

Software for affordable robots

The use of robots in food processing has offered Australian manufacturers a technological and productivity edge. This hi-tech automation is proving more productive and it maintains jobs rather than putting staff at risk. However, for small to medium-sized enterprises, it is the affordability of software-based automation that offers competitive support against multinationals in the market place.

ManuSoft, the world's first dynamic resource control (DRC) software, has the potential to further reduce the cost factor, increase service level and give producers the scope to maintain strong workforces while increasing profits. The new software is touchscreen-based and controls everything from job quoting through production control, stock and inventory control, cost tracking and on to product dispatch. Since these activities can be carried out as either independent functions or a fully integrated resource planning system, even component shortages are averted as ManuSoft alerts operators when stock items should be ordered and advises when a job should be scheduled amid other orders, thus increasing throughput.

Confectionery giant Cadburys has installed a Motoman SV3 robot at its Ringwood plant, in Victoria, to manufacture its Yowie product. *Contact: Tel: ManuSoft, Australia. +61 (2) 9542 3066; E-mail: shaun@manusoft.com.au; Website: www.manusoft.com.au; Or Matcol, Australia. Tel: +61 (2) 9748 3788; E-mail: cwells@matcol.com.au.* (Food and Pack, July 2001)