



By Maura Maxwell

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JBT debuts CoreTakt technology



Series 3 of the CoreTakt lettuce corer has launched commercially following extensive testing

JBT Corporation, the technology solutions provider to the global food and beverage industry, has announced the commercial introduction of the FTNON CoreTakt.

The robotic system uses advanced 3D camera technology to accurately and speedily remove unwanted cores from lettuce heads used in the fresh-cut and ready-to-eat segments.

The Series 3 CoreTakt units are the first to go on sale following extensive production testing with customers in the Netherlands and the UK.

Capable of handling 1,500 heads of lettuce per hour, the CoreTakt, which decores automatically with no employee interaction necessary other than a single operator, typically increases yield by between 3-9 per cent, while at the same time significantly improving factory safety and forming an extra barrier against diseased produce.

"The machine works by using 3D cameras

and advanced robotic technology," said Wilco Fauth, global product line director for JBT FTNON.

"Iceberg lettuces drop automatically into the system with no people involved. A 3D camera will take a look at the lettuce and determine where the core is and its size. The lettuce then moves into the decorer which is extremely accurate in removing the core."

Once inside the machine, the system uses two sharp clinical knives to make sure only the undesired part of the lettuce is removed.

Hygiene is another key element of the CoreTakt, with the machinery designed for daily cleaning in accordance with stringent food safety standards (CE 2004/1935).

A further advantage, according to Fauth, is the CoreTakt's capacity to identify and remove diseased products.

"The moment the CoreTakt encounters a lettuce that is contaminated, this is

removed to prevent it going through the system," he said.

"This enormously improves food safety across the whole factory and allows customers to build up a full picture across the whole year, enabling them to provide feedback to the grower or seed company."

Once a company purchases the CoreTakt, FTNON remotely monitors the unit to make sure it is running effectively and plan timely service and maintenance.

The vast amounts of data that the CoreTakt produces – up to one terabyte per unit each day – is collected remotely by FTNON before being analysed and shared with the customer.

The first examples of the Series 3 CoreTakt CTI have now been installed with customers in the UK, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Austria.

<http://www.fruitnet.com/americafruit/article/1474/parts-of-san-diego-quarantined-as-psyllid-count-mounts>

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