

Schuler supplies first high-speed cupping press to Asia-Pacific region

***August 11, 2010.* The market for aluminum beverage cans in the Asia-Pacific region is growing fast. As a material, aluminum offers key benefits – for example it can be recycled repeatedly without any drop in quality. One of the world’s largest beverage can manufacturers, Crown, has responded to this fast market growth by opening a new Asian production facility. In early 2011, a high-speed cupping press supplied by Schuler will also start production at the US company’s new facility. For the Goeppingen-based metalforming experts, it will be the first tailored system for the production of beverage cans to be supplied to the region.**

The new line for Crown boasts some impressive performance figures: with a single stroke of the press, the die can turn out 14 so-called “cups”. At a maximum speed of 250 strokes per minute, this means that the machine can produce up to 3,500 cups per minute. Is top quality still possible at such tremendous speeds? “Absolutely,” stresses Markus Roeber, head of Schuler’s Highspeed division and responsible for planning the new line for Crown. He adds: “A whole number of components are responsible for ensuring top product quality. At the same time, the line’s high level of availability and long service lives guarantee maximum production efficiency.”

Preliminary buy-off in Goppingen

The UK-based general contractor CarnaudMetalbox Engineering will be installing the tailored solution at Crown’s new facility early next year. The preliminary buy-off, however, will take place in Goppingen. Schuler has integrated the cupping press with die functions and complete control system into a production-ready solution. The dies and coil line will be provided by CarnaudMetalbox Engineering. “When the line is installed at Crown’s Asian facility in the second stage, the customer will actually

have already benefited before production has even started,” explains Markus Roever. “Following initial installation in Goppingen, the machine’s components are already perfectly adapted to each other. What’s more, the dynamic mass counterbalance of the DA 140 cupping press means that the line can be set up extremely quickly and easily, without the need for any special foundation block.”

Precise slide guidance ensures higher quality

Once production has been launched, the line will not only guarantee high output figures. “Part quality is just as important,” explains Markus Roever. Schuler’s ability to draw on its know-how from the development and production of high-speed presses proved to be a decisive advantage when designing the new machine generation. This is illustrated, for example, in the play-free slide guidance of the cupping press. It enables extremely precise production of cans made from thin materials with thicknesses of less than 0.25 millimeters. This precise slide guidance also reduces die wear and thus prolongs the line’s service life. “Compared to lines with a simple gib guiding, the preloaded slide guidance system offers die service lives which are approx. 30 percent longer,” explains Markus Roever. Finally, the motorized slide adjustment system ensures a high degree of production flexibility in everyday use as it facilitates fast die changes and set-up work.

Complete service package

Crown’s new production facility will naturally also benefit from the Schuler Group’s local presence with its own production and service sites in Asia – meaning short distances and fast reaction times. “With our own local service teams, we can guarantee a full support package. Right from setting up the complete line and accompanying production launch. There is also a modem integrated into the line’s control system. If required, we

can access data from our base in Goppingen and help optimize the production process or rectify malfunctions,” adds Markus Roever.

Meet Schuler's experts on press systems for the beverage can industry at the “Cupping Systems” Technology Days in Goppingen/Germany, in November 2010. Contact: Tel. +49 7161 / 66-234 or martina.rothenberger@schulergroup.com.

Pictures:

“Getränkedosen-Fertigungslinie” file:

Schuler's one-stop solution for beverage can production

“Getränkedosennäpfe” file:

Economic manufacturing of top-quality beverage cans

“Napfpresse” file: *The welded monoblock body with play-free preloaded slide guidance system ensures precise slide movements*

About the Schuler Group

As the technological and global market leader in metalforming, Schuler supplies machines, production lines, dies, process know-how and services for the entire metal-working industry. Our clients include car manufacturers and their suppliers, as well as companies in the packaging, household equipment and electrical industry. Schuler is also the market leader in coin minting technology and produces complete wind turbines. The company employs around 5,000 people and is represented by its own facilities and sales offices in forty nations around the world.

The Schuler Group can trace its roots back to a locksmith shop founded by Louis Schuler in 1839. The company has produced metal-working machines since 1852. Schuler subsequently emerged as the international flagship company in the press manufacturing industry. In addition to its numerous foreign subsidiaries, the Schuler Group also comprises Müller Weingarten, which it acquired in April 2007.