



Case study

ARA Food Corporation

Tropical snacks manufacturer installs high-performance packaging system



Overview

Company: ARA Food Corporation.

Challenge: Finding a flexible packaging solution capable of handling different bag sizes quickly and efficiently.

Solution: **tna's** high performance robag[®] FX 3ci vertical form, fill and seal (VFFS) system, complete with a **tna** intelli-weigh[®] 0314 omega multi-head weigher, **tna** metal detector, **tna** intelli-date[®] date coder and labeller.

Outcome: A fully integrated packaging system, which improved efficiency and reduced overheads.



the challenge

Located in Florida, USA, leading snacks manufacturer ARA Food Corporation manufactures different varieties of snacks and chips, including tropical snacks such as plantain, yuca root and cassava chips, as well as white sweet potato chips, pork rinds and pork cracklings, which increases the need for production capacity. Using specialist techniques and production equipment, ARA successfully handles the demands of the complex manufacturing process with a strong emphasis on quality and safety controls to help meet production efficiency goals. Because of the diversity of its product range, ARA looks for solutions to minimise overheads wherever possible. The company needed a flexible packaging solution capable of handling different bag sizes quickly and efficiently, with minimum machine downtime.



the solution

The answer was a new line featuring **tna's** high performance robag[®]FX 3ci vertical form, fill and seal (VFFS) system, complete with a **tna** intelli-weigh[®] 0314 omega multi-head weigher, **tna** metal detector, **tna** intelli-date[®] date coder and labeller. Used to pack ARA's range of snack chips, the system is designed with flexibility in mind, in order to handle different bag sizes – ranging from 2 to 16 oz (60 to 450g) net weight – as well as work with the various polypropylene BOPP bag film finishes required for each product brand.



tna is a leading global supplier of integrated food packaging and processing solutions with over 7,000 systems installed across more than 120 countries. The company provides a comprehensive range of products including processing, coating, distribution, seasoning, weighing, packaging, metal detection and identification solutions. **tna** also offers a variety of production line controls, integration and SCADA reporting options. **tna's** unique combination of innovative technologies, extensive project management experience and 24/7 global support ensures customers achieve faster, more reliable and flexible food products at the lowest cost of ownership.

results

"The whole project ran smoothly and we have been particularly impressed with **tna's** technical support and knowledge sharing – an important service which will continue with **tna's** regular maintenance visits to ensure the machines are always running at 100 per cent capacity."

ARA Food Corporation has increased capacity, improved efficiency and reduced overheads with the installation of the third packaging system. The investment is part of the company's drive to expand production and grow its business.

"Reducing waste, cutting downtime and preventing overweighing were key requirements from the new packaging system. With two **tna** robag[®] systems already installed and performing consistently well in our plant, we knew another **tna** machine was our best option for the additional line. The whole project ran smoothly and we have been particularly impressed with **tna's** technical support and knowledge sharing – an important service which will continue with **tna's** regular maintenance visits to ensure the machines are always running at 100 percent capacity," explains Oscar Tanaka, manufacturing co-ordinator at ARA Food Corporation.

"ARA's new system is fully integrated, customised and built to maximise uptime as well as bring waste down to a minimum. This system sets new standards in OEE (overall equipment effectiveness) including ground breaking output speeds. We were also able to meet ARA's request to simplify operations with our integrated design – making changeovers and running the system quick, easy and standardised. The net result is what everyone strives for – greater output with less waste," adds Jack Newman, **tna** project manager and regional sales manager.



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