

# Innovative Pack Style for Birth Control Pills

Sigpack Systems is helping Warner-Chilcott to increase productivity, ensuring uninterrupted supply of hermetically wrapped blisters of birth control pills.



## High technology in a Caribbean environment

Not only does Puerto Rico have a fantastic year-round climate in an ideal setting, it also has more pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities than one can imagine. Warner-Chilcott is located an hour's drive out of San Juan on the eastern side of the island of Puerto Rico.

Warner-Chilcott's existing packaging operation produces blisters filled with birth

control pills. Currently the majority of blisters are wrapped together with a patient insert, a wallet holder and a desiccant. Some are even sealed hermetically.

## Overcoming challenges

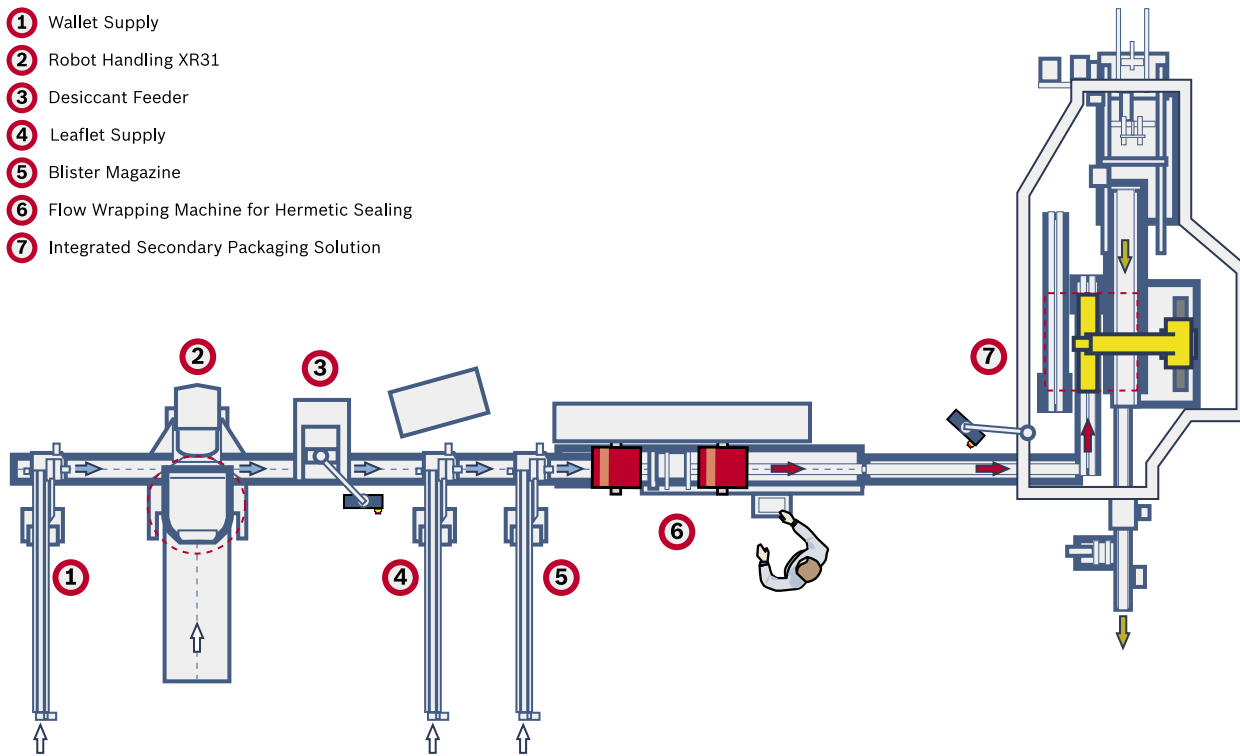
Increasingly though, Warner-Chilcott wraps all blisters hermetically and with their existing wrappers could no longer fulfill the climbing production demands. Enter Sigpack Systems: to meet the chal-

lenge, Sigpack supplies its HBL machine – highest-speed hermetic wrapping system on the market – to Warner-Chilcott.

## Complete system solution

There are four components (blister, wallet holder, patient insert, desiccant) to be consistently fed into the wrapper at a rate of 175 units per minute. It is critical to design the component feeders to match up seamlessly with the wrapper's capabilities. All components entering the

- ① Wallet Supply
- ② Robot Handling XR31
- ③ Desiccant Feeder
- ④ Leaflet Supply
- ⑤ Blister Magazine
- ⑥ Flow Wrapping Machine for Hermetic Sealing
- ⑦ Integrated Secondary Packaging Solution



System Illustration Achema

wrapper chain are verified. The system includes a sophisticated feeding control which verifies the existence of each component with integrated latch out function to reduce waste of material. Only a product properly wrapped with all components is able to travel on to the downstream cartoner. Since the product carrier chain and cross-crimper head run on independent servodrives, Sigpack Systems incorporated the “no-gap / no-seal” feature. This provides the benefit that the heads will not come down on the components should those be positioned

incorrectly within the film tube. Any invalid product will be rejected and the rejection verified – all without any break in the system’s operation.

The ergonomic control screens and built-in logic result in more efficient operator and maintenance training and enable individual operators to operate the entire system. Software lockout prevents validation or traceability from being compromised.

**Nothing is left to chance**

For applications in the pharmaceutical industry, all batch codes and expiration dates need to be verified. To achieve this, Sigpack Systems uses a Vision System to verify the print on the individually wrapped blisters and to keep a log of this process. All wrong data is detected and triggers the rejection of the product.

**Always lead, never follow**

Sigpack Systems plays a leading role in the support of their pharmaceutical customers and - as demonstrated with Warner-Chilcott – provides support to clients by keeping their finished-goods supply chain reliable and secure.

**Exhibit at Achema in Frankfurt**

At the Achema show, 15 – 19 May 2006, the customized packaging solution for Warner-Chilcott will be demonstrated together with an additional robotic solution for product handling and an integrated top-loader platform for end-of-line packaging. The combination of the described system components represents a highly flexible and economical system that supports maximum production efficiency and operator friendliness.

Hermetic Blister Package Warner-Chilcott



## Interview with Jose Carrasquillo, Senior Packaging Technologist of Warner-Chilcott:

### What were the main reasons for Warner-Chilcott to invest in this new system?

We need additional manufacturing capacity for the market.

### What was Warner-Chilcott looking for in this system that was so different from what you did previously?

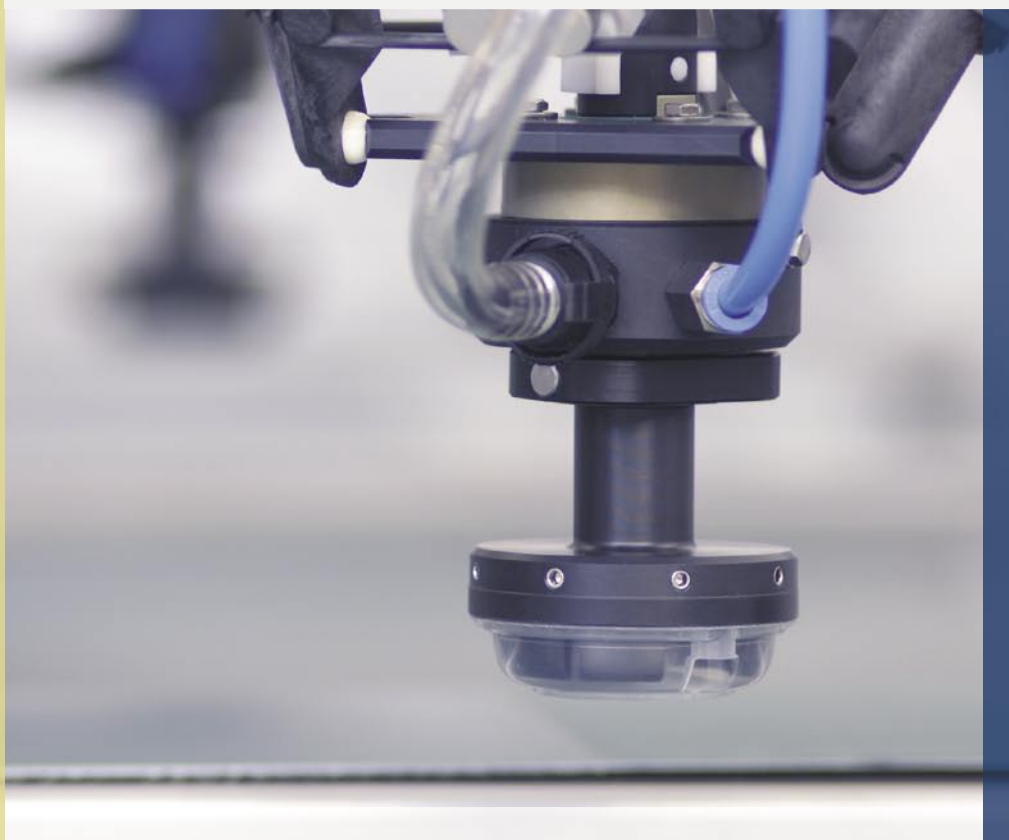
Warner-Chilcott was looking for a reliable system with high performance without sacrificing quality.

### What factors went into Warner-Chilcott's choice of Sigpack Systems as a supplier

It was Sigpack Systems experience with this application. Peace of mind that we could produce a hermetically sealed package at the required speed.

### Of what value to Warner-Chilcott was Sigpack Systems' ability to deliver a complete system?

The reason for any client, like me, to choose a company like Sigpack Systems is not just for the main equipment, in this case the wrapper, but to integrate all the ancillary equipment into a single system and be responsible for the performance of the whole thing.



### Adding a new dimension to your pharmaceutical product

More and more, products must be placed in the spotlight right at the point-of-sale. It is very important to dress your product appealingly enough to catch the consumer's attention. The flexible TTLi Top Loader of Sigpack Systems provides all necessary options to put your product into the spotlight. Fancy tray designs, like displays are simple to apply. The TTLi integrated Top Loader is built as a customized solution, achieving maximum efficiency within a compact layout. Coding, labeling, leaflet inserts, and quality inspection are integrated functions. The TTLi is the perfect extension of the Sigpack Systems Flow Wrapper system in which complementary control and software elements fuse into a seamless design.

### Convince yourself at the Achema and witness the system in action!

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