

## Krones strengthens Process Technology with acquisition in China

Krones, the world's leading manufacturer of filling and packaging technology, has acquired the business operations and assets of Shanghai Xiantong Equipment Installation effective 1 September 2018. The Chinese company has been a partner and supplier to Krones in the field of process technology for many years. Krones Taicang has partnered successfully with Xiantong on the production, installation, and commissioning of process technology equipment for the past 20 years in order to best serve the local market. For example, Krones' first MicroCube compact brew-house was manufactured by Xiantong.

The acquisition represents another important step within Krones' strategy of



expanding its global footprint. Krones now owns a production site for brewing equipment and other process technology solutions in China. The team of around 170 people covers the entire value chain from engineering to manufacturing to installation and commissioning. The acquisition of Xiantong's operations will

support Krones' efforts to best meet growing local and international demand for customised process technology solutions.

The company, which will operate under the name Krones Processing (Shanghai) Co. Ltd., will deliver turnkey process technology solutions, especially for breweries, around the globe. The company will remain headquartered in Fengxian District, in southern Shanghai.

Mr. Liang Kun, Xiantong's former owner, will remain with the new company, acting in an advisory capacity. Mr. Cheng Feng, previously Head of Corporate Development at Krones Taicang, will take over as managing director. ♦

## MULTIVAC invests 35m euros to build new Centre of Excellence

Multivac has announced that it will build a new Centre of Excellence at its headquarters in Wolfertschwenden, Germany, after investing 35 million. The company held a ground-breaking ceremony for the new site recently, and is of the view that the new facility is intended for its Slicer Business Unit.

The new site will feature a 7,500 square-metre packaging production floor and a 'Slicer Application Centre'. The Application Centre will offer services such as sample production and machine demonstrations, as well as a wide range of training programs for Multivac slicers and slicer lines.

Additionally, the site will include 180 office workstations, conference and function rooms and a company restaurant. Multivac estimates that the expansion should be completed by 2020.

Multivac CEO Hans-Joachim Boekstegers said: "The new building complex is designed as an Application Center for our Slicing Solutions Business Unit, which is now seeing very encouraging development in our new business sector. In future automated packaging lines will be commissioned here as well.



"We have successively expanded our product range in recent years to include process equipment upstream and downstream of the packaging procedure.

"By founding the Slicer Business Unit, we have taken an important strategic step in the direction of 'Better Processing'."

"We have designed the Application Center in such a way, that our customers will find themselves in an environment, which reflects the real conditions in their own production sites.

"There our customers will be able to experience the complete process chain live: this will extend from the demonstration of the various slicers handling a wide range of products, through to the presentation of different loading solutions downstream of the slicer, and right up to the actual packaging procedure itself.

"It will be possible to carry out individual trials with customers' own products as well as testing the slicing solutions for feasibility, output, return on investment, give-away and other critical factors." ♦