

Novaxion's latest swabbing robot is integrated onto Emhart machine

Christophe Duplan* discusses how the latest version of a swabbing robot has been installed on an Emhart AIS machine and explains the benefits it brings to product quality, profitability and operator well-being.

Novaxion has installed 46 of its SR200 Swabbing Robots into glass bottle manufacturing plants in the past 12 years, including 11 robots in 2017 alone in Austria, South Korea, Croatia, Czech Republic, Spain, USA and Japan.

The company has a further 10 installations on its order books for 2018.

Novaxion's Swabbing Robot's story began in 2005 when the first swabbing robot prototype was created in co-operation with Saint-Gobain Emballage in Italy in order to automate the swabbing of the blank moulds and the neck rings.

A total of 22 robots were then sold to Saint-Gobain Emballage up to 2015. Its SR200 version V1.2 travels on a rail assembled on the IS block valves.

In 2011, Novaxion developed the first

hanged-up Swabbing Robot, which was integrated into a GPS machine in Saint-Gobain Oberland's (now Verallia) plant in Germany (Picture 1).

In 2017, Bucher Emhart Glass and Novaxion began to work together to implement a new hanged-up Swabbing Robot version V2.0. This robot has been integrated into an Emhart AIS machine at a European bottle manufacturer (Picture 2).

The new version V2.0 has been deemed a success. According to the company:

- the integration of the robot on the blank side panel is really good;
- the system is compact and easy to clean. No visible cables and no protection cage is required.
- the robot's movements are smooth, operating without any vibrations.

Successful tests have also been made on an NIS machine.

As all IS machines are not adapted to receive a hanged-up robot, the version V1.2 (with the rail installed on valves block) is still available.

These two versions of Novaxion's Swabbing Robots allow benefits such as gain of time (swabbing on-the-fly; no section stops), reliability of the production process and product quality, thanks to constant swabbing, uniform lubricant application into the moulds and constant glass distribution.

Novaxion's experience means it can draw meaningful conclusions about the quick payback of its robots.

The company said the installation of



▲ Picture 1. First hanged-up Swabbing Robot in 2011 in Saint-Gobain Oberland, Germany.

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► Picture 2. New hanged-up Swabbing Robot version V2.0.

Its robots provides numerous benefits, including:

- Saving on reject of bottles due to swabbing;
- Saving on swabbing oil by 85%;
- Saving on labour costs: four operators per 24 hours; and
- Other savings concerning swabbing stick and waste treatment for used swabbing sticks.

The installation of a Novaxion swabbing robot will increase the pack to melt ratio by 3% to 15% (depending on the factories and type of production).

These savings added to the increase of the "pack to melt" ratio enables a return on investment within six to 18 months. A calculation tool to calculate the return on investment can be provided on request.

Its robot allows the operators to work in a workplace with better air quality and safer working conditions. Operators' exposure time to smoke and noise is decreased, leading to better health impact. ■



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SWABBING ROBOT SR200

THE BEST SOLUTION FOR SWABBING BLANK MOULDS ON I.S. MACHINES

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Strength of the Swabbing Robot SR200 :

- **12 years-experience** : 46 Swabbing Robots working successfully around the world since 2005.
- **Swab on-the-fly** : the section doesn't need to stop without rejecting any bottles.
- **High level of swabbing performances** : Swabbing Robot SR200 spraying device goes down into the neckrings. The plungers are not sprayed at all.
- **85% saving oil** compared to manual swabbing.
- **3% to 15%** increase of pack-to-melt ratio.



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