The challenge

Milani Foods, based in Verona, Italy, is a premium food producer that prides itself on its unique blend of experimentation, tradition, innovation and craftsmanship, to deliver the finest tailor-made vegetable creams, fillings and sauces to the taste, expectations and demands of its customers.

Milani Foods used to ‘buy-in’ pre-sorted artichokes and mushrooms, from Italy and abroad, to supply the industry with vegetable bases for sauces and pasta fillings. However, as sales increased, the producer soon realised that to increase production and maintain quality, it needed to take ownership of sourcing and sorting those ingredients itself. Industry expectations of food safety are high, with the smallest piece of foreign materials (FM) very damaging in food that is otherwise made to perfection, so Milani Foods needed technology capable of detecting and removing FM such as white plastic, wood and cardboard.

The solution

When searching for its own optical sorting equipment, Milani Foods tested a range of optical sorting technology available on the market. However, it chose Bühler and its SORTEX PolarVision™ technology to guarantee its frozen mushrooms and diced, sliced and whole artichoke hearts did not contain FM – from insects to metal, wood and plastics.

Extensive trials of various technologies revealed that the best results were achieved using PolarVision™ technology installed on a SORTEX E1D machine.

- SORTEX PolarVision™ serves up improved safety for Milani
- FM free, frozen mushrooms and artichokes
- Increase in customer orders

Innovations for a better world.
Benefits

- SORTEX PolarVision™ easily removes FM, such as white plastic, wood and cardboard.
- Prior to installation, Milani Foods ran the risk of costly returns due to undetected FM, but since beginning to sort products itself, it has seen order volumes increase as customers put more trust in the quality and purity of its products.
- Milani Foods now boasts the highest product quality levels as well as improved production efficiency.

Feedback

“The smallest piece of FM is very damaging in food that is otherwise made to perfection. We found SORTEX PolarVision™ to be one of the most powerful and innovative systems on the market, offering us an unparalleled level of excellence and safety in our production line – helping to detect and remove any foreign bodies and product defects.”

Giorgio De Poli, Managing Director, Milani Foods

Technology highlights

- SORTEX PolarCam™ - Part of a new family of foreign material detection solutions, SORTEX PolarCam™ enhances the detection of challenging foreign materials such as snails, glass, wood and plastics.
- HD InGaAs technology Able to detect defects not visible to the naked eye and remove foreign materials from good produce of the same colour.