**VITRONIC Helps Provide Quality Assurance during Vaccine Production**

Automation allows the inspection of 36,000 injection vials per hour

**Wiesbaden, Germany, 21.01.2021** – The machine vision specialist VITRONIC is involved in the fight against COVID-19. The VINSPEC HEALTHCARE system for automated visual inspection makes it possible to seamlessly monitor the production quality of vials and their crimp caps. Vaccines are efficiently inspected for contamination and packaging defects without affecting the speed of production.

Everyone is talking about the complexity of the supply chain for the COVID-19 vaccine. To ensure continuous access to the vaccine, numerous companies need to get involved with the procurement, production, safe filling and packaging of the vaccine doses. Global projects were initiated at an impressive rate, marked by stable and efficient cooperation within the pharmaceutical industry worldwide.  
To live up to the major time pressure and required production quantity, the early detection of packaging defects is essential. Inline inspection is used to detect defective containers at an early stage and initiate the necessary process adjustments to keep future waste levels low. Defective containers are immediately removed from the production process so that subsequent machine resources are solely used to continue processing flawless containers. At this initial stage of the vaccination process roll-out, the early inline inspection enables the provision of the greatest possible number of flawlessly packaged and therefore usable vaccine doses. “Ultimately, 100% inspection using machine vision systems has helped create a basic trust in the safe provision of medical supplies, including vaccines”, states Florian Krickl, product manager at VITRONIC.

**Quality Inspections by VINSPEC HEALTHCARE**

The optical inspection is performed at the place where defects occur, straight after the sealing process: all crimp-cap-related defects and faults are detected. For example, if the crimp depth is too low, the inspection technology indicates a high stopper position, thereby preventively eliminating potentially leaky containers. The combination of high-performance sensors and intelligent machine vision algorithms enables reliable error detection.

VITRONIC’s inspection solution is characterized by a very compact design with 360° inspection. The low space requirement in the machine is of benefit with regard to both the simple retrofitting of existing systems and the limited availability of clean room space. With a filling speed of 36,000 vials per hour and complete automation, VINSPEC HEALTHCARE offers sufficient performance to meet the cycle requirements of modern systems in the field of vaccine filling while also complying with the latest regulatory requirements on quality.

VITRONIC is grateful for the opportunity to help provide quality assurance during vaccine production. It works with a global network of subsidiaries and partners to enable all manufacturers to offer a fast and efficient service. In close cooperation with its partners, VITRONIC continues to work actively to ensure and further develop the efficient quality inspection of primary packaging for vaccines using innovative solutions.

About VITRONIC

VITRONIC is a world leader in industrial machine vision. The owner-managed group of companies develops innovative products and customized solutions in the growth industries of automation, healthcare, photovoltaics, logistics automation, body scanning solutions, and traffic technology.

With over 35 years of experience, VITRONIC offers a unique portfolio of systems and software for image and sensor-based quality inspection, identification, traffic monitoring, and toll collection. Customers include renowned companies such as B.Braun, BMW, Daimler, DHL, UPS, Toll Collect, Fresenius, and Sanofi, as well as government agencies and public authorities.

VITRONIC systems play a major role in ensuring the highest levels of quality and efficiency in the production processes of the automobile, photovoltaic, and pharmaceutical industries.

In logistics centers and cargo airports worldwide, VITRONIC's Auto-ID solutions efficiently capture and integrate shipment data and ensure the transparent flow of packages.

In the traffic technology sector, VITRONIC offers high-performance technologies to increase road safety, improve traffic flow and secure tolling revenue.

Since its founding in 1984, VITRONIC has grown continuously, and currently has 1,000 employees. It is represented on four continents. VITRONIC supports its international customers through its subsidiaries in North America, Europe, Asia and Australia, as well as through a global network of sales and service partners.

VITRONIC systems are developed and manufactured at the company's headquarters in Wiesbaden, Germany. In 2019, the Group’s total revenue was 155 million Euros.

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