

Plant Manager Matthias Völker (right) and an employee from Production with a typical product from Franz Henke: ice cream containers. (photo: Sumitomo (SHI) Demag)

# FROM ICE CREAM TO BABY FOODS, ALL YEAR ROUND



Packaging specialist Franz Henke is increasing efficiency in production with hybrid injection moulding machines from Sumitomo (SHI) Demag. At Franz Henke in Lohne, Germany efficiency is an item that occupies a top position on the agenda and has done so ever since the plastics processors reinvented themselves a year ago. The aspect of efficiency is of equal importance, whether we are talking in terms of production or resources – one reason why the company has since invested in 25 new injection moulding machines from Sumitomo (SHI) Demag.

At Franz Henke they are not satisfied with small quantities: 1.3 billion parts have left the plant in Lohne, Germany during the last year, chiefly packaging for foodstuffs. Examples of items manufactured by the company are ice cream containers, tubs for delicatessen salads, boxes for icing sugar, beakers for desserts etc. Much of it is produced using the in-mould labelling process. And for everything Franz Henke can supply the lid to match. The standard assortment covers the entire supply of snap and press-in lids for closing and sealing cardboard sleeves as well as tinplate containers. The automated insertion of cardboard and foils as well as snap caps with tamper-evident seals (patent registered) round off this range of packaging for the foodstuffs industry.

Alongside this, the plastics processors have two further strings to their bow. The Lonacap business unit develops protective elements, protective plugs, sleeves and caps for the technical sector, in short, protective elements for everything that needs to be protected against dirt, contamination or damage. And the Topfit section of the business manufactures a range of different products for gardeners, including pots, carriers, pallets and hanging baskets. "With these three business units we are able to count on an even distribution

of our production over the year as a whole. Where many products are concerned, for instance, for garden landscaping and, of course, as regards ice cream containers, we are looking at products with specifically seasonal peaks," says Managing Director Jürgen Henke. "This mix is important for us in that it enables us to make efficient use of our fleet of machines".

## Strategic realignment

Efficiency is an important topic as far as the company is concerned, especially since the so-called Agenda 2012, which ushered in a new structure a few years ago. "At that time we used to worry about such things as: where do we want to be in the future? What products do we want to be manufacturing? And what investments are important to ensure that we achieve our objectives?", Henke reminisces. Wider diversification in the packaging sector was one result of the Agenda 2012, another was certification to the BRC/IoP Standard which regulates the requirements relating to the manufacture of foodstuffs packaging and packaging materials.

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