

Case Study UFA

## When every half gram counts

Valuable seeds packaged with the highest accuracy

The successful test runs with our most difficult products were crucial for the investment decision in addition to the very good consultation.

## CHALLENGE

Replace **time-consuming manual** processes and **product losses** to meet growing demand and **reduce costs**. Add to this the very **low target weights** of 0.5g.

## SOLUTION

In the fall of 2021, Itech AG installed the **CCW-RV Micro multihead weigher** and two automatic **product feeders** on a **platform**. A mobile base of the scale allows the machine together with the discharge tray to be moved **between two positions**. In this way, one multihead weigher can be used to load two **packaging machines** located below it.





The UFA-Samen location in Winterthur specialises in producing vegetable and flower seeds. There, the seeds of almost 400 plants procured from all over the world are subjected to quality control, stored and packaged. Several million small, plastic-coated paper sachets with a filling weight of between 0.15 g and 80 g are delivered to the retail market annually. In view of the price per gram of up to 15 Euros, the highest level of accuracy is important when measuring the seed. In the past, filling was done both automatically with volumetric measuring and counting systems, and manually with measuring spoons. "The very time-consuming manual process needed to be automated in order to be able to provide for the increasing demand and reduce costs", reports the Operations Manager Fabian Ochsner.

With the new packaging system, UFA-Samen processes all items with a filling weight between 0.5 g and 50 g. The speed is 60 cycles per minute, and the Multihead Weigher can even fill up to 100 bags. The high speed does not jeopardise the accuracy. "Our specification of a maximum of 10 percent overfilling is clearly undercut", says Fabian Ochsner. Another advantage is the greatly reduced changeover time when changing between the types of sachets. What used to take a whole day, can now be done in 30 minutes thanks to the flexible system design. Product changes are made by accessing default settings on the touch screen. The cleaning measures can also be carried out quickly because all parts that come into contact with the product can be removed without tools. The hygiene-friendly design of the Multihead Weigher with minimized gaps also prevents the small seeds from being deposited.



reports Fabian Ochsner, the plant manager.

Milestone for packaging at UFA-Samen

## **BENEFIT FOR CUSTOMERS**

- One scale for two kinds of bags
- Short changeover time,
  30 minutes and no tools required
- Stable performance and accurate dosing

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- 20% increase in production output
- Reduced labor cost
- Return on investment in a short time.

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