

Promotion to the First Division

With a notable enlargement of its production and development capacities Swiss Can Machinery AG continues its systematic expansion

Within a remarkably short time of nearly seven years Swiss Can Machinery AG (SCM) succeeded in positioning itself internationally as a leading specialist in manufacturing machines and complete lines to fill and close cans and jars with powder or dry products. Established mid 2013, the company achieved that not only by a deliberate successive build-up of its production and development capacities but also by a consistent orientation of the machine program to the needs of quite ambitious customers.

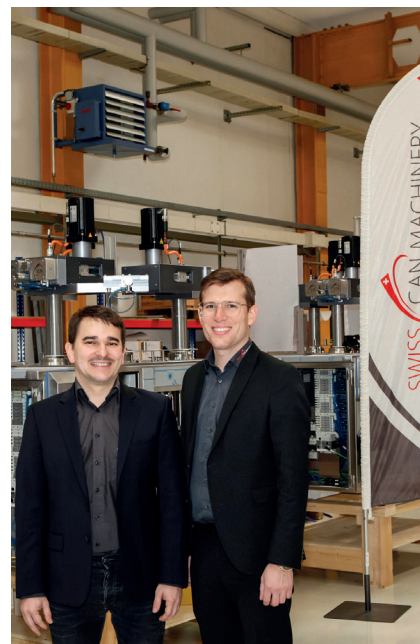
After having realized a first step of expansion by moving from Au to neighboring Berneck/St. Gallen in the fall of 2016 into a considerably larger production site, this location now has been extended again to 2,000 sqm in total by an upgrading of existing final assembly hall, another hall for pre-assembly and a new bureau for the automation division. Beside the astonishing cleanliness in all the production areas the clear organizational structure up to very tidy stores is exceptional.

The SCM site in Berneck/St. Gallen



According to the dynamics of SCM the two managing directors Michael and Marc Grabher have acquired a predominant young team of currently 25 employees. While Bsc. ME Michael Grabher (36), who successfully studied production and process technology, leads the commercial sector as CEO, his brother Marc (35), a graduated engineer, is responsible for the technical side as CTO. From the beginning, it was the declared aim of the enterprise, to accommodate the fast changing developments in view of "Industry 4.0". So a great part of the seed capital was invested in software and a research and development department was established already early.

"We see enormous potential concerning digitalization and we are well prepared to master the challenges of the future", emphasises Michael Grabher. Therefore the staff includes a lot of mechanical and electrical engineers. To intensify continuous development of the machines a new office for the automation department was installed at the beginning of this



The two managing directors of Swiss Can Machinery AG: CEO Michael Grabher (right) and his brother Marc as CTO

year. Six highly qualified specialists work there. Moreover there is a close cooperation with Siemens and other suppliers of high-level technology.

Machine program with several USPs

The result is a homogeneous as well as modular portfolio with some unique selling propositions. In strict differentiation to competitors, there is a general focus on lower running machines. So SCM might have a leading market position concerning can filling and seaming facilities within a capacity range up to 100 pieces per minute.

In this segment the series V-Matic and G-Matic are offered, both allowing processing under modified atmosphere. It should be another USP of the Swiss company that with the help of these innovative gassing systems, cans with less than 0.5 per cent residual oxygen are produced. This figure refers to the first mentioned model range that is currently in strong demand. Its

type name indicates the additional function of evacuation.

Numerous additional modules

Beside diverse can filling and seaming machines, the production program includes semi-automatic can seaming machines, UV- or Pulsed Light-disinfection systems, cappers, spoon dispensers, conveyors and other peripheral components. Moreover numerous additional modules are in the portfolio. Some of them will be highlighted at his year's Interpack, integrated in a Matic-line with a new control system.

Among others, a cleaning system is shown, working with ionized compressed air and rotating nozzles. Furthermore laser marking of cans – even from above and below at the same time – and a camera system to control and serialize products will be demonstrated. And last but not least the topic "digitalization" is in the focus of SCM's presentation.

Generally SCM uses only high-grade aggregates and materials such as best steel qualities. To fulfill high hygienic standards the machines possess all necessary permits and are FDA and EHEDG certified.

Concentration on special products

Often the facilities are installed in clean rooms, because the most




A view into the new hall for pre-assembly of the machines

important customer group are producers of milk powder respectively baby food. Other clients come out of the dietary supplements, sweets, snacks, pharmaceutical and coffee industry. Within these branches SCM concentrates on processing only specialized and not mass products.

It is not astonishing that the Swiss company has a high export rate of more than 90 per cent. Worldwide there are about 20 representations. The Asian region is still very expansive, but recently a stronger demand in Europe can be registered again. In 2019 two major projects could be

realised in Germany and Portugal. But they were even topped by a 50-m-line installed in China, the longest one in SCM's history so far.

Especially interesting is, that the two lines in China and Portugal are designed for a new product range, that was introduced in these markets first. It is for potato chips on a vegetable basis. For the tasty and healthy snacks which seem to thrill parents as well as their children, a great international success is surely forecast. 

Bernd Neumann

The final assembly hall with the new office of automation department, to be seen right above



A young team is working in modern offices

