

CASE STUDY

Bidfood: Maximum throughput and optimum hygiene

Bidfood has been consistently pursuing the path of automation with Bizerba for 10 years.

One example is the use of the latest weighing and labeling technology at the production facility in Kralupy nad Vltavou.





Bidfood has grown steadily since it was established in 1990. In addition to its main target group - institutional kitchens from restaurants to canteens - the retail sector is becoming an increasingly important customer. In view of this growth, the previously manual labeling process on the production lines threatened to become a brake on growth. For Jan Kanina, Head of Operations and Technology, the solution was clear: automation. After a thorough screening of suppliers on the Czech market, the company turned to Bizerba as its automation partner. A close partnership began in 2015 and continues to this day. Bidfood appreciated the professional approach of the Bizerba team from the very beginning. Before deciding to purchase the equipment, the company's representatives visited several reference customers and personally interviewed the operators about their experiences. Bidfood now has nine labeling systems from Balingen in addition to other Bizerba solutions.



The history of Bidfood began in 1990 in Kralupy, Czech Republic. Founded as a sales agency for the Danish food manufacturer Nowaco, the company is now part of Bidcorp. This group is the second largest food distributor in the world with more than 40 companies on five continents. Bidfood itself is now much more than a commercial agency: from the original trading company, Bidfood has developed into a modern company with 7 sales offices and 5 production plants in the Czech Republic, producing food for the

domestic and foreign markets. Its products include fish, meat, game, frozen meals and ice cream, as well as cold cuts, sous-vide products, breaded products, puff pastry, croquettes and frozen fruit and vegetables. 65% of Bidfood's products are sold to institutional kitchens, restaurants, hotels, canteens, retirement homes, hospitals and others. The retail sector, which is an important growth segment for Bidfood, accounts for the remaining 35%.

COMPANY

Bidfood, Czech Republic

Started in 1990 as a commercial agency of Nowaco

5 production sites in the Czech Republic

65 % sales in the food service sector

35 % sales in retail

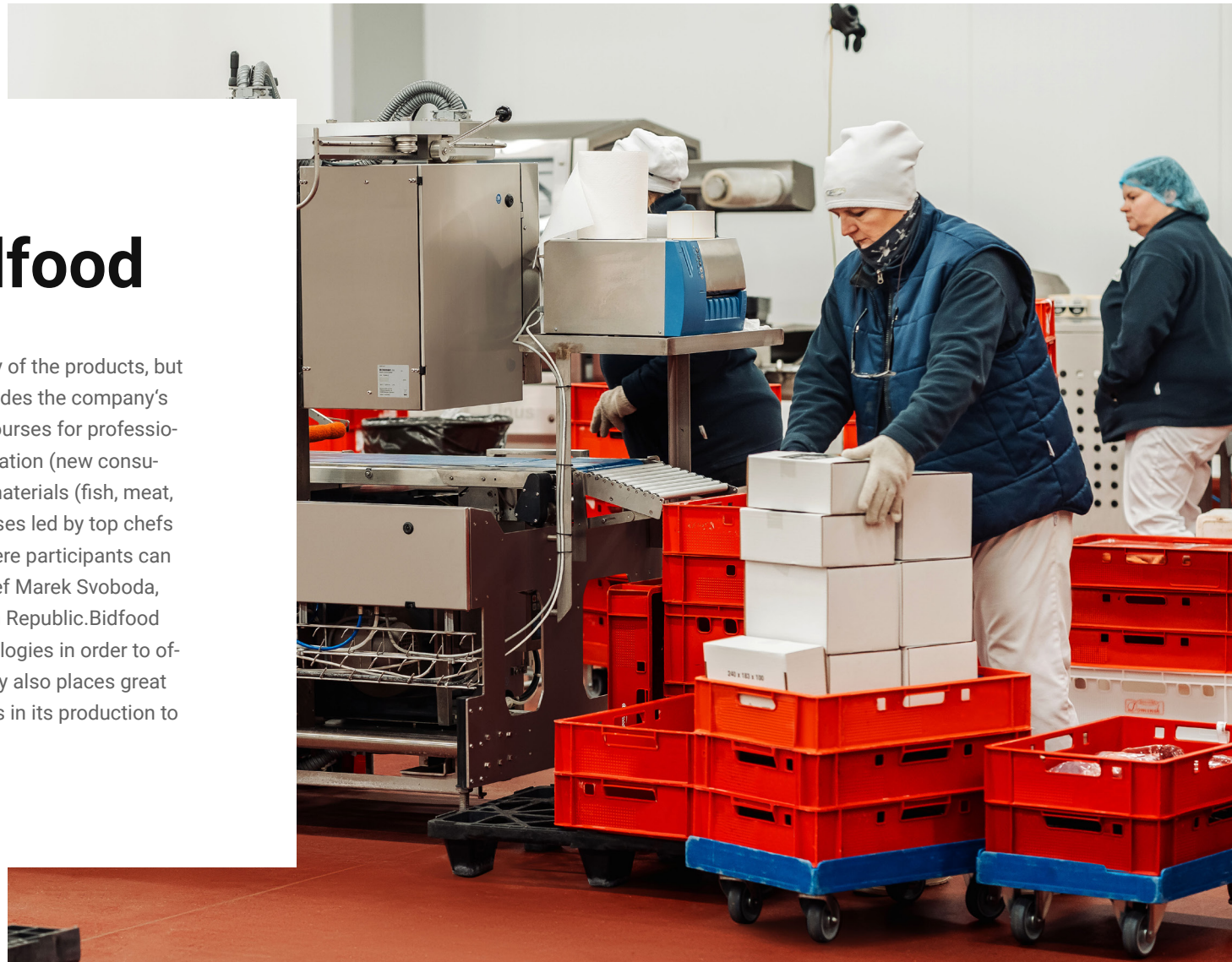
1.2 kg of Bidfood products are bought by each Czech on average every year

Mehr Infos:
bidfood.cz



More about Bidfood

Bidfood's customers appreciate not only the quality of the products, but also the service that the company offers. This includes the company's own catering studio, where it regularly organizes courses for professionals. These include training seminars on new legislation (new consumer baskets for school canteens) or specific raw materials (fish, meat, cured meats). There are also popular cooking courses led by top chefs from the Czech Republic and around the world, where participants can find inspiration. The Gastro Studio is headed by chef Marek Svoboda, the only certified WACS representative in the Czech Republic. Bidfood strives to keep up with the latest trends and technologies in order to offer innovative and attractive products. The company also places great emphasis on ecology and uses recyclable materials in its production to minimize its impact on the environment.



CHALLENGE

Saving time and resources

Manual labeling is time-consuming and labor-intensive, and at Bidfood, it could only be done on the top of the pack. When the company entered the retail market, it needed a much faster and more flexible labeling process. In addition, the packaging had to be labeled on up to three sides - on the one hand for the legally required information and on the other hand for the high-quality branding of the Bidfood brands and the private labels of the retailers supplied.

The company was therefore looking for a solution that could weigh and label in a single step, with one to three labels applied simultaneously. This was crucial for Bidfood's competitiveness in the retail chain market. Thanks to the Bizerba labeling systems, the company is now in a position to meet the legal requirements and to present its own brands Nowaco and Gurmet as well as the private labels of the retail chains in an attractive manner.



SOLUTION

Suitable weighing and labeling systems for all products

Bizerba weighing and labeling systems are in use at nine lines at five Bidfood production sites. The solutions are integrated into Bidfood's central product database. The product database talks to the Bizerba database.

Automated end-of-line labeling

„These labeling systems are now the core of our automated lines. „They're the last step before the goods are put in the cartons,“ says Operations Manager Jan Kanina. „We changed the process for minced meat too,“ he says.

Precisely portioned minced meat

The minced meat line aimed to prevent incorrectly weighted packaging from leaving the plants. Secondly, to prevent incorrect weights from being packaged unnecessarily. Bizerba checkweighers and software for controlling the filling system have saved Bidfood a lot of packaging material. This has saved money and is good for the environment. Additional benefits: The entire process is automatic and hygienic.



**Future-proof thanks to extra capacity**

Bidfood produces 175 tons of fish and meat per month on Bizerba machines. The company has bigger plans. Plant manager Kanina said, „The packaging systems can process up to 30 ppm of fish today.“ The Bizerba systems aren't working at full capacity. This extra capacity will let us meet future demand. „We just need to change the upstream processes.“

Larger orders, freshest quality

Jan Kanina is happy with the results of the automation. „Automation lets us produce large orders quickly. „This creates new opportunities in catering, canteens and retail.“ The faster throughput helps maintain product freshness. He appreciates Bizerba's proximity, reliable service, excellent technicians, and open communication. This communication was important to him, especially with Aleš Voit from Bizerba Sales.

Let's count.

500 tonnes

Meat per month

20 tonnes

Fish per month

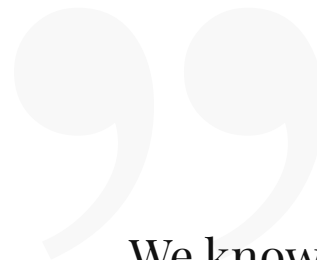
2015

first Bizerba solution installed

„Today, the Bizerba labeling systems are at the heart of our automated lines. They enable us to produce even large orders in the shortest possible time. This opens up completely new opportunities for us in the retail sector.“

Jan Kanina

Head of Operations and Technology, Bidfood



„We know Bidfood’s processes, requirements, and challenges well because we’ve worked with them for a long time. We find solutions quickly that help Bidfood move forward.“

Aleš Voit

Sales, Bizerba Czech Republic

COMPONENTS

The Bidfood solution

Industrial weighing & Labeling

1 Weigh price labeling system GLM-I 70
7 Price and goods labeling system GLM-Ievo 100
1 Weigh price labeling system GLM-Emaxx 50

Inspecting

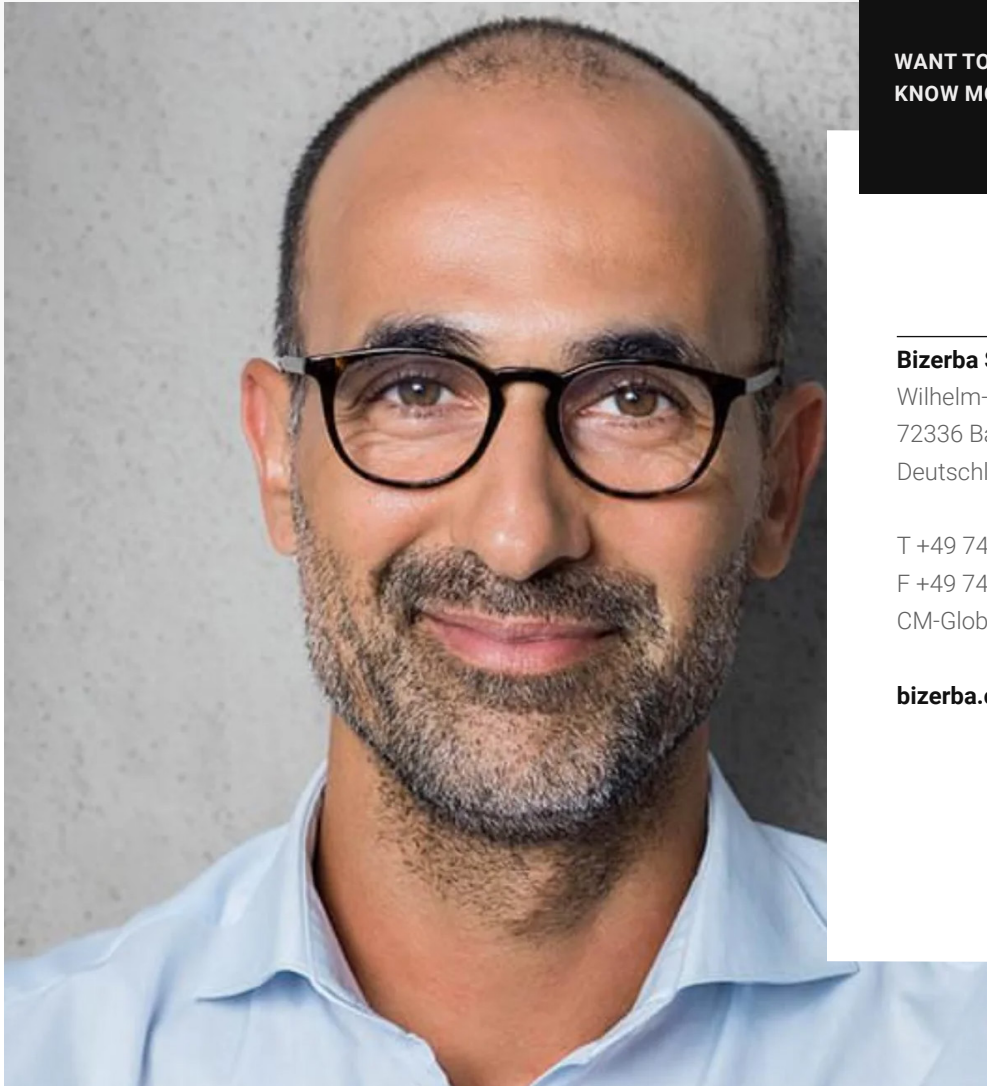
1 Dynamic checkweigher CWPmaxx

Software

Industrial software BRAIN2
Industrial software BRAIN2 Data_Maintenance
Industrial software BRAIN2 Label_Designer
BRAIN2 Portion_Control

Service

Installation, integration and commissioning by Bizerba
Maintenance and repair by specially trained remote experts
Training from basics to specialized knowledge
Life cycle contract



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