

Kepak chooses eSmart Warehouse for full traceability



Kepak Group is one of Europe's leading food innovators, offering a wide range of meat products for retail and food service under the Rustlers, Feasters and Speedy Snacks brands. The Group has three strategic business units - meats, convenience foods and frozen, manufacturing facilities located throughout the UK and Ireland, with many overseas sales operations. Kepak's financial success comes as a result of its ongoing focus on food safety and quality, supported by long term process investment.

Business Issue

Kepak's business is expanding rapidly and the Group needs to maintain the highest levels of quality, variety and value, whilst at the same time improving supply chain efficiency. Growing consumer demand means significantly higher manufacturing volumes and requires the company to track an ever-increasing level of raw materials around the factory and then onwards through the supply chain. Legacy systems made it challenging for Kepak to track raw goods throughout the warehouse, which in turn created difficulties when planning production or trying to rotate stock efficiently.

"Having worked with BEC previously we knew they were ideal people to work with us on the systems upgrade. As well as being experts in integrating its solutions into M3 ERP systems, the team is very experienced, with specialist data capture knowledge. Our past experiences gave us every confidence that they could supply a revised solution to satisfy our investment criteria," says Neil Richmond, IT Manager at Kepak.

The Solution

Kepak needed more advanced data capture systems to improve its traceability levels and give customers greater reassurance about product quality and provenance. Achieving this goal would mean Kepak upgrading its legacy M3 ERP warehousing software solution.

After evaluating exactly what Kepak needed from their new solution, BEC deployed its eSmart Warehouse software. This was installed onto rugged mobile devices and scanners and seamlessly integrated with the Group's upgraded M3 ERP system, to provide real-time information.



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Neil Richmond

IT Manager at Kepak

Using eSmart Warehouse, all of Kepak’s warehouse operations have been automated, helping to increase productivity, maximise throughput and streamline business processes. Warehouse operatives can now capture product data very efficiently from their mobile devices, either when at close range or from a distance, which means scanning can take place directly at the point of contact or from a forklift truck.

The Results

The project has been a huge success and now with renewed real-time visibility of stock and traceability, Kepak can locate and track raw materials from receipt through to production and beyond. Production lines are fed using lot numbers, so the oldest products are always utilised first and lines are supplied with the correct components, ingredients and packaging.

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After implementing the upgraded and improved ERP solution, Kepak has also received positive feedback from the system users who reported that the new software is intuitive to use.

“As far as BEC is concerned, we could not have asked for more. They have always been efficient and quick to respond and they invested time from the outset to ensure they fully understood what we needed from our new solution. The project has been a resounding success so far, and we look forward to the possibility of working with BEC again in the future,” adds Neil Richmond.

In summary: BEC’s Added Value

- ▶ Upgraded M3 ERP solution for improved functionality
- ▶ Completed seamless integration with eSmart Warehouse
- ▶ Conducted full supply chain process review
- ▶ Smooth project implementation and positive user experience.

