RAPID CHANGEOVER (RAPCO): AUTOMATED FORMAT ADJUSTMENT AT PROCTER & GAMBLE

Operating machines highly efficiently even in case of small batch sizes, frequent product changeovers, or packages varying in design and size – which plant operator would not pursue this standard? Procter & Gamble (P&G), too, was searching for a reliable solution for this challenge and found it in the RapCo system from SICK.

A whopping 4.4 billion times a day, consumers all over the world come in contact with the brands from P&G. The company stands for one of the strongest portfolios of proven, high-quality, and leading brands, which include, among others, Pampers®, Ariel®, Always®, Pantene®, Bounty®, Dawn®, Fairy®, Lenor®, Wella®, Gillette®, Braun®, Febreze®, and Ambi Pur®. Worldwide, P&G has locations in 80 countries, selling P&G brand products in over 180 countries. In the search for a solution resulting in highly efficient machine operations even in case of small batch sizes, frequent product changeovers, or packages varying in design and size, P&G encountered the RapCo system from SICK.

Complete system solution: RapCo
RapCo (Rapid Changeover) is a complete system solution comprised of sensors, drives, a controller and display, including cabling. This system solution implements automatic adjustment of mechanical stops, ensuring product quality and productivity. RapCo is based on a black-box concept in which all necessary settings can be configured via a display. This requires no knowledge of PLC programming. The RapCo solution from SICK was convincing due to precision, repeat accuracy, timesavings, batch-related settings, fewer rejects, as well as documentable process and workmanship quality. The solution is independent of the industry (e.g. food, beverage, pharmaceutical, and consumer goods), the type of machine, and the machine manufacturer.

**Significant reduction of working time**

P&G benefitted particularly from the fact that the RapCo solution was planned to cover the entire production line. In this context, for instance, the necessary set-up time for a product changeover was cut from 24 minutes to 77 seconds. This significant reduction of working time at P&G is being realized through intelligent sensor technology with respect to setting and repeat accuracy as well as the possibility of documenting production-relevant parameters. Not least, this guarantees the quality of the goods produced. With RapCo from SICK, the enterprise is presented with a system solution whose technology allows reliable and user-friendly flexibilization of existing and new plants. Beyond that, RapCo meets all future requirements concerning safety, quality, flexibility, and availability. Intelligent safety technology and sensors but also camera and reading systems are an indispensable element of present and future market demands.

- **Product information:** RapCo system
- **Customer Information:** Procter & Gamble (P&G)