

Maestrani updates its packaging operation with Ishida and ITECH solution



Case Study / Maestrani

Things are going sweetly at Maestrani Schweizer Schokoladen AG, and recently, they've also become much more efficient: the long-established company in Eastern Switzerland has set the course for more powerful and precise packaging of its popular Minor chocolate products. Together with ITECH and Ishida, they implemented a modern packaging system that raises speed, accuracy, and ergonomics to a new level, all in line with sustainable growth.

Facts and figures



Maestrani invested in a new Ishida multihead weigher to increase speed and efficiency and reduce waste



The Ishida weigher can handle pieces weights from 5g to 22g at typically 40 packs per minute



The Ishida multihead has been enclosed to reduce noise level to well below 85dB



A key factor in the successful installation was the close partnership with Ishida's local distributor, ITECH AG



Challenge

The multihead weigher used previously no longer met requirements, its accuracy was declining, and the line was increasingly becoming a bottleneck in production. "The old weigher was simply too inaccurate and could no longer meet our throughput rates," recalls André Pfister, Production Manager at Maestrani. Replacement was essential, especially given the rapidly growing volume: Around 4,500 tons of chocolate leave the Flawil factory annually, and the trend is rising.

Solution

After a careful evaluation phase, the company chose an Ishida 14-head multihead weigher, supplied and installed by Ishida's local distributor, ITECH AG.

"The collaboration with ITECH was very smooth, from planning and testing with original product samples to final commissioning," says Pfister.

The new Ishida weigher works in conjunction with an existing VFFS bagmaker and has been optimised for a wide variety of formats: from 110g stand-up pouches to 1kg pillow packs and cans. The smallest chocolate pieces weigh just 5g, including the well-known "Minerli" chocolate bars, while large chocolate figures weigh up to 22 grams.

A key factor in the company's success is the close partnership with Ishida, whose reliable and internationally proven technology forms the basis for every ITECH solution.

Results

The use of the new Ishida multihead weigher delivered Maestrani a number of benefits:

- Increased speed: Depending on the pack format, the targeted 40 packs per minute are either met or exceeded
- Greater accuracy: More precise dosing, lower raw material consumption
- Reduced waste: Fewer damaged or incorrectly wrapped products
- Ergonomic operation: The Ishida weigher has been enclosed to reduce noise levels in production to well below the 85 decibel limit
- Fast training and operator competence: Operators and engineers have received comprehensive training and are now able to create new presets and make fine adjustments, according to Maestrani a real benefit for operational efficiency.

"We are very satisfied with the solution and would work with ITECH and Ishida again at any time," Pfister summarizes. He particularly praises the collaborative and goal-driven project management, which addressed all requirements. The technical support is also impressive: "We know we can reach someone around the clock, which gives us real peace of mind."

Recommendations for other companies?

"Reach out to ITECH with clear requirements, and the implementation will be perfect," says Pfister. This collaboration is an example of how precise planning, close collaboration, and technical expertise enable sustainable weighing and packaging solutions production, in keeping with the spirit of genuine Swiss chocolate quality!



The customer

Maestrani Schweizer Schokoladen AG was founded in 1852 and today produces fine Swiss chocolate in Flawil (St. Gallen). With brands like Minor and Munz, the company stands for traditional craftsmanship, innovation, and sustainability.

www.maestrani.ch



The overview



Fine Swiss chocolatier Maestrani Schweizer Schokoladen AG was founded in 1852



Around 4,500 tons of chocolate are produced annually



The new 14-head weigher handles pieces from 5g to 22g



Increased speed to 40 packs per minute or above



Greater accuracy: more precise dosing using less raw material



Reduced waste with fewer damaged or incorrectly wrapped products



Enclosed weigher reduces noise level to well below 85dB limit



Comprehensive training for operators and engineers



Greater operator control with new presets and the ability to make fine adjustments



Sustainable weighing and packaging solutions



Added value through close collaboration, offering technical expertise



Ishida's internally proven technology formed a key factor in the decision process

Speak to an Ishida expert

Every business has its own challenges; ours is to help you overcome yours. Working smarter, faster, together, we can help you achieve higher standards and get your products retail ready quicker.

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