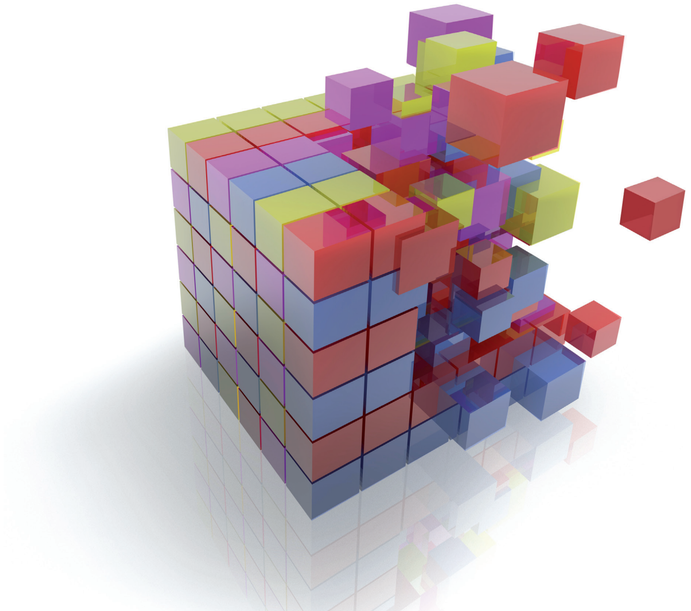
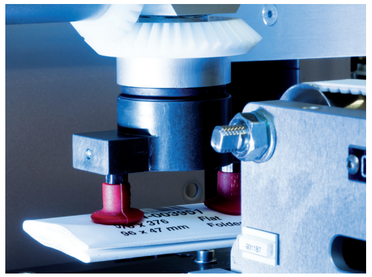
DIVIDELLA
KÖRBER SOLUTIONS

CASE STUDY

FASTER TO MARKET THANKS TO MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY





Another of the customer's wishes: the machine had to be suitable for the production of packs with vials as well as vials and ampoules, accompanied in each case by a leaflet.

FASTER TO MARKET THANKS TO MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY

The very best of technology which has proved itself over many decades, adapted to new packaging requirements – this was what the customer wanted. The NeoTOP 304 packaging machine from Dividella AG, which has just been fully upgraded, features greatly increased flexibility, to the customer's delight.

Whether a machine promoted as flexible actually comes up to its reputation generally becomes apparent only when it is upgraded or converted. A fully upgraded NeoTOP 304 from Dividella AG has now passed this test with flying colours – to the delight of the customer, a pharmaceuticals group. In 2002, Dividella AG supplied the packaging machine to the drugs manufacturer. For six years the machine packaged a pharmaceutical product which is administered with an enclosed inhalator. Since the product was available in three different pack sizes, the unit could be set up for three folding box formats.

Before the conversion, the machine packaged in three formats

However, in the course of time, as the pharmaceuticals group wanted to package other medicinal products on the NeoTOP 304 as well, conversion became necessary. Instead of the existing combination packs in three formats, which were filled with one or more inhalators and the corresponding capsules, depending on the form of administration, the NeoTOP 304 had to be able to package the products more flexibly. In the future the machine would also have to be able to produce combination packs containing syringes, vials, needles and an enclosed leaflet. Another of the customer's wishes: the machine had to be suitable for the production of packs with vials as well as vials and ampoules, accompanied in each case by a leaflet.

"Apart from various feed systems which we integrated into the NeoTOP 304 as part of the conversion project, we also installed two other modules: an inserter for leaflets and booklets, plus a four-metre long manual inserter module. The two modules guarantee maximum flexibility, as it is now possible to run a total of three different folding box formats and five different inserter formats", says Nicola Vella, the project manager responsible for the conversion of the NeoTOP 304. "The converted machine is even more flexible in terms of the products and their shape, as the manual inserter module allows products of any shape to be fed in – as long as they do not exceed the dimensions of the largest possible folding-box format."

The manual inserter module – the key to flexibility

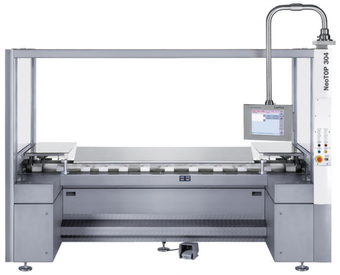
Spatial factors constituted a quite specific challenge: despite the additional integrated modules and feed systems, the machine had to remain compact. However, at the same time there was a requirement for a very long manual inserter module, which needed a lot of space. "The four-metre long module for the machine is the longest manual inserter module we have ever built. But it's the only way to enable three people to work on it at the same time", says Nicola Vella. Actually, the manual-feed module is the heart of the machine. Vella says: "We couldn't achieve such unlimited flexibility in terms of formats using feeds which have to be precisely matched to a product every time. With the module, the customer is now able to package efficiently medicines which come to market in very small quantities."

This manual feed solution is also ideal for a quick market launch, because if a feed system had to be ordered beforehand for a new pharmaceutical product, it would on the one hand be very expensive and on the other hand the lead times for customised feed systems are relatively long. "The converted NeoTOP 304 is therefore suitable for really quick time-to-market and consequently is a great help when launching new products", stresses Nicola Vella.

All expectations exceeded!

The converted NeoTOP 304 has since been extensively tested in practice: the machine benefits from quite outstanding Overall Equipment Effectiveness (OEE) and has even exceeded expectations, and the product department managers are full of praise for the converted machine. The customer is happy because the converted machine meets expectations in terms of flexibility and reliability. In total, the complex conversion project took only six months – to the great delight of the pharmaceutical company's project manager, who has fond memories of the cooperation with Dividella.

Thanks to high personnel productivity, the project was able to be completed within the specified framework in terms of cost and time. He describes the way the team worked as fair and professional. Finally, the customer also praises the way Dividella's personnel emphasize the importance of customer service: from his point of view, they approached the customer's specific wishes with the requisite farsightedness and in this way contributed greatly to the success of the project.



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“ALL EXPECTATIONS EXCEEDED.”

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THE CUSTOMER’S REQUIREMENT

Before the conversion, the machine packaged in three formats. However, in the course of time, as the pharmaceuticals group wanted to package other medicinal products on the NeoTOP 304 as well, conversion became necessary. Instead of the existing combination packs in three formats, which were filled with one or more inhalators and the corresponding capsules, depending on the form of administration, the NeoTOP 304 had to be able to package the products more flexibly. In the future the machine would also have to be able to produce combination packs containing syringes, vials, needles and an enclosed leaflet. Another of the customer’s wishes: the machine had to be suitable for the production of packs with vials as well as vials and ampoules, accompanied in each case by a leaflet.

THE SOLUTION

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CUSTOMER BENEFITS

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Dividella’s machines are modular in construction and individually tailored to customers’ requirements; if these requirements change over time, the modular construction of Dividella machines means they can be upgraded to meet the new requirements perfectly.

The two modules guarantee maximum flexibility, as it is now possible to run a total of three different folding box formats and five different inserter formats

Photos: NeoTOP 304 not the customer’s machine

TECHNICAL DATA

NeoTOP 304

Range of formats	Length [mm]	Width [mm]	Height [mm]
Minimum	60	45	17
Maximum	190	170	60

Number of flutes	Flute height [mm]
1-4 flutes	min. 10
3 flutes	max. 56
4 flutes	max. 40

Output/min.	30 packs ~ 600 objects

The modularity of the packaging line leaves almost endless possibilities to package any product.

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