

## Press Release

BEHN + BATES at Victam 2011

### **Proven packing machine technology now promoted for pet food**

Since 1998 the company BEHN + BATES has been the packing machine specialist for the food and pet food industries in the internationally operating HAVER & BOECKER Group. Focussing especially on the global food industry during the first years, the German machine building company is now getting more and more active in the field of pet food bagging. “The pet food industry shows a certain tendency towards quality packages made of high-quality materials especially for first-class pet food mixes – even partially under consideration of HACCP standards”, says Managing Director Ralf Hövelmann. “Our quality is the decisive factor for many food producers to rely on our technology. Therefore, we think that on the basis of our packing machine programme we are best prepared to meet the requirements of quality packaging in the pet food industry and thus to extend our range of activities accordingly.”

The numerous possibilities offered by BEHN + BATES on the basis of its large delivery programme will be presented to the packing experts of the pet food industry at Victam 2011.

### **The packing machine technology for pet food**

According to its composition a difference can be made between for example starch or oil containing pet food as well as so-called green pet food and others. This manifold composition shows that pet food has diverse characteristics challenging the packing companies – e. g. starch and oil containing pet food has quite different flow, packing and de-aerating characteristics in comparison to grainy or granulated products.

In the area of open-mouth bag packaging BEHN + BATES answers to these specialities with different dosing systems and filling spout designs integrated into the

diverse packing machine models. Powders and flours are dosed with impellers or screws, whereas granules are dosed depending on their grain size either by flaps, slides, vibrating or belt feeders. However, only the dosing is not sufficient. The filling spout plays another decisive role: A special powder spout with particular lateral de-aerating channels is required for powders and flours in order to get compact and stable bag shapes. For granules a simple flap spout is enough.

The dosing unit and the filling spout are the cores of each packing machine. The right packing machine model is chosen depending on the bag type to be filled and the requested kind of operation. If pre-fabricated open-mouth bags made of paper, PE and PP are to be processed, BEHN + BATES offers the machine variants BOH, gravity packer or net weigher with open-mouth bag filling spout for manual operations. The fully automatic product filling can be carried out by the TOPLINE packing system in special granule or powder design used in 2 different German factories for the filling of feed additives or mineral feed and feed premixes.

The FFS bag might be a convincing alternative in the pet food industry. It is made out of an endless gusseted PE film, filled and sealed. Thus, the bag size is optimally adjusted to the filling product. In addition, thinnest films are extremely tear-resistant. The film consumption is reduced thus meeting modern requirements with regard to the increasingly requested sustainability of packages. Being well familiar with these developments BEHN + BATES offers diverse machine variants for the filling of FFS bags. The right machine type is chosen depending on the product and the required machine output.

The open-mouth bag has been the classical packing material in the pet food industry for years. Indeed, the open-mouth bag presents quite a lot of advantages: Optimum product protection, improved suitability for storage, high advertising impact, flexible filling volumes or simple opening and re-closing of the used bag. But also the valve bag designs have progressed:

Meanwhile, there are valve bag designs that can be opened and re-closed easily. The valve bag may be made of paper as well as of PE or PP. It can be processed in a simple and clean way presenting good bag weights and compact bag shapes as well as a secure and hermetically tight bag closure for a clean packing environment. In addition, its second use is excluded. In comparison, it may happen that an emptied open-mouth bag with impeccable bag opening is used twice. This means that the

printed bag is re-filled with a second product of another quality. This product does not correspond to the quality of the original one and is sold in a false bag under a false name.

The BEHN + BATES delivery programme for valve bag filling is wide. It includes a simple gravity packer for granules as well as screw or impeller packers and the pneumatic packer presenting an all-round solution for the most diverse powdery and floury products. It fills for example fish meal in Northern Germany, middlings in Eastern Germany and feed additives in Belgium.

Also for his valve bag filling the customer decides on manual or automatic operation. The BEHN + BATES delivery programme includes the FRONTLINE bag applicator for the automatic valve bag application onto the filling spout as well as the ultrasound sealing station for the automatic valve bag closure. However, in order to use the ultrasound sealing station the valve bag must be equipped with a PE-coated valve that can be closed by ultrasound energy. What has been common practice in the food industry for years seems to be an attractive solution for the pet food industry, too. The reason is obvious: The valve tightly closed by ultrasound energy helps to create an extremely clean bagging area. Following aggregates such as belt conveyors or palettisers are hardly contaminated. The user profits from corresponding cost reductions due to lower cleaning and maintenance work.

Valve bag filling to perfection – this is realised by two systems made by BEHN + BATES. They can be equipped either with the air or the impeller filling technology: On the one hand it is the INTEGRA incorporating the applying, filling and sealing technology in one dust-tight cabinet. On the other hand, it is the ROTO-Packer for high filling outputs. The filling spouts of the ROTO-Packer are mounted at a rotating silo thus enabling higher packing capacities by using more filling spouts on a smaller surface.

## **The conclusion**

The packaging is becoming an increasingly important part of the value added chain in the pet food industry. In today's affluent and emerging societies pets' welfare is closely connected with the welfare of its owners. This means that the attention given by pet owners to the quality of the pet food and thus its proper processing and hygienic

Press Release  
BEHN + BATES at Victam 2011  
Proven packing machine technology now promoted for pet food

packaging is rising. This leads to the assumption that only a packaging material properly adjusted to the promotional targets and combined with the right filling technology achieves the requested results in the daily growing competition for customers. Based on the available bagging machines BEHN + BATES is well prepared for this competition in order to fill high-quality pet food in an attractive first-class way.

**BEHN + BATES at Victam 2011 in hall 6, stand B061.**

Münster, February 2011

For further information please contact:

BEHN + BATES Maschinenfabrik GmbH & Co. KG  
Gabriele Buß  
Robert-Bosch-Str. 6  
48153 Münster/Germany  
Telephone: 0251 9796-243  
Telefax: 0251 9796-260  
E-mail: [g.buss@behn Bates.com](mailto:g.buss@behn Bates.com)