

# Case Study

## Beverage Distributor Increases Loading and Wrapping Speeds

### The Challenge

A fast-growing beer and liquor distributor has been expanding rapidly and their current stretch wrapping process was creating bottlenecks. They were using motorized pallet jacks with 96" forks to build and haul 3 pallets at a time to their stretch wrappers. The operators would then have to unload and wrap each load individually with a combination of rotary stretch wrappers and turntable wrappers. The wrappers created bottlenecks that pushed deadlines back and made shifts longer. As the company expanded they needed a solution to get all of their trucks loaded and ready for 5 a.m. deliveries.

#### Goals:

- Pick, wrap, and load all pallets by 5 a.m.
- Wrapping 700-800 pallets in a 10-hour shift every night
- Eliminate bottlenecks and downtime at stretch wrappers
- Continue using 96" long pallet jacks and 3 pallet load system

### The Rocket Solution

Rocket Industrial partnered with Cousins Packaging to develop an overhead automatic stretch wrapper with a drag chain conveyor. This specially designed wrapper allows the operators to place all 3 pallets at ground level. The drag chain conveyor then pulls and separates each pallet to be wrapped at a speed of 45 loads per hour. The stretch wrap machine also weighs and labels each load for quality control measures then returns the same 3 pallets back together so they can be loaded on the correct route truck.

### Results

- Custom overhead stretch wrapper
- Faster wrap times

By installing two Cousins wrappers this facility can wrap 900 loads in a 10-hour shift. This packaging automation upgrade has decreased wrap times by over 30% and allows the timely loading of all their route trucks.

