

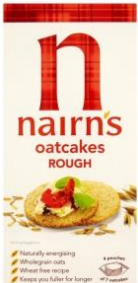


Background

Edinburgh based Nairn's are the number one producer, and leading brand of oatcakes in the UK - supplying major supermarket chains and health food shops across the country.

Scenario

For ease of manual case packing, Nairn's used a traditional crash lock bottom case on their packing line. However a new criteria set out by supermarkets and food suppliers, for the design and performance of shelf ready cases, meant that Nairn's needed to look at a new case design. This new case design would ensure more efficient handling and faster brand recognition with easier access to products. Once this case design was approved Nairn's took advantage of this change to simplify this operation and improve efficiency by fully automating the case packing process.



Solution

Accepting the project as a systems integrator, Endoline installed a case erecting and robotic loading solution to fully automate the packing line. The case erector seamlessly forms 13 cases per minute with a hot melt glue. Endoline recommended the glue application as it secures the base of the box without producing an overlap, often the case with tape applications, allowing Nairn's to meet supermarket shelf ready expectations. The case erector is built and programmed into an Endline conveyor system which is feeding formed cases directly into an Endline robot cell. Packing up to 80 cartons of oatcakes per minute, the robot cell deploys with a six axis ABB robot arm, equipped with a specially designed gripper that is easily fitted with between 6 and 12 quick release suction cups so that the operator can select packing quantities from 6 to 12 cartons per case using a pre-programmed list of recipes via Endline's simple to use HMI.

Results



Fully turnkey line with robotic solution



Improved efficiency



Overcame previous limitations to shelf ready applications



Packing up to 80 cartons of oatcakes per minute

"We were very impressed by the expertise shown by Murray Packaging and Endoline in translating our initial thoughts into a workable solution. We were especially impressed by the design, installation and commissioning of the equipment which enabled an efficient startup and transition." **Gavin Love,**
Technical Director at Nairn's

