

# CADBURY SPECS SMARTPACKERS FOR STICKY ITEMS

STONEY CREEK, ONT — When Canada's Cadbury Trebor Allan, Inc. set out to equip its new warehouse and packaging facility in Stoney Creek, Ontario, Brett Thorne, the company's project engineering manager, had a challenge on his hands. Charged with replacing 10 low-speed intermittent motion packaging machines with new high-speed equipment, two particularly sticky problems had to be overcome.

The products being packed include the company's Sour Patch, Swedish Fish, Fuzzy Peach and Hawaiian Punch items. Packed in difficult to handle lightweight single or double OPP bags, the items not only have a tendency to stick to equipment, but products such as Sour Patch Watermelon Slices can wreak havoc on efficiency when sugar coatings get stuck in the packaging machines' seal jaws, preventing the bags from being fully closed.

The facility, completed last year, has enough space to store 60,000 pallets and includes what the company describes as an "enormous packaging area."

According to Thorne: "To fully use all the space, we needed to find a high-speed packing system that would keep on running. Consistent speed, easy-to-use and low on maintenance — those are some of the key elements I was looking for."

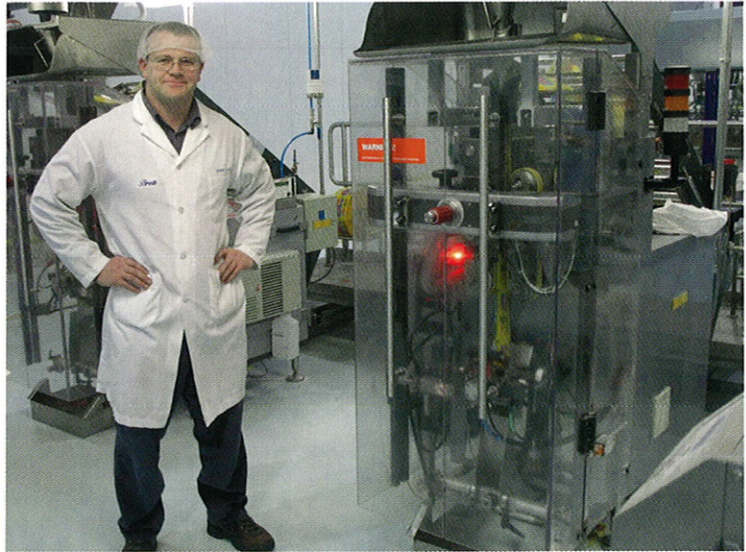
After what he describes as an extensive search, Thorne selected The Netherlands-based Convenience Food Systems B.V. (CFS) to replace 10 existing machines with six of the company's high-speed SmartPacker C180 machines equipped with Multipond weighers.

"The new SmartPackers replaced the old system that had a bagging rate of approximately 70 to 80 bags per minute," says Thorne, adding that machine speed was the main driver behind his decision, allowing the company to reduce costs and increase capacity.

"Taking efficiency into account, we have doubled the output on all bags," he says, explaining the system is used to pack 55g, 180g and 250g bags, as well as two-, five- and eight-ounce packs.

## CUSTOMIZATION IS KEY

To handle such demanding tasks, CFS extensively modified the machines to meet Cadbury's needs. Among the changes, special tooling was designed to dose the relatively large products into narrow short drop filling tubes while maintaining high speeds, and larger film reels were added to reduce change-over times and improve throughput.



Cadbury's Brett Thorne with one of six CFS SmartPacker C180s.

Wear resistant, FDA-approved filling tube ends were also custom fabricated to eliminate sugar contamination in the seal area, and specialized cooling units were installed to protect control systems from the environment. In addition, the weighers' control systems, including product memory features, were integrated directly into the packaging machines' operator screens.

"We have done more than our normal level of customization," Frank Caris, CFS confectionery business unit manager, tells **CandyBusiness**.

He explains: "The Cadbury application was much more difficult, the result of the combination of sugared products and film materials which don't seal well if there is too much sugar in the sealing area. We are still working with Cadbury to develop other improvements, such as how to improve controlled release of the lightweight bags coming off sticky jaws at high speeds."

Said to be one of few machines capable of producing as many as 180 bpm, SmartPacker C180s feature an open front design, a sealed main drive system and a minimum number of moving parts.

Additionally, multiple bag styles can be made on the same machine, including flat pillow and block bottom bags, and CFS' new envelope bags. A high-speed labeling system reaching speeds of 180 bpm is also available.

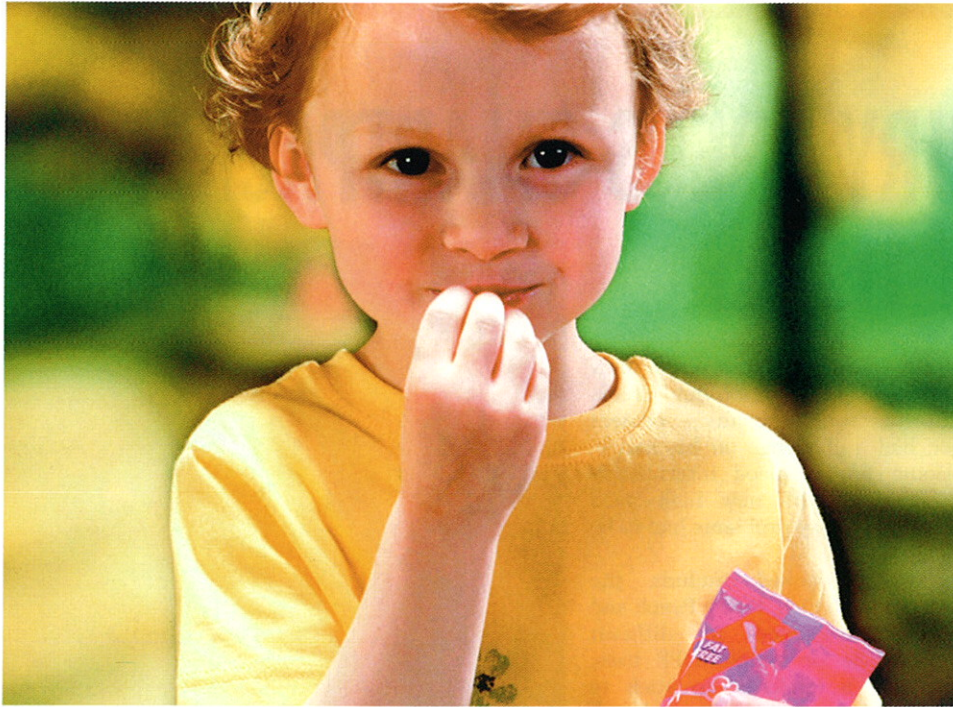
According to Thorne, the system's servo jaw protection system is designed to sense the presence of a single item stuck in the seal jaw area and eliminate pressure, sugar build-up and the need to clean heated jaws. SmartPackers automatically double bag offending items for later rejection on the line.

Thorne says: "It's so sensitive, even a single Swedish Fish can be detected."

After more than eight months of continuous use, Thorne reports the CFS systems have required little maintenance.

"It's a matter of set and forget, which is exactly what I was looking for," Thorne says. **CB**





## Sweet Convenience



Once you have produced the tastiest candies around, you'll want to package them in an attractive pack style. CFS can help you to create appealing packs that consumers will find absolutely irresistible. With the high-performance CFS SmartPacker you can bag each type of confectionery in a variety of pack styles in the most effective way.



### Sweet solutions

Under the brandname Aquarius, CFS offers high-quality and high-performance equipment for lollipop manufacturing: from forming, wrapping and cooling to final packaging.

### CFS SmartPacker offers you:

- ▶ Up to 200 bags/minute.
- ▶ More output per shift/more reliability.
- ▶ Higher efficiency & less cleaning due to sensitive jaw protection.
- ▶ Compact machines for delicate products.
- ▶ A variety of packages from pillow bags to block bottom, Quattro Seal, reclosable bags and envelope bags.
- ▶ Integrated CFS labellers functioning at high speeds.



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