

## Curwood

### Bemis's Acquisition of Alcan Food Americas Strengthens Curwood's Single-Source Solutions in Cheese Packaging

*Enhancements include expanded cheese packaging technologies, two week service program.*

**OSHKOSH, Wis.** – Bemis Co., Inc., a worldwide supplier of flexible packaging materials, completed the acquisition of Alcan Food Americas on March 1 of 2010, strengthening the company's ability to serve the cheese marketplace. Bemis's Curwood division, a leading supplier of cheese packaging since its founding in 1958, has merged the majority of Alcan's technologies and services into its market offering.

Assets now under the Curwood umbrella that manufacture cheese packaging include the Boscobel, Wis., quick-turnaround plant; the Neenah, Wis., natural cheese plus wax-coated and IWS processed cheese packaging operation; the Russellville, Ark., stock preformed CPET tray operation; and the Des Moines, Iowa film production facility.

"These assets have dramatically strengthened our cheese product offering," says John Hackinson, Vice President of Marketing for Curwood. "Our expanded capabilities allow us to deliver the most comprehensive, technologically advanced, cost-efficient cheese packaging portfolio in the Americas. We have clearly emerged as the leader in cheese packaging, and we intend to earn that position with customers each and every day."

Oshkosh, Wis.-based Curwood got its start in New London, Wis., when businessmen Howard Curler and Bob Woods left American National Can (later to become Alcan) to launch their own flexible packaging business. Their vision was to develop polymer extrusion technology to make the finest flexible packaging possible for the meat and cheese industries.



In a small, rented garage, their plans began to take shape with a single machine and their first product—polyethylene packaging films. In 1962, the new company added vacuum-packaging equipment to their offering.

Bemis purchased Curwood just seven years after its founding, providing resources to invest in new technologies to meet the emerging needs of its meat and dairy customers.

Throughout the years, Curwood engineered packaging advances that improved the way cheese—and many other products—went to market. Examples include Curpolene films for chunk cheese; the first slider zipper package created for Sargento; and reclosable tray & lid packaging for sliced cheese.

"We are continually working to provide total packaging solutions to improve every aspect of cheese packaging, including machinability, shelf life, retail appeal, consumer convenience and sustainability," says Don Schnabel, Curwood's Director of Marketing for Cheese. "We also focus on cheese makers' needs for

reduced lead-times, shorter runs, reduced obsolescence and reduced inventory." The acquisition allows all Curwood facilities to turn flexible packaging around in just two weeks.

Also new in Curwood's portfolio is processed cheese packaging, including individual wrapped slice (IWS) technology and wax- and foil-coated materials. "Now cheese makers can single-source their full cheese packaging needs with us," says Schnabel

Curwood maintains strategic manufacturing and service centers throughout North America, South America and Europe. Bemis employs over 20,000 individuals in 84 manufacturing facilities in 13 countries around the world. Founded in 1858, Bemis is included in the S&P 500 index of stocks and reported pro forma 2009 net sales, giving effect to the Food Americas acquisition, of \$4.8 billion.

