

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Food Safety at Scale: Achieving High-Speed, Fully Hygienic Production with Stäubli Robotics

Stäubli Robotics announces live demos at IPPE 2023, featuring food-handling robots designed to optimize efficiency, increase output, and ensure safety

Duncan, South Carolina, December 15, 2022 — The International Production & Processing Expo (IPPE) returns to the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta on January 24-26, bringing together thousands of food industry professionals from around the world. At Booth C10911, Stäubli Robotics, a pioneer in industrial automation, will demonstrate how its washdown-capable hygienic robots handle labor-intensive applications such as pick and place, waterjet cutting, and cleaning.

Ensuring worker and product safety while increasing production efficiency and output are among the primary challenges facing producers in the food industry. Meat and protein handling in particular demand high precision and flexibility to adapt to natural variances, as well as extra measures to avoid contamination. Stäubli's robotic arms are designed to meet these challenges and perform all applications, from upstream processing through sorting, packing and palletizing.

At IPPE, Stäubli Robotics will demonstrate two production lines for processing and packaging meat, displaying the capabilities of its TS2-60 HE SCARA and TX2-90 HE six-axis robots. The "HE" stands for "humid environment," signifying the ability to withstand rigorous washdown procedures.

The TS2-60 HE four-axis robot will perform a high-speed chicken breast handling and thermoform loading operation. This consists of picking the product up from a conveyor and placing it precisely into its packaging. The need for human intervention is minimized, relieving workers of tedious and repetitive tasks, while protecting the sterility of the product and enhancing productivity.

The larger TX2-90 HE robot will run through several applications demonstrating its flexibility in handling different products and conducting washdown procedures. After an initial self-cleaning, the robot moves to a second station, picks up its cutting tool, and simulates waterjet cutting of a chicken breast. At a third station, it picks up a meat patty, places it on a conveyor, and performs a meat washing application. After each cycle, the robot returns to the self-cleaning station.

Several of Stäubli's partners will demonstrate their own food processing and packaging solutions: Sealed Air (Booth C12023), a packaging specialist, will show how it uses a Stäubli TX2-160 to load packaged protein into boxes, thus eliminating manual loading processes. EnSight Solutions (Booth C11063), which manufactures handling and processing equipment, will demonstrate a TS260 sorting and separating bulk products.

All of Stäubli's HE robots are designed for use in wet/humid environments and full washdown applications, featuring:

- Fully enclosed and pressurized structure to prevent microorganism penetration and avoid condensation
- Hygienic design with smooth, rounded and tilted surfaces to eliminate liquid retention
- Fully compatible with NSF H1 food-grade lubricant without loss of performance
- Protected against pressure jets of water (IP65) and immersion (IP67)
- Crucial components in stainless steel with special coating to withstand extreme conditions
- No external cables - all connections routed through the arm and base
- Unique, cylindrical envelope and small footprint
- Patented Stäubli proprietary JCS gearbox for top-of-the-line accuracy, repeatability and durability

Stäubli is a leader in food industry solutions with a wide range of robots for pick and place, cutting, deboning, portioning, handling of boxes or frozen foods, and handling of unwrapped food products. The HE series of robots ranges in size and format (4- and 6-axis), and in payload from 1Kg to 150Kg. All have the flexibility of multiple mounting options, allowing easy integration into production lines, whether semiautomatic or fully automated.

About Stäubli North America

Stäubli North America has more than 200 employees supporting Connectors, Robotics and Textiles customers. The company's North American headquarters is in Duncan, South Carolina. Stäubli provides customer support through its locations in Duncan, Queretaro, Mexico, and the newest Stäubli North American facility, which opened in 2018 in Novi, Michigan. In addition to 24/7 customer support, each of these facilities offers training and has dedicated on-site technical experts who can be deployed whenever needed. Stäubli's North American sales force is located strategically on the West and East coasts, and also serves Canada and Puerto Rico.

Worldwide, Stäubli is a leading manufacturer of quick release couplings, robotics systems and textile machinery. With a workforce of more than 5,500 employees, Stäubli is present in 29 countries supported by a comprehensive distribution network in 50 countries worldwide.

About Stäubli Robotics

Stäubli Robotics is a leading player in robotics around the world, consistently delivering engineering as effective and reliable as our service and support. Stäubli offers a complete range of 4-axis and 6-axis robotic systems, collaborative and mobile robotics as well as software to meet the most exacting demands of the market internationally. Stäubli robots combine speed, performance and safety. staubli.com/robotics

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