

## **Calvin Schnoebelen**

Calvin Schnoebelen wears multiple hats for Taylor Products, Division of Magnum Systems. His long list of responsibilities includes service, sales, controls, and research and development. “I guess when you work for a company for over 25 years you pick up a little bit from multiple areas,” Calvin laughed.

In this last year Calvin was the key driver for the Robotic Valve Bag Placer. His task was to create a high speed bag placer, and after months of research made the decision that robotics was the way to go. A robotic placer was cost feasible, durable, and flexible to different applications. The market already had a robotic placer on the market, but this placer also removed the bag. Calvin’s goal was to find a robot that only placed, and allowed the bagging machine to work, thus increasing speeds while decreasing production time. He also wanted to reduce all of the moving parts and mechanisms on the original placer.

The result was a unique relationship with FANUC Robotics. FANUC is the world’s largest robotics producer, and has built a reputation for cutting edge technology. FANUC provided the perfect solution to Calvin’s goal of a smaller more flexible robotic arm.

The finished product was a six axes robotic arm that had been programmed to place bags on multiple machines, at a rate of up to 16 bags per minute. Ultimately Calvin’s efforts produced an entirely new product that is more durable, reliable, and faster than previous valve bag placers.