

ABB Wins Top Food Processing Award For Robotic Pancake Application

1888 Press Release

Nigel Platt, ABB's UK sales and marketing manager for robotics, says: "The award is the culmination of a lot of hard work by ABB engineers, and our channel partner, RG Luma, who designed, built and installed the production lines."

As Honeytop's first investment in robotic technology, the judges were impressed that the installation is dramatically reducing turnaround times, and as a result is ensuring the company can meet its customer's tight deadlines without delay.

The installation features two robotic lines, each of which utilise four FlexPicker IRB360 robots. The robots ensure the company meets its own stringent requirements for the hygienic handling of food, as well as introducing reduced labour costs and improved health and safety levels.

Each production line features ABB's PickMaster 3.2 software and four IRC5 controllers. This combination has dramatically cut the changeover time between products, making it easier for Honeytop to meet its deadlines with high quality products, everytime.

William Eid, director for Honeytop Speciality Foods, comments, "We work in an industry with very tight turnaround times. We receive daily orders that are expected to be out to the depots within 12 hours of production. We needed to increase the speed of the production line to meet these industry demands, all while reducing downtime. The robots have quickly enabled us to achieve this, by absorbing a number of overheads, thanks to low labour costs and improved productivity."

Andrew Jones, Sales Director, RG Luma, adds, "The Directors at Honeytop did express some apprehension about introducing robotics. Having integrated over 25 ABB robots in the past 12 months, we were confident in continuing to use such proven products, and this award demonstrates exactly why ABB robots are great for our customers businesses."

The award was presented to Alan Spreckley, ABB channel Partner Manager and Andrew Jones of RG Luma, at a gala dinner following the Appetite for Engineering 2010 one-day conference at the Hinckley Island Hotel in Leicestershire.

Platt adds: "It is significant to ABB as the food and beverage industries are playing a key role in the growth of robotics in the UK. With over 54% growth in 2009 for ABB, the food and beverage industry has recognised the trend to automate and food processors are getting on board, ready to boost their competitiveness and maintain consistently high product quality.

Now, we need to challenge the rest of the manufacturing industry to do the same

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and recognise the return on investment available."

For more information on ABB's IRB360 FlexPicker or robotic automation in the food industry please call 01908 350 300 or email [robotics \(@ \) gb dot abb dot com](mailto:robotics@gb.abb.com) Ref dot 'FP Awards 2010'

About ABB, Inc.

ABB (www.abb.com) is a leader in power and automation technologies that enable utility and industry customers to improve their performance while lowering environmental impact. The ABB Group of companies operates in around 100 countries and employs about 117,000 people.

About ABB Robotics

ABB Robotics (www.abb.com/robotics) is a leading supplier of industrial robots - also providing robot software, peripheral equipment, modular manufacturing cells and service for tasks such as welding, handling, assembly, painting and finishing, picking, packing, palletizing and machine tending. Key markets include automotive, plastics, metal fabrication, foundry, electronics, pharmaceutical and food and beverage industries. A strong customer focus helps manufacturers improve productivity, product quality and worker safety. ABB has installed more than 160,000 robots worldwide. ###

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