



## **FEATURE**

**8<sup>th</sup> February 2008**

### **FUTURE-PROOFING PACKAGING AND BOTTLING LINES WITH MODULAR MACHINES**

Reports of a possible economic slowdown in the UK may be debated by economists and the press - but whatever the truth, it is an important reminder that food and drink processors need to be leaner and fitter, and that a forward facing outlook is an essential ingredient in business planning. But how far can businesses plan ahead when trends and the demands of customers frequently change?

The packing and bottling industry is a fast moving and fickle one (where presentation is often as important as the product its self), so being able to change production lines is essential. Kosme UK, a leading supplier of labelling machines, offers an effective solution – modular machines, which can easily be converted to perform a number of functions using interchangeable attachments.

Modular machines offer users different 'plug-and-play' options for a single base station chassis, which incorporates a transport carousel mechanism. The chassis can be equipped with any number of label applications - to offer the best solution for production requirements as modular construction also accommodates retrofits – allowing for potential changes in labelling applications for future projects. The attachments are equipped with quick-release connections for both power and compressed air supplies, making it quick and easy to remove or connect them as required for product changeover in a rapidly changing production environment.

As well as offering operators a ‘future-proof’ solution, modular machines provide a considerably smaller footprint compared to using a number of equivalent dedicated machines. Not only does this make accommodating the machines into existing production lines easier, cheaper and more practical, it also means that the overall production line size can be kept to a minimum, aiding processing times. Other benefits include reduced transportation costs, easier access and shorter installation times.

The modular system is particularly useful when the production line needs to, for example, utilise a number of different product labels. The ability to attach a number of attachments at the same time means that essentially one combination machine can perform the roles of several independent machines. For bottling, for example, a combination of multiple neck, back and body labelling positions with either wet glue or self-adhesive labelling methods can easily be achieved with more versatility and than conventional machines. Individual attachments can also be adapted, using change parts, for multiple functions - for example different label types, sizes and positions – giving a wide range of variable combinations.

The ability of modular machines to adapt easily has obvious cost benefits in a number of ways. The most obvious is that new modules can be bought when needed, at a fraction of the price of a completely new stand-alone machine. Packaging and bottling companies only need to buy new modules when they are required. There are significant savings to be made in respect to the labour costs involved, compared to adapting production lines by traditional methods. There is also the significant issue of lost production time, which can be acute with complex changes to more traditional stand-alone machinery production lines.

As well as labelling machines, Kosme UK also supply a wide range of bespoke, turnkey filling, packaging and conveying machines for the food and beverage industry.

**ENDS**

## Notes to Editors

Kosme UK is a leading supplier of bespoke, turnkey filling, labelling, packaging and conveying machines for the packing and bottling industry. Working with customers, from comprehensive design, to project management, Kosme's goal is to fully satisfy the most demanding of packaging and bottling requirements. The company also offers extensive, on-site technical support and servicing with a dedicated UK team and parts for a rapid response to customer needs.

Kosme UK is an independently run part of the Kronos Group, in close working partnership with Kosme's research, development and manufacturing facilities in Italy.

[www.kosme.co.uk](http://www.kosme.co.uk)

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