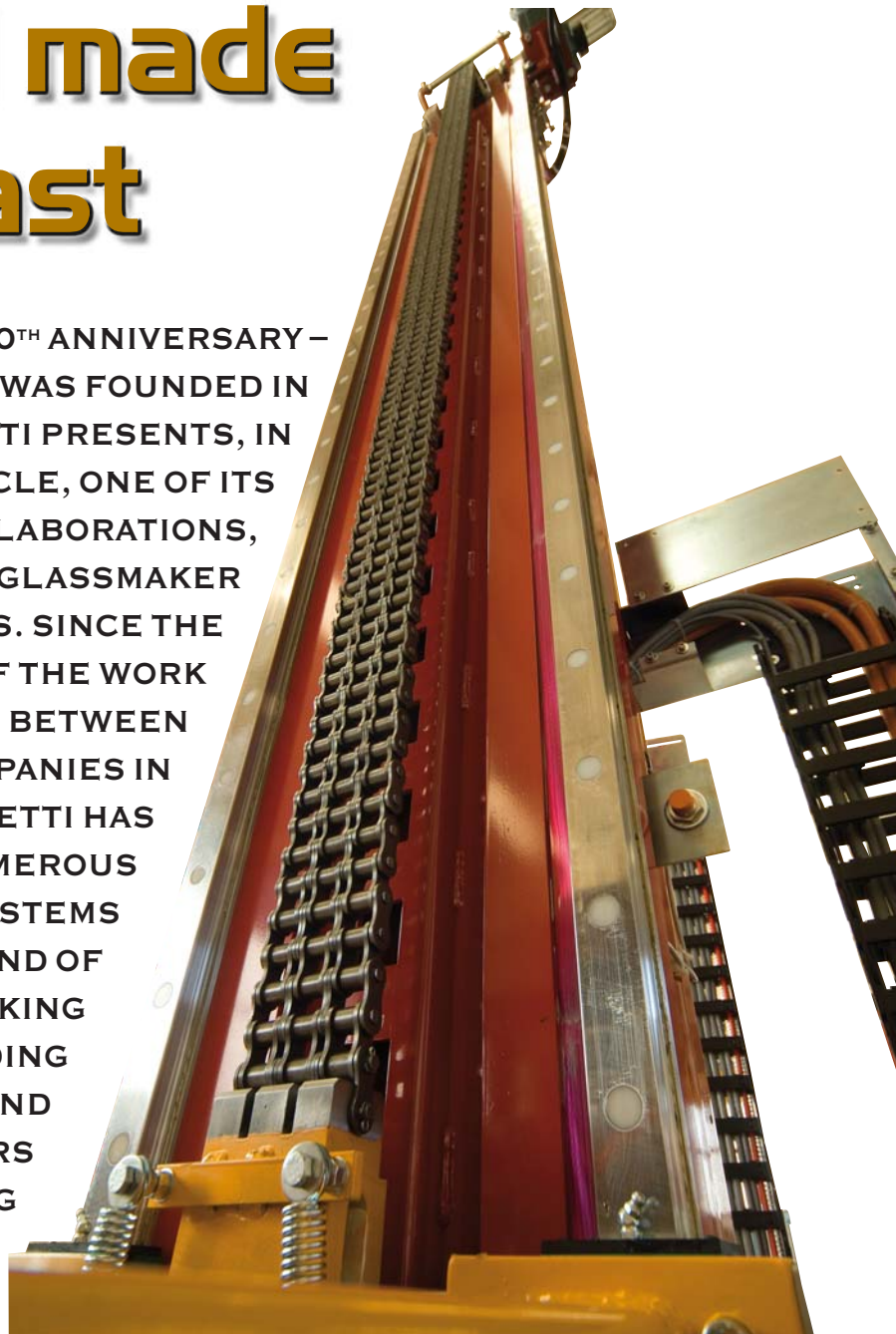


Zecchetti: machinery made to measure and made to last

NOW NEAR ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY – THE COMPANY WAS FOUNDED IN 1960 – ZECCHETTI PRESENTS, IN THIS ARTICLE, ONE OF ITS HISTORICAL COLLABORATIONS, WITH GERMAN GLASSMAKER WIEGAND-GLAS. SINCE THE START OF THE WORK RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COMPANIES IN 1996, ZECCHETTI HAS SUPPLIED NUMEROUS MACHINES AND SYSTEMS FOR THE COLD END OF THE GLASSMAKING LINE, INCLUDING PALLETIZERS AND DEPALLETIZERS GUARANTEEING BOTH SPEED AND FLEXIBILITY.



Palletizing Column

Zecchetti, based in Montecchio Emilia, Reggio Emilia, northern Italy, was founded in 1960 and now occupies an area of approximately 11,000 square metres plus a second operative facility of about 8,000 square metres.

The firm currently has 110 employees organized in the activities of sales, design, machine assembly, testing, installation, and post-sales service for all the company's product lines.

Leader in the Packaging Sector for the production of palletizers, depalletizers and conveying systems, Zecchetti is also present in the Warehouse Logistic Sector.

COLLABORATION WITH WIEGAND-GLAS

Wiegand-Glas is a private owned business with a tradition of over 400 years. This makes the German company one of the oldest manufacturers in Germany which has built up a worldwide reputation for being highly efficient and reliable, a reputation achieved thanks to the most modern technology used in production processes.

Having said that, it is more than obvious that Zecchetti was very proud to be selected by Wiegand-Glas as its supplier of packaging equipment back in 1996. Since then Zecchetti has delivered many different machines to cope with the German company's needs in terms of speed and flexibility.

Several column type palletizers, tray formers that can use both the hot-melt unit and/or a special mechanical application for pinned trays, column type depalletizers for the decorating line and universal palletizers - machines that can work both in sweep-off and pick-and-place mode, having as their main feature very limited time for change-over of jobs thus becoming very attractive when changing over quite frequently - have been successfully installed both in

Grossbreitenbach and Steinbach am Wald plants to handle cylindrical and shaped bottles, jars and decorated ware.

PALLETIZERS FROM ZECCHETTI

The *PAL 300* column type palletizer model is the machine

that has given Zecchetti the great chance of entering the market without being obliged to make price cuts, but simply showing and clearly explaining the advantages of a machine that is totally different from all the other ones available on the market.



**Handling
delicate
bottles**

The PAL 300, in fact, thanks to its rotating columns (the main one to handle bottle layers and the secondary one to handle layer pads, trays, inverted trays and so on), allows a high number of set-up possibilities and the chance of serving different magazines, each one dedicated to a large variety of layer separators as mentioned here above.

Moreover, the PAL 300 provides an easy access to all its parts, the possibility of carrying over all the operations such as the pick-up head change-over job and the normal maintenance procedures without any need of ladders and/or elevating platforms, in other words with the operator standing on the ground-floor.

It is not a surprise then that Wiegand-Glas has chosen such a machine for its state-of-the-art installations and, even more important, that the company keeps on ordering them. In fact during the preparation of this article, Zecchetti is supplying another set of PAL 300s to be added to the 12 units previously installed in Wiegand-Glas' two plants in Germany.

Another big advantage of the PAL 300 is the possibility of increasing its automation degree and its performances in subsequent steps by means of proper retrofits such as:

- 1) high precision lift-over units that can replace the stacker pushing guides when handling special containers that because of their shape or instability cannot be treated in a sweep-off mode;
- 2) SEW brushless motors;
- 3) axis motion control with absolute encoders for the main machine movements.

A certain number of retrofits have been developed in cooperation with Wiegand-Glas by exchanging ideas based on



the company's and Zecchetti's own experience. In this way it has been possible to update the first machines supplied to Wiegand-Glas a long time ago and bring them to a similar performing level as the present palletizers on order for the German company.

All the above clearly explains why Zecchetti has no doubt in considering Wiegand-Glas as a first-class, faithful customer.



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