

Inspired by Industry 4.0

Within the framework of Industry 4.0 and under the mottos "new age of packaging" and "new age of bottling", Italian SMI will be presenting the Ecobloc Ergon integrated system, the CWP Ergon casepacker and the MP Ergon overlapping cardboard sleeve packer. The new market solutions aim to ensure more flexibility, efficiency, eco-compatibility, management and monitoring simplicity within the production lines.

"New age of bottling"

Among the solutions for the blowing and bottling processes, SMI will be exhibiting the EBS (Electronic Blowing System) Ergon stretch-blow moulder in an Ecobloc version with an electronic filler. The new EBS Ergon is the result of an intensive research and development project, which has introduced concepts for the design and manufacturing of the new SMI rotary blow moulders.

The stretch-blowing module of the EBS Ergon series is equipped with motorised stretch rods, whose functioning is controlled by electronic drives requiring no mechanical cams; this is claimed to ensure a precise control of the stretch rod's path and position, as well as bringing energy savings. The EBS Ergon series also uses high-performance, low dead-volume valves that reduce pre-blowing and blowing times, thereby improving machine efficiency and the quality of the bottles produced.

The motorisation of the mould mechanical assembly is integrated with the electronic stretch rod, making the EBS Ergon stretch-blow moulders a "cam-free" system, with considerable advantages in terms of greater kinematic accuracy, less maintenance, less vibration, less noise and increased system longevity.

The stretch blow-moulders of the EBS Ergon series is equipped with a newly designed preform-heating tunnel, featuring compact dimensions, with a horizontal preform-holding mandrel chain and with optimised ventilation and aeration systems.

The new heating module is equipped with a system of thermoreflective panels made from a highly energy-efficient ceramic material, situated both in front and behind the infrared lamps units responsible for heating the preforms; this innovative solution ensures a high reflection of the heat generated by the lamps and

consequently a more uniform distribution of the heat over the entire surface of the preforms, says SMI.

"New age of packaging"

The secondary packaging solutions on the show include a new overlapping cardboard sleeve packer of the MP Ergon series and a new casepacker of the CWP Ergon series.

The packers of the MP Ergon series are suitable for packing a wide range of containers in numerous different configurations.

The continuous cycle packaging system aims to ensure a fluid production process, without jerking movements, which protects the containers from damage, ensuring integrity of the product, high-quality of the package and reduced mechanical wear of the machine components.

The pack bottom sealing with hot melt glue ensures a precise and long-

lasting closure, with the possibility of using different types of cardboard.

The SMI MP Ergon cluster packers are intended to be an ideal solution for creating packs with appealing graphics and a strong visual impact, able to capture the consumer's attention. In addition, cardboard blanks are resistant to hits and easy to manage, open and store. The model, which will be shown at the exhibition in Munich packs 0.33l beer bottles in 2 x 2 OTT packs with flap inside.

The clusters produced are then packed in cardboard boxes, completely closed by the new CWP Ergon casepacker in the 4 x 4 pack format

The CWP Ergon project arose from SMI's desire to launch on the market a compact version of the WP packer featuring the same design and manufacturing principles as CSK Ergon shrinkwrappers.

Adopting some of the main features of the CSK series, the new CWP series has been designed as a technologically advanced packaging machine, which stands out for automation, flexibility, energy savings and environmental safeguard. The series currently includes just one model for the packaging in wrap-around cases or in only tray packs a wide range of rigid containers at the maximum output of 40 packs/ minute (depending to the container dimensions and the package format).

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