

# INNOVATION AND EVOLUTION

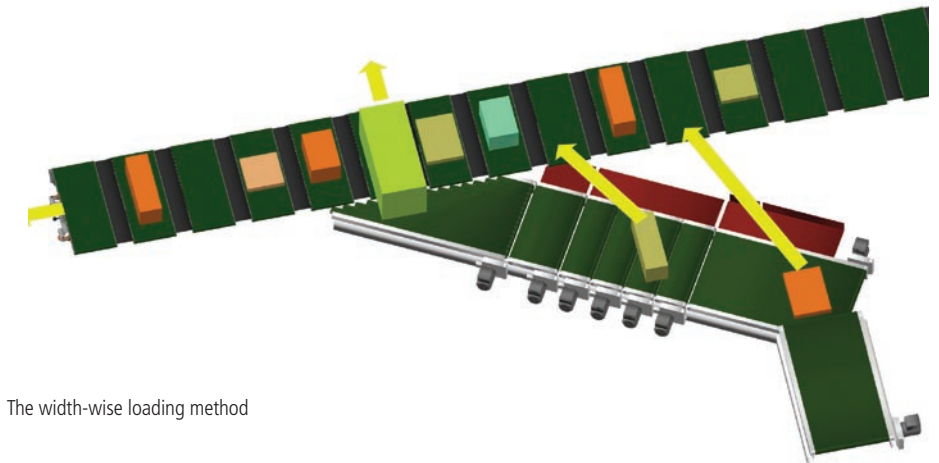
A new name in automation and sortation incorporates more than 50 years of in-depth experience in material handling and logistic systems

Fives Cinetic is the new brand under which Sandvik Sorting Systems and Cinetic Transitiq have recently merged their long history of innovation and expertise to better serve postal and courier organisations. Always on the edge of technological innovation, Fives Cinetic offers to deliver turnkey solutions for sorting and handling systems, providing a wide range of products and equipment that have been proved and tested at many installations worldwide.

Innovation has always been at the heart of Fives Cinetic's activities, as epitomised by its masterpiece, the SBIR cross-belt sorter. First developed in 1981 when the company was known as CML Handling Technology, it has been continuously upgraded and modernised. Initially introduced to solve the issue of sorting difficult items in the postal and distribution automation, it has since been implemented in various markets – even the most traditional ones. Over 1,000 SBIR sorters have been installed worldwide, pushing the group to expand the SBIR family with a double-deck sorter (TWINSBIR) and a multilevel sorter (PLUSSORT and more recently SBIR SD 2L).

Committed to its technological innovation path, a revolutionary approach has been developed with the 'width-wise' loading method, widening the success of the SBIR cross-belt sorter and reaching the parcel sortation market in which traditional shoe-sorter and tilt-trays were previously overwhelming. The successful implementation of the SBIR sorter family into the most important projects of multinational corporations has proved its key benefits: superior accuracy and flexibility, reliability and robustness.

Fives Cinetic has always been committed to the continuous improvement of its equipment and products. The redesigning of the sorters now enables installation of a 500m long SBIR MD-W sorter capable of sorting more than 10,000 parcels per hour,



The width-wise loading method

each weighing up to 50kg, with the power consumption lowered to less than 50kW. Another major step forward is dramatically reduced and simplified maintenance that enables everyday operations to be performed by non-specialists.

In the meantime, Fives Cinetic's system engineers strived to design more user-friendly solutions. The company is able to study and design tailor-made solutions to meet customers' requirements, maximising the benefits of the supplied technology. Among these solutions, the 'single pass' concept deserves special mention. The single pass is a guideline and a method that enables the design of a simple and robust sorting process, efficient and insensitive to the changing environment of the postal and courier market. The investment is studied, analysed and optimised throughout its entire life cycle, resulting in a simplified configuration and reduced initial investment.

All these innovations contributed to the success of the SBIR cross-belt sorter family, which has been chosen for the automation of major logistic hubs worldwide in the past decade. Nowadays considered as a reference for any automation project, it stimulates Fives Cinetic's desire to continue developing product innovations and carry on working on design evolutions.

Fives Cinetic now faces a new challenge: to make available all the benefits of the

SBIR cross-belt sorter to those parts of the postal and courier organisations that, due to their size, are obliged to accept the various inefficiencies and limitations of traditional technologies.

To respond to this need, Fives Cinetic has recently developed a new sorter: the SBIR DYNAMIC. Taking advantage of the experience gained with maximum-duty applications, the SBIR DYNAMIC is based on the same mechanics, control system devices and architecture as the SBIR MD sorter, but simplified. Target markets for the new sorter are depots and medium size hubs that require a capacity of 3,000 to 7,000 items per hour. The flexibility of the sorter enables processing of different product lines such as parcels, smalls, documents and flats, using the same system.

A history of successful innovations, joint expertise and knowledge of customer needs as well as of market trends, can be seen as driving forces that inspire Fives Cinetic's system evolutions.

## FIND OUT MORE

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