

Case Study

Florette's Journey Towards Automation





Florette's Robotic Transformation

Background

Florette, a division of Agril and a market-leading provider of prepared salads, faced significant operational challenges rooted in its reliance on manual labour. With seasonal peaks requiring up to 150 temporary staff members, the pressing need for systemised efficiency became evident amidst growing labour supply challenges. With increasing labour supply challenges, Florette decided to pursue automation and were keen to secure a partner that offered the right blend of flexibility, price and performance whilst being easy to use.

The Challenge

Florette's reliance on manual labour highlighted the pressing need for a more systemised and efficient approach to their operations. The growing labour supply challenges further exacerbated the situation, making it clear that a sustainable solution was necessary. Florette sought to address these challenges by embarking on a quest for automation. Their priorities were to find a flexible, cost-effective, and user-friendly solution that could streamline their operations and reduce the heavy reliance on manual labour.

The Solution

After evaluating various contenders, Florette chose Leap AI's PikPak™ robotic packing system for its flexibility, cost-effectiveness, and ease of use. In December 2022, following collaborative efforts that ensured the system's adaptability to Florette's diverse product range, the PikPak™ system was installed and operational within a remarkably short timeframe. This venture was underpinned by a mutual ambition for a solution that could offer substantial efficiency gains and labour cost reductions.

"Leap AI has been a great partner. They are very professional in their approach and have made my life a lot easier. A lot of people work in automation, but what makes the difference is the people, and Leap AI is showing us time and time again that they are a great partner to be working with, helping us to develop for the future and get us the automation we need."

Andy Rayson
Florette

The Results



Throughput of the line has been increased by over 25%



Seamless installation and commissioning



Trusted relationship driving opportunity for further collaboration

The PikPak™ system was swiftly commissioned, with over 25 Florette staff members receiving training over two days. Its integration into Florette's operations has led to a substantial increase of over 25% in throughput on the bagged salad line, alongside the benefit of significantly reduced packing costs due to more efficient labour allocation. Andy Rayson noted the profound impact of the system, particularly in training effectiveness and operational capacity enhancement. Remarkably, the automation enabled operation at 50 bags per minute while leveraging the expertise of just one operator per PikPak™ system, underlining the efficiency leap forward.

Florette's embarkation on automation, facilitated by Leap AI, represents a pivotal shift towards operational excellence in the fresh produce sector. The partnership between Florette and Leap AI has been instrumental in addressing the pressing challenges faced by the industry, demonstrating a scalable, efficient, and future-ready solution.



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