



## Developing more flexible packaging systems and consolidating a proliferated product range at Amersham

Amersham (now owned by General Electric) manufactures a range of specialist nuclear imaging products for sale world-wide. The product range covers both branded and sub-contract production.

### Business Challenge

The Amersham manufacturing plant produced specialist nuclear imaging products; these then proliferated by size, number of vials per pack and language. As a consequence, production run lengths were constantly reducing, significantly impacting efficiency and output. The packing operation and packaging used were based around an inefficient single production cell with operators within this cell being responsible for product inspection, collation and checking of packaging materials, product packing and finished goods inspection. James Ross Consulting were asked to review the packing area processes, together with packaging formats used, and to define and implement improvements.

### How JRC Helped

In order to establish actual product, packaging and regulatory needs we conducted a brief survey of the production and distribution process. This also involved discussions with technical services, regulatory, marketing, QA and QC departments. The survey allowed us to build proposals for change that focused around the following key elements: Removal of ancillary processes; Development of more flexible packaging systems; Change in layout to increase output without significant labour increase; Re-design of the packaging to reduce cost and handling processes to optimize material flow.

### Value Delivered

James Ross Consulting were responsible for technical development, trials and costing for all aspects of packaging and plant change. The project achieved a reduction in overall packaging spend in excess of 80%. A major result for the manufacturing plant.

### About Amersham

The Group's activities are the development, manufacture and sale of specialised products for research-based biotechnology supply and for the diagnosis and treatment of disease. Amersham Health, provides diagnostic and predictive imaging products and services and related therapeutic products that focuses on cardiology, neurology and cancer. Amersham Biosciences, develops and provides integrated systems and solutions for disease research, drug development and manufacture.

### About James Ross Consulting

James Ross Consulting is a mid sized global manufacturing consulting, technical support and analytical services company, with offices established in the UK, USA and Australia. Their three competence groups, Cost Optimization, Technical Support and Analytical Services, develop a full spectrum of services and solutions that address business opportunities and challenges common across industries. See also [www.jrconsulting.com](http://www.jrconsulting.com).

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