

# New robot avocado line adds automation to avocado processing

The growing popularity of avocados and the resulting increase in the quantities of avocados harvested and processed are currently posing new challenges for the food industry. Kronen GmbH reacted to this new trend by developing an innovative Robot Avocado solution, which has now completed a successful test phase at a customer facility in the Netherlands.



Over a period of several weeks, the company Lazy Foods, a manufacturer of guacamole and avocado spreads based in the Netherlands, used the Robot Avocado Line to pit and peel avocados under real production conditions. Kronen's new solution for the automated processing of the sensitive fruit was presented for the first time at this year's Fruit Logistica and Anuga FoodTec exhibitions.

## **Patented tools for gentle processing**

The Robot Avocado Line stands out by using Kronen's patented tools and methods for halving, pitting and peeling avocados in combination with a robot suitable for food processing from the manufacturer Stäubli. The tools and processes are specially adapted to cater to the special requirements of avocados and thus achieve a very high yield when peeling the fruit. The line can process up to 400 avocados per hour with one robot, but its productivity can also be increased to up to 1,000 avocados per hour by using two to three robots. According to user data, the line pays for itself within just over a year.

## KRONEN Robot Avocado Line for automatic halving...



### **Automation as the key to efficiency**

During the test phase under real production conditions at Lazy Foods, a company specializing in the production of high-quality avocado spreads containing no additives, a number of small optimizations have already been made to the robot line directly on site. The suction grabber, for example, has been adjusted to hold smaller fruits or fruits with very uneven skin in cooperation with the German Institute of Food Technology (DIL), which was already involved in the development of the gripping technology within the scope of a research project. The team at Lazy Foods was extremely pleased with the line's processing results with ready-to-eat avocados. To tackle the challenges faced in the case of less ripe, harder fruits, the Kronen team worked together with Lazy Foods to further develop the processing solution.

The Lazy Foods team initially assigned six to 10 employees to handle the semi-automatic avocado processing with the current Kronen Convenience Avocado Line. However, the manual peeling process led to joint pain in some employees, and the increasing staff costs and difficult search for employees triggered the search for a solution with the highest possible degree of automation.



### **A successful practical test in an industrial setting**

The robotic solution helps to improve the efficiency of avocado processing and combat the challenges of the staff shortage and higher staff costs. Lazy Foods therefore provided very positive feedback on the overall concept of the line.



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