

# Weighing the WORLD



## Mexico

### 920i® packs tomatoes perfectly

SAN ISIDRO MAZATEPEC, MEXICO — Desert Glory Ltd. is the largest producer of cherry tomatoes in North America. This 400-acre operation controls the entire production starting from seed. They are grown in four-acre greenhouses that are completely enclosed. Rainwater never touches these pampered tomatoes. Desert Glory treats and filters the water and adds fertilizer. The ripe tomatoes are harvested, trucked to the on-site packing plant, washed, graded and immediately packed in mesh bags with the stems still attached to the tomatoes. By leaving the tomatoes attached to their stems, they continue to receive stem nutrients which makes the tomatoes sweeter, but also more difficult to pack efficiently.

At one time, workers packed the tomatoes in mesh bags and placed the bags on a conveyor. At the end of the line, samples of the

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## Germany

### 720i™ and 420 Plus™ DC weigh on-board

OBERHONNEFELD, GERMANY — After eight years of selling and servicing weigh indicators for an American scale company in Germany, Heinz Gerd Schneider, salesman, and Horst Reinhard Pilz, service manager, made the decision to start their own business. They founded S+P Wägetechnik GmbH in 1990, selling and servicing weigh indicators, load cells, printers and remote displays to scale manufacturers and integrators. S+P Wägetechnik GmbH has been a Rice Lake distributor for weighing indicators in Germany since 2002.

Not too long after opening their doors, S+P Wägetechnik GmbH received a call from a customer looking for an on-board weighing system for a tip lorry. The impetus for the call was the increasing deposit charges for waste and garbage. With an on-board weigh-

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Germany continued

ing system the driver has the ability to print a weigh ticket in the cab of the truck, eliminating the expense of driving to a scale and paying to be weighed in order to receive a weigh ticket. The on-board weighing systems on the market at the time were approved as Class IV, which has a maximum number of verification scale intervals of 1,000. Heinz and Horst's goal was to develop a more accurate on-board weighing system approved as Class III, with a maximum number of verification intervals up to 3,000.

Most of these systems can be retro-fitted to vehicles. A printer is a standard component of every system, and Heinz and Horst know Rice Lake's 720i HMI indicator can provide any function their customers require in the future.

They use the 420 Plus DC version for all applications without level compensation. The 420 Plus indicator provides the basic functions for the application and features a real-time clock; numeric tare entry; ticket print formatting; two serial I/Os for printer, computer or remote display; and digital I/Os for remote tare and print.

Rice Lake implemented custom software in the 520 indicator to compensate the weight according to the level. In applications with level compensation, a four-axis RS-232 sensor sends angle data.

All systems are OIML Class III approved by the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB), the national metrology institute in Germany.

Today, S+P Wägetechnik GmbH is the leading manufacturer of Legal-for-Trade on-board weighing systems in Germany and has customers in Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria and Switzerland. They offer a wide range of weighing systems using the 420 Plus, and 520 with special software that allows automatic level (tilt) compensation up to 6 degrees for each axis.

In the future, after getting OIML approval, S+P Wägetechnik GmbH will be using the new Rice Lake 720i DC indicator which has even more functions including multi-interval, alibi storage, programmability, databases, graphic display, external keyboard and more I/Os. ■



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**S+P Wägetechnik GmbH offers a wide range of Legal-for-Trade on-board weighing systems.**

**1990**

Developed first weighing system for tip lorries, an OIML certified Class III scale with a 24-ton capacity and display divisions of 10 kg or 20 kg.

**1991**

Introduced loading crane scale system, with a capacity up to five tons and a special version for heavier loads for loading logs at the cutting site without overloading the truck. Later, versions for glass, paper and dead animal collection were developed.

**1994**

Designed and built on-board scale system for roll-off-tippers and hook lifts that could be fitted with silo lifts with capacities up to 24 tons and display divisions of 10 kg or 20 kg. The load was weighed by lifting the container or silo with hydraulic cylinders while the truck was stationary. A big advancement was the introduction of electronic compensation for errors caused by an unlevel scale or terrain.

**1998**

Designed and built the first OIML Class III weighing system for tank semi-trailers with a 50-ton capacity and display divisions of 50 kg. The system required that the whole semi-trailer is lifted up and automatically brought into level.

**1999**

Fitted garbage vehicles with weighing system in which the whole upper part of the truck chassis is mounted on four to six load cells.

**2000**

Developed first lift trailer with 80-ton capacity for a steel plant. The tare weight of the container alone is 19 tons. This customer uses four systems with cell phone data transfer to their server.

**2001**

Developed beam scale with a capacity up to 12 tons to weigh deposit containers or pallets in a fixed scale position.

**2002**



[www.sp-waagen.de](http://www.sp-waagen.de)