

## Equipment

# Equipment – size matters!

With innovation and greater productivity increasingly vital, Kennedy's looks at many of the latest equipment advances that can help confectioners with their production. Included is the largest ever cocoa press, and the biggest mixer in the world

**K**ennedy's presents the full round-up of the latest equipment innovations:

### Largest ever cocoa press arrives in Peru

As the crow flies, the distance between Lecco (a small town in the North of Italy) and Peru is some 6,406 miles. However, despite the distance, GSR Cocoa Machinery – which specialises in designing, manufacturing and testing cocoa presses at its Lecco site – recently sent its greatest press ever to Peruvian territory in South America.

The shipment, containing 18 pots and weighing in at 41,500kg, is en route to Machu Picchu Foods in Pisco – Peru's largest cocoa processing producer. It will enable them to process 11,800 tons of cocoa mass per year.

This is thanks to GSR's 1 Series 18/980 machinery, which is manufactured with high resistance alloy steels and the result of five months of work. All phases of the equipment are made inside its factory in Calolziocorte – including design, quality control, test, assembly, start-up and servicing. Once it all arrives in Peru, it will work restlessly, providing optimum performance and high production efficiency in order to achieve as much butter and cake as possible, in the shortest possible time.

Luigi Turla, President of GSR Cocoa Machinery, states: "We are proud to state that today, after nearly 25 years, we are recognised all over the world for Italian excellence. In these years of activity, we have been able to deliver to the world the best of Made in Italy, proving the success of our operation with numbers and tangible results." GSR Cocoa Machinery will be celebrating its 25th anniversary next year, and the company recently



Peru's largest cocoa processing producer recently received what is believed to be the world's largest ever cocoa press

received an institutional visit from the president and general manager of Confindustria Lecco and Sondrio, the representative Association of the entrepreneurial system of the territory of which it is a member.

### Biggest horizontal drum mixer in the world

Lindor has been designing and building mixers with a mixing volume of 25,000 litres for more than ten years, which is almost the capacity of a bulk truck – making it the biggest horizontal drum mixer in the world.

Despite its giant size and weight (22,500 kg), it still handles the product gently. The big stainless steel drum, which has a diameter of 3.6 metres, is suitable for a batch weight of some 15,000 kilograms and rotates at a maximum of 4 rpm. The six fixed

blades are fitted to the mixing drum so that the product is intensively (yet carefully) mixed. In spite of the large volume of 25,000 litres, the mixer is also suitable for batches from 2500 litres, making it very flexible in use.

The flow pattern of the product during mixing is like that of a double helix, in which each individual particle follows its own path. Because there are no dead points present in the mixer and every particle is constantly moving, separation is reduced to a minimum. Most products are completely homogeneously mixed within 4-7 minutes, after which the drum fully empties itself.

The big advantage of this mixing technology is that no mechanical forces are exerted on the product, so virtually no breaking or heating up occurs, and the products retain their initial characteristics. So even these extremely