

The largest anywhere in Switzerland: Utz commissions KraussMaffei MX 4000

- MX 4000-75000 for stack and multi-cavity molds
- Products up to 50 kilograms in weight
- Recycling: APCplus creates more leeway for material purchasing
- Delivering the heavyweight on 22 trucks

(Munich, 2023-03-27). Containers for today's logistics have to be stackable, feature IML barcodes, integrated RFIDs and, of course, the logo of the company that owns them. Switzerland's Georg Utz AG has specialized in this application, and for this reason it has commissioned the country's largest injection molding machine, a KraussMaffei MX 4000-75000. At eight locations on three continents, Utz produces high-quality products for in-house and external logistics.

Big move: The heavyweight machinery traveled on a total of 22 trucks from Munich to Bremgarten (about 15 kilometers west of Zurich): one for the machine bed, each platen, one per two tiebars and one each for many other components. After 12 weeks of set-up, the MX 4000 went online on the requested target date and replaced an older machine with a clamping force of 27,000 kN that was energy-inefficient, offered limited technical options, had only a simple linear robot and had insufficient energy efficiency.

Cycle time-optimized automation with large working radius

The new model features a sophisticated two-story automation system that implements the subsequent process steps such as the application of RFIDs, IML barcodes and logos plus post-processing and quality assurance within the cycle time. The two KraussMaffei LRX robots right at the machine have twelve-meter-long Z-axes and thus a particularly large working radius.

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Utz will take advantage of the ability provided by the MX 4000 to use stack and multi-cavity molds and thus increase production volume. The globally active family-owned company runs three shifts at its plant on the new MX 4000, producing approximately 20 different products with weights of up to 50 kilograms, including pallets, boxes and PALOXEs. The material is usually a polyolefin such as PP or HDPE, but ABS or technical plastics are also sometimes used.

Increasing use of recycled material

The percentage of recycled material is currently 35 percent and Utz operates its own recycling sites for this purpose, for example a mill in Switzerland with a throughput of 1.2 tons per hour. Plans call for the percentage of recycled material to increase to 80 percent as part of the Utz Group's global climate strategy. This is where one function of KraussMaffei machines plays a special role: APCplus. Based on the melt viscosity, APCplus controls the changeover point and the holding pressure level and thus ensures parts with extremely consistent weight. This balances out batch fluctuations that result from different raw materials and percentages of recycled material. Andreas Schlegel (Head of Operations / Managing Director at Georg Utz AG) the important factor is that this opens up a wider gateway for material purchasing. In the case of regrind, for example, it is also possible to buy different quality grades or polyolefin blends that are more readily available. APCplus has been being used on the smaller machines for two years, and in this time, scrap has decreased significantly.

Digital research project

Utz is currently using another of KraussMaffei's digital products to develop a predictive quality solution in collaboration with the Institute for Materials Technology and Plastics Processing (IWK) of the Eastern Switzerland University of Applied Sciences. The DataXplorer can save up to 500 signals per second from the machine and other sensors and display them as curves. The goal now is to determine how many of these are needed in order to predict good components reliably.

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As a global player, Utz has over 1350 employees and state-of-the-art production locations in Germany, England, France, Poland, China, the USA and Mexico. The company is headquartered in Switzerland. The group operates a total of 50 injection molding machines from KraussMaffei, 22 of which are running in Switzerland at clamping forces starting at 800 kN. With an export share of around 40 percent, Utz Switzerland delivers its products primarily to Italy, Austria, Eastern Europe, the Scandinavian countries and Oceania.

01_PM_2023_04_Utz MX 4000.jpg

National record: with a clamping force of 40,000 kN, the KraussMaffei MX 4000-75000 is Switzerland's largest injection molding machine

02_PM_2023_04_Utz MX 4000 Team.jpg

Holding mutual trust and collaboration in high esteem (from left to right): Andreas Schlegel (Head of Operations at Georg Utz AG, Member of the Management Board), Bruno Schleiß (Managing Director at Krauss-Maffei (Schweiz) AG), Marcel Meier (Head of Production Technology Georg Utz AG) and Markus Eggimann (Head of Production, Georg Utz AG)

03_PM_2023_04_Utz MX 4000 Bauteile.jpg

Loaded with extras: Today's pallets, boxes and PALOXEs manufactured on the MX 4000 have to do more than hold goods. They are moved by storage robots and feature IML barcodes, integrated RFIDs and, of course, the logo of the company that owns them

Photos: KraussMaffei

Enclosure: Pictures and more information can be found at

www.kraussmaffei.com

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KraussMaffei – Pioneering Plastics

KraussMaffei is among the world's leading manufacturers of machinery and systems for the production and processing of plastics and rubber. Our brand stands for cutting-edge technologies – for more than 180 years. Our range of services covers all areas of injection molding machinery, extrusion technology and reaction process machinery. In 2022 we added additive manufacturing to our portfolio. This broad range of technologies gives KraussMaffei a unique selling point in the industry. With the high innovative power of our standardized and individual product, process, digital and service solutions, we can guarantee customers sustained additional value over the entire value-adding chain. Our range of products and services allow us to serve customers in many sectors including the automotive, packaging, medical and construction industries, as well as manufacturers of electrical and electronic products and household appliances. KraussMaffei employs around 4.700 people all over the world. With more than 30 subsidiaries and over 10 production plants, as well as about 570 commercial and service partners, we are represented internationally close to our customers. Since its foundation in 1838, the company's headquarters have been in Munich.

In April 2016, China National Chemical Corporation Ltd. ("ChemChina") became the majority shareholder of KraussMaffei Group. In December 2018, ChemChina listed the KraussMaffei Group as KraussMaffei Company Limited in Shanghai. The listing opened up access to the Chinese capital market and local investors. Now ChemChina is part of Sinochem Holdings Corporation Ltd., one of the world's leading chemical conglomerates with over 220,000 employees.

For more information: www.kraussmaffei.com

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