

PRESS RELEASE

PACK EXPO

Expertise right down the line: KHS USA presents future-proof systems and solutions at PACK EXPO

- KHS addresses key challenges of the North American market such as flexibility, productivity, sustainability and cost efficiency
- Focus on reducing and eliminating packaging material
- Broad service portfolio for efficiency enhancement and automation

Waukesha/Chicago, August 11, 2026 – KHS USA is sending out a clear signal to the North American market: at this year's PACK EXPO, the filling and packaging specialist's US subsidiary will be showcasing its range of dynamic and innovative products. From October 18 through 21, the focus will be on pioneering technologies that provide precise answers to the current ecological and economic challenges of the regional beverage industry.

The North American market is developing at speed – the demand for maximum flexibility coupled with lower resource consumption is higher than ever, claims David Darbant, CSO of KHS USA. "In the modern beverage industry, the whole package counts more than ever before: packaging systems must balance efficiency, flexibility, sustainability and cost pressure." The systems provider will be demonstrating live at PACK EXPO in Chicago how it fully translates these core requirements into measurable competitive advantages.

Holistic system expertise for a changing market

At its show booth, KHS will be consistently centering on the interconnected line concept. The turnkey supplier will show how perfectly coordinated high-performance technologies smoothly dovetail with one another to effortlessly meet demanding market requirements such as sustainable use of materials and maximum increases in efficiency.

One prime example of this integrated approach is KHS' future-proof [Plasmax barrier technology](#). In this process, PET bottles are given a wafer-thin, glass-like interior coating that perfectly protects oxygen-sensitive products, extending their shelf lives by a factor of up to ten. Beverage producers thus profit from the vast weight benefits of PET without having to compromise on product quality. As a result, production line capacities can be more evenly utilized throughout the season, productivity can be increased and product loss from expired best-before dates avoided. This system also greatly benefits the circular economy, as the bottles remain 100% recyclable.

The KHS portfolio also includes its innovative [Nature MultiPack](#). This trailblazing packaging system joins beverage cans or PET containers together using nothing more than a few strategically placed dots of adhesive and a convenient carrying handle to form a stable yet easy-to-handle pack. Compared to conventional secondary packaging, this technology reduces the quantity of consumables needed by up to 85%. Despite the greatly minimized use of material, the pack remains extremely robust – and not only gives consumers full carrying convenience but also enables them to easily share a drink or two with friends.

Smart services for maximum efficiency

KHS USA's extensive portfolio of services establishes a foundation for future-proof production. To specifically help customers qualify their workforce, the mechanical engineering company has set up its groundbreaking [Virtual Training Center \(VTC\)](#). With the help of the digital learning platform, operators and engineers can access practical expert knowledge and best-practice examples in

order to continuously optimize daily processes on their lines – regardless of their location. Playful elements also motivate less experienced users to familiarize themselves with machine operation in a simple and intuitive manner.

[KHS ConnectApp](#) marks a further milestone when it comes to transparent production processes. The application collates all relevant machine information and technical documentation and provides secure direct access to service resources and operative support. This gives line operators maximum transparency, noticeably shorter response times and a reliable basis upon which to plan workforce assignment in the long term.

By focusing on intuitive digital tools and user-friendly machine designs, KHS is catering for one of the most pressing challenges of the North American market: the acute shortage of skilled workers. Standardized operating concepts, self-explanatory GUIs and software-assisted troubleshooting cut the amount of training required for new personnel down to a minimum and prevent costly downtime.

Local presence and long-term value creation in North America

In view of ever stricter legislation governing extended producer responsibility (EPR) and tougher packaging regulations, in the USA material efficiency and weight reduction are gaining hugely in significance. With over 150 years of innovative experience in its core areas of expertise, namely blow molding, filling, labeling and packaging, KHS helps its clientele to harmonize sustainability and cost-effectiveness throughout the entire value chain.

With its headquarters and production plant in Waukesha, Wisconsin, plus a strong regional network, KHS USA ensures fast response times. “KHS resolutely invests in its local production, logistics and service infrastructure to maximize parts availability and the overall performance of customer lines,” emphasizes Darbant. “With our in-depth technical expertise and consistent mindset, we create

cooperative partnerships on an equal footing and generate long-term added value on the North American market.”

The KHS Group will be presenting its systems and solutions at PACK EXPO in Chicago, Illinois, USA, at Booth S-2114 from October 18 through 21, 2026.

For more information go to:

<https://www.khs.com/en/company/news/press-releases>

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Pictures and captions

(Sources: Frank Reinhold and Jörg Schwalfenberg)

Image download: <https://KHS.dphoto.com/album/kolp0ad7>

Picture captions

David Darbant (source: Frank Reinhold)

“In the modern beverage industry, the whole package counts more than ever before: packaging systems must balance efficiency, flexibility, sustainability and cost pressure,” states David Darbant, CSO of KHS USA.

Plasmax barrier technology (source: Frank Reinhold)

KHS’ pioneering Plasmax barrier technology gives PET bottles a wafer-thin, glass-like interior coating that perfectly protects oxygen-sensitive products, extending their shelf lives by a factor of up to ten.

Nature MultiPack (source: Frank Reinhold)

The Nature MultiPack packaging system joins beverage cans or PET containers together using nothing more than a few strategically placed dots of adhesive and a convenient carrying handle to form a stable yet easy-to-handle pack.

Virtual Training Center (source: Frank Reinhold)

With the help of the digital learning platform, operators and engineers can access practical expert knowledge and best-practice examples in order to continuously optimize daily processes on their lines – regardless of their location.

KHS ConnectApp (source: Jörg Schwalfenberg)

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About KHS in Waukesha, USA

KHS has been active in North America since 1971, setting up its regional headquarters KHS USA, Inc. in Waukesha, Wisconsin. Operating numerous sales and service centers, KHS is a key pillar of the North American packaging industry for beverages and liquid food. With its committed team of service engineers who carry out installation, maintenance, conversions and on-site training, the systems supplier ensures a strong local presence. Within the global corporate group, KHS USA specializes in the supply of highly efficient turnkey system solutions tailored to the specific requirements of the North American market – from high-speed canning and PET lines through advanced digital services to local distribution of spare parts. The company employs around 350 people in the region.

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