

ISHKA SPRING WATER - GRUPPO FINI SPA
SC ALCONOR COMPANY

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NOW

Magazine 2022/25



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EDITORIAL 2022/25

Shortage: managing
and optimising stock



For the past 35 years SMI has been one of the privileged interlocutors for many companies in the food and beverage sector, that want to invest in efficient, eco-sustainable and competitive bottling and packaging solutions, with which they can face and overcome the countless challenges of the market. Recently the entire sector, after two long years of uncertainty caused by the pandemic, has had to contend with another factor of great political and economic instability: the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

This is a difficult period worldwide, for all kinds of companies and sectors, struggling with scarcity of raw materials, rising prices, world trade issues, etc., which SMI has taken, as yet another challenge, to continue to evolve and innovate,

further expanding the range of “smart packaging” solutions to offer its customers in this phase of market volatility and uncertainty.

Furthermore, thanks to a wise policy for the management and optimization of stock, and also to the strategies adopted by the subsidiaries SMITEC and SMIMEC, in this period of great uncertainty in the supply chain, for several months SMI has still been able to effectively manage the phenomenon of the “shortage” of mechanical and electronic components, ensuring a regular supply to its customers.

In this issue of SMI NOW we are going to present the latest developments in the primary and tertiary packaging sector, such as the new EBS KL ERGON series of compact rotary stretch-blow moulders and the new APS 615 and 620 ERGON “minipal”.

These projects have been created to offer innovative small-sized systems, characterised by fast format changeover operations and simplified maintenance, which allow the end user to reduce the costs of transport, system installation and management.

Paolo Nava, President & CEO, SMI S.p.A.

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IN BALLYNEETY, COUNTY LIMERICK, THE LUSCIOUS GREEN, ROLLING LANDSCAPE OF THE BEAUTIFUL IRISH COUNTRYSIDE IS THE BACKDROP TO ONE OF THE MOST MODERN BOTTLING PLANTS OF SPRING WATER IN EUROPE: ISHKA IRISH SPRING WATER. THE COMPANY, FOUNDED IN 1978 BY MICHAEL SUTTON SR. THANKS TO A BRILLIANT FAMILY IDEA, IS TODAY A MULTIMILLION-EURO COMPANY MANAGED BY MIKE AND DENIS SUTTON, SONS OF THE FOUNDER. EVERY HOUR THE PLANT, CONSISTING OF FOUR FULLY AUTOMATED LINES BUILT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SMI, PRODUCES OVER 40,000 BOTTLES OF SPRING WATER, WITH THE UTMOST ATTENTION PAID TO THE CARE AND PRESERVATION OF THE SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT.



ISHKA

SPRING WATER



➤ **SECTOR: MINERAL WATER**

ISHKA SPRING WATER

Ballyneety, County Limerick, Ireland

➤ **3,600 bph bottling and packaging line for 5L bottles:**

- ECOBLOC® 3-9-3 HC ERGON
- DV 500 divider & SK502T ERGON shrinkwrapper
- APS 1550 ERGON palletizer
- Conveyor belts and various sub-supplies

➤ **16,000 bph end of line for the packaging of 250 ml & 500 ml PET bottles:**

- CSK42 F ERGON & LSK30F shrinkwrappers
- APS 1550 ERGON palletizer and conveyor belt



VIDEO



GEO LOCATION

GROWING TOGETHER: A LONG-STANDING PARTNERSHIP

The collaboration between ISHKA and SMI began about 15 years ago with the purchase of an SK300F shrinkwrapper, currently installed on production Line 1, dedicated to the packaging of 250ml, 500ml, 750ml, 1.5L and 2L bottles. In 2017, on the occasion of the opening of the SMI UK & Ireland branch based in Manchester (United Kingdom), the Sutton brothers once again turned to SMI for the expansion of their plants. During various meetings between Paul McGovern, Director of SMI UK & Ireland, and the management of ISHKA, all the technical and commercial requirements of the new investment were thoroughly analyzed.

Subsequently a series of visits by the Sutton brothers, to the SMI headquarters in Italy, led to the decision to further strengthen the partnership between the two companies for the expansion project of the Ballyneety industrial site.

In particular the new investment of several million euros in 2020, concerned the installation of a new bottling line to increase the production of the 5L format, which is in great market demand.

A high-quality project, the implementation of which was entrusted to SMI; the latter provided a “turnkey” solution, which also involved a new bottle design discarding the traditional square shape and launching a new cylindrical bottle.

An innovative choice that allowed the Irish company to reduce the amount of PET in each bottle, and to align the appearance of the 5 litre container with that of the other elegant ISHKA bottles of smaller capacity.



ECO-SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS THAT LOOK TO THE FUTURE



Plastic bottle caps represent 10% of plastic waste found on beaches and the European directive 2019/904 on single-use plastics, includes a provision to regulate their recycling along with the rest of the bottle; for this reason the caps of PET bottles must now remain attached to the containers (tethered cap). Driven by the goal of drastically reducing plastic pollution, and anticipating by three years the coming into force of the EU rules, ISHKA Irish Spring Water started to successfully introduce this type of cap in September 2021, becoming the first, bottled water company in Ireland to implement the directive.



SMI SOLUTIONS FOR THE 5L PRODUCTION LINE

SMI developed the image of the new bottle starting from ISHKA specifications and designed an extremely efficient production line for this particular 5 litre container, which has allowed ISHKA to increase plant capacity by over 50%. The expansion project of the Irish company, made it necessary to upgrade the existing line, this involved replacing the old linear blow moulder with a modern integrated SMI ECOBLOC® system, consisting of a 3-cavity rotary blow moulder, an electronic filler and a capper.





➤ MAIN ADVANTAGES

This system upgrade permitted the installation of a faster and more efficient stretch-blow moulding and filling system, while at the same time maintaining a compact footprint, thanks to the fact that no conveyor belts are necessary between the blow moulder and the filler.

The new project also posed a challenge in secondary packaging, as ISHKA required shrink film pack formats in 2x1 and 3x1 and a large (4x5) tray format to make a half pallet pack. SMI was able to satisfy customer requests without any problems thanks to the versatility of the SK502T ERGON shrinkwrapper, a twin lane machine, suitable for secondary packaging in trays with and without film, equipped with an optional system to also produce packs in film only.

The SK502T ERGON shrinkwrapper is used to create a “super” format consisting of a half-pallet display tray without shrink film. The packaging system groups 20 bottles in a 4x5 pattern, then forms a tray around the bottles, starting from a flat blank; Subsequently, the package thus created, is palletized and sent to supermarkets, ready for display. This secondary packaging solution offers a great economic advantage to ISHKA: instead of the traditional packaging solution, which used two separate machines (one for wrapping in film and one for creating “maxi” trays), SMI proposed a solution consisting of a single automatic packaging machine, capable of performing both processes and, at the same time, occupying less space inside the production line.

The 2x1 and 3x1 pack sizes in film only, are made by the same packaging system, which, after the format change which takes about 1 hour, is able to quickly switch from the production of large sizes in tray only, to small formats in shrink film. The packs in film only, can be equipped with an external handle to make them more manageable and easier to carry.

Naturally, the palletizing system requested by ISHKA also had to have the same flexibility as the rest of the line and for these reasons SMI designed the end-of-line in such a way, as to be able to manage both the small 2x1 and 3x1 multiple packs and the half-pallet tray format, which are automatically placed on a standard UK pallet for warehouse storage.



COMPLETE END OF LINE IN PET AT 16.000 BPH

Bottles worked: 2 different types of 0.25L and 0.5L bottles in PET

Formats worked: Packs in film only (both neutral and printed) in formats of 3x2 - 4x3 - 5x2 - 5x3 and 6x4

- **CSK 42F ERGON PACKAGING MACHINE - Production up to 42 packs / minute**
- **LSK 30 F ERGON PACKAGING MACHINE – PRODUCTION UP TO 30 packs / minute**
- **CONVEYOR BELTS**
- **APS 1550 ERGON PALLETIZER**

Formats worked: packs coming from the packaging machines

Pallets created: europallet 800x1200 / half pallet / standard pallet



In 2018, ISHKA expanded the production of small, format bottles in PET by installing another 16,000 bph production line for 250ml and 500ml formats at the Ballyneety plant. Thanks to the validity of the partnership with SMI, consolidated over the years, the Irish company once again relied on the “made in Italy” technology for their new plant, focusing on a “turnkey” solution for end-of-line packaging, from the existing labeling machine up to the new palletizing system. By combining a CSK42F ERGON twin lane shrink wrapper and an LSK30F ERGON shrinkwrapper to re-pack in film only, SMI provided ISHKA with the ideal solution to easily create “pack-in-pack” packages for large distribution. An example is represented by the 3x2, 500ml bottle in film only, which is formed initially in twin lane on the CSK42F ERGON packaging machine and then grouped into 4 packs, on



the second packer the LSK30, from which the “ pack-in-pack ”is ready to be palletized and efficiently distributed to the network of supermarkets, hypermarkets and stores served by the Irish company.

The SMI APS 1550 ERGON palletizing system offers a flexible quick-change solution to create a wide range of PET bottle packs in both 250ml and 500ml. The machine manages half pallets, euro-pallets and UK pallets and has an optional system that automatically loads the half pallets, on standard pallets for storage in the warehouse. The new APS 1550 ERGON palletizer is able to manage more than 20 pack formats and multiple palletization schemes, in a simple and fast way, thanks to the innovative POSYC® automation and control interface, dedicated to monitoring the operation of the line and controlling the product flow and the speed of the conveyor belts.



A CHAT WITH THE CUSTOMER

→ INTERVIEW WITH MIKE AND DENIS SUTTON Owners of Ishka Irish Spring Water



Q: When and why did ISHKA start bottling water?

A: ISHKA Irish Spring Water is a family business founded in 1978 by our father Michael. Our mother, who was a great Irish speaker, invented the phonics for the trademark.

The company, located in Ballyneety in County Limerick, occupies a production site of 11-acres and is one of the most modern facilities in Europe, where product innovation, production efficiency and sustainable development have been the order of the day since the beginning. In 2012, after major investments to make

the site safe, we started producing bottles in PET on site, a goal that our father had always dreamed of, however, he unfortunately passed away only a few months before the start of the new business. About 60% of the water bottled in our factory, is destined for various private labels distributed in the main Irish supermarkets, while the remaining 40% concerns bottles marketed under the ISHKA brand.

Q: In general, what position does ISHKA water hold compared to the others available on the market?

A: ISHKA is known for being “Ireland’s freshest spring water”, as it is drawn from aquifers 200 meters underground and naturally filtered through the pristine, limestone bedrock of Ballyneety (hence the distinctive taste and product refreshment).

ISHKA was the first Irish spring water company on the market to introduce a 100% recycled PET (rPET) bottle and the first to use “tethered” caps anchored to the bottle, three years before the EU Directive, that made them mandatory, came into force.

Q: Is this innovation continual?

A: Naturally! Innovation is a constant element of our business. ISHKA is planning a new €11 million investment, to install a new high-speed rPET bottling line, capable of producing up to 36,000 bottles per hour, by early 2023. We will also install a new glass line for the catering and hospitality sector. The presence of a brand new kitchen, will also allow us to add flavorings and develop a new range of mixers and flavored drinks..

Q: What are the main factors that convinced you to invest in a new plant supplied by SMI?

A: SMI offered us a unique solution for filling, transporting product on conveyor belts, secondary packaging and palletizing, with the consequent optimization of management costs



and time for format changes. The line designed by our Italian partner, guarantees maximum production flexibility. Furthermore, the presence of a local SMI branch that assists us quickly and efficiently, is of great importance to us.

Q: How important are sustainability and environmental protection to ISHKA, and to your customers?

A: As a company we are determined to do everything possible to guide consumer behaviour towards the necessary change, to solve the global waste problem and to safeguard marine life. Many of the innovative activities at ISHKA Irish Spring Water are about finding optimal solutions for the packaging of our spring water. We chose rPET because it is currently the packaging option that is the most eco-friendly. Furthermore, we are constantly striving to minimize the environmental impact of our business through a series of initiatives, including the use of recyclable plastics such as rPET and light BPA-free plastics and reducing the weight of the containers. In fact, all the bottles that leave our production plants are 100% recyclable. Further help in protecting the environment, comes from the fact that we produce rPET bottles on site, thus eliminating the need to transport them by road to our factory. Our company is also part of REPAK, Ireland's leading environmental non-profit organization for the recycling and sustainability of packaging waste. As a member, we help fund projects for the development of fully recyclable household containers and for the creation of national recycling centers.

Q: How do you see the future of the bottled water industry?

A: The demand for bottled spring water in Ireland, is estimated to continue to grow in the coming years. Customers are increasingly interested in "premium" products, in knowing how they are produced and what they contain. At ISHKA we have great respect for the territory that hosts us and for the water it provides; for this reason we undertake all possible initiatives to ensure the purity of our source and the surrounding environment. Every investment aimed at protecting the eco-system in which we operate, is a guarantee to maintain the quality of our products today, tomorrow and forever.



The beginning of the partnership between ISHKA and SMI began with Line 1 of the Ballyneety plant, the 16,000 bph PET line, currently dedicated to the production of 250ml, 500ml, 750ml, 1.5L and 2L bottles, inside which the SK300F shrinkwrapper has been in operation since 2009. Thanks to the satisfactory results obtained with this machine, in 2017 the Irish company again entrusted SMI, with the project to expand and update its production lines. To achieve this, the management of ISHKA and Paul McGovern, director of SMI UK & Ireland, met several times to evaluate which stretch-blow mould, filling and packaging solution would best meet the new requirements. In the end, the owners of the Irish company,

Mike and Denis Sutton, decided to invest in a new 16,000 bottles / hour, SMI SR 8 rotary stretch-blow moulder, to increase the production capacity of ISHKA's first line, which has been in operation for many years. The installation was a huge challenge for the technical teams of SMI and ISHKA, because the new blow molding system had to be placed within the existing production line, minimizing the downtime of the water bottling and packaging activity. The careful planning of the entire operation, the close collaboration between the two companies and the timely execution of the various steps, made it possible to successfully complete the upgrade of the plant, further consolidating the relationship of trust between ISHKA and the local branch of the SMI Group.

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN...



VAST GREEN SPACES AND STUNNING LANDSCAPES: WELCOME TO IRELAND

Ireland has always been considered, in the collective imagination, a mystical place, to experience it in depth, Limerick is the ideal destination. The third largest city on the island, Limerick is located close to the mouth of the River Shannon, which, together with the rocky land of the Burren to the north and the verdant countryside of the Ring of Kerry to the south, offers surprising landscapes to those who visit it. The city consists of three historic districts: King's Island (the English city), Irishtown (the Irish city) and Newtown Pery (the most recent part, dating back to 1769). County Limerick, in the south of Ireland, is one of the most interesting counties to discover; in fact, it is an area rich in natural and historical wonders, that leave travellers speechless. Among large green spaces and incredible landscapes there is no shortage of cultural beauty such as monasteries and castles, of which this region is particularly rich.



LIMERICK: BETWEEN ANCIENT AND MODERN

The history of County Limerick is very old and also very intense. The city was founded in the ninth century by the Vikings, expert sailors who soon understood the strategic position of the territory, above all thanks to the presence of the River Shannon. Before their arrival, this patch of land seemed uninhabited, so much so that the name of the city itself means, in fact, "desert swamp". Limerick moves between ancient and modern with incredible ease. It is quite easy to catch glimpses of past centuries and then suddenly see ultramodern neighborhoods, walk through the medieval quarter and immediately find yourself at the "Milk Market", a large covered market that has been selling fruit, vegetables, meat, dairy

products, handicrafts and bakery products since 1852. This Irish city is also home to the much-loved Munster rugby team. The famous Irish Coffee originated in Limerick. According to tradition, the preparation of the drink is down to Joe Sheridan, chef of the O'Regan restaurant at Foynes airport. In 1943 some passengers arrived at the restaurant bar in the middle of the night, tired and annoyed by the cancellation of their flight due to bad weather. Joe Sheridan came up with the idea of serving them something sturdy that could reassure and "warm" the passengers. He brewed some very strong coffee, added sugar and whiskey, topped with cream. When the passengers asked him if it was Brazilian coffee, the amused chef replied: "No, it's Irish coffee!"



➤ KING JOHN'S CASTLE

Standing on the River Shannon it is the most emblematic monument in Limerick. Only the external walls and fortified towers of the castle remain, which have become tourist attractions. The first permanent bastion was thanks to the Viking king Thormod Helgason, who built a base here around the year 920. It is a fascinating place, full of history. Located in the heart of Limerick's medieval quarter, King John's Castle, which was built around 1200 by direct order of King John of England, brings to life over 800 years of dramatic local history within its mighty walls. A visit to this amazing testament to Ireland's past is a must when visiting the city of Limerick. The castle itself has a turbulent history, dating back to the Viking era and has undergone numerous sieges, battles and triumphs throughout its long history.



➤ ST. MARY CATHEDRAL

The building of St. Mary's Cathedral, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, began in 1168 and has undergone many changes over time, becoming a superb testimony of medieval Romanesque and Gothic architecture. The imposing building is located in the historic center of Limerick and is the only structure in the city, that has been used continuously for over 850 years. The cathedral is adorned inside with sculptures depicting fantastic animals and grotesque characters, representing the struggle between good and evil. The massive bell tower, built in the 14th century, houses the famous bells of Santa Maria, which announce news and events to the city and on New Year's Eve they welcome in the New Year with their mighty tolls.



THE CLIFFS OF MOHER

One of the most evocative and fascinating places in Ireland, is certainly represented by the magnificent Cliffs of Moher, located near the village of Doolin on the west coast of Clare. The Cliffs of Moher (Aillte an Mhothair, which means "cliffs of ruin" in Irish Gaelic) are 8 kilometers long and reach a maximum height of 214 meters above sea level. Walking along the cliff tops overlooking the sea is a unique sensation: it seems as though you are on the edge of the world and the panorama reaches poetic levels when the colors of the sunset light up the sky and peace is interrupted only by the flight of birds, by the sound of the wind and the waves that crash on the rocks. Such a scenic setting could not escape the film industry, in fact many famous films have been shot here such as "Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince", "The Fantastic Story" and "Ryan's Daughter". The formation of the Cliffs of Moher dates back to about 320 million years ago. The tourist area allows you to admire beautiful views and visit places such as the O'Brien tower (1835), built for tourists of the time as a privileged observation point on the cliffs. The view of the Aran Islands is almost always guaranteed unless visibility is compromised by fog.







GRUPPO FINI

IN MODENA, ITALY, FOOD HAS A TALE TO TELL!

WHEN SPEAKING ABOUT FOOD IT IS IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO BECOME ENTHRALLED BY THE HISTORY OF THE FINI GROUP, AN IMPORTANT INDUSTRIAL REALITY IN THE FOOD SECTOR, WHOSE PRODUCTS REPRESENT THE BEST OF ITALIAN PASSION AND GASTRONOMIC TRADITION. A TRADITION THAT BEGAN IN 1912 AND IS STILL IN CONSTANT EVOLUTION, GUIDED BY A VERY SIMPLE COMPANY MISSION, REPRESENTED IN THREE WORDS: NOT JUST GOOD.

BECAUSE WHEN IT COMES TO FOOD, GOOD IS NOT ENOUGH. FOR THE SECONDARY PACKAGING OF THEIR OWN BRAND "LE CONSERVE DELLA NONNA" (GRANDMA'S PRESERVES), THE MODENA BASED COMPANY CHOSE AN SMI SHRINKWRAPPER FROM THE CSK ERGON SERIES, SUITABLE FOR PACKAGING A HUGE VARIETY OF BOTTLES AND GLASS JARS IN FILM ONLY, PAD + FILM AND TRAY + FILM.

➔ SECTOR: FOOD – PRESERVES

FINI GROUP S.P.A.
Ravarino (Modena), Italy
gruppofini.it

➔ CSK 50 T ERGON Shrinkwrapper and conveyer belts



VIDEO



GEO LOCATION

NOT JUST GOOD

THE TRADITION OF HOMEMADE FOOD

When it comes to good food, even abroad, Emilia Romagna is certainly one of the most famous Italian regions. In Emilia Romagna, food is synonymous with family, friends and memories of home. It is conviviality and good humor. It is the image of grandmothers kneading dough and of childhood memories, of afternoons spent sealing tortellini by turning them around your finger. It is the expression and pride of being Italian, of experiencing Italy and of talking about it abroad. It is for all these reasons that, all over the world, Modena is synonymous with good food. It is one of the Italian provinces with the largest number of Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) and Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) products. It is no coincidence that a large production company in the food sector is based in Modena: the Fini SpA Group, a 100% Italian company, owner of the Fini, "Le Conserve della Nonna" and Mastri Pastai Bettini brands, which represent the expression of culture and the Emelian

territory, of the passion for the products of the Italian gastronomic tradition and the love of excellent cuisine. The Fini Group, one of the Italian leaders in the production of fresh pasta, also plays an important role in the canned sector, thanks to the "Le Conserve della Nonna" brand, an Italian company that believes in the simplicity of products and uses natural processes. In the wide range of references, typical of all Italian regions, the company offers sauces, condiments and jams, prepared according to traditional methods using carefully controlled and organized, industrial processes to ensure the highest quality of products. The "Le Conserve della Nonna" brand offers over 150 products, ranging from breakfast to dinner, from sweet to savory. The lines range from passatas to salsas, from pestos to sauces with tomatoes harvested exclusively in Emilia-Romagna, as well as a wide choice of legumes, simple or enriched, vegetable spreads, jams and a range of vegetables in oil. Biological references complete the picture.



THE FEELING OF...

THE SECRET OF SO MUCH GOODNESS.

The industrial process at the origin of the production of foods from the brand "Le Conserve della Nonna" is organized mainly according to the values of the local culinary tradition, the simplicity of the recipes and the indisputable quality of the freshly harvested, raw materials.

The company's production is in fact, based on the concept of seasonality, as is the case for any artisan preparation.

Just by looking at the finished product, be it a jar of jam or a bottle of tomato sauce, you get the feeling of... home! An irresistible appeal of healthy and simple lunches, the result of great attention and dedication, and the desire to eat in company, like our grandmothers wanted, because the more people sat at the table, the more happiness hovered in the air.

HEALTHY, SIMPLE FOOD

The jams produced by the "Le Conserve della Nonna" brand, contain a very high percentage of first choice fruits, among the highest percentage on the market. Each jar contains Italian fruit and sugar from sustainable agriculture.

The production of the jam follows a natural process, the way our grandmothers did it, is the way it is done in Ravarino: waiting patiently to get the typical consistency of homemade jams!

The quality is guaranteed by very severe controls, thanks to special machines that analyse the product in the various phases. The result is a healthy, gluten-free product with an irresistible flavor.



➔ SIMPLE RECIPES JUST LIKE HOMEMADE

Over 150 products, ranging from breakfast to dinner, from sweet to savory: The lines range from passatas, salsas, pesto and sauces, fruit jams, sauces for condiments and side dishes dedicated to main courses, legumes and fruit compotes.

The range of "Le Conserve della Nonna" products is enriched year after year, with new recipes to offer consumers a selection of products for every occasion, able to satisfy every taste, such as the new pear preserve from Emilia Romagna PGI.

The product is designed to enhance one of the most representative fruits of the region and, when excellence meets excellence, the result can only be extraordinary.



GRUPPO FINI

The Fini SpA Group, a 100% Italian company owned by Holding Carisma, is a large manufacturing company based in Ravarino (Modena), in the heart of Emilia Romagna. The company is the owner of the Fini brands, founded in 1912 by Telesforo Fini in the heart of Emilia, “Le Conserve della Nonna”, a historic reality in Ravarino (Modena), and Mastri Pastai Bettini, a brand acquired in 2021. FINI is the brand of fresh filled pasta, which represents all the flavours of the Emilian tradition in the kitchen, in Italy and around the world. The Fini brand originated from the knowledge and flavours of an ancient gastronomic tradition, but which is constantly renewed. Only in this way, every day, can we eat something that is not only good, but which also has a story to tell. In the modern Ravarino plant, the company produces a unique premium fresh pasta: course and porous. The golden yellow pastry, highlights the balanced presence and freshness of the two primary ingredients: eggs from free-range hens and 100% Italian flour. “Le Conserve della Nonna” was created in 1973, once again in Ravarino, a land rich in Italian values and traditions, handed down, generation after generation, to our tables. In the vast range of purees, sauces, condiments and jams, the “brand” encompasses the experience, genuineness and passion of craftsmanship harmoniously combined with the efficiency and complexity of industrial processes.



➤ FINI'S COMMITMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENT

For years, the Fini Group has pursued the objective of environmental sustainability of its activities through the aegis of its corporate mission, “Not Just Good”, which focuses on food and its goodness, as a result of a safe and controlled production process.

The entire supply chain is involved in the “mission”, from the careful selection of local raw materials, to the production and use of widely recyclable packaging, without forgetting the use of clean energy thanks to the photovoltaic systems installed in the company, which make it possible to drastically reduce CO2 emissions and optimise production.

SMI has also embraced the goal of sustainability, designing packaging systems such as the CSK ERGON series packaging machine installed in the Fini Group's Modenese plant, which boasts cutting-edge technical solutions in the field of energy saving and respect for the environment.

THE MAIN STAGES OF COMPANY GROWTH

The history of the Fini Group begins in 1912 in Corso Canalchiaro, in the heart of Modena, when Telesforo Fini inaugurated his own grocery store, a traditional Emilian specialty shop. It was still too early to talk about a company, but the Fini brand originated from that small town activity, which in a few decades has become synonymous with quality, filled, fresh pasta and has given rise to the production of great Italian food.

A company that is over a hundred years old, which has experienced ups and downs, but has been able to confirm its identity and plan its own development while remaining in Modena. Unlike many other realities in the Italian food sector acquired by foreign investors, the Fini



Group tells a story with a happy ending, thanks to the foresight and commitment of an Italian entrepreneurial management that understands that being Italian is an essential value to maintain the quality of tradition and for future development. In the following years, various investments were made to enhance the potential of the company, among the most important interventions was that of 6.5 million euros spent in 2015 to renovate and expand the factory of the historic headquarters of “Le Conserve della Nonna” in Ravarino (Modena) and to incorporate the production of fresh pasta under the Fini brand, thus centralizing the activities of the two brands in a single ultra-modern industrial center.

In 1980 the production of sauces began.

In 1995 the production expands to jams, marmalades, vegetables, legumes and other specialties. Today “Le Conserve della Nonna” has a portfolio of over 150 products, all made with high quality, fresh ingredients and processed in a simple and genuine way.

In 2009 the company launched the first organic line.

In 2011, the company began to play its part in protecting the environment with the construction of a large solar panel system to meet its energy needs.

In 2012 the tradition changes its “look”: the bottle of passata took on a rounder and sinuous shape, like the taste of the passata. The range of products was also expanded, packaged in various formats to adapt better to every occasion for use.

In 2013, the concept of transparency was also embraced by the labels, which clearly show the origin of the raw materials.

In 2014 “Le Conserve della Nonna” was the first Italian company to obtain the recognition of controlled quality for the passatas, thanks to healthy, genuine production, which uses only locally grown products and minimizes the use of chemicals. “Not Just Good” began, a project carried out together with the Fini Group, to share values, knowledge and flavours with those who believe that good is no longer enough, because in the preparation of a preserve, seasonality, environment and natural conservation must be respected.

In 2021, tradition and quality continued to reward “Le Conserve della Nonna”, which, for the third consecutive year, won the prestigious Quality Award.



The production activity of “Le Conserve della Nonna” originated in 1973, in Ravarino in the province of Modena, in the heart of Emilia-Romagna, a land rich in Italian values and traditions handed down on our tables, generation after generation. A land that has always planted, harvested and transformed. In a place like this, only strong, healthy ideas could grow, like those that have allowed the company of the Fini group to create a great variety of products. The history of “Le Conserve della Nonna” is made up of small secret steps, scrupulously carried out to obtain high quality products. A story of passion, tradition, commitment and innovation, which lives on, in all its products but can be told through a simple recipe, that of the past, which speaks of the territory and the tradition of the brand. The secret of all the products lies in the genuineness of the raw materials, which are selected and worked through transformation processes that reflect traditional methods, to offer a product “like home-made”, which speaks of nature and flavours of the past. “Le Conserve della Nonna” is the first Italian company to make preserves in transparent glass jars, just as they did in the past, to keep their characteristics unaltered, guaranteeing the correct conservation and external visibility.

THE FINI GROUP IN FIGURES



Turnover in 2021: 100 Million Euro



Employees: 100



Production site: Ravarino (Modena)



Brands: Fini, Le Conserve della Nonna, Mastri Pastai Bettini



THE “FRUIT COMPOTES”: REFINED, QUALITY COMBINATIONS

A collection of compotes with a unique and seductive flavor, where the best Italian fruit is combined with refined and tasty ingredients. “Le Conserve della Nonna” fruit compotes are designed to amaze and conquer the consumer through six wonderful flavoured combinations: Apricot and Turmeric, Orange and Ginger, Orange and Cocoa grains, Pear and Cocoa, Apple and Cinnamon, Strawberry and Rhubarb. In line with the tradition that distinguishes the Modenese company, the content of the fruit compotes is healthy and genuine, this involves the use of only fruit sugars (from dates), with no additional flavours, preservatives, dyes or chemical processes which alter the original composition of the product. To embellish the originality and quality of these products from the “Le Conserve della Nonna” range, is the “premium” jar, which incorporates the iconic red and white checked pattern of the “packaging” of the jams, paying tribute to the craftsmanship and knowledge handed down from generation to generation. The packaging is as original and innovative as much as its content: a precious jar, creating an impact on the shelf, with a transparent label to immediately spread the taste and make the color of the compote, the protagonist.



➤ SAUCES AND PASSATE

Qualified agronomists follow the development of the plants to ensure complete traceability, from the seed lots to the harvest.

The tomatoes used, come from selected crops in Emilia-Romagna, grown without the use of pesticides and harmful substances. The “Le Conserve della Nonna” product line includes a wide range of sauces and tomato purees including:

- LAMPOMODORO
- TOMATO PASSATA
- TOMATO WITH BASIL
- RUSTICORO

➤ JAMS

A wide variety of jams for breakfast and snacks, including:

- EXTRA FIG JAM
- EXTRA CHERRY JAM
- MODENA PLUM JAM
- EXTRA CHERRY FROM EMILIA JAM



SMI SOLUTIONS FOR “LE CONSERVE DELLA NONNA”



To optimise the secondary packaging process of the huge variety of “Le Conserve della Nonna” brand products, the Fini Group turned to SMI for the installation of an automatic shrinkwrapper from the CSK ERGON series, which stands out for its advanced automation and flexibility of use, low energy consumption and respect for the environment.

The CSK 50T ERGON packaging machine, installed at the Ravarino plant, packs different types of bottles and glass jars in multiple pack formats in film only, pad + film and tray + film.

The range of models of the CSK series of SMI shrinkwrappers includes single lane and twin lane models, with a compact and ergonomic design, which contain the best of the industry technology for packaging in shrink film at the maximum speed of 50 + 50 packs / minute (depending on the size of the container and the pack format).



➔ **CSK 50T ERGON SHRINKWRAPPER**

Containers Packed: 0.37 L / 0.72 L glass bottles and 0.212 L / 0.3 L / 0.312 L / 0.314 L / 0.37 L / 0.5 L / 0.72L and 115 gr. glass jars.

Formats created: 3x2 & 4x3 formats in film only / pad + film and tray + film.

Main advantages

- very flexible production and packaging process, which allows you to quickly and easily switch from one format to another to maintain high levels of plant operating efficiency
 - packaging machine equipped with a motorised system of oscillating guides at the machine infeed, which facilitates the correct channeling of loose containers on a conveyor belt equipped with chains in thermoplastic with a low coefficient of friction
 - grouping of bulk containers in the desired format carried out continuously by means of electronically synchronized separation pegs and bars
 - pad cardboard magazine placed under the infeed belt, from where the cardboard blanks are picked up, by means of an alternating motion picker, positioned at the start of the cardboard ramp, consisting of a group of suction cups with vacuum suction system
 - curvilinear cardboard ramp in the initial and final section, to facilitate the insertion of the pad under the grouping of products at the outfeed of the electronic separator
 - compact design film cutting unit, where the blade is managed by a "direct-drive" brushless motor which makes the cutting operation more precise and simplifies maintenance
 - new ICOS motors, equipped with integrated digital servo-drive (driver), able to simplify the wiring of the machine and ensure greater energy efficiency, less noise and reduced wear of components;
 - shrink tunnel equipped with optional metal chain and lubrication able to ensure better splicing of the film under the pack
 - optional automatic format change adjustment system
 - the machine is also equipped with a series of optional devices to ensure the high quality of the final pack, such as the product stabiliser and the additional 1150 mm belt, placed at the outfeed of the tunnel for rapid pack cooling.
-

ONCE UPON A TIME... BUT LUCKILY IT STILL EXISTS

We are speaking of the ancient recipe of Telesforo Fini's tortellini. A recipe that originated in Modena in 1912, which is part of those traditional dishes that need to be tried at least once in a lifetime!

Those who travel often, know that every city offers its own gastronomic tradition, but Modena is spoiled for choice!

Modenese cuisine is full of dishes and products that have become famous all over the world: for example who does not know of, Balsamic Vinegar from Modena or tortellini? While some of these specialties are widespread in different areas of Emilia, perhaps with different variants or names, others are so unique that they have become real excellences.

Many of the typical first courses from Emilia are based on puff pastry, obtained from a mixture of eggs and flour. Among the stuffed pasta, the undisputed protagonists are

certainly the tortellini, a real legend! With its tortelli, cappelletti, fried gnocchi and tigelle, balsamic vinegar and zampone, Modena maintains its national importance in the culinary field, making it one of the most loved places by Italians.



➤ QUALITY AWARD 2022

The products of the brand "Le Conserve della Nonna" won the Quality Award 2022, the only award in Italy that involves consumers through the direct experience of tasting and evaluating food products. For the 2022 edition, the quality guarantee was attributed to the Tomato Passatas and the Jams, both of which, were also winners in the 2020 and 2021 editions. The Quality Award involves a sample of 300 consumers, chosen as representatives of potential buyers, by gender, age and family unit. The evaluation of the products in the competition is carried out through a rigorous "blind test": without knowing the brand of the product, each consumer expresses their opinion on some components, including overall satisfaction, taste, appearance, consistency and smell. Only products that obtain an appreciation of at least 7 points out of 10 can be awarded the Quality Award for a duration of 12 months. In a delicate period like the current one, characterised by an uncertain and fragile market, the award represents an important recognition for the historic "brand" of the Fini Group, as it testifies to the constant commitment to supplying high quality products that express a perfect combination of innovation and tradition.



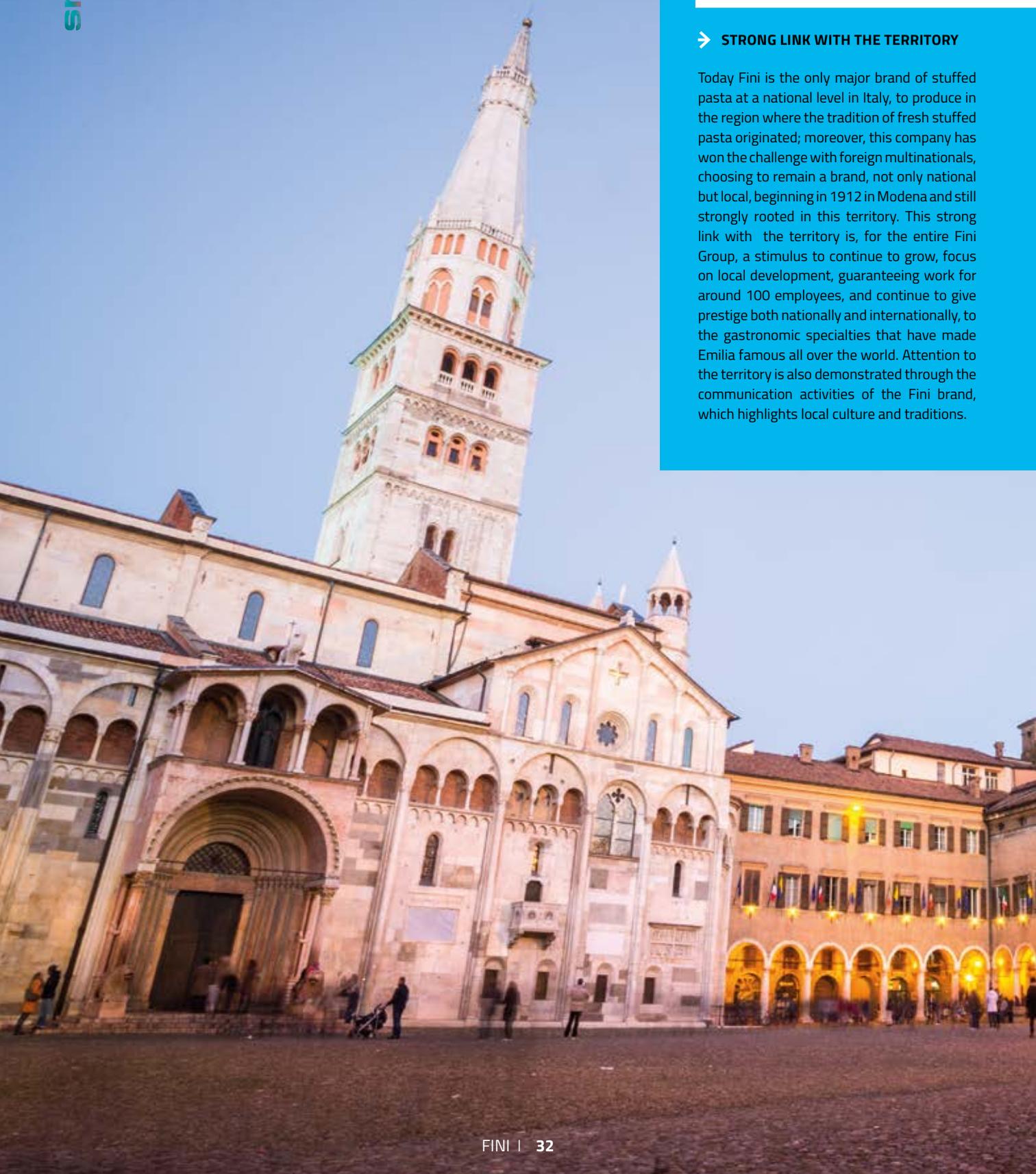


EMILIA ROMAGNA

CITIES YOU VISIT, SPECIALTIES YOU FIND



Emilia Romagna boasts the primacy among the Italian regions for the number of specialties recognized with the PDO and PGI designations (44 in all), but it is in the preparation of pasta, a practice that has always been carried out by the "sfogline", that Emilia Romagna best expresses its solid and cohesive identity. The Romagna cuisine, has always been synonymous with fresh pasta made only with flour and eggs, with which excellent first courses are prepared. Not only tortellini and lasagna, but also products in more traditional formats, all to be discovered and tried: tagliatelle, maltagliati, strichetti (or farfalline), garganelli, cappelletti and ravioli, stuffed with spinach and ricotta, known in some areas as "big ears".



➤ **STRONG LINK WITH THE TERRITORY**

Today Fini is the only major brand of stuffed pasta at a national level in Italy, to produce in the region where the tradition of fresh stuffed pasta originated; moreover, this company has won the challenge with foreign multinationals, choosing to remain a brand, not only national but local, beginning in 1912 in Modena and still strongly rooted in this territory. This strong link with the territory is, for the entire Fini Group, a stimulus to continue to grow, focus on local development, guaranteeing work for around 100 employees, and continue to give prestige both nationally and internationally, to the gastronomic specialties that have made Emilia famous all over the world. Attention to the territory is also demonstrated through the communication activities of the Fini brand, which highlights local culture and traditions.

MODENA: THE FOOD CAPITAL RECOGNIZED IN THE WORLD

Modena reveals itself to foreigners as an unexpected Italian capital of food, fast cars, culture and art. Unexpected because it often escapes the radar of many tourists, who think of the most famous Italian destinations such as Rome and Florence, even if in recent years the city has made itself known abroad, not only for the ducal palace or the Ghirlandina, but also for “picturesque cobblestone streets and culinary delights”, making it an ideal stop for gourmets.

The city on a human scale, also known to be the birthplace of Luciano Pavarotti (one of the greatest tenors of all time), has many hidden treasures and a lively cultural life.

In 1997, UNESCO recognized the universal value of Modena's historic buildings, declaring the Cathedral, the Civic Tower and Piazza Grande, World Heritage Site, as “a unique and exceptional testimony of a vanished civilization and tradition”.



➤ **SECTOR: MINERAL WATER AND DRINKS**

SC ALCONOR COMPANY

Romania

➤ **Plant in Carei**

- 5L and 6L PET bottling line consisting of: EBS 3 HC ERGON rotary stretch-blow moulding machine
- 0.5L and 2L PET bottling line consisting of shrinkwrapper: SK 800F ERGON; HA 80 handle applicator; PACKSORTER divider; automatic palletising system APS 3090P ERGON and conveyor belts
- 0.33L, 0.5L, 0.75L, 1L, 2L and 3L PET bottling line consisting of: SR6 rotary stretch-blow moulding machine; SK 300F shrinkwrapper; stretch film packaging machine SFP 30 ERGON; DV 200 divider and conveyor belts
- 0.25 L SLIM cans, 0.5 L cans and 2L PET bottling line consisting of SK 450 T ERGON shrinkwrapper and conveyor belts

➤ **Plant in Voluntari-Bucarest**

- 0.5L, 2L and 3L PET bottling line consisting of: SR 8 rotary stretch-blow moulding machine; SK 400 F shrinkwrapper; HA 40 handle applicator; APS 3050 P palletiser and conveyor belts



CAREI MAP



BUCAREST MAP

ALCONOR COMPANY

IN ROMANIA, HISTORY, CULTURE AND TRADITIONS ARE PERFECTLY INTERTWINED WITH THE NATURAL BEAUTIES OF THE ENVIRONMENT, WHICH REPRESENT A PRECIOUS RESOURCE FOR HUMAN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING.

WITH A THIRD OF THE MINERAL AND THERMAL WATERS OF EUROPE, ROMANIA BOASTS THE PRESENCE OF 70 RESORTS, WHERE IT IS POSSIBLE TO TREAT VARIOUS ILLNESSES. THE MERIT OF THIS WEALTH DERIVES FROM THE GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURE OF ITS MOUNTAINS. IN THE NORTH-WESTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY, THE PURE WATER SPRINGS OF THE CITY OF CAREI, IN THE COUNTY OF SATU MARE, HAVE ENSURED THE DEVELOPMENT AND SUCCESS OF ALCONOR COMPANY, A LEADING COMPANY IN THE PRODUCTION OF BEVERAGES AND MINERAL WATER. THE COMPANY HAS DISTINGUISHED ITSELF IN ROMANIA AND ABROAD THANKS TO THE ABILITY TO EMBRACE NEW CHALLENGES, TO SEIZE THE NEW OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY THE CONTINUOUS CHANGES IN THE MARKET AND THANKS TO THE STRONG COLLABORATION WITH PARTNERS SUCH AS SMI. TO ACHIEVE AND MAINTAIN HIGH QUALITY LEVELS, WITHIN THE PRODUCTION LINES OF THE CAREI AND VOLUNTARI (BUCHAREST) PLANTS, ALCONOR USES DIFFERENT TYPES OF MACHINES SUPPLIED BY SMI, SUCH AS ROTARY STRETCH-BLOW MOULDERS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF PET BOTTLES, WITHIN FULLY AUTOMATIC BOTTLING AND PACKAGING LINES WHICH ALSO INCLUDE SECONDARY AND TERTIARY PACKAGING SYSTEMS AND CONVEYOR LINES.



ALCONOR: A SUCCESS STORY

➤ **“A COMPANY ONLY WRITES HISTORY WHEN IT HAS VALUABLE PEOPLE AT ITS SIDE AND WHEN IT MANAGES TO FORM A TEAM WITH THEM,” SAYS NORBERT VARGA, GENERAL MANAGER OF ALCONOR COMPANY. “WE THANK ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE JOINED THE LARGE ALCONOR COMPANY FAMILY AND WHO HAVE MADE A HUGE CONTRIBUTION TO THIS SUCCESS STORY, WHICH HAS SPANNED TWO DECADES, AND WE THANK OUR PARTNERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT OVER THE YEARS.”**

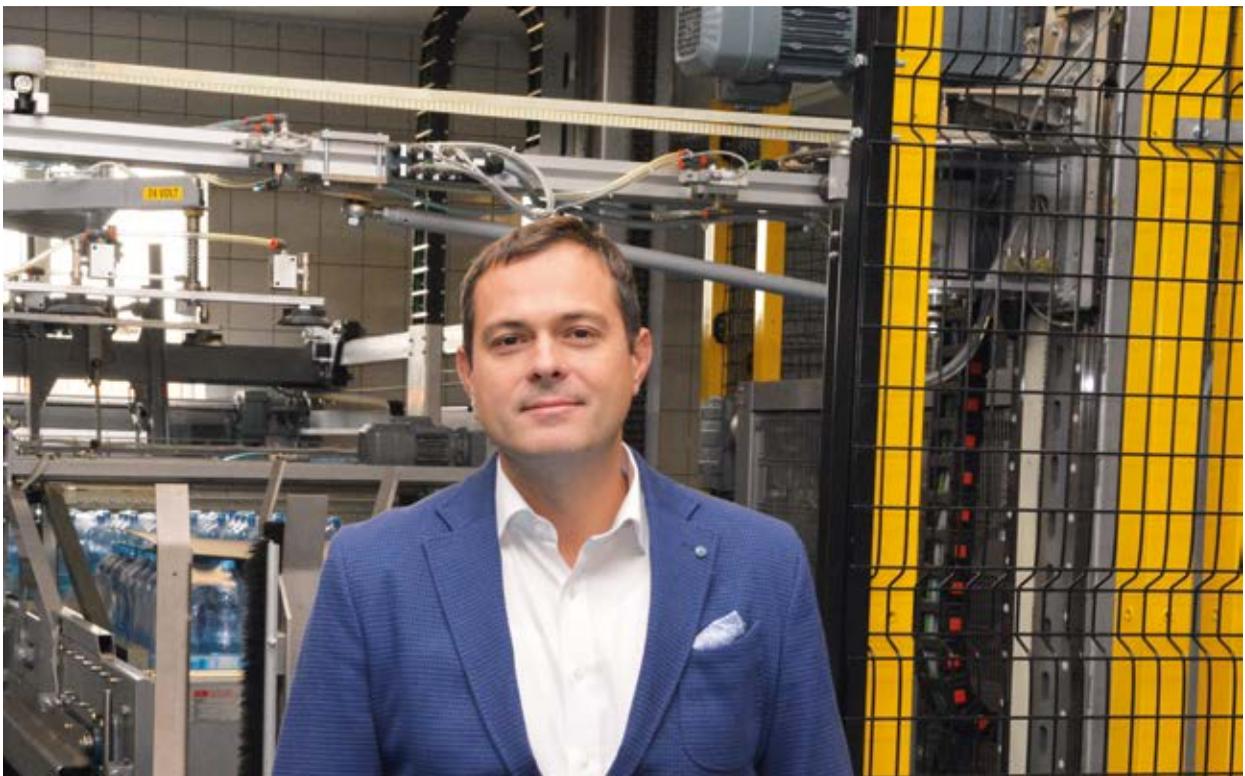
The company's headquarters have been located, since its foundation in 1999, in the city of Carei, in the county of Satu Mare (north-western part of Romania), in the region of Transylvania. Initially Alconor only produced soft drinks, but, in 2014, 15 years after the first plant, it decided to expand the business by inaugurating a new production plant in Voluntari-Bucharest, where three modern fully automated

bottling lines are currently installed.

Today, Alconor Company is one of the most active and competitive companies in Romania in the production of soft drinks and water and has transformed itself from a family business to an industrial company appreciated at national level, the production of which is carried out entirely in the two factories in Carei and Bucharest, on an area of 7000 m2 and then stored on a total storage area of 15,000 m2. Thanks to the

use of systems equipped with the most modern technologies, Alconor boasts a very advanced production system capable of managing countless types of containers of various capacities.

From the initial activity of bottling carbonated soft drinks in PET containers, the product range has expanded to spring water, energy drinks and soft drinks. The Romanian company markets both products with its own registered brands, created and



developed in over two decades of activity, and private label products of national and international partners.

Together with Beverage Drink Srl, the group company specialized in distribution, and the support of reliable partners, Alconor Company perfectly covers 99% of the territory of Romania, easily reaching almost all counties. The company is able to satisfy even very high production requirements, through a daily load capacity of 1000 tons and thanks to 5 distribution centers in Carei, Chişineu Criş, Târnăveni, Timișoara and Bucharest.

In 2019, the Romanian company exceeded 200 million litres of water and soft drinks produced, the equivalent of 10,000 trucks. From that date, the annual production of Alconor is around 250 million litres, an objective achieved thanks to the continual investments in new technologies that allow Alconor to constantly improve its performance at an industrial and financial level. The number of employees, which today sees the presence of around 300 people, is also constantly growing.

➔ **DIVERSIFY TO GROW: THE CHALLENGE OF “PET FOOD”**

Over the years, the range of products offered by Alconor has undergone a real transformation. The structure of the company, the flexibility and diversification of products and services have allowed the company to continuously adapt to the changes imposed by the market and to seize the development opportunities they offer. The most recent example is the opening in 2021 of a new factory in Carei dedicated to the production of pet food, a market sector that has experienced very high growth rates in recent years.



20 YEARS OF TRANSFORMATION AND INVESTMENTS

➤ THE DIVERSIFICATION OF THE PRODUCTS OFFERED BY ALCONOR MADE IT NECESSARY TO INSTALL VARIOUS BOTTLING AND PACKAGING LINES; FURTHERMORE, THE OBJECTIVE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IMPOSED ON THE ROMANIAN COMPANY INVESTMENT CHOICES THAT FAVOURED PLANTS AND MACHINERY COMPATIBLE WITH THE BEST STANDARDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESPECT AND ENERGY SAVING, AS DEMONSTRATED BY THE RECENT INSTALLATION OF AN SMI SFP 30 ERGON STRETCH FILM PACKAGING MACHINE.

“As an innovative company, we are not only dependent on investments in logistics developments, but also on machines with an efficient production system. To achieve and maintain high levels of production quality, within the Carei and Bucharest plants, we use systems supplied by leading companies in the sector, such as rotary stretch-blow moulders for PET bottles and the fully automatic bottling and packaging lines supplied by SMI, who fully

satisfy our requests”, says Norbert Varga, CEO of Alconor Company. “Alconor constantly invests in cutting-edge technologies, which allow us to reduce human intervention and to have a fully automated production process, from the preparation phase, to bottling, up to obtaining the finished packaged product”. Currently the company has several production lines in which PET containers of different sizes are bottled: from small formats of 0.33 L and 0.5 L, to standard formats of 1.5 L, 2 L

and 3 L, up to large capacity containers of 5 L and 6 L. “We are constantly attentive to the latest technological trends in the market and, within our factories, we adopt the most efficient solutions that meet the most rigorous international quality standards and requirements to offer our customers high-end products at competitive prices”, continues Norbert Varga, CEO of Alconor Company.





NEW SFP 30
ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY PACKER
WITHOUT HEATING TUNNEL

➤ **THE IMPORTANCE OF QUALITY**

Alconor Company has always paid close attention to all stages of bottling and packaging of its products, which are constantly subjected to scrupulous laboratory checks, to guarantee the high quality standards that the company offers its customers. For this reason, Alconor adopts a food safety, management system, based on the HACCP (Hazard Analysis Control Critical Points) and ISO 22000 regulations issued by TÜV Rheinland.



SMI EAST EUROPE:

THE ADVANTAGES OF A LOCAL SERVICE

The strong collaboration and constant support, provided by the SMI East Europe branch, allowed Alconor to face the strong changes imposed by the market in the 2000s, a period of time in which both consumption habits and the way of communicating changed. The flexibility offered by the bottling and packaging lines supplied by SMI, has allowed Alconor to embrace new market challenges, seize opportunities and adapt quickly to changes. The SMI East Europe S.r.l. branch, located in Timisoara, provides its services throughout the territory of Romania and the surrounding areas; the headquarters of the SMI Group

company occupies an area of approximately 100 m² and has spaces equipped for sales, after-sales and administrative assistance. SMI East Europe, also has a large spare parts warehouse equipped with a vast assortment of basic necessities, so as to be able to respond promptly to the needs of numerous local customers. "Within our headquarters - explains Claudio Begnis, manager of the SMI East Europe branch - there are five people who deal with the sale of machines, spare parts and equipment and provide on-site support for any request for technical assistance. Thanks to our direct presence on the Romanian territory, we are able to

respond immediately to the needs of many companies interested in purchasing modern bottling and packaging systems made in Italy by SMI. " The Timisoara branch has been operational since 2003, to respond quickly to the requests of an increasing number of customers located throughout Eastern Europe. Alconor Company, thanks to the positive experience found in the supply of the first bottling line in 2007 - explains Claudio Begnis - has relied on SMI to face the growth of the market and to invest in new production lines, both for the headquarters of Carei and for the new Bucharest plant.

➔ **THE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS OF RECENT YEARS HAVE INVOLVED THE TECHNICAL TEAMS OF SMI AND ALCONOR, FOR THE STUDY OF EFFICIENT AND PERFORMING LAYOUT SOLUTIONS, WHICH REPRESENT THE PREMISE FOR THE CONTINUOUS GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS OF THE ROMANIAN COMPANY.**





ROMANIA

LAND OF TRADITIONS

From the Black Sea to Dobruja, from the Carpathian Mountains to Transylvania, passing through the plains of Muntenia, the hills of Banat and the highlands of Moldova, the regions of Romania are characterized by a great geographical variety, which gives them uniqueness and allows nature to take unexpected forms and to be explored. The picturesque elements are also given by the traditions that retain their splendor and take you back to the past. Romania is full of contrasts. The charm of this nation originates from its refined architecture, which faithfully reflects the historical eras and at the same time is intertwined with the new, with spirituality and nature. Romania was the Thrace of the Romans and is today an unexpectedly beautiful land, with many "pearls" declared World Heritage Sites: from fortified cities, to the frescoed monasteries of Bucovina, to the wooden buildings of Maramures, to the castles of Transylvania.



APUSEANA WATER FOR PURE HYDRATION

Among the longest-running spring water brands is Apuseana, launched by Alconor in 2004 for the marketing of a water linked to the traditions, nature and tranquility of the lands of Satu Mare. Loved by the whole family for its taste and microbiological purity, Apuseana water

was created to satisfy those who consume it; Whether it is to finish the family lunch, to revitalize the body on the go or to add flavour to a cocktail, Apuseana water is a precious ally for 100% pure hydration. Over the years the product has undergone important image changes, to adapt to market dynamics and new aesthetic standards; the new packaging adopts

cutting-edge concepts to adapt to the high quality of Apuseana natural, sparkling or flavoured water and to meet the changing needs of consumers who, thanks to a vast network of retailers operating nationwide, can choose between a wide range of bottles and pack sizes.

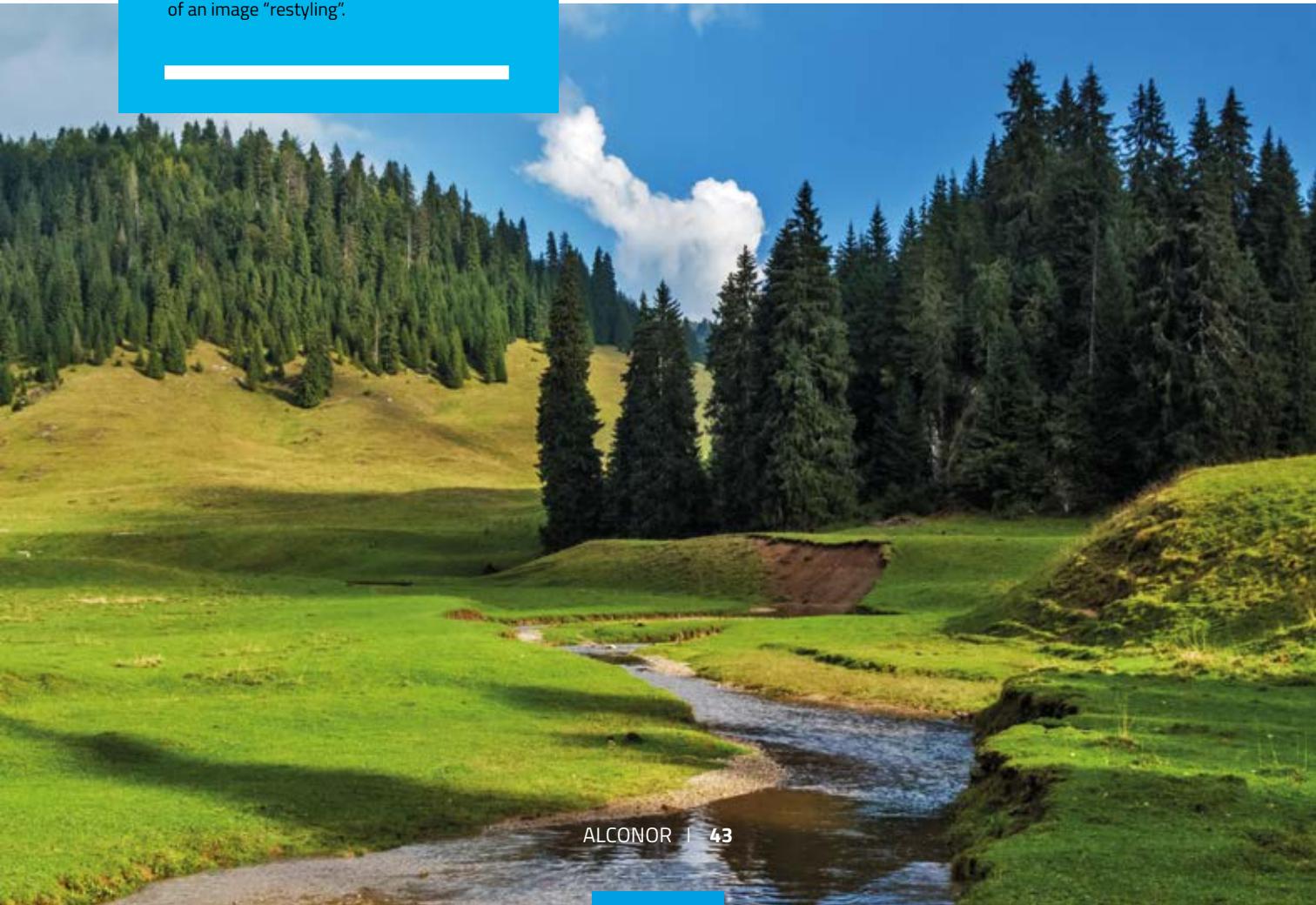


➤ **FULL OF ENERGY AND THE IMPORTANCE OF DIVERSIFICATION**

At the beginning of its business, Alconor Company only bottled carbonated soft drinks in PET containers, while today, thanks to the use of modern technologies, it continues to surprise its customers by launching new products or packaging existing ones in increasingly innovative and original packaging solutions.

For example, the fruit-based flavoured water "Aromatic Western Water" is a joy for the palate thanks to the aroma of lemon or strawberries and to the eyes, thanks to sublime "packaging", made according to the latest market trends.

The "Squizzy" lemonade remains among the favourite summer drinks for entire generations, as well as the "MAX SPEED" brand, energy products, a delicious energy drink to recharge your batteries and vitamin B, which, since 2020, has been the subject of an image "restyling".



SMI SOLUTIONS

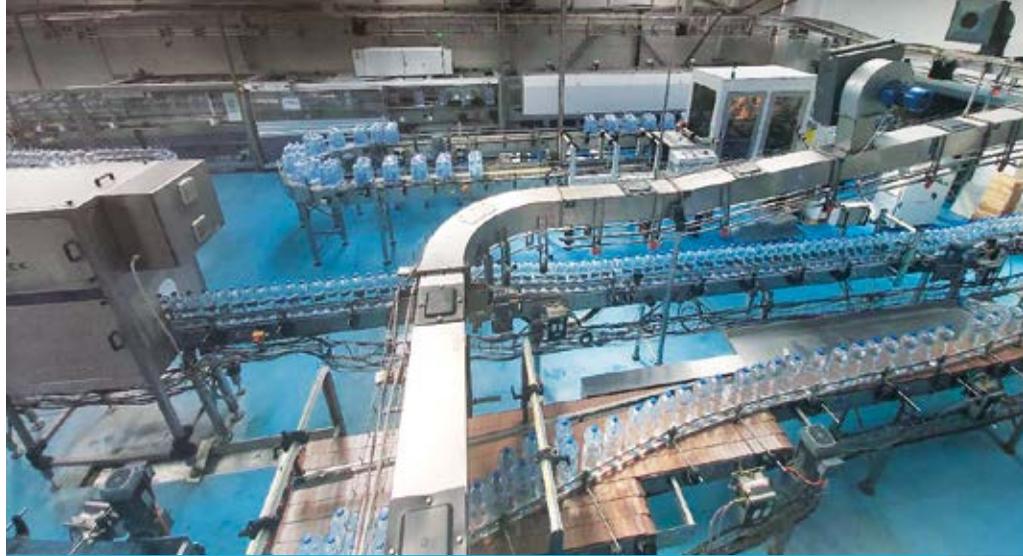
FOR ALCONOR



Year after year, from 1999 to today, Alconor has managed to improve its performance, both in the financial development and in the product range, enriching the product portfolio with new beverages, new bottle formats and new packaging solutions. The Romanian company has acquired an undisputed position of leadership in the field of beverage production, a sector that requires special services and high standards, as well as precision in absolute and constant control over product quality.

As part of these development projects, it was essential for Alconor to equip itself with advanced technology, flexible and efficient machines, which allow it to move quickly and easily from one production to another. In fact, within the company, innovation is also achieved by installing new machines with high technological content, which increase total production efficiency and make it possible to quickly meet the changing demands of the market. To this end, Alconor has been collaborating with SMI for years, which, thanks also to the presence of a branch in Romania, has been able to follow the company in its rapid development, allowing it to equip itself with cutting-edge machines to be successful in a highly competitive market.





PLANT IN CARE I

➤ 3,600 BPH PET BOTTLING LINE

ROTARY STRETCH-BLOWER EBS 3 HC ERGON - Production up to 3,600 bottles / hour

Products worked: 5 and 6 L large capacity bottles

➤ END-OF-LINE 24,000 BPH, PET BOTTLES, consisting of:

SK 800F ERGON SHRINKWRAPPER

HA 80 HANDLE APPLICATOR

PACKSORTER DIVIDER AND CONVEYOR BELTS

APS 3090P ERGON AUTOMATIC PALLETISING SYSTEM

Containers worked: 0.5 L and 2 L bottles in PET

Packs created: 0.5L bottles in 4x3 film only + handle and 2L bottles in 3x2 film only + handle

Pallets worked: 800x1200 mm

➤ 10.800BPH PET BOTTLING LINE, consisting of:

SR6 ROTARY STRETCH- BLOW-MOULDER

SK 300F PACKER

SFP 30 ERGON STRETCH FILM WRAPPER

DV 200 DIVIDER AND CONVEYOR BELTS

Containers worked: 0.33 L, 0.5 L, 0.75 L; 1 L; 2 L and 3 L bottles in PET

Packs created on the SK 300F packer: 0.33L and 0.5L bottles in 4x3 film only and 2L and 3L bottles in 3x2 film only

Packs created in stretch film on the SFP 30: 0.5L bottles in 2x4 film only and 0.75 L, 1 L, 2 L and 3 L bottles in 2x3 film only

Pallets worked: 800x1200 mm

➤ SK 450T PACKER AND CONVEYOR BELTS

Containers worked: 0.25L SLIM; 0.5L cans and 2L PET

Packs created: 0.25L SLIM; 0.5L cans in 6x4 in tray + film and 2L bottles in 3x2 film only

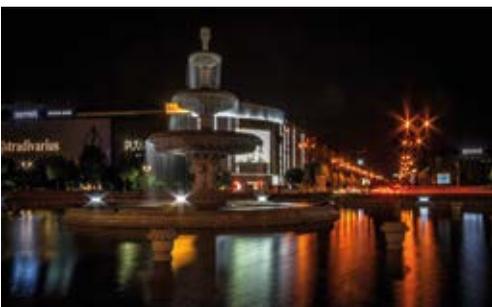
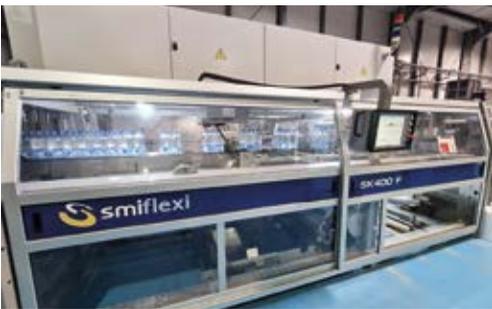
➔ **Main advantages of SFP 30 ERGON packer**

The SFP 30 ERGON packer used for the secondary packaging of 0.5 L, 0.75 L, 1 L, 2 L and 3 L PET bottles, it uses the cold “stretch” of stretch film and meets the needs of flexibility, versatility and eco-sustainability

- less use of packaging material (-30 / -40% vs. traditional shrinkwrappers): stretch film with a thickness of 10 microns is used for packaging
- energy saving: no heat-shrinking tunnel operating with electric resistances
- stable and resistant packaging: thanks to the double crossed wrapping of the film around the group of containers to be packed
- easy machine access: ergonomic system design, typical of the ERGON range
- MotorNet System® automation and control based on Sercos field bus
- 7” interactive “touch-screen” operator panel in 32 languages with simple, intuitive commands
- motors equipped with digital servo-drive (driver) integrated on the motor: a solution that generates less heat inside the electrical panel, reducing the energy consumption of the heat dissipation and air conditioning systems installed on the machine
- fewer CO2 emissions: greater benefit for the environment
- aesthetic advantages: the “bull’s eye”, typical of packs in film only, is small and appears on the short side of the pack
- the use of brushless motors in the film unwinding phase, ensures precise tension adjustment
- the double film wrapping system guarantees resistant and long-lasting packs: the first reel wraps the pack clockwise, while the second wraps it counterclockwise, creating a crisscross wrapping around the containers in transit.



**NEW SFP
WITHOUT
HEATING TUNNEL:
ENERGY SAVING
& FILM CONSUMPTION
CUT UP TO 40%**



PLANT IN BUCHAREST

➤ 12.000 BPH PET BOTTLING LINE, consisting of:

SR8 rotating stretch - blow-moulder

SK 400F packer

HA 40 handle applicator

APS 3050 P palletiser and conveyor belts

Containers worked: 0.5L, 2L and 3L bottles in PET

Packs created: 0.5L bottles in 4x2 and 4x3 film only + handle and 2L and 3L bottles in 3x2 film only + handle

Pallets created: 800x1200 m



Transylvania, made famous by Bram Stoker's Dracula, is a region of rare beauty and mystery at the foot of the Carpathians, characterized by a beautiful natural landscape and some of the best preserved medieval cities in Europe, such as Brasov. In addition to Brasov, the second largest city in Romania by number of inhabitants, we find Sibiu, Sighisoara, Cluj Napoca, Bistrita, Sebes and Medias. For centuries the walls, towers and fortified

churches of these cities have protected the inhabitants from invasions by the Ottoman Empire. Among the many medieval castles hidden in the mountains and woods of Transylvania, the most famous is certainly Dracula's Castle, mysterious and evocative also thanks to its Gothic architecture, high towers and white walls, built in the 15th century in a dominant position on the Bran village. The Corvinesti Castle near Hunedoara and the Rasnov Fortress built in 1300 by the Teutonic Knights are also very beautiful.

In Transylvania, there are also the beautiful villages of Viscri, Calnic, Darjiu, Harman, Prejmer and Biertan, with Saxon fortified churches declared World Heritage by Unesco. Finally, for lovers of nature and excursions, the Retezat National Park and the Natural Park of the Apuseni Mountains are an excellent opportunity to admire some protected species of animals and a unique natural environment. Don't miss the Scărișoara Cave, where the largest underground glacier on the continent is located.

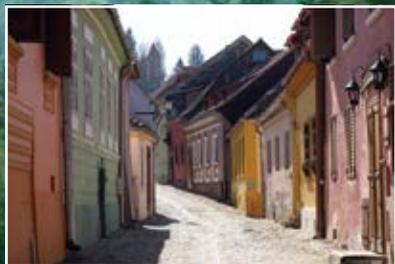
TRANSYLVANIA AND... MUCH MORE



The province and the homonymous capital of Satu Mare, in the north-west of Romania, on the border of Romania with Hungary and Ukraine, represent a miniature Europe, thanks to their multiculturalism. The capital Satu Mare, is practically one of the "gateways" to Romania. In the Middle Ages it was located at the intersection of several important roads, including those used for transporting salt to the West. Nowadays, Satu Mare represents the economic, social and cultural center of the

province, a dynamic city, with monumental buildings, in various architectural styles, from neo-baroque to Liberty. Only 36 km from Satu Mare is the second most important city of the province: Carei. Cited for the first time in a document of 1335 as a possession of the Hungarian family Károlyi, the city, which takes its name from this family, was disputed between Hungary and Romania for a long time and only in 1944 was it definitively assigned to Romania, together with all of northern Transylvania. The most important monument of the city is the

Károlyi Castle, built in the 13th century during the reign of Matthias Corvinus and became the property of the homonymous family. Over the years, Károlyi Castle has undergone countless transformations and today boasts numerous visitors and a vast park that is home to some of the rarest plant species. In the province of Satu Mare, there are areas that are 200 meters below sea level, but also mountains with ski resorts and many spas, very popular with tourists both in search of leisure activities and spa treatments.





NEW EBS KL

COMPACT HIGH-PERFORMANCE STRETCH-BLOW MOULDERS

➤ THE "PLUS" OF THE EBS KL

- small size
- simple and quick format changes
- less maintenance
- significant energy savings
- saving on transport costs (one container is sufficient)
- quick, economic installation and start-up
- improved blowing quality
- simple and intuitive management
- predictive maintenance
- greater operation precision

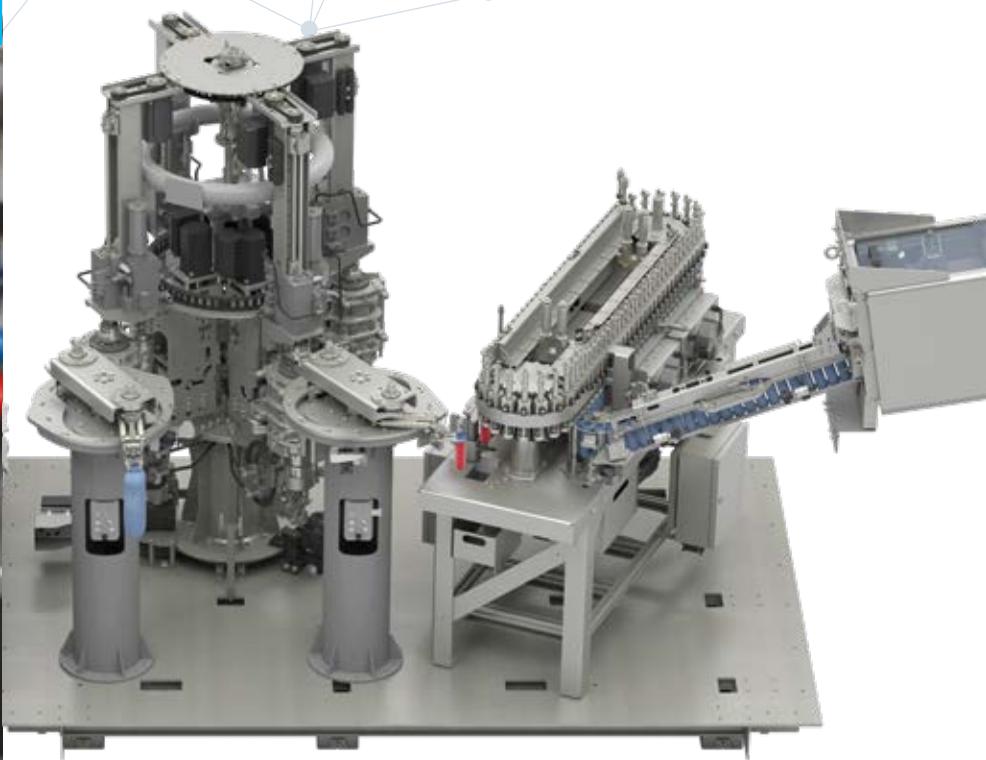
Yesterday as today, SMI is the reference point for many companies in the food and beverage sector that want to invest in cutting-edge, eco-sustainable bottling and packaging solutions inspired by the principles of Industry 4.0 and Internet of Things (IoT).

The most recent example is represented by the new EBS KL ERGON compact rotary stretch-blow moulder, whose project originated from the success of the numerous technical innovations introduced on the stretch-blow moulders of the EBS K ERGON series, which for several years has been responding to the needs of a growing

number of medium-sized companies in the field of primary packaging.

The need to cover the requests for higher production speeds, has led SMI designers to develop the new series of ultra-compact rotary machines called EBS KL ERGON (where the letters KL stand for "Kompakt Large"), suitable for satisfying the needs of production up to 25,000 bottles / hour.

The new series consists of models with 4, 6, 8 and 10 cavities for the stretch-blow moulding of PET / rPET / PP / PLA containers up to 3 liters, available both in a stand-alone version and integrated with a filler and a electronic capper.



THE NEW EBS KL COMPACT, FAST AND EFFICIENT

SMI's new compact blow moulding machine is a cutting-edge, technical solution that stands out in the reference market segment, as it has a long series of advantages: the preform heating section (oven) is integrated with the stretch-blow moulding section (carousel) in a single very compact module which makes the system suitable for installation even in small bottling lines.

The main characteristics of the new range are:

- production speed of up to 2,500 bph per mould (0.5 L format);
- the structure that encloses the oven and the carousel is equipped with slightly rounded protection doors, which allows for more space inside the machine to carry out cleaning and maintenance activities easily and safely;
- the stretch-blow moulding carousel is equipped with motorized stretch rods, the operation of

which is controlled by electronic drives and does not require pneumatic cams; it is an innovative solution that guarantees the precise management of the stroke of the stretch rod and accurate position control of the same, as well as a significant energy saving (no compressed air is needed and the current consumption is lower than the solutions with linear motors);

- thanks to the "cam-free" technology it is possible to change the stretch speed without mechanical interventions (replacement of cams) as the servomotor adjusts itself automatically according to the production speed (which reaches up to 2.4 m / s). This solution reduces the vibrations of the machine and the adjustments to be made in case of format change;
- the mechanical, electrical and pneumatic connections are housed in a single area



**EBS KL ERGON
VIDEO**
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inside the machine structure, where the user connections are arranged in an orderly and optimized manner;

- thanks to its compact structure, the EBS KL blow moulding machine can be easily transported in a container, saving on transport costs;
- the compactness also simplifies the installation and start-up operations, which are carried out in about two days of work, ensuring an excellent quality / price ratio;
- the stretch-blow moulding system makes use



of high-performance valves and low dead volumes (-50%), which reduce pre-blowing and blowing times, to the full advantage of machine performance and the quality of the bottles produced;

- the mechanical unit of the mould is equipped with its own motorization, which performs the up / down operations of the mould bottom and the opening / closing of the mould holder unit with the utmost precision; innovative solution with advantages in terms of greater precision, reduced maintenance, less vibrations, greater silence and longevity of the system;
- new gripper handling system, based on springless preform / bottle grippers equipped with desmodromic cams; this new technical solution optimizes the spaces and reduces the diameter in which the grippers move with consequent less wear and greater management precision of the blow moulding machine;
- use of plastic bearings that reduce wear and vibrations to which the calipers are subjected and do not require lubrication;
- the regulation of the blowing pressure according to the bottle format is automatic, with undoubted advantages compared to the manual regulation solutions present on the linear blow moulding machines;
- single-stage air recovery system fitted as standard;
- plant managed by the automation and control system Motornet System®, which ensures the constant maintenance of the optimal processing parameters during the entire production cycle and the direct modification of the machine settings, simplicity of format change operations and the possibility of temporarily disabling one or more moulds in case of need;
- Posyc® operator interface, simple and intuitive, which uses advanced management and diagnostic software for production efficiency, energy saving and predictive monitoring.
- the machine is equipped with an energy consumption meter which allows to detect the electrical consumption of the oven only or of the entire blow moulding machine, to compare the specific consumptions of different recipes, etc

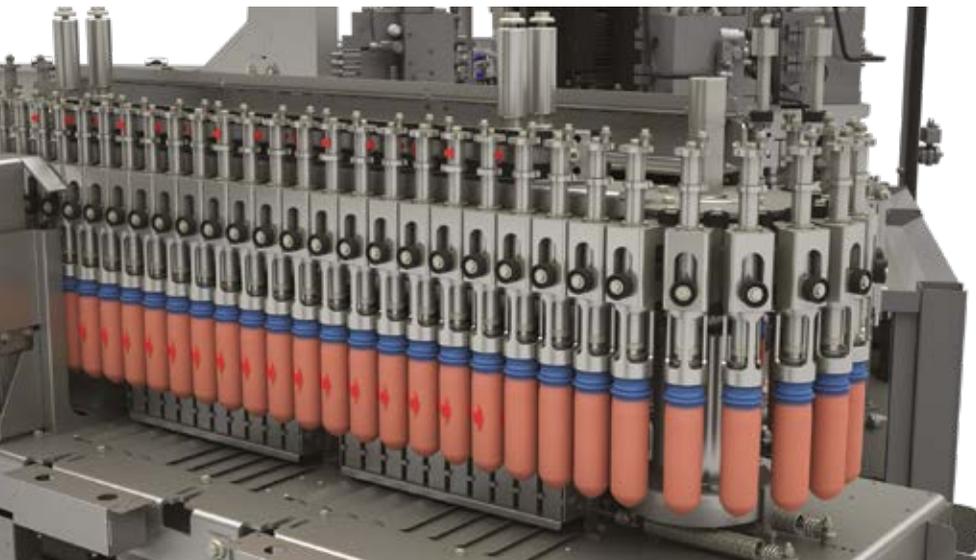


EBS KL

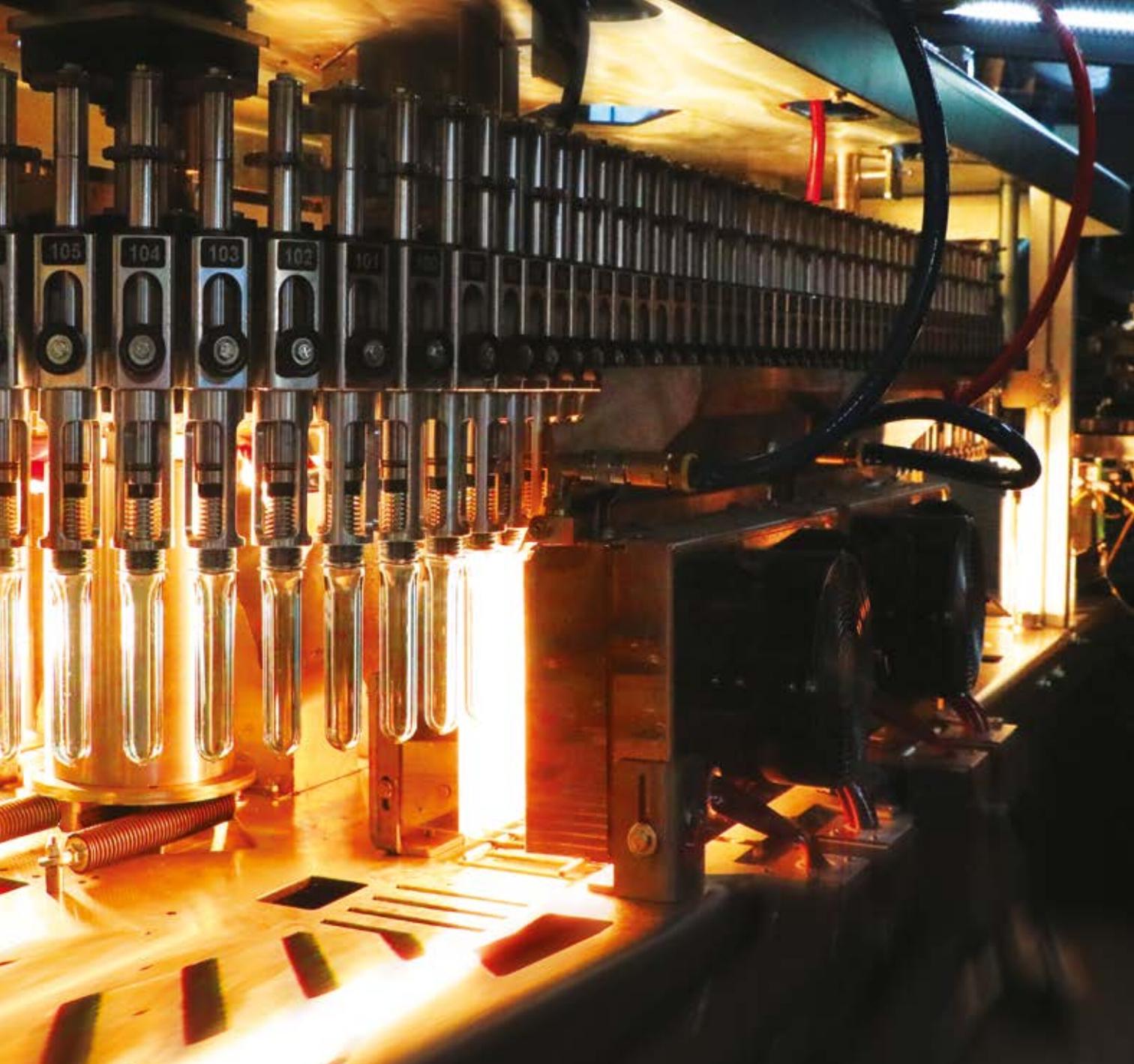
INNOVATIVE PREFORM HEATING OVEN

The EBS KL ERGON stretch-blow moulding system is equipped with an innovative preform heating oven with an extremely compact design, which integrates with the stretch-blow moulding carousel within the same machine module and is characterised by various advantages:

- the compact design ensures high speeds despite limited space;
- the preform feeding system is equipped with numerical position counter settings, which speed up the format changeover operations;
- staggered position of the mandrels which allows chain pitches optimised according to the preform diameter and to shorten the length of the oven, with the advantage of reducing the number of preforms present in the oven and consequently waste and consumption;
- the mandrel preform gripping unit has a new diffuser system, with no spheres and with gaskets, for heat dissipation, which allows to considerably reduce the wear and tear of the components;
- the groups of IR-ray lamps used to heat the preforms in transit, are equipped with a system of heat-reflecting panels, in highly energy-efficient composite ceramic material, positioned both in front of and behind the lamps. This solution ensures a high reflection of the heat generated by the lamps and guarantees a more uniform distribution of heat over the entire surface of the preform;
- new oven ventilation system equipped with high-flow centrifugal fans, which draw fresh air from below and channel it onto the body and neck of the preform. This system reduces the temperature of the preform neck to the advantage of optimising the thickness and eliminating the ovalization and deformation of the preform neck and below the thread.



EBS KL





THE NEW APS ERGON "MINIPAL"

COMPACT AND EFFICIENT

PALLETIZING SYSTEMS

With the occasion of Anuga FoodTec 2022 in Cologne, one of the most important international fairs for the food and beverage industry, SMI presented a new series of palletizing systems for medium-low production needs, nicknamed "minipal", characterised by advanced technical solutions and available in two versions: APS 615 ERGON (semiautomatic version) and APS 620 ERGON (automatic version), capable of respectively reaching a production speed of 15 and 20 packs per

minute (variable according to the palletizing scheme). The new palletizers introduced by SMI, offer all the advantages of an extremely compact, flexible and efficient system, which allows companies in the food and beverage sector to automate end-of-line operations, efficiently and economically, with the possibility of adapting production quickly and easily according to the needs of the market.



APS 615 AND APS 620 ERGON

THE “PLUS” OF COMPACT PALLETIZERS

Tertiary food packaging requires increasingly versatile solutions to improve product handling and avoid damage during their handling, reduce format changeover times to quickly adapt the system to new palletizing patterns and increase “performance” thanks to reduced dimensions.

The new “minimal” are characterised by:

- compact and ergonomic structure, which guarantees a considerable saving of space inside the production line;
- the ergonomic and functional structure of the APS ERGON series, allows the operator to easily and safely carry out all the activities related to installation, management and maintenance;
- use of innovative, intelligent and customised technical solutions, which ensure considerable advantages from the point of view of operational flexibility and economic competitiveness of processes;
- TCO (Total Cost of Ownership) optimised thanks to low management and maintenance costs;
- high levels of flexibility, thanks to the possibility of creating multiple palletizing schemes according to the specific needs of the customer;
- use of latest generation technologies, which ensure great operational versatility and the possibility of customisation to adapt to the needs of format change, product change and / or plant layout;
- the operations are managed by a “user-friendly” system of automation and control of the machine, thanks to the extremely intuitive graphic interface, the touch sensitive screen and the diagnostic and technical support functions in real time on the POSYC®
- The electrical panel, located outside the protection barriers, is a separate module, which remains cabled during transport and can be immediately installed at the customer’s plant.



“MINIPAL” APS ERGON COMPACT AND FUNCTIONAL

The heart of the APS 615 ERGON semi-automatic palletizing system and the APS 620 ERGON automatic system is constituted by the structure, inside which, the three Cartesian axis system responsible for forming the pallet is positioned.

Added to this are the infeed belt, the product pick-up head and the protections on the machine.

The product arrives at the palletiser on a product infeed belt and is “cadenced” by the rubberised belt; subsequently, by means of a spacer belt, it is brought into the pick-up position, where the pick-up head lifts a single pack, or a group of packs, and deposits it on the pallet on the ground.

The cyclical repetition of this operation creates the various palletizing layers.

The gripping head is equipped with a motor for rotating the product, so as to place the pack on the layer, in the exact position required by the palletizing pattern.

In the semiautomatic version APS 615, once the formation of the pallet has been completed, the operator manually removes the full pallet and places a new empty pallet.

In the automatic model APS 620, on the other hand, the finished pallet is brought to the unloading area and at the same time, at the infeed to the forming area, the pallet feeding system positions a new empty pallet to start the next palletizing cycle.



APS 615 ERGON
VIDEO
scan this QR code



TPP ERGON

PLASTIC-FREE SOLUTION FOR ECO-SUSTAINABLE MULTIPACKS

TPP 300 ERGON, acronym for Top Pad Packer, is the name of the new SMI solution for multipack packaging; aimed at all beverage bottlers who want to equip themselves with "plastic-free" solutions, the TPP 300 ERGON model is the ideal choice to obtain efficient and high-speed productions, up to 300 packs/minute.

Taking on board some of the main features of the overlapping cardboard sleeves of the MP ERGON series, the TPP ERGON project was conceived by SMI designers as a technologically advanced, packaging solution, which stands out for its respect

for the environment, advanced automation and flexibility of use.

The new TPP automatic, packaging machine was created for the secondary packaging of various types of cans, through the application of a cardboard pad positioned in the upper part of the pack.

The TPP 300 ERGON model, presented in world preview at the Drinktec fair in Munich, packs 0.33 L cans in 2x3 format at a maximum speed of 300 packs/minute.

In the pack former area, the cans are grouped continuously in the desired format



I by means of electronically synchronised separation fingers.

At the same time a flat layer of cardboard is deposited over the cans in transit, by means of an interlocking system.

The flat cardboard pad is taken from the pad magazine, located in the upper part of the machine, by means of a rotary movement picker.

The multipack made by the TPP ERGON packaging machine, is an alternative to the traditional, packaging solutions in overlapping cardboard sleeves made by the machines of the MP ERGON series and to the film bundles, made by the shrink film packaging machines.

The new multipacks, which do not require the use of glue, respond to the growing demands of the market for eco-sustainable packaging solutions and companies needs to have efficient, flexible and competitive, packaging machines.



TPP ERGON
VIDEO
scan this QR code



EFFICIENT PRODUCTION LINES. LINEAR, UNLOADING AND ACCUMULATION TABLE FROM THE DAT SERIES

Within any bottling and packaging line, container and product handling systems play a key role in ensuring high production efficiency, such as the linear unloading and accumulation table from the DAT series, acronym for "Discharge Accumulation Table". Particularly suitable for rectangular, square or oval shaped

containers, the device receives, transports and unloads the containers through a pressure-free system that preserves their quality during handling.

The operation is simple: the product arrives at the infeed on the conveyor belt in single lane, distanced and with no pressure, thanks to a timing device.

The infeed belt mounts a 90° translation system that accompanies the products towards the accumulation table.

The translation system is made up of a pair of small conveyors with a modular chain and rubberised surface to protect the containers.



The central part of the system consists of an accumulation table onto which the product is accumulated in rows.

The length and number of rows on the table are defined during the study of the line and may vary according to the size of the containers and the quantity of product in accumulation required by the blowmoulding machine and by the filler.

The products are fed onto the accumulation table one row at a time.

In normal operating situations the product enters and leaves on the same row, while in the event of a downstream stop, a first batch of containers enters the accumulation table and completes the first row of conveyor.

This is repeated if more accumulation is required.





FROM IDEA TO BOTTLE
SOLUTIONS FOR EACH PRODUCT
AND SUSTAINABLE PET



SMI deals with the design of containers and the production of moulds installed on rotary stretch-blow moulders for the production of PET / rPET / PP bottles. Thanks to an advanced 3D CAD design department, SMI designs and graphically processes a large variety of containers for a wide range of products. To date, SMI engineers have designed more than 1,700 containers, characterised by simple and very complex shapes, according to the specific needs of the customer. Today, all the major food and beverage producers, aim to promote sustainable

lifestyles in a logic of circular economy and support the importance of responsible use of resources and recycling. Their commitment begins with the use of PET plastic: a 100% recyclable and 100% regenerable material. Using 100% recyclable bottles, means giving the container a second life, thus saving energy and materials. SMI assists companies in the study and graphic realization, of a wide range of eco-sustainable, resistant and light containers, whose production requires less energy and raw material.

➤ PET / RPET CONTAINER DESIGN FOR LIQUID SOAP

In the detergent sector, plastic packaging, both rigid and flexible, continues to be the dominant choice. In 2020, the increased use of detergents and disinfectants, triggered by the pandemic, favoured the increase in the market share held by rigid, plastic packaging compared, for example, to that of metal packaging. Furthermore, in the last ten years (2010-2019 data), the worldwide consumption of plastics used to produce containers, for household and personal care detergents, has grown by an average of 4.8% per year. Detergents for the home and personal care, as well as lots of cleaning products, are often packaged in PET containers with a square or rectangular base, which are easier to handle and are an excellent marketing tool to enhance the product they contain. PET containers also represent a perfect opportunity to highlight the product, because the first step to attract the attention of buyers in stores etc., and to make them put a certain product in their trolleys, is to whet their curiosity with containers and packaging with an original and captivating shape. An example of this strategy, is represented by the container made for the packaging of liquid soap, which, thanks to its particular shape and decorations, highlights the properties of the product it contains. The idea was to add decorative elements, such as the design of plants and flowers used as soap aromas, to guide consumers' purchasing choices.



➤ PRACTICAL CONTAINERS EQUIPPED WITH A HANDLE

Thanks to their recyclability and excellent weight / capacity ratio, PET and rPET containers are increasingly chosen by many companies in the food sector, especially for the packaging of a high-value product such as edible oil. Edible oil companies are promoting the use of PET and rPET containers as a convenient and efficient, packaging solution that is easy to handle and can be easily decorated with attractive shapes and colors. Furthermore, an increasing number of companies prefer the use of bottles with built-in handles, which allow consumers to pour the product more easily, than containers that do not have them. The handles, in fact, offer greater practicality and, thanks to the attractive design of the bottles in which they are incorporated, they also act as an advertising vehicle for the product, which stands out on the shelves of the store and thus attracts the attention of consumers. Today, SMI customers can choose between different types of bottles with built-in handles, which can be pre-inserted or post-inserted into the containers produced by the EBS ERGON blow molding machines. The bottles with pre-inserted handles are made using special moulds that facilitate the operation of inserting the handles.



SMI: 35 YEARS OF PACKAGING INNOVATION



EXHIBITIONS. BACK AGAIN AFTER BEING STOPPED FOR 2 YEARS

After two years of absence due to the health emergency, since the end of 2021 SMI has returned to “physically” taking part in important trade fairs all over the world: from Europe to the Americas (with Anuga, Ipack-Ima, Fispal and ExpoPack Mexico), from Africa to Oceania (with Propack Africa, Djazagro, Propack Est Africa Propack West Africa and Auspack); from the Middle East (Gulfood Manufacturing) to Asia (Propack Asia). The reopening of the exhibitions has represented a great sign of hope, for the entire packaging sector and an opportunity to see the most recent innovations up close and meet customers and partners again.



In 2022, SMI celebrates 35 years of activity in the design, production and installation of packaging machines and systems for companies in the “food & beverage” sector. Since the introduction in 1987 of the first shrinkfilm packaging machine, SMI has made a decisive contribution to introducing numerous, technological innovations to this market, which has since become an industry standard. With nearly 7000 machines installed worldwide, SMI has become a partner of choice for many small, medium and large industrial enterprises for PET / rPET / PP packaging solutions for beverages, food and home and personal care products (FHPC), making every effort to satisfy the growing and changing demands of its customers. Year after year, SMI's innovations in the field of “packaging machinery” have made it possible to offer thousands of customers, single or complete solutions, starting from

the study of containers up to palletising and line handling systems, characterised by maximum efficiency, reduced TCO (Total Cost of Ownership), respect for the environment and reduced energy and raw material consumption. In 35 years of activity SMI has witnessed a rapid evolution of the “PET packaging” industry, with continuous changes in the “trend” of bottle design and the awareness that the shape of the “packaging” is of the utmost importance in marketing strategies of companies in the sector; in fact, a container with an original and captivating shape is the best way to attract the attention of consumers and allows to differentiate the “brands” of the products on the market.



EFFECTIVELY MANAGE THE “SHORTAGE” OF COMPONENTS THANKS TO PLANNING

AMBASSADOR DAY: SUSTAINABILITY AWARD



On November 19, 2021, during the Ambassador Day 2021 edition, which took place in the splendid setting of the Municipal Casino of San Pellegrino Terme, SMI received an award for its commitment to environmental sustainability. The event, which wanted to pay homage to all the companies, professionals and associations that distinguish themselves with their work in this field, saw the participation of Lech Wałęsa, Nobel Peace Prize winner and former President of Poland.



Since the end of 2021 onwards, entrepreneurs in every sector have been grappling with the serious problem of the shortage of electronic components, a global phenomenon that is triggering a real systemic crisis and that must be addressed with a wise policy of management and stock optimisation to meet customer needs.

SMI is effectively managing this situation through a proven strategy based on careful planning of purchases and intelligent programming of the internal production of SMITEC electronic components for the automation and control systems of both the machines in production and those

already installed.

In the effective response to this crisis, the new “in-house” software and hardware solutions, designed for plant control, monitoring and analysis are also of great importance.



1000 BEST PERFORMER COMPANIES

A few days after the Ambassador Day, on November 22, 2021 SMI participated in the event organized by Italy Post to reward the top 1,000 most “performing” companies in Bergamo.

The awards ceremony, held at the Papa Giovanni XXIII Congress Center in Bergamo, represented a unique opportunity to share experiences and strategies for continuous economic, sustainable and “smart” growth.



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