EXAIR® Case Study

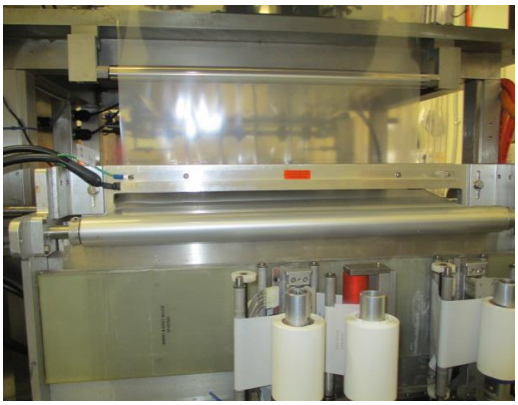
1550

APPLICATION GOAL: To remove static charge from the plastic film that individual condiment packets are made of, in order to increase the life of the print heads used to label the packets.

BEFORE EXAIR: This customer manufactures and fills individual condiment packets. After changing suppliers for the film that the packets are made from, they noted a marked decrease in the lifespan of their print heads. Their print head supplier suggested that it could be related to static charge, so they contacted EXAIR.

They receive the film on 18" (457mm) wide rolls. A high static charge develops on the film as it unwinds. This meter is measuring a static charge of 16.9kV on their film stock unwind station.

When the film's path is turned horizontal, this was an ideal location to install a **Model 7018 18" (457mm) Ionizing Bar**, *(right)* connected to a **Model 7901 2-Outlet, 115VAC Power Supply** *(not shown)*. Since the static charge only presents a problem on the side to be printed, only the "top" side of the film needs to be passed.



Once the film has passed beneath the Ionizing Bar, the static charge has been dramatically reduced…they are using EXAIR's **Model 7905 Digital Static Meter** to quickly, conveniently, and reliably monitor for proper operation. As you can see, the Ionizing Bar is reducing the static charge from almost 17kV to a fraction of a kV.

SUMMARY: Since installing the Ionizing Bars on (10) labeling machines at two plants, they have almost tripled the life of their print heads – they were replacing (5) print heads per month on each machine; now they're replacing only (2) per month. Additionally, this is an improvement over what they were getting before the change in film caused the shortened print head life, when they were replacing (3) prints heads per month!