

CONVEYING NEWS

New MD for WMH

From July 1st Western Mechanical Handling UK Ltd has a new MD at the helm, Tom Tomlinson, son of owner and founder of WMH, John Tomlinson.



Tom has been working in the company full time for eight years, working alongside his father and gradually taking over key responsibilities as John takes small steps towards retirement. Tom is keen to ensure that WMH will continue to develop its capabilities, meeting the demands for automation in the food and pharmaceutical industries.

With a background in Engineering and logistics, Tom is keen to stamp his own brand on the business and drive it forward but at the same time retain the core values of the company that has seen it grow steadily over the past 44 years to become an industry leader in its field.

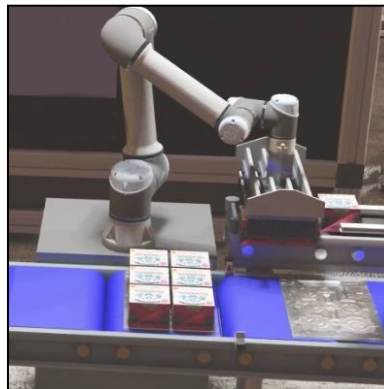
John will remain on hand to support the business and to ensure that his knowledge and experience is retained as much as possible. "We are indebted to our customers who have entrusted WMH with some considerable challenges, over the years" said John.



Visualising the Future

WMH has recently invested in 3D simulation software to support the business from initial sales enquiry through to controls and automation. The investment in Visual components is a next step in enhancing its products and services.

Visual Components is a valuable aid to quickly developing conceptual systems with 3D visualisations and animated production flows. The sales team are using the software to generate live 'walkthroughs' for client presentations. "The use of 3D graphics makes it much easier to explain concepts and answer queries, particularly with non-technical personnel unused to reading conventional drawings." A spokesman for WMH said. The sales team can also generate product flow simulations and model complex sequences to gain a greater understanding of the production challenges.



In the design office Visual components can be used alongside conventional 3D modelling to create fully working simulations. This allows systems to be tested at different throughputs, allowing modifications to be made, before the start of manufacture.

One of the biggest benefits is in the controls and automation department. This side of the business is vital in making WMH systems function properly and their time is often squeezed between mechanical build and the delivery deadline. But visual components enables the automation team to start programming before the physical machine is complete.

"We are very pleased with the addition of this software to our suite of tools. We're already reaping the benefits and we're intending to roll it out more widely over the coming months" Said a spokesman for WMH.

How Automation can Help Social Distancing

Food producers are always key to keeping Britain fed and watered, but their importance has been highlighted over the past couple of months with the Covid-9 pandemic and subsequent lockdown of society. Food factory workers have had to carry on working where many other industries have seen production halted or workers relocated to home working.

While many production lines are now heavily automated there are some areas where automation is not fully utilised for a myriad of reasons. It is in these areas

where we see the human operative as a flexible adaptable, multi-function resource. Unfortunately, this often means operators are working close together in cramped conditions. In normal pre-pandemic operation this was not ideal but in the current climate it puts people at risk of picking up infections and spreading them to others. From a personal and business perspective this is not good. At WMH we have been in discussion with several customers looking to reduce the risks to their staff and help with social distancing.

Depending on the situation and the availability of capital to invest in line improvements WMH have three levels of solution.

Physical Barriers

Where space is limited, and operators cannot be spaced out or numbers reduced we have provided safety screens to place between operators. This approach gives each worker a greater degree of protection than PPE alone. It also allows production to continue un-disturbed and is quick to implement and relatively low cost.



Whether you require spare parts, need assistance with a control system or want to look at options for upgrading and adapting your lines to cope with new demands,

At WMH we understand the pressures you are under to keep your production lines running. Which is why our team is here to support and help you during these difficult times.

WMH is Here to Help You

Semi-Automation

Where space permits and factories have a little capital to invest, WMH have talked to many customers about the merits of introducing semi-automated solutions. Semi-automation can include the addition of small pieces of machinery that help collate product reducing the workload of the operatives and therefore their numbers. It can also include modification of workstations to make them more ergonomic and help operative do more, allowing lines to be run with less personnel.

The semi-automated approach provides a cost effective, medium term solution for factories looking to improve operator safety by adhering to social distancing guidelines.

This approach can also offer long term cost savings through the resulting labour reductions.

Full Automation

For long term labour reduction where significant capital investment is available the top-level option is fully automated solutions for production lines. From the integration of flexible robotic pick and place systems with vision control technology for both individual product and packaged finished goods to despatch. To special purpose cutting, collation, and handling solutions. The fully automated approach requires time and investment to develop the right solution that will not only deliver labour savings now but long into the future.

We don't know how long social distancing will continue to be a requirement but for the foreseeable future it is a measure we need to live with and adapt and change the way we operate to protect the health of our staff which are at the heart of every business.

If you are looking for ways to increase the social distancing in your factory please give our sales team a call on 01579 383788.

the WMH team are on hand to deal with your enquiries.

All your usual contacts are available to call or email, if you are unsure who to contact please use the details below:

For new enquiries and spares please email: enquiries@wmh-uk-ltd.com

For automation and controls please email: automation@wmh-uk-ltd.com

If you prefer to speak to a member of our team please call 01579 383788



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