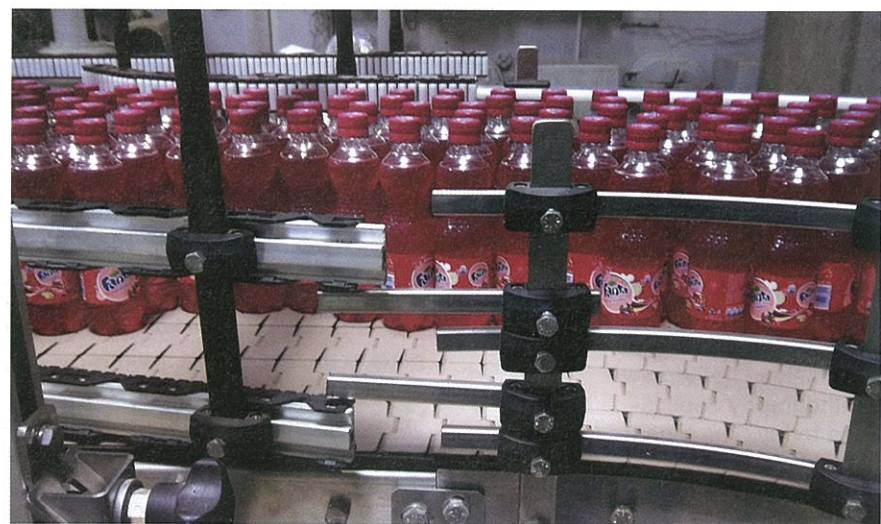




Coca-Cola installs 7,200bph SMI production line in Cape Verde

Putting the fizz into Santiago

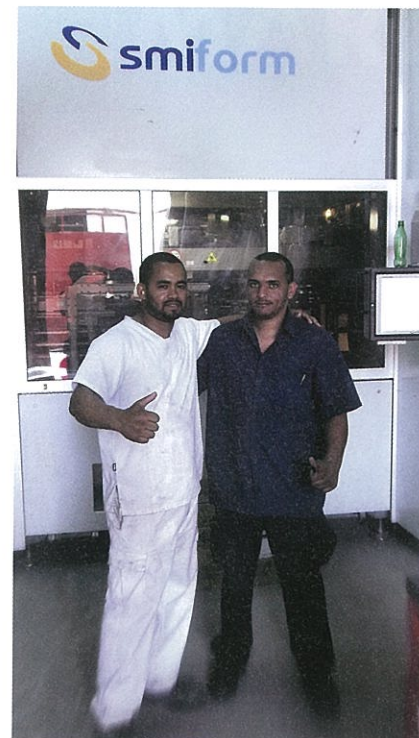
Coca-Cola was first produced in the islands of the Republic of Cape Verde in 1997. The Equatorial Coca-Cola Bottling Company (ECCBC) itself, along with linked businesses, now occupies a prominent position in the local economy. It directly employs over 100 people at its Cavibel plant in Praia, the capital and main city of the Republic of Cape Verde, located on the island of Santiago. The new line has been installed in response to continually increasing demand and will package Coca-Cola and Fanta brands in PET bottles.



Filling line for ginger drinks

ECCBC operates 14 factories in 13 countries, with a total production volume of about one billion litres. It started its production business in Africa in 1989 with just six people and a production volume of about 300.000l; today, it is a joint venture between Cobega and The Coca-Cola Export Co. and has 6,263 people on the payroll. Cobega, the largest business unit of the Spanish group of the same name, includes

bottlers and distributors of Coca-Cola products in Catalonia, Aragon, Balearic Islands, Canary Islands and Portugal. In addition to Cavibel in the Republic of Capo Verde, the ECCBC business unit includes production facilities in Central and Northern Africa: Morocco, Algeria, Mauritania, Gambia, Guinea Conakry, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana, Equatorial Guinea and São Tomé y Príncipe.



Cavibel staff in front of the SMI line

Adding modern technology to the mix

Cobega seeks to reduce production costs and improve efficiency by investing in continuous improvement of processes and structures in addition to equipping its facilities with advanced technologies. This strategy has helped Cobega Group companies to expand their production capacities and increase their market shares. The recent expansion of the Cavibel ECCBC plant in the Republic of Cape Verde, which is part of this process, has involved the installation of a complete new line, provided by SMI. It has been set up to manufacture and fill PET bottles of sizes ranging from 0.33 to 2l with Coca-Cola and Fanta branded products.

The new plant, which has a capacity of 7,200bph, includes a Smiform SR4 rotary stretch-blow moulder, a rinse-fill-cap monobloc and relating premixer, a rotary reel labeller, a Smiflexi LSK 35F shrinkwrapper for film-only packaging of 0.33, 0.35 and 0.5l bottles in 4x3 arrangement, and 1, 1.5 and 2l bottles in the 3x2 and 2x2 configurations. SMI also provided all the conveyor belts for the loose containers and the packaged products, as well as the control and electrical distribution systems.



Sprite is also being filled at Cavibel

Energy savings along the line

During the project study stages, SMI designers performed a thorough analysis of product build-up, distribution and handling dynamics to ensure fluid and constant production flows as well as maximum operating flexibility in the installed machines. Today, the line engineering solution designed by SMI allows the Cavibel ECCBC plant to manage complete product flows. The automation and control system, which involves the use of sophisticated sensors positioned in the line's most strategic points, allows the maintenance of high levels of operating efficiency during all production cycle phases.

All the machines provided by SMI are electronically controlled and have been designed in full compliance with the environmental policy of the Coca-Cola Group. To reduce energy consumption, all the motors are equipped with inverters. The Smiform SR 4 stretch-blow moulder is equipped with a system that recovers the compressed air used during the blowing process and Smiline conveyor belts are lubricated with silicone material, which allows considerable saving of water and reduced release of organophosphates in the drains. Further, the air conveyors between the blow moulder and the filler have filters designed to prevent contamination of the conveyed empty bottles.

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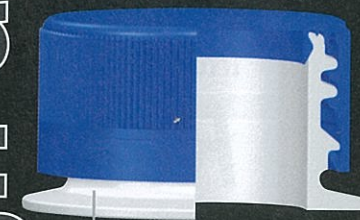
1 Closure Type
3 Technologies



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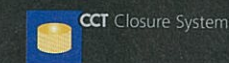
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