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Individual transport solutions for the packaging industry

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Froneri relies on VarioFlow plus chain conveyor system from Bosch Rexroth for end-of-line packaging



Froneri uses the VarioFlow plus chain conveyor system from Bosch Rexroth for the end-of-line packaging of ice cream at its Italian plant in Ferentino. (Image source: Froneri Italy S.r.l.)

Compact, modular, robust, reliable and with low wear: The VarioFlow plus chain conveyor system from Bosch Rexroth is suitable for use in numerous industries and can be adapted to a large variety of factory layouts. Froneri is taking advantage of the system at its Italian plant in Ferentino for the final packaging of ice cream.

Froneri, a joint venture between the British company group R&R Ice Cream and the Swiss Nestlé Group, operates more than 30 plants worldwide, two of which are in Italy: At its plant in Terni,

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Froneri mainly produces packaged ice cream for the private label of retail chains. In Ferentino, the company produces ice cream for the foreign market and for its own brands such as Nuii. Ferentino already has a successful partnership with Bosch Rexroth, in which both companies focus on final packaging. Individual, already packaged and frozen ice cream varieties are first transported to a packaging machine. There they are placed in cartons, which are transported to the palletizing area after being sealed, weighed and checked. The VarioFlow plus chain conveyor system from Bosch Rexroth is of crucial importance here. Based on its modularity, versatility and performance, a customized solution was developed that meets all of the customer's requirements.

"We chose Bosch Rexroth for one of our production lines. The chain conveyor system transports the products coming from the metal detectors and scales to the shrink packing machine. Chain conveyors placed on the floor and mounted on the ceiling transport the cartons further for palletization, depending on the format. "The height differences are overcome using spiral conveyors with minimal space requirements," explains Alfredo De Falco, Group Project Manager at Froneri.

"At Froneri, the choice fell on spiral conveyors based on VarioFlow plus components," explains Claudio Morabito, Factory Automation End Users Sales FMCG at Bosch Rexroth. "The use of spiral conveyors in conjunction with the chain conveyor system offers several advantages here: In the case of a machine standstill, the products in the infeed can be easily accumulated and temporarily stored in the spiral conveyor. The quantity of products that can be buffered on the spiral conveyors corresponds to a third of the total quantity of products on the conveyors in the infeed at the time of the machine downtime."

"This is an essential aspect," emphasizes De Falco. "As it is possible to reduce the transport speed of the spiral conveyor during a machine downtime, we can accumulate the products in the spiral conveyor. Specifically: If the shrink packing machine stops planned, we can buffer a large part of the products in the infeed on the belts. This allows us to bridge a period of one to three minutes to eliminate the error. The accumulation of products means that the conveyor chain passes under the stationary product. Imprints and labels on the packaging must not be damaged in the process. The VarioFlow plus conveyor chain meets this requirement with its low wear. This is one of the most important arguments for us."

"The spiral conveyor has two lanes. This means that it has two separate spiral conveyor lines. Compared to a single-lane spiral conveyor of the same size, this almost doubles the transport capacity. This will save valuable space in the production area," emphasizes Morabito, another special feature.

"The second reason why Froneri opted for VarioFlow plus from Bosch Rexroth is the possibility of vertical transport. The transport system enables simple and reliable operation on different transport levels. In the Ferentino plant, for example, the conveyor is operated 2.4 meters above the hall floor. This means that not only people, but also vehicles for transporting pallets and other materials can pass under the conveyor system. The third reason, according to De Falco: "VarioFlow plus allows a wide range of conveyor speeds. This property allows it to be adapted to different format types."

"The system offers maximum flexibility and can be easily adapted to a wide range of layout requirements. In addition, it has proven to be robust and reliable in the long term, which is extremely important for us. At no time were there significant downtimes in production caused by malfunctions. This also sets the solution apart from systems from other suppliers," summarizes De Falco the advantages of the chain conveyor system.

Basic Information Bosch Rexroth

As one of the world's leading suppliers of drive and control technologies, Bosch Rexroth ensures efficient, powerful and safe movement in machines and systems of any size. The company bundles global application experience in the market segments of Mobile and Industrial Applications as well as Factory Automation. With its intelligent components, customized system solutions, engineering and services, Bosch Rexroth is creating the necessary environment for fully connected applications. Bosch Rexroth offers its customers hydraulics, electric drive and

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control technology, gear technology and linear motion and assembly technology, including software and interfaces to the Internet of Things. With locations in over 80 countries, around 31,900 associates generated sales revenue of 6.5 billion euros in 2025.

Basic Information Bosch

The Bosch Group is a leading global supplier of technology and services. It employs roughly 413,000 associates worldwide (as of December 31, 2025). The company generated sales of 91 billion euros in 2025. Its operations are divided into four business sectors: Mobility, Industrial Technology, Consumer Goods, and Energy and Building Technology. With its business activities, the company aims to use technology to help shape universal trends such as automation, digitalization, electrification, and artificial intelligence. In this context, Bosch's broad diversification across regions and industries strengthens its innovativeness and robustness. Bosch uses its proven expertise in hardware, software, and services to offer customers cross-domain solutions from a single source. It also applies its expertise in connectivity and artificial intelligence in order to develop and manufacture intelligent, user-friendly, and sustainable products. With technology that is "Invented for life," Bosch wants to help improve quality of life and conserve natural resources. The Bosch Group comprises Robert Bosch GmbH and its roughly 500 subsidiary and regional companies in over 60 countries. Including sales and service partners, Bosch's global manufacturing, engineering, and sales network covers nearly every country in the world. Bosch's innovative strength is key to the company's further development. Bosch employs some 82,000 associates in research and development.

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