



MARTEL FOODS AUTOMATES SANDWICH LIDDING WITH ROBOTICS FROM GROTE

INCREASING THROUGHPUT AND REDUCING LABOR

OVERVIEW

Martel Foods is a family-owned manufacturer of ready-to-eat products based in Quebec, Canada. The company needed a solution to ramp up the production of packaged sandwiches. As a long-time customer of Grote Company, they turned to the food processing equipment manufacturer to help automate.

Grote developed a robotic lidding solution that integrated in their existing assembly line. By adding robotics, Martel was able to eliminate manual labor and increase production.

RESULTS

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Eliminated
one operator
per shift

52

Increased production
49% to 52 sandwiches
per minute

"The new equipment has helped Martel close the gap between full automation and manual labor.

It works seamlessly with the rest of the Grote equipment on the line. We're already looking ahead to the next opportunity."



CHALLENGES

- Mix of manual and automated tasks
- Labor availability
- Inconsistent production rates
- Desire to increase throughput

APPROACH

Grote Company's robotics team in the UK designed a robotic lidding to integrate on the existing line, replacing a still manual task. It was manufactured at Grote's headquarters in the U.S., where they held in-depth training before shipping it to Martel. The project also included representative firm Pemberton & Associates. All players were committed to collaboration and communication throughout, enabling the solution to be installed and running in a weekend.

SOLUTION

The robotics solution lids Martel's range of sandwiches—or places the top piece of bread on the rest of the sandwich.

The equipment includes a 3D vision system, a 4-axis Stäubli HE robot, and custom end-of-arm tooling surrounded by guarding. It's built into their existing sandwich assembly line, which features Grote's Bread Denester and Ultrasonic Sandwich Cutter.

"The transition has gone very well," said Martel. "It was a big success right from the beginning. There was excellent support during installation, followed by absolutely no problems in production."



Sandwich lidding is just one of Grote's robotics applications. Other automated high-care actions include alignment, turning, stacking, denesting, and pick and place into packaging. Solutions can either be standalone or integrated with our Sandwich Cutting machines.

grotecompany.com/Sandwich-Assembly-Robotics

