Bühler answers F&V processors' **top 5 optical sorting demands** with flexible connectivity platform

Following extensive market research, Bühler identified its customers' top five optical sorting demands for connectivity as the following:

Remote monitoring functionality

Alarms and notifications

Real-time statistics and relevant data relating to processing operations

Higher monitoring visibility

Increased transparency on foreign material

> " The connectivity solution for all of these demands is Bühler Insights: our flexible digital platform that provides IoT connectivity for our customers and allows them to connect to a wider range of digital systems. "
>
> **- Krishna Kumar,**
> Digital Development Manager, Bühler

Kumar adds, "The Cloud solution gives us the flexibility to adapt to our customers' needs, we can assemble the data in the way that the customer requires."

Remote monitoring and real-time data

With remote monitoring functionality, operators do not need to monitor the machine 24/7, they can focus on other things and only react when a triggered alarm sends an SMS or email - for example, in instances when a major foreign material is detected, or if there's a fault with the machine.

Janine Wegmann, Product Manager for Bühler's Data Analytics and Services, adds: "Customers are looking for real-time data analytics and to make real-time decisions with their machinery. The most important thing they want to know is if the machine is working properly or if there are any faults with it – and subsequently what to do if the machine isn't working: Bühler insights facilitates this."

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Customized dashboards and historical data

Bühler insights helps to monitor different aspects of the production process. Customized dashboards present data in real-time and can be modified in terms of the customer requirements. This enables them to make more informed and faster decisions.

Bühler Insights also allows customers to look back on historical data to detect trends. They can set benchmarks for different production lines within their factory.

Kumar states: "We have a wider portfolio than any other company at this time - in terms of data analytics and automation. In one or two years our portfolio will be even bigger. We can significantly minimize manual intervention."

Benefits of connectivity for F&V processors

When common FM, e.g. twigs or insects, are detected in a fruit and vegetable factory, immediate action needs to be taken in order to ensure compliance with food safety regulations and to avoid financial and reputational damage. "With Bühler Insights, customers can now be extra proactive. Thanks to alarms and notifications, while it once took over 30 minutes to discover and remove such FM from the processing line, it now takes just five minutes," says Wegmann.

Kumar adds: "Additionally, when processing fruit and vegetables, residue that gets stuck in front of the camera may infiltrate good product if not cleaned properly. In such cases, alarms for high ejection rates are very useful. Or else processors could risk immense financial loss."

A Bühler edge

Kumar concludes, "We don't just make sorters. We can provide wider insights to our customers. With new machine launches we're currently giving the Bühler Insights gateway and the SORTEX Monitoring System (for the first year of use) free of charge, to help our customers easily monitor their sorter health and diagnostics remotely.

"The Bühler Insights gateway comes as standard with all new SORTEX F machines. For processors with existing machines, we can support you with a software and hardware upgrade."

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