## machinery & equipment

## Lightest bottles

he Smiform SR8 rotary stretch-blow moulding machine offered by SMI is dedicated to the production of 0,5litre PET bottles for water starting from 9.94g preforms. This solution respects the en-

vironment (less plastic = less fuel = less pollution) and can guarantee considerable economic savings, thanks to reduced management costs.

Starting from the typical flexibility of plastic, and working above all on the shape of the final container, today it is possible to produce very light bottles, maintaining the stability and resistance typical of a container with a higher particle size.

Bottlers in the US, driven above all by a strong ecological sensitivity, have been amongst the first to request the possibility to produce lightweight containers starting from

preforms with low particle size. The market trend to bottle water in increasingly light containers is even more relevant considering that world a 20-cavity stretch blow-moulding machine (Smiform SR 20), recently delivered to Sky Blue Water in Canada, produces 0.5-litre bottles using 13-g preforms.

A recent market analysis shows that the worldwide consumption of water increased last year by 6%, bringing it to 206 billion

litres. Global sales in 2008 had reached 63 billion euro: +19% compared to 2000, with an average annual growth rate of

From these figures it is easy to understand why even the smallest reduction in weight of a single bottle can assume

an enormous environmental importance. The lower bottle weight means less polluting emissions during production and transport and a low impact on the environment in the dis-

posal of packaging waste.



wide consumption of pack aged water is constantly on the rise. For example,

www.smigroup.it