

Crowning's AG brings fine English tea culture to Switzerland with Ishida weighing technology



Case Study / Crowning's

The scent of tea leaves mingles with the aroma of secret herbs: Above the legendary herb chamber, where Appenzeller Alpenbitter has been producing herbal tea for generations, its sister company, Crowning's AG, has its domain. Since 1977, the Appenzell, Switzerland based company has been bringing fine English tea culture to Switzerland and beyond by selecting exquisite blends and packaging them meticulously. A requirement when hospitals, the military, and top restaurants demand to be served tea down to the last gram. In a tea market that is growing rapidly in Switzerland, Crowning's combines traditional Swiss craftsmanship with international taste.

Facts and figures



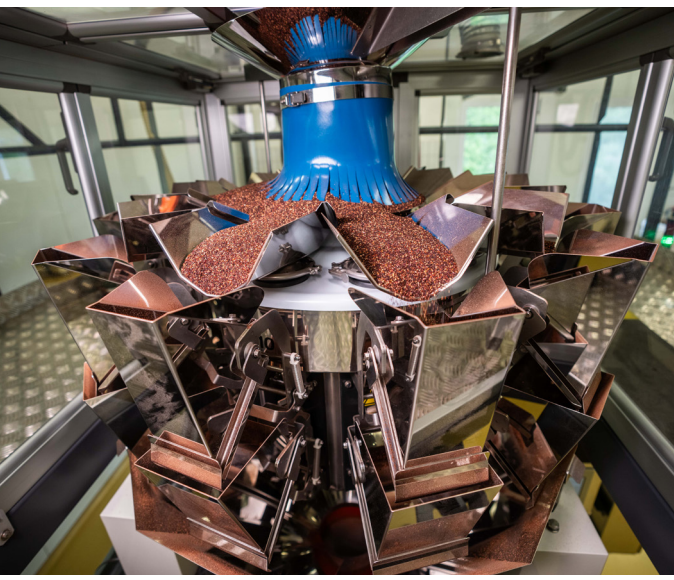
Crowning's invested in a complete tea packing system to increase speed and efficiency and reduce waste



The average weighing accuracy was enhanced to under 0.8g per pack at typically 70 packs per minute



The user-friendly line configuration allows easy cleaning and operation and shorter walking distances



Challenge

The current system had been in operation for over 25 years and had long since reached its limits: Inaccurate weights and product residue on the conveyor belts hampered efficiency, while cumbersome access routes and ergonomically unfriendly operator interfaces made daily routines a struggle.

Solution

The new line raises efficiency and accuracy to a new level, a significant enhancement that translates into less waste, better hygiene, and noticeably improved working conditions.

The centre piece of the new line is an Ishida 10-head multihead weigher. The new weigher offers a capacity of up to 70 weighments per minute and boasts a simple user interface, 100 presets and a user-friendly design for quick product changeovers without the need for tools. The Ishida multihead has also greatly increased weighing accuracy and -consistency to better than ± 0.8 g per pack, even for bulky or sticky tea leaves. The Ishida model is ideal for dry, free-flowing products and small target weights, and its excellent efficiency means it quickly pays for itself.

Ishida's Swiss representative, ITECH, integrated the Ishida multihead weigher into a customized line comprising:

- A vacuum conveyor, eliminating the need for conveyor belts, reducing product waste and enabling gentle product handling.
- A custom-designed, compact gantry, allowing easy access to the weigher's contact parts for cleaning and maintenance.
- Dust-enclosure for the multihead weigher with extraction and explosion protection, essential for dusty tea blends such as chamomile and mint.
- 25-off presets for fast and reliable recipe changeovers.
- VFFS packaging machine with ultra-hygienic take-away conveyor.

Results

- Overfilling has been virtually eliminated, resulting in direct savings in raw materials.
- Product losses have been drastically reduced.
- Greater reliability, faster and easier cleaning and maintenance.
- Optimised line layout allows for simple and intuitive operation and better access.

Added value through partnership

Ishida Europe has been synonymous with innovative packaging technology in the food industry for decades. Its multihead weighers are considered the industry standard: reliable, durable, and easy to operate. For Crowning's, it was clear that switching from an outdated linear weigher to advanced Ishida multihead weighing technology was the decisive step towards fully automated production.

Operations Manager Christof Stillhart comments that ITECH was selected based on previous experience with other large companies in the food industry. "We were impressed by ITECH AG's engineering expertise and their turnkey approach: They took care of everything, from project planning and installation to training of our employees."

"Today, we produce the same quantity much more efficiently and with much less product waste," summarizes Stillhart.




The customer

Crowning's AG is a Swiss tea producer based in Appenzell. Founded in 1977, the company is a sister company of Appenzeller Alpenbitter AG and specializes in the production and distribution of over 40 high-quality tea blends for the Swiss market. Crowning's AG places particular emphasis on precise processing and the highest quality standards.

www.crownings.ch



The overview

 <p>Since 1977, Appenzell, has been bringing fine English tea culture to Switzerland</p>	 <p>The new line raises efficiency and accuracy to a new level</p>	 <p>Significant enhancement that translates into less waste and better hygiene</p>	 <p>The new 10-head weigher offers a capacity of up to 70 weighments per minute</p>
 <p>User-friendly design for quick product changeovers</p>	 <p>Custom-designed, compact gantry, allowing easy access for cleaning and maintenance</p>	 <p>25-off presets for fast and reliable recipe changeovers</p>	 <p>Overfilling has been virtually eliminated resulting in savings in raw materials</p>
 <p>Increase speed and efficiency</p>	 <p>Turnkey approach: from project planning, installation and employee training</p>	 <p>Added value through partnership. Offering engineering expertise</p>	 <p>Crowning's AG now distributes over 40 high-quality tea blends for the Swiss market</p>

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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