



Source: Romaco Pharmatechnik GmbH

The Romaco Noack 623 blister machine with platen sealing.

# MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY FOR BLISTER FORMATS

**Romaco technology increases the Almac Group's blister potential** – The Romaco Noack 623 blister machine is the Almac Group's answer to demanding customer requirements in the contract packaging sector. Niche products tend to go hand in hand with unusual formats.

**F**or more than four decades now, the international Almac Group has served companies worldwide within the pharmaceutical and biotech sectors. A leading provider of pharmaceutical services, Almac has noted steadily increasing

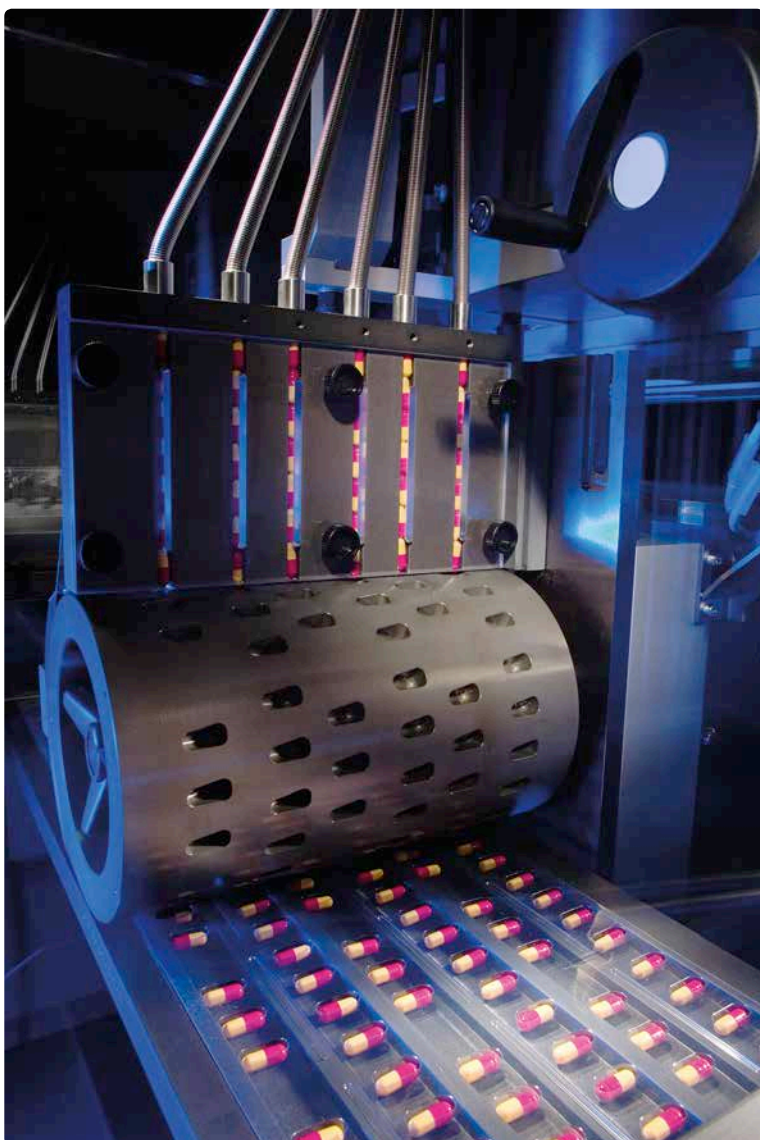
requirements in the contract packaging sector over a period of several years.

An order received from a key account in Japan in 2012 is a good example here; it concerned blister packaging for a product that is extremely sensitive to moisture.

Inserting desiccants into each blister cavity proved to be a particular challenge. "Especially



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Dedicated capsule feeding in to the cavities which are formed in the blister foil.

when it comes to expensive niche products such as orphan drugs for treating rare diseases, the specifications for blister formats are getting more and more complex," explained Vice President Manufacturing Operations, Almac Pharma Services in Craigavon/Northern Ireland, Geoff Sloan.

### A tradition of innovation

In 2012, Almac responded to the growing demand for innovative blister layouts by purchasing a new blister machine with platen sealing in the Romaco Noack 623 series. "We have maintained a close business relationship with Romaco for over twenty years, so

it was in fact an obvious choice," Sloan emphasized. "We have several Romaco Noack blister machines installed at our packaging centre in Craigavon in Northern Ireland, and we use them to pack both clinical and commercial production batches." Small batch sizes for clinical trials are mainly produced on Noack DPN 760s. The Noack 623, which achieves a maximum speed of 70 cycles and 400 blisters per minute, is reserved for larger batches. Owing to the versatility of these machine models, Almac can now meet the packaging needs of their customer for all phases of the drug product life-cycle from development to commercialisation.



The Romaco Noack 623 blister machine installed at the Almac facility in Northern Ireland.

### Impressive flexibility

"The new Noack 623 has enabled Almac to significantly broaden its blister portfolio, and we are now optimally equipped to meet the challenges of flexibility in formats and special pack sizes at any time," Sloan continued. The cGMP compliant Romaco technology processes all thermoformable and sealable foils and is also suitable for cold forming aluminium, even when large cavities are involved. Blisters up to a maximum size of 220x155 mm can be produced on this machine. QuickAdjust, the automatic station control system, shortens the run-in times after changing the product and generally guarantees highly reliable processes.

The new Noack 623 was installed and commissioned in October 2012. Romaco's Almac mission is not over yet, however: some of the older blister machines will soon be receiving an electronic upgrade.

The service package includes the QuickAdjust implementation. "Like all customers, the Almac Group expects its blister machines to keep going for a very long time," remarked Customer Service Manager, Romaco Pharmatechnik, Klaus Bolz. "And instead of investing in new equipment, the alternative for Romaco users is simply to retrofit their existing models." ●

### Highlights

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