APPLICATION BREAKDOWN:

Yogurt Lid Inspection and Product Changeover

A Fortune 500 food manufacturer was facing a challenge: they needed to inspect the seal of their yogurt cup lids. To complicate matters, their marketing team was introducing a new 2mm shorter style cup that would help reduce production costs. Inevitably this forced the lid inspection system to be adjustable to accommodate the changing cup heights. Having had success with Sensors Incorporated in the past, this large Consumer Packaged Goods (CPG) company turned to Sensors again to design, prototype, test and integrate a washdown rated system.

Sensors Incorporated began with a series of wash-down rated sensors from SICK, mounted in a Delrin block to detect the foil lid of the yogurt cup.

The next step was to mount the block in such a way that the operators on the production line would have the ability to quickly, yet precisely adjust the sensors up and down for the cost-saving cup. Sensors Incorporated chose Igus’ unique lubricant-free bearing system, stainless steel slides and Fiama position indicators because they are ideal for the food-production environment. The mounting system was then prototyped in-house using Sensors Incorporated’s prototyping facilities.

After thoroughly testing their design, Sensors Incorporated turned to a local machining company for the brushed stainless mount with rolled edges for the washdown environment.

Following a successful installation and test-run, Sensors Incorporated followed-up months later to ensure operation had remained smooth.