

## ***Optimising potato infeed for chip production***

Precia-Molen UK, Redditch, Worcestershire, recently installed an accurate belt weighing system at the Scarborough, North Yorkshire, plant of McCain Foods, famous for its oven-ready chips. An existing under-performing weigher was replaced by a new FX belt weigher, complete with twin load cells mounted on an adjustable frame to maximise weighing accuracy, together with a 1400 controller which could be operated in conjunction with the plant's own process control system.

Information from the new belt weighing system is managed and distributed to McCain's process control room, using the company's on-site communication protocol. This allows the operator to set the desired weight for the required process. The weight of material passing over the potato intake conveyor belt scale is recorded, the data then being passed to the automated controller. This then adjusts the controlled belt speed to maximise potato intake demand and prevent over or under feeding to the process peelers, thereby ensuring the plant always operates at maximum efficiency, in terms of both production and energy consumption. Precia-Molen is internationally recognised as a leading provider of technologies for both static and dynamic weighing. [www.preciamolen.com](http://www.preciamolen.com)



***Precia-Molen FX belt scale measures potato intake at McCain Foods***