

Suppliers' Tips

What packaging equipment trends and innovations do you think will be influential in the future?

Our company sees three areas where technology innovations could have great impact in the packaging and bagging industry for handling bulk solid materials.

1. Open mouth bag sealing technology. It's no secret that there are numerous styles of open-mouth bags: form-fill and pre-formed in various materials, types, and sizes. This creates great opportunities for companies to continue research and development efforts to come up with packaging machinery that's cost-effective and versatile enough to handle various bag types ranging in material composition, size, and shape.

2. Reusable and resealable containers. Companies are frequently looking for ways to employ reusable and resealable containers in both consumer packaging and bulk handling and storage. Both companies and consumers recognize that resources all around the world need to be preserved and recycled, and this is an area of continued growth and popularity.

3. Extrusion-type filling equipment. A final important trend in packaging is the use of extrusion-type fillers. This equipment handles very fluid dry bulk solids with inconsistent material characteristics. Extrusion allows companies to achieve greater packaging throughput.

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Machine automation is a key innovation for bagging and packaging. For the last 10 to 12 years the common story we hear from customers is: "I can't find reliable employees that will show up every day to work," or "We need to reduce our work force and package the same amount of product with two operators rather than the seven we're using today." Customers continually express the need to do the same amount of work with fewer workers because they either can't find or keep workers to do the job. Therefore, the answer is always more machine automation. Automation can be used at various points in the bagging process, from placing empty bags into the equipment at the beginning of the line to having a robot automatically palletize the bags and wrap the pallets at the end of the packaging line. A common request from customers is to create a packaging line with one worker loading empty bags and watching over the line and another driving a forklift bringing supplies and taking the loaded and wrapped pallets to the shipping warehouse. This is a common request made for lines handling open-mouth bags, valve bags, and even FIBC bulk bags and bulk boxes.

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