



# SANT ANIOL CHOOSES THE EBS 8 KL ERGON STRETCH-BLOW MOULDER

FOUNDED IN 1993, SANT ANIOL HAS ALWAYS OPERATED WITH A FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY, STRIVING TO PRESERVE NATURE AND MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE.

Among the many innovations introduced are its striking PET bottles, inspired by the volcanic rocks of the Garrotxa region and produced by an EBS 8 KL ERGON stretch-blow moulder equipped with the ReduxAir system to reduce energy consumption.

## Bottles with a Volcanic Spirit

Sant Aniol PET containers feature a distinctive and elegant design that conveys the unique qualities of the water whose spring is located within the Natural Park of Garrotxa, at a depth of more than 120m,

in a place characterised by sedimented lava and volcanic rocks that give the water its purity and excellent qualities.

## SMI Solutions for Sant Aniol

Companies in the food sector, are now

strongly committed to the green and digital transition and put the well-being of consumers and workers at the center of their production processes. For Sant Aniol, the environment is a primary asset to be safeguarded and, to achieve this goal, the company uses the latest generation technologies capable of maximising energy savings. Fifteen years after the supply of an SMI stretch-blow moulder of the first generation SR 8 series, Sant Aniol has once again turned to SMI for the installation of the new EBS 8 KL ERGON model, intended for the bottling line of natural water in 0.33 L, 0.5 L and 1.5 L PET containers.

The great advantage of the new plant installed at the Sant Aniol de Finestres plant (Girona) is that, it has an efficient system to significantly reduce energy costs.

## Environmental Benefits

The EBS 8 KL ERGON stretch-blow moulder installed at the Girona plant is fitted with stretch-blow moulds equipped with the special 'ReduxAir' bottom, which, through special technical and design measures, allows the air between the outer walls of the bottle and the surface



of the mould to be released more quickly, making it possible to produce rPET/PET containers with lower air pressures, especially:

- 0.33 L containers at 15 bar air pressure,
- 0.5 L containers at 17 bar air pressure and
- 1.5 L containers at 25 bar air pressure.

Of course, this value depends on the characteristics of the preform and the bottle and the working conditions in which the stretch-blow moulding process is carried out.

As it is well known, compressed air is produced by a high-pressure compressor powered by electricity, so the lower the level of air compression to be obtained, the less electricity the machine consumes. The special 'ReduxAir' end cap was precisely created to allow stretch-blow moulding operations at lower pressures than those usually used (about 35 bar) and to ensure a 'green' advantage to the companies that adopt it.

### Accurate Quality Controls on Moulds and Bottles

The great advantage offered by the 'ReduxAir' solution proposed by SMI to reduce the compressor's consumption of electricity can be obtained by applying some design restrictions regarding the shape and characteristics of the container to be blown. Therefore, close collaboration between the customer and SMI engineers is essential to evaluate all the technical elements that may affect the applicability of the 'ReduxAir' end cap to the production process of a specific bottle and offer advice on how to achieve the highest quality of the container.

In fact, the appeal of a container also depends on the accuracy and precision, with which the moulds used to produce it are

made. Therefore, countless tests and checks are carried out on both moulds and bottles in SMI laboratories to ensure excellent aesthetic results and ensure an efficient production process.

The use of sophisticated equipment allows us to perform dimensional checks and tests on the preforms used by the customer, in order to accurately measure the thickness of the same and the homogeneity of the polymer of which they are made. SMI also performs other tests on blown bottles to ensure that the quality of the final product corresponds to the customer's expectations.

### Energy Efficiency Benefits

The EBS 8 KL ERGON stretch-blow moulder supplied by SMI is equipped with an energy counter with a digital LCD display, which, through the control of energy consumption, enables the optimisation of the operational efficiency of the plant. The counter installed on the machine is used to record and display, alternately, electricity consumption, voltage, current and power over a given period. Thanks to these devices, the solutions supplied by SMI can leverage the services offered by the platform SmyIoT, an interactive database that remotely collects, verifies, processes and enhances all operating parameters of the plant, both at the level of individual machines and across the entire production line. This allows users to improve operational efficiency and energy performance across all processes, schedule maintenance interventions and reduce overall production costs.

✉ [info@smigroup.it](mailto:info@smigroup.it)

🌐 [www.smigroup.it](http://www.smigroup.it)

☎ +39 0345 40111

## EU Takes France to Court over Recycling Label Laws

**The EU is taking legal action against France over the country's waste-sorting regulations.**

In a statement, the European Commission said it would take France to the EU Court of Justice around the "incompatibility" of its waste-sorting labelling rules with EU law, claiming they prevent free movement of products across the bloc.

Household goods in France that sit under the extended producer responsibility scheme, such as glass bottled water or milk cartons, must carry a 'Triman logo' on packaging, as well as 'Info-Tri' information which tells consumers how to sort the waste.

"National rules that lay down requirements – such as those relating labelling – to be met by goods coming from other member states where they are lawfully manufactured and marketed, represent obstacles to free movement of goods," the Commission said.

It said such regulations "constitute measures of equivalent effect prohibited by Article 34 TFEU", as businesses from other member states are required to develop unique packaging specifically for the French market.

The Commission had issued France "a letter of formal notice in February 2023, followed by a reasoned opinion in November 2024", but the country "is still in breach of EU rules," it said.

According to the EU's main executive arm, the French waste-sorting rules could be seen as "disproportionate" given "other suitable options – less restrictive of trade between member states – are available to inform consumers, until the EU-level harmonisation is achieved".