SMI solutions for Latteria Soresina

Filling milk in rPET bottles

To respond promptly to market demands while respecting the environment, Latteria Soresina, a major Italian cooperative in the dairy sector, continuously invests in state-of-the-art production systems, such as the SMI EBS 6 KL ERGON stretch-blow moulder.

Keeping up with the times

One hundred and twenty-five years without stopping for even a single day. The history of Latteria Soresina shows how the company has been able to interpret market signals and respond to changing needs through growing efficiency and innovation. Today, all the goodness of milk from cows raised within a certified supply chain and processed according to tradition using innovative techniques is ready to be filled in practical PET and rPET bottles, blown by the EBS 6 KL ERGON stretch-blow moulder, equipped with “ReduxAir” moulds. The system enables stretch-blow moulding operations at lower pressures than those typically used.

Looking to the future in a sustainable way

The goal of Latteria Soresina is to generate a positive impact for society and the dairy-food sector. The passion for quality and the territory translates into concrete choices in the name of sustainability such as environmental protection, animal welfare, and constant support for members, employees, and collaborators. The sustainable supply chain is realised through periodic investments to renew barns, haylofts, and dairy processing plants to reduce environmental impact and energy consumption. All the breeding members with their over 200 barns located near the Latteria Soresina plants have signed a supply chain agreement that includes careful monitoring of the entire production cycle, with preventive actions and periodic controls.

PET and rPET bottles

In response to the growing popularity of fresh milk and to produce PET and rPET bottles made with 50% recycled plastic, in sizes of 0.5 L and 2 L, Latteria Soresina has invested in a plant that allows it to increase its operations with a focus on reducing environmental impact. The SMI EBS 6 KL ERGON stretch-blow moulder, installed at the Soresina facility, meets these needs and ensures flexible and sustainable production, says SMI. The SMI stretch-blow moulder helps to increase the use of rPET bottles; moreover, the use of preforms with an increasingly lighter weight helps the company optimise distribution and reduce its carbon footprint. To reduce the environmental impact of packaging, the 0.5 L and 1 L containers used for fresh milk have been redesigned to lighten their weight (15% raw material savings). The SMI stretch-blow moulder has also been tested with the use of white PET preforms with titanium dioxide (TiO_2), which acts as a light barrier, an important element for the production of ESL (Extended Shelf Life) milk.

ReduxAir moulds

The moulds installed on the EBS 6 KL ERGON stretch-blow moulder are equipped with the ReduxAir bottom, which, thanks to specific technical and design features, allows for a faster release of the air between the outer walls of the bottle and the surface of the mould. It is therefore possible to produce the 0.5 L container with an air pressure of 20 bar and the 1 L container with 25 bar (significantly lower pressures than the approximately 35 bar normally used), ensuring reduced operation of the high-pressure air compressor.

Low-consumption preform heating

The compact preform heating tunnel of the stretch-blow moulders from SMI is equipped with an aluminium diffuser to ensure temperature control and prevents any risk of overheating. Energy costs for the production of the bottles are reduced thanks to the use of highly energy-efficient IR lamps.

AirMaster recovery system

The EBS 6 KL ERGON stretch-blow moulder is equipped with a two-stage air recovery system called AirMaster, which adds a second device to the standard air recovery system in order to recover and recycle part of the high-pressure blowing air, ensuring savings in compressed-air consumption and energy costs.

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