

Our customers in focus: Frostab



PHOTO: FROSTAB

Sales manager Anders Vestin is one of the new generation in the Frostab family business in Arvidsjaur, which supplies hand-picked berries for the food and pharmaceuticals industries in Sweden and throughout Europe.

Speed is important when Frostab's berries are packed

Frostab supplies cleaned, high quality berries for the food industry in Sweden and Europe. The last piece of the puzzle in the automated production flow is Vebe's bag filler.

Located in Arvidsjaur in the north of Sweden, the Frostab family business has been supplying hand-picked berries to customers in Sweden and Europe since the 1980s. Every year it packs around 2,000 tonnes of frozen blueberries, lingonberries and cranberries, which are sold on to the food and pharmaceuticals industries.

"The berries in the northern parts of Sweden maintain high quality both in taste and nutrition", reports Frostab's sales manager Anders Vestin, who is one of the new generation in the family business.

"The high contents of antioxidants mean that our berries are also sought after as ingredients in pharmaceutical products. However, the majority are sold on to the Swedish food industry", he reports.

Important to have a rapid flow

Frostab's facility cleans around two tonnes of berries an hour. The production flow consists of a number of cleaning and sorting stations which use different technologies to detect and separate out undesirable objects among the berries such as stones and twigs, before they are packed in bags. The process must be performed quickly, as there must be no risk of the frozen berries thawing.

At the end of the chain is Skrupvac, Vebe's fully automatic valve bag filler with bag placer and palletizer, which puts the berries into 25 kilo bags.

The collaboration with Vebe Teknik goes a long way back. The family business purchased one of Vebe's bag fillers as long ago as the 1990s, and Anders Vestin describes the machines as reliable and effective.

"The bag filler also has a higher capacity than we supply, so the opportunity to increase production in the future is already in place," he explains.

"The major gain with automation is the work environment. Packing and sorting were previously performed by hand. It was hard. Today we have one person who monitors the entire production flow". ■



Dan Borg, spare parts manager at Vebe Teknik, on site in the company's warehouse.

Cheaper spare parts via Vebe's website

It is now possible to order spare parts directly via Vebe Teknik's website. Moreover, if you process the order entirely yourself, you receive a five per cent discount on the price of the part.

Vebe Teknik is currently implementing an initiative to streamline the handling of spare parts. Vebe Teknik's website enables customers to use a form to place orders for parts.

"The idea is that it should be faster and simpler to order spare parts", reports Dan Borg, spare parts manager at Vebe Teknik.

He emphasises, however, that it is important that the customer itself looks up and enters information such as item number, quantity and customer number when ordering.

"It is very easy to find out the spare part's item number. When you have identified which part is faulty, check it on the drawing and read off the item number that is stated there. Simple!"

It is hoped that the method will reduce the risk of misunderstanding that can arise when, for example, customers choose to place orders over the phone.

The new function is ready for use. As a customer you will find the form on Vebe Teknik's website www.vebe.se by clicking on the "Service" tab and then "Order spare parts" in the left hand column. ■



PHOTO: ERIK DANIELSSON

All Autopac bag fillers have Vebe's technology for suspended bag transport, which delivers major benefits, above all within hygiene. Here is Philip Lundell fine tuning an Autopac 5.46 for delivery.

TECHNOLOGY IN FOCUS

Unique bag handling delivers numerous benefits

Vebe's top-oriented operating system for bags delivers major gains for customers in relation to hygiene, accuracy and reliability.

"As far as we know, we are alone in the industry in being able to offer this", Vebe's sales representative Joel Tapper reports.

Ten years ago, Vebe Teknik decided to remove belt conveyors inside its bag filler and instead develop a technology that handles the bags suspended throughout the filling and sealing process. The technology is unique and delivers

maximum control throughout the bag filler.

"But the greatest gain is hygiene. It makes it considerably simpler to clean the machine and the bottom of the bag does not risk becoming dusty, as is the case when the bags are transported on belt conveyors. Furthermore, the length of the bag is no longer of significance", says Joel Tapper at Vebe Teknik.

"Vebe Teknik's ambition is to be positioned at the cutting edge of technological developments. We believe that the suspended bag technology will be a future standard for hygienic bag fillers". ■

New environmental initiatives

During the first quarter of 2019 Vebe Teknik has made several major investments to reduce its ecological footprint.

The heating system in the head office and in the factory has been completely replaced. The former oil-based heating has now been replaced with energy-efficient geothermal heating. The change entails Vebe Teknik reducing its emissions by 142 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year.

The lighting at the company has also been modernised. In total hundreds of mercury vapour lamps have been replaced with new LED technology – resulting in further emissions reductions of ten tonnes of carbon dioxide per year. The invest-

ment in new lighting in the company's premises has furthermore led to an appreciably better work environment for the employees.

"We are noticing a difference in well-being in both the office and the workshop. It is quite simply lighter and more pleasant to be here", says Vebe Teknik's CEO Stefan Andersson.

The third environmental investment is a new ventilating plant which recovers heat and cooling. This will deliver energy savings all year round.

"Our objective was to substantially reduce the company's environmental impact, it is a bonus that it has also produced an improved work environment", says CEO Stefan Andersson. ■

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Magomed is a new service technician at Vebe.

Our new addition to the service department

Vebe Teknik has been reinforced. Magomed Matsiev, aged 30, is a newly employed technician at Vebe's service department and will help customers both in Sweden and abroad.

"I would describe myself as a person who is very interested in technology. I enjoy technology and mechanics. I particularly like cars, especially fast European models", says Magomed, who has a solid background as a welder as well as experience of working with a range of special designs.

Magomed started at Vebe Teknik in late 2018. ■

