

## ROTARY POWDER FILLER UPGRADE QUINTUPLES CONTAINER FILLING CAPACITY



Vital Proteins turned to Spee-Dee Packaging Machinery Inc. to increase capacity of its fully automated powder packaging line to meet exponential growth.

Vital Proteins, a nutritional wellness company, launched its first collagen powder in 2012. The company has grown more than 200 percent per year, year-over-year and anticipates \$200 million in revenue in 2019, according to this [Fast Company article](#).

When the Chicago-based company outgrew its 25,000-square-foot facility in 2017, it moved into a new 180,000-square-foot facility in May that same year.

Initially, Vital Proteins installed a second, fully-automated line to meet demand. Then, it ramped-up production with 20-hour days with two shifts six days a week. When that wasn't enough, the company utilized two co-manufacturers, but that too quickly reached its limit due to continued demand. To bring production fully in-house for its 13 powder collagen products, Vital Proteins replaced its small, single-head filler with a faster, more accurate solution.

"We chose [Spee-Dee's rotary filling system](#) because it's designed for easy operation, in addition to being fast and accurate," said Scott Springer, Vice President of Operations for Vital Proteins. "Every aspect is thought of and accounted for to make it easier for the operators and that stood out to me. Our operators were immediately able to take less time with less of a safety risk changing out the hoppers or augers for the different container sizes associated with this filler."



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support. "We set-up the machine at our facility, where we trained Vital Proteins' operators on-site with actual product and ran through typical production conditions including size changeovers, startups, shutdowns and cleaning. This ensured operators were comfortable with the new equipment but also helped reduce downtime after final installation," said Rick Chrzan, Regional Sales Manager, Spee-Dee.

Spee-Dee engineers were on-site for final commission in the plant and within two days, Vital Proteins was up and running, filling product soon to be on store shelves.

Previously, Vital Proteins was running with a maximum capacity of 20 containers per minute. With Spee-Dee's rotary filler, production has expanded 5 times up to 100 containers per minute.

"Spee-Dee was easy to work with and supportive from the start of the project. Their equipment is well-designed and easy to operate," Springer said. "We still have plans to grow here at Vital Proteins and, thanks to Spee-Dee, we are able to meet increasing consumer demand and have the ability to expand."

Spee-Dee's open, accessible rotary filler design keeps things easy. Filling funnels, for example, attach to the turret with embedded magnets instead of fasteners. According to Spee-Dee, the patented method improves cleaning and sanitation while making the filler faster to changeover. An adjustable servo-drive auger can be raised, pivoted and lowered outside the safety guard for maximum accessibility. In addition, custom container adapters ensure quick changes for different container heights and shapes, ensuring Vital Proteins could fill all of its four different sized containers.

"The rotary is completely tool-less, which keeps things simple. The cups are held on with magnets and they just click into place, which is unlike any other machine," said Springer.

The rotary design wasn't the only thing that stood out for Vital Proteins. It was also Spee-Dee's technical and engineering



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