/// FEATURE

HOPPERS STILL VERY MUCH IN PLAY

SuzoHapp's ICS

SuzoHapp's Cube hopper

IN this age of cashless, tickets and cards, it is often considered whether the days of the coin hopper are numbered.

However, the gaming and amusement market is very diverse. It is all about choice and customer preference. The AWP market is very much a coin market practically all around the world. Players often want to play with cash.

Just look at the number of change machine suppliers out there. If cash for play was no longer so important, then surely there would no longer be a market for change machines.

SUZOHAPP

The demand for its Comestero change machines shows SuzoHapp internally how important cash is. There are markets that last played with cash or tokens years ago, such as casinos. For higher stake gaming, tickets or cards may make more sense, but remember that almost all machines have a banknote reader, so players still play with cash.

SuzoHapp has long experience in manufacturing hoppers. This fundamental market knowledge has led to a strong product range. Size, dimensions, capacity, speed, single or multi-coin payout - all these can vary and the company has the right hopper for each market segment.

The first hoppers from SuzoHapp were produced more than 25 years ago. At that time larger coin capacity was required with strong motors to ensure capacity. The company became the household name for casino hoppers, including the Escendo hopper that very cleverly paid the coins vertically out within the machine.

These were designed for slant top machines, so that players did not have to bend down to collect their winnings. From there SuzoHapp moved into other gaming segments with its hoppers, including the Cube hopper that proved to be the chosen hopper, for example, when the Russian gaming market opened over two decades ago.

What is the difference between those first products and the company's latest ones? Firstly, the sheer amount of choice. From casino hoppers there first emerged the Cube hopper, the Evolution hopper and then the Flow hopper.

Naturally, SuzoHapp continued to invest in product quality and security, so continually improving the products' reputation. Higher security - whether mechanical or electronic - is standard today. This also was the case with the communication protocols - currently the company offers its hopper range with DES or AES encryption upon request.

Milestones along the way were the patented random modulated coin sensor, the AES communication and the high security Flow hopper which is still fulfilling the highest level of security, in terms of both hardware and software. It is designed to keep the damage done to the end customer to a minimum when fraud attacks are taking place in a certain area. Security and reliability remain the most important ingredients in hopper design.

SuzoHapp's best-selling products in the range are the Evolution hopper and the Flow hopper. The Evolution is based on a belt drive and is a

great product in terms of both performance and ease of maintenance.

The combination of extremely wear-resistant plastic resins with state-of-the-art electronics has produced a device with low purchase and management costs.

This type of hopper can be used for 95 per cent of coins and tokens worldwide, without needing adjustments. The Evolution is completely interchangeable with the other models available on the market. It is suitable for many applications, including vending, parking, retail and amusement.

The Flow is a through-hole hopper, suitable for various uses such as gaming, vending, parking and change machines. The innovative electronics and high resistance plastic materials ensure durability over time.

It is available in two versions - standard parallel and ccTalk - and has a high payout speed of about seven coins per second. It is also available with three different coin bowls. The reliable through-hole coin disk design features no external wires for level sensors.

There is an integrated fall tube for simple dual hopper cabinet construction. The ccTalk version is available in encrypted and non-encrypted mode. Other features include a parallel interface and 10-pin connector, low-level sensor and anti-jam feature.

SuzoHapp is convinced that its products stand out from its competitors' products because its research and development department is continuously studying and testing, plus the company's long-standing experience in coin handling and the versatility of the different models.

The company is currently working on its Intelligent Coin System. The ICS is a revolutionary new coin handling machine able to process up to eight different size coins without the need of pre-sorting the coins by the user.

Thanks to its patented design and SuzoHapp's long-standing experience in coin handling, this device is a world first currency solution, able to be integrated into various machines in different markets - for example, parking ticket machines, self-checkout stations, money changers, kiosks and vending applications.

ICS' intelligent interface gives you the possibility to directly manage the payout composition or make the calculation itself as to the amount of coins per type to be supplied based on the denomination it holds. It is also able to dispense four coins simultaneously.

SuzoHapp's Flow hopper

SuzoHapp's Evolution hopper

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

Another company still very much involved in the production of hoppers is Oldham, UK-based Innovative Technology. Andy Bullock, the company's business development manager, told *InterGaming*: "We are now very much in a world of cashless and TITO gaming, but despite that cash is still king in some circles and the hopper still has a role to play.

"Speaking recently on the 50th anniversary of the ATM, the Bank of England's chief cashier said cash will remain a part of our day-to-day lives for decades and we think the same. While the rise in different forms of payment is undoubtable, cash is set to be around for some time around the world, especially in our sector. Cash remains prevalent in casinos and arcades and the coin