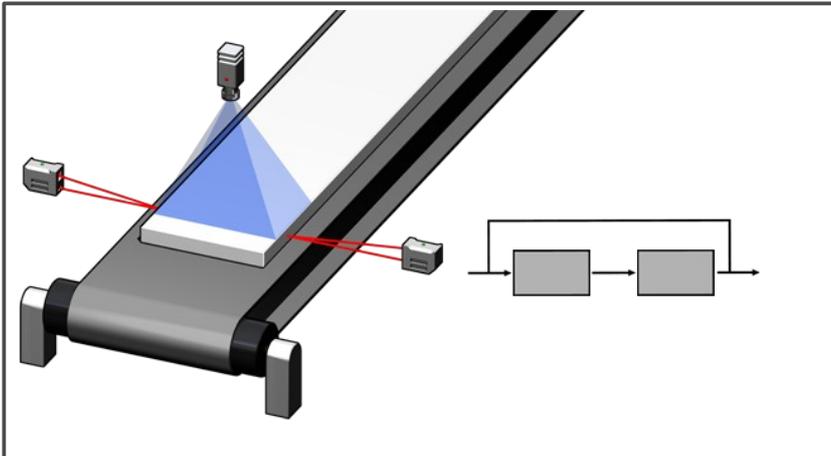


Strelen Control Systems introduces Automated Control System for Sheet Width and Thickness Control

Modular Concept: The toolbox from where the solutions are developed is consisting of different measurement techniques (camera, laser) as well as various control options (from simple PID to sophisticated state-space, auto-tuning or self-optimizing algorithms)

There are plenty of processes, where a material is firstly produced in sheets which will become cut into individual products later. Samples are processes to manufacture bread, noodles, cookies, chocolate bars or chewing-gum. As much as these processes differ from each-other, they all have one thing in common: the processes are running continuously and cannot be stopped easily. This results in a very demanding control: if the material gets out of its desired specification, the process creates scrap. Without the ability of being stopped and with a process that reacts slowly, this causes tremendous costs.

For exactly this application, we just introduced “*Safe Ident Slab Control*”, a modular system to measure and control processes where slabs are being formed continuously. A modular system is required, since measuring slabs require answers to different characteristics:

- slow/fast process,
- dimensions of the slab being measured,
- material of the slabs,
- measuring width, thickness or both,
- resolution of measurement

are characteristics which influence the required module for the measurement task. The measurement result is then fed into the controller – a sophisticated control system with auto-tuning, adaptive learning, automated process identification and a wide range on various control algorithms. And if further engineering is required in order to adapt the system to make it fit into a very specific environment, Strelen offers the required capacities – world wide.

The product has just been introduced, first installations have been made in March in the food industry, measuring slabs of chewing-gum mass before they are cut into stripes. The system operates on extruder lines of Gabler GmbH + Co. KG, one of the leading companies delivering extruders and process lines for the chewing gum production. The systems have been shipped to large confectionery factories in Japan and Korea.