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Press Release

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Filling technology at drinktec—The rise and rise of aseptic

How do you get your carefully produced beverage into its transport packaging, in precisely the right quantity, in a safe and hygienic way, as gently as possible and above all efficiently? This, in essence, is what it's all about in the discussion about the right filling technology. All the technological developments and filling innovations of the engineering companies and packaging producers—for glass, PET, cans and cartons—focus on these issues. And at drinktec 2017, the World's Leading Trade Fair for the Beverage and Liquid Food Industry, all these players will be coming together and presenting their latest ideas and technological achievements. drinktec is the perfect place for fillers wanting to review the status quo in technology.

On around 80,000 m² of exhibition space—that's about two-thirds of the total available hall space—drinktec will be presenting product-specific process technology for producing and processing beverages, milk and liquid foods. One important and ever larger area within processing technology is packaging technology. This includes of course filling technology, in which drinktec has for many years been a pioneer. Sustainability, resource consumption and of course hygiene are the important themes here. SIMEI, a wine technology trade fair which in 2017 will for the first time be an integrated part of drinktec, will showcase solutions specifically designed for bottling and packaging wine.

- **drinktec gathers together a 'Who's Who' of the sector**

For Thomas Ricker, Executive Board Director in charge of bottling and packaging equipment at Kronen AG, Neutraubling, drinktec is a kind of "status update for the sector. Which supplier is developing what, where is the sector

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headed? In Munich you can ask these questions and get answers. drinktec is the number one fair for us, it's where we present our innovations to the international trade audience. Here we have a chance to meet in person the customers that you are not in daily contact with. Because drinktec is a veritable 'Who's Who' of the international beverage and liquid food sector."

■ **Three major trends**

What will be happening in the area of filling beverages and liquid foods in 2017?

Three major trends are emerging in filling technology:

- 100% product safety through consequent hygienic design
- Maximizing the filling performance
- Strengthening sustainability and reducing consumption of media.

"This is being made possible through continuous improvements along the entire product route, for example, by increasing the degree of automation of filling valves or by using intelligent filling valve components," explained Thomas Ricker, Director at Krones.

A block configuration, mechanically and electronically combining individual machines into a single unit, has also proved to be an excellent tool in further optimizing filling processes. The inline production of PET containers and immediate filling without intermediate conveyors also facilitates the use of lightweight bottles.

■ **Qualities of glass with the weight advantages of PET**

"In filling, PET bottles are becoming increasingly important. With suitable coating processes the optimum qualities of glass can be combined with the weight advantages of the PET bottle," says Chairman of the Executive Board of KHS AG, Dortmund, Professor Dr.-Ing. Matthias Niemeyer. Innovations like a lightweight 1-liter PET bottle for milk and milk-based beverages underlines this drive. It can be filled aseptically, it protects the product, reduces production costs and is fully recyclable. Niemeyer also sees efficiency and flexibility benefits for the user

through direct connection of the blower, labeller and filler. These benefits are especially clear in the case of the high-performance requirements of the global players.

■ Availability is key with aseptic filling

At least for the filling of sensitive, weakly acid beverages in PET containers, aseptic seems to be emerging as the favored option. Already a wide variety of choices are being offered by the manufacturers and used by the fillers, always carefully targeted to the specific application. Whether cold-aseptic filling with paracetic acid or dry-aseptic filling with hydrogen peroxide, whether sterilization of the finished container or already of the preform, whether an individual machine or blocking of units—the best solution for the application depends on the requirement criteria of the operator.

In aseptic filling in particular developments can be expected which go in the direction of flexibilization of the system concept, in expanding the performance levels and using sterilization technologies that help reduce the overall consumption of a system. Given the rising number of products, the availability of a system is a key theme, especially in aseptic filling. Availability is expressed in the total cost of ownership (TCO), a parameter that fillers are having to pay more close attention to.

In dry-aseptic filling, preform sterilization is state of the art; in wet sterilization it's about further reducing media consumption. At drinktec 2017 visitors can explore together with the exhibitors, the advantages and disadvantages of the different sterilization technologies.

■ Practical solutions

But the power of drinktec is to be found not only conversation with the exhibitors. The supporting program and the discussions with experts from the sector are also a valuable attraction. In the drinktec Forum, for example, experts from research and development will be giving their considered assessment of what the future holds for the sector. They will be presenting usable, practical solutions that point the way forward. Hygiene will also be a main focus in the

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drinktec Forum. Highly interesting of course for the all important filling technology and in particular for aseptic filling.

■ **drinktec as a barometer of trends**

“At drinktec in Munich, the future of our industry becomes visible,” says Professor Dr.-Ing. Matthias Niemeyer. “For this fair it not only a meeting place for customers and manufacturers, it is also a barometer of trends.” drinktec is very definitely a key event when it comes to filling technology—the visitors are sure of that. At the last drinktec 97 percent of the visitors gave top marks to the areas on containers, packaging and closures, and to filling and packaging technology.

Further information on drinktec: www.drinktec.com and on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#)

Click [here](#) for photos of drinktec.

About drinktec

drinktec has been held in Munich since its premiere in 1951. A four-year event cycle was introduced in 1985. drinktec is the most important trade fair for the sector. Manufacturers and suppliers from all over the world—global companies and SMEs alike—meet there with all sizes of producers and retailers of beverages and liquid food products.

The future of the industry is set at drinktec. In the industry, the fair is considered as a premiere platform for global innovations. At this event, manufacturers present the latest technology for processing, filling and packaging all kinds of beverages and liquid food, including raw materials and logistics solutions. The topics of beverage marketing and packaging design round out the portfolio.

Approx. 1,600 exhibitors and 70,000 visitors will participate in drinktec 2017, which will take place on the grounds of Messe München from September 11 to 15, 2017. About two-thirds of the visitors come from foreign countries. drinktec 2017 will occupy 14 exhibition halls with a total of 150,000 square meters.

About SIMEI

In 2017, SIMEI, the world's leading exhibition for wine technology, is being held for the first time as an integral part of drinktec. Organized by the Unione Italiana Vini (UIV), SIMEI has a long tradition. It has been held in Milan since 1963. Following an agreement with Messe München, SIMEI will be retaining its two-year cycle, but its venue will alternate between Italy and Munich. At drinktec 2017, on a dedicated SIMEI exhibition space comprising at least 20,000 m², SIMEI will be showcasing all kinds of machinery, technology and equipment for the production and processing of wine, plus also packaging solutions.

Messe München

Messe München is one of the world's leading trade-fair organizations with more than 40 trade fairs for investment goods, consumer goods and new technologies in Munich and foreign countries. More than 30,000 exhibitors and approximately two million visitors take part annually in the events on the trade fair grounds, in ICM Internationales Congress Center München and in the MOC Veranstaltungszentrum München. In addition, Messe München organizes trade fairs in China, India, Turkey, Russia and South Africa. With a network of associate companies in Europe, Asia and Africa as well as more than 60 foreign representatives covering more than 100 countries, Messe München has global presence.