

**AUTOMATION - FOOD**

# HIGH VOLUME COOKIE MANUFACTURING



HIGH SPEED



PRECISION

SMOOTH  
MOTIONDEBRIS  
TOLERANT

Things are beginning to pick up for a small cookie manufacturer in the Bay Area. Where they once struggled to simply break even they are now looking to expand their production. In order to keep their overhead as low as possible, they are seeking an automation option that will allow them to manufacture their cookies at a higher volume without sacrificing quality or revenue.

The cookie company specializes in sugar drop cookies with either a strawberry or rhubarb homemade preserve filling. Making large batches of the sugar drop cookies is a fairly simple task with the current machinery they already have. What is slowing down production is putting the filling into each cookie. This is the section of the manufacturing that they are seeking to automate.

**CHALLENGE**

One of the main considerations with the cookie manufacturing application is distance. The actuator would need to be able to comfortably travel about 48 inches over the cookie conveyor belt. It would also need to be somewhat accurate in order to get the preserves centered properly on the sugar cookie. Because of the working environment the solution also needs to be debris tolerant, low cost and easily repairable.

**RESULTS**

The linear actuator that they ended up choosing for their automation process was the SMLA SlickStick™ Linear Actuator from Bishop-Wisecarver. Because SlickStick is able to support travel lengths of up to 65 inches, it was more than capable of handling the 48 inches that were required while providing reliable, smooth motion. SlickStick also features a hard coat aluminum shafting and a sliding linear bearing making it highly resistant to the debris that is associated with many food manufacturing applications.