

SPEEDING UP THE PROCESS

The postal service in the Netherlands is now experiencing the value of spending less time sorting through its irregular-shaped packages

When PostNL, the leading postal operator in the Netherlands, selected the next generation of Solystic's XMS machine to handle the flow of letters and flats for its SMX program, it also chose a complementary machine for processing another fraction of the objects (up to 10% of the total flow), which due to their dimensions cannot be introduced into the XMS. The main function of this machine, called the CPS (Coding and Printing System), designed in collaboration with a third party, is to print on, and if necessary label, every item, applying information that will enable the subsequent merging of these items with the flow from the SMX, ready for the postman's walk.

Under the scope of this project, Solystic has been in charge of the implementation of the image acquisition system connected to PostNL's Mail Match System (MMS), which is responsible for the automatic recognition of addresses and video coding. Solystic also delivered a very accurate system for measuring the top profile of the objects. This not only adjusts the focus of image acquisition but mostly controls the labeling and printing of these objects. This



Solystic's innovative coding system can provide a unique label for every unprocessable package if necessary

precision in the measurement of the profile is indispensable, given the extreme diversity of shapes and objects that are fed through the system.

Ease of use The CPS is capable of recognizing the address, label and information it has printed, sorting at a rate of 10,000 items per hour, with maximum dimensions of 400mm (length) x 300mm (width) x 40mm (thickness) and weight up to 3kg (6.6 lbs). The CPS has a 30-second delay line to allow the MMS to provide its best answer. Sortation is to 72 outlets. To ensure compactness, the CPS has a U-shaped configuration.

During the course of the project, PostNL requested Solystic to take responsibility for the program management (especially factory and site acceptance tests), industrialization and deployment of the entire CPS.

The factory and site acceptance tests of the first machine were held in March and June 2016, respectively. The site acceptance test for the second machine took place in July 2016. There will be 14 machines deployed by the end of Q1 2017.

Long-standing relationships As well as the CPS and SMX, Solystic has provided PostNL with a letter sorting machine, SMK, for which it was awarded a technical refresh contract. Solystic has provided PostNL, one of its most loyal customers, with most of its sorting equipment for over 20 years.

The CPS is also entering into the Solystic range of sorting solutions to handle small packages, in addition to its innovative Soly parcel processing system. These small packages – largely coming from Southeast Asia, mainly China, and generated by rapidly growing e-commerce – represent extremely large flows of several hundred thousand items per day for major European postal operators. The CPS offers an efficient, compact and robust solution for sorting these small packages, for which conventional sorting machines for packages are not well adapted.



CPS enables small parcels to be incorporated into the same flow of items from the SMX sorter

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