



## Interaction of machine and glass primary packaging material

*Klaus Ullherr, Senior Product Manager, Bosch Packaging Technology, Pharma liquid*

## The Stakeholders



Glass (tubing)  
manufacturers



Container (syringe)  
manufacturers



Equipment  
manufacturers



Fill & finish site



Pharmaceutical  
company

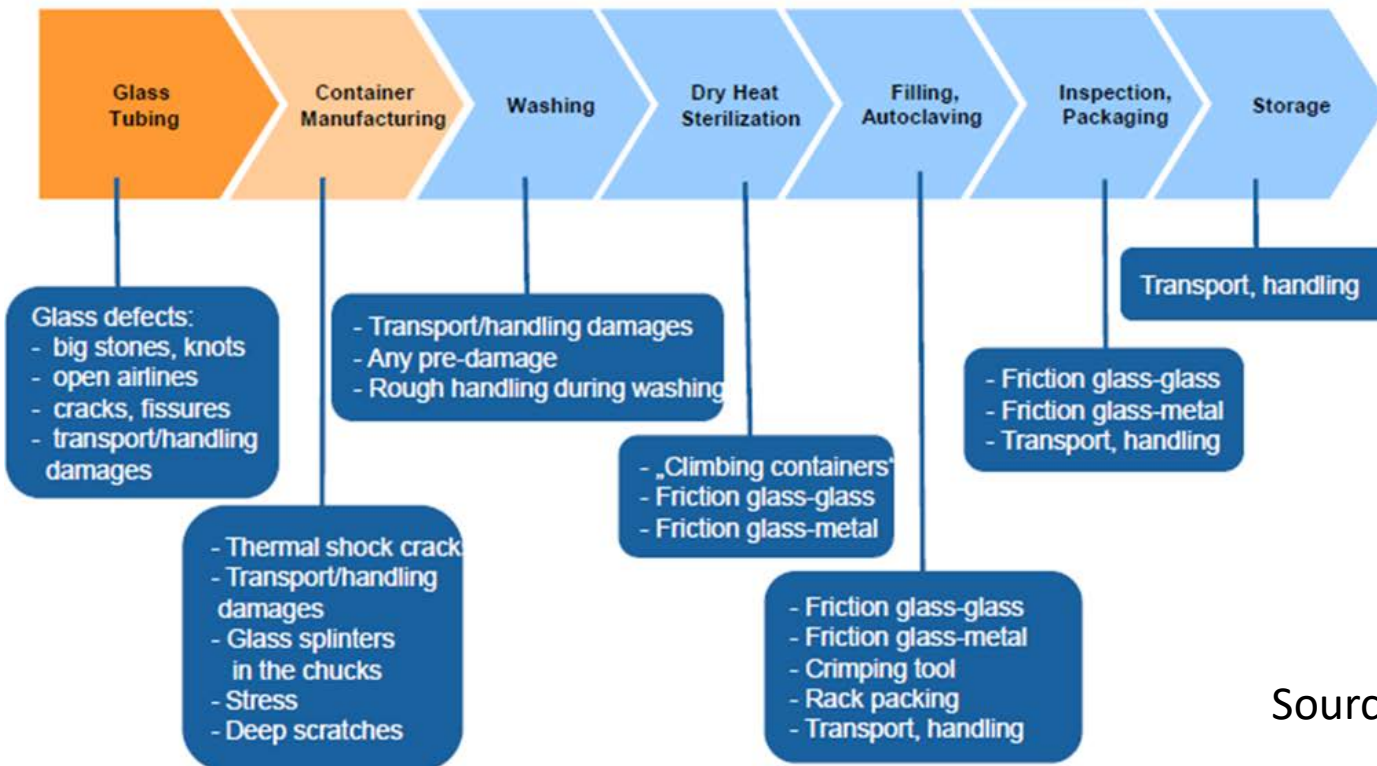


Patient

Dr. Andreas Rothmund, Vetter  
PDA IG Meeting April 2010,  
Zero Glass Breakage – Dogma or Ambitious Goal

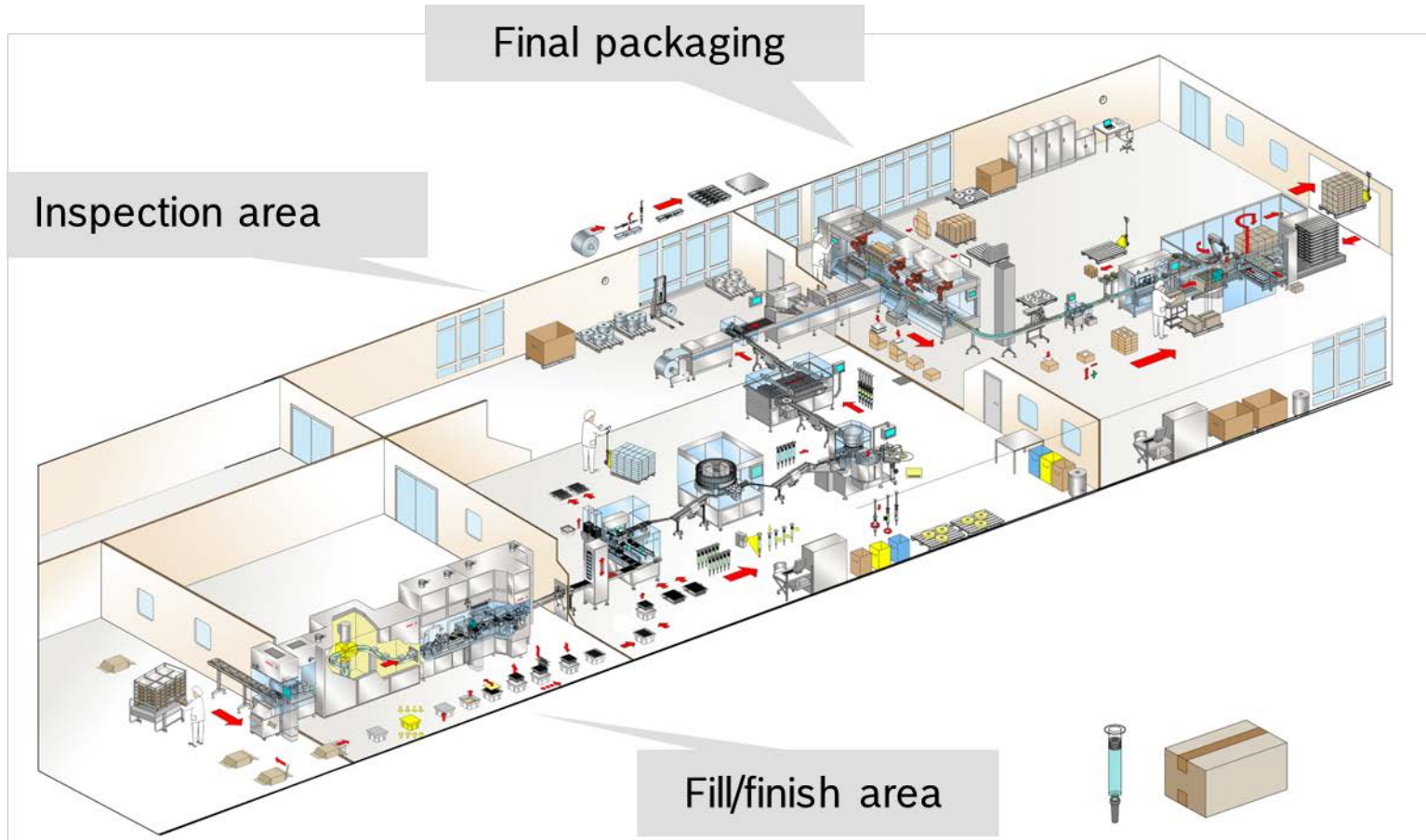
## Breakage: Process Analysis

What can lead to breakage in the converting or filling process?



Source: Schott



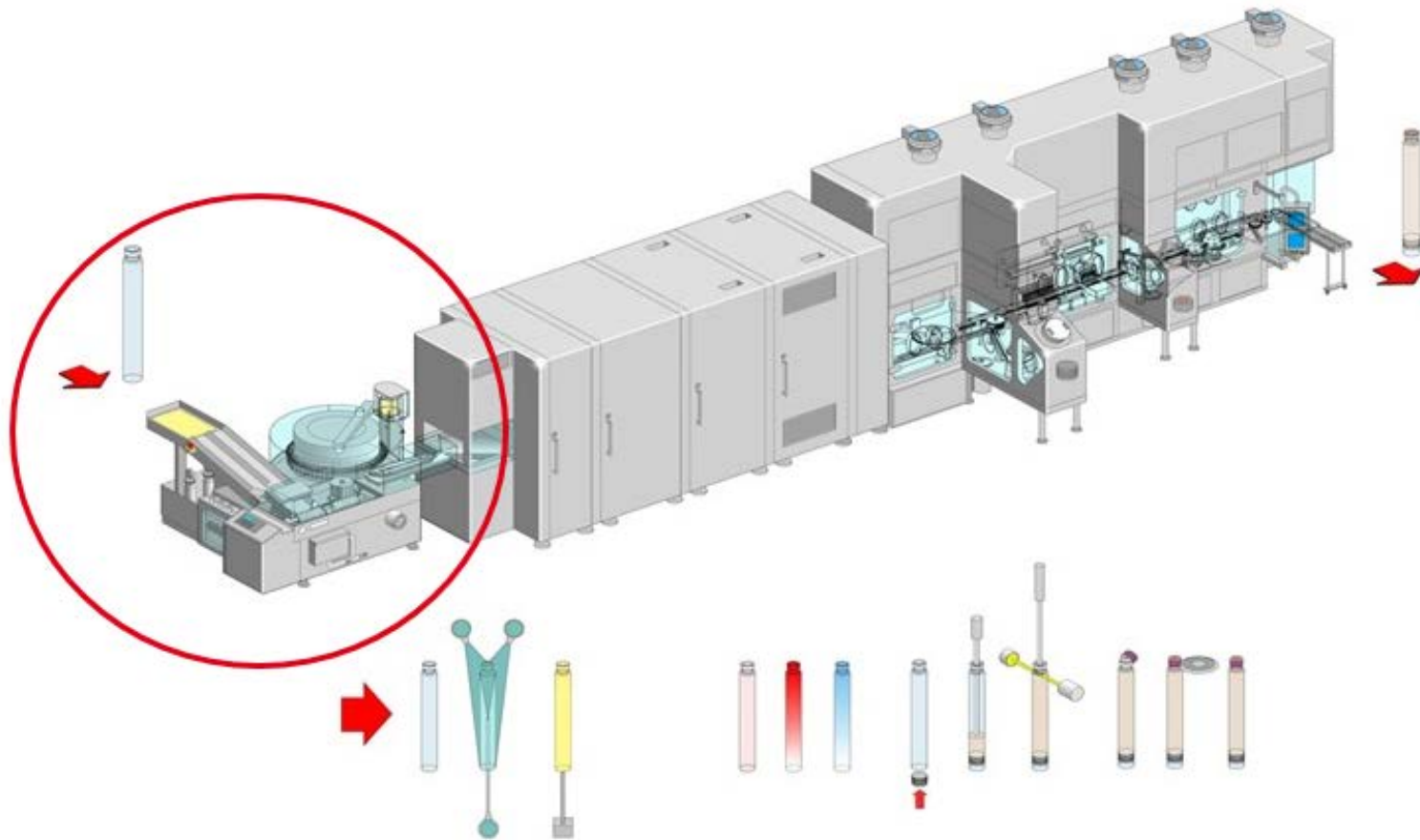


## Where is impact on the glass?

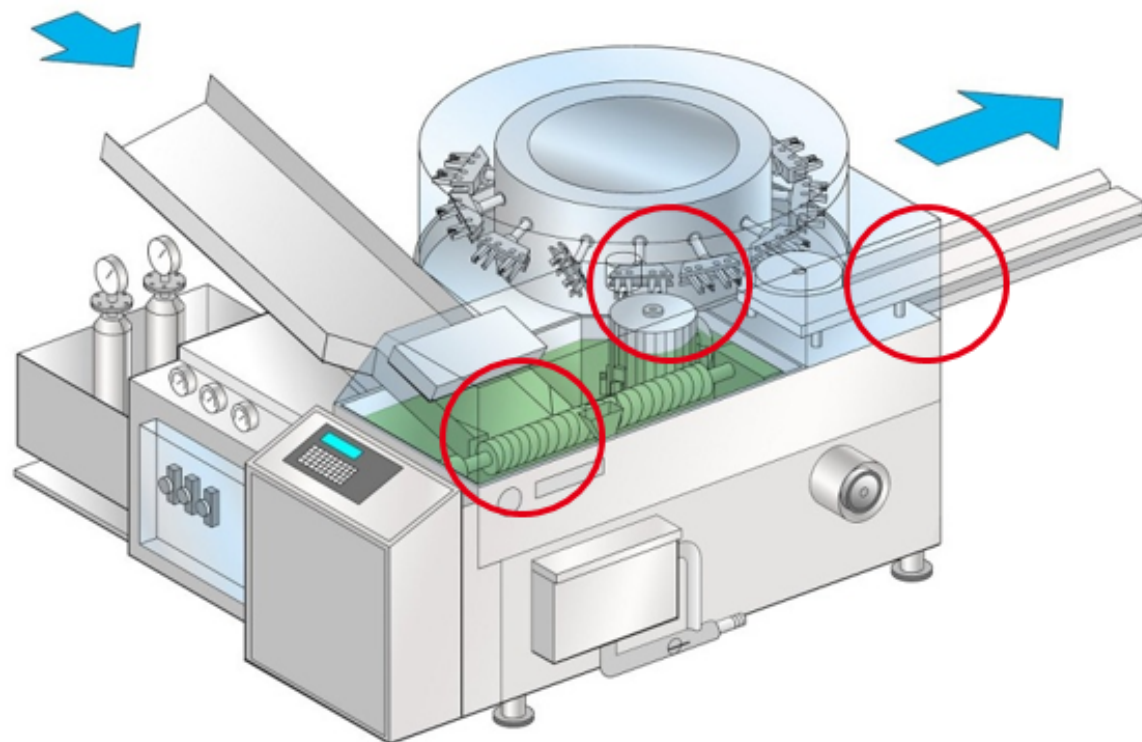


Cartridge processing

## Critical areas – Washing & Siliconizing



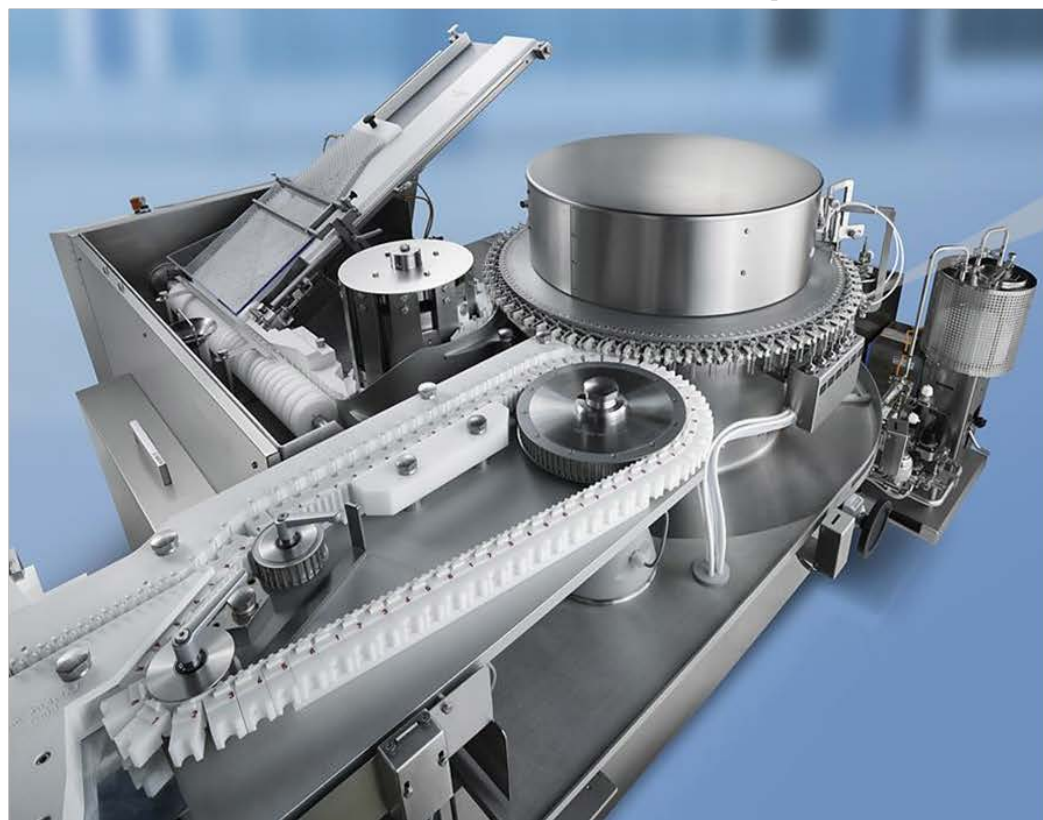
## Critical areas – Washing & Siliconizing



- Bulk infeed and singularization
- Needles entering into Containers several times
- Glass to Glass Contact at handover to Sterilizing Tunnel



## Where is impact on the glass?

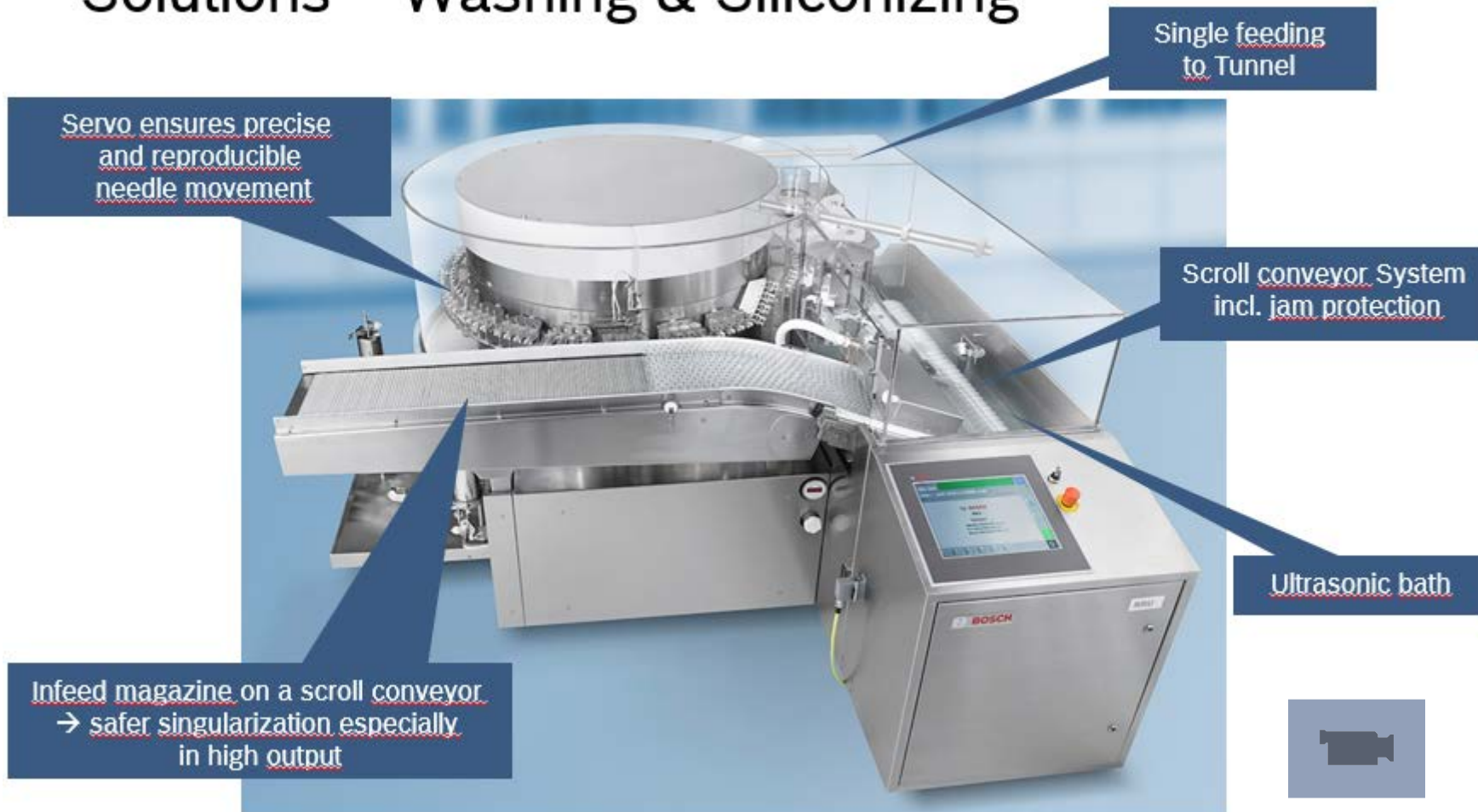


Needles for water and silicone are entering into the container

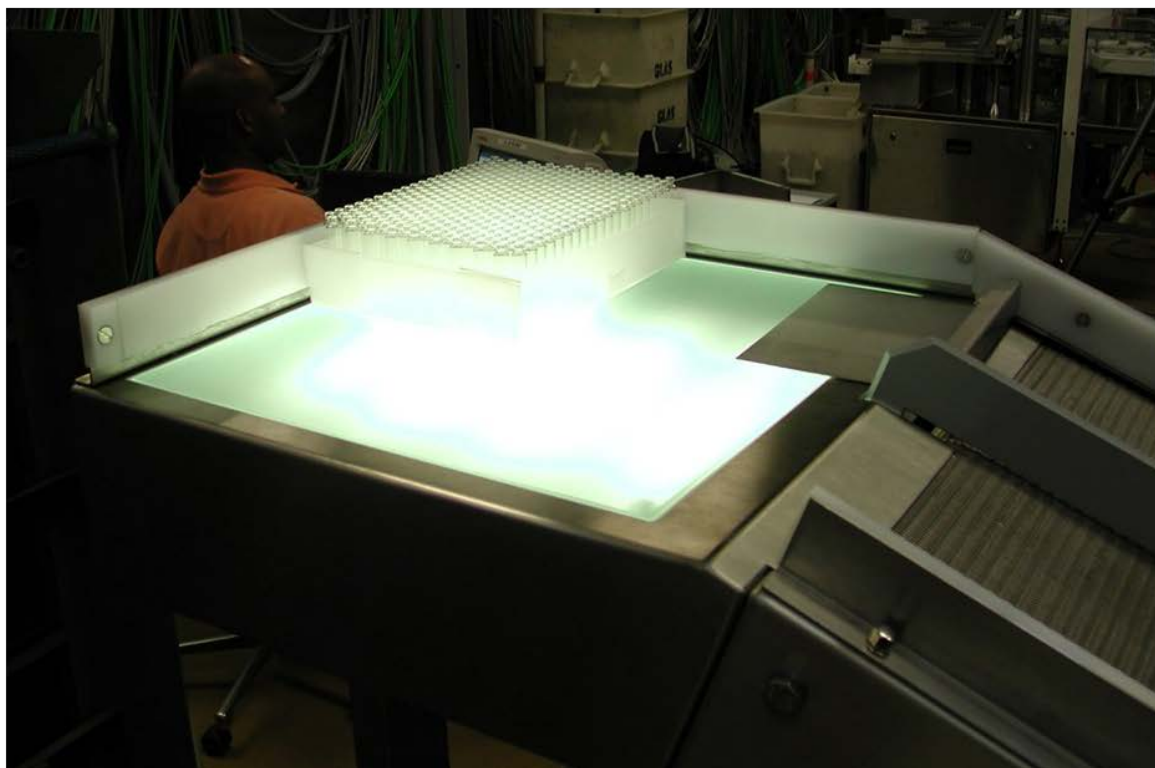
Cartridge processing, cleaning and transfer to sterilization



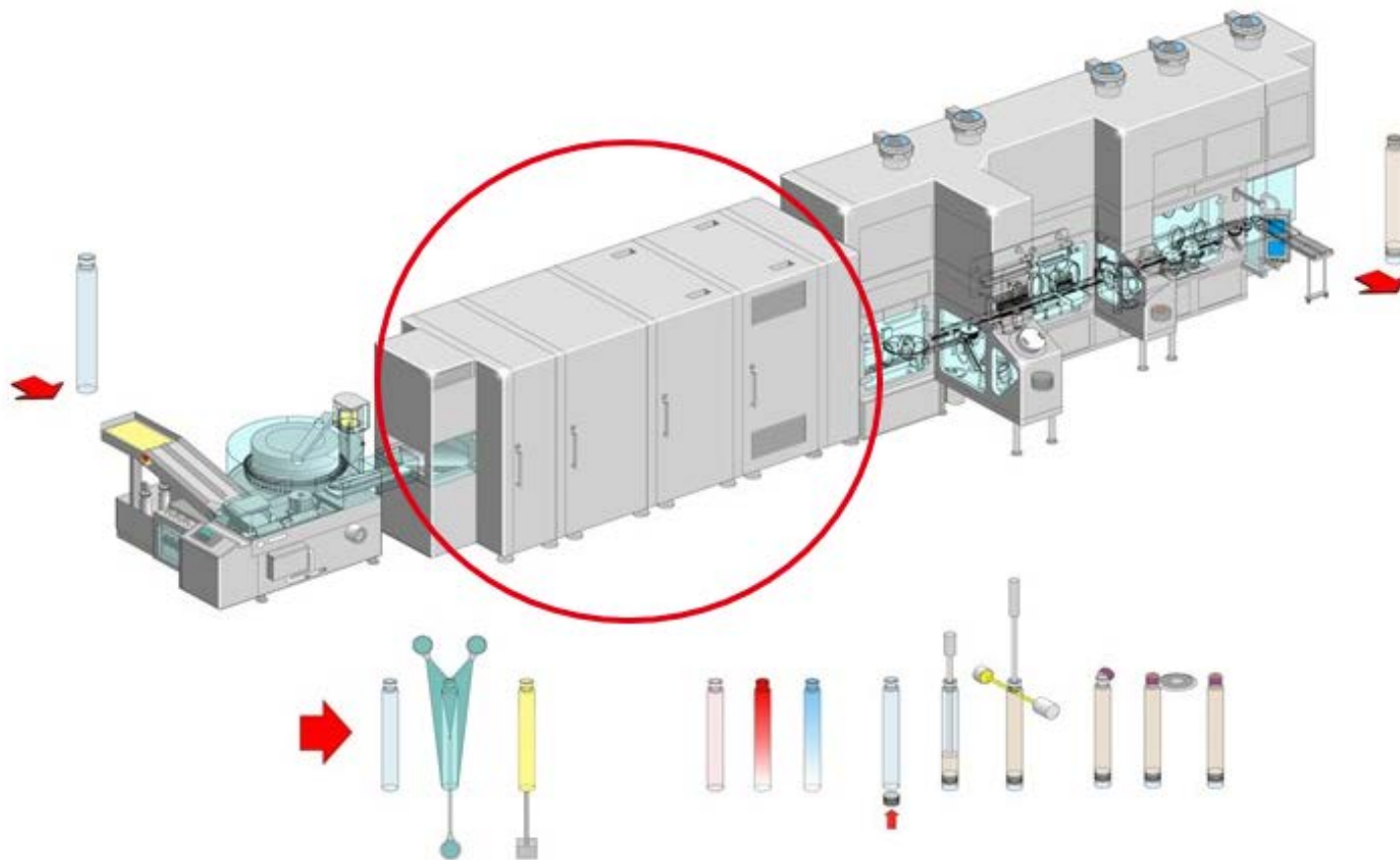
## Solutions – Washing & Siliconizing



## Special solution for detecting glass breakage



## Critical areas – Sterilization Tunnel



## Where is impact on the glass?



Cartridge processing,  
Sterilizing tunnel.  
Heating of glass containers  
up to 300 degrees Celsius



- Direct **glass to glass contact** within the system
- **Pressure** on containers in tunnel infeed section
- Heating of glass containers up to **>300 degrees Celsius**
- → Reduction/destruction of the **water skin** of the glass → sticky containers, scratch sensitive containers

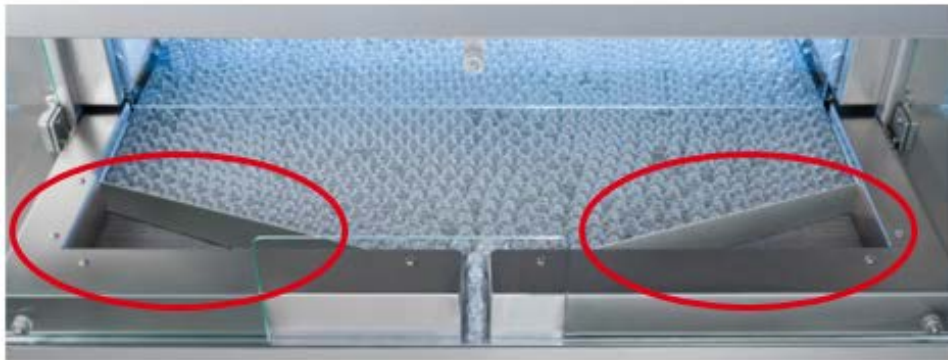


## Sterilizing tunnel - Infeed / Discharge

- Accumulation control with bulk infeed, bulk transport and bulk discharge



## Solutions – Sterilization Tunnel



→ Accumulation control at infeed section

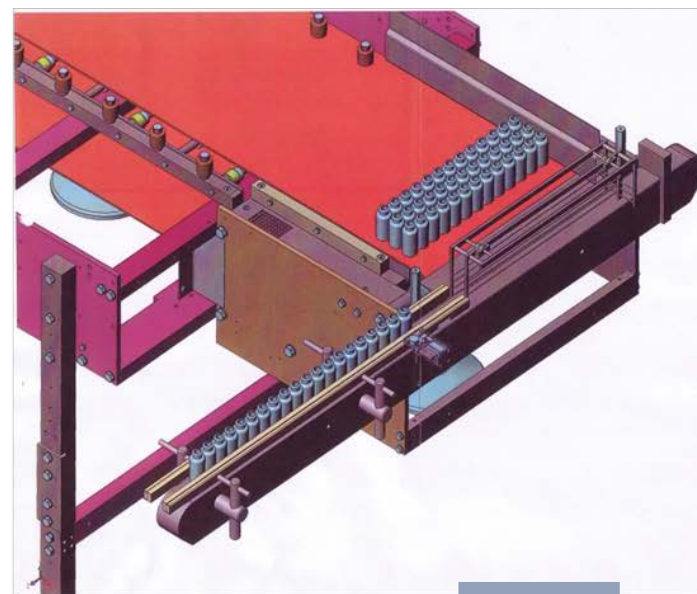
→ Pre-Heating Zone to reduce temperature influence

→ **Row by row loading:** Loading onto the belt with minimal contact between the containers



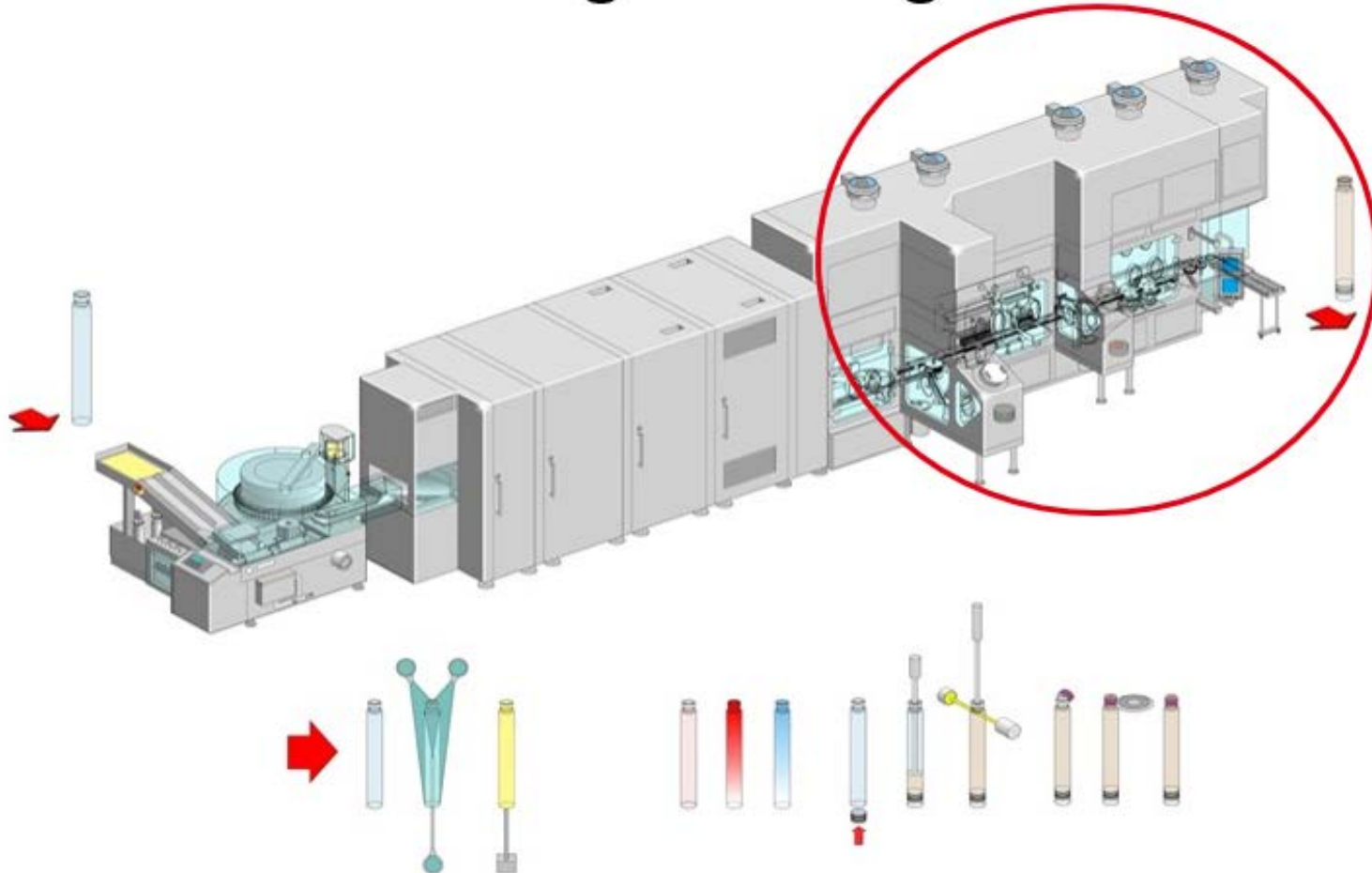
→ Three Belt System: Main belt and side belts movement is synchronized

## Row by row transfer

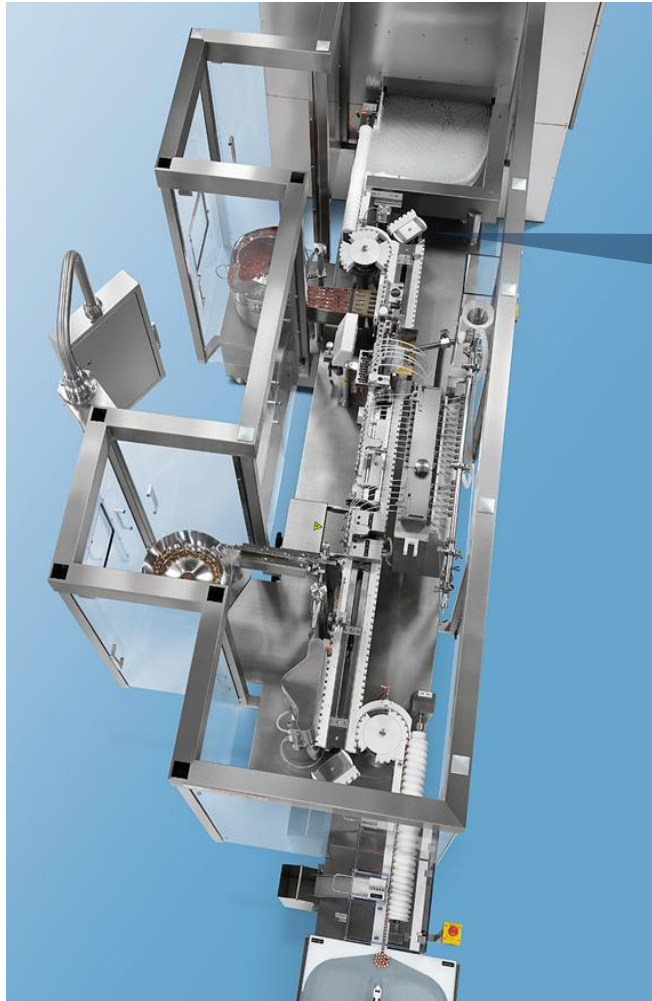




## Critical areas – Filling & Closing

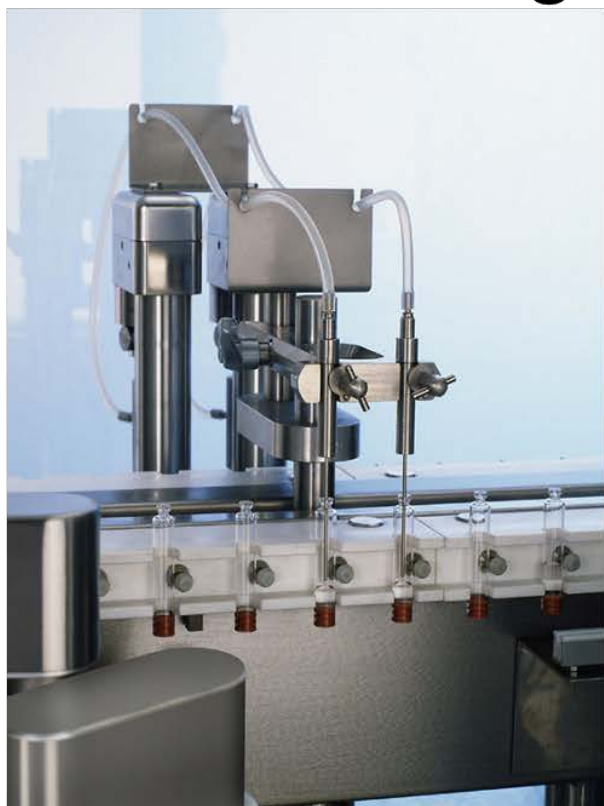


Here: Cartridge processing



Critical point:  
Separation of glass containers  
after sterilization

## Precision – Filling of cartridges



Cartridge for pen system  
Hole for filling  $\varnothing$  (inner) =  $3,15 \pm 0,2\text{mm}$

Filling needle  $\varnothing$  (outside) = 2 mm

**Only 0,5 mm air gap!**

## Solutions – Filling & Closing



### Carrier System:

- **Precise and individual** transportation through the Filling and Closing Machine



### Closing:


- Adjustable pressure and slight rolls
- Cartridge is rotated from both ends





## And how can the impact be reduced?



 **Recommendations**  
Life Cycle Handling

- **Avoid glass-to-glass contact !**
  - Reduce glass-to-glass handling to an absolute minimum
  - Avoid dead zones in junctions between conveyors, scrolls and wheels
  - Reduce all loads, static as well as dynamic on glass
  - Avoid squeezing in the manufacturing process due to misaligned or unsynchronized scrolls and other conveying parts
  - Care should be taken to remove glass debris from the manufacturing processes

Connecting People, Science and Regulation<sup>®</sup> 22

Mads Reedt Espersen,  
Novo Nordisk  
PDA Parenteral Meeting,  
October 2010,  
Supply Chain Issues -  
Glass breakage from  
Purchase  
to Dispatch



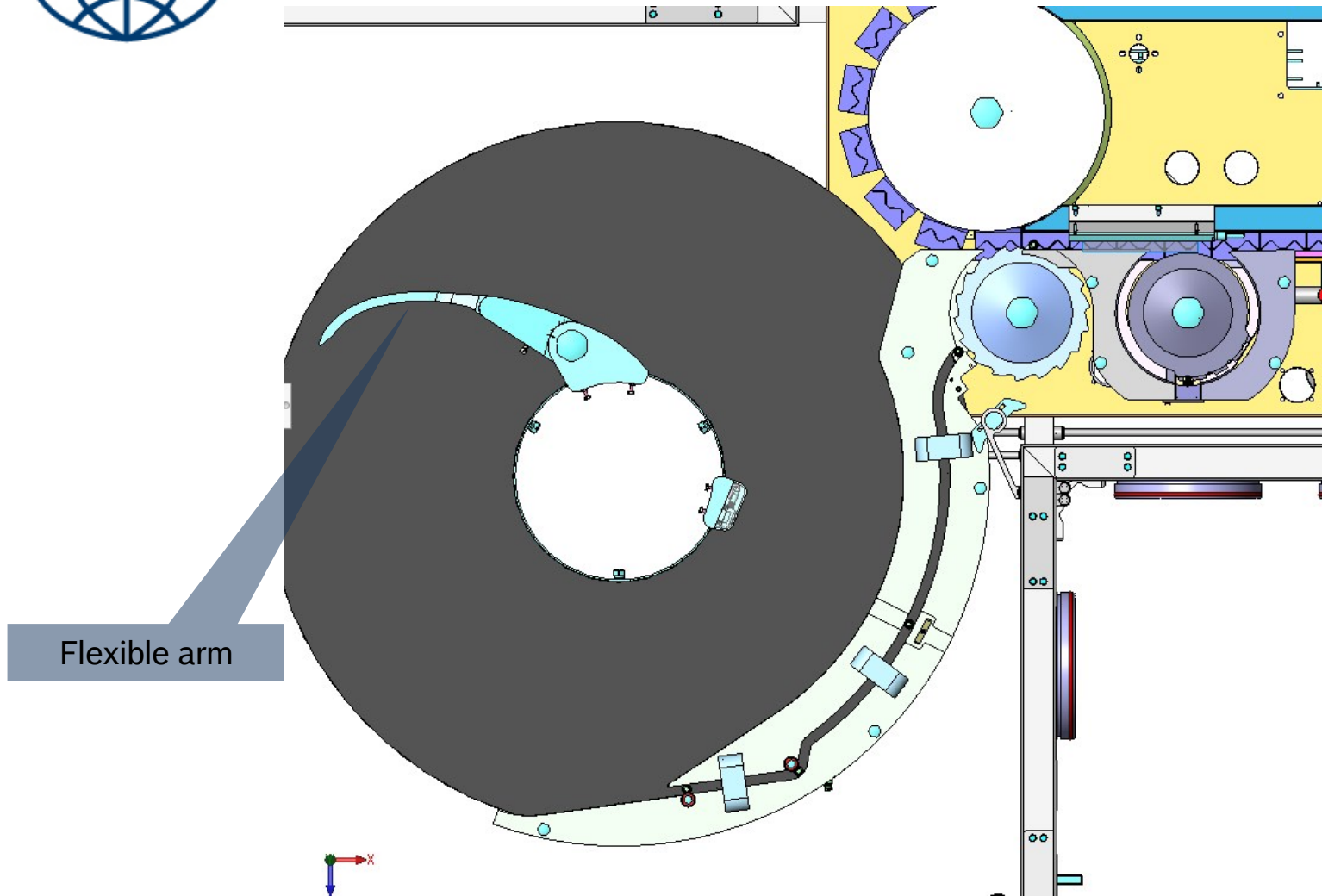
## **PDA – Training course glass**

***Example: Infeed turntable***

Klaus Ullherr | Product Manager | Bosch Packaging Technology | Pharma liquid

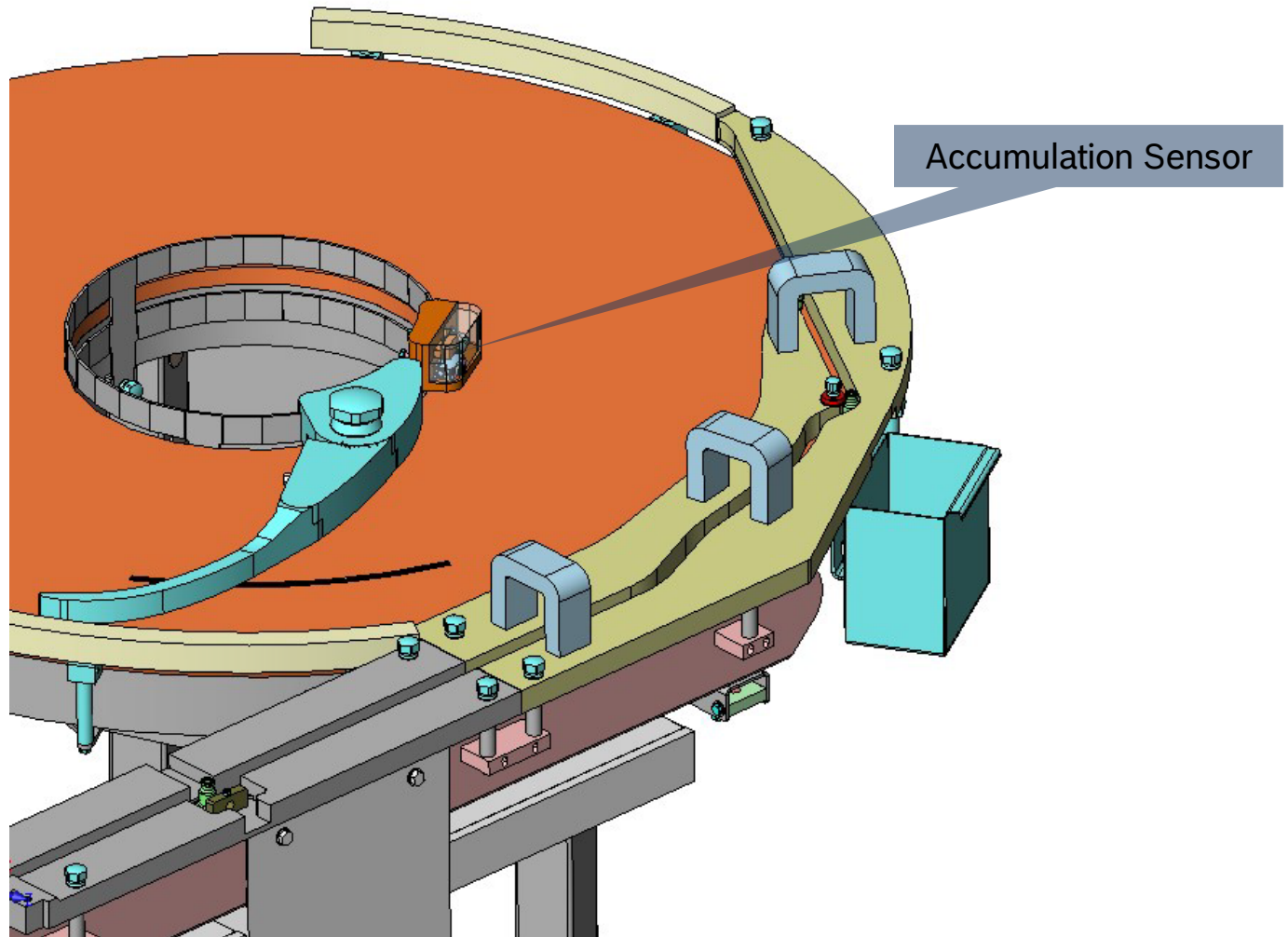
## History



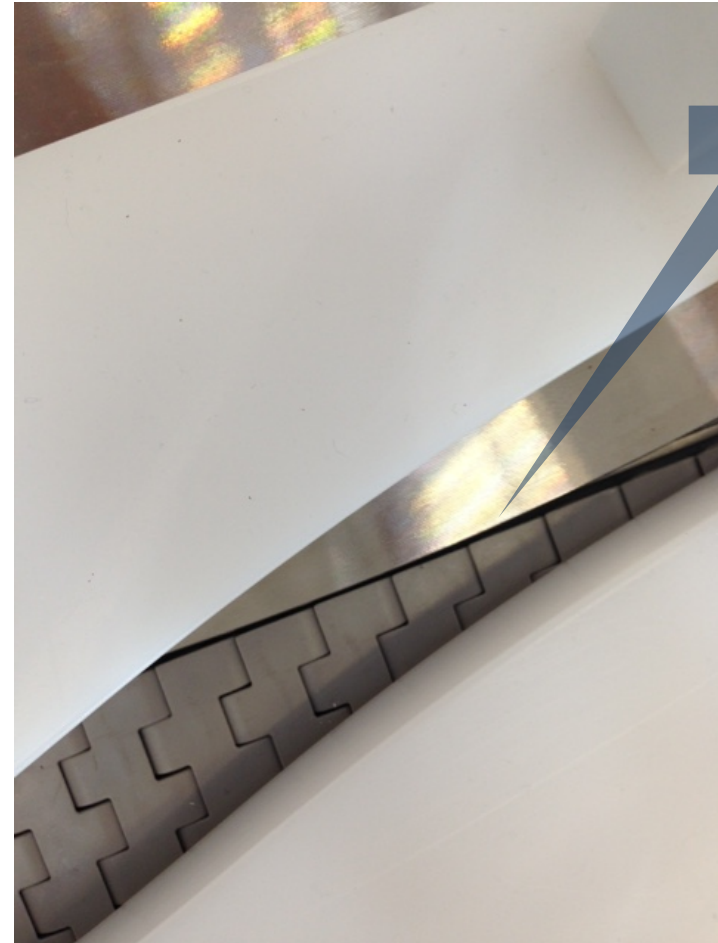




Not for distribution



Not for distribution





Not for distribution



Single lane infeed vials



Double lane infeed vials



Simulation vials



Infeed washer



Infeed ampoules

## Inspection of vial bottom FLC/MLF/RLA

Inspection principle: Keyhole optics

### Technical Data:

The full bottom is observable

Splinters, Particles

Scratches and Defects

System covers wide range of formats

Tubular glass vials 2R – 50R

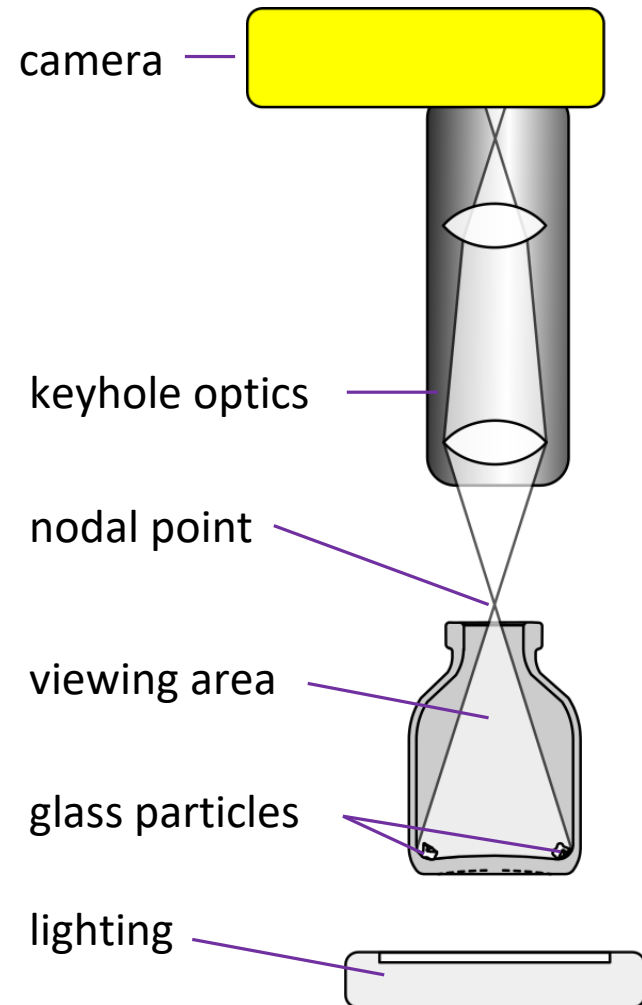
Field of view is maximized

Detectable defect size (5x5 pixel):

2R – 10R: >175 µm

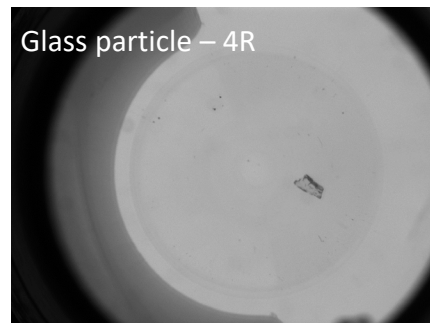
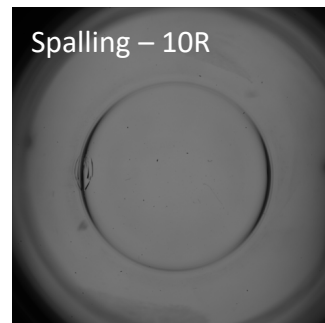
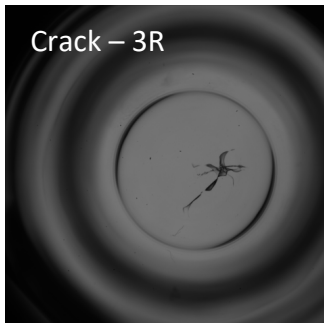
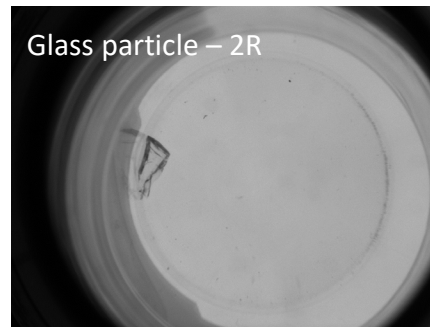
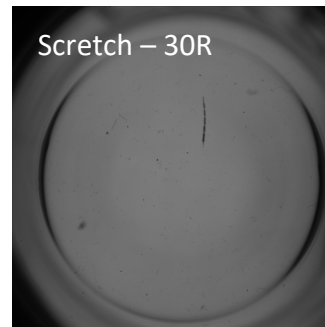
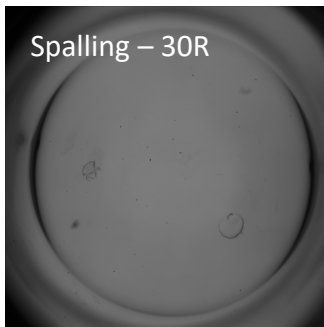
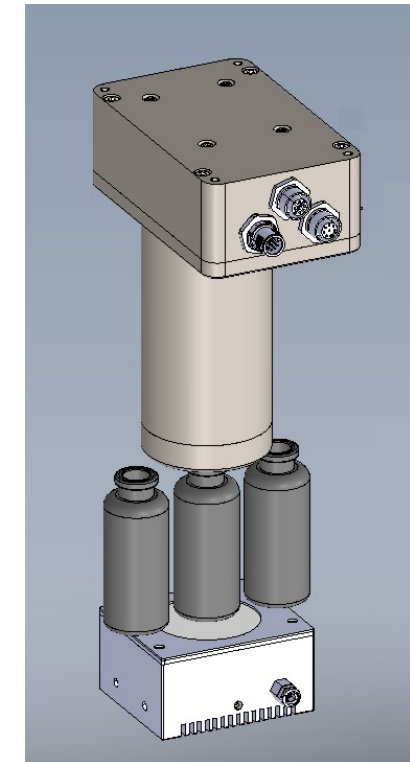
15R – 20R: >250 µm

25R – 50R: >300 µm



## Error images from realized systems

### Setup





## And how can the impact be reduced?



Line without any  
glass to glass contact

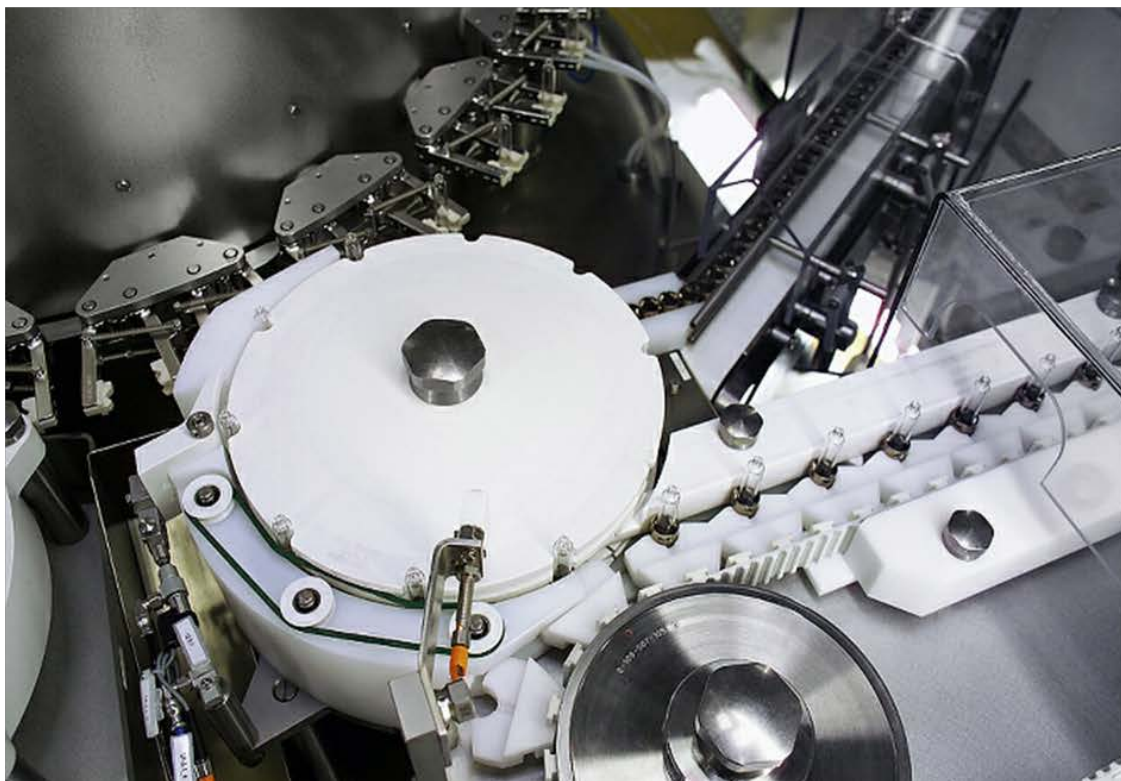
## Robotic feeding



## Stainless steel transport pucks



## Washer outfeed/tunnel infeed - detail





## Infeed filling machine with transport pucks



## Special transport carriers



## Infeed with robotic systems and transport tray



## Infeed with robotic systems and transport tray



## Infeed filling machine with transport pucks





## Infeed filling machine with transport pucks





## Nested syringes



## Nested syringes



Centering plate  
stainless steel

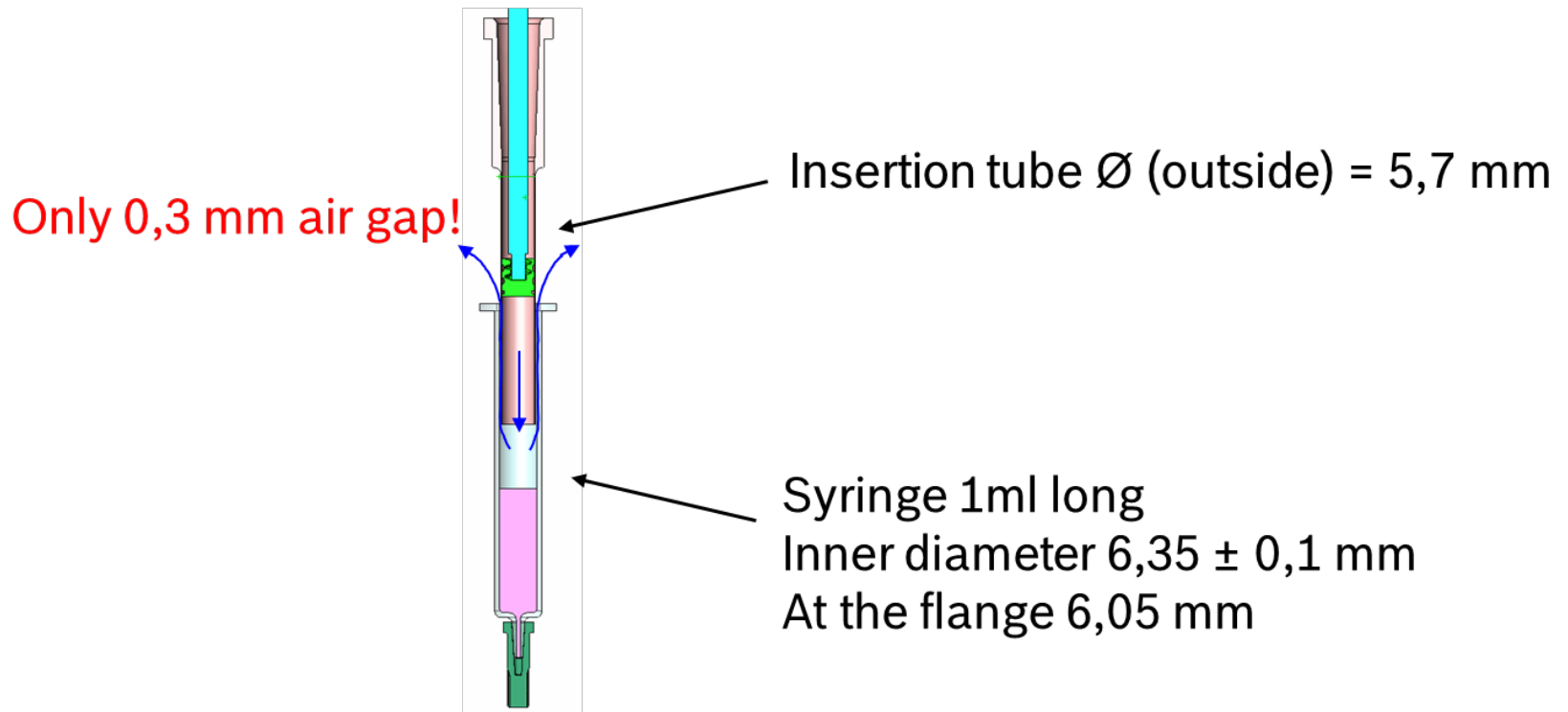


## Nested syringes – alternative centering plate

Centering plate  
plastic material



## Precision – Stoppering of syringes





Insertion tubes

Filling needles





## Special solution: Nested vials and cartridges



Photo: Schott, adaptiQ  
Internet press news



Photo: Ompi, EZ fill

## Filling of nested vials



# Downstream – example denesting





# Inspektion

Inspection

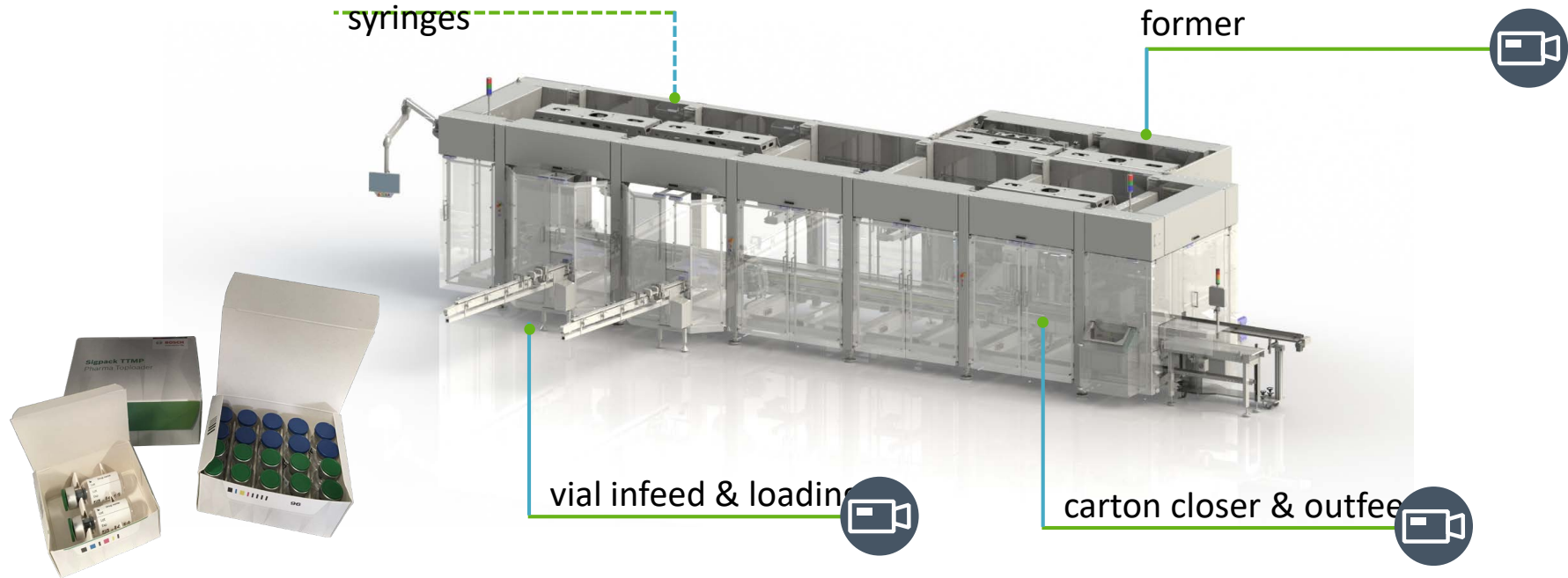


## Top loader

future format:

syringes

carton & partition  
former



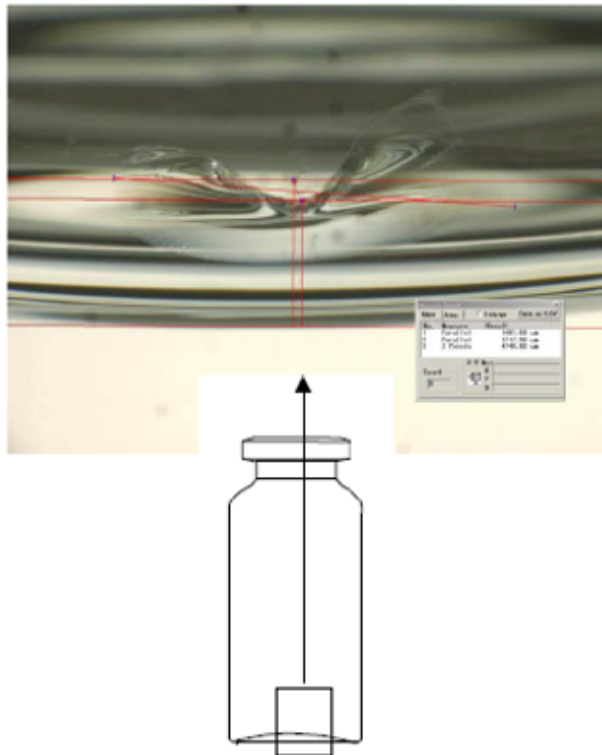


## Robotic handling



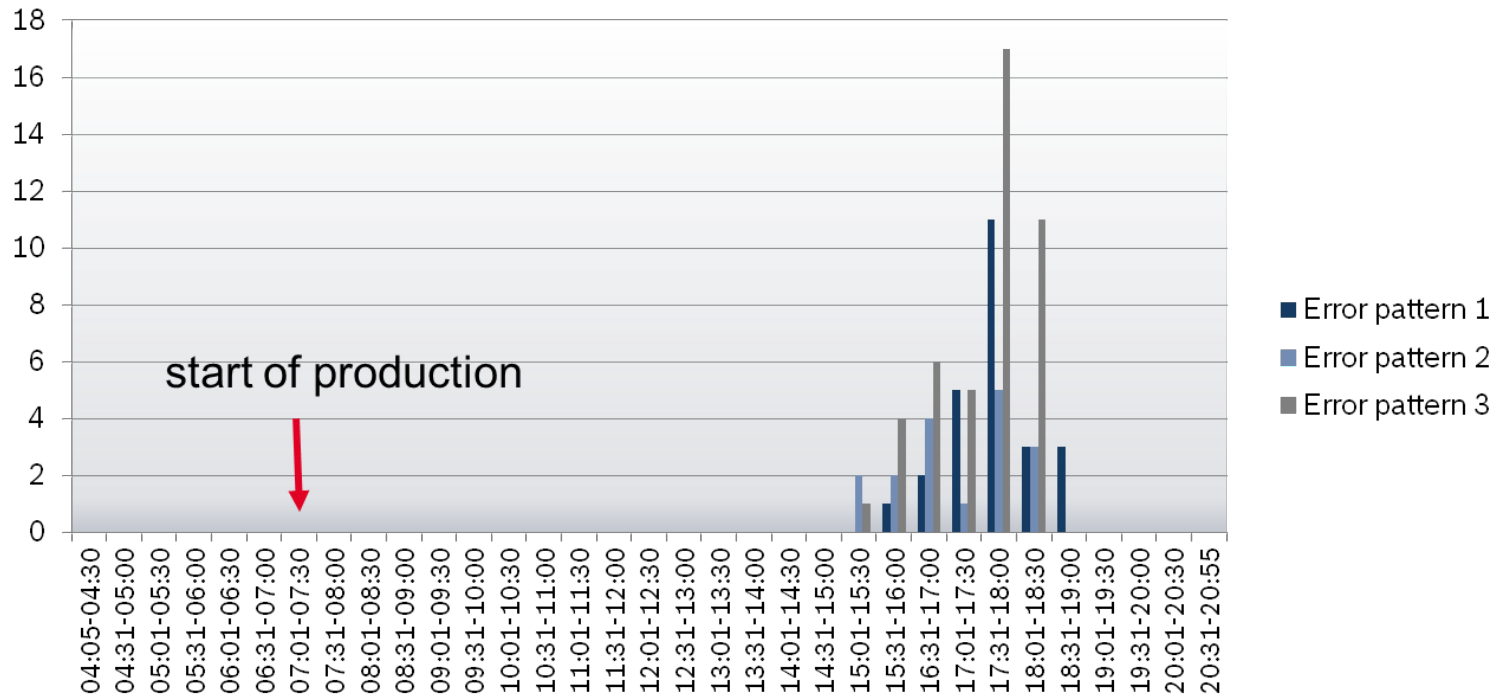
## Case study – vials damaged in bottom area

### Analysis by customer



- Analysis with microscope
- Determination of the height of impact  
(between 1,5 and 3,6 mm from bottom)
- Three kind of different damages

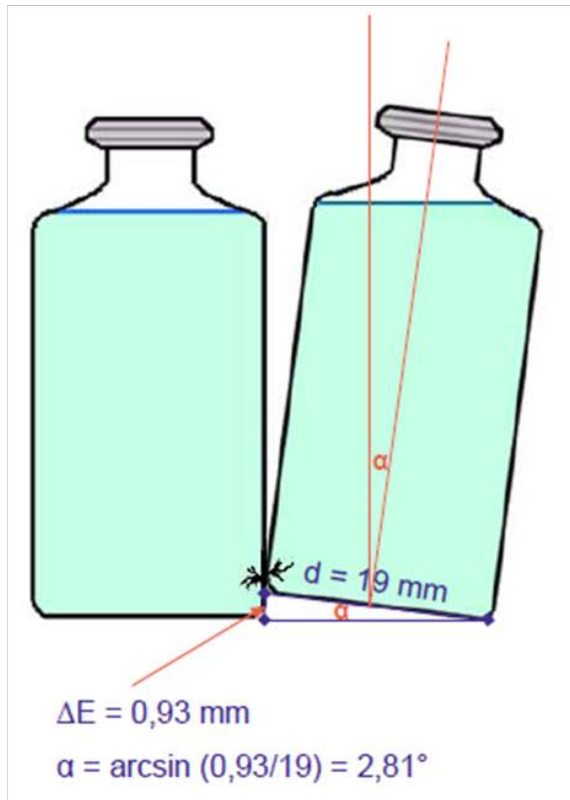
## Number of damages over time



# Analysis by glass manufacturer

- Vials with all three kind of damages
- Damages caused by glass to glass contact. No other materials found by analytical methods
- Probably all damages have the same origin

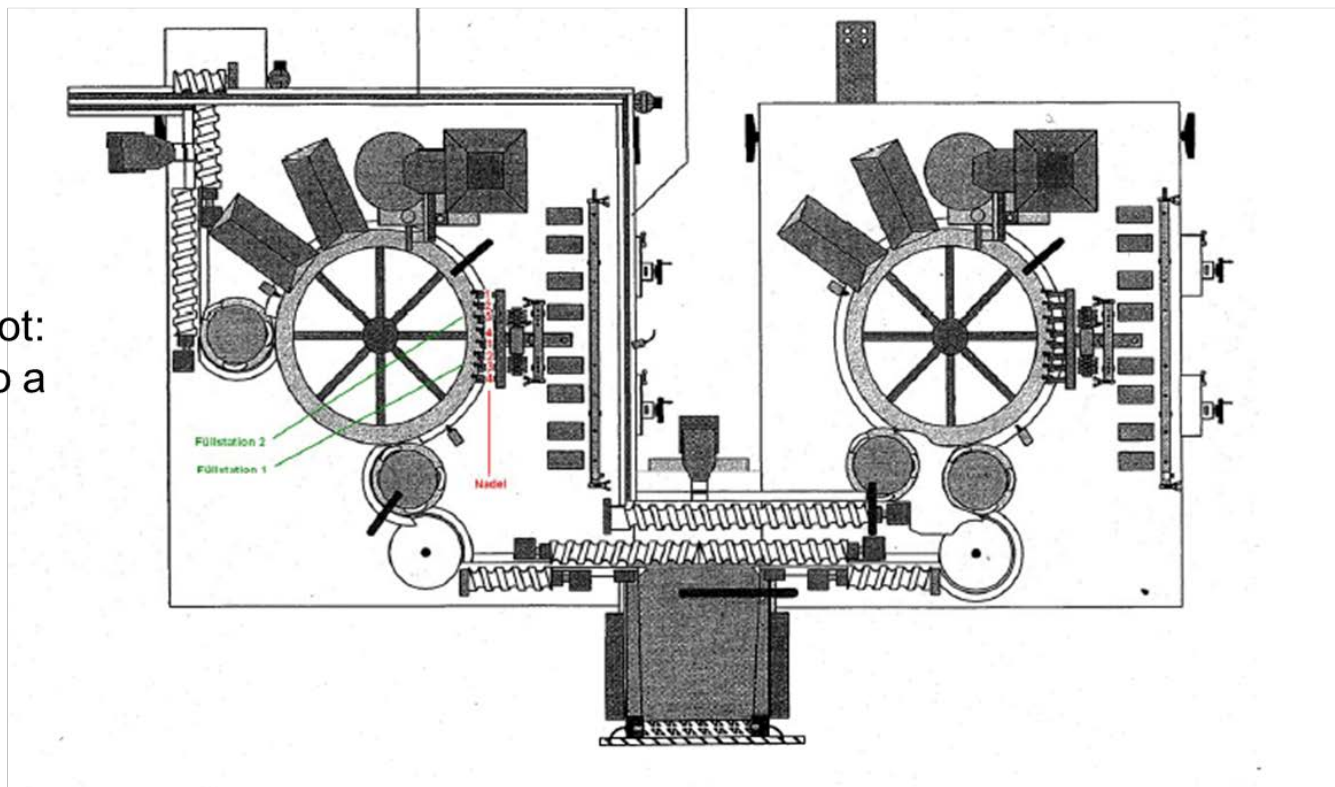
## Crash constellation



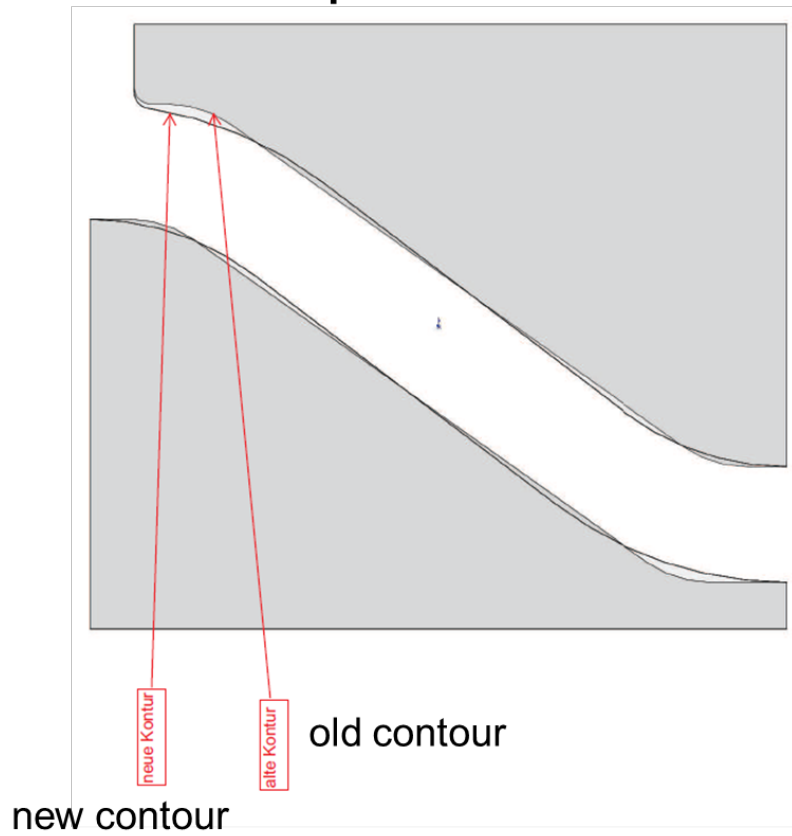


## Machine layout

Critical spot:  
Scroll onto a  
belt



## New sizepart at outfeed



Small change → huge effect

## Latest developments

Inline measuring of pressure,  
Smartskin



New glass vial

**PDA Journal**  
of Pharmaceutical Science and Technology



## Particulate Generation Mechanisms during Bulk Filling and Mitigation via New Glass Vial

Christopher L. Timmons, Chi Yuen Liu and Stefan Merkle

*PDA J Pharm Sci and Tech* **2017**, 71 379-392

Access the most recent version at doi:[10.5731/pdajpst.2017.007724](https://doi.org/10.5731/pdajpst.2017.007724)



## Summary

- Technical solutions/concepts are available
- But there are limitations (costs, space...)
- New, other disadvantages could be created
- Optimization vs. new concepts



Dr. Andreas Rothmund, Vetter  
PDA IG Meeting April 2010,  
Zero Glass Breakage – Dogma or Ambitious Goal



Questions?



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Invented for life

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