

## PRESS RELEASE

Products

# **KHS FormFill in final acceptance: technology combines stretch blow molding and filling unit**

- Revolutionary technology ready for operation before end of 2019
- Efficiency and high savings generated by single unit
- KHS readies system for market in less than two years since initial concept

**Dortmund, November 12, 2019 – Following the presentation of the future-oriented FormFill concept in 2017 the first system is now undergoing final acceptance in time for this year’s BrauBeviale. The new KHS technology combines the forming and filling of plastic bottles in just one process step. Operators benefit from considerable energy savings and a smaller machine footprint.**

KHS first presented its FormFill concept at drinktec in 2017. Back then the ambitious plan was to sufficiently mature the technology in a good two years, enabling the first customer to then profit from its particular benefits. “We’ve learned a lot from the initial concept to the production of the market-ready system,” says Frank Haesendonckx, head of Technology at KHS Corpoplast in Hamburg, Germany. “We’re proud that we’re right on schedule. FormFill is the next stage in development for container forming and filling.”

With its technology KHS combines two processes that were previously separate. On present machinery two individual function modules stretch blow mold the PET preform and then fill the resulting bottle in separate stages. With KHS FormFill bottlers can now form and at the same time fill containers made of PET or rPET on a single machine. The system therefore takes up 40% less space than the standard stretch blow molder/filler blocks common to date. The time saved by the form/fill wheel has even enabled parts of the capping process to be integrated at this point. This then results in the machine being able to prevent product loss during container conveying.

### **Flexible formats for a range of products**

The current tried-and-tested system has been configured for still water. However, the technology is just as suitable for liquid soap and laundry detergent and a whole range of hot fill applications. The current container formats vary from bottles with a volume of 500 milliliters to those holding 1.5 liters. “For the market launch in the coming year we’re focusing on outputs of 12,000 to 24,000 bottles maximum per hour,” states Haesendonckx. KHS subsequently aims to also provide this technology for the medium and high performance ranges. “Here, we’re engaging in active discussion with our clients so that we can also satisfy specific customer requirements.”

### **Efficient and low on space**

“Taking all of the savings into account, FormFill consumes up to 60% less energy compared to a current stretch blow molder/filler block,” Haesendonckx smiles. As in standard plastic container processing to date, the machine first heats the PET preforms. However, instead of compressed air a controlled volume flow of product forms the preforms into containers. This procedure has several advantages: as the inside skin of the containers cools faster than with the standard method through direct filling, FormFill produces containers of greater stiffness with the same wall

thickness, thus permitting preform material to be saved. What is known as the ‘water hammer’ effect<sup>1</sup> makes design details such as logos more prominent, attracting a great deal of attention at the point of sale even without the presence of bottle labels. In a traditional compressed air process a blow pressure of up to 40 bar would be required to produce the same quality of container.

Another particular advantage is that after capping the trapped gas escapes from the product, creating a slight positive pressure in the container. “This also increases stability which has a positive effect on lightweight bottles especially,” explains Haesendonckx. Maintenance costs are also cut by the use of fewer components and format parts.

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<sup>1</sup> The product filled into the container in fractions of a second presses the preform wall to the mold at an extremely high pressure thanks to the special physical conditions.

**Image download and picture captions:**

(Source: KHS Group)

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**Press release captions**

**Logo:** KHS InnoPET FormFill powered by LiquiForm

**FormFill 1:** With KHS FormFill bottlers can form and at the same time fill containers made of PET or rPET on a single machine.

**FormFill 2:** Following the presentation of the future-oriented FormFill concept in 2017 the first system is now undergoing final acceptance in time for this year's BrauBeviale.

**FormFill 3:** Taking all of the savings into account, FormFill consumes up to 60% less energy compared to a current stretch blow molder/filler block.

**Frank Haesendonckx:** Frank Haesendonckx, head of Technology at KHS Corpoplast in Hamburg, Germany.

## About KHS GmbH

KHS GmbH is one of the leading manufacturers of filling and packaging systems for the beverage, food and non-food industries. The KHS Group includes the following companies: KHS GmbH, KHS Corpoplast GmbH and numerous subsidiaries outside Germany, located in Ahmedabad (India), Sarasota and Waukesha (USA), Zinacantepec (Mexico), São Paulo (Brazil) and Suzhou (China).

KHS GmbH manufactures modern filling and packaging systems for the high-capacity range at its headquarters in Dortmund, Germany, and at its factories in Bad Kreuznach, Kleve and Worms. The group's PET expertise is pooled at KHS Corpoplast GmbH in Hamburg, Germany, where innovative PET packaging and coating systems are developed and produced. KHS is a wholly owned subsidiary of the SDAX-listed Salzgitter AG corporation. In 2018 the KHS Group and its 5,081 employees achieved a turnover of around €1.161 billion.

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