

Compac Release  
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'New Zealand and technology' is a heady winning combination; 'Lord of the Rings' supremo Peter Jackson proved it most recently at the Oscars, but a fellow kiwi company has been quietly notching up successes for the past several years.

From its origins 20 years ago in the domestic (NZ) kiwifruit industry to an internationally-recognized supplier of leading-edge technology to the fresh produce industry, Compac Sorting Equipment has scored some successes that – whilst not in the Lord of the Rings category- have caused the industry to stretch for new standards in innovation.

In 1999 Compac technology made its debut in the California citrus market, providing Golden Valley Citrus with a unique solution to sorting frost-damaged oranges. This led to an explosive growth in sales for the NZ-developed technology, not only in grading and packing citrus crops but also for apples, stone fruit and other fruit and vegetable crops.

Now, that same clever technology is poised to take apple sorting to a whole new level, with development of the company's next-generation blemish grading system well underway.

Trials are currently underway on a site in New Zealand's leading apple growing area and first news from the pilot study suggest a promising future for the blemish grading technology on both green and red varieties.

David Buys of Compac says software expertise within the vision development team is playing a big part in the development of a blemish grader that can accommodate the unique characteristics presented by apples. Compac's apple sizer is known as being very fruit-friendly, particularly with delicate varieties such as golden delicious and pink lady.

And as changing market requirements continue to force packhouses to embrace technology advances to keep pace, Compac is looking at how its capabilities, particularly in blemish grading, can help packers fine-tune their efficiencies in other fruit products.

The company's order books read like an Oscar nomination list: highlights include Washington State's Broetje Orchards installation of the world's longest sizer and color sorting machine (12 lanes and 58 sorting destinations), California's Sun Pacific with several machines including a 40 lane blemish grader and 12 lane commit to pack sizer, several large stone fruit sizers for Gerawan Farms, many tomato and onion installations. The Compac has been billed as 'the most effective fruit sorting system in the world' and beat out competitors from France, Holland and the US.

Compac is also experiencing significant growth in Europe, where in the next few months it will begin manufacturing via Compac Sorma Europe SpA in Cesena, Italy. Packers in

Asia, North and South America and in South Africa, where the company has added H G Molenaar to its growing list of distributors are choosing Compac as the solution to their packing needs.

According to H G Molenaar a number of packers in the country's major fruit growing areas are keenly interested as the start-up of the first Compac machine installed with a large citrus packer. Our goal is simple states Buys, provide and support fruit packers with the best sorting technology available.

**About Compac Sorting Equipment:**

Manufacturers of high speed, accurate sorting systems for fruit and vegetables, Compac is a world leader in fruit sorting technology, through on-going commitment to research and development. Visit Compac at [www.compacsort.com](http://www.compacsort.com)