

Gürallar opens Turkish container site



▲ Fig 1. (main picture) The Gürallar facility at Kutahya, Turkey.

Fig 2

▲ Fig 2. 12-section AIS machine.

Turkish container glass manufacturer Gürallar Cam Ambalaj (GCA) has selected Bucher Emhart Glass to provide a range of equipment for its new plant.

Gürallar is the sixth largest glass manufacturer in the world and is most famous for the production of its tableware brand, LAV. The company was set up in 1996 by the Gural family, with the aim of creating tableware products under the brand name 'Gürallar Artcraft' (later changed to LAV).

The company has grown rapidly since its foundation by increasing its production capacity. Today it produces and markets 3500 various tableware products globally, selling its LAV products in 35,000 shops throughout Turkey and a further 100,000 stores around the world.

In 2014 the Gürallar Group decided to increase its glass container production with a new venture called Gürallar Glass Packaging (Gürallar Cam Ambalaj, GCA.).

To support the move, it built a new plant right next to its existing one, in Kutahya, western Turkey (**Fig.1**).

Kutahya plant

The plant began operations in February 2015, with a focus on producing food

jars and soft drinks bottles.

It has a capacity of 400 tonnes a day and employs 300 people. It has ISO 9001 and BRC/IOP management systems implemented in all processes, from design through to sales and marketing.

The plant mostly uses Bucher Emhart Glass (BEG) technology. GCA was familiar with BEG's IS forming technology, since the firm uses a 10-section double-gob IS machine to produce wide mouth jars at its original plant.

For the new furnace, GCA commissioned three forming shops, each with three inspection legs. Forming is carried out by three identical AIS 12-section machines in triple gob (**Fig.2**). The AIS machines are equipped with BEG's latest servo technology and use FPS valves for the plunger-up and counterblow functions.

Finished wares are handled by the BEG servo-electrical take-out mechanism, machine conveyor and FlexStacker unit (**Fig.3**). A VFT-1000 ware transfer unit was supplied by Sheppee International.

At the cold end, inline inspection is handled by nine FleXinspect C and nine FleXinspect T inspection machines (**Fig.4**), plus three inline MiniLabs (one per shop, **Fig.5**). Together, FleXinspect C and T offer a solution for inline inspection, while MiniLab adds statistical sampling to ensure quality criteria are being met and provide feedback on the production process.

The inspection configuration was developed based on expert advice provided by BEG and finalised in partnership with GCA's executives.

"We're delighted to welcome Gürallar to the glass container market in Turkey," stated BEG project manager Fabio Ghiglino. "We wish them the very best in this competitive market and are pleased to commit ourselves to supporting its operations long into the future."

Today, GCA manufactures two million items a day at its two facilities and employs close to 2000 people.

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Choosing Bucher Emhart Glass

Gürallar stated that the process of selecting BEG as a supplier was rigorous.

The GCA family, which owns the company, was directly involved, along with their top management team and team of technicians. GCA staff visited the plants of some of BEG's major European customers to see first-hand the firm's machinery in operation and also build the foundations of a strong relationship.

GCA was pleased to work with a partner that could offer technologies at both hot and cold ends. The experience and expertise of BEG's legal department also

helped to finalise a relatively complex contract between the firms.

GCA said it would like to create and improve its customer approach in the container glass business, making it different from other companies. Each of its customers will have a project coordinator who will be responsible for all of the project details, from manufacturing through to delivering.

This responsibility will also cover the performance of its products in its customers' bottling processes.

These project coordinators will be GCA engineers working for GCA under

production or quality departments. They have the responsibility of coordinating the customers' projects and will report directly to the GCA General Manager.

"In a short time, GCA is going to create a huge difference in the container glass business with its proactive mentality, ambitious young team and reliable technology," stated GCA's General Manager, Abdullah Gayret. ■

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▲ Fig 3. BEG FlexStacker in operation at the Gürallar plant.



▲ Fig 4. FlexInspect C and T inspection machines in straight line layout.



▲ Fig 5. MiniLab Statistical sampling in the cold end.

