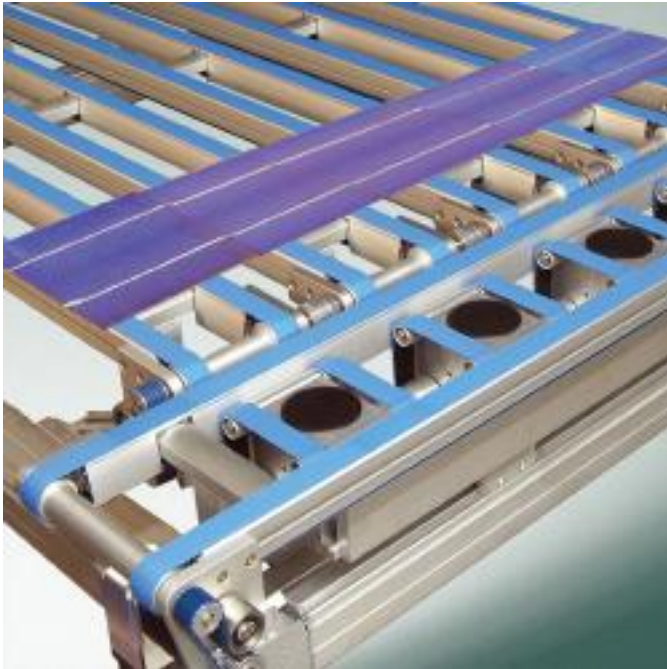


Montech at Photovoltaic Technology Show: new and proven conveyor and handling solutions

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At the Photovoltaic Technology Show 2010 in Stuttgart, the belt conveyor manufacturer Montech is introducing new and proven solutions to carry and handle wafers, cells, carriers and modules in the solar industry.

From 27 to 29 April 2010, the Photovoltaic Technology Show visitors will find the full range of Montech's belt conveyors specifically designed for the solar industry, in Hall 4, Stand J22: solar conveyors, unloading conveyors, swiveling conveyors, centering conveyors, removal module, process conveyors and vacuum conveyors. The Montrac transport system and the new conveyor for modules will also be exhibited.

New: conveyor for modules

To carry thin film modules and panels between different processing stations, Montech offers a conveyor with two, three or four lanes with toothed belts. The conveyor for modules is available with two different drives with spur gear motor and two control modes, one by inverter and one by inverter plus point-to-point positioning. The smooth and delicate handling of modules is guaranteed by accurate acceleration and braking curves. "Shortly, we will also achieve certification for clean room applications," announces Gianluca Aloisi, Manager Sales, Montech.

Proven belt conveyors for the solar industry

The Solar conveyor is Montech's first specific product for the solar industry, deployed as feeding and discharge belt on production plants or to link different manufacturing lines. The conveyor consists of a chassis with two synchronized belts. "The Solar conveyors carry wafers with utmost accuracy and smoothness," says Aloisi.

The unloading conveyor is a double-belt system including a fixed section and a sliding section with 160 mm stroke. The sliding section runs into the carrier driven by a pneumatic cylinder. The unloading conveyor is made up of just a pair of belts and a drive, thus offering a cost-effective as well as efficient solution, adds Aloisi.

The removal module allows rotating wafers and cells by 90 degrees thanks to its vertical motion capability. “The most significant innovation for is that wafers are no longer picked from above, thus avoiding the risk of micro cracks,” explains Aloisi.

Other Montech solutions for the specific product and process needs of the photovoltaic industry include the swiveling conveyor, which allows discarding defective parts without slowing down production, and the centering conveyor for accurate wafer alignment during transport. These are complemented by the process conveyor to check wafer edges and the vacuum conveyor that, compared to the Solar conveyor, offers more dynamic acceleration and braking curves and higher travel speed.

Montrac: intralogistic solution

The transport system Montrac allows linking different process stages, as well as to automate warehouse logistics and optimize the productivity of production lines in the solar industry. Aloisi: “For intralogistics before, after and between the lines, the Montrac system offers an ideal solution for the photovoltaic industry. Smooth and soft transport, independent control and maximum flexibility guarantee a perfect handling of carriers and trays.”

Montech AG markets basic modular components that automate demanding production and logistics processes. In addition to conventional conveyor belts, automation components and the Quick-Set profile system, the range of products also includes the Montrac transport system. Montrac is an intelligent transport system for networking industrial production and logistics processes. Founded in 1963, the company is based in Switzerland and stands for innovation in the automation industry.

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