



HIGH TECH MADE IN GERMANY

As one of the world's leading manufacturers and developers of inspection, separation and sorting systems, Germany-based S+S serves a wide range of industries. Elisabeth Skoda spoke to sales director George Laudi to find out more about the company's extensive product portfolio and recent investments.



S+S develops metal detectors, separators, magnetic systems, X-ray systems and sorting systems for the examination of unit loads and bulk goods in the food, chemical, pharma, plastics, rubber and tyre industries. The machines are also used in other industries, such as textiles, cement and wood as well as in mining.

X-ray systems like the S+S Raycon line are able to check packaged foods or bulk material for contamination through glass, stones or metal, and also detect faulty products – such as missing or broken biscuits in a packet.

“Metal detectors on the other hand find even the smallest metal particles in packaged or unpackaged food, but also in plastic granules or ground products, for example during packaging recycling. Metal contaminations can be detected and directly sorted out of the product stream. S+S does not just build the detectors but also provides the product handling system,” Mr Laudi explains.

Metal separators are used for the examination of bulk goods during conveying. They detect metal contaminations and eject them from the product stream without interrupting production.

“Our metal separators are available for a variety of applications for industrial manufacturing companies in the packaging industry. They protect converting machines such as injection moulding machines, extruders and blown film extrusion lines from metal particles in the conveyed material. These metal particles then cannot get into the machines where they would possibly cause damage or blockages resulting in expensive downtimes. By using our metal separators, our customers noticeably increase their machinery efficiency,” Mr Laudi points out.

“In the food industry, our detection systems are primarily employed in the examination of food. Used for quality control they find even the smallest metal contaminations, which normally would have ended up undetected on the end consumer's plate. Expensive recall campaigns, loss of image and health risks therefore can be reliably avoided. Food processing machines can also be protected from damage through foreign bodies in order to increase packaging production efficiency,” Mr Laudi adds.



Magnetic systems to separate special metals containing magnetic material complete S+S's portfolio and are used amongst other things as complementary systems for example in the area of packaging recycling. The company also develops sorting systems for fully automated sorting of mixed material streams, especially for the recycling of plastics, glass and other materials.

“In the packaging industry, our machines are used wherever the aim is to fulfil strict tolerances in quality and production efficiency, be it in the manufacture of high quality packaging films, PET bottles, caps and closures and also the clean sorting of plastics in recycling. Securing quality when packaging foods is another important field of application,” says Mr Laudi. ▷



Focus on innovation

Innovation is key for S+S, and there is continuous work on developing machines and appliances, using the newest available technologies and drawing on in-house synergies.

“Thanks to the wide spectrum of technologies we have available in-house, we are able to provide each customer with the solution best suited to them.

Recently we introduced the Raycon 130/240, an X-ray system for the examination of tetra packs or bottles into the market. The X-ray penetrates the product sideways, which means that less X-ray energy is absorbed by the product than if the X-ray were hitting the product from below. Therefore we can find even smaller contaminations by using the same amount of energy,” Mr Laudi explains.

All of S+S's machines are manufactured in an environmentally friendly way near the Bavarian Forest National Park in Schönberg, Germany. “With our leading high tech products Made in Germany we serve discerning customers all over the world. We have set ourselves ambitious growth targets with which the production capacities have to keep up,” says Mr Laudi.

“As a well positioned worldwide manufacturer we are present with subsidiaries in big markets such as the USA, China, India and South East Asia, but we also see the European market, where we have our roots, as an important driver for growth. At the moment, apart from Europe, expanding our business in our overseas markets is also very important to us; for example, South America is offering a very interesting perspective for us,” adds Mr Laudi.

The company has made significant investments in distribution in recent years and founded subsidiaries in India and Italy. Most recently S+S Italy was founded in 2013, and S+S India was founded in 2014.

Mr Laudi sees a very positive future for S+S. “We have been growing continuously by expanding the application areas of our existing and new technologies. One example is the market dynamic in the area of X-ray inspection systems which we co-drive ourselves with our Raycon product line. We set ourselves ambitious growth goals and

we think that we have positioned ourselves very well to fulfil the need for increasingly demanding technological solutions in the markets. S+S has 30 years of experience in the area of product inspection and sorting. Our know-how in the area of customer applications is of key importance for our future success. As a partner of our customers, we are able to support and advise them to achieve maximum performance with our systems in their specific production line. We secure our leading knowledge not only through continuous development of our technologies, but also through consistent training of our employees.” □

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