

Time for closure

Leading global packaging manufacturer Retal develops and produces a range of closures as part of its varied portfolio, alongside preforms, containers and films. Offering PET and, increasingly, rPET, Retal provides standard and bespoke solutions to its large roster of global food and beverage brand customers.

Jean-Noel Boursiez is Retal's director of closures, with his expertise gained from decades of working to solve the specific demands of global customers. Boursiez tells PETplanet, "Retal has long been considered a strong player in the global closures sector, particularly for beverage brands in both still and carbonated drinks. We are currently in the process of expanding our portfolio even further, with a focus on the 'premium standard' products. This is a great way for us to utilise our experience and our technical capacity; we're not pioneering for its own sake, we're introducing closures that really add value."

The latest example of a Retal closure that adds value is its High Grip. A clever closure that is easy to open thanks to distinctive grooves and good rigidity due to its added height. High Grip is now in mass production, with over 200 million units already manufactured. Boursiez says, "We have gained vast expertise over the last 20 years, developing, producing and servicing single-piece closure solutions. Our High Grip uses the new lighter 1881 PCO standard, saving about 1.3g per bottle, yet retains the convenient overall height of the 1810 because of the taller cap."

A great benefit of the High Grip is that copackers can continue to use their existing stacking trays designed for 1810 specifications; High Grip eliminates the height difference and it's just 2.45g."

reliable closure solutions that are versatile for different liquids and neck sizes. We have had great success in Europe particularly over the last few years, with the market demanding more aseptic solutions, such as our 38 ml closure that is a key product for us in Eastern Europe. We have vast experience in quickly delivering complete solutions."

Retal is driven by the desire to develop and manufacture closures that perform. The company is proud of its high level of service and ability to successfully collaborate with customers, which, when married with a long history of producing closures that meet the strict expectations of many of the world's largest bottlers, means that Retal is already perfectly in tune with the next generation of closures.

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Premium standard

Boursiez explains how many of the issues that face global beverage brands due to the increasingly in-demand lightweighting of closures can be solved through product design, strict quality control and tight tolerances on production, as well as playing close attention to material selection. He says, "A key driver for us is the consistent ability to develop responsible,



The EC's decision to issue this support package is the latest in a series of renewable energy-related moves in relation to Lithuania ahead of 2020. In July 2018, Sun Investment Group and partner I+D Energias Lithuania announced that they would be installing the largest commercial rooftop PV plant in the Baltic States.

The plant is worth 1,389 kilowatts, and installed on the roof of the RETAL factory in Lentvaris, some 10 kilometres from the capital Vilnius. In December 2018, the project was successfully completed and will be officially opened in February this year.

The decision to pursue a renewable future was taken by RETAL as part of its corporate responsibility pledge to be amongst the very first multinational companies founded in the Baltic States to use solar as one of its various energy sources.

Lithuania's commitment to renewables is also key to moving the Baltic region away from their energy dependence on Russia, after the supply arm of the Lithuanian state energy supplier, Lietuvos Energija (LE), recently signed a short-term one-year agreement with Russia's Gazprom to supply Lithuania with gas throughout 2019.

International renewable energy industry experts predict that within the next two decades, traditional energy sources such as gas, coal, and oil due will be replaced 100% by renewables as a result of their current slow-to-non-existent growth rates.

In light of these findings, Lithuanian energy experts believe that by continually meeting EU energy directives, incentivising electricity production, and pursuing corporate responsibility targets where companies aim to be powered 100% by renewables, then Lithuania can set an example to policymakers and solar energy suppliers in neighbouring Latvia and Estonia on how to reduce the entire Baltic region's need for Russian energy and pursue its own energy autonomy.

"It is extremely positive to see the European Commission incentivise electricity production via renewables in Lithuania," said Sun Investment Group's Chief Business Development Officer, Andrius Terskovas.

"As a country, we have already exceeded our 2020 renewable energy targets, and we are determined to continue this trend and be fully reliant on our own energy supplies as the world moves a renewable future. We hope that our example will be adopted by our friends and neighbours in Latvia and Estonia as we seek further integration with the EU in the coming years."

Lithuania is amongst the few EU member states to have already met its 2020 renewable energy targets. Therefore it is expected that the drive it has shown and the subsequent support it has obtained from EU institutions is likely to spread to Latvia and Estonia as all three Baltic States seek to create a sustainable and renewable future energy policy for the region.

More useful information:

<https://www.openaccessgovernment.org/renewable-energy-support/57151/>

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