

## Ranpak's Special Delivery



*Customized beltway system delivers PadPak packing material to each of the packaging stations on a continuous basis*

### The First Hurdle

An industrial supply product distributor based in Indiana values any feedback they receive from their customers and looks for ways to make every transaction the best it can be. So, when their customers started refusing packages that were packed in packaging peanuts, the industrial supply product distributor started searching for an alternative packaging material that would not increase their material costs. This search led them to Ranpak Corp.'s PadPak<sup>®</sup> Cushioning System, a multi-ply packaging material that is ideal for most packaging needs and applications.

### The Major Hurdle

Once the decision was made to go with PadPak, the next hurdle was incorporating the equipment into their limited packaging area without making significant layout changes. Backed by Ranpak Corp.'s team of System Engineers, both Ranpak and the industrial supply product distributor devised a unique solution.

“This installation posed a very unique challenge because we could not fit our standard equipment into the available area at the customer’s facility. We had to be innovative in developing a completely new concept which would deliver packing material to the packers while not interfering with any of the customers existing



equipment. We then set out to develop what is now known as a “lateral transfer beltway system” which meets all of the customers unique requirements while maintaining the highest degree of equipment reliability,” said Ed Lintala, Ranpak Corp. Mechanical Engineer.

### The Beltway Delivery Process

The 50-foot long AutoPad<sup>®</sup> beltway system is situated above the product takeaway conveyor. The AutoPad beltway system provides packers with continual access to PadPak packaging material in the following manner:

- The AutoPad converter generates PadPak pads, between 16 and 20 inches in length.
- These pads are “pushed out” of the AutoPad output chute by the pad behind it onto the lateral transfer conveyor (Figure 1).



Figure 1

- The PadPak pads are conveyed on the lateral transfer conveyor onto the beltway conveyor (Figure 2).
- The belt conveyor transports the pads to the individual packaging stations.

- The AutoPad converter continues to dispense PadPak pads until the supply of pads on the belt conveyor “blocks” a photoelectric sensor mounted on the belt conveyor.
- Once the photoelectric sensor is “blocked,” the AutoPad converter will stop dispensing pads.
- The operators remove the PadPak pads from the beltway conveyor as needed to provide cushioning in shipping cartons.
- As the supply of PadPak pads is depleted, the AutoPad converter will automatically begin to dispense PadPak pads until the photoelectric sensor is “blocked” again.



Figure 2