

Multi-touch panel redefines machine operation

Edson Packaging turns the page to a new era of multi-touch enabled machinery



Edson Packaging, based in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, specializes in packaging machines for a wide range of industrial applications, but particularly for paper and tissue products, food products, pharmaceuticals, and consumer goods.

Through smartphones and tablets, virtually everyone is familiar with intuitive interfaces with multi-touch display functionality. Following this trend, Edson Packaging Machinery Ltd., a Canadian manufacturer of case packaging systems, now employs multi-touch panels to once again solidify its reputation as a company that leverages the power of modern technologies.



Right: With gestures for zooming in, scrolling and paging, multi-touch technology features the same ease of use as smartphones and tablets.

With its IntelVüe and multi-touch technology, Edson Packaging improved not only the user interface and access to machine data, but the level of operator safety. The operator can monitor the machine and make many adjustments via the Control Panel.

Edson Packaging, based in Hamilton, Ontario, specializes in case packers for a wide range of industrial applications, but particularly for paper and tissue products, food products, pharmaceuticals, and consumer goods. Since 2012 the company has been part of Pro Mach Inc., one of the largest packaging machinery consortiums in North America.

Innovative operating concept

With its IntelSuite™, Edson has introduced a series of solutions to the market that support various forms of machine connectivity in the packaging industry. Based on the near-field communication (NFC) standard, IntelLink provides direct access to videos, PDF files and pictures as well as wireless telephone contact with Edson Packaging's customer service department. Users simply tap on their NFC-capable smartphone or tablet to display the desired information. IntelVüe transmits live videos to the CP3924 Multi-touch Control Panel via a standard webcam. The Edson solution also includes an RFID-based tracking system for machine tools that makes sure the correct tool is mounted on the machine, thus avoiding costly problems and downtime.

The SR3550 high-speed horizontal case packer features a 24-inch CP3924 Control Panel with multi-touch technology. "This panel recognizes the same gestures for zooming in, scrolling and paging that people are already familiar with from their consumer devices," explains Brianne Moar, who handles sales and marketing at Edson Packaging. "The installation of IntelVüe in combinati-

on with the HMI software on the C6930 Industrial PC allows us to store many different types of files. For example, we can save videos and make them available for the machine installation process as well as for training, operator guidance or troubleshooting. Live videos that display machine processes can also be implemented."

The C6930 Industrial PC features a third-generation Intel® Core™ i7 processor (2.3 GHz, 4 cores). "This powerful IPC has been designed to perfectly meet Edson Packaging's requirements with regard to vibration and heat resistance," says Calvin Wallace, sales manager for western Ontario at Beckhoff Canada. "The C6930 is not only compact and saves cabinet space, it also includes various options for SSDs. Edson employs a 64-GB SSD in their C6930, which increases its stability and reliability considerably while delivering immense storage capacity."

Easier to use with more functionality

"The five-finger multi-touch capability of the display panel enabled us to significantly expand the functionality of the user interface and add useful functions such as dials for servo axis control, fine-grained speed adjustments, etc. Another feature is the ability to use both hands on the screen," adds Jeff Werner, vice president of technology at Edson Packaging. "Particularly important for us is the fact that we can easily integrate videos and various machine data into the user interface with IntelVüe. By leveraging the high resolution of the 24-inch panel we can even display informative trend information on the screen. By



integrating various multimedia applications, Edson offers its customers a great deal of added value,” says Werner. The elegant design of the Beckhoff Control Panels was another critical factor for Edson: “Like our customers, we prefer slim displays. Also, the 24-inch screen features a much larger interface area than traditional single-touch control panels.

Multi-touch panels add safety

With its IntelVüe and multi-touch technology, Edson Packaging improved not only the user interface and the access to machine data, but the level of operator safety. Since webcams and/or high-speed cameras provide a large amount of information on the Control Panel, operators have to enter the machine much less often to change the setup or perform maintenance. They can see many of the operations safely from the outside on the CP3924 Control Panel.

The fact that the operator can observe the machine’s operation without having to pass protective barriers also means that various servo motors have to be shut off much less frequently. Having fewer ON/OFF cycles means that the machine components last longer. “Because of the video feed images on the CP3924, the number of ON/OFF cycles has dropped by at least 25 percent,” explains Jeff Werner.

Further Information:

www.edson.com

www.beckhoff.ca