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Camera, Software Suite Inspects Physical Properties and Label Codes

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PPT Vision's (Eden Prairie, MN) Impact system is being used by B. Braun (Bethlehem, PA) for medical device packaging at its facility in Penang, Malaysia. The collaboration will allow B. Braun to have a full track-and-trace line for medical device packaging capabilities, and the combination enables one system to both inspect physical properties and read codes and labels.

PPT Vision's Malaysian integration partner AVI Technology helped install equipment throughout B. Braun's manufacturing plant, which packages needles among other devices. Capabilities of the PPT Vision system for physical properties include inspection of the needle production line. Impact inspects each needle for length, diameter, twist angle, and bevel angle based on more than 60 different needle types.

The Impact software suite optimized for label inspection and optical character recognition (OCR) helps with other B. Braun packages, such as ampules of liquid medication. For example, its Mini-Plasco vial is filled, sterilized, then labeled for packaging and shipping. Each step takes place in a different location, and the company marks the top of the ampule with a product number indicating the type of medication, and an alphabetic code for day and lot information.

Prior to the collaboration, the company had manually checked the code on the ampule before labeling, but the Impact electronic and camera system offers 100% check of each ampule. The camera reads every product number and alphabet code, and rejects the ampule if the code doesn't check against the solution described by the label. According to a release from the company, the results are good with false rejects well below 1%.

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