

> ZENON AUTOMATION SAICT

PRODUCT HANDLING
EXPERTISE FROM GREECE

Smart automation for Nestlé Hellas SA

by Franz Schöpf



Zenon Automation SAICT successfully completed the installation of a fully automated handling and palletizing system for three carton packaging lines for Nestlé Hellas SA. A smart automation solution was needed as the project posed a series of challenges.

The main project requirements included one central line to connect the distanced production and palletizing areas, overhead conveying to leave the operation of the production floor undisturbed, central palletizing for cost savings and optimal space utilization, full traceability of cartons from packaging to palletizing, and perfect integration with existing systems. Furthermore, the solution needed to meet Nestlé's strict safety requirements and tight time schedule in order to ensure the uninterrupted operation of the plant during the project implementation.

The need for automation in the packaging process

Zenon designed and integrated a fully automated solution that met the needs of Nestlé Hellas SA. It enabled smooth and efficient processes, like lifting cartons from the exit level of each packaging line to the transport level of the central conveying line (approximately three meters above the ground), merging all cartons into one central conveying line, and overhead transportation of cartons from packaging to palletizing area. The identification of cartons according to their line of origin was done with an industrial camera. The palletizing operations, performed by robots, included placement of carton interlayers to improve pallet stability. Furthermore, the new process layout included a merge of palletizing lines via a pallet

shuttle and infeed of finished pallets to the existing stretch wrapping line.

The new system brings tangible benefits

The implemented solution by Zenon helped Nestlé Hellas SA achieve tangible benefits in reliability and flexibility, optimal utilization of

existing space and resources, and connection with the existing IT systems. The systems offers expandability thanks to its modular design and its excellent construction quality. It fulfills special requirements (operation mode, materials used, security etc.) along with all existing personnel and security equipment needs.



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