OPM SpA and Carle&Montanari provide complete, turnkey solutions for the processing and packaging of chocolate. The two Italian companies combined the best of their respective production skills and know-how, while maintaining the two historic locations of Alba (Cuneo) and Rozzano (Milan).

"With our American company, located in Raleigh, North Carolina, we can also offer a prompt local after sales service for all inquiries", says Davide Isoardi, sales support manager, OPM, adding that the two companies “specialize in chocolate process and moulding, and in primary and secondary packaging for different application segments, including confectionery, bakery, dairy, convenience food, pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries.”

OPM and Carle&Montanari design and manufacture complete production lines, from cocoa processing and chocolate mass preparation, using a wide range of cocoa presses, mixers, pre-refiners, refiners and conches.

“Our moulding lines represent the state-of-the-art in the chocolate world”, Isoardi states. “They include both intermittent and continuous motion moulding plants depending on customer’s needs.”

The companies offer a wide supply of row distribution lines, aligners and feeders, as well as primary multi-style foiling and wrapping machines, suitable for tablets and pralines, horizontal flow-wrapping machines, both for mono and multi-pack and automated lines. They also produce robotic cells for boxes, trays and cases erecting, forming and closing single machines or multifunctional cells, customized suitably to different space, speed, product and configuration issues.

“The additional value of our entire range of machinery is that the customer can interface with a single supplier, who is able to propose flexible, personalized and integrated solutions, fulfilling any production requirement, from cocoa and chocolate processing to primary and secondary packaging”, said Isoardi.
At PACK EXPO 2012, OPM and Carle\&Montanari are showcasing the **Power Wrapper EVO and the Core**. The Power Wrapper EVO is a highly ergonomic and maintenance friendly machine, designed accordingly to the Total Productive Maintenance principles concerning accessibility, sanitation and ergonomics. The machine has a monolithic construction with a highly modular design, offering higher flexibility and a simplified mechanical design.

Their flow-wrapping machines are all configurable with different optional feeding systems to satisfy varied packaging configurations of the products: single, piled, on-edge, on U-tray, multi-pack, with or without gusseting. In addition, the machines are electronically servo-driven, easy to sanitize and suitable for connection to automatic product feeders, plus a variety of card feeders, from reel and pre-cut magazines and longitudinal or transversal tear-tape applicators. The unique coupling between the wheels and the product chain allows the controlled flow wrapping of small products.

The Core represents the state-of-the-art of the chocolate depositors. It is a completely removable and modular unit, allowing quick and easy maintenance and off-line cleaning operations. It is designed for a quick replacement of the Core group (piston block, hopper, dosing plate) in less than 10 minutes. This allows easier production type changes (white/dark chocolate or point/ribbon distribution), avoids any product contamination for different production and envisages the possibility to clean the Core group off-line. The blocking and releasing of the Core is completely automatic and could be effectuated with a commercial forklift.

Flexibility is the main advantage offered by the Core depositor, as it is suitable to any kind of moulding plant and to different kinds of depositing tools (point, one-shot, ribbon). To control the machines on display, OPM selected a wide number of Rockwell Automation components. “We opted for Rockwell Automation technology because we had to satisfy a specific market demand and because this choice enabled us to target a wider range of end users,” Isoardi said.

The Power Wrapper EVO uses an Allen-Bradley MP-Series™ servo motor for crimping, two MDF-SB1304F servo motors for heating wheels and chain and one servo motor MDF-SB1003P for film roll. The motion control solution is based on four Kinetix 6000 servo drives with safe-off connection and axis control safety module.

An Allen-Bradley ControlLogix™ L71 Programmable Automation Controller (PAC) is used for the overall machine control, while visualization is based on a PanelView™ Plus human machine interface (HMI), offering HMI functionality.

The PAC is connected via Ethernet to the touch screen panel and via SERCOS to the servo drive. The machine also incorporates an Allen-Bradley MSR 138 DP safety relay for safety functions. The Core Chocolate Depositor uses an Allen-Bradley ControlLogix PAC and a PanelView Plus 1000 HMI with Ethernet connection.

OPM benefits from Rockwell Automation products with reduced design time, decreased programming efforts, condensed floor space and minimized wiring, as well as shorter installation and start-up time.

“Rockwell Automation solutions improves troubleshooting capabilities, makes testing and validation easier and provides our machines with an increased flexibility to possible future changes,” said Isoardi. “Our software experts are also able to incorporate increased flexibility in the axis management, thanks to the programming standard used in the programming software.”

The proven relationship with Rockwell Automation and the smooth and continuous information flow are the key elements, which enable OPM to always find the solution that best fits their customers’ needs.

For more information, contact:
Davide Isoardi
Sales Support Manager
OPM SpA
12066 Monticello d’Alba (Cuneo) Italy
Phone: +39.0173.465611
Fax +39.0173.442001
Website: www.opm.it

Allen-Bradley, ControlLogix, MP-Series, Kinetix and PanelView are trademarks of Rockwell Automation, Inc. Trademarks not belonging to Rockwell Automation are property of their respective companies.

www.rockwellautomation.com