

November 2, 2010

# Prescription for success

*Systech International's (Booth S1357) versatile vision systems helped a pharmaceutical manufacturer standardize across multiple lines and multiple countries.*

Since it began producing pharmaceuticals in the late 1800s, Schering-Plough has grown into a global manufacturer of prescription medications for women's health, respiratory, cardiovascular, oncology, immunology and central nervous system disorders.

With several new products advancing through the clinical trial and ap-

proval stages, Schering-Plough realized the need to implement new product-specific packaging lines in both its Dublin, Ireland, and Allentown, Pa., manufacturing facilities.

proval stages, Schering-Plough realized the need to implement new product-specific packaging lines in both its Dublin, Ireland, and Allentown, Pa., manufacturing facilities. The lines would conduct blister packaging with a child-resistance feature, and the ability to label and collate products for cartoning and shipment for multiple countries. According to Schering-Plough's Project Group Leader David Read, the company sought an integrated, automated inspection system that would check product type and security features, verify cartons for country destination and correct label printing. Blisters also would need to be inspected to verify product orienta-

tion, lot numbers and expiration dates. Another key driver at the time was the need to integrate Vignette detection. Armed with this specific list of requirements, Schering-Plough sought out a single solution provider that could address all of its needs. In addition, Read wanted to engage a provider that would be willing to work with the company's chosen

management product, to seamlessly integrate with Sentri, providing real-time production monitoring, control, data collection and reporting. This flexibility was a key driver for Schering-Plough's selection of the Systech system. If Schering-Plough decides to upgrade its line architecture, Advisor can connect and manage intelligent devices on the packaging line. Advisor can also provide data reporting and archiving, line security and procedural controls through one central source.

Within a few months of installing and testing the Systech systems on the line, Schering-Plough took delivery of the lines, and within one year they completed all validation testing.

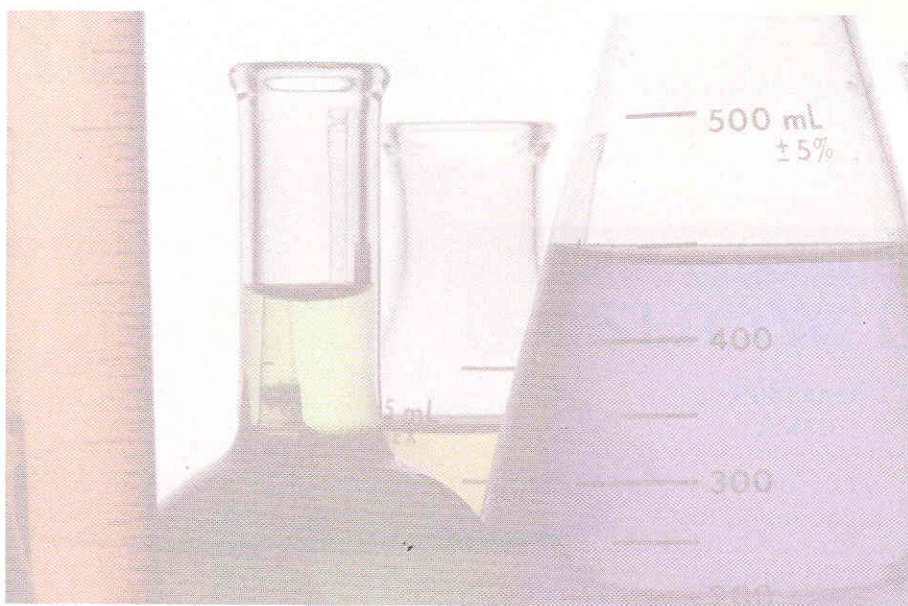
"The systems lived up to expectations—meeting or exceeding all performance, speed and communications objectives," says Read. "The systems performed so well

that we were able to address another core requirement—standardization across packaging lines."

Systech systems were subsequently ordered for two additional packaging lines.

According to Read, while Systech was not the only vendor who could address its packaging needs, it was undoubtedly the right choice.

"Where Systech came through was its flexibility, superior performance, and ease-of-use on the front end," says Read. "It was very important to have a single solution that would address all our needs. It's not the only one that can do it, but it was certainly the most attractive solution given the flexibility of the product." **SD**



packaging vendors to integrate the system into the new lines.

Schering-Plough conducted an in-depth market study to identify potential vendors. Following a series of meetings and site visits, **Systech International (Booth S1357)** was identified as the vendor who could best address all of Schering-Plough's different requirements.

Systech integrated its Sentri vision inspection systems on each of the identical lines. Sentri includes a powerful suite of optical character verification, optical character recognition, bar code verification and print quality verification tools.

The line is designed to easily scale to include Systech Advisor, a line