

Development and Scale-up of a New Film Coating Operation

“Colorcon is an excellent formulation partner who helped us develop a new film coating operation that reduces our lead times and improves the film coated product quality for our client projects. We recommend them as a supplier to anyone looking for excellent products, technical and regulatory support.”

John Raftery, Director, Bioshell Teoranta

SITUATION

Bioshell Teoranta, a quality, mid-sized contract manufacturer of nutraceutical, vitamin and mineral supplement products marketed in Europe, wanted to rebuild their facility to meet full Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) requirements for food supplement manufacturers. To further capitalize on this investment, they decided to establish their own film coating operations, rather than depend on outsourcing options. They contacted Colorcon for products, technical and regulatory assistance.

CHALLENGES

Bioshell’s specialty was in two-piece encapsulation services. They had no previous film coating experience. To meet their objectives, it was imperative they:

- Select raw material suppliers who would effectively support the start-up of the new coating operation.
- Train their operators on proper, efficient film coating procedures.
- Develop their own technical expertise in film coating to support their clients’ projects.
- Provide on-going technical and regulatory assistance, particularly in color matching to clients.
- Improve film coating quality, lower operating costs, and reduce lead times.

ACTIONS

Colorcon helped Bioshell:

- Optimize the new film coating equipment set-up and process parameters during initial installation, to enhance their technical expertise.
- Improve operator proficiency on the new film coating equipment by conducting a customized course on coating process optimization and control.
- Establish cost-efficient inventory levels.
- Ensure the regulatory compliance of the film coating solutions they offer their clients for their export markets on a case-by-case basis.

RESULTS

Based on the product, technical and regulatory assistance provided by Colorcon, Bioshell's new film coating operation has improved the quality of their film coating projects. By reducing the number of times that tablets are handled, they now see a definite percent decrease of tablet defects, specifically on caplet shaped cores. This new coating process has also lowered their turnaround time for customer orders by several weeks. Overall, the company reports that the quality of Colorcon film coatings is far superior to the films used by their previous contract tablet coater. They feel they now offer their clients better protection for their tablet cores, with customized color matching and batch-to-batch color controls. In 2010, since the company started using Colorcon, 10 different products have been codeveloped with a very high degree of end-customer satisfaction. Several more projects are pending.

Total product cost is an important consideration for Bioshell. The added value of Colorcon's highly efficient film coatings, backed by the company's superior regulatory technical expertise, helped them improve efficiencies; reduce defects and lower overall manufacturing costs. They are secure in the knowledge that all of the film coating materials sourced from Colorcon meet the approved regulations for food and color additives. With Colorcon as a long-term partner, Bioshell feels confident they have improved their competitive edge to deliver premium quality products within short lead times to their customers.

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