

Compact filler for cans and glass/PET bottles

GEA develops multifunctional filler for small filling volumes

Düsseldorf, October 11, 2023 – GEA introduces the GEA Visitron Small-in-One filling block for production speeds of up to 10,000 containers per hour. The slimline filling solution rinses, fills, and seals on a very small production area and saves a lot of time during filling and format changeover thanks to a sophisticated process chain. It can be changed over to other products and containers made of glass, aluminum, and PET swiftly.

As much standard as necessary, as much freedom as possible

The new unit is a cost-effective alternative to standard systems. The compact version was inspired by the successful GEA Visitron All-in-One monoblock. “The market made clear that multifunctionality is also needed for filling with compact footprints. Especially growing young companies want a versatile, efficient and fully automated solution that they can afford,” explains Andreja Markoja, Head of Sales and Offer Management at GEA VIPOLL. This is the case, she says, with craft brewers or even co-packers – wherever small batches are produced and quick changeovers are necessary at the same time.

“Therefore, when scaling our larger monoblock to the smaller unit, we eliminated complexity without sacrificing flexibility. For example, customers buying the Small-in-One unit won’t probably need champagne corks or 1-liter cans but a durable, easy-to-use machine with a low consumption,” Markoja says. For the Small-in-One, GEA has streamlined the filling process so that it requires less water and less carbon dioxide when filling cans, while ensuring a low oxygen pickup.

Setting the standard for flexibility and resource efficiency

“The Small-in-One is a new addition to our GEA Visitron family that illustrates our filling technology approach: Our equipment is intended for customers who value multifunctional, easy-to-maintenance filling with a long service life,” says Jens Neidhardt, Managing Director of GEA’s Slovenian subsidiary. In these specialty markets, customers have a close look at both affordable investment and operating costs. That is why GEA’s compact units also raise the bar in terms of sustainability: While the material footprint is exceptionally small, they focus particularly on low CO2 consumption and water efficiency. In the GEA Visitron Small-in-One, process water is recirculated. It is recirculated in the machine during sterile rinsing, external (post-capping) bottle rinsing, and during vacuum pump cooling.

Six months to a saleable product

GEA also responds to market needs in terms of manufacturing times, where investment cycles are becoming increasingly tight. The Small-in-One can be delivered to the customer's site within six months, ready for operation in two more weeks. This is beneficial for smaller bottlers as well as for producers with high filling volumes. There, the compact block can take over small batches for product development and special products while the large lines continue to run uninterrupted. The low-maintenance, intuitive operation also helps the investment pay off quickly. In addition, the Small-

in-One uses reliable mechanical drives instead of servo motors – an economical solution that makes the bottler independent of spare parts markets with difficult supply conditions.

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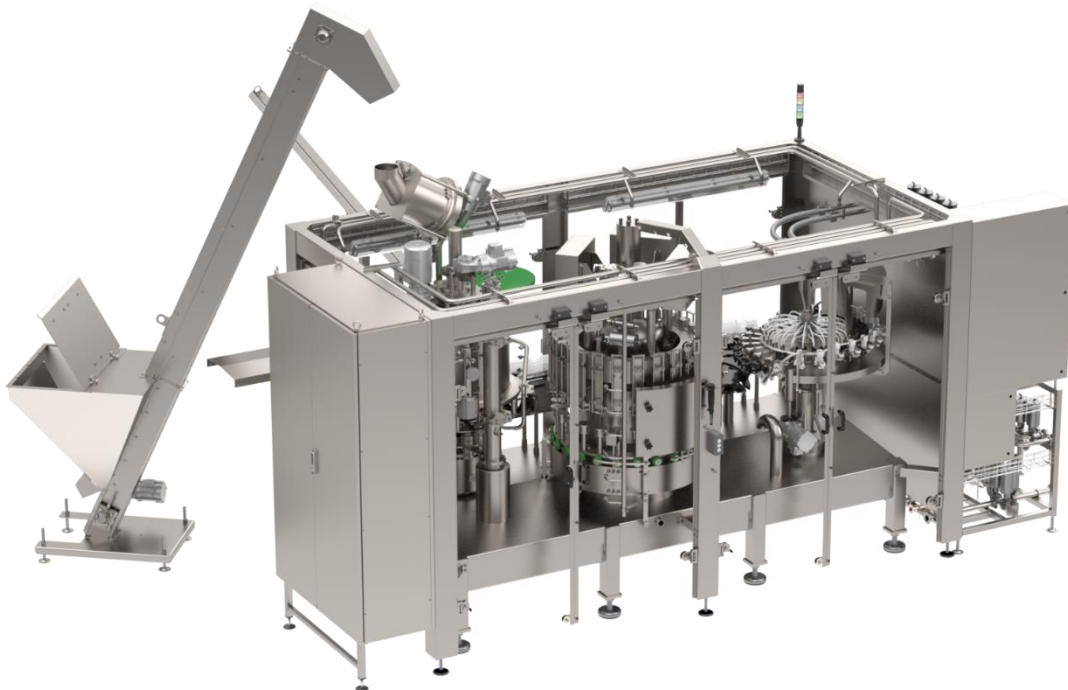


Image 1: All-rounder in a box: The GEA Visitron Small-in-One is the new multifunctional filler for low speeds of up to 10,000 cph. It cleans, fills and seals containers with carbonated and still beverages in one machine – cans as well as glass and PET bottles. The compact filling block fits on a truck for easy transport. Source: GEA

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About GEA

GEA is one of the world's largest suppliers of systems and components to the food, beverage, and pharmaceutical industries. The international technology group, founded in 1881, focuses on machinery and plants, as well as advanced process technology, components, and comprehensive services. With more than 18,000 employees working across five divisions and 62 countries, the group generated revenues of more than EUR 5.1 billion in fiscal year 2022. GEA plants, processes, components, and services enhance the efficiency and sustainability of production processes across the globe. They contribute significantly to the reduction of CO₂ emissions, plastic usage, and food waste. In doing so, GEA makes a key contribution toward a sustainable future, in line with the company's purpose: "Engineering for a better world".

GEA is listed in the German MDAX and the STOXX® Europe 600 Index and is also among the companies comprising the DAX 50 ESG and MSCI Global Sustainability and the Dow Jones Sustainability Europe Indices.

More information can be found online at [gea.com](https://www.gea.com).

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