The innovative OPTICAL CIGARETTE INSPECTION SYSTEM (OCIS) from Hauni enables manufacturers to inspect each and every cigarette seamlessly for optical quality at the end of the production process. This new global innovation has already been tested in Japan.

The entire surface of every single cigarette – excluding the ends – is optically inspected in order to achieve the highest possible level of quality. Hauni is again responding effectively and early to an international trend. “We know from discussions with our customers that customer expectations of the optical quality of cigarette products have risen. Japan is one of the pioneers in the area,” continues Lux. In Japan Tobacco, Hauni therefore found a perfect and dependable partner when the time came to put the first OCIS unit through its paces. The series of tests performed in March and August already achieved very good results. “The five criteria tested on OCIS in Japan included the probability of detection and the ejection rate for substandard products. In both these areas, we clearly met the required standards and, moreover, fulfilled the specific needs of the customer,” reports Michael Ibel, Group Manager Technology Development at Hauni.

In terms of data handling speed, Hauni is also setting new benchmarks. The OCIS system takes around 80,000 partial images per minute. The considerable volume of data produced, totalling 80 megabytes per second, is analyzed by specially developed image processing algorithms on computer cards that were also specifically designed for coping with these demanding speed requirements. “What our engineers in the Sensor Innovation Centre have achieved, has taken years of development and is at the limit of what is currently technically possible. OCIS has again confirmed our role as a technological leader in this area,” says Ibel.

Like a lighthouse: OCIS inspects the entire 360° circumference of each cigarette, detects optical defects such as holes and blemishes and ejects substandard products.