

# THE NEW APS ERGON 'MINIPAL'

YESTERDAY AS TODAY, SMI IS THE REFERENCE POINT FOR MANY COMPANIES IN THE FOOD AND BEVERAGE SECTOR THAT WANT TO INVEST IN CUTTING-EDGE, ECO-SUSTAINABLE BOTTLING AND PACKAGING SOLUTIONS INSPIRED BY THE PRINCIPLES OF INDUSTRY 4.0 AND INTERNET OF THINGS (IOT).

One of the most recent example is represented by the new series of palletising systems for medium-low production needs, nicknamed 'minipal', characterised by advanced technical solutions and available in two versions: APS 615 ERGON (semiautomatic version) and APS 620 ERGON (automatic version), capable of respectively reaching a production speed of 15 and 20 packs per minute (variable according to the palletising scheme). The new palletisers introduced by SMI, offer all the advantages of an extremely compact, flexible and efficient system,

which allows companies in the food and beverage sector to automate end-of-line operations, efficiently and economically, with the possibility of adapting production quickly and easily according to the needs of the market.

## APS 615 and APS 620 ERGON – The 'Plus' of Compact Palletisers

Tertiary food packaging requires increasingly versatile solutions to improve product handling and avoid damage during their handling, reduce format changeover times to quickly adapt the system to new palletising

patterns and increase 'performance' thanks to reduced dimensions.

The new 'minipal' are characterised by: compact and ergonomic structure, which guarantees a considerable saving of space inside the production line; the ergonomic and functional structure of the APS ERGON series, allows the operator to easily and safely carry out all the activities related to installation, management and maintenance; use of innovative, intelligent and customised technical solutions, which ensure considerable advantages from the point of view of operational flexibility and economic competitiveness of processes; TCO (Total Cost of Ownership) optimised thanks to low management and maintenance costs; high levels of flexibility, thanks to the possibility of creating multiple palletising schemes according to the specific needs of the customer; use of latest generation technologies, which ensure great operational versatility and the possibility of customisation to adapt to the needs of format change, product change and / or plant layout; the operations are



managed by a 'user-friendly' system of automation and control of the machine, thanks to the extremely intuitive graphic interface, the touch sensitive screen and the diagnostic and technical support functions in real time on the POSYC® and The electrical panel, located outside the protection barriers, is a separate module, which remains cabled during transport and can be immediately installed at the customer's plant.

### 'Minipal' APS ERGON – Compact and Functional Structure

The heart of the APS 615 ERGON semi-automatic palletising system and the APS 620 ERGON automatic system is constituted by the structure, inside which, the three Cartesian axis system responsible for forming the pallet is positioned. Added to this are the infeed belt, the product pick-up head and the protections on the machine.

The product arrives at the palletiser on a product infeed belt and is 'cadenced' by the rubberised belt; subsequently, by means of a spacer belt, it is brought into the pick-up position, where the pick-up head lifts a single pack, or a group of packs, and deposits it on the pallet on the ground. The cyclical repetition of this operation creates the various palletising layers.

The gripping head is equipped with a motor for rotating the product, so as to place the pack on the layer, in the exact position required by the palletising pattern.

In the semiautomatic version APS 615, once the formation of the pallet has been completed, the operator manually removes the full pallet and places a new empty pallet.

In the automatic model APS 620, on the other hand, the finished pallet is brought to the unloading area and at the same time, at the infeed to the forming area, the pallet feeding system positions a new empty pallet to start the next palletising cycle.

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## Warsteiner Group Buys Hye Water

The Warsteiner Group has invested in local 'functional-water' start-up Hye.

Hye plans to use Warsteiner's production and distribution network to grow its presence outside of Germany. The brewer is active in roughly 50 markets worldwide.

Warsteiner CEO, Helmut Hörz, said, "There is a lot of interest in functional drinks, they represent a very promising and growing category in the food market. With Hye, we are closing the gap between conventional, functional drinks such as vitamin water and energy drinks. We look forward to accompanying Hye on its way and working closely together to take the company's success to the next level."

Hye was founded in 2020 by Andre Khan and German media presenter Cathy Hummels.



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