

Bucher Emhart helps Serbian glass factory renew production

Srpska Fabrika Stakla (Serbian Glass Factory) was the location of a major project by Bucher Emhart Glass encompassing the full range of its hot end and inspection equipment.

The installation at the Paracin, Serbia site was completed with no problems and on schedule, thanks to a productive collaboration between Bucher Emhart Glass (BEG) Service Engineers, who supervised activities on site, and Srpska's technical managers.

The plant is located in the Pomoravlje district of Paracin and has been operating continuously for almost a century. The factory's third furnace still features an old Emhart Drum Machine as well as an Emhart Power tableware machine – not bad going for these old warhorses!

There have been ups and downs during the factory's life, but managers' positive attitudes and quest for improvement have always kept the plant on track. In 2012-13, this proactive approach saw the complete rebuilding of the B1 furnace and machines. This increased glass production to 70 tons per day.

The plant completed its new furnace for Line 5 the following year, which included an overall plant rebuild, supported by Bucher Emhart Glass. This took capacity to 230 tons per day, allowing Line 5 to produce a total of 180 million bottles and jars per year.

BEG was involved in every aspect of the Line 5 project, including both hot end and cold end. For the hot end, BEG supplied and installed a 10-section 5 1/2" double-gob IS machine, complete with Servo Feeder System and FPS Plunger Up. The cold end included FleXinspect T and BC machines for all four furnace lines.

BEG also provided and installed other equipment, both its own and from other suppliers including a cooling-fan system specifically for the IS machine, ware-handling equipment, vacuum system, shear and scoop spray system for the four lines, hot-end coating system, annealing lehr, and cold-end coating station.

Major undertaking

"Bringing together so much equipment from different sources is a major undertaking," stated Paolo Gallo, BEG's Project Manager based in Savona, Italy.

"Delivery must be co-ordinated, the workforce must be supervised, and all the different suppliers involved must be managed. The only approach is to stay calm and alert and take it one step at a time. Eventually the glass is streaming, the moulds are set up, the machines are running and you're seeing red-hot containers running through the line."

The Line 5 furnace was officially opened earlier this year at a ceremony attended by the President of the Republic of Serbia.

"It's a great feeling to have been involved in this project," added Paolo. "It goes to show that our organisation is solid and working just as it should, thanks to all the people involved and their professional attitude to their respective tasks. I extend my sincere thanks to everyone involved from both

BEG and Srpska Fabrika Stakla, and look forward to more collaborations in the future." ■

Serbian Glass Factory, Paracin, Serbia,
www.srpskafabrikastakla.com/en
 Bucher Emhart Glass, Cham, Switzerland
www.emhartglass.com



▲ The plant is located in the Pomoravlje district of Paracin



▶ BEG supplied and installed a 10-section 5 1/2" double-gob IS machine.