

special feature

pharma - inspection, weighing & counting

Tulip bulbs, capsule counting and gemstones

Cremer Speciaal machines B.V, which started life in counting with a tulip bulb counter, has introduced the latest version of the CF series, the CF425, a new generation modular machine concept and with a small footprint, says the company.

It comprises a flexible, modular system with fixed side panels and a single main frame to accommodate a variable number of counting modules. These can vary from 3 - 10 for typical outputs of up to 300 containers/minute on a 100 count.

Other features include minimal change parts; short, tool-less changeover; easier cleaning and reduced maintenance with simple operation and 100 per cent accuracy

based on Cremer's micro processor controlled counting concept, it claims.

Cremer has also added to its range of counting machines for products measuring 30mm upwards with the TQ-Z mini counter which focuses on smaller items such as fasteners, washers and gemstones. The machine can be configured with 1, 6, 12 and 24 channel counters and uses the standard linear separation principle with vibratory plates.

The machine's reduced footprint means it is ideal for use with a small bagger, says the company.

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Quick time release

RNA Automation has teamed up with MVT to produce a tablet feeding and inspection system for a major pharmaceutical contract packer. The packer was experiencing problems including 'twinning and tripling' tablets, and excessive 'flash'. Conventional feeding mechanisms have limitations with this type of product due to high rates of contamination, leading to lengthy cleaning routines, claims RNA.

The company installed a 'quick release'

bowl feeder coated with an FDA approved polyurethane skin. The use of a single tool and semi rotation means it can be removed, cleaned and replaced quickly eliminating unnecessary over filling and contamination of potentially reclaimable material, says the company. It also ensures the efficiency and integrity of the inspection system.

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Tubular balance

Mettler Toledo has launched automated versions of its MX5 microbalance and UMX2 ultra microbalance for precision weighing of small tubular samples.

These are used to weigh coatings and check thicknesses of medical devices such as stents, catheters, tubes and springs in R&D and manufacturing processes.

The new models can reduce working time by as much as one third, says the company.

The sample to be weighed is placed in the sample lift and requires no further manual input, according to Mettler. A smaller weighing chamber, with automated lid



improves precision and eliminates draught while the lift has been specially designed to keep the sample in the correct position.

The microbalances can be incorporated into automated manufacturing processes.

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