

Automating Tip Top's labelling system



Tip Top Australia's newest facility in Sydney is one of the smartest designs in automated supply chain systems ever developed. The bakery, product packaging, order packing and dispatch systems are all housed in a single building and integrated with automated machinery that assists the entire production process.

Part of the new installation includes 12 product finishing and packing lines that are automatically controlled via a central production management system and are capable of filling orders on demand. A solution that would automatically print and apply barcode labels onto the completed crate stacks on each of the 12 lines was needed.



Tip Top needed the printer applicators to communicate directly with the inventory management computer system and print and apply the crate stack contents as the stacks are completed. It was found that the Weber brand of

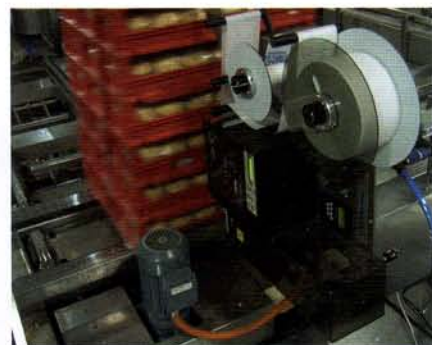
printer applicators with the Zebra Technologies PAX4 print engines could perform this task well.

With expertise in custom label applicator installations and printer networking, Peacock Bros was the chosen supplier. Peacock Bros was also contracted to produce and supply customised stands that would enable each applicator to be placed within a compact conveyor system.

Working directly with Tip Top's software and conveyor company, 12 printer applicators were delivered that would print and apply barcode labels with the unique contents and dispatch details of each crate stack on demand. The customised stands fitted the applicators neatly between the conveyor lines without creating obstructions.

Each Weber printer/applicator receives information from the

central computer that includes product type and quantities, which customer is to receive the delivery and which loading bay section the stack is to be held in. This information is translated and printed onto a barcode label which the applicator automatically applies directly to the stack the instant it is completed. The automated conveyor system then scans each stack as it travels past and guides the stack to the designated loading bay section for that delivery.



Minimal handling and intervention is required for this whole process with the central computer completing most of the instructions to automated equipment as required to complete the task. The solution works perfectly and provides the final automated functions needed to complete the supply chain system.

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