

Boxboard Europe

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Top stories

UK's Woodberry Packaging strengthens position in pharmaceutical, personal care sectors through acquisition of Medica, Curtis

By Daniela Wortmann - Tuesday 07 July

Woodberry Packaging, one of the UK and Ireland's leading independent packaging groups, has strengthened its foothold in the pharmaceutical and personal care sectors.

The company announced on Tuesday July 7 that it had acquired Medica Packaging (Medica), the UK's largest independent pharmaceutical carton converter, and G.F. Curtis (Curtis), which specializes in cartons for cosmetics and personal care products. The financial terms of the acquisitions, which almost double Woodberry Packaging's headcount to around 650 people from roughly 350, were not disclosed.

"The deal broadens the group's capability in pharmaceutical, healthcare and personal care packaging, and positions it for growth across Europe," Woodberry Packaging said. The company added that both businesses will continue to operate under their existing brands and management.

Woodberry Packaging is backed by Dublin-based Woodberry Capital, and has built its group by acquisitions across Ireland and the UK. Medica and Curtis join Certus Card Group, Colorman and Reelvision Print in the Woodberry Packaging group, and are expected to lift its sales to more than €120 million (\$137 million).

"The acquisition of Medica and Curtis is a major step in building our group across Europe. This is part of a clear, long-term strategy of bringing high-quality businesses together and integrating them well to create a stronger whole," Peter Santo, chief executive officer of Woodberry Packaging, said.

"Medica is the UK's largest independent pharmaceutical carton converter, and Curtis is one of the most respected names in cosmetics packaging. We want to learn from both teams, invest in their businesses and create opportunities none of us could achieve alone," he added.

Related News Boxboard/Cartonboard Europe

Clear strategic direction, positive outlook for La Rochette Cartonboard as it continues 'Towards New Summits' plan

- Tuesday 07 July

La Rochette Cartonboard SAS – a specialist in virgin fibre-based cardboard since 1873 and a trusted partner to the food, pharmaceutical and premium markets – is continuing its growth and transformation momentum in 2026, supported by favourable internal and external outlooks for the months ahead.

Remaining true to its three-year strategic plan, 'Towards New Summits', launched in April 2025, the company is today presenting its results, the projects undertaken during the first half of the year, and its key strategic priorities for the months ahead, against a backdrop of past industry disruptions and ongoing market requalifications.

1 – A shared, monitored and on-track strategic plan

The year 2025 closed with a return to positive EBITDA, highlighting the progress achieved and the encouraging early results of the strategic plan. Official certification to ISO 22 000 and good manufacturing practices for the pharmaceutical industry As outlined in its strategic plan, La Rochette Cartonboard officially achieved ISO 22 000 certification following an outstanding effort by its teams, who successfully completed the process in just eight months. This certification ensures a high level of safety for products primarily intended for the food and pharmaceutical sectors, through the integration of risk analysis at every level and the implementation of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP). It will further strengthen customer confidence, meet the stringent requirements of sensitive industries, and create new market opportunities.

Supporting and implementing cross-functional continuous improvement projects

Management continues to actively support employee training in Continuous Improvement (Lean Management) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), while further developing cross-functional projects and collaborative working groups involving teams, customers and suppliers. In 2025, training accounted for 16,666 hours, a record high for the company, alongside the creation of more than 135 cross-functional working groups. In 2026, the company will continue to invest heavily in employee development and aims to establish 50 additional cross-departmental working groups.

These significant achievements, combined with the successful execution of the strategic plan, have reinforced the trust and confidence placed in the company by its stakeholders.

2 – Strengthened financial position, sustained investment and positive momentum through strategic customer qualifications in 2026

The shareholder, the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Regional Authority, and the French ministries continue to actively support La Rochette Cartonboard from a strategic, financial, analytical and operational standpoint. This positive momentum is further reinforced by a significant commitment from the shareholder, Mutares, through the waiver of its 2024 shareholder loans, thereby strengthening the company's equity position, supporting the strategic plan and recognizing the achievement of its 2025 objectives.

At the same time, a regional investment bank and a European organization specialized in financing solutions are supporting La Rochette Cartonboard in strengthening its financial structure and securing the funding required to deliver its strategic plan.

3. Towards new standards and long-term partnerships

CSR Commitment – Launch of the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) in 2026

La Rochette Cartonboard is joining the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi), a globally recognized framework aimed at reducing carbon footprints, cutting greenhouse gas emissions and supporting the fight against climate change. In collaboration with its customers and suppliers, around ten cross-functional working groups will be established to enhance the efficiency and sustainability of the entire value chain. During the first quarter of 2026, an initial working group was already launched in partnership with one of the company's customers.

Seven major customer accounts and strategic partners successfully requalified

La Rochette Cartonboard has already secured the requalification of seven strategic, demanding, multi-country customers, strengthening its position in a consolidating market while fostering long-term partnerships. This achievement represents a significant vote of confidence, and the company aims to requalify 90% of its top 20 customers by the end of 2026.

"La Rochette Cartonboard remains firmly on track to achieve the objectives set out in its three-year plan, as demonstrated by the successful milestones reached in 2025 and 2026, including the return to positive EBITDA as early as 2025. A transformation plan of this scale requires the commitment and support of all stakeholders, shareholders and local communities. Securing the financing needed over the next three years is essential to sustain growth, transformation and investment. We need everyone's support to continue strengthening our partnerships and remain fully engaged in delivering our shared ambitions. In 2026, new summits await us, and we are committed to reaching them together." - Béatrice Jacquet

About La Rochette Cartonboard

La Rochette Cartonboard SAS is a leading manufacturer of virgin fibre-based packaging board. The company serves both French and international customers across the food, pharmaceutical and cosmetics industries. Founded in 1873 and based in Valgelon-La Rochette, France, La Rochette Cartonboard SAS employs 280 people.

Boxboard/Cartonboard Europe Key Attributes

Symbol	Description	Date	Price	+/-	Month	Monthly Average
FP-CBB-0098	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g, free delivered France, €/tonne	01 Jun 2026	980 - 1220	15 (1.38%)	Jun 2026	980 - 1220
FP-CBB-0100	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g free delivered Germany €/tonne	01 Jun 2026	980 - 1210	15 (1.39%)	Jun 2026	980 - 1210
FP-CBB-0099	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered France, €/tonne	01 Jun 2026	700 - 740	15 (2.13%)	Jun 2026	700 - 740
FP-CBB-0101	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered Germany, €/tonne	01 Jun 2026	680 - 735	15 (2.17%)	Jun 2026	680 - 735

Boxboard/Cartonboard Germany Markets

Symbol	Description	Date	Price	+/-	Month	Monthly Average
FP-CBB-0100	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g free delivered Germany €/tonne	01 Jun 2026	980 - 1210	15 (1.39%)	Jun 2026	980 - 1210
FP-CBB-0101	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered Germany, €/tonne	01 Jun 2026	680 - 735	15 (2.17%)	Jun 2026	680 - 735

Boxboard/Cartonboard Spain Markets

Symbol	Description	Date	Price	+/-	Month	Monthly Average
FP-CBB-0104	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g, free delivered Spain, €/tonne	01 Jun 2026	970 - 1220	15 (1.39%)	Jun 2026	970 - 1220
FP-CBB-0105	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered Spain, €/tonne	01 Jun 2026	695 - 720	0 (0.00%)	Jun 2026	695 - 720

Boxboard/Cartonboard France Markets

Symbol	Description	Date	Price	+/-	Month	Monthly Average
FP-CBB-0098	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g, free delivered France, €/tonne	01 Jun 2026	980 - 1220	15 (1.38%)	Jun 2026	980 - 1220
FP-CBB-0099	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered France, €/tonne	01 Jun 2026	700 - 740	15 (2.13%)	Jun 2026	700 - 740

Boxboard/Cartonboard Italy Markets

Symbol	Description	Date	Price	+/-	Month	Monthly Average
FP-CBB-0102	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g, free delivered Italy, €/tonne	01 Jun 2026	980 - 1220	15 (1.38%)	Jun 2026	980 - 1220
FP-CBB-0103	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered Italy, €/tonne	01 Jun 2026	680 - 730	15 (2.17%)	Jun 2026	680 - 730

Boxboard/Cartonboard UK Markets

Symbol	Description	Date	Price	+/-	Month	Monthly Average
FP-CBB-0094	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g, free delivered United Kingdom, £/tonne	01 Jul 2026	990 - 1175	0 (0.00%)	Jul 2026	990 - 1175
FP-CBB-0095	Cartonboard/boxboard, folding boxboard (GC2) 270-280 g, free delivered United Kingdom, €/tonne	01 Jul 2026	1156 - 1371	11.5 (0.92%)	Jul 2026	1156 - 1371
FP-CBB-0096	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered United Kingdom, £/tonne	01 Jul 2026	715 - 765	0 (0.00%)	Jul 2026	715 - 765
FP-CBB-0097	Cartonboard/boxboard, white-lined chipboard (GD2) 300 g, free delivered United Kingdom, €/tonne	01 Jul 2026	835 - 893	8 (0.93%)	Jul 2026	835 - 893