

Britvic plc

Automatic
Vertical Pallet
Strap Removal
System



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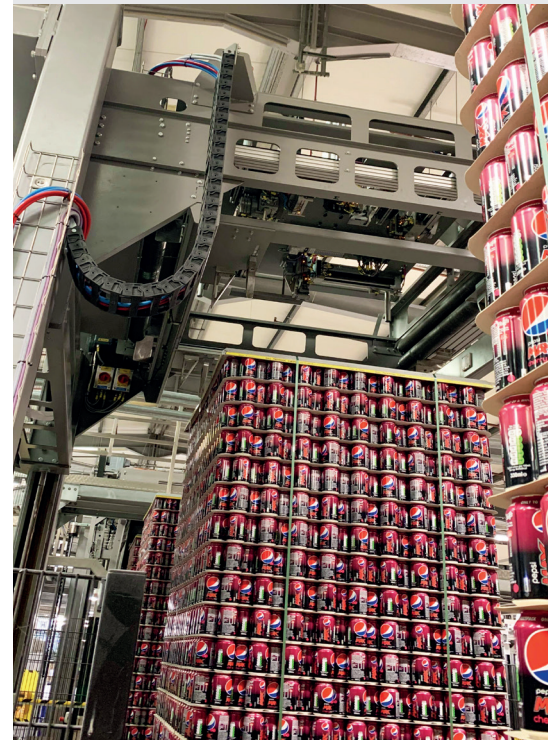


Britvic plc is investing more than £100million in its Rugby manufacturing site to step-change the company's production capability.

Britvic is one of the leading branded soft drinks businesses in Europe and South America. It currently operates in and exports to over 50 countries, and is the largest supplier of branded still soft drinks and the number two supplier of branded carbonated soft drinks in Great Britain.

As part of Britvic's investment at Rugby, three new can lines have been installed which are amongst the fastest in the Europe, collectively producing 6,000 cans per minute. The state-of-the-art design has led to a reduction in waste and a significant increase in production outputs.

Britvic is committed to providing high quality working conditions and environments for its operatives. The introduction of three new L.B. Foster vertical pallet debanders to the automated canning lines serve a number of purposes. Automating the removal of high tension retaining straps removes the potential risk of whiplash caused when high-tension straps are manually removed. It also prevents repetitive strain injuries previously caused by overreaching.



Requirement

L.B. Foster Automation & Materials Handling supplied three automatic vertical pallet strap removal systems to Britvic plc's Rugby manufacturing site near Coventry.

Each pallet debander is installed on a separate automated can filling line, each with a capacity of 1.1 million cans per 12 hour shift.

Specification

- > Processes metal, plastic and wooden top frames
- > Cycle time as low as 60 seconds per pallet
- > Reliable and flexible granulation system
- > Removes up to eight straps simultaneously
- > Pallet height range from 1.5m to 3m
- > Production data interface modules
- > Siemens control systems
- > Simple pneumatic operation with 6 bar air pressure.

Our Solution

The L.B. Foster Vertical Pallet Debander is precision-designed to automatically locate, cut and remove tensioned vertical plastic straps from stacks of pallets.

At Britvic plc's Rugby soft drinks manufacturing site we were tasked with the integration of our vertical pallet debanders into three new soft drinks can filling lines.

Previously retaining straps were removed by hand, increasing the risk of health and safety incidents for operatives.

The new pallet debanders are installed at the start of the can filling lines. Cans are manufactured on site by Britvic and fed onto the production line at a rate of 10-12 pallets per hour. Each pallet holds approximately 8,073 cans secured for transit by eight polyester retaining straps.

Mick Haswell is Maintenance Manager - Canning at Britvic Soft Drinks Limited in Rugby. He says: "Britvic's vision is to be the most dynamic, creative and trusted soft drinks company in the world. That means investing in technologies that enable us to operate more effectively and efficiently."

"L.B. Foster's vertical debanders tick all the boxes when it comes to speed, accuracy and safety, with the added bonus of reducing our environmental footprint with its clever, in-built recycling hopper for plastic retaining straps. These are shredded and granules sent for recycling."

Haswell continues: "As part of a £100m investment in Rugby, Britvic has installed three new can lines which are amongst the fastest in Europe, with each line producing up to 2,000 cans per minute. The investment is designed to step-change the speed and flexibility of our production lines whilst delivering environmental benefits through greater efficiencies."

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What they said

"L.B. Foster's vertical debanders tick all the boxes when it comes to speed, accuracy and safety, with the added bonus of reducing our environmental footprint with its clever, in-built recycling hopper that granulates plastic retaining straps for reuse."

Mick Haswell - Maintenance Manager, Britvic Soft Drinks Limited





**LB Foster Automation &
Materials Handling**

6 The Midway
Lenton
Nottingham
NG7 2TS

t +44 (0) 115 8400 500
e reply@lbfoster.com

lbfoster.eu