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OPTA FOOD INGREDIENTS INC /DE  
Form SC 13D  
December 12, 2002

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13D  
(Rule 13d-101)

INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN STATEMENTS FILED PURSUANT  
TO RULE 13d-1(a) AND AMENDMENTS THERETO FILED PURSUANT TO  
RULE 13d-2(a)

Opta Food Ingredients, Inc.  
(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock, Par value \$0.01 per Share  
(Title of Class of Securities)

6838 1N105  
(CUSIP Number of Class of Securities)

Jeremy N. Kendall  
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer  
Stake Technology Ltd.  
2838 Highway 7  
Norval, Ontario L0P 1K0, Canada

A copy to:  
Dunnington, Bartholow & Miller, LLP  
Attention: Robert T. Lincoln, Esq.  
666 Third Avenue, 27th Street  
New York, New York 10017

Phone: 905 - 455-1990

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(Name, Address and Telephone number of Person Authorized to Receive Notices and  
Communications on Behalf of Filing Persons)

December 4, 2002  
(Date of Event which Requires Filing of this Statement)

If the filing person has previously filed a statement on Schedule 13G to  
report the acquisition that is the subject of this Schedule 13d-1(g), check the  
following box.

Note. Schedule filed in paper format shall include a signed original and  
five copies of the schedule include all exhibits. See Rule 13d-7(b) for other  
parties to whom copies are to be sent.

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CUSIP No. 68381N105

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1 NAME OF REPORTING PERSON  
I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSON

STAKE ACQUISITION CORP. (I.R.S. Identification # 13-4222698) and  
STAKE TECHNOLOGY LTD.

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2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP

(a)   
(b)

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3 SEC USE ONLY

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4 SOURCE OF FUNDS\*

BK/HC

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5 CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED  
PURSUANT TO ITEMS 2(d) OR 2(e)

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6 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

DELAWARE and CANADA

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7 SOLE VOTING POWER

10,063,841

NUMBER OF  
SHARES  
BENEFICIALLY  
OWNED BY  
EACH  
REPORTING  
PERSON  
WITH

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8 SHARED VOTING POWER

None

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9 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

10,063,841

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10 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

None

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11 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

10,063,841

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12 CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (11) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES  
(See Instructions)

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13 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (11)

Approximately 92.4342%

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14 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON (See Instructions)

CO

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\* See Section 10 ("Source and Amount of Funds") of the Offer to Purchase dated November 4, 2002, which is incorporated herein by reference.

This Statement is filed by Stake Acquisition Corp., a Delaware corporation ("Purchaser") and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Stake Technology Ltd. a corporation organized under the laws of Canada ("Stake"), and relates to the

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tender offer by Purchaser to purchase all outstanding Shares (as defined below) of Opta Food Ingredients, Inc., a Delaware corporation, at a price of \$2.50 per share of Company Common Stock net to the Seller in cash, upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the Offer to Purchase, dated November 4, 2002 (the "Offer to Purchase"), incorporated by reference to Exhibit (a)(1) of the Schedule TO filed by the Purchaser on November 4, 2002 (the "Schedule TO") and in the related Letter of Transmittal, incorporated by reference to Exhibit (a)(2) of the Schedule TO (which, as amended from time to time, together constitute the "Offer").

### Item 1. Security and Issuer

The name of the issuer is Opta Food Ingredients, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Issuer"), which has its principal executive offices at 25 Wiggins Avenue, Bedford, MA 01730. The title of the securities to which this Statement relates is the Issuer's outstanding common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the "Company Common Stock"), all shares of Company Common Stock (the "Shares"). The information set forth in the "Introduction" of the Offer to Purchase is incorporated herein by reference.

### Item 2. Identity and Background

(a)-(c) and (f) This Statement is being filed by the Purchaser and Stake. The information set forth in Section 9 ("Certain Information Concerning Purchaser and Stake") and Schedule I (Directors and Executive Officers of the Purchaser and Stake) of the Offer to Purchase is incorporated herein by reference.

(d)-(e) During the last five years, none of the Purchaser, Stake or, to the best knowledge of the Purchaser and Stake, any executive officer or director of the Purchaser or Stake listed in Schedule I (Directors and Executive Officers of the Purchaser and Stake) (which is incorporated herein by reference) has been convicted in a criminal proceeding (excluding traffic violations or similar misdemeanors) or has been a party to a civil proceeding of a judicial or administrative body of competent jurisdiction as a result of which such person was or is subject to a judgment, decree or final order enjoining future violations of, or prohibiting or mandating activities subject to, Federal or state securities laws or finding any violation of such laws.

### Item 3. Source and Amount of Funds or Other Consideration

The information set forth in Section 10 ("Source and Amount of Funds") of the Offer to Purchase is incorporated herein by reference.

### Item 4. Purpose of Transaction

(a)-(j) The information set forth in the "Introduction", Section 11 ("Background of the Offer; Purpose of the Offer and the Merger; the Merger Agreement and Certain Other

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Agreement"), Section 7 ("Effect of the Offer on the Market for the Shares; Stock Listing; Exchange Act Registration; Margin Regulations") of the Offer to Purchase is incorporated herein by reference.

### Item 5. Interest in Securities of the Issuer

(a)-(d) The information set forth in the "Introduction", Section 9 ("Certain Information Concerning Purchaser and Stake"), Section 11 and in

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Schedule I (Directors and Executive Officers of the Purchaser and Stake) of the Offer to Purchase is incorporated herein by reference.

(e) Not applicable.

Item 6. Contracts, Arrangements, Understandings or Relationships with Respect to Securities of the Issuer

The information set forth in the "Introduction," Section 11 and Section 7 of the Offer to Purchase is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 7. Material to be Filed as Exhibits

- (1) Offer to Purchase, dated as of November 4, 2002.\*
- (2) Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of October 25, 2002 between the Issuer, the Purchaser and Stake.\*

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\* Incorporated by reference to Schedule TO, filed November 4, 2002 by the Purchaser and Stake.

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SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Date: December 4, 2002

STAKE ACQUISITION CORP.

By: /s/ Steven R. Bromley  
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Name: Steven R. Bromley  
Title: President

STAKE TECHNOLOGY LTD.

By: /s/ Jeremy N. Kendall  
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Name: Jeremy N. Kendall  
Title: Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

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