

Primary and secondary packaging technology in action

Day-to-day production at Remedica, a Cypriot pharmaceutical manufacturer and contract packager, holds plenty of challenges. When it comes to packing solid dosage forms, Remedica trusts in blister machines and cartoners made by Romaco.

Remedica – the biggest pharmaceutical manufacturer in Cyprus – specialises in the development, production and sale of a broad spectrum of medicines, including cardiovascular agents and anti-cancer drugs, which are its flagship products. The company is committed to corporate social responsibility and environmentally friendly practices and has received numerous awards in the past for its sustainability initiatives.

Today, Remedica's product portfolio comprises more than 300 generic, branded generic and OTC medicines in a variety of dosage forms such as tablets, capsules, oblongs, gels, creams, ointments, suppositories and topical aerosols.

The company is also active in the market as a contract packager. It processes an enormous range of batch sizes, some as small as 500 blister packs with pharmaceutical solids.

FREQUENT FORMAT CHANGES

In view of this huge repertoire of products and the extreme variations in batch size, flexibility, reliable processes and high availability are key in day-to-day production at Remedica. This is particularly true regarding the format parts, because format changes are necessary on the company's blister machines on average every one and a half to two days.

Remedica has trusted Romaco technologies for more than 10 years, when it comes to blisters as primary packaging for tablets, capsules and oblongs or cartons as secondary packaging. The pharma manufacturer currently has 11 Romaco Noack 921 rotary sealing machines at its disposal. Eight of these blister machines are used as modules of fully

automated lines in conjunction with Romaco Promatic cartoners while the other three are standalone units.

This standardisation of the solids packaging technology provides multiple benefits for Remedica in everyday production, especially where small batches are concerned.

"Remedica has trusted Romaco technologies for more than 10 years"

"Diminishing batch sizes are a growing trend in contract packing," says Dimitar Vasilev, production engineer at Remedica. "Against that background, using several machines of the same type enables far more flexible production planning because we can use the same format parts on all our rotary sealing machines. On top of that, standardised solutions make life easier for our operators and they need less training for familiarisation."

MORE THAN 50 ROMACO BLISTER FORMAT SETS IN USE

All parts belonging to a format set – such as feeding formats, deflection rollers or sealing, coding, perforating and die-cutting tools – are tested by Romaco before they leave the factory on machines specially reserved for this purpose together with the specific customer product and the relevant packaging.

"Our stock of format sets has been regularly expanded ever since we first started working with Romaco. We currently have more than 50 blister format sets in total, and we liaise closely and constantly with Romaco's PacTech format competence center," Vasilev continues. "We can rely on Romaco to supply us with precisely fitting format parts that let us resume

production again without delay whenever we change the format. The light weight of the individual components is another important advantage. Every format part can be lifted and fitted by one person."

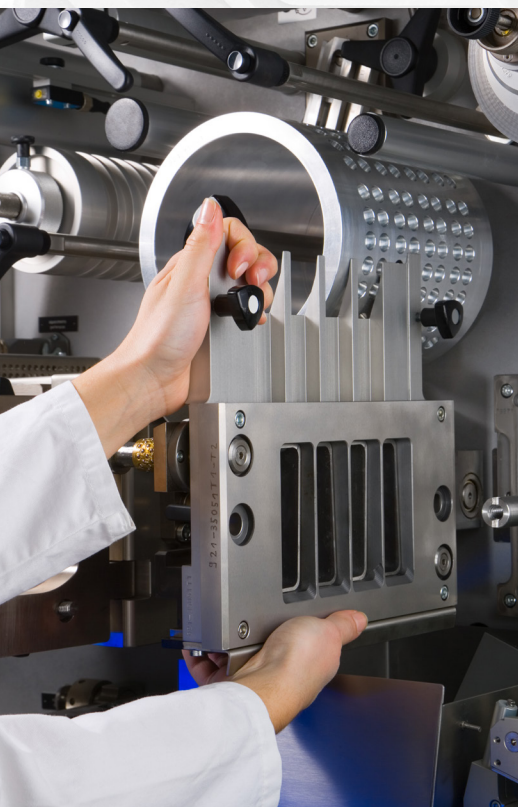
Romaco blister machines and cartoners have an ergonomic design with easy access to all components. The plug-and-play principle of the format parts guarantees fail-safe installation. Over the last few years, Romaco has systematically reduced the number of format parts for its machines, reducing times for retooling. Romaco Noack's blister packaging lines permit reproducible, toolless format changes in under 30 minutes. Furthermore, the hygienic design of these machines means



The blisters are packed in cartons on a Romaco Promatic cartoner (Image: Romaco)

Did you know?

Romaco has made a commitment to take back its machines from customers free of charge at the end of their service life in the interests of a circular economy.



Thanks to the light weight of the individual components, Romaco Noack's blister packaging lines permit format changes in under 30 minutes



Remedica manufactures more than 300 generic, branded generic and OTC products

less downtime and optimal availability because with their smooth surfaces and their rounded corners and edges, all blister machines and cartoners built by Romaco Noack and Promatic are quick and easy to clean.

INDIVIDUAL, SPACE-SAVING LINE LAYOUT

The blister machines and cartoners at Remedica's manufacturing site in Limassol, Cyprus, are arranged in-line in a so-called Z-layout. Romaco tailored the configuration to

meet Remedica's needs exactly. The blisters are discharged at the front and the carter is positioned in front of the blister machine and slightly to one side of it. This individual layout and the compact design of the machines helped Romaco achieve a very small footprint overall and fit the blister packaging lines optimally into the limited space available.

PLANNED CAPACITY EXPANSION

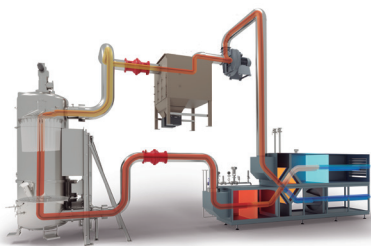
The pharma manufacturer is planning to expand its production capacity soon and to introduce a Romaco Noack 623, which can process all common thermoformable and sealable foils with an output of up to 480 blisters per minute and a maximum forming depth of 25mm.

Vasilev is confident, saying: "By expanding our existing production capacity, which is based on rotary sealing, with a blister machine featuring platen technology, we'll be in a position to manufacture even more flexibly and give the market what it wants better than ever, because we'll additionally be able to process very large or thick tablets and oblongs with the Romaco Noack 623." ■

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