February 2017

**Order picking with vacuum technology – Eurotech offers complete solutions**

**The term “batch size 1” frequently comes up during the production and handling of plate goods. At the present stage, many of the large plate manufacturers’ clients want or can only buy very small quantities. The increasing cost of storage space is only one of the reasons for this development. This is why many plate manufacturers are looking for a solution for their picking tasks. Eurotech has already developed several applications in this field. Ranging from high-bay stores with integrated vacuum commissioning systems to individually customised solutions, the expert in vacuum lifting technology offers the perfect way of realising a wide range of tasks.**

Today, many plates can be produced in the same time that was needed to complete a single item in the past. This increased pace of production has increased the output of the plants. The market is flooded with plate goods of all types, materials, colours and finishes. In addition, trends play an important role nowadays. Designs that are modern today may become outdated within a brief period of time, prompting the customer to look for a new variety.

This drives plate manufacturers to their limits. As a result of the oversaturation of the market, customers are faced with an immense selection of products. In this environment, no single type of plate stands a chance to achieve high sales. Many items are ordered in small quantities. Picking these plates manually poses a threat to quality and health. On the one hand, more employees are required to carry the plates; on the other hand, it is almost impossible to stack polished finishes manually without causing damage.

This is where Eurotech’s vacuum technology comes into play. A vacuum picking tool that uses a suction system to draw the plates in can lift them without the items shifting or slipping. Not only does this ensure consistent quality, it also reduces the physical strain on the employees who were previously picking the plates manually.

Plates are picked, equipped with slave boards and packaged completely automatically. Only one person is required to operate the plant. If the business uses a cantilever rack, only one additional employee is needed to load the various removal stations in alternation with pallets of different plate goods.

The picking device starts with a slave board on the customer pallet in order to protect the goods from damage by the latter. As long as the slave board is in place, an additional pallet with type-A plates is placed in an unoccupied station on the shelf. The Eurotech commissioning system picks up the ordered plates from this station and deposits them on the customer pallet. During this process, the next station on the shelf is simultaneously loaded with one pallet of a different type of plate. This pallet can now be picked. Whenever one pallet is being picked, one space on the shelf is emptied and used to make a new type of plate available. Once an order has been picked completely, the vacuum device places an additional slave board on the stack. The customer pallet can now be collected for packaging.

Order picking solutions by Eurotech protect the occupational health and safety of your employees, safeguard the quality of your goods and improve the efficiency of your dispatch department.

Figures: 3.339

Company profile:

*Eurotech offers handling and transport solutions in the field of vacuum technology. The company develops customer-specific vacuum systems and components for automated handling tasks. Thanks to the Eurotech modular construction system, the components can be flexibly adjusted to meet individual customer requirements and spare parts can be installed in a quick and cost-saving manner.*

Pictures attachment:



Picture 1: Eurotech picking device into a cantilever rack



Picture 2: Eurotech picking device lifts the plate