

Reference Binst

SPECIAL SEED POTATOES REQUIRE OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE



Request by Binst

Realise a storage cell for seed potatoes that meets the highest requirements.

He is now the fourth Binst generation to run the company. And despite all these years of experience, it remains stressful. “But above all, a great challenge”, says the Belgian Francis Binst. He has growers under contract in Belgium, Luxembourg, France and the Netherlands. “We sell their seed potatoes in 42 countries. You have to find the best market for your growers in a very short time and the highest price possible.”

A good storage cell is essential to maintain product quality for as long as possible.

Last year, Francis Binst replaced his 7,500 square meters storage cell for a smaller cold store that runs on the natural refrigerant CO₂. For this, he turned to EQUANS.

From ammonia to CO₂

“The old storage cell was built by Axima Refrigeration, the Belgian specialist within the EQUANS Group. All those years (more than 40) they also provided maintenance. We cooled mechanically with ammonia, which can be justified with a larger cold store. However, the new cell is much smaller and



therefore CO₂ is a better option, also financially. The long trustful relationship made Binst choose EQUANS again, but this time the implementation was done by the Dutch EQUANS team.

Smaller cell, bigger performance

Switching to a smaller cell is logical for the seed potato grower: fewer and fewer potatoes were stored in one central location and more locally at growers. His new smaller cell is now used as a buffer, for transit and for the storage of products that require exceptional quality attention. He also offers his growers financial compensation for storing their products in their shed at the farm.

Francis Binst,
owner Binst Breeding & Selection:

“We have not had any quality problems with our products at all.”

“It’s cheaper and more environmentally friendly in comparison to central storage with us in Brussels and with all the logistics involved.”

Bringing in knowledge

Within a year after the first pencil mark, the new refrigeration room was up and running. “The installation worked immediately and what did not work was immediately solved by the Project Manager at EQUANS. “The fact that there is lots of knowledge of seed potato growing in the Netherlands certainly helps”, Francis explains. “And the process went very efficiently without too much fuss.” Something Francis is not completely used to from the Dutch, he remarks with a wink.

Outstanding performance

Binst’s cell serves as storage for its growers on special occasions only; therefore the performance must be outstanding. “For instance, we store potatoes with quality issues. These are often more humid and therefore require different storage than potatoes that



are already of good quality. We also store products of higher classes or seed potatoes for markets with extremely high-quality demands and where quality preservation or optimization is therefore essential!”

Strict selection and control

The Binst laboratory is indispensable for quality control and selection of seed potatoes. Here, for example, the samples taken during harvesting are cultivated and examined. Based on, among other things, the formation of germs it is determined whether the seed potatoes are suitable for long-term storage and when they should be delivered.

Optimal storage conditions

“Because of the transshipment of finished goods, our cell is opened and closed all day long. We store products in different packages, which is unique. The new cold store is therefore re-dimensioned and can be set in such a way that storage conditions remain stable and optimal for every product we store. All this is done under the guidance of our ‘master guru’ Willy, our Storage Chief, who has been working for the Binst family for 56 years.”

Significant benefits

Francis is more than happy with the quality of the products that leave his warehouse. “We have not had any quality problems with our products, and also, the financial benefits are considerable. The electricity costs are half as high as they used to be. The installation does its job and generates money”, Francis concludes with satisfaction.



EQUANS’ solution

A refrigeration room with a CO₂ installation that ensures stable and optimal storage conditions.

More information?

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