

Japanese firm Sangria partners with Sidel for PET bottle designs

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In Japan, the local, fast-ageing consumer base is becoming increasingly health-conscious. For F&B producers, this puts an increasing focus on the introduction of new, added-value products and demands careful tailoring of the existing ones to tackle specific needs and expectations around health and packaging functionalities. Alongside, premiumisation is also projected to show strong development in this market.

Initially, Sangria was using hot-fill technologies to manufacture its sensitive beverages like green teas and juices. When the company decided to increase sales with milk-based products in 2011, moving to aseptic PET production was as a better choice. For this strategic step, Sangria turned to Sidel. Sangria's CEO, Ishiyama san, was involved in the decision and visited different Sidel customers active in aseptic beverage manufacturing and quickly understood the advantage of the safe and simple dry preform sterilisation technology from Sidel, whose reliability had already been proven worldwide.

Sangria was the first bottling company in Japan to acquire the Aseptic Combi Predis, the Sidel integrated aseptic blow-fill-seal solution including the dry preform sterilisation. This demonstrated the company's pioneering spirit by exploring innovative technologies to differentiate itself from the competition and remain ahead of the market.

The main objective for Sangria was to invest in a new aseptic PET packaging line, able to produce sparkling water, carbonated soft drinks (CSD) and still beverages while offering production flexibility for new product launches in the future.

The proven, safe and simple technology at the core of the Sidel Versatile Aseptic Combi Predis merges dry preform sterilisation with aseptic blowing, filling and sealing functions within a single production enclosure. As such, it respects the fundamental concept that underpins state-of-the-art aseptic packaging rules: producing a commercially sterile product, filled in a sterile zone, in a previously sterilised package. It differs from traditional aseptic technology because the package sterilisation takes place at the preform rather than at the bottle phase. It offers a sterilised blowing process as well as fast and safe product and format changeovers with limited manual intervention for continuous aseptic production time up to 200 hours. Plus, the producer can lower its Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) as the Versatile Aseptic Combi Predis does not use any water and very few chemicals (less than 0.7 L of H₂O₂ per hour) for preform sterilisation.

The sparkling drinks are produced with a Sidel carbonator that adds carbon dioxide (CO₂) after the beverage processing phase. With this integrated carbonation just before filling, the dosing performance is optimised, allowing more accuracy, reduced product waste and improved beverage stability. Moreover, it ensures one unique aseptic treatment for both still and carbonated products.

The cooperation between Sangaria and Sidel has been further continued to successfully manage the production. The operators' expertise improved through various dedicated programs: Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) and aseptic maintenance – to name but a few – were among the topics. In this way, Sangaria could achieve production targets safely and quickly. Sangaria operators and Sidel technical engineers proactively worked together during the installation and ramp-up phase at the Japanese plant.