



KOSME HELPS MAKE SUN-PAT PEANUT BUTTER BETTER

The UK's biggest food producer, Premier Foods, produces a large number of high profile and popular UK brands including Angel Delight, Birds, Bisto, Homepride, Hovis, Mr Kipling, Oxo and Robertson's jams. The company also produces the Sun-pat peanut butter range at its plant in Histon, near Cambridge. However, because of machinery limitations and the need for human interaction on its processing line, Premier Foods realised it was having problems coping with the volume of product traffic needed to keep up with supply demands.

Premier Foods turned to Kosme UK, the leading supplier of bespoke, turnkey filling, labelling, packaging and conveying machines, to supply new de-palletising, labelling and palletising equipment for a full upgrade and automation of its Sun-pat peanut butter production line. Previously, the line had used a degree of human operator intervention to load the jars into the line by hand and stack the finished product onto pallets. Kosme's solution uses a sweep action de-palletiser to de-stack and feed containers onto the production line in single file. The system also removes the interlayer card from the new palletised jars and stacks the empty pallets for easy collection, significantly reducing the likelihood of any potential health and safety issues with the working of the line.

Another important improvement has been achieved by the use of a new Kosme combination labelling machine. The previous line equipment had applied a self-adhesive 'lollipop' tamper-tag and wet glue main product label using separate machines, so consequently the tamper tag was not aligned to the main product label. The Kosme labeller has overcome this problem by

applying both labels consecutively on the same machine so the relative position can be assured and the appearance of the final product is enhanced.

The finished shrink-wrapped packs are automatically palletised by a Kosme palletising machine at the end of the line. The Kosme machine offers a large degree of flexibility, with six different patterns of pallet arrangement (by layer formation and number of layers) depending on the size and height of the jars being packed. This can easily be changed, without the need for direct operator intervention, using the machine's control system to automatically alter the configuration, so changes in production can be quickly catered for.

Premier Foods' Factory Manager, Ray Vidler, was impressed by the benefits, and added: "Kosme's new machines mean that the Sun-pat production line is now fully automated from the beginning to the end, meaning the need for human intervention has been greatly reduced. This has benefits not only for speed and efficiency, but also in reducing the risk of potential accidents and repetitive strain injury as well as allowing staff to be deployed to other duties."

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Kosme UK is a leading supplier of bespoke, turnkey filling, labelling, packaging and conveying machines for the packing and bottling industry. Working with customers, from comprehensive design, to project management, Kosme's goal is to fully satisfy the most demanding of packaging and bottling requirements. The company also offers extensive, on-site technical support and servicing with a dedicated UK team and parts for a rapid response to customer needs.

Kosme UK is an independently run part of the Krones Group, in close working partnership with Kosme's research, development and manufacturing facilities in Italy.

www.kosme.co.uk