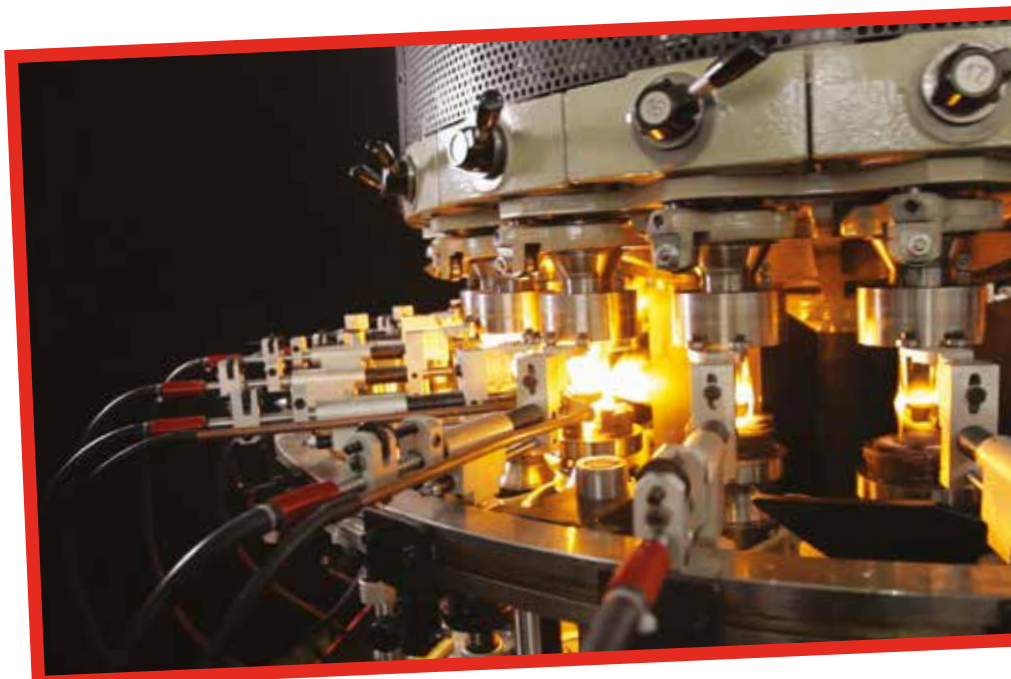


Leading Algeria lab opts for OCMI-OTG precision excellence

OCMI-OTG's success in glass production for Pharma continues today with the company's first major investment by an Algerian laboratory for the establishment of internal production lines for precision control of glass ampoules and dental cartridges – all to boost automation while reducing defects.



So far 2023 has brought significant success for OCMI-OTG in the pharmaceutical glass production line sector. One of Algeria's leading laboratories will be investing in new equipment from the company – marking the country's first substantial investment in this type of machinery. In the past pharmaceutical glass packaging was mostly imported from other Mediterranean African countries, with only a small portion produced by using outdated horizontal forming machines.

TWO LINES

Now a prominent Algerian pharmaceutical company has chosen OCMI-OTG to establish

internal production lines for both borosilicate glass ampoules and dental cartridges, dedicating two lines to each product. The new ampoule lines, manufactured by Kyp Accessories in Spain – owned by OCMI-OTG since late 2019 – have a maximum processing speed of 4,500 pieces per hour.

The MM30 forming machine is equipped with an Optistem/2 camera inspection system, ensuring precise control of ampoule dimensions before unloading and enabling real-time adjustments through oxygen self-regulation in the burners. The gauging station for total ampoule length on the after-forming line type LA502, connected to the Optistem panel, provides comprehensive dimen-



sional control, allowing operators to monitor all spindle dimensions while obtaining total length values on the same panel. A report with rejection statistics based upon different defects can also be generated.

AUTOMATION

Both ampoule lines will include auxiliary stations for code ring application, OPC opening systems and printing - all tailored to end-user requirements. Tube loading and packing operations will initially be done manually, including the option to incorporate automatic equipment in the future.

The two cartridge production lines, manufactured in Italian and French OCMi-OTG factories, are fully-automatic - thereby minimizing manual handling of the glass tubes while reducing the risk of cosmetic defects. The FLA20/CAR forming machine features 20 stations and continuous rotation, with pre-forming and finishing stations equipped with rollers and plungers for shoulder preparation. All forming tools are

driven by servo-motors, adjustable through the touch screen for precise and convenient preliminary adjustments. Cartridge bottoms are cut using a wheel scribing unit, a dedicated burner and a water spraying nozzle for thermal shock separation of the glass tube.

TASK CALIBRATION

Dimensional control of cartridges is carried out by the Optivital hot-end camera system before unloading to the LF520 after-forming line. Total length and inner mouth diameter, which cannot be monitored during the forming operation, are checked at dedicated stations on the after-forming line. After annealing, cartridges are automatically packed using the PM-V machine, which features four box-filling stations on a rotating table. The PM-V software allows for recipe storage, including cartridge/box specifications, the number of rows to be positioned in the box and the number of cartridges per row. Job changes are

simplified for operators with a modular vacuum picking arm that can be adjusted by adding or removing blocks according to box length and the required number of cartridges.

CONTRACT TIMELINE

The installation of the ampoule lines will commence in the second half of 2023, while the cartridge production lines are currently in the manufacturing phase - with production estimated to begin in early 2024. This contract opens up promising opportunities for OCMi-OTG, both in Algeria and in Northern Africa more generally, where other laboratories may follow suit and initiate pharmaceutical container production to address delayed lead times. ■



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