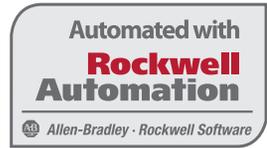


# Solutions in Action



Livetech equipped the LTL-3F entirely with logic and motion control solutions from Rockwell Automation



Allen-Bradley CompactLogix 5380 programmable automation controller



Allen-Bradley Kinetix 5700 servo drives

Headquartered in Guarene, in the province of Cuneo, **Livetech** is an Italian engineering and consultancy company, which manufactures complete packaging systems.

It specializes in a wide range of automation systems, including primary and secondary packaging machines and pouring and dosing units for chocolate and creams, serving leading companies in the food industry.

For a North American customer operating in the bakery products industry, Livetech has recently manufactured the **LTL-3F (Livetech Top Loader - Three Functions)**, a secondary packaging machine, which is used to put flow-packed baked products in boxes. The system includes three robots, which are designed and manufactured by Livetech.

The first robot forms the box from a cardboard blank, the second picks the products and places them in the box and the third closes the box – placing another cardboard blank over it to act as a cover.

“This is a highly automated solution in which the intervention of the operator is limited to the loading phase of the cardboard blanks which are used to form the boxes,” explains Luciano Vacchetta, Electronic Department Manager at Livetech.

The LTL-3F is designed for the secondary packaging of six different product formats in two standard types of boxes; the forming, filling and

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The LTL-3F is designed for the secondary packaging of six different product formats in two standard types of boxes

closing of the boxes have been conceived to minimise process time and operations. “We designed the boxes in cooperation with the customer so that they would not only be attractive from a marketing point of view, but also capable of being manufactured using a high-level automation system. To meet our customer’s needs, we also had to create a solution that required minimal interaction from the technical staff, with an entry-level interface and a totally automated format-changeover system.”

Livotech equipped the LTL-3F entirely with logic and motion control solutions from Rockwell Automation. “For this application, which required intensive automation, we turned to Rockwell Automation without any hesitation. We have already been cooperating with them and in this case the customer itself – based in North America – requested an Allen-Bradley® solution.”

The automation architecture, which is programmed in RSLogix 5000® software environment, is based on an Allen-Bradley CompactLogix™ 5380 programmable automation controller (PAC), which delivers integrated motion capabilities over EtherNet/IP™ for the control of 20 motion axes. The motion operations are controlled by Allen-Bradley Kinetix® 5700 double-axis servo drives, which manage all of the moving parts, including the robots, the conveyor belt and the loaders for the cardboard blanks. Eighteen Allen-Bradley Kinetix VP-Series low-inertia motors are

connected to the Kinetix 5700 and can send real-time data about their performance back to the control system through a digital feedback device. Power supply components, two non-managed Stratix™ 2000 switches, an Allen-Bradley PanelView™ Plus 7 HMI and 16-channel Compact I/O™ modules complete the system.

“Thanks to our familiarity with the Rockwell Automation software environment, we reduced the design time needed to define the machine,” Vacchetta explains. The Rockwell Automation architecture helped Livotech to reduce wiring too and to build a machine with a more compact footprint that, thanks to the use of low-voltage motors and the ability of robots to regenerate energy in the braking phase, offers energy savings to the end user. The test and validation phases were comfortable and troubleshooting is also easier for the end user.

The possibility to connect the LTL-3F to a remote maintenance system is another benefit that can be added to the advantages. “Thanks to Rockwell Automation, we met our customer’s main requirement: having a totally automatic solution, that doesn’t need to be stopped for any changeover,” Vacchetta concludes. “For us and the end user, investing in high-range hardware and software solutions, such as those from Rockwell Automation, results in a good return on investment, thanks not only to the high-quality of the products, but also to the high-level of after-sales technical support offered by Rockwell Automation worldwide.”

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