



# Fast installation. Sweet results.

GB Glace implements a new production system for 45 million liters of ice cream

## About GB Glace

GB Glace, part of the Unilever Group, makes 45 million liters of ice cream per year. GB Glace is Sweden's single largest ice cream manufacturer. All production takes place in the company's factory in Flen where the production system for monitoring the mixing of ice cream batches are installed.



*“Novotek gave us a modern, flexible system that results in higher productivity, can communicate with our business system and allows complete traceability.”*

*—Karleric Idegren, GB Glace-fabrik in Flen*

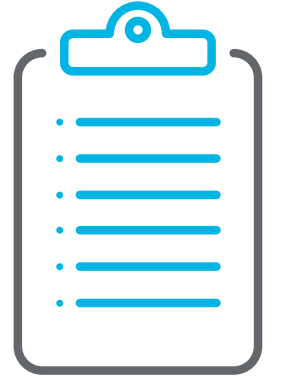
The computer system that monitors the batch-based mixing process has been in dire need of an update for some time. The system was based on an older platform and used an outdated recipe handling system, both in terms of hardware and software. The situation was bordering on impossible.



*High precision and faster lead times provided better operation accuracy and increased productivity.*







## We began with a long list of requirements

Comprised of more than 4,000 I/O connection points, the system was huge. Yet one of the foremost requirements was a quick installation since GB Glace is Unilever's only ice cream factory in the Nordic region and operates 24/7. The only window of opportunity was a two week break during the New Year holidays.

The list of requirements included greater flexibility and user friendliness. The old system was complicated to operate and only a few people had the necessary skills. Furthermore, it was essential that the production system could be integrated with a new SAP business system.

GB Glace had other functions on its list of items to improve, including traceability, batch handling in line with the S.88 industry standard, logs and reports for quality and control parameters, as well as significantly better analysis and reporting functions throughout the entire mixing process.

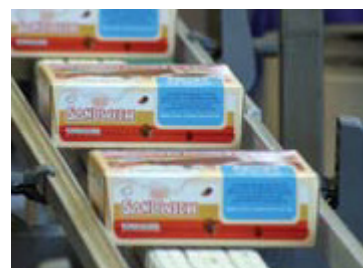
Last but not least was the requirement for easier update and support in the future.

# Advantages of a smaller supplier

Since GB Glace is a part of the Unilever Group, the company normally works with preferred suppliers. GB Glace came in contact with Novotek during the selection process.

*“Novotek was the only company that could present a viable solution to the problem of the enormous amount of I/O modules that had to be replaced within a very tight time-frame. And of course, there was also the difference in price in relation to the other suppliers,” comments Karleric Idegren. “I believe that in choosing a smaller supplier, we received more dedication. The project was large and important to both Novotek and us. And they could provide references from similar assignments they had successfully completed.”*

By selecting Novotek who is the distributor and partner with GE Digital they got the flexibility of a “smaller” company basing their solution on world class products.



## Quick installation

By working with prefabricated and pretested modules to directly re-place the existing I/O modules, Novotek's installation team was spared the time-consuming task of laying new cables. Six minutes was all it took to switch a module. This was a must for completing the assignment over the short Christmas holiday available for the project.

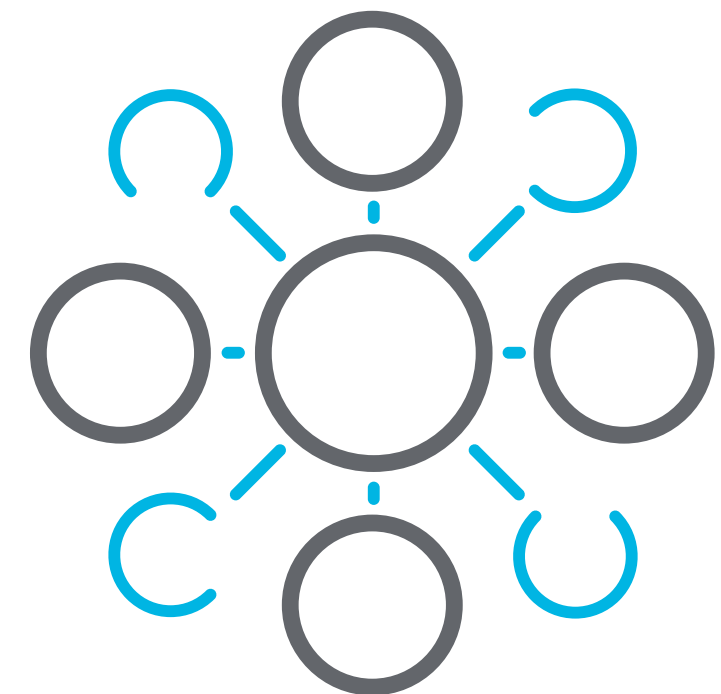
*“Tempo and chaos, that's the only way to describe it. But we got it done, even if we did have a delay of a few days since our facility was not up to the standard we thought it was,” says Idegren. “We had a very open dialogue and were able to make speedy progress.”*

## Well functioning, future proof solution

GB Glace now has a system for batch handling based on Proficy from GE Digital that gives considerably more exact dosages than the earlier system. An iFIX operator interface secures high reliability, scalability and future compatibility. Proficy Plant Applications web-based reporting enables the quality department to make e.g. traceability reports. The connection to the SAP business system will minimize time consuming manual data input.

*“In addition to considerably higher dosage precision and quicker program cycles, we now have a system that more employees can handle. Just a few people were previously able to operate the old system,” says Karleric Idegren. “Novotek is also training staff at their office in Eskilstuna so they have the necessary skills to deal with our factory in Flen.”*

*“We have a modern, flexible system that results in higher productivity, can communicate with our business system and allows complete traceability. Simply put, we have future proofed our production,” says Idegren in closing.*



# Facts

## COMPANY

Unilever Sweden GB Glace, production unit in Flen

## SOLUTIONS

- Production management
- Automation solution
- Batch system

## PRODUCTS

- GE Digital iFIX HMI/SCADA
- GE Digital Proficy Batch Execution
- GE Digital Proficy Plant Applications traceability and reports

## ADVANTAGES

- Faster system with high precision
- Conforms to S.88 standard
- High reliability and scalability
- Excellent future compatibility
- Integration with SAP
- Reporting
- Traceability
- Quick installation and start-up of operations during stand-still period





## About GE

GE (NYSE: GE) is the world's Digital Industrial Company, transforming industry with software-defined machines and solutions that are connected, responsive and predictive. GE is organized around a global exchange of knowledge, the "GE Store," through which each business shares and accesses the same technology, markets, structure and intellect. Each invention further fuels innovation and application across our industrial sectors. With people, services, technology and scale, GE delivers better outcomes for customers by speaking the language of industry.

## Contact Information

[www.ge.com/digital](http://www.ge.com/digital)

