinery from SMIG can reduce carbon footprints, improve processes and efficiency, and implement new systems.