

High performance, high flexibility and high safety are today's key words in every container glass facility with low cost on the other side. Any rejection or section stop weakens the business and demands reduction of performance expectations. Heye as supplier to the container glass industry is always keen on supporting and improving its customer's operation with latest state-of-the-art innovations. Industry leading packaging solutions company and glass bottle manufacturer, Orora, has now successfully proven its innovative spirit with the installation of Heye's Swabbing Robot.

HEYE

Swabbing Robot proves successful at Orora's Australian glass manufacturing plant



As every stage of the glass forming process demands meticulous attention to detail, Heye has analysed the complete production chain. Even minor variations in manufacturing techniques and their application can have a huge impact on overall production performance. The Swabbing Robot is the latest in a series of equipment developments from Heye International and Socabelec, aimed at optimising the glass container production process – increasing work safety, providing higher product quality and improving productivity.

CONTAINER GLASS MANUFACTURE

Container glass manufacture



HIGH EFFICIENCY

A new state-of-the-art Swabbing Robot has been installed at Orora's glass manufacturing facility at Gawler, South Australia. The DG Tandem IS-Machine mainly produces 0.75l wine bottles in blow-and-blow operation. The close working relationship between the Orora team and the Heye and Socabelec experts led to a smooth commissioning of the automated swabbing, which is unique on the Australian continent.

"We are very satisfied with the

Orora Limited

Orora Limited produces an extensive range of tailored packaging and visual communications solutions. The business generates AUD 4 billion in sales annually and employs more than 6,700 people across 131 sites in seven countries. Orora is headquartered in Melbourne, Australia and is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange.



performance of the new swabbing robot at our Gawler glass facility," said Andrew Barreau, Technology and Business Development Manager, at Orora Glass.

"The initial operation has exceeded our expectations. We are now in the process of gaining an understanding of this new innovation and further building our experience. Over the next few months we will collect and analyse data to see if there are more opportunities to optimise the swabbing robot operation," Andrew said.

Of note, the robot not only swabs the blank mould, but also the neckring area with the same

Heye International

Based at Obernkirchen, Germany, Heye International GmbH is one of the international glass container industry's foremost suppliers of production technology, high performance equipment and production knowhow. Its mechanical engineering has set industry standards for more than five decades. Extensive industry expertise, combined with the positive attitude and enthusiasm of Heye International employees is mirrored by the company motto 'We are Glass People'. Its three sub-brands HiPERFORM, HiSHIELD and HiTRUST form the Heye International equipment portfolio, addressing the glass industry's hot end, cold end and service requirements respectively.

spraying head and lubricating oil. Consequently, less tooling is required.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS ON-SITE

As safety is the highest priority at Orora, the IS-Machine is equipped with a Safety Barrier Grid to protect the operator working on the blank side. The Heye and Orora engineering teams mastered the challenge by developing special software to integrate the Safety Barrier and Swabbing Robot systems.

"The data and experience we have gathered to date is very promising. Using the automated swabbing technology allows us to improve safety and optimise process stability on an ongoing basis. Our operator's time is redirected from manual swabbing to focus on process quality," Andrew said.

"We are delighted to be taking a lead role in the automated mould and neckring swabbing operation," Andrew added.

The installation of the swabbing robot follows Orora's recent USD 42 million expansion investment to increase glass bottle production at the company's glass manufacturing facility at Gawler. The investment has expanded the glass bottle forming lines at the plant, increasing capacity by 60 million bottles per year. The expansion at Gawler represents one of Orora's largest capital investments in Australia.

ORORA'S GLASS MANUFACTURING FACILITY

Orora's glass manufacturing facility is one of top 10 largest glass plants in the world for tonnes produced from a single site. The facility produces more than 1 billion high quality glass bottles per year, servicing the needs of the Australian wine and beer industries. The facility has three glass furnaces and is able to produce bottles in seven colours. The 62-hectare site also features extensive warehousing. In addition to producing glass bottles, Orora has introduced a highly innovative decorative glass bottle sleeving application. The sleeving application meets a growing customer demand to attractively package and label wine products, which increases on-shelf visibility and supports marketing and branding promotions. ■



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