

USED & REFURBISHED EQUIPMENT

- The current economic downturn has posed a number of challenges to canmakers, including the problem of affording regular inspection system upgrades to meet the latest quality standards.

“Although all manufacturing equipment goes through an evolutionary process of continuous improvement, anything computer-related does so at a much faster rate,” says Amir Novini, chief executive of inspection equipment specialist **Applied Vision**. “Any canmaking operation unable to keep its vision systems up-to-date cannot take advantage of tremendous strides in inspection capabilities. In this era of tightening quality requirements and intense competition, who can afford to be left behind?”

The company has addressed the issue with a retrofit programme in which it upgrades the software in existing inspection systems, while replacing as little of the original hardware as possible, such as power supplies, air conditioners, and cabinets. The programme is not limited to Applied Vision equipment, says Novini: “We can also upgrade the equipment of most other major machine vision manufacturers. Compared to the cost of new equipment, the savings can be as high as 50 percent.”

Also available is the Applied Vision Inspection Service Programme, through which the customer hires the equipment on a monthly basis with no initial outlay. Included in the programme is installation, regular software and hardware upgrades, and engineer visits twice a year. The system performance is also monitored remotely, and any necessary adjustments made. “The programme has already been adopted and successfully executed on a large scale by one of the world’s largest canmakers,” says Novini.

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