

# CASE STUDY

## IMS Group USA

Helix® Flexible Screw Conveyor Feeds Innovative Form-Fill-Seal Packaging Solution

Based in Grand Rapids, Michigan, IMS Group USA offers bulk solids packaging solutions for the food, pharmaceutical, resin, chemical and other industrial markets. In addition to form, fill and seal equipment, IMS Group imports and assembles carton formers and sealers, case packers, tray formers as well as pick and place palletizers manufactured in Italy.

IMS Group USA wanted to set up an R & D showroom to demonstrate an automated form, fill and seal solution.

"It's not good enough to simply talk about solutions," said Nico Nicoletti, President of IMS Group USA. "Processors have a real need to see the equipment in action to truly understand how it can benefit their process."

IMS Group USA chose to demonstrate the TB 1200, an innovative solution that simultaneously forms, fills and seals bags. Using a reel of plastic film instead of individual, pre-formed bags, the TB 1200 can be programmed to create bags ranging in volume from 2 to 18 gallons (7.5 to 68 liters) and 13.5 to 29.5 inches (343 to 749 millimeters).

The bag shape can be pillow or gusseted (square shape) for more stable palletization. Once formed, the bag is filled and impulse thermo-sealed. Typical payback of the system is less than one year due to savings in bag material and labor through automation.

In order to demonstrate an ability to fill up to 1,200 bags per hour (20 per minute), Nicoletti needed to integrate a conveyor to the TB 1200 filling hopper.

"You need quite a bit of material when demonstrating the TB 1200 to customers," said Nicoletti. "I wanted a



Hapman's 300 Series Helix flexible screw conveyor with polyurethane hopper and flat wire auger conveys plastic pellets 28 feet (8.5 meters) to the TB 1200 form-fill-seal solution.



" I wanted a solution that was simple to use, affordable and reliable. The result is a turnkey solution that provides a real payback in under a year. "

— Nico Nicoletti, IMS Group USA President

solution that was simple to use, affordable and reliable. Hapman was highly recommended as an industry leader in conveying solutions, so I turned to them for an answer."

IMS Group USA encourages customers to send their product to its showroom to try out the TB 1200. However, when customer-specific material is not available, IMS Group USA uses a plastic pellet that is representative of the type of bulk solids suitable for this equipment as a general demonstration material. Hapman's 300 Series Helix flexible screw conveyor with polyurethane hopper and flat wire auger was selected to convey the material 28 feet (8.5 meters) to the filling hopper, which is 20 feet (6 meters) above ground level.

"We're very pleased with the conveying solution," noted Nicoletti. "In addition to being highly effective, it is a very economical solution. Combined with the TB 1200, we're able to offer a turnkey solution that provides a real payback in under a year."

## ABOUT HAPMAN

For 70 years, Hapman has provided manufacturing plants around the world with the most technologically advanced powder and bulk handling equipment and systems, offering custom engineered equipment and systems for chemical, food, pharmaceutical, plastics, building, minerals, and other industries.

# HAPMAN

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