STATE OF THE INDUSTRY | An in-depth analysis of the performance of non-alcohol and alcohol categories

Beverage Industry

Trends, technology & products shaping the marketplace



Red hot growth

Calypso is redefining lemonade, driving record growth

PLANT WATERS

Emerging categories innovate to break from niche status

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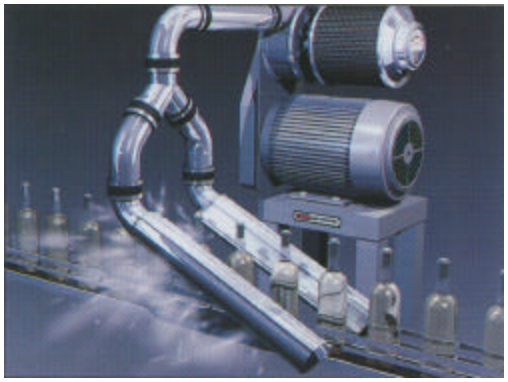
David Klavsons, CEO of King Juice Co. Inc.

Beverage INDUSTRY

Bottling quality enhanced with high-impact drying

When Andres of Grimsby, Ontario, decided to be the first wine producer in Canada to apply pressure-sensitive labels to its wine bottles, it faced a significant challenge: the bottles had to be absolutely dry. "If it's a complicated, multi-label and there is water on the bottle, it creates real difficulty," says Scott Moore, Andres production manager.

Andres was already experiencing the downside of drying inefficiency on its three production lines at the 60,000 square-foot Grimsby plant. Residual water on the neck of the bottles was causing unsightly puckers in the PVC capsules.



"The puckering had gone on for about a year but wasn't that noticeable until we changed our type of capsule for a more premium look," Moore says. "The lighter colors of the new capsules really showed the wrinkles. We weren't meeting our quality standards."

Andres has experimented with compressed air and airknives to address the problem. The use of compressors for drying, however, caused a loss of air pressure to other parts of the plant. With the advent of pressure-sensitive labels for bottling Andres premium Chardonnay, the need for a drying solution became paramount. Sonic Air Systems proposed the use of a 10-HP Sonic SAS-700 with four Sonic XE Airknives. Sonic's written performance guarantee clinched the deal. A Sonic system was installed for use on two bottling lines at Andres, running at approximately 120 bottles per minute. On the first line, two Sonic XE 18-inch airknives direct high velocity air from the Sonic centrifugal blower to the sides of the bottles, and two 6-inch airknives dry the tops. When the system is not in use on this line, flex tubes are directed from the Sonic blower to the feeder of the Krones labeler on the second line in order to remove moisture from the bottles prior to labeling.

A concern about noise levels was resolved by mounting the Sonic blower 12 feet off the ground.

"Our labels have never been better, and our shrinks are just gorgeous," Moore says. "The market in Canada is getting very competitive, with premium packaging and pressure sensitive labels. The Sonic equipment has helped us improve the look and quality of our package to make us more competitive in the marketplace."
– Sonic Air Systems Inc., 411 N. Palm St., Fullerton, Calif. 92835, (714) 870-2700

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