



Optimised end of line packaging process

Co-packing at its best

Refresco Finland Oy is the leading bottling factory in Finland for co-packing juices, soft drinks, water, energy drinks and other non-alcoholic beverages for private labels - in addition to a wide range of products under its own brand. To automate and optimise the production process and respond to their customers' requests for personalised "packaging" solutions while maintaining market trends, the Finnish company decided to invest in the purchase of a latest generation automatic packer CSK 50P Ergon supplied by SMI.



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Refresco Finland Oy from Kuopio is part of the Dutch multinational Refresco Group (the largest independent bottler in the world), which produces and sells a wide variety of private labels and offers its experience and professionalism within the industrial sector in Europe, North America and Mexico. In addition to managing the entire production chain, the Finnish company offers lots of services to the "private label" companies with which it works, from developing an idea to its implementation, from the development of the product to its bottling and packaging, from storage to logistics. At the same time, it keeps abreast of innovations in terms of products, packaging and scale, allow-

ing the continual growth of its portfolio of products and the development of new systems to improve the production process in terms of offer quality, reduction of costs, energy savings and environmental safeguarding. In addition to the wide range of products produced for third parties, Refresco Finland Oy markets a wide range of its own brand.

Made to measure solutions

Refresco Finland includes a wide variety of customers and supplies bespoke solutions, able to satisfy not only global retailers but also private brand customers. Thanks to these ongoing collaborations, the bottler is able to put new products on the market in a very short time, to help its customers face new market challenges, respond to change and modernise continually. Thanks to the high technology of its plants, the variety of "packaging" solutions available, to the quality control system, which meets the highest national and international standards, and a structure that is strongly inclined towards "project development", Refresco Finland Oy sees itself as the ideal partner for every industrial operator within the food & beverage sector who wishes to update the image of their products. The Finnish company has gained considerable experience in transforming the needs and requests of its

customers with high quality proposals, guaranteeing the achievement of the objectives within budget and lead times. The food products that are produced in their plants are sold in a wide, diverse range of formats: PET, glass, can, brik and pouch. The innovative method for sterile bottling, for which the Refresco Group is well-known, is claimed to guarantee that the product has a long shelf-life, without compromising the quality of its food properties, in terms of authenticity, reliability and conservation.

Compact wrapper

The choice for the installation of a new, compact wrapper fell to the CSK range from SMI. For Refresco Finland Oy it seemed to be the most suitable choice to automate and optimise the end of line, secondary, packaging process as the range of these cutting-edge technology machines are claimed to stand out for their advanced automation, flexibility of use, low energy costs and respect for the environment.

The CSK 50P Ergon installed at the factory in Kuopio, packs different types of bottles in PET in numerous pack formats in pad+film and film only. The CSK Ergon range includes single and twin lane models, with a compact and ergonomic design. Maximum speed for shrink wrapping is 50 packs/

minute in single lane and 50+50 packs/minute in twin lane (speed is variable according to the size of the container and the pack format). Packed products include bottle sizes of 0.33l, 0.4l, 0.5l and 1.5l in PET. Format changeover can be automatically regulated.

The packer is equipped with a motorised system of oscillating laning guides at the machine infeed, which facilitate the correct laning of loose product on the conveyor which is made of low friction coefficient thermoplastic. As another advantage according to SMI is that grouping loose products in the format required is achieved continuously thanks to electronically synchronised fingers and separation guides. A cardboard blank magazine is situated under the infeed conveyor from where the sleeves are picked up by an alternate motion cardboard picker. Placed at the start of the cardboard ramp, it is equipped with a vacuum suction system set of suckers. The curved cardboard ramp at the beginning and at the end helps the layer to be inserted under the group of products at the outfeed of the electronic separator. A compact knife group, where the blade is managed by a "direct-drive" brushless motor makes the cut precise and simplifies maintenance.

The wrapper's new ICOS motors, equipped with integrated, digital servo-driver simplifies the machine cabling to ensure greater energy efficiency, less noise and reduced component wear and tear. The CSK 50P Ergon features a shrink tunnel equipped with optional metal chain and lubrication that ensures that the film under the pack is joined perfectly.

The machine is also equipped with a range of optional devices to guarantee a high level of quality of the final pack, such as a product stabiliser and an additional 1,150 mm conveyor, placed at the tunnel outfeed which allow the packs to cool down.

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Refresco Finland Oy is part of the Refresco Group, producer of soft drinks and fruit juice for retailers and owners of private brands, which in January 2018 acquired the bottling activities of the American company Cott. It thus became the largest, independent bottler of the sector in Europe and North America and one of the top five in the world. With 59 factories and more than 250 production lines in Benelux, Finland, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, United Kingdom, Poland and the United States, the Refresco Group of companies, head-quartered in Rotterdam, possesses vast experience in the "supply chain" sector and has a reputation for innovation and development. The Dutch multinational group employs more than 9,500 people in Europe and the USA, produces 11 billion litres of beverages annually and in 2018 generated a revenue of around €3.7 bn.





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