

#SUCCESS STORY

BFS

PACKING VIALS INTO PLASTIC TRAYS OR FOLDING CARTONS

- Project management & GMP validation
- Integrated sub-functions: 7 cameras, 12 scanners, printer & check-weigher
- Format change at the push of a button via central line management system
- Highly flexible complete system

REQUIREMENT

Packaging line for two different products:

Allergan tasked Schubert-Pharma with developing a packaging line for two vial products: a prescription-only, light-sensitive eye drop in hermetically sealed plastic trays and an over-the-counter product in folding cartons for shelf display. Both had to run on the same line – despite different requirements. The old semi-automated machines were reaching capacity limits, and quick format changes were not possible.

The OTC product comes in seven carton sizes (20–100 portions). The prescription product is packed in trays of 30. The new solution eliminates bottlenecks and enables fast format changes to meet growing demand.



SOLUTION

After detailed planning, Schubert-Pharma developed an optimal line concept and received the order to implement the packaging line. Ten partner companies were involved in its creation. The contract included a full risk-based validation package and system integration in Crailsheim. Following validation, testing and training, the line was delivered and went into production within weeks. A line management system was developed to manage format changes. It centrally controls all machines, cameras, scanners and printers. Format conversions are triggered at the push of a button. Variable data is defined and verified automatically. Mechanical changeovers, such as tool or material changes, take around 45 minutes.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

- 2D codes checked via camera; rejects removed
- Format-based sorting into trays (Rx) or cartons (OTC)
- Rx: sealed trays with leaflet, lid and label (camera-inspected)
- TC: laser marking, shrink wrap, and weight check

SPEED

- up to 500 products / minute

“Our intention was to give ourselves an advantage with state-of-the-art packaging technology from Germany. We succeeded in this regard thanks to Schubert-Pharma. Schubert-Pharma worked very efficiently and considerably less effort was required on our part to manage this extremely wide-ranging project..”

Ron Lentsch

Vice President of Operations, Allergan