

Autobag[®] Provides Fast, Flexible Packaging System for PEI Genesis



Speed is of the essence for electronic connector manufacturer PEI Genesis. The company assembles high specification military, aerospace and industrial connectors and prides itself on the short time taken from receiving an order to producing the components and delivery of the finished goods to the customer.

When the packing of the connectors, often produced in short runs, increased to a level that their manual process could not cope with, a faster system that maintained their level of flexibility was required. This system had to match the company's own very high standards, and on the advice and experience of its parent company based in the USA, PEI Genesis turned to Automated Packaging Systems.

Operations Director, John Palmer, explains: "Our U.S. facility purchased an Autobag Excel™ bagger and PI-4000™ thermal transfer printer some years ago and after the UK carried out sample analysis work for us, it transpired that the OneStep™ system would meet our needs."

The OneStep system is an integrated bagging and printing system, specifically designed for low volume product runs or where unique product data is required on individual bags. "We needed something that was fast and flexible. We assemble several different types of connectors and bags according to our customers' requirements, so we need to be able to change bags quickly and efficiently and also overprint variable information according to the pack contents."

Using the Autobag OneStep gives the Reading-based company an edge over its' competitors. According to John Palmer, most of them traditionally use labour intensive manual processes to bag their components. "The Autobag OneStep has completely revolutionized our bagging process. It now takes just one operator each day out of nine people in our warehouse to use the equipment. And, because it is so easy to use, the staff are completely interchangeable," he said.

Because of the high quality of PEI Genesis products, often produced to a military specification, the company requires its component and equipment suppliers to be ISO accredited. APS is accredited to ISO 9002, so this requirement was met with ease. Palmer added, "Autobag has 'professionalized' our bagging, with the built-in Precision thermal imprinter eliminating the need for both labels and cards. It has moved our process forward helping us to meet our demanding delivery deadlines in addition to the obvious savings in time, labor and material wastage."