

WESSANEN INVESTS IN MAJOR IN-SOURCING PROJECT

Wessanen, the natural and organic food company that owns Clipper Teas, has invested £1.25 million in new equipment at its tea factory in Dorset as part of its plans to develop an overall Centre of Tea Excellence.



The new production line will produce an additional 100 million tea bags at speeds of 350 tea bags per minute. The investment will enable Wessanen to produce its Dutch tea brand Piramide, a specialist organic tea brand, well known in the health food channel in the Netherlands.

In order to produce the Piramide Range at Beaminster, the factory team needed to source 54 new ingredients and taste over 100 litres of tea to match or improve the recipes. The range of 88 organic teas and infusions will be shipped out to the Netherlands once produced.



The significant in-sourcing project sees Wessanen investing heavily in its own manufacturing capabilities to support the future growth of the business.

The extra capacity and capability that the new production line brings is part of overall expansion plans to develop the tea factory. Earlier this year, the company started a major redevelopment project to consolidate its factory operations to one site.



Daniel Parr, Wessanen UK Project Manager for Piramide Insourcing and Head of Technical and R&D, comments:

“We have an excellent and passionate team at Wessanen UK that has worked tirelessly together with our Piramide friends and colleagues to make this a success. It has been a complex project to improve and integrate such a wide range of excellent quality Organic Teas and Infusions into the Beaminster site and we are very pleased with what we’ve achieved. We will have continuing work to do but seeing the new production line in action is a huge milestone in the project.”

New jobs have been created at the factory as Wessanen continues to be committed to the area where Clipper’s operations have been based since 1984.

Tony Buckton, Wessanen UK Factory Manager, adds:

“This new tea line supports the incredible growth we’re seeing for tea and infusions across Europe. The decision to invest in the Beaminster Factory, here in Dorset, is aligned with Wessanen’s ambition to make the factory their ‘Centre of Tea Excellence’ across all their brands.”

In recognition of the excellence of its manufacturing capabilities, last month Wessanen was awarded a top trophy in the food and drink manufacturing industry’s Oscars – the Food Manufacture Excellence Awards – for its Clipper Teas factory for the second year running.

ABOUT WESSANEN UK

About Wessanen UK – www.wessanenuk.com

Wessanen UK is a natural and organic food company, with pioneering, healthy brands in expanding market segments: **Clipper Teas** produces a wide range of hot drinks including the #1 organic and white tea brands, and the first Fairtrade-accredited tea; **Kallo** makes market-leading, organic rice cakes, as well as other savoury snacks, stocks, gravies and cereals; **Whole Earth**, best known for its peanut butter, manufactures organic spreads, cereals and drinks; **Mrs Crimble’s** makes joyfully, wholesome and deliciously gluten-free macaroons, cakes, biscuits and nibbles, for all to enjoy, and **Almond Breeze**, the increasingly popular, healthy milk alternative.

Wessanen UK employs around 130 people in Camberley and Beaminster. Wessanen UK is CarbonNeutral certified and, either directly or through its subsidiaries, accredited by or a member of a range of industry bodies and associations including; the Fairtrade Foundation; the Soil Association; the UK Tea & Infusions Association, and the Organic Trade Board.



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