

Efficiency, Efficiency, Efficiency
“The number one issue facing plant operations today is improving production efficiency”

Increased Productivity, Flexibility, Reliability, Lowest Cost per Case, Higher Throughput, Maximum Uptime, Innovative Solutions, Repeatability, Quantifiable ROI

These are some of the challenges facing companies in plant production and automation today says Bill Grant, President of Kraken Automation. The fact is the challenges are multi dimensional and the impact comes from an ever changing market, its daily demands and conditions, fierce competition, and an intense downward bottom line pressure, forcing you to seek on an ongoing basis more efficient, flexible and dynamic ways of automating. The number one issue facing plant operations today is “improving production efficiency” followed by quality, raw material costs and new product development.

But how do you measure efficiency? How efficiently you are processing food is irrelevant if it ends up on the plant floor or damaged during packaging operations. The further you get down line in the manufacturing process the more transferred value or cost to that package or product takes place. This is what we define as the real influencing factors for “cost per case” which is a critical measure of your “profitability”. Therefore, it’s crucial to understand the interdependence of each process or system, maintain optimum efficiency at each and every step along the way in order to reduce unnecessary applied costs along the products’ flow path. At the same time, maintain the best product quality integrity all the way to the finished goods.

Bill explains further-

The analogy of a football team illustrates this through the running of several strategic interdependent plays to move the ball up-field to the last 2 yard line. How well those plays are made early in the game will determine the team’s impact and their ability to achieve the last final but crucial winning touchdown. Similarly, you have taken that package all the way through the process and just when it’s close to completion you “drop the ball”...all the effort and costs incurred to bring that product to that point are lost. Add that to any other inefficiency in that process and the cost factors become magnified, taking away from your overall plant profitability and your ability to truly compete.



*Bill Grant, President
 Kraken Automation Inc.*



Consider these points that are impacting your “Cost per Case”:

- Damaged goods and product wastage represent a significant element of your cost per case.
- Production downtime represents lost production opportunities/ lost revenue opportunities than can never be regained.
- Outdated equipment, old technology, rework and increasing maintenance costs.
- Operator error or machine limitations inflexibility or lack of system line Integration
- Raw material wastage
- Production line bottlenecking and lack of real time data to monitor.
- Inefficient and improper use of applied labor to compensate for an inefficient operation
- Wasted energy consumption
- Has the requirements for food safety been properly implemented and integrated?

Thought Provoking Examples

How can Kraken Automation Help?

If you have identified with any of the plant production challenges then you have identified with numerous companies like General Mills/Pillsbury, Nestle, Kraft/Nabisco, Ralston Purina, Kelloggs/Keebler, SC Johnson Wax, Pfizer and Cadbury to name a few, who see the need and are onboard using Kraken Automation solutions.

Cont.

Kraken Automation's main competitive advantage is attained through the equity that comes with our extensive experience in automated systems and in our ability to deliver cost effective solutions. With that applied experience we have the ability to focus beyond the single stand-alone equipment and are able to manufacture and integrate complete automated systems. Doing so, we deliver equipment that is interdependent with each other and result in optimum line efficiency to provide a truly integrated plant floor solution. For example, our experience with cartoners, case packers, robotics, material handling conveyors such as m/d conveyor, case conveying, and transfer and infeeds systems have increased our clients' ability to reduce their cost of goods sold.

Some examples of our applied methodology to reduce cost per case, increase production efficiency and consistently provide superior results through reliability and repeatable system performance, can be seen in these next few examples:

Bag in Box applications efficiency:

One needs to truly understand bagging and cartoning operations in order to design and develop delivery and transfer systems that truly stand the test and achieve the requirements of the overall automated system. This is where you see Kraken Automation solutions taking effect. Kraken Automation is the market leader in this technology and has pioneered the way since 1998.

One of the key ingredients to achieving efficiency is realized by decoupling baggers, infeed and transfer systems or case packers from the cartoner. Making each interdependent, with auto correct systems and not dependent, preventing unnecessary, time consuming operator intervention to recover the system, and do product cleanouts when the line stops or the system jams. We can further optimize efficiencies by removing existing mechanical sweeps & slide gate infeed and transfer systems & installing or retrofitting with new technology.

By applying practically maintenance free new technology like the **KRAKEN Standard KSIT-100 and KSBIT-240 Infeed / Smart Belt Transfer System** with maximized speeds of approx 240 bags per minute (18 inches), you will achieve superior, precision repeatable performance unparalleled in the industry. We systematically take your product from a bagger, flow wrapper or filler to a cartoner or case packer. With our intelligent, practically maintenance free delivery systems, proper product conditioning, metal detection or weighing and we deliver it to the cartoner bucket with high speed precision timing and performance. This intelligent system ensures that every cartoner bucket is filled to ensure optimum efficiency.

Kraken Innovations achieve more efficiency:

With our **KRAKEN Two Stage Transfer System K2SIT-80** which is ideal for twin/multi-pack, is easily convertible to single pack and comes with a multitude of operator friendly features. We were able in a recent application with one of our major food customers to realize 25% operation efficiency over the previous installed system performance, setting a new benchmark for that plant operation.

Like our ability to provide system flexibility to run 13 different skews of product on the same line with a zero change over using our **KRAKEN KCCO/S-30 Case Conveying & Orientation System and Star Wheel Case Turner**.

Like our **KRAKEN KPART-50/300 Product Accumulator Refeed and Transfer System** which allows you to refeed and reintegrate orphaned or single product displacement resulting from miss-feed or other system rejection. This system helps realize immediate efficiency by helping minimize product wastage. And the list continues...

Summary

Well there you have it....

Some key areas Kraken Automation delivers positive results for packaging and process automation. Our team of highly trained engineers and technicians along with our in-depth industry application experience, achieve solid bottom line results for customers. At the same time, we provide you with the latest and most innovative automation solutions available on the market today...here in North America, Europe or globally.

Positive customer feedback confirms the attained cost savings, productivity and efficiency enhancements achieved with Kraken applied solutions. And these solutions are available to you today. No need to reinvent the wheel as they have already been engineered, tested and field proven, for you and are being used by other customers...some, your competitors who are achieving real competitive advantages! And yes, we are fully capable of customizing solutions to meet your specific requirements. The real truth is that your success is our success and that's why we are dedicated to make a positive difference with our customers not only today but working with you every step of the way to help achieve your future requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce some of our innovative solutions, our company and services. We invite and urge you to contact us today and find out first hand about the many other opportunities where we deliver results on. We would be pleased to send to you today a CD presentation that highlights in more detail our total capabilities. Just click the request from link on our web home page provided.

In addition, you can speak to us today by calling, us at **905-336-8089** or Email: innovations@krakenautomation.com