

# Scalable Automated Packaging That Uses Less

SPORTOKAY.COM

“ Process automation is an essential lever for success in the tough world of e-commerce. ”

-KONRAD PLANKENSTEINER, CEO SPORTOKAY.COM

## REQUIREMENTS

- Reliable yet flexible packaging
- Ability to manage peak demands
- Pack a broad assortment of varying size goods
- Use less packaging materials

## CHALLENGES

Focusing on alpine clothing and sports equipment, ecommerce specialist SportOkay is located in the heart of the Alps in Innsbruck, Austria. The company has more than 40,000 different items of outdoor, mountain climbing, cycling and skiing equipment from over 300 well-known brands in stock.

Coming from Zalando and Amazon, Konrad Plankensteiner, CEO of SportOkay.com is well aware of the ever present competition in the online retail market. “From my point of view, reliable, flexible and easily scalable solutions are ideal for a rapidly growing company such as ours,” says Plankensteiner. SportOkay.com aims to get customers’ orders out fast, enabling them to be as active as possible, as quickly as possible, with the necessary gear. In order to accommodate this task, Plankensteiner opened a 16 metre high distribution centre in 2018 that allows customers in Germany and Austria who place orders online before noon to receive their goods the following day.

Success wasn't long in the making, as the company experienced double-digit sales growth very quickly. On peak days, employees would pack up to 2,000 parcels manually. “With such rapid growth, the packaging area could have become a real bottleneck,” recalls Plankensteiner. Instead of hiring more staff for the warehouse area, he decided to purchase an automated packaging system. “I really liked the sustainability of the CVP Impack and that the system can automatically produce up to 500 tailor-made packages per hour without void fill using 3D scanning technology,” says Plankensteiner. To see the solution in action, he visited the production site in Drachten, the Netherlands. “I was impressed by the performance of the system and the extensive expertise of the automation specialists.”

## SOLUTION

In 2020, Plankensteiner ordered their first CVP Impack Automated Packaging Solution, and by October, Sparck experts had the machine up and running within three days of arrival. Whether it's an outdoor



30% less  
corrugate usage



20% less  
shipping volume



Reduced labour constraints  
during peaks in demand

jacket, trail running shoes or a foldable hiking pole, the CVP Impack is designed to handle both single- or multi-item orders of hard or soft goods. The packaging process is extremely fast, taking just seconds to complete. With the machine now successfully in use for several months, CEO Plankensteiner is feeling positive. “The system is efficient and very reliable. We’re already seeing the benefits of the savings,” says Plankensteiner. According to his figures, corrugate consumption has fallen by around 30 percent, while the transport volume has been reduced by more than 20 percent. Even more important are the benefits it provides in terms of staffing. On peak days, which are usually Mondays, employees used to pack up to 2,000 parcels manually. Today, SportOkay.com needs just two staffers in the packing area – leaving the rest of the employees available for other, higher-value tasks.

Plankensteiner describes himself as “very satisfied” – not just with



the throughput of the system, but also with the support. In addition, with the integration of the CVP Impack, SportOkay.com has had no issues complying with social distancing rules in the dispatch area during the COVID-19 pandemic. “In the past, the eight employees working at the manual packing tables were sometimes less than two metres apart. Now we have just two employees working on a 25-metre-long machine,” explains Plankensteiner.

## SPORTOKAY BENEFITS

- Ability to manage sudden peaks in demand with no additional labour
- Auto-box a broad assortment of items in varying sizes
- A reduction of corrugate consumption by 30%
- Fit-to-size packaging reduced shipping volume by 20%