Autobag®
A PRODUCT OF AUTOMATED PACKAGING SYSTEMS

CASE STUDY

Bagger Boosts Medical Kit Productivity Fivefold

Remel, Inc., a division of Apogent Technologies located in Lenexa, KS is a global leader in laboratory diagnostic and analytical test products. The marketplace is predicted only to become more active. To compete successfully, the company needs reliable packaging equipment. Traditionally, a worker would open a bag, drop in the kit components and then seal the bag. As product demand grew, the process became a constraint.

Remel was hoping to double production, so an automated method had to be found. "At Remel, we provide a kit with Multiple components to doctors, clinics, and hospitals," says **Susan Snead, Remel's Production Manager**. "Medical personnel receive the kit, collect the specimen, return each component to the bag and send it to a lab for analysis." In addition, the application required that the bag be reclosable.

Automated Packaging Systems reviewed the application, paying particular attention to the current packaging methods and the final end use of the product. They recommended the Autobag® SPrint™ bagger. The bagger presents an open bag moving in a continuous fashion through the loading section of the bagger. Two operators load the kit components into the bags along with a material handler and a box closer. Once the bags are loaded, they are separated, sealed and placed in a carton. The bag is loaded upside down so that the reclosable zipper and the tamper evident perforation are always in tact.

The Autobag SPrint bagger indexes a continuous web of pre-formed reclosable zipper bags to build medical kits at speed of up to 70 bags per minute. The output of the department steadily increased with the new system. After six months, output had increased by over 470% compared to the old process.

"Initially, we expected to double our manual output, but our production people worked with Automated Packaging Systems to integrate some additional software and improve efficiency with the Sprint bagger to a point where I think we're running at optimum capacity now," Snead says. "Everyone here is simply astonished with the results."