



Pharmaceutical manufacturer doubles productivity with Russell Compact Sieve®

Alaron achieves higher throughput for pharmaceutical powder screening.



Alaron is a contract manufacturer of health supplements, complementary medicines, therapeutic goods, and skincare products. It is one of the largest Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) pharmaceutical manufacturing companies in New Zealand.

The award-winning manufacturer uses the latest innovative materials and manufacturing technologies to deliver market-ready products for customers around the world. Alaron has been GMP certified for over 20 years and has been at the forefront of the industry for over 25 years. It manages everything from ingredient sourcing and formulation advice to testing and international compliance.

To create its products, Alaron processes large quantities of powdered material from a range of locally and internationally sourced suppliers. The first step in production is to weigh the raw materials. The incoming powdered materials are then screened in batches of 1,000 kilograms to ensure the particles are less than 1250 microns. The final step is to blend the materials to create different powder formulations.

Alaron's previous screening methods had limited success. Due to slow throughput, these methods restricted the manufacturer's capacity to screen its powdered materials.

The design of these solutions created further problems. The sieves were hard to take apart and reassemble which made them difficult to clean. This also meant extra effort was needed from the operators to clean the sieves.

Alaron was first introduced to Russell Finex by Advanced Packaging Systems (APS) at the Foodtech Packtech trade show in Auckland in 2016. The manufacturer was impressed with

the compact design and throughput rates of the Russell Finex machines demonstrated by APS.

After the event, Alaron purchased a **Russell Compact Sieve®** to address its screening problems. The company soon appreciated the value this brought to the business and so ordered further units.

Alaron now has four Russell Compact Sieve® units in operation with another unit on the way as well as two **Mini Sifters** for small sieving projects. The manufacturer uses a 1250-micron stainless steel screen in its Russell Compact Sieve® units.



Figure 1: Operator using the bag tip platform to sieve pharmaceutical powder in the Russell Compact Sieve®



"Our business has grown rapidly in the last few years and the sieves have played a large part in making that growth efficient and manageable. The Russell Compact Sieve enables us to keep on top of the orders and deliver to our customers in a timely fashion"

Nigel Gray, Operations Manager




Gray continued, "The units are built by Russell Finex in the UK and they are really well designed and constructed from the ground up. You can see the quality of craftsmanship wherever you look on the unit."

The major benefit to Alaron of switching to the Russell Compact Sieve® is the doubling of its throughput rates of powdered materials. This is because the Russell Compact Sieve® has a higher throughput capacity than standard vibrating screens.

The manufacturer found the units were easy to set up and run. The Russell Compact Sieve® units are in operation 24/7 for Alaron. Due to the ease of use of the units, Alaron's operators enjoy working with them.

The Russell Compact Sieve® units are also simple to clean. The machines can be taken apart for cleaning without extra effort from the operators. In addition, there are fewer areas where the product can build up within the mesh as the Russell Compact Sieve® is designed with pressed molded screens.

The key benefits of using the Russell Compact Sieve®:

-  **Increase production rate** - Higher throughput capacity than standard vibrating screens
-  **Cut cleaning downtime** - Quick-release mechanism allows for easy disassembly and cleaning
-  **Reduce noise levels** - Rubber suspension system ensures quiet operation

About Russell Finex

Founded in 1934, Russell Finex designs and manufactures sieving machines for a range of industries. With its head office in the U.K. and subsidiaries in Belgium, the U.S.A., India, Brazil, and China the company supplies to over 140 countries. [Contact Russell Finex](#) today to find out more about its range of sieves, separators, and filtration equipment.



Figure 2: The Russell Compact Sieve® has significantly enhanced the sieving capacity of powdered materials