

## ABOUT REUNION ISLAND

Based out of Oakville, Ontario, Canada, Reunion Island Coffee is a leading figure in the coffee industry as indicated by their Macro Roaster of the Year award in 2015. They have a passion for their product as well as a focus on maintaining a high level of support, quality, and personal relationships with their suppliers as they continue to grow. Their experience and philosophy has allowed them to be successful and continue to see success in the coffee roasting industry.



## HOW ONE COFFEE ROASTER SOLVED **UNSCHEDULED DOWNTIME** AND **IMPROVED OEE** BY REPLACING THEIR **AGING EQUIPMENT** WITH **NEW VFFS MACHINES**

The coffee industry is evolving rapidly, whether you are a co-packer or roaster. There are new demands involving customer expectations of flavor and freshness, aesthetics in packaging, residual oxygen levels, and flexibility and formats. Coffee roasters who have traditional equipment have a hard time meeting these demands. They may struggle with operational efficiencies, fill accuracy, packaging speed, and oxygen levels. Reunion Island Coffee, a well-known and highly regarded roaster, is an example of a company who faced challenges with their current equipment and took action.

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*The leading cause of unscheduled downtime within responders' facilities remains aging equipment - 42%*

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### THE PROBLEM: **DOWNTIME** AND **PRODUCTION CHAOS**

While growth and demand was welcomed, it also triggered a new set of production obstacles involving unscheduled downtime and inefficiency in production. It was determined that the root of these impediments was aging equipment.

Obstacles with aging equipment:

- Could not handle current workload
- Unplanned downtime
- Inconsistency in bag formation
- Inaccuracy in fill
- Reduced operational efficiency

These issues motivated an active search for a business partner that could provide them with the equipment they would need for roasted whole bean and ground coffee packaging.

## THE SELECTION: CHOOSING ROVEMA AND THEIR VFFS



They approached this process with an open mindset toward the vendors who presented VFFS packaging solutions. Greg Rusciollelli, Vice President of Operations, researched options and then attended packaging trade shows as an opportunity to meet with various vendors. This enabled him to narrow down the field to three manufacturers, all of whom would make a site visit to the Reunion Island Coffee

facility.

It was at this point that Rovema started to differentiate itself in a few areas causing Reunion Island to choose them as a vendor.

When looking at components of the machine, they were interested in the following:

- Quality of the finished product
- Quality of the machine
- Run rate
- Price

The bottom line is that many companies make VFFS machines and have technical features that were important to Reunion Island.

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*Rovema, however, was an organization whose expertise and service they felt comfortable with and whose machine's unique features would make a difference on their current application.*

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The VFFS machine types purchased were the BVK and BVC. The BVK was utilized for the production of frac packs. The gusseted, larger bags required the BVC machine for the incorporation of the degassing valve. Both machines demonstrated significant performance boosts over the aged equipment and have helped Reunion Island Coffee achieve and exceed the desired solution.

With the decision made, they were on their way to implementing a solution that covered their issues of business growth and demand, aging equipment, and reliability.



## HOW ROVEMA DIFFERENTIATED THEMSELVES

Engagement with experts – At a trade show, they introduced Rusciollelli to a variety of experts who were able to engage and answer any questions.

Customer testimonials – Reunion Island was invited to an event where he was able to interact with past and current Rovema customers. Their recommendations provided the positive reviews Rusciollelli needed to feel confident about their decision to partner with Rovema.

Site visit - Rovema was the only company to bring in someone other than the sales manager, again providing expert knowledge when and where it was needed.



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## RESULTS: HOW ROVEMA'S VFFS HELPED

Quality enhancement is an important feature for Reunion Island Coffee. With the new machine line, they were able to accomplish this by increasing the output, decreasing overall cost of ownership and reducing labor and unscheduled downtime due to maintenance. At the same time, they were able to improve the quality of their bags. With nitrogen generated on site, Reunion Island Coffee has always been able to have low residual oxygen levels. However, with the new VFFS machines in play, they were able to bring the oxygen levels down even further, well below their former targets. There was also more consistency in the forming of the bags and stricter controls when it came to accuracy, weights, and rejects.

Immediate gains achieved for each machine are:

**BVK 260 WITH AUGER:**

Capacity increase by a factor of >2 (based on run rate)

Decrease in residual oxygen levels to maintain 2%

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*30% OEE increase*

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**BVC 260 WITH SCALE:**

Capacity increase by a factor of 3 (based on run rate)

20% OEE increase

Consistent and improved forming capabilities have enhanced aesthetics of the gusseted stand up pouch

Scale measurement accuracy eliminated the need for a manual QC process

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*Decrease in residual oxygen levels to  
maintain 2%*

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In addition to current immediate gains, both machines are expected to see additional increases in OEE gains of 15% or more. This is because the equipment helped identify and improve areas in their process related to material availability, inline quality controls, and changeover logistics. The reliability of the machines has also enabled a more accurate production forecast. From an operator standpoint, Rusciorelli states that "the machine operators are highly engaged and enthusiastic with the changes."

## DO YOU NEED A SUCCESSFUL HIGH- QUALITY PRODUCT PACKAGED IN A HIGH- QUALITY BAG?

Reunion Island Coffee recognized a need to replace their traditional equipment and turned to Rovema for solutions. They improved efficiency, performance, downtime, and quality. Rovema can help you do the same.

## CONTACT US

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