



**Bradman Lake Group**  
Integrated Packaging Technology



# PACKAGING EQUIPMENT DESIGNED FOR THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

BRADMAN LAKE IS A PRIVATELY OWNED UK GROUP SPECIALISING IN THE DESIGN AND MANUFACTURE OF A VARIETY OF PACKAGING MACHINERY, ACROSS A MULTITUDE OF MARKET SECTORS.

John Marlee, Bradman Lake's Managing Director explains 'our business combines the strengths of three traditional packaging machinery manufacturers. The foundation of our equipment is derived from these well-established UK brands, Autowrappers (primary packaging), Bradman Lake (secondary packaging) and Europack (tertiary or end of line packaging).'

This editorial explores the diversity of the company's product offerings within the pharmaceutical market.

### Primary Packaging, Flow Wrapping and Roll Wrapping

Even during the global pandemic, the company supplied its flagship flow wrapping machine, the FT120, to package lateral flow and other similar test devices. With an extended ergonomic infeed, the machine can be manually loaded or fully automated using its VGR (Vision Guided Robot) system, which can be used to automatically place testing devices directly into the machine infeed. The wrapper's unique sealing modules provided the high integrity seal needed for this specific application.

The business has been at the forefront of roll wrapping effervescent and pharmaceutical tablets. Based on traditional mechanisms, the machine has been upgraded with new features

to meet today's production needs. New and refurbished S2000 roll wrappers are manufactured at the Beccles factory for this packaging format which is the workhorse of the industry.



Roll Wrapping



Flow wrapping

BRADMAN LAKE CONTINUES TO PROVIDE AFTERMARKET SERVICE AND SUPPORT ON AN INSTALL BASE SPANNING OVER FIVE DECADES!

### Secondary Packaging, Top Load and End Load Cartoning

With a wealth of knowledge and experience, the company offers a consultative approach, providing the information needed for its customers to make the right selection in delivering product to market.

As the business manufactures both carton formats, end load and top load, pharmaceutical test kits were preloaded



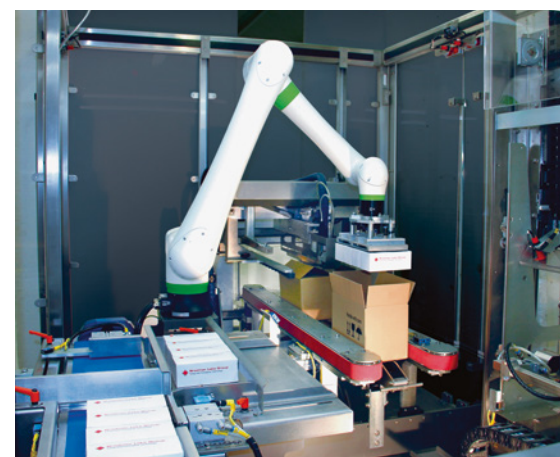


End Load Cartoning

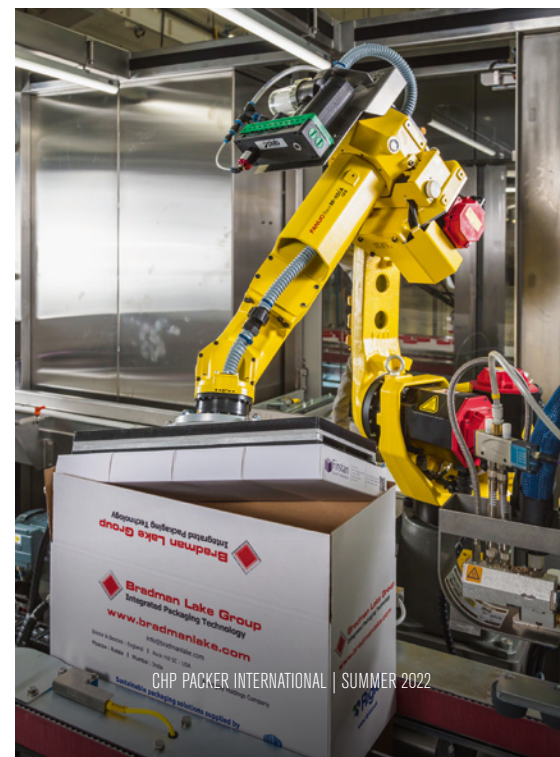
### Tertiary Packaging, RSC and Wrap Around Case Packing, Tray Loading, Shrink Wrapping and Palletising.

The company has an established range of 'end of line' products within its portfolio. As with all machines within the Bradman Lake product range, they are designed to the same exacting and common engineering standards.

The business has supplied a range of case packers to clients in the pharmaceutical industry. Selecting between RSC side load, top load or wrap-around is driven by the customers' requirements; considerations include carton size and collation format within the case.



Case Packing



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into lock erect trays, made using the established HS tray erector prior to being automatically loaded into an SL903 end load cartoning machine.

Other applications that require track and trace validation use a top load approach, utilising a flat blank glue erected carton, products are robotically loaded, leaflets inserted plus customised letter

and various other inserts assembled within a three-flap carton prior, to final sealing utilising a right angled carton closer.

The company will consult on carton design, which can include easy opening features that provide a personal experience in allowing the end user simple, intuitive access to the product without damaging the carton.



Vision Guided Robotics and Top Load Cartoning





Machines can be enabled for serialisation and aggregation integration. Labelling, product detection, rejection and integrated case elevators can all be included.

BL offer options for various levels of CFR21 Part 11 compliance.

Some of the most recent applications have included integrating Bradman Lake's range of small footprint palletisers, with a unique application loading nebulisers into plastic trays which are automatically loaded onto an integrated pallet.



### ABOUT BRADMAN LAKE

*Bradman Lake produces packaging machinery and integrated packaging technology, for the food, consumer, pharmaceutical and healthcare sectors. From distribution and feeding systems, flow wrapping, roll wrapping, slicing, bagging, robotics and cartoning, to case packing, shrink wrapping and palletising. A solution-based approach is gained from thousands of installations around the world. Bradman Lake is headquartered in the UK and operates two manufacturing plants in Bristol and Beccles in the UK and one in South Carolina, USA. Bradman Lake is a wholly owned subsidiary of the multi-disciplined UK engineering group, Langley Holdings plc. In 2022, Bradman Lake was awarded the Queens Award for Enterprise.*

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Bradman Lake, Beccles (inside shown below)

# BRADMAN LAKE'S OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

BY ED BINSTED

In May, the announcement came through that Bradman Lake had been awarded the Queen's Award for Enterprise in 2022. The Queen's Award is the highest and most prestigious award a British company can receive and is a globally

recognised seal of Royal approval.

I had the opportunity to meet up with John Marlee, Group M.D of Bradman Lake, and Paul Holmes, Technical Sales Manager, to discuss the impact of the Queens Award, which the company

gained in spite of COVID, the invasion by Russia into Ukraine and a general slowing down of the world economy.

Clearly John and Paul were in great form and immensely proud of their recent achievement, as John commented, "The Queens Award is a real pat on the back for our whole team who have diligently got on with the job in very difficult times, continuing to build world class machines and supporting our customers in the Food and Pharmaceutical global markets. Throughout the pandemic we took all the right precautions to safeguard the health of the team and I am proud to say that no team member was hospitalised with COVID."

The current Bradman Lake story started when Langley Holdings plc, a privately owned UK based engineering and industrial manufacturing group, acquired Bradman Lake in 2007, shortly after John Marlee was appointed M.D. from his previous role as Technical Director. Bradman Lake has four component parts; Autowrappers who produce 'Product Handling and Primary





Packaging Machinery', Bradman Lake 'Product Handling and Secondary Packaging Machinery', Europack 'Product Handling and Tertiary (or end of line) Packaging Machinery' and Ibonhart 'Product Handling, Slicing and Bagging for Bakery Products'. The company is now the largest UK based packaging machinery manufacturer and operates from three sites, Beccles, Bristol and Rock Hill, South Carolina in the US with Regional Sales and Service in Mumbai, India.



Bristol site

Bradman Lake have a significant export business, John commented, "Initially the majority of our exports came from Commonwealth countries where we

followed Global Food and Pharma clients who have been such loyal customers over the years, our coverage is now global. I am particularly pleased with the fact that customers come back to us time and again, which demonstrates to me that we do our best not to let anybody down in after sales and service. We continue to support machines in the field that first went in in the 1960's and when asked to, we can strip them down and fit new components and the machines will continue to give great service."

Being the leading player in machinery for Food and Pharma requires the company to constantly invest in new innovation through an ongoing research and development program and technical staff through their Apprentice programme. BL have 20 apprentices across the business and budget for six additional apprentices every year, as John said, "Our apprentices are our future and now make up 10% of our workforce, it is vital that we have the correct skills in place where we need them."

There is a culture of openness and transparency within the whole

Langley Holdings group and at BL also, we are very aware of staff safety and are proud to say there have been no recordable incidents in the three manufacturing plants in the last decade, another great achievement.

I will be publishing three very interesting projects which I saw on the shop floor in Beccles; a shrinkwrapper that is going into a glass manufacturer, a high speed end load cartoner and wrap around case packer going into a leading UK savoury pie manufacturer and, for the Pharma industry, a system for collating and loading small aerosol components for inhalers into trays with an integrated automatic palletising system. All three systems are going to existing clients who have returned to BL for automation as their own production continues to increase.

It has been a real pleasure to be able to report on a UK engineering success story, the Bradman Lake team thoroughly deserve their latest award and I wish them every success for the future.

