

# UK made: TorqSense by Sensor Tech

STEVE BUSH

TorqSense is a torque sensor from Sensor Technology, based in Oxfordshire. It is wireless, needing no physical connection with the shaft being monitored.

Instead, two surface acoustic wave (SAW) devices are attached to the shaft and are interrogated through an RF link to the stationary electronics inside the body of the transducer. When torque is applied to the shaft, the SAWs react to the applied strain and change their output.

One use for TorqSense is in bottling machines, checking that bottle tops are screwed on properly. "All you have to do is set up a TorqSense transducer in the capping machine and turn it on," said Sensor Technology sales engineer Mark Ingham. "The SAW

frequencies reflected back are distorted in proportion to the level of torque."

The company has worked with OEMs to develop high speed capping machines – for use in pharmaceutical plants, among other applications.

"Cap Coder, an Oxfordshire neighbour of Sensor Technology, incorporates TorqSense units in its CC1440 and CC1440T bench-top



machines," according to TorqSense. "If a torque value outside the acceptable range is encountered, an alarm will trigger the capping machine to identify unacceptable product for rejection," it said.

Pharmaceutical/biotech company

Almac Group uses standard and purpose-built Cap Coder machines with the sensors for product packaging at its headquarters in Northern Ireland.

Non-capping applications include: automotive, materials handling, and power generation.

## Electronics Weekly celebrates UK manufacturing

*Electronics Weekly* aims to celebrate the thousands of companies, many of them SMEs, that manufacture electronics-based products in the UK, particularly in the print magazine.

This is straightforward for us when the products are intended to be used by design engineers or in electronics manufacturing but, as space can be tight in the printed *Electronics Weekly*, it can be less easy when the products are intended to be used outside the electronics industry, writes technology editor Steve Bush.

So I intend to try to make space in the product section of each printed issue to cover at least one UK-made electronics-based product that is intended to be used by people who are not necessarily readers of *Electronics Weekly*, as a way to celebrate UK manufacturing.

Email [tech@electronicsweekly.com](mailto:tech@electronicsweekly.com) with 'UK made' in the subject line to suggest a product for inclusion. Give a brief description and a product photo – a phone photo will often suffice if taken in good light.



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