

In a country that is scarcely populated like Finland, it is possible to lose yourself in your own thoughts or let yourself be enchanted by the breathtaking views, a true blue maze of lakes, island, rivers and canals, interrupted by green woods, that extend for hundreds of kilometres in an incredibly beautiful, peaceful stretch of landscape. This is the largest lake district in Europe, the “Lakeland”, the heart of Finnish identity, whose capital, Kuopio, is famous for its thousands of lakes, the beauty of its nature, the lively events, the rich culture and friendly hospitality. Hospitality that is felt everywhere, even inside the Refresco Finland Oy bottling factory, the leader 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. Imagination, efficient management and strong competitiveness are the fundamental aims at Refresco Finland Oy, the achievement of which is possible through the use of highly innovative bottling and packaging solutions, that are top quality and respect the environment. To automate and optimise the production process and reply 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.

# REFRESCO FINLAND OY

- **SECTOR SOFT DRINKS**  
REFRESCO FINLAND OY  
Kuopio, Finland  
[www.refresco.fi](http://www.refresco.fi)
- Shrink wrapper CSK 50P ERGON



GEO LOCATION

# Refresco

## EXPERIENCE AND PROFESSIONALISM AT THE SERVICE OF THE CUSTOMER

The mission at Refresco Finland Oy is to be the strongest, most flexible company in Finland that produces, juice, soft drinks, water, energy drinks and other non-alcoholic beverages. The company 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 labels" 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, while keeping an eye on continual innovations in terms of products, packaging and raw materials. The strength of the Refresco Group lies in the way that it operates, based on imagination, competitiveness, affordability and investing at large

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: ILPO METSO, MANAGER FOR DEVELOPMENT AT REFRESCO; CARL BYRON ARMSTRONG, F.A.T. ENGINEER AT SMI; SAMI KOKKONEN, MANAGER FOR DEVELOPMENT AT REFRESCO.



### REFRESCO FINLAND OY

- Year of Founding:** 1996
- Turnover 2018:** around € 65 million
- Industrial area:** over 22,000 m<sup>2</sup>
- Group:** Refresco Group (since 2004)



scale, allowing 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 such as:

- **Vip:** juices, soft drinks, mineral water, syrups and seasonal products like vin brulè and mead
- **Snadi:** juice brik packs
- **Rodeo:** energy drinks
- **Wipu:** fruit juices
- **Sunpride:** fruit juices





# Refresco

## “CO-PACKING” AT ITS BEST MADE TO MEASURE SOLUTIONS FOR DEMANDING CUSTOMERS

**R**efresco Finland includes a wide variety of customers and supplies innovative, bespoke solutions, able to satisfy not only global retailers but also private brand customers. Equipped with modern technology and vast experience within its reference sector, the company has always been on the front line for co-

packing high quality products like water, soft drinks, fruit juice, tea and nutritional supplements. Customers are at the centre of every activity at Refresco Finland and, thanks to this continual collaboration, it is able to put new products on the market in very short time, to help its customers face new market challenges, reply 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 represents the ideal partner for every industrial operator



within the “food & beverage” sector who wishes to modernise the image of their products. The Finnish company has gained consolidated experience in transforming the needs and requests of its countless, diverse customers with high quality proposals, guaranteeing the achievement of the objectives within budget and lead times. Refresco offers complete services to its customers, these include every aspect of the production process, from planning to the supply of the product, from storage to shipping. The modern technology, used in the bottling and packaging plant at Kuopio, place the Finnish company at the summit of their reference sector, in terms of the quality and reliability of the food products that are produced in their plant, which 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, much appreciated in all Europe, guarantees that the product has a long “shelf-life”, without compromising the quality of its food properties, in terms of authenticity, reliability and conservation.

### ➤ REFRESCO GROUP

Refresco Finland Oy is part of the Refresco Group, the main European producer of soft drinks and fruit juice for retailers and owners of private brands, which in January 2018 took over the bottling activities of the American company Cott. Thus becoming the largest, independent bottler of the sector in Europe and North America and one of the first 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, this conglomerate with head quarters in Rotterdam, possesses vast experience in the “supply chain” sector and has an extraordinary capacity for innovation and development. This 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 billion euro. The company is able to develop new products and put them on the market, thanks to the close cooperation with its customers regarding market trends, preferences of local consumers, product formulas, raw materials used and new technology for bottling and packaging. The Refresco Group supplies efficient, competitive, complete, turnkey solutions, that stretch from production planning to the supply of the raw materials and from packing to the storage and delivery of the finished lots, providing their global customers with the expertise and “know-how” that they have acquired in over twenty years of activity. Focusing on innovation, the Dutch company aims to continually improve the quality of its products and “packaging” solutions, offering a wide range of fruit juices, carbonated beverages and mineral water.



# SMI SOLUTIONS FOR REFRESCO FINLAND OY



The installation of a new, compact, wrapper from the CSK range 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, 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 that contains the best technology on the market for shrink wrapping at a maximum speed of 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).



## ➤ SHRINK WRAPPER CSK 50P ERGON

**Packed products:** 0.33 L / 0.4 L / 0.5 L / 1.5 L bottles in PET.

**Packs worked:** format 4x3 film only for 0.33 L, 0.4 L and 0.5 L bottles.; format 3x2 film only for 0.5 L and 1.5 L bottles; 6x4 film only and 6x4 pad + film for 0,33 L bottles; numerous other format configurations organised for the future.

### Main advantages:

- packer 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
- grouping of loose products in the format required achieved continually thanks to electronically synchronised fingers and separation guides
- cardboard blank magazine 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
- curved cardboard ramp at the beginning and at the end this helps the layer to be inserted under the group of products at the outfeed of the electronic separator
- compact knife group, where the blade is managed by a "direct-drive" brushless motor which makes the cut more precise and simplifies maintenance
- new ICOS motors, equipped with integrated, digital servo-driver, which simplify the machine cabling and ensure greater energy efficiency, less noise and reduced component wear and tear
- shrink tunnel equipped with metal chain optional and lubrication that ensures that the film under the pack is joined perfectly
- optional system to automatically regulate format changeover
- the machine is also equipped with a range of optional devices to guarantee the high level of quality of the final pack, such as the product stabiliser and the additional 1,150 mm conveyor, placed at the tunnel outfeed it allows the packs to cool down

# ROMANTIC, NOSTALGIC AND MODERN: THE TRUE STORY OF FINLAND

In Finland, nature is an essential part of the landscape and it is scrupulously protected in all its aspects, as it is the custodian of individual and social well-being and the main element for being calm, relaxed and for movement. Water, woods and rolling hills represent the maximum

expression of Finnish nature: an intimate and evocative experience. The lakes and rivers still establish natural borders. It is here, that the mythical legends of the origins of the Finnish identity appeared, and here along the shores of the lake district, that the country which rose from a farming society to being one of the most famous in the world for its

advanced technology and innovative research, has its roots. It is here that industries began to use the waterways for commerce and to obtain energy, and it is still here, in the lake district, that in recent times, companies have contributed to the greatest structural change to the Finnish economy and to modern industrialisation.



## ➤ SAILING IN THE HEART OF FINLAND

Sailing on the lakes is the best way to discover this fantastic corner of Finland and an excellent way to relax and enjoy the surrounding nature. Setting sail from the main ports of Kuopio and Savonlinna, on board old steamboats, that in the past were used for carrying goods and which, today, are a tourist attraction. The most interesting destination is Lake Saimaa, an enormous, complex system of water basins which is 4,380 kilometres square, joined by 60 canals and other bodies of water, which let you travel for 300 kilometres, from the city of Lappeenranta, in the South of the country, to Nurmes and Iisalmi, in the hinterland. For people looking for open water, there is Lake Päijänne, the second largest navigable basin in Finland, perfect for yacht competitions. The more sporty can choose a canoe, a way to admire the region in a completely autonomous way and to explore the waters of the National Park of Linnansaari. For lovers of this sport there is nothing better than the "Sulkava Rowing Race", the greatest event in the world of its kind with more than 10,000 competitors each year.



# THE LAND OF THE THOUSAND LAKES

At least once in a lifetime you need to take a trip to Finland, because it is from here, that you can admire the wonderful Northern nights for more than 200 nights per year. Lapland is also the only place where you can find special, unique facilities with magnificent saunas or you can choose a "sauna tour", which pairs the sauna with a dinner of wild game. In summer the landscape in Finland is dominated with blues and greens, in fact, the wooded countryside is dotted with splashes of water and blue oasis that can be found everywhere, from the metropolitan area around Helsinki through to Lapland. It is not by chance, that Finland is called the "land of a thousand lakes", even if in reality, there are around 188,000 in total, some of the most beautiful views in the world are here, among the most clear, transparent waters on the planet, it is certainly the best place to admire this blue area of the country.

There is a strong bond that joins the Finnish people to water, seeing as how the country is characterised by 188,000 lakes, 700 rivers with 5,000 rapids, 180,000 islands and 4,600 kilometres of coastline. The heart of this country, suspended between land and water, is the great lake district, emblem of the national identity that comes from the close contact with nature and the magical union of the green woods with the blue of the endless bodies of water, often separated from each other by just a sliver of land. Lake Saimaa is situated in the lake district of Eastern Finland, it is the largest in the country and the natural habitat to the Saiaa seals, one of the most endangered animals in the world. Rowing, canoeing, fishing, barbecues, the unavoidable Finnish sauna and swimming are the most popular summer activities around the lake, while in winter you can fish or ice skate.

## ➤ REFRESCO FINLAND PROTECTS THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Refresco Finland Oy has taken the Finnish philosophy of life as its own, it worries about protecting the natural environment where it operates and it protects its employees. The Finnish company's environmental policy aims at reducing energy and water consumption and protecting the surrounding area in every step of the production process, for example, the cardboard boxes that it uses for packaging are recyclable and the soft drinks are bottled in returnable PET bottles. Thanks to this operation method, Refresco Finland Oy has been awarded ISO 14001 (standard of environmental management) FSSC 22000 (standard for food safety during production processes along the supply chain) certification, which certify the objectives that have been reached by the Finnish company in terms of hygiene, food safety and quality systems and their commitment to guarantee the safety of the consumers.

## FINLAND IN FEW NUMBERS

5,530.000 inhabitants

188,000 lakes

200,000 cottages

310 Saimaa seals

1 festival of opera