

**PARCEL**

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**COMPANIES**

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**bell  howell**

Of the many factors driving innovation in the world of e-commerce package and parcel supply chain and logistics, “speed” or “same-day delivery” has become the Holy Grail of modern-day Silk Road crusaders.

This hope is fueled by a number of game-changing innovations creating new value in the economics of supply chain and logistics – innovations based on years of experience in printing, labeling, processing and delivering mail workflows operating at tens of thousands of pieces per hour.

But how does it all come together?

Most pick-pack-ship distribution centers have human operators who are fed a line of items, insert the items – along with filler material – into pre-made packing boxes, and then glue or tape it shut. But even the best e-commerce players say that their operators complete an average of 75 boxes an hour.

Bell and Howell has combatted this inefficiency by introducing a system that measures the dimensions and weight of the object, and then dynamically creates packages in-line by cutting, scoring and folding carton stock automatically. Its [CartonWrap](#) system dynamically creates up to 1000 ready-to-ship boxed parcels per hour, all without manual intervention. This solution not only deals with labor automation and improving workflow speeds, but also eliminates filler material required in the traditional one-size-fits-all packaging operation, and helps reduce dimensional weight (DIM weight) expenses.

Bell and Howell has rethought the process of applying labels to the packages via its patented [high-performance print-and-apply labeling system](#), which averages up to 70 labels per minute onto packages that can vary by as much as 36” (1m). This performance is enabled by an integrated, dynamic print-cut-apply head and by the fact that the liner-free labels require no label peeling and generate no backing waste.

Most packages are delivered by a carrier to a residence or retail location. However, today’s busy consumer is often unavailable to pick up the package during normal retail hours or to sign for it at their home. The latest game-changing innovation in the smart locker space – [PackRobot](#) – combines sophisticated robotics and a dynamic shelving system into a climate-controlled outdoor enclosure with capacity for up to 500 packages, bringing dramatic efficiency gains to this already convenient solution.

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