

# TORFS TESTIMONIAL

TORFS MACHINECONSTRUCTIE & ENGINEERING

April 2009 ECI

**“IF WE WEREN'T HAPPY WITH TORFS'S QUALITY AND SERVICE, WE WOULDN'T COME BACK, WOULD WE!”**

## Cans for beverages around the world

ECI Company is the true **expert in empty can handling** for soft drinks, fruit juices, lemonade, beverages...

Based on the experience gathered over the years, it solves can handling problems for large and smaller players in the can making and filling industries. Over many years, it has successfully produced and implemented the supply, installation, commissioning and training of high speed can making lines in the Far East, Middle East, Europe and the UK. Beverages in cans are on the rise, definitely in regions like the Middle East that is extending its own production and manufacturing capabilities.



*Robbin Glendinning (ECI) (r) and Jan Torfs (l) shake hands on the professional Acceptance Test Procedure.*

## Innovative solutions to modernize production

Says Steve Reid, Director of Carlisle -based ECI in the UK: “Empty can handling requires a lot of expertise. From flat metal panel to ‘ready to fill printed can’ takes 2 km of traffic. And several points in the 2 km production chain are up for modernization. A long line of conveyor belts that transport up to 2.200 cans per minute characterize today’s installations. It is the conventional way of doing things, the way people are used to. Yet in their strive for more efficient production, better usage of limited space, higher system productivity and reduced carbon footprint, can making and filling companies want to consider new production approaches. **Using spiral transport solutions like the Spintor** from Torfs and Intralox **is a definite step ahead** in all these aspects.”



## Filling cans fast and securely

Vacuum suction or air blowing systems were the standard in can transporting and filling. In spite of doing the job well, several characteristics of these technologies were getting outdated. Today’s 2.000 to 2.200 cans /minute production output is OK for single conveyor lines, but soon they will need to handle up to 3.400 cans/minute ...and it is clear that **no standard conveyor can manage this!** Moreover, with 1 to 5% of the cans creating problems during handling, the **waste rate** is unacceptably high in case something goes wrong. Not to mention **the havoc** created on the production floor by spilling thousands of empty cans in less than a minute! And not to forget that, when either space limitations or tall differences in height have to be tackled, standard **conveying lines typically are very space consuming**. On top of that the **energy consumption** of vacuum based systems is really no longer in line with today’s ecological standards. A vacuum line consumes more than 13 times more energy than a spiral conveying system.

## What makes spiral transport systems the right choice?

“As a designer and manufacturer of a broad line of conveyor solutions, we are familiar with all the pros



and cons of standard conveying lines”, claims Jan Torfs, owner and managing director of Torfs Machine Construction and Engineering located in the centre of Belgium. “That is precisely why we have designed and already successfully implemented in multiple projects, the spiral technology of our Spintor solutions. Clear benefits are **space saving**, easily **mastering large unit volumes**, **unmatched flexibility** of materials, unique **bi-directional buffering** capabilities, and **very low cost of operation** due to durability, minimal maintenance and strongly reduced energy consumption.”

A Spintor system uses only 0.15€/hour on energy versus 2€/hour for a vacuum system. Together with a strongly reduced maintenance cost, this will decimate the overall energy consumption cost and soon adds up to 20.000€ /year, the basis of a **very short ROI**. Steve Reid agrees: “**Two years** would pay for the spiral on electricity costs alone! Even without considering the cost of production standstill and waste... That alone should convince any plant production manager to seriously consider the Spintor solution. As we have!”

His colleague Dave Routledge, Projects & Workshop Manager at ECI, confirms: “One of the additional trump cards of Torfs’s spiral solution is its capability to bi-directionally buffer the cans in case something turns out wrong. At a speed of 2200 cans/minute, the **buffer will give you 5 to 8 incredibly valuable minutes** to prevent the issue to become a really costly disaster. Preventing a few of these to happen already makes a lot of financial difference!”

#### **Professional customer focus, durable design and... Pride!**

Steve Reid’s conclusion is clear: “There is not just one thing I like about Torfs. If you have any issues in terms of space saving, energy consumption, durable design, documentation, spare parts handling... Torfs can help. Jan and his team are **easy to reach**. You can **directly talk to the person in charge** of doing the job. **No language barriers. No hassle. After sales service is real.** And ... all of them take personal pride in their job. The Torfs Spintors are high quality units. Thoroughly tested upfront during **the famous Torfs Acceptance Test Procedure**, a sign of professional quality that not everyone in the industry masters like Jan! We’ve worked all over the world and found his is the best approach and service we can possibly get.”

**“After all, if we weren’t happy with Torfs’s quality and service, we wouldn’t come back, would we!”**



#### **Profile ECI – NDH Group LLC.**

- ECI is working closely with the NDH Group LLC company on new projects in the Middle East.
- NDH Group is a leading company working worldwide for the supply, installation, commissioning and training of high speed can making lines, as well as process speed and performance upgrade projects.
- Customers are located all around the world
- The company founders’ vision focuses on delivering total reliability of production through engineering excellence.
- Complete service from turn-key packages to upgrades of existing lines.
- Source the best machines from USA, Europe or the Far East and combine them to create a production line with the highest specification and reliability coupled with the lowest cost.
- In the Middle East NDH is the market leader providing three new plants with innovative solutions for turn-key projects involving Concept Engineering, Installation, Commissioning and Training.
- Recently NDH expanded its reach in the Middle East region with the creation of new office, manufacturing and fabrication facilities for ongoing and new projects.

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