

For Immediate Release

Drake Loader Introduces the LS-600R Roboloader at Pack Expo

September 9, 2014 (Waynesboro, VA) – The Drake Company, a leading manufacturer of high speed loading systems for cylindrical products, will unveil the new Drake LS-600R at Pack Expo, McCormick Place, Chicago, IL Nov. 2-5, 2014, in Booth 7112.

Like the company's other loaders, the LS-600R collates and readies the processed product for final packaging. Typically, the formed product enters a loader's hopper in random fashion. Through a patented sorting mechanism, the machine "unscrambles" the product, places it into pack patterns, and finally transfers it to a horizontal form-fill-seal (HFFS) machine. The introduction economically addresses the needs of smaller producers to load soft or odd shaped product typically damaged in a mechanical loading head.

"This is the first launcher style loader of its type to use a robotic end effector to pick and place the product into the packaging pockets," said George Reed, vice president of engineering and operations, Drake. "Robotic technology enables us to deliver a flexible solution – in a smaller footprint. It features stainless steel, open frame design – and is an excellent option for lower volume specialty sausage producers or operations that are transitioning from a hand operation to an automatic system."

The robot arm tracks with a moving infeed conveyor and uses vacuum technology to pick the correct number of sausages. As the robot moves toward the pocket, the end effector groups and separates the franks prior to placing them.

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