

News Release

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FAO:

Sussex Engineers, Eurocan Ltd, Solve Indonesian Canning Problem

British company Eurocan Ltd, based in Upper Beeding in Sussex, have recently solved a complicated production problem for PT Pacific Indo Dairy in Jakarta.

The Indonesian manufacturer wanted to expand their exports of dried milk powder in Africa. To do so they needed a new can-making line capable of producing cans in a range of four sizes: 99, 127, 153 and 190mm. This called for a bespoke system, but PT Pacific Indo Dairy's budget was limited, necessitating the use of refurbished machinery. To further complicate the problem, the can-making line had to be manufactured in only three months. Eurocan's Managing Director, John Jenner, said "We're used to challenges, but this had to be one of the toughest we'd ever undertaken. Not only has PT Pacific Indo Dairy got limited funding for the project, but they need the line to be operational in a matter of weeks."

The specification required a welding line for the can bodies, an end making facility for the can bottoms, and a top ring with plug and foil assemblies.

Eurocan Ltd not only specialise in the engineering of can-making assembly lines, the company also sources and refurbishes used machinery. It was this flexibility which provided the solution to the Indonesian problem.

The appropriate second hand equipment was sourced by Eurocan Ltd from the UK, Holland, Spain and USA. In any empty warehouse in Worcestershire, the line was assembled with a combination of used equipment and custom-made parts. The Eurocan team designed and engineered all the specialist bespoke parts, including four sets of change parts and tooling. They also designed and programmed the electrical controls for each machine, and the line as a whole.

Construction of the Line

The welding line started with a Metal Box 4TS duplex slit and Crabtree feeder which delivers blanks to a Soudronic VEAW K50 welder. The welder was rebuilt and fitted with new tooling supplied by Sabatec in Switzerland.

As the cans were for a dry product, it wasn't necessary to coat the weld internally, but an external coat was needed. Eurocan designed its own roller coater with an electric curing oven. The cans are then taken by magnetic elevator to an accumulator and on to a Metal Box 151F horizontal-axis die flanger.

The bottoms ends, top rings and plugs are manufactured with equipment comprising an automatic Cenzano single slitter, two Bliss 821 single die presses with curlers, and a Blema KEAXG liner and vertical oven, which was converted from gas to electric by Eurocan.

The electronic compound application guns were manufactured by Eurocan and are one of their regular product lines. Another Bliss 35 press was used to make the 190mm aluminium foil membrane, which was assembled with the corresponding ring and plug on an Oberburg 4 station rotary assembly machine. The other sizes were produced and assembled on a Shin I S-B40L assembly machine. This assembles the plugs into the rings with the foil, which is fed from a coil and cut in one operation.

The assembled lids are seamed onto the welded can bodies in the welded can-making line on a Metal Box 700 GCR seamer.

This was extensively modified to accommodate the 190mm diameter cans.

On its completion, representatives from PT Pacific Indo Dairy travelled to Worcestershire to attend a demonstration of the assembled line.

After the trials were completed, the line was dismantled and shipped to Jakarta where it was commissioned by Eurocan's specialist team of engineers. Eurocan's John Jenner said, "This was an exciting project, very challenging, but immensely satisfying to be able to solve the problem—within budget and on time!"

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