

# MEXICAN WAVE

*Cadbury Schweppes in Tecate has boosted up-time on its aseptic filling machines for Mott's apple juice*

**Profile:** Diversification has paid dividends for PepsiCo's shareholders

**Sterilisation:** Find out how fillers can improve pressure retorts for best possible product quality

**PET Technology:** PET bottles continue to make progress on a number of fronts

**Flexibles:** Pouches are going aseptic thanks to the ingenuity of companies such as German manufacturer Wild



# Packing a pouch

Tom Woerndl looks at recent technical developments in the pouch filling sector

familiarise themselves with the special features of the manufacturing process and the product attributes by means of a test line.

The finished production line was officially opened by the German minister for economic affairs, Dr Otto Ebnert.

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## Packing potatoes into pouches

Manufacturer HDG Verpackungsmaschinen has supplied a RBKL-1 pouch filling system to German food firm Pfanni for a new potato dumpling production line, installed at its Stavenhagen plant.

Pfanni has been processing potatoes for more than half a century. The company, part of the Unilever Group, employs 300 at Stavenhagen, who turn 150,000 tonnes of potatoes into 35,000 tonnes of finished products every year.

The rotary pouching machine supplied by HDG produces stand-up pouches for Pfanni in sizes ranging from 5x15cm to 20x40cm.

"The variability of the bags turned out to be important," says Jens Labenz, engineering manager for Pfanni. "We had to allow for the production of small bags intended for promotional campaigns, as well as 400 gram bags for sale in grocery stores and 1.2kg bags for bulk customers and the restaurant industry."

The system has an output of 1,200 kg per hour, which in the case of 400g bags corre-

sponds to 50 bags per minute.

The top panel of the machine is made of aluminium and covered with a strong 1.5mm sheet of V2A stainless steel facing the product.

"The HDG roller suspension with two roller axes guarantees short set-up times," explains Labenz.

"Large, dustproof, removable doors allow for quick access to all drive elements when needed. Hygiene is the be all and end all."

At the filling station the pouches are dosed with nitrogen. The system is designed to guarantee a residual oxygen level of less than one percent, which is maintained by means of a measurement and control unit.

"The project attributes of the mini dumplings were a real challenge," says Labenz.

"We painstakingly developed a process together with HDG and then designed the system."

The HDG team had a chance to

