SMLC

SOFT DRINKS SECTOR

Société Moderne Libanaise pour le Commerce
Choueifat, Beirut, Lebanon

- Smipal APS 3100 LR palletizer
- Smiline conveyor belts

GEO LOCATION

The Société Moderne Libanaise pour le Commerce (SMLC) is a very well-known company on the Lebanese market as being the historical bottler and distributor of a wide range of PepsiCo products such as Aquafina, Pepsi Max, Diet Pepsi, 7UP, Mirinda, Tropicana, Lipton Ice Tea and AMP.

Since its founding in the 50's of the twentieth century, SMLC has always been at the forefront in driving the evolution of the Lebanese soft drink industry.

Over the years, it has invested heavily to equip its production facilities with the most modern and technologically advanced bottling plants.

This Lebanese company's commitment to innovation lies in its twenty-year collaboration with SMI, recently confirmed via two important system-expansion projects, which led to the installation of an automatic Smipal APS 3100 LR palletizer and relating Smiline conveyors within the can line dedicated to the production of Pepsi Cola, Mirinda and 7UP.

The APS 3100 LR model installed at SMLC is driven by brushless motors, which ensure fast and accurate movements, and stacks packs, on 900x1500 mm pallets, made up of 24 0.33-liter cans arriving from a Smiflexi SK 450T shrinkwrapper.

The new system was easily integrated in the existing canning line.

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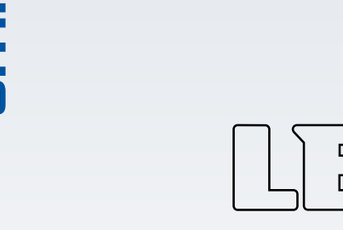
STILL INVESTS IN SMI TECHNOLOGY

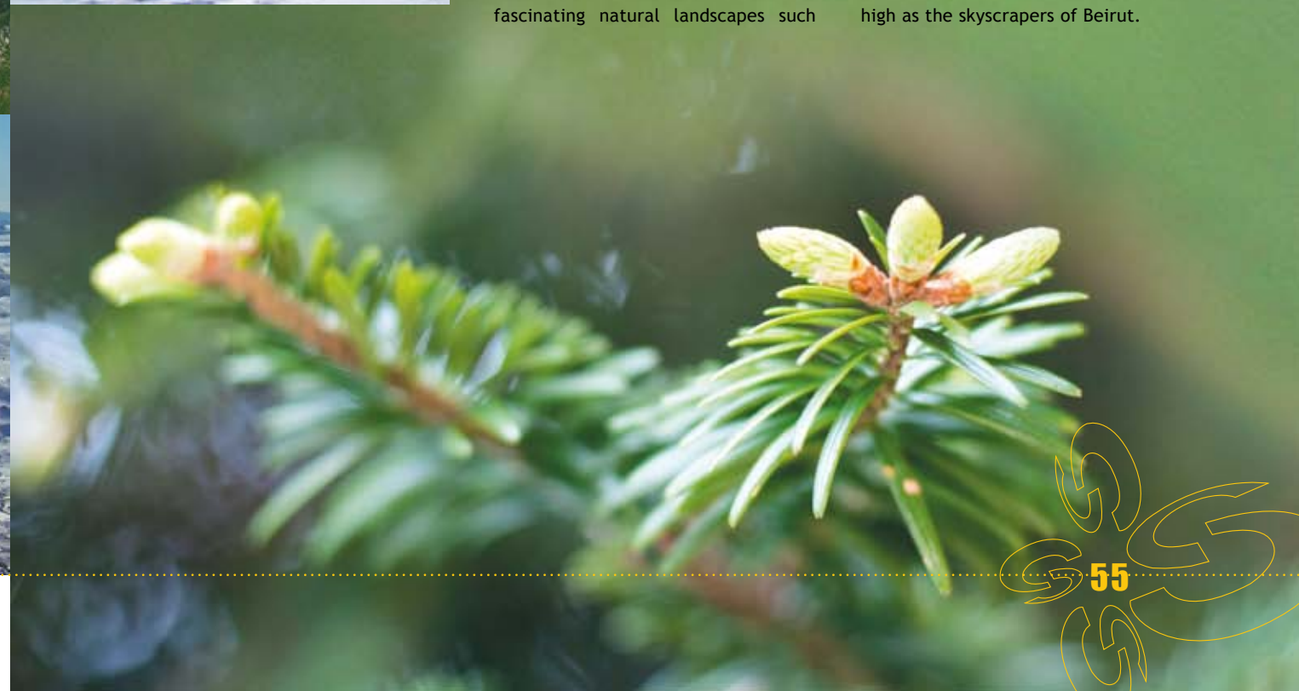
Since 1995, SMLC has purchased 8 medium-high speed automatic packers from SMI, to which the recent foregoing supply should be added as a sign of the deep trust the Lebanese company places in the technological solutions offered by SMI. The modernization process undertaken by SMLC also includes the following machines were installed: a Smiflexi SK 500F automatic packer for packaging the Aquafina PET bottles in film only packs and a Smipack automatic handle applicator for the application of a handle on the finished pack. As such, the Lebanese company has now embarked on a large-scale expansion program, which will allow it to further increase its presence both on the domestic and the foreign markets.

LEBANON

A COUNTRY "WHITE AS MILK"

Lebanon is one of the most fascinating countries in the world and perhaps the only one in history to have kept the same name since the dawn: "Lib Nin". This term derives from the Aramaic "laban", which means "white as milk" and presumably referred to the snowy peaks of the mountains of Mount Lebanon, which sprinkled the valleys when it melted in spring. Traveling to Lebanon means taking a trip into History: ancient cities, Roman ruins, ski resorts and nightclubs that animate the towns along the coast. But Lebanon has so many other things such as, for example, the underground world of the Caves of Jeita, beautiful caves soon destined to become one of the wonders of the planet, or the fascinating natural landscapes such as the Valley of Qadisha; the latter, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a deep gorge created by the river that has the same name and is a strictly protected area not only for its spectacular natural scenery created by the steep sides of the gorge, the mountain peaks (such as the Qurnah al-Saudah that reaches 3083 meters at the top) and the remaining cedar of Lebanon (Cedrus libani), pine and juniper forests, but also because it is home to some of the most important Christian monastic settlements in the Middle East, many of which are perched on the sides of the valley. The Cedars of God (also known as the Cedars of the Lord or Horsh Arz el-Rab) are the last remnants of the immense forest that once covered Mount Lebanon, whose trees were exploited by the Assyrians, Babylonians and Persians, as well as the Phoenicians. Lebanese cedar wood was especially prized by the Egyptians for shipbuilding and King Solomon used it to build his famous temple. This plant, which grows very slowly, seems to hide the true identity of Lebanon, a country that is trying to recover from the destruction of the past, aiming as high as the skyscrapers of Beirut.





SMIPAL

EFFICIENT END OF LINE MANAGEMENT

Smipal's APS range comprises automatic systems for palletizing cases, bundles, trays and packs in general, designed to meet production needs from 35 to 100 packs per minute (depending on the size of the processed product and the chosen palletizing pattern).

APS systems consist of single-column palletizers equipped with two Cartesian axes and are characterized for being highly flexible and easily adaptable to any logistics condition in the line end area for many industrial sectors: beverages, food, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, detergents, glass, paper and many others.

Mechanical simplicity, the use of robot-based components and the structural optimization of SMI palletizers allow the significant reduction of maintenance costs and energy consumption as well as the extension of the system's life cycle.

The accurate sizing of the mono-column and the horizontal beam (which houses the gripping head), sliding on guides with recirculating ball bearings, ensures smooth and continuous movements as well as a long service life of the mechanical components.

The automation and control on-board the machine of the APS Smipal systems rely on innovative technology, based on Sercos fieldbus by means of which the operator, through a simple and user-friendly man-machine interface, can quickly and easily handle all end of line palletizing operations.

Machine management is further facilitated by the use of advanced graphics, touch-sensitive screen and a wide range of diagnostics and technical support functions always available in real time.

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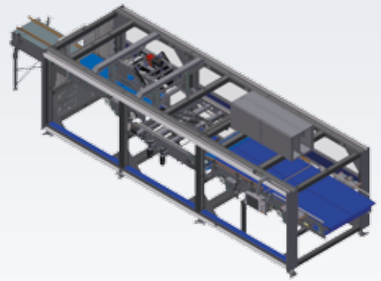

Finally, SMI's APS range of palletizers is available in several configurations, both standalone and built-into a Smiflexi packer to form the PACKBLOC integrated system.

INFEED WITH CONTINUOUS IN LINE PRE-COMPOSITION

The palletizing system installed at SMLC in Beirut includes the continuous in-line preparation of the layer through an innovative "multi-row diverter". In this configuration, the loose packs arriving on a single-row belt are rotated or translated and then arranged in multiple rows in the position envisaged by the palletizing pattern, thereby pre-forming the layer.
A special mechanical actuator separates the layer that was just completed, while the multi-row diverter prepares the next layer. The layer thus formed is pushed into the roller-equipped gripping head by a suitable bar system. Infeed with continuous in-line pre-composition is very compact and, as such, optimizes space at the end of the line.