

MEDIA RELEASE
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NEWCOMER NO NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

Fresno is the new American-based home for Compac Sorting Equipment, which has established a base to service its increasing fruit and vegetable pack house customers in the US.

The company also has a strong presence in the Canadian, Australian, New Zealand and South African markets, where its innovative fruit and vegetable handling technology has underpinned steady growth for nearly 20 years.

Compac's Executive Director, David Buys, says the company initially entered the US in the late nineties, answering a cry for help from Sunkist growers at California's Golden Valley pack house for Compac's highly innovative solution to remove frost-damaged oranges from saleable fruit.

"We exceeded their expectations, not only with an awesome frost sorting solution but also in meeting an almost impossibly tight deadline to get the machinery up and running within six weeks. That led on to other orders in California and more recently in Washington State, where Compac's speed and accuracy is highly sought-after in apple pack houses" he says.

Mr Buys says the 'can-do' attitude of the New Zealand engineers who have led the company's development is helping grow the company's position, increasing U.S. orders by 800% in the past five years. On-the-ground support comes from industry specialist Jim Doerksen, and Brian Ross, based in Fresno.

Compac has installed a further 50 lanes of its color sizing, weighing, sorting and packing machinery in California alone. The company is also about to install an additional two more machines at California's largest stonefruit packhouse, which follows hard on the heels of the installation of two Compac five-lane systems last year.

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