



## PETPAK RESPONDS TO GROWTH IN PET PACKAGING MARKET IN THAILAND WITH NEW XFORM 150



Thai packaging converter Petpak Co. is one of the latest companies to take advantage of SIPA's XFORM technology for high-efficiency production of PET preforms. The company recently took delivery of a hybrid electric XFORM 150 - the smallest in the XFORM range injection molding systems - for production of 13.5-g and 28.5-g preforms for mineral water bottles. In both cases, it is using 48-cavity molds, also produced by SIPA. It is producing around 150 million preforms a year, the bulk of them the smaller types. Adisak Sukprasert, General Manager at Petpak, says the company chose SIPA for a host of reasons: "We looked at production technology, production efficiency, maintenance costs, energy consumption and total manufac-





turing costs, and we looked at how the capacity of the system would meet our requirement,” he says. “SIPA was the obvious choice. This is a world class brand.” Petpak has in fact been using another

48-cavity PET preform system from SIPA for some time. The XFORM 150 stands out as being flexible, energy-efficient, and easy to install, says Weera Eiamrattanawong at SIPA. “It is ideal for frequent mold changes and special preform production. With its electrically-driven two-platen clamp unit and its two-stage extruder/shooting pot injection system, energy efficiency is excellent. Neither servo-valves nor oil accumulator are necessary on this platform.” The XFORM 150 also features outstanding platen parallelism, wide tie bar spacing and sensitive mold

protection. As with all XFORM machines, it accepts legacy molds from all leading mold manufacturers. It is engineered for quick and easy mold changeovers, so the time between production of one type of preform and another completely different one can often be under an hour. Petpak produces PET preforms and bottles for various food and non-food applications. It is owned by Bangkok Glass, which has a 60% share in the company. Other participants include bottling company Thai Nam Thip, major Thai beverage producers Sermasuk and Green Spot, closures producer Crown Seal, and packaging major Toyo Seikan. Last year, Petpak, whose main plant is at its headquarters in Ayutthaya province, responded to the growth in demand for PET packaging in Thailand with the opening of a second manufacturing base for preform production in Suratthani in the south of the country. This is where the new XFORM 150 has been installed.

