



## Press Release

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High-speed machines with unmatched volume flexibility

### **24,000 carton packs per hour: SIG Combibloc launches the fastest aseptic filling machines in the world**

**March 2008.** In the story of filling technology for aseptic carton packs, the new CFA 124 and CFA 724 high-speed filling machines from SIG Combibloc are setting new standards for speed and performance. With the same proven, unmatched volume flexibility as their predecessors, these new machines can fill 24,000 carton packs per hour, making the new aseptic high-speed filling machines the fastest in the world for small-size carton packages from 125 to 350 ml. The first CFA 124 for combibloc *Mini* is in operation at Friesland Foods Foremost in Thailand, while China's Mongolia Mengniu Dairy Industry is piloting the CFA 724 for combibloc *Small*.

For a filling line speed, output and efficiency are the criteria on which food companies are increasingly focusing. Globally, improving plant performance to make production as efficient as possible and ensure long-term presence in the market is of paramount concern for filling companies. With servo drives and six tracks instead of the previous four, the new high-speed filling machines from SIG Combibloc are more efficient than ever – requiring almost the same space and manpower as the previous models. Consequently, for food manufacturers the machine capacity of 24,000 carton packs an hour means a reduction in operating costs, service costs and investment costs per 1.000 units installed capacity.

Combining speed with an unmatched level of volume flexibility, the CFA 124 for combibloc*Mini* can fill 125, 150, 200 and 250 ml carton packs. The enhanced range of the CFA 724 for combibloc*Small* means it can fill a total of six different volumes: 150, 200, 250, 300, 330 and 350 ml. The high-speed filling machines can be adjusted to the required capacity in just a few simple steps and set to the new volume using a touch-screen monitor. This level of volume flexibility on a single machine at this high speed is a world first, enabling food manufacturers to position products to appeal to very specific target groups while at the same time keeping production unbeatably efficient.

### **Strategic partner**

Ian Gearing, Managing Director of Friesland Foods Foremost, Thailand: “The new CFA 124 will help to increase our filling capability. This is part of our expansion strategy, and an important step for the future growth of our company. This is the reason for choosing SIG Combibloc to help us make our strategy a success. For us SIG Combibloc is more than just a supplier – it is an important strategic partner“.

Foremost started working with SIG Combibloc in 2001. Then, SIG Combibloc's filling machines enabled the company to increase its filling capacity from 7,500 to 12,000 carton packs per hour. Twelve of these SIG Combibloc filling machines are currently in operation at Foremost. With the CFA 124 for combibloc*Mini*, the output of a single machine has now been doubled, and the company plans to replace all its current filling machines with the new models. With almost the same number of operating personnel, virtually the same space requirement, and just one downstream for each filling machine, the new high-speed machines have doubled output – just as if the working day was 48 hours long.

Friesland Foods Foremost (Thailand) PCL specialises in the production and sale of long-life dairy products and has been active in Thailand for 45 years. The company is part of the company Royal Friesland Foods Group founded in 1894 as a dairy co-operative. Today, this long-established group of companies has more than 70 branches in 27 countries.

### **On course for success**

For Chinese customer Inner Mongolia Mengniu Dairy Industry (Group) Co., Ltd, the planned introduction of the new high-speed CFA 724 for combibloc*Small* is also an important step in the company's future growth. Bai Ying, General Manager of the

company's Liquid Dairy Products division and Vice-President of the Mengniu Group: "Mengniu was founded in 1999, so we are a very young company. And we are in the happy position of being able to profit from the widespread expansion of the dairy industry in China and continuing to prosper with this growth. One of our main objectives is to make Mengniu a leader among the top 20 dairy companies in the world within the next five years – and we want to be the market leader particularly when it comes to innovations.

Creating the perfect conditions for production is the first step in opening up the market and using innovative products to win a competitive edge. In this respect, the CFA 724 gives a clear advantage in speed, flexibility and performance“.

In just nine years, Inner Mongolia Mengniu Dairy Industry (Group) Co., Ltd has grown from a small regional provider in Inner Mongolia to one of China's biggest dairy groups. Today Mengniu has more than 20 production facilities in 15 provinces in China with a portfolio of more than 100 products.

**Picture caption:**

The new aseptic high-speed filling machines CFA 124 and CFA 724 **(photo)** from SIG Combibloc are the fastest in the world for small-size carton packages, capable of filling 24,000 combibloc *Mini* or combibloc *Small* carton packs per hour, with the same unmatched volume flexibility as its predecessors. SIG Combibloc is setting new standards in speed and efficiency when it comes to filling technology for aseptic carton packs.

**Photo: SIG Combibloc**

*SIG Combibloc is one of the world's leading system suppliers of carton packaging and filling machines for beverages and food. In 2006 the company achieved a turnover of 1,210 million Euro with around 4,000 employees in 40 countries. SIG Combibloc is managed by SIG Holding AG in Switzerland, which is part of the New Zealand based Rank Group.*

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