



## CASE STUDY

October 2008

### **LOMA SYSTEMS MAINTAINS ALATONI'S PREMIUM REPUTATION**

Alatoni Ltd is renowned for their marinated olives and other specialities foods, which are sourced from all around the Mediterranean. Their olives come from long established family companies in the heart of the traditional growing regions, and the company prides itself on its quality products. They marinate and pack products to the very highest technical standards, in their purpose built nut-free factory in Bicester, Oxfordshire.

As part of the company's on-going commitment to quality management, Alatoni has chosen Loma Systems, a world leader in the design and manufacture of food inspection systems, to supply the latest IQ<sup>3</sup> Metal Detection system and AS Combo Checkweigher to maintain the safety of its products and enhance the speed and efficiency of its production line.

A high level of quality and safety control is key to maintaining Alatoni's premium standards as a key supplier to a wide range of multiples. As the company continues to grow, Alatoni needed to seek an inspection solution to match its own quality and reputation. They recently set up a new line to process fresh Bean Salad in a 200-gram container. They required a reliable all-in-one metal detector and checkweigher to ensure quality control and the machine had to be compact, due to space limitation in the production hall.

Roy Buchanan, Production Manager at Alatoni explains why they chose Loma Systems, "We contacted Loma because we had heard about their reputation in the industry, and we were looking for a reliable unit that was easy to operate. We really liked the combined IQ<sup>3</sup> metal detector and Checkweigher as it is simple to use and it could cope with our high throughput volumes".

This space-saving combined inspection system incorporates a high-powered, variable AC motor on its conveyor that is tailor-made to deliver speed and accuracy. Capable of handling packaged products up to 5Kg with a market leading accuracy class of 0.5 grams, the unit can inspect at speeds of 400ppm.

The IQ<sup>3</sup> metal detector is in a class of its own, this next generation system offers better sensitivity, more stability, it's environmentally tougher and more future proof than anything else currently on the market.

The IQ<sup>3</sup> metal detector has sophisticated electronics to enable the innovative Automatic Product Learn system to calibrate and automatically learn the characteristics and settings for up to 100 different products. An additional feature is the innovative Variable Frequency system, allowing the operator to automatically find the ideal frequency for the type of product being inspected. In short the machine is self-learning, so it is very straightforward to operate - if there are metal contaminants inside the product, the IQ3 will find them, and keep on finding them. Again and again, shift after shift, day after day.

The IQ<sup>3</sup>'s bright control panel is very simple to understand and is designed to be used in any multi-language environments. The machine includes a Performance Validation System, automatically prompting the operator to test performance at pre-set intervals according to HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point) principles, and producing a detailed record of any contaminants found. Added to this, the IQ<sup>3</sup> uses an industry standard OPC system (Object Linking and Embedding for Process Control), allowing operations managers to easily integrate the equipment in factory data capture networks.

It's not just about product integrity; Loma's machines can also increase production. "Using the Loma IQ<sup>3</sup> metal detector system has noticeably improved production and has been a cost effective investment," comments Roy, "We have been able to reduce our personnel on the factory floor due to the efficiency and simplicity of the unit".

Loma Systems continues to improve its customer service division, and Alatoni is a true testimony to that, as Roy continues, "Loma's service more than exceeded our expectations. At our last scheduled service we asked an engineer to assist us in investigating why one of our belts was slipping, the problem was resolved there and then by changing one of the bearings. Overall Loma offers a really good, thorough, professional and efficient service." Roy concludes, "We are so confident with Loma Systems, we have already recommended them to other food manufactures".

Loma is a world leader in the design and manufacture of in-line inspection equipment. With a comprehensive range of Metal Detectors, Checkweighers and X-ray systems, Loma is committed to providing the most efficient and cost-effective solutions for all food product inspection requirements.

For more information about Loma Systems and their tailor made inspection solutions please visit our website: [www.loma.com](http://www.loma.com) or telephone +44 (0) 1252 893300 or email [sales@loma.co.uk](mailto:sales@loma.co.uk)

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**Note to editors:**

Loma Systems is a leading global supplier of metal detection; checkweighing, X-ray inspection, temperature measurement and management information systems that help food manufacturers keep their products safe. Loma is an international operation with direct manufacturing, sales and service bases in the UK, USA, Canada, South America, China, the Netherlands, Germany, France, Czech Republic and Poland. Loma has a reputation for its robust and reliable machines that are designed to survive even the harshest of production environments.

[www.loma.com](http://www.loma.com)

*For press enquiries please contact:*

*PR Division, Binsted Group*

*Attwood House, Mansfield Park, Four Marks, Alton, Hampshire GU34 5PZ*

*Telephone: 01420 568910*

*Fax: 01420 568919*

*Email: [pr@binstedgroup.com](mailto:pr@binstedgroup.com)*

*For reader enquiries please contact:*

*Loma Systems, Southwood, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 0NY*

*Telephone: 01252 893300 Fax: 01252 513322*

*Web: [www.loma.com](http://www.loma.com)*

*Email: [sales@loma.com](mailto:sales@loma.com)*

