



Bauwens Meat takes a scoop

ESPERA Vision System at Bauwens Meat in Belgium!

Faults in labels or packaging are much more penalized than it used to be. Today, thorough controlling is therefore the message. These controls demand a lot of manpower, which brings more (too much) labor cost. Fortunately, there are other, more efficient and cheaper solutions: controlling by the use of the ESPERA ESVS Vision System. Bauwens Meat caught the Belgian scoop and implemented the ESVS technology in Belgium!

The history of Bauwens Meat goes way back to 1909, when Theo Bauwens decided to settle in Antwerp and to open a butchery. Very soon the demand for his cooked meat products got so high that he started a production site. That's how Bauwens expanded over the years to become one of the most important European producers of cooked meat

products. Today the company is managed by the fourth generation and employs 150 persons. On an average week, they produce about 250 tons of meat products. 35 % of the goods are commercialized in the Benelux via distributors, wholesalers, the retailers and other food producers. The remaining 65 % is exported around the world. Except for the

famous pork meat products, the portfolio today also exists in fine meat products made from poultry and beef.

Necessity for supplementary control

Bauwens Meat produces more than two hundred different recipes, which are above that packed and brought to the market in a wide variety of packages. Their own brands Supercaro and Goldwurst make only 30 % of the total volume, the remaining other 70 % is all produced under private label. In order to produce all this in an orderly fashion, Bauwens Meat uses completely automated packaging lines, of which 3 for consumer packaging. "In order to be 100 % sure of the product and packaging quality, all these products are controlled manually", says CEO Herman Bauwens. "There is always a possibility that some meat parts get stuck in the sealing rim, causing packs that are not fully closed or there are air bubbles enclosed, the slices are not well positioned, the information on the label is not readable, or even worse: wrong information is printed on the label. All these failures can occur since we have very fast product changes on a very regularly base."

Manual Inspection is no longer affordable

Because this way of working is very time consuming and because also people can make mistakes, certainly in a growing company, Bauwens Meat was already for



a long time searching for automation in this process. "Not that we are confronted with faults on a regular base, but one can always improve. Moreover, we are always developing new methods in order to be trendsetter and benchmark" according to Herman Bauwens. "Nowadays there are not yet a lot of solutions available on the market to have the control of labels and packs automatized. We tested two systems and in the end, we have chosen for the ESVS solution of ESPERA. "This vision system is, according to our experiences, regarding food safety, mistake reduction and compatibility to the packaging lines, the best choice". The ESVS system can even handle more checks in comparison to competitors. Of course, the long partnership with ESPERA in weigh/price and labelling equipment could only help in the final decision. We knew we could count on an excellent quality of both machine and service.

What is it about?

The ESVS checks, fully automatic, every type of packed food on the top and bottom side, in comparison to defined



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criteria. In order to do so, high resolution line scan cameras are used and this up to speeds of 150 packs/minute. The control on the topside is done by a vertical electrical moving line scan camera, which is foreseen of a light unit. It is adapting automatically to different pack heights and is therefore independent from surrounding light influences. Herwig Smeets, Managing Director of ESPERA Belgium: "The ESVS vision systems can be integrated in existing production lines. Sorting stations can be added as an option or we can use existing sorters via signal exchange. Our solution can check the dimensions of packs and the position and presence of labels on those packs. We can program the check on the type of (preprinted) sealing film that has been used. And of course, we can check barcodes, positions, dimensions and the content of labels. For this last feature we use OCR technology, which stands for Optical Character Recognition, the technology to be able to learn any type of font and enabling the system to read and check the printed information. As an

option, we can also check the sealing rim of packs. If there are leaks or contaminations in the seal, ESVS will identify this non-conformity and will eject the

faulty packs out of the production flow". A reference pack is the basis for this comparison and verification. Via the interactive ESVS software all checks,

tolerances and parameters can be programmed. Furthermore, the software allows very easily to generate any kind of report. ■



Digitalization in Price Labelling

Preventive technologies for maximum efficiency in the fields of service and maintenance

The topic of Industry 4.0, digitalization, the internet of things as well as digital transformation is at the moment a widespread topic across the industry and it is leading to the next technological revolution. It is significantly merging IT and machine technology into a fully digital production. On the one hand, this creates a certain added value for every production. On the other hand, it can also be a huge challenge, because the more technology is integrated into a system, the more complex the handling can be. Due to this it is important, beside all those technological innovations, to reduce the complexity for the machine operator at the same time and to design the user interface as easy and intuitive as possible. The combination of an easy and intuitive handling as well as the merger of IT and machine technology leads to a huge added value for the production. The result of the implementation of such new technologies is a total revolution in the field of weigh-price labelling as well as the allover production environment across all industries.

But digital transformation does not only mean an easy and intuitive handling of machines within the production. Furthermore, the allover target is the optimization of processes and a reduction of process related costs. One approach is the reduction of service- and maintenance measures, which saves money. For example, with ESPERA's next generation of price labelling machines, integrated sensors are controlling every machine component in real-time. Such sensors check the status of wear of a machine com-

ponent continuously and transfer this information to the machine operator. The closer a component is reaching its end of lifetime, a message appears on the user interface of the machine, which gives a direct status feedback to the operator or the maintenance team. Furthermore, the system is informing the production team within which time frame at its latest the relevant component has to be exchanged, to grant a fluent production workflow of the price labelling machine, without any interruption.

Hence, maintenance measures can be planned preventive in advance without disturbing the running production. By having such an informative tool, measures can be set after the daily production or within the shift changes. The end of lifetime of components does no more occur spontaneous without advanced warning but by a pre-defined, scheduled timing. As a result, this reduces downtimes dramatically and saves costs in parallel. Another very important aspect within the digital transformation in the field of service is the fast and easy failure detection. Because the longer downtimes are, the more costs are generated. Integrated sensors across the whole price labelling machine check the status of each machine component and realize the exact localization of a failure source. In case of any failure or any alarming service measure the systems transfers a message via the machine terminal to the operator or to the plants service team. On the machine terminal, the relevant service component is directly visualized. In this way, it is easy to detect at which position of the machine a failure or an alarming service component is located. Furthermore, the system itself gives assistance to the operator and proposes several measures to

detect and solve failure by himself. In this way, several failures or alarms can be solved easily and fast by the production team themselves. Combined with an easy and fast localization of failures, this leads to a reduction of downtime and optimizes the production flow.

Digitalization in price labelling offers a huge range of benefits. Especially for the fields of service and maintenance of machines it can lead to huge time and cost advantages with the allover target to improve production processes. Not only a higher level of automatization is the future of our industry. It is also the improvement of processes that makes Industry 4.0 to a tool nobody will dismiss for the future. ■





“Fresh pastry since 1932”

Confectionery Heinemann and ESPERA – Partners since more than 35 years

Hermann Heinemann had the talent to create outstanding pastry products and handed over his secret recipes also to his sons. Since they were young he taught them always to use the best ingredients: fresh butter, best cream and fine cocoa bean. An absolutely no go for him were artificial ingredients. And this he taught also his sons.

His sons Bernd and Heinz-Richard Heinemann got educated in Switzerland and graduated in Bern successful their master in confectionery. They reached the Swiss diploma for confectionery & chocolatier. Heinz-Richard Heinemann continued his career in Switzerland and France with the target to learn more about high level pastry and chocolatier. Nowadays, this experience is represented in all of his products, which stand for outstanding

Hermann Heinemann discovered his love for fine pastry products very early and decided to become a master of confectionery. One of his first masterpieces was the creation of the so called “Herrentorte”. It is a special cake consisting of several layers of cake with a special cream and chocolate in between its layers. The cake is less sweet than normal cakes, due to the herb chocolate which is used for it. This “Herrentorte” was awarded several times and is in the meantime a famous pastry. In 1932 Hermann Heinemann realized one of his biggest dreams and opened together with his wife Johanna the first confectionery in the area of Moenchengladbach/North Rhine-Westphalia.

taste and high quality. In 2017 Heinz-Richard Heinemann was honoured in Milan/Italy with the World Pastry Award. With passion for high standard pastry and pralines, the Heinemann products are all handmade. No automation can reach the standard of handmade pastry and pralines. Due to this, every product is unique and fresh.

On the first view, the topic of price labelling machines and pastry products is not obvious. But high quality products like the products of Heinemann require a weight depending price labelling.

Due to the long-time cooperation in weigh price labelling, Heinemann has used different machine generations since the last 35 years. In 2016, they decided to change

their machines to the latest ESPERA standard. For example, pralines are labelled in the meantime with ESPERA’s manual 3000 series and a fully automatic weigh price labeller of the 5000 series. With this latest machine technology Heinemann is prepared for latest requirements in food industry, e.g. the declaration of allergens and nutrition facts as well as further requirements of food regulations.

Furthermore, with the latest ESPERA machine generation he is absolutely prepared to realize any further requirement of the industry very easy and user-friendly.

For the ESPERA team the pastry and praline products of Heinemann are a great variety compared to the regular meat, dairy and vegetal business we are mainly faced with.



Digital price labelling at Interpack 2017

“Follow the ESPERA trail of innovation and see the steps of digitalization in price labelling!” According to this slogan ESPERA presented at the Interpack 2017 in Duesseldorf/Germany it’s huge range of labelling, weighing and inspection solutions. Visitors from more than 40 countries had the possibility to see live the latest trends and technologies.

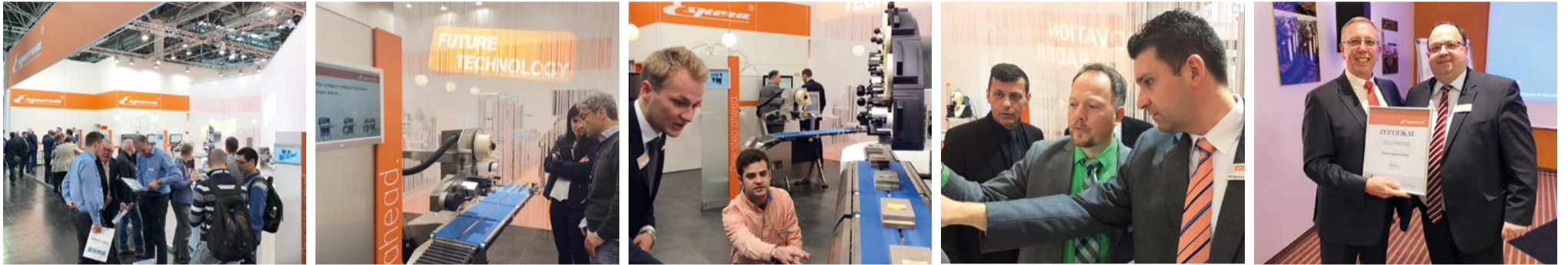
For example, the worldwide unique Multiroller solution ES 7800 with its 5 label cassettes for continuous labelling of products or for labelling of chaotic product batches.

Furthermore, the topic of skin package labelling, which is meanwhile a trend in several countries, was presented with a solution that allows a perfect label

placement for such packs. Either if it is a standard top- or bottom label or if it is a sleeve around solution.

ESPERA’s biggest highlight at Interpack 2017 was the digital view into the future of weigh-price labelling with a future generation of machine technology. All about preventive service and maintenance, intuitive user guidance

as well as assistant systems that allow an easy and intuitive machine operation. Such technologies lead to a huge reduction of downtimes within the production and in parallel increase efficiency of processes. With the allover target for a cost preventive production process ESPERA is always one step ahead!



ESPERA at the TAIPEI PACK / TAIWAN 2017



In the Asian region, the level of automatization in the field of processing of fresh food products is increasing step by step. Especially in the field of fresh fish and meat products is a fast and automated production workflow mandatory, due to its limited shelf life.

Therefore also the automatization in the field of labelling is unavoidable.

Taiwan is one of Asia’s technology leading countries. Products “Made in Germany” are highly welcome with its

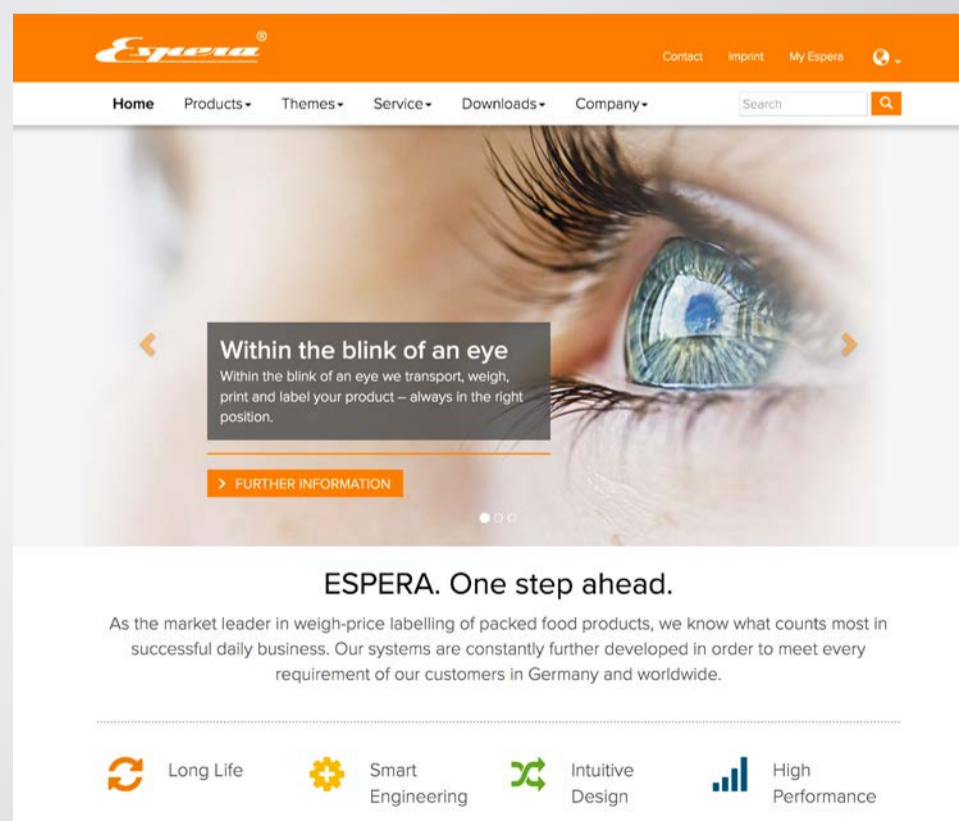
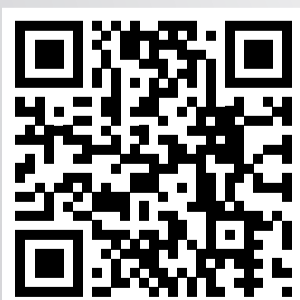
high-quality brand image. Also despite several Asian manufacturers.

Due to this, ESPERA presented for the first time in cooperation with its local distribution partner Linden Tec. it’s product range of labelling and weighing at the Taipei Pack exhibition 2017, held from 21st until 24th of June 2017 in Taipei/Taiwan. As an Pan-Asian exhibition, most of the visitors came from all across Asia, for example from China, Malaysia and Thailand.



A NEW DESIGN!

All about ESPERA, it’s products, service solutions, facts and trends are displayed on the new ESPERA website: www.espera.com
Visit our new website and learn more about the latest news and trends in labelling, weighing and inspection technology.



New Partnerships Worldwide!

As a leading partner in the field of price labelling, weighing technology and inspection technology we kindly welcome our new distribution partners in Slovenia, Canada and Taiwan in the ESPERA team. With their huge know-how in the fresh food industry they took over the sales and service activities for the allover ESPERA product portfolio in their country. Our new partners are:



We are looking forward to a great co-operation!