

BEIJER ELECTRONICS RECEIVES A WARM WELCOME FROM THE FROZEN FOODS INDUSTRY.



A subsidiary of the U.K. based investment company Capvest, Findus is a leading international provider of frozen food, active in both production and retail segments. Since its beginning, the company has been at the forefront, producing innovative frozen food products while involved in the growing, producing and marketing sides of the business. So as a major supplier of frozen food products to many well-known supermarket chains, Findus needs reliable and robust HMI solutions to manage its production processes and the support to make sure things run smoothly.

SITUATION : Findus needed reliable and user-friendly operator panels for the control and monitoring of production processes the plant in Bjuv, Sweden. The panels would have to be easy to use regardless of the operator's level of expertise and backed up by quick and easy support.

SOLUTION : The company utilized Beijer Electronics' EXTER series of HMI solutions at the plant.

RESULT : Findus found that EXTER's intuitive HMI provided the necessary process management and visualization they needed. With Beijer Electronics providing the essential support Findus expected from a HMI supplier, the Bjuv plant now uses the company's operator panels as part of its standard operating system.



Findus utilizes a number of operator panels from Beijer Electronics' EXTER series at the plant in Bjuv, Sweden for the monitoring and control of production processes..



Project manager Leif Hellgren endorses Beijer Electronics' EXTER series, commenting "User-friendly HMI combined with first-class support makes a team that fits in well with the one here at Findus."

A prime foodstuffs supplier with major needs

With just short of 1000 employees, half of whom are directly involved in the production process, reliable HMI solutions are a must at Findus, Bjuv. A major producer of frozen foods, concerned primarily with the production of prepared meals for major supermarkets and international chain stores such as IKEA, Findus Bjuv needs be able to rely on fast, efficient and reliable production processes. The company has to be 100% on the ball with production and delivery, 100% of the time. In order to control and monitor the vital production processes, Findus utilizes different generations of Beijer Electronics' panels, employing approximately 20 panels, with keypad models like the EX-

TER K60 and touch screen models such as the EXTER T70 and EXTER T100. The panels are used to deliver a diverse range of functions needed by the operators who facilitate the production process, from alarm functions and alarm logging to recipe processing and menu choices.

Experience makes a satisfied customer

Findus has been utilizing Beijer Electronics' operator panels for some time now, explains Leif Hellgren, a project manager at the Bjuv plant. "We looked at competitors to Beijer Electronics, but the company's products and support persuaded us to stick mainly to one supplier for our HMI needs" he explained. Leif added that the EXTER panels

“We have solutions from other companies that we use in concert with different generations of Beijer Electronics HMI, and we find they work well together”

Leif Hellgren, Findus.



Findus is a leading provider of prepared meals in the frozen food category, offering a complete range of frozen food products from vegetables, vegetable mixes and prepared meals to recipe dishes, fish and seafood.

are used for process monitoring as well as for starting and stopping production. “The panels really help to organize our operations” adding “We’re very happy with the Beijer Electronics panels, they’re easy to use and we certainly have no cause to change to another supplier. These panels are no more expensive than the competitors and they function excellently for us.” According to Leif, Findus had been utilizing Hitachi and Siemens solutions back in the 1980s. But with the construction of the company’s Helsingborg plant, Findus had utilized Beijer Electronics HMI solutions from the word go. After having used the panels, the people at Findus decided to install more Beijer Electronics solutions. They found the functionality and flexibility in applications

to be valuable assets for process control and monitoring. Today, Beijer Electronics’ panels are the standard at the Bjuv plant.

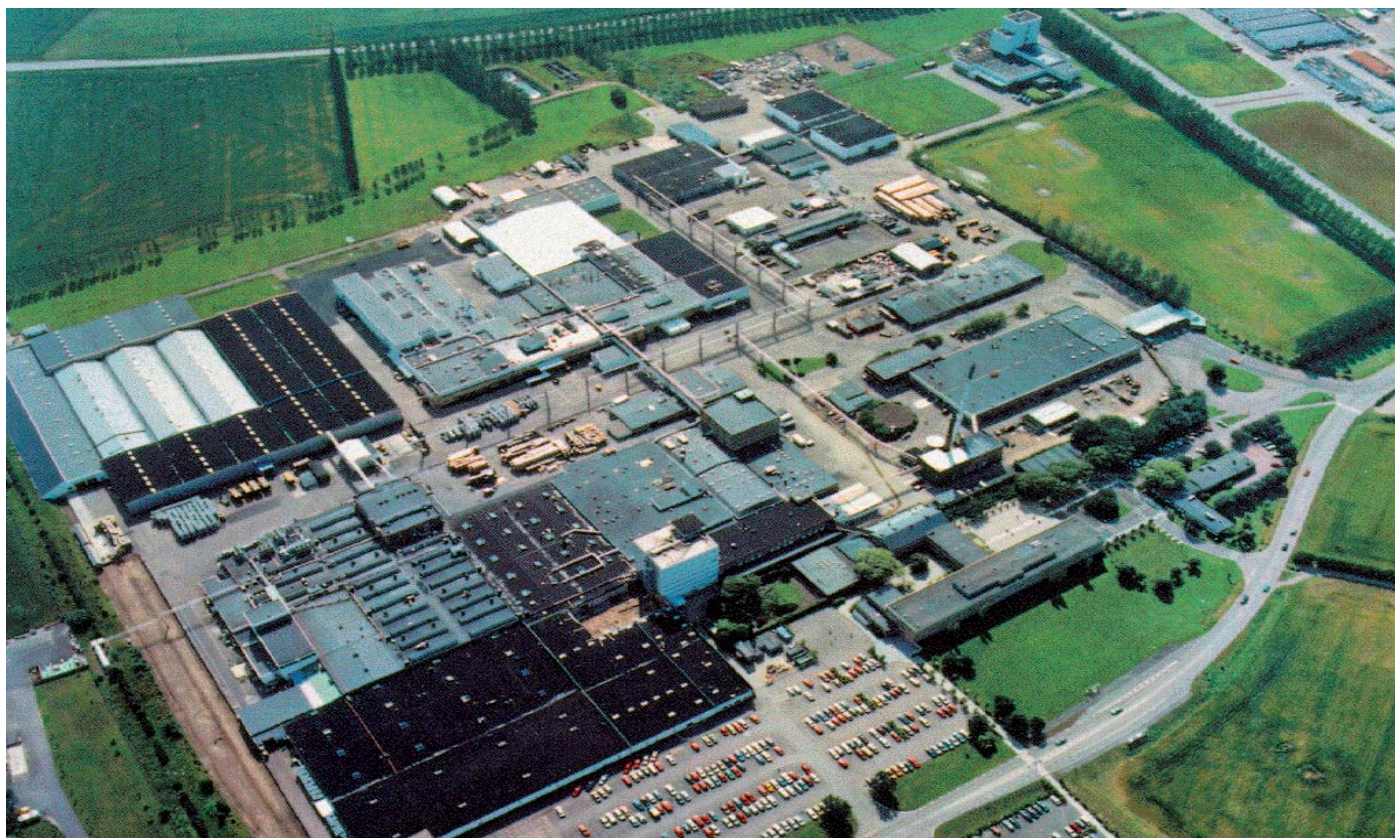
Delivering direct solutions for direct needs

Simplicity and dependability are the keys according to Leif, reporting that Beijer Electronics operator panels proved to be easy to use, lending themselves to the specific needs of the operators. He clarified that the operators at Findus were impressed with the uncomplicated and flexible software too. They found that the configuration software offered easy-to-learn usability, making it simple to create logical, user-friendly applications to enable flexible and efficient interfaces between

systems, machines and operators. Seeking straightforward solutions that they could use on a daily basis, the panels more than satisfy the operators’ demands for accessible and user-friendly HMI. “I’m not familiar with every single one of the panels’ functions myself” admits Leif, “I’m only familiar with 25% of the functions. But I know what I want, and I know that Beijer Electronics’ panels are accessible and flexible and that they deliver what I need.”

Working as a team for successful production

Beijer Electronics solutions offer compatibility with all major brands of automation, something that Findus’s Leif Hellgren knows the value of. “We have solutions



Findus factory site in Bjuv.

from other companies such as Hitachi and Siemens that we use with different generations of Beijer Electronics HMI, and we find they generally work very well together,” says Leif, explaining that he is particularly impressed with the service and back-up from Beijer Electronics. He illustrates that utilizing an Internet module in the PC, Findus had been experiencing that the panels were having trouble communicating with each other. “We had a module and a switch connected to the panels and an older Beijer Electronics model had trouble communicating with the newer EXTER T70 model” Leif admits. But he

found the support to be a great help, pointing out that he received assistance straight away and in a quick and easy manner. “At Beijer Electronics, they don’t expect you to be a technical genius. You get the help you need in plain, simple language and you get the problem fixed,” concluding “we feel that easily accessible support is absolutely essential and we’re happy to say we’ve received outstanding support from Beijer Electronics.”

Findus Frozen Foods

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ternational frozen food business, operating in the retail and foodservice sectors. The company grows, produces and markets a complete range of frozen food products including vegetables, vegetable mixes, prepared meals, recipe dishes, fish and seafood. Findus has its own operations in all Nordic markets, France, Central and Eastern Europe as well as in Thailand.

For more information please visit:
www.findus.com

Beijer
ELECTRONICS

HMI solutions from Beijer Electronics connect people with the processes they control. Used with simple intuition, they set machines, information and ideas in motion.

Beijer Electronics HMI Products has close relationships with OEMs, brand-label partners and distribution partners worldwide and is part of Beijer Electronics Group, which is active within HMI, industrial data communications and automation with subsidiaries in Scandinavia, the Baltics, Germany, France, UK, USA, Taiwan and China.

HEAD OFFICE

SWEDEN
Beijer Electronics Products AB
Box 426
201 24 Malmö, Sweden
Telephone +46 40 35 86 00
Fax +46 40 93 23 01
info@beijerelectronics.com
www.beijerelectronics.com

SUBSIDIARIES

CHINA
www.beijerelectronics.cn
GERMANY
www.lauer-hmi.com
TAIWAN R.O.C.
www.hitechsite.com
USA
www.beijerelectronics.us