

**“We combined our existing filling unit with a new case erector and bagmaker inserter, which resulted in a flexible automated packaging process.”**

The company Elixir Food is part of the “Elixir group” and is specialised in processing, cooling, freezing and storing fruit and vegetables in fresh or frozen condition. As one of the largest fruit and vegetable processing factories, Elixir Food was looking to improve the flexibility and quality of their packaging process and to double their capacity.



Mr. Dragan Petrovic, General Director at Elixir Food, commented, “We had already invested in a filling station to weighfill frozen sour cherries and now needed to automate our packaging process with a case erector and bagmaker inserter. We selected the Belgian company Pattyn Packing Lines as a potential supplier because of our long-term orientation to improve our packaging process with the latest technology and to automate it to the level where we can run 8 t/h of frozen cherries without big input of manual labor.

Mr. Petrovic concluded:

**“We are very proud that Elixir Food is the first company in the area of ex-Yugoslavia that installed an automated packaging line and are pleased with the services of Pattyn Packing Lines, in which we found a reliable and solid partner.”**

“With the case erector, we now make cases just in time and don’t need storage area for empty cases anymore. The Flexim-21 bagmaker inserter, perfectly inserts the bags into the cases, which is not possible with manual bag insertion.

Between the bagmaker inserter and our



existing filling station, Pattyn provided a flexible conveyor system which can be moved to the consumer filling unit. This offers the flexibility to pack with the same line both deepfrozen sour cherries in 10kg or 14kg polybag lined cases or in consumer bags, which are packed into one case.

Thanks to the upgrade of the existing filling station with a Pattyn Interface system there’s a limited drop level and no product spillage. During the filling process the hopper with up and down mechanism holds the bag firmly in order to guarantee a perfect product filling.”

**“With a relatively small investment we have doubled our capacity and handle now much more products in a shorter period, which is necessary during the harvest season.”**

“In the near future we will upgrade the packaging line with a bag decuffer folder, which decuffs and stretches the bag and automatically folds in the bag.”

