

A Recipe for Connected Production



Founded in 1998, ICG set out to create high-quality flavour and colour solutions capable of bringing food and beverage products to life. From its base in Blackburn, Lancashire, the company has grown into a trusted UK flavour and colour house, combining creativity and technical expertise with consistent product quality and attentive customer service.

ICG works closely with manufacturers across the food, beverage, confectionery, dairy, sports nutrition, pet food and fishing bait industries. Rather than offering a purely standardised portfolio, the company develops bespoke solutions around the individual requirements of each customer and application. Its capabilities include natural and synthetic flavours in liquid and powder formats, together with tailored colour systems designed to perform reliably when transferred from initial development into full-scale production.

Creating a successful flavour requires both scientific knowledge and a well-developed understanding of how individual ingredients interact. ICG's specialists blend natural ingredients with advanced flavour science to produce distinctive sweet, savoury and beverage solutions. Each formulation must deliver the intended taste profile while also meeting practical requirements relating to processing, consistency, stability and repeatability.

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As the company continued to develop its manufacturing capabilities, ICG wanted to introduce mobile enterprise technology into the production process. The objective was to give operators secure and immediate access to complex flavour recipes directly on the factory floor. Digitising this information would reduce reliance on printed documentation and provide a more efficient connection between product formulations and production activities.

However, introducing mobile computing equipment into this environment presented an important challenge. The handling and processing of powdered ingredients can create potentially combustible dust atmospheres. Consequently, conventional tablets or touchscreen computers would not necessarily provide the appropriate level of protection for use within designated hazardous areas.

ICG approached Able Instruments & Controls to identify a robust mobile computing solution that could operate safely and reliably in these demanding conditions.

Following an assessment of the application, Able supplied BARTEC TC78ex-NI Touch Computers certified for use in ATEX, IECEx and UKEX Zone 2/22 environments. The devices are also approved for NEC Class I, II and III, Division 2 locations, enabling them to address gas, vapour and dust-related hazardous-area requirements.



BARTEC

TC78ex-NI
Touch Computer

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The touchscreen computers allow detailed formulations and production information to be taken directly to the point of manufacture. Operators can access the recipes they need without repeatedly returning to a separate workstation or relying on paper instructions within the production area.

By combining hazardous-area protection with practical mobile computing, the solution supports a more connected approach to manufacturing. Recipe information becomes more readily accessible at the point of use, helping to streamline production activities and reduce the administrative burden associated with printed documentation.

For ICG, the project represents an important step in bringing digital technology onto the production floor—ensuring that its carefully developed recipes can be followed efficiently and consistently within the environment where its flavours and colours are brought to life.

For more information, please contact Able Instruments on +44 (0)118 9311188 or by email: info@ableinstruments.com

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