

Autobag[®] Increases Productivity, Improves Presentation Reducing Costs for Lush



Lush is a progressive company formulating, manufacturing and selling fresh, handmade cosmetics worldwide. They utilize natural ingredients such as organic fruit and vegetables, essential oils, honey and herbal infusions.

With 50 shops in the UK and over 80 other locations throughout the world, Lush has ambitious plans for 1000 shops within the next five years. In order to meet current demand and planned future demand requirements, Lush wanted to look at ways of increasing daily production targets, speeding up their packaging operation, while at the same time improving the visual presentation of its gift product.

The company was referred to Automated Packaging Systems by one of their suppliers and an Autobag Excel[™] bagger with a Precision[™] thermal transfer printer was installed at their manufacturing plant in Polle, Dorset.

The machine is used to bag soaps, bubble bars, bath ballistics and massage bars. Because of the flexibility of the Autobag system, Lush is able to use small, medium and large bags-on-a-roll, as required, switching from one type to another with the very minimum of downtime. The desired product code is then located on the imprinter, which holds all the data required for printing, the identification is then printed as part of the bagging process.



The whole packaging process itself has also been simplified as items are now placed on top of the bagger or on worktops next to the machine and then dropped individually into the bags, which then fall into a box beneath the machine which significantly speeds up the packaging time.

Sharon Etherington, Gifts Production Manager at Lush, said: "The presentation of the product gives a much more professional appearance to our gifts range and we have eliminated the need to purchase or print out sticker and all the associated costs. We are also using far less ink in our printer. We are currently undertaking a timing exercise to determine the total increased efficiency and savings that we have experienced by using Autobag."

