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New packing line at HB Grandi boosts productivity

Leading Icelandic seafood processor HB Grandi has installed a new fresh fish packing line from Valka based on the RapidWeigher, the first fully automatic multi-head weigher for fresh food products.

The processing line consists of a range of equipment that ensures particularly gentle product handling, optimum efficiency and increased precision throughout the process. All equipment is controlled by the user friendly Valka ProductionServer ensuring exceptional reliability.

HB Grandi is a key Valka develop-

ment partner for our new software and equipment. As we congratulate HB Grandi with the new system, we would also like to thank their employees for their exceptionally positive input and key role in making the new line the success that it has become.

**Visit our webpage
www.valka.is
for more info,
video downloads
and brochures**



Brussel 2007

Valka will be premiering the company's new RapidAligner packing machine at the Seafood Processing Europe exhibition in Brussels, from April 24th – 26th.

Also on show will be some of the company's new cutting-edge system solutions, so to ensure you don't miss out, make sure to visit us at Stand 5427-3 in Hall 4.

Valka RapidAligner in trials at Nýfiskur



Valka has completed initial testing of the RapidAligner in co-operation with Nýfiskur and Reykjavík University, at the Nýfiskur processing plant in Sandgerdi, Iceland. The project is financially supported by the AVS R&D fund of the Ministry of Fisheries in Iceland and the Rannís Technical Development Fund.

This co-operation with Reykjavík University and Nýfiskur has been of great benefit for the project, and we would especially like to thank Dr. Yngvi Björnsson from RU for his great efforts in developing a series of new batching algorithms. Valka would also like to thank the employees at Nýfiskur for their superb sup-

port during the trials, and particularly for their invaluable input on how the equipment can be improved.

The Valka RapidAligner is the next generation of grading and batching equipment for fresh fish products.

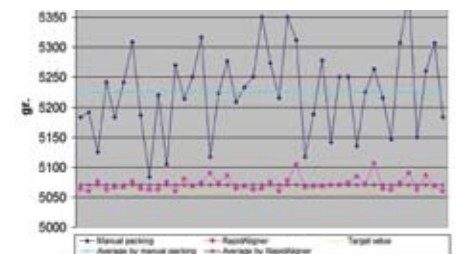
Handling anything from whole fillets – including large salmon fillets – to small portions, the RapidAligner begins by accurately weighing each piece on a scale. From there, the pieces are automatically carried to a point above the box for which they are intended, and gently released into the next vacant spot in the box.

The box or tray is placed on a conveyor, and the movement of the push-off mechanism and the motion

of the conveyor enable the system to align the pieces into any pre-determined configuration.

As a result, the product is automatically aligned according to size and shape into the box, which is now ready to be closed without the need for any manual labour. Having aligned the desired quantity of products into boxes, the machine then automatically transfers it to a check scale and from there to a label printer followed by palletizing facilities.

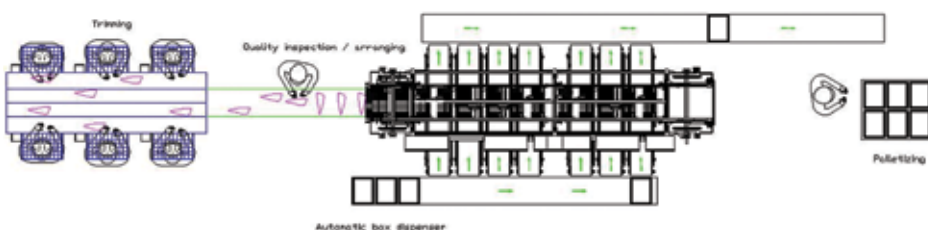
The Valka RapidAligner has been thoroughly tested for the last two months and has met all requirements. The following graph shows the difference in accuracy between



Accuracy when packing by hand and using the RapidAligner

typical batching by hand and when using the RapidAligner. In this case, give-away is reduced from 3.3% to 0.2%.

The first part of this project is now complete, and the next step is to build a machine with more gates which can batch multiple grades simultaneously.



The Valka RapidAligner makes packing fully automatic



Gunnar Bragi Guðmundsson
Director
Nýfiskur ehf

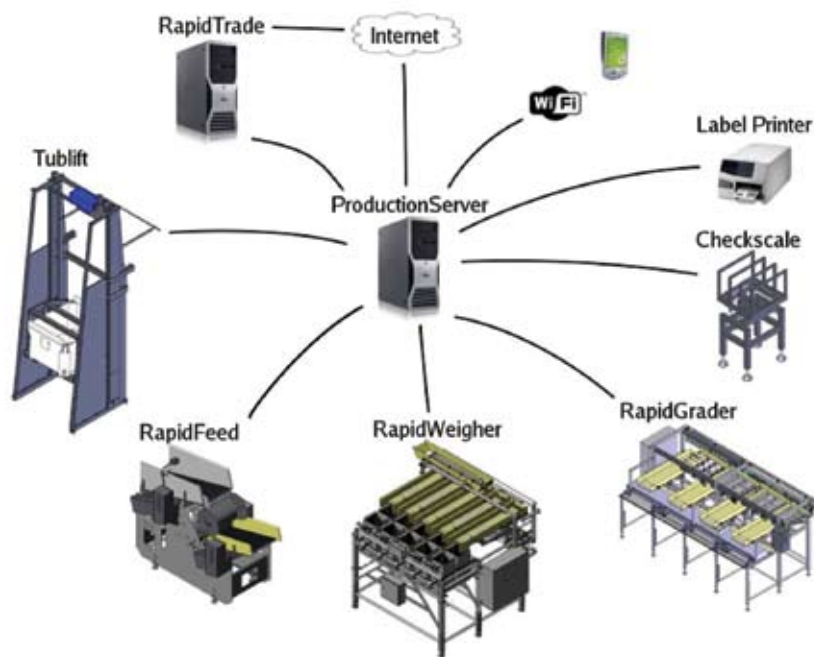
„We at Nýfiskur ehf. have had the privilege of participating in the development and testing of the new Valka RapidAligner packing machine. This machine revolutionises the packing of fresh fish products, where product handling and batching accuracy are the key elements of success. The machine has many benefits but the most significant are:

- Excellent accuracy, with give-away as low as 0.2%
- Product is placed very gently into each box –the process resembles a parent placing an infant in a cradle.
- Multiple products can be packed simultaneously
- Automatic management, as orders are transferred fully automatically from the sales department to the packing machine
- An ergonomically designed working environment and user-friendly interface

We at Nýfiskur ehf. are honoured to be the first company in the world to acquire fresh fish grader and batcher from Valka ehf.

We wish Valka all the best in the future and are certain that the company's future customers will not be disappointed by Valka's high-quality products and excellent service"

Complete solution in data handling



A schematic diagram of the Valka ProductionServer

Valka has developed a unique data handling system by which all communications between customer and producer are automatically conducted over the internet, using Valka RapidTrade trading software and the company's ProductionServer concept.

The utilisation of these two systems has resulted in major savings for seafood processors. Much of the work involved in data collection and registration is eliminated, along with the potential risk of misunderstandings and misinformation between customer and producer.

Covering every transaction from product bidding to billing, Valka RapidTrade enables buyers and sellers to access all order information at any time they wish.

The solution provides sales and production managers with a much better overview of orders and their current status. Covering every change made to orders by customer or producer, the system's unique powerful change history feature gives processors instant access to all the information required to respond to last-minute order changes.

Once accepted, an order becomes pending. The production team is automatically informed, and all information is immediately transferred to the ProductionServer.

The ProductionServer then transfers data to the production equipment where the particular order item is to be produced, and automatically collates reports during production which are fed back to the RapidTrade system.

RapidTrade – Online fish trading for maximum automation

Nýfiskur, a leading fresh fish supplier in Sandgerdi, Iceland, has installed the RapidTrade software from Valka ehf. RapidTrade greatly simplifies communications between Nýfiskur and its customers, who now place their orders on-line. RapidTrade can be used as a stand-alone solution, or linked to packing equipment. Both fish producers and their customers are very pleased with the benefits and the ease of use that RapidTrade has to offer.

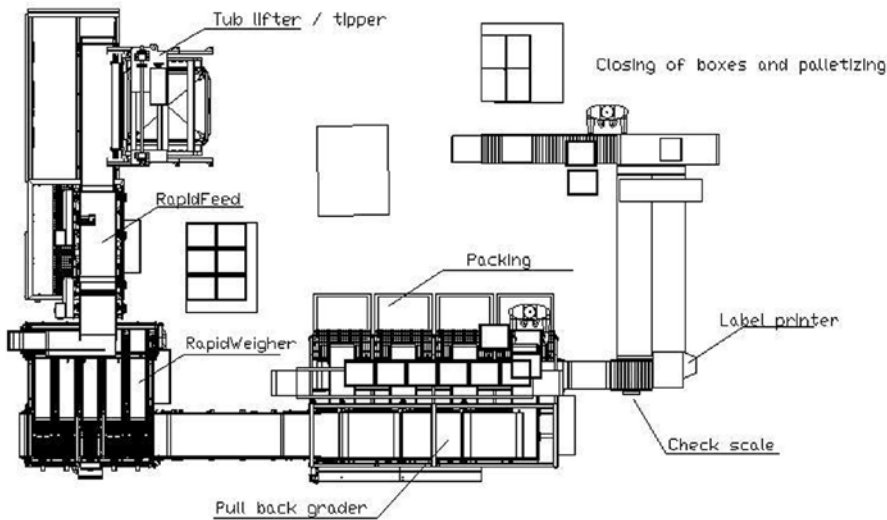
Christa Valenzuela of Iceland Seafood GmbH has now been using the system for almost a year.

“I like the *RapidTrade* system because it is very simple to work with and highly user friendly. I’m delighted to get information that I did not get before, such as the progress of packing at any given time. This is much better than sending an e-mail as e-mails can be misunderstood. There is no risk of misunderstanding



when using *RapidTrade*, and it saves me time by providing me with accurate information about my shipments at all times.”

Valka offers system solution with new level of automation and ease of use



The processing line shown here consists of a range of equipment that ensures particularly gentle product handling, optimum efficiency and a high level of precision throughout production. The process begins with a new Tub lift developed by Valka, where the primary focus is on safety and reliability, followed by the proven RapidFeed infeed control and dis-

person machine. Working together, these two machines ensure that the Valka RapidWeigher automatically receives the fresh fish from the tub at a high constant flow rate.

With absolute minimum give-away, the fixed-weight batches are fed from the RapidWeigher to a new Valka packing line, followed by an



Valka grows and relocates

The growth in the number of employees at Valka over the past few months has resulted in a relocation of the company to spacious new premises at Akralind 1, Kopavogur. As well as some spectacular views of Iceland’s capital area and the surrounding mountains, the building also offers some excellent new R & D and test facilities.

automatic check-weigher and label printer.

All this equipment is controlled by the Valka ProductionServer with its user-friendly browser interface and proven record of reliability and efficiency.