

# AIR-EFFICIENCY – an FP speciality!

*How our air-based, smart packaging solutions increase efficiency in decentralised, centralised ('end-of-line') and area packing set-ups.*

With the continuing rise in e-commerce, companies are being driven to keep more and more promises. Products ordered online are often expected to be shipped and packed faster yet less expensively.

You may think that scaling up in size and introducing greater levels of automation would be the answer, but a 2017 study by Rotterdam's Erasmus University, in cooperation with the evofenedex entrepreneurs association, proved the opposite. After analysing 131 warehouses in Belgium and the Netherlands, the conclusion was that larger warehouses are less efficient; the greater distances impact productivity. And although a certain level of automation is necessary, continuing to add hard/software didn't lead to improved performance.

We have consistently demonstrated over the years that we can improve our customers efficiency through focusing on process improvements. Through our solutions, we help you carry out more orders using the same - or even fewer - resources, so you can meet short cut-off (parcel pickup) deadlines, fulfil promises of next- or even same-day delivery, and boost your overall efficiency.

## **Saving approximately €24,000 per year**

For a start, we can advise you on the optimum shape, size and orientation of air cushions. Did you know that simply changing from narrow square to double-cushion configuration give you twice the amount of packaging material per metre? Doing so typically saves five seconds handling per box! A company handling 4000 boxes a day can save 20,000 seconds, or almost 6 hours, on a daily basis. That represents a cost reduction of approximately €24,000 annually!

We also take a broader look at your packaging operations. We consider aspects like chronological order of activities and left-handed/right-handed operators and optimise your process accordingly. And we provide training on the best packing techniques, showing packagers how to stay within their ‘safe zone’ so they can carry out their job comfortably while accelerating output. Advice like this can often shave a couple of extra seconds off packing each box. Which, again, really adds up.

## **Equipment and packaging designed to make a difference**

We also offer equipment that works *with* rather than *against* operators. Our cutting device, for example, automatically delivers the correct length of air cushion string (from 3 to 99 cushions long), straight into the packer’s hand, using a tube system powered by air. You can supply all packaging material for up to 12 packing stations (six bins, each feeding typically 1-2 packing stations) from *one* of our packaging machines. At high speed. 24/7.

This simplifies the tasks carried out by packaging personnel; they no longer have to tear off the required number of air cushions each time to void fill a box. You also save valuable floor space at each packing station (packaging material is delivered from above). And you can have centralised - and therefore more efficient - control of packaging equipment.

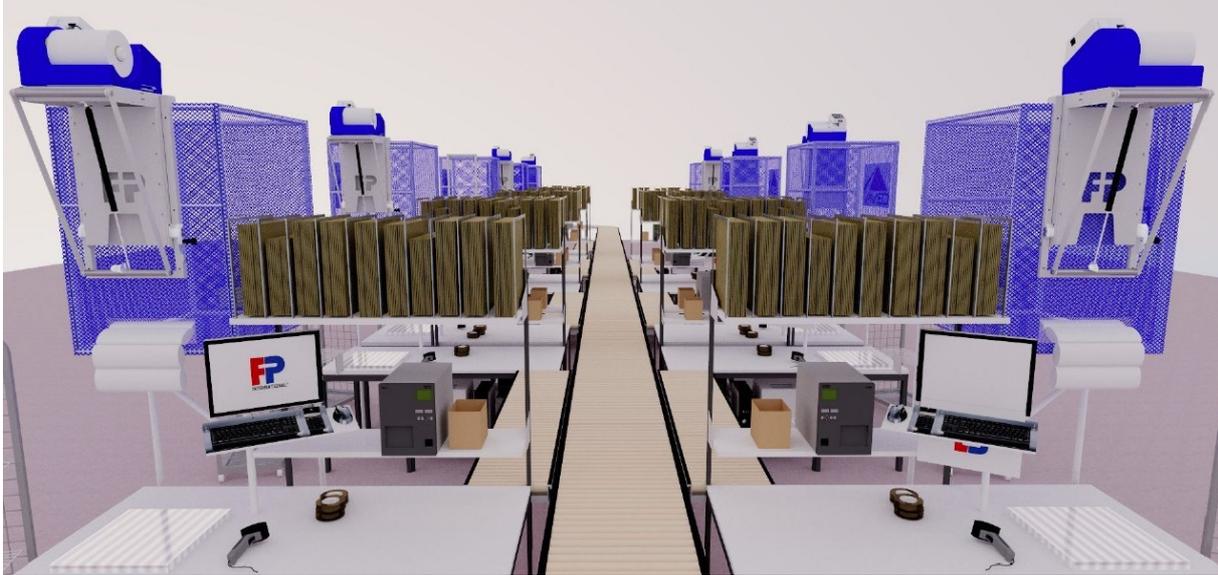
Meanwhile our Speedfeeder semi-automatic air cushion delivery system has an output speed comparable to paper-dispensing alternatives, yet uses far less packing material (7x less than paper) and is easier to reload, which keeps your productivity high. It's the only system of its kind made in Europe, and can typically handle over 1000 boxes per shift, per line.

And we're constantly looking for new ways of making a difference. For example, in the spring of 2017 we launched air cushions which can be separated from each other with one hand rather than two. This improves packaging speed and is less physically demanding.

### **Catering for all packing setups**

Yet optimum efficiency can only be achieved when there is a proper match between the air cushion machines and the packing area, lay-out and process. For each of the three main packing set-ups - de-centralised (off-line), centralised (in-line or end-of-line) and area - we have a range of solutions that fit the process and enhance efficiencies by supporting a goods-to-person approach. (1)

- **Decentralised packing**



Our Smart MINI PAK'R, integrated with TOP FILL systems (picture below), is extremely efficient in terms of space, while our robust PRO PAK'R, when used with our cutting device, maximizes the delivery of packing material using very small silos.

- **Centralised packing**



Multiple MINI PAK'R's at one single point offer different air cushions types to accommodate any kind of packing application, and our PRO PAK'R with Speedfeeder rapidly produces the

required number of cushions for very high-volume packing.

- **Area packing**



Meanwhile our mobile MINI PAK'R and PRO PAK'R solutions can run on **batteries** so they can be used wherever the packer is. In this way we make sure you have the right production capacity & speed at the right place, while taking up a minimum of space and

eliminating unnecessary walking.

And since layouts change from time to time (e.g. due to seasonality or different customers) we can help you easily scale up, down or switch from one configuration to another to create and maintain the right **flow** within your operation.

## **Ensuring continuity of production**

Our commitment to improving efficiency goes beyond just advice and equipment; we provide the backup you need to ensure continuity of production.

We solve a significant number of issues over the phone to keep any disruption to a minimum. We often plan overcapacity in your process to cover production peaks. Our preventative maintenance program helps prevent problems from arising in the first place. And our multilingual intervention force operates throughout Europe.

We also provide a backup machine on site, just in case. It can be swapped into your line if there are any issues with your current machine in order to keep potential disruption to an absolute minimum. Any necessary corrective action is then carried out so that the original machine can either be swapped back into your line or used as a backup. All in all, our customers certainly appreciate the level of support they get; we receive an average 9.2/10 rating from them.

Through our advice, packaging equipment, air cushions and service we'll play a central role in getting your productivity up so you can continue to meet your customers' demands.

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*FP International is a global, total solutions provider and innovator of protective packaging systems. We offer a wide variety of standard and custom solutions, ranging from in-line operations at international distribution fulfilment centres to smart pack stations at start-up companies, web-shops and small businesses. Find out more at: [www.fpintl.com](http://www.fpintl.com)*

1. It was once acceptable for pickers to spend 60% of their time moving and only 40% picking. However, more efficient solutions based around a goods-to-person fulfilment approach significantly increase the amount of time spent picking. This increases the number of orders processed per person. For more information see: <http://mhlnews.com/technology-amp-automation/what-you-should-know-about-goods-person-fulfillment>