

# Relocation, Relocation

Onwards and upwards! Biopharma has moved



**2007** was a successful year for both BPS and BTL.

Record sales were made in **VirTis** freeze dryer products for a further year, with a *VirTual* freeze dryer going to Galway and a *Benchmark* system was delivered to Thame – an indication of continued expansion! **Usifroid's** latest design of SMH Compact series freeze dryers continues to generate interest with further orders in Ireland and installations currently underway in Wales.

For our new principals, a food application **Cuddon** freeze dryer was installed in Preston and we also made our first sales of **FTS** products with a BioCool controlled-rate freezer going to Sussex and a LyostarII freeze-dryer with SMART technology installed in Manchester. **Adam Fabriwerk** mixing vessel and processing systems continue to generate strong interest with excellent quality and low costs being key to this continued growth.

With continued growth predicted we were in need of room to expand. Fortunately larger premises became available when we needed them – right across the road from our old building!

The main office building has been modernised with new wiring and windows. Upstairs, the large conference room will shortly be redeco-

rated and furnished to provide a space suitable for customer meetings and smaller training courses.

The service department will benefit from greatly expanded space with a new workshop area. There is ample room for multiple machines to be stored, tested, upgraded or repaired simultaneously and we will also be able to maintain increased stocks of spare parts or replacements.

While further diversification is planned ( see the article about BEE International homogenisers—overleaf ) we also understand the need to maintain our core strengths in freeze drying, so we are currently in the process of building a state of the art laboratory for Biopharma Technology (see BTL's newsletter). The space is more than three times that of their old laboratory, with separate areas for packing / unpacking, equipment testing and analysis. This will enable them to offer a more comprehensive and efficient service to customers.

Because our new premises are so close to our previous site, we have been able to keep all our contact details—so phone, fax and email remain unchanged. Visitors will find us conveniently directly across the road from our old site.

# New Business Development Manager

Biopharma has been expanding steadily over the past years, with new principals Cuddon, Adam Fabriwerk and now BEE International. To help keep us focused and to make sure we make the most of our opportunities we took the decision to employ an experienced Business Development Manager.

Some of you may have already spoken to Dr Jonathon Swanston, who joined us earlier this year. After a PhD at Birmingham University he worked as a research scientist at Air Products and Courtaulds before becoming

Global Product Development Manager for Shell Fine Chemicals. Other roles have included Business Manager and Global Technology Leader at Minova, where his roles included coordinating business development and research activities.

Jonathan is tasked with looking at ways to expand business, such as broadening and complimenting our product range by securing new principals as well as leveraging some of the IP that is inherent in the existing business.



# New! High Pressure Homogenisers

## Introducing BEE International

BEE International was established in 1994 for the sole purpose of advancing the technology of homogenization, developing innovative high pressure homogenizing equipment for the pharmaceutical, biotech and chemical industries.

High pressure homogenizers allow manufacturers and scientists to break down droplets and particles into sizes below one micron.

The benefits over other homogenisation methods, such as wet milling and piston gap, include the ability to individually control forces such as impact, shear and cavitation whilst avoiding problems such as fractionation and low solids concentration.

With many years' expertise in homogenisation BEE understands the importance of maintaining control over all the forces that affect the process. Their modular homogenising cell utilised a range of patented equipment



to ensure that customers get the precision, efficiency and repeatability that they require.

These systems are commonly used for particle size reduction, fine emulsions, cell disruption, nanoparticles and micro-encapsulating along with general blending and mixing. The product line covers laboratory applications to high volume pilot plant systems that scale up linearly from laboratory units.

Biopharma is delighted to be the first to supply BEE homogenisers within the UK and Ireland. For more information, contact the office (details below) or you can download a series of brochures from our website

[BiopharmaProcessSystems.co.uk](http://BiopharmaProcessSystems.co.uk).



# Freeze Dryer Loading Systems from PennTech

PennTech Machinery Corp. who are known for their innovative solutions and quality engineering, have also been working on the next generation of fully automated loading systems which will include remotely guided vehicles.

Loading systems offer a range of potential benefits. Even partially automating the loading process offers an immediate reduction in personnel costs and increased speed of changing over batches. But the main benefits of the technology come in separating the product from operators, thereby protecting both. Product handling can be carried out under sterile or cleanroom conditions, and operators are not exposed to potentially toxic materials. From a regulatory perspective, isolating the product at this stage of the manufacturing process can be worth the investment alone.

PennTech, who are known for their innovative solutions and quality engineering, have been working on a range of loading systems and have now released them to the market.

## Semi-Automatic Loading

The semi-automatic loading system consists of a Vial Loading Station and a Portable Cart that the operator shuttles between the filling line and the lyophiliser.



*Clockwise from above: the Portable Cart from a semi-automatic system; vials loaded onto the automatic guided vehicle (AGV) shelf; the AGV seated on the X-Rails.*



Features include automatic loading of the Portable Cart with vials from the filling line; automatic height adjustment in front of the lyophiliser and docking to the lyo-shelf; and automatic unloading of vials from the portable cart to the capping machine.

## Fully Automatic Loading –new or retrofit!

PennTech's fully automatic loading and unloading systems (ALUS) are designed to automatically collate and load pharmaceutical vials from the filling line into the lyophiliser and to automatically unload the lyophiliser and to place the

vials back onto the line for further processing. This system typically consists of three components: a combined infeed/outfeed station (IOS) that receives vials from the filling line during loading, and channels the vials back onto the line after unloading, the IOS can be separated to an exclusive infeed and outfeed station if required; an automatic guided vehicle (AGV), that transports the vials from the IOS to the lyophiliser and back again; and an "X-rail" that guides the AGV between the IOS, the lyophiliser. The AGV's shelf automatically "seeks" and aligns itself with the location of the lyo-shelf within a height range of 350mm by means of proximity switches and sensors, ensuring that it docks precisely every time even in the event that the lyo-shelf is slightly out of place or not precisely horizontal. This feature means that it is possible to retrofit this system to any suitable lyophiliser even if that lyophiliser was not originally designed with automatic loading in mind.

For more information please contact the sales department.

# Vacancies

We are seeking to appoint an additional **field sales person** to report directly to the sales director. The person should be capable of promoting the complete range of products and will therefore require a good understanding of the industry practices and requirements which we serve.

Interested persons please contact us for further details:

[sales@biopharma.co.uk](mailto:sales@biopharma.co.uk)



**From all of us here at Biopharma, enjoy the rest of your summer!**

