



Coinciding with the anniversary of a management buy out ten years ago, Simmers of Edinburgh Ltd invested in a factory extension to support a new manufacturing line dedicated to its traditional Nairn's Oat Cake range. Sigpack Systems AG was the partner of choice for Simmers, providing a line that was able to delicately handle and package these easily broken products.

#### Delicate handling

The fragile, delicate oatcakes make high demands on a system when they need to be transferred from the oven exit into

an airtight, pillow pack wrap style. The oatcakes are packaged in individual piles before being safely delivered to secondary packaging. This function has to be carefully controlled to eliminate any damage and breakage of the products.

#### Product flow

The oatcakes arrive 16 across the oven band, are gently reduced on a 2 : 1 reduction system and presented to two downstream packaging machinery legs, each having four lanes. The oatcakes are gently stacked into a vibratory system, which provides a small amount of ac-

cumulation for downstream machine stoppages and additionally provides individual pressure control on the stacked columns of biscuits to ensure no damage to the product. The product then enters the **ZZP4** magazine feeders, which sit next to the infeed chain of the **HBM** pillow pack wrappers. The products have to be carefully stripped from a vertical stack by means of a flexible programmable counting system, complete with intelligent lane balancing. The column is additionally gently braked and held during the stripping operation, with a smart **ZZP** base plate mechanism

2 : 1 reduction on dribble board



Gavin Love, Technical Director of Simmers: "In Sigpack Systems we see a company who are proud of their equipment and its performance, this is reflected in the build and quality of our machinery on site."



# Delicious Oatcakes

Whether as a snack food for lunch, or as an evening nibble with some cheese and a glass of wine, Simmers' traditional oat cakes are exported all over the world, from its manufacturing facility based at its home in Edinburgh, Scotland.

which releases pressure on the individual biscuit during the stripping and pushing operation of stack building in the wrapper chain. The **HBM** pillow pack wrapper groups each individual stack in the chain and consistently provides airtight packaging, which is vital as these products are susceptible to moisture during transit to the consumer.

## Flexibility and changeover

The system is also very flexible and formats are easily changed by means of the touchscreen when changing between biscuit counts, with no change parts

required. Simmers Managing Director, Mark Laing, said, „Here at Simmers, we ensure that the quality of our products are second to none and this is reflected in our capital purchase plans. We always ensure that we purchase equipment from reputable suppliers, who we know fully support our business ethics. In Sigpack Systems, we see a company that is proud of its equipment and its performance and this is reflected in the build and quality of our machinery on site“.

## Local market support

A key factor when selecting capital

equipment from overseas suppliers is their presence in the local market. The UK boasts the largest installed base of equipment in the world, within this industry sector, and is a traditional home for Bosch Sigpack Systems Packaging Machinery. From its base in Derby, all Bosch Packaging Machinery is supported for new machinery sales and service.

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ZPP hopper and HBM flow wrapper

