

## **Reclamation of Powders/Granulates used for Food Coatings**



The use of every last drop of ingredient that goes into manufacturing a product has become increasingly important over the last decade. A conscientious manufacturing facility can reduce costs in many ways by focusing on this aspect, as it affects the cost of waste removal, additional machinery for this function and obviously the cost of the ingredient itself. This also falls into line with “green” approaches to manufacturing. This was the challenge that presented itself to us when approached by several of our clients, all of whom had different end products but the same issue.

All the products that were provided to us were coated with a fine powder or granulate. This process usually involves the product being conveyed on a chain link conveyor underneath some form of coater or sprinkler for the coating material. Some of the material sticks to the outside of the product as desired, but the balance of the material falls past the product and through the conveyor. In all instances, this material was collected in waste containers and disposed of because there would be contaminants from the actual product from the manufacturing process that could also be present in this container. If this material was re-used in this form it would block the coater heads

Although this collected material had contaminants of the product in, the majority of it was still usable, so disposing of it appeared to be wasteful. The main piece of equipment proposed was our Gericke range of Centrifugal Sifters. The coating material was collected under the chain conveyor and conveyed up to our Sifter using a vacuum conveyor. The material was introduced into the Sifter where the good coating material was separated from the contaminants – the coating material exited the “fines” outlet, and the contaminants exited the “overs” outlet.

The coating material was then recycled back to the dispenser/sprinkler to be used again, while the very small amount of oversized product was disposed of. The final result was reduced waste, reduced disposal costs and happy customers.