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(54) Title: INTEGRATED ROLLER TRANSPORT POD AND ASYNCHRONOUS CONVEYOR

(57) Abstract

A system for transporting articles. The transport system includes a conveyor system which includes a transport device for carrying articles between workstations and a drive rail and a support rail for supporting the transport device. The drive rail includes a drive system for propelling the transport device between workstations. At least one shoe carried by the transport device rides on the support rail for movably supporting the transport device on the support rail. The transport system also includes a protective container including a housing having an interior compartment for supporting a plurality of articles. The bottom surface of the housing is configured to engage the drive system such that actuation of the drive system propels the housing along the drive and support rails. At least one shoe carried by the housing is configured to ride on the support rail of the conveyor system to movably support the housing on the support rail. The transport system also includes the method of transporting articles including the steps of providing a transport device for holding at least one article and having at least one shoe, positioning the transport device with the base of the device supported on a drive rail and the shoe supported on a support rail, and actuating a drive system carried by the drive rail to propel the transport device along the drive rail and support rail.

