

# CASE STUDY

## Florida Marine Research bags 30 different items with one SidePouch® bagger for productivity gains.

Florida Marine Research of Sarasota, Florida is a pet supply company and the market leader in providing hermit crab food, gravel, sand, shells, sponges and accessories to pet stores and online retailers around the world.

The company offers a wide range of products, most of which are packaged in pre-printed polyethylene bags for retail display.

### Previous Packaging Method

Florida Marine Research packages more than 30 different products in eight different bag sizes and previously accomplished this by manually filling bags of gravel, sand and food pellets from an auger and then hand sealing. Previous packaging systems used to require three operators, while the new system requires only one, reducing labor costs by 66%.

### New Packaging Method

The new SPrint Revolution SidePouch Bagger incorporates an automated auger, weigh scale, conveyor and sealing system that has increased productivity and reduced labor. Bag changeovers are fast and easy, covering a range of sizes from 4x6 inches to 9x12 inches and a new 5x16 inch bag.

The SPrint Revolution SidePouch Bagger has a convenient 60 inch wide loading area where pre-opened bags are presented along a horizontal feed with a 6 inch pass-through so they can be manually filled with shells and accessories, or automatically loaded from the infeed systems. A takeaway conveyor is used for packing the finished product into shipping boxes or loading into totes for inventory.

### Success Story

One new automated packaging system has reduced bag packaging labor costs by 50 percent (two packers versus four). Total cost savings from labor are more than \$5,000 per month. "This is an easy investment to make because of the rapid return on investment," says Paul Manger, President and CEO of Florida Marine Research. "Our pre-printed SidePouch bags are retail ready and the pre-opened bags are much easier to fill than the stand-up pouches we used previously."

#### Company Name

Florida Marine Research - A pet supply company serving retail and online pet stores.

#### Products Being Packaged

Hermit crab food, gravel, sand, shells, sponges and other hermit crab accessories to pet stores.

#### Equipment Used

SPrint Revolution SidePouch Bagger mounted on casters running at 500 to 700 inches per minute.

#### Custom Integration

The SPrint Revolution SidePouch did not require custom integration for this application.

#### Materials Used

SidePouch Stand Up Pouch bags with high resolution color printing for brand appeal.

#### Return on Investment

The targeted return on investment was reached in less than 12 months.

