

MARCO improves productivity at Le Jardin de Rabelais packing facility

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The high speed manual packing of tomatoes presents a number of challenges. MARCO's YCM has overcome these for our operation and the uplift of productivity has made a significant improvement to our packing operation.

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Le Jardin de Rabelais is the latest tomato producer to realise the productivity benefits of a MARCO Trac-IT Yield Control Module driving their packing operations at their Avoine operation in the Loire Valley (France).

Specialising in cherry and vine tomatoes, Le Jardin de Rabelais grow and pack fresh produce seven days a week, 365 days a year. MARCO were tasked with designing a packing system to reduced overpack and provided total control for their packing facility.

The YCM system installed at Avoine, consisting of eight LineMaster weighing stations and 20 table scales, also included a high speed labelling system and end of line soft-touch conveyor. Packing facilities around the world have achieved exceptional productivity improvements of up to 30% by installing the MARCO YCM software. The system effectively deskills the manual packing operation, reducing waste and virtually eliminating giveaway/overpack. This directly translates into improved profitability and a rapid return on investment for the MARCO system. The YCM terminals are pre-programmed to store different types and weights of tomato, making pack line changes very simple and rapid.

Whilst the MARCO system drives the productivity improvements for the weighing and packing process at Le Jardin de Rabelais, operational flow has also been improved with the installation of a comprehensive end-of-line system to include MARCO's automatic, high-speed labellers. Once labelled, tomatoes at the Loire Valley facility proceed onto a MARCO soft-touch conveyor. This conveyor uses rollers to maintain the quality of the packed product by reducing friction. The tomato punnets can then be packed into cartons and boxes without fear of any product damage.

