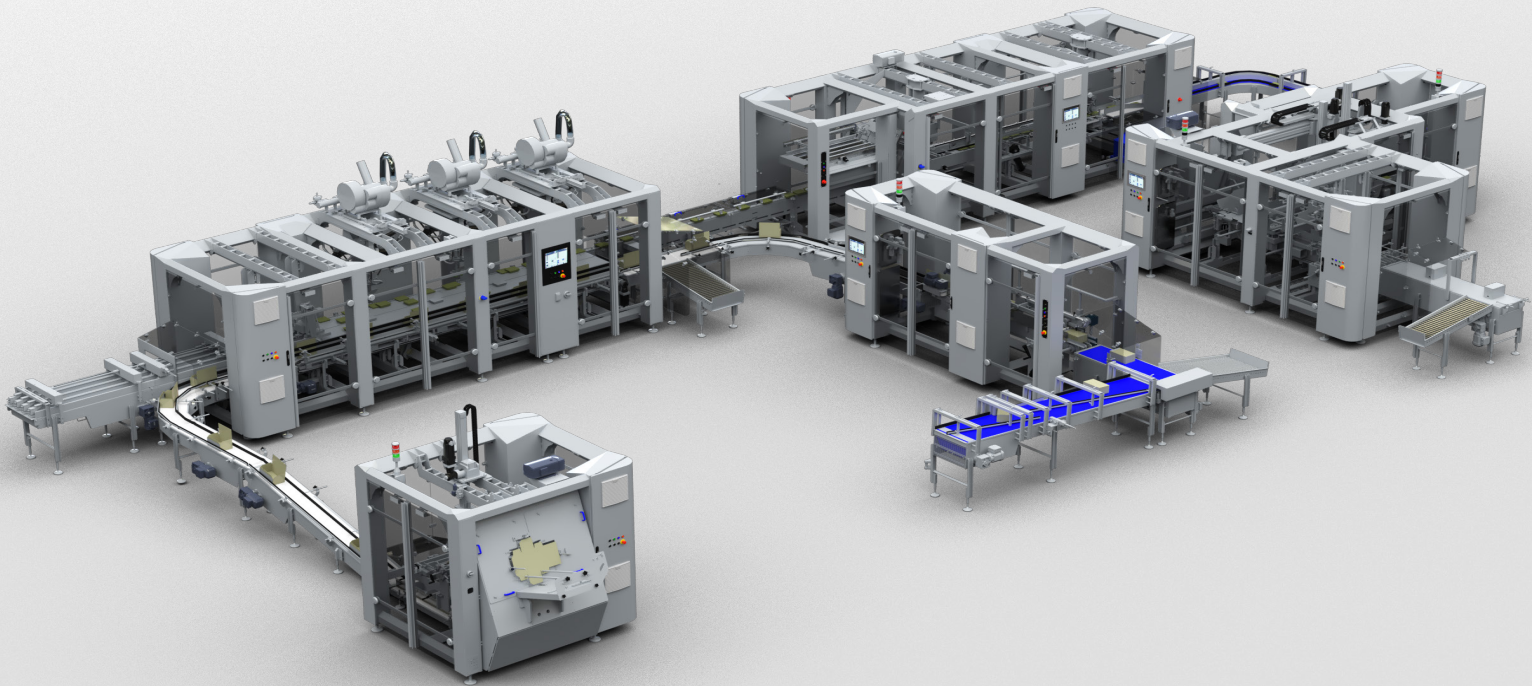




Flexibility is key for Petfood success



Leading pet food company looks to Cama to develop flexible packaging solution that easily adapts to market needs and consumer trends

A fast growing petfood manufacturer from the UK has gained a reputation for high-quality wet petfood that has allowed it to grow sales in global export markets.

Following a recent investment in its process and filling side for pet food trays, pressure was building to reduce costs and increase throughput on its packaging line.

The problem was that its customer's wanted standard single-unit items and, increasingly, multi-pack, multi-flavour packaging; two very different packaging formats.

Its existing equipment was slow and the process for the complete range of products required a lot of manual labour.

Flexible solution

The brief to Cama was to provide a solution that could deliver sleeved single trays in display cases for single-unit purchases and also the multi-pack variants, with up to four different flavours, in a consumer friendly take-home box. This flexibility is further extended to cope with different tray and pot sizes ranging from 85 to 400 g.

Thanks to Cama's decades of experience providing packaging machines and having an in-house packaging design team, it was able to propose a concept incorporating box forming and loading, sleeving, case packing, bundling and palletising to create a full, turn-key system.

Working with its partners, Cama was able to integrate inkjet coding, print-and-apply labelling and bar code scanning to ensure the whole system met with the customers' need to adhere to regulatory requirements for labelling and traceability of meat products.

Multi-format capabilities

The key to the flexibility of the line is Cama's vision-driven IG delta robot cell, incorporating 4x Triaflex robots which take product arriving in four lanes and either load the infeed of the sleeving machine for single unit sales or load directly into a take home box.

All products are capable of running at 200 trays per minute. When running multi-flavour, the infeed lanes are allocated to a specific flavour and the relevant box configuration is packed by



end user will realise multiple benefits, not just those relating to operational performance.

The consumer boxes are formed on Cama's FA21 forming unit, with the lids left open, and pass to the loading for topleading by the robots before being closed, using hotmelt glue, on a versatile CD56 top flap closing machine. Smaller boxes are collated and shrink wrap bundled before palletising, large cases a fed directly to the palletiser.

When running sleeved products, the four infeed lanes are all the same flavour and the robots load the trays directly on the flighted infeed conveyor for the high-speed Cama MP91 sleeving machine. A close-coupled Cama FW748 wraparound case packer, receives the products at 200 trays per minute and packs into Shelf Ready (SRP) wraparound display cases.

the robots as the boxes travel through the IG loading unit.

We now have some amazing references in the CPG and HPC industries, including multi-variety product packaging applications. Flexibility is totally key, combined with shelf-ready cases and high line output. We can also easily address any Industry 4.0 and IIoT initiatives, as the control solutions we deploy offer seamless connection to plant-wide systems.

And, to strengthen our design capabilities – and to make life easier for our customers – we are working on virtual commissioning and digital/virtual twins, too, alongside our own software and control applications that communicate with higher-level control systems, while delivering robust cybersecurity

Industry 4.0 ready

Cama's machines are seeing an incredibly positive reaction from many different markets, due to their flexibility, positive handling and high efficiency levels. Thanks to highly capable robotics and advanced automation solutions, they are Industry 4.0 ready and will comfortably fit into any smart-manufacturing environment. And with a standardised solution, the



As a result of the investment, the customer is now able to pack more than three times as many products per day, utilising fewer people, and therefore reducing its reliance on temporary workers. The greater efficiency gained from the investment will allow Return on Investment (ROI) within 2 years!

Cama Group, since 1981, is an international leader in engineering and production of high-technology secondary packaging systems. We offer completely integrated packaging lines, from primary packages up to final packaging, ready for palletizing, serving the Food (Bakery, Confectionery, Coffee, Ice Cream, Dairy, Ready Meals, Grocery), Non Food (Personal, Health & Home Care) and Pet Food industries.
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