

Sanofi-Aventis Investment Shows Increased Demand for Liquids in Hard Capsules

Liquids in hard capsules have secured a substantial market share over the past few years, with an increasing number of pharmaceutical companies turning to this dosage form.

Leading Supplier

Bosch Packaging Technology managed to recognize this trend early on, evaluated the market accordingly and, with its GKF capsule filling machines, positioned itself as the leading supplier in this segment. Thanks to the new liquid filling pump, GKF machines are now able to fill a wide range of products. This includes products with a critical melting point range, high or low viscosity, and also product combinations.

Sanofi-Aventis, based in France, is one of the world's leading pharmaceutical com-

panies and has invested in five high-performance GKF capsule filling machines from Bosch over the past three years. The investment was made to support an increasing demand for the Essentiale liver preparation.

In China, Sanofi-Aventis operates production sites in Beijing, Hangzhou and Shenzhen, with the Essentiale liver preparation being produced at its Beijing facility. As a result of its previous positive experiences, it has now decided to extend its use of the proven GKF series into the Chinese market.

A Customized Solution

The GKF 2500L project for Sanofi-Aventis was a major challenge for Bosch. The objective of the pharmaceutical company was to achieve high output levels on a single machine, which resulted in a number of requirements. Bosch engineers were able to use proven concepts of the GKF series but needed to develop a special filling pump for a product, which was not just difficult to fill but also temperature-sensitive. The pump also had to be able to maintain a constant filling weight. An additional problem was that

Innovative liquid filling pump enables to fill a wide range of products





the timeframe for developing the new pump was quite short.

Key to Success

The key to success was the experience and product know-how gained from the development of earlier GKF capsule filling machines. A constant exchange of information between Sanofi-Aventis and Bosch was another contributing factor to the successful realization of this ambitious project.

The enormous distance between Bosch's German location and the production site

in Beijing was obviously a critical factor. However, the geographical distance was offset by training and the early involvement of the Chinese engineers in the project. Due to the global presence of Bosch engineers, the project proceeded without any language or cultural barriers. Bosch is also able to handle fast and flexible on-site servicing and this was another key factor for Sanofi-Aventis in its decision to award this project to Bosch.

The project was a huge success for both companies. Tom Li, Deputy Production

Manager, and Cai Yimin, Maintenance Supervisor of Sanofi-Aventis are delighted with their new high-performance machine and the extremely accurate and consistent filling results. Sanofi-Aventis was won over by Bosch Packaging Technology's ability to provide professional project management and on-schedule completion even over long distances.

For more information please contact:

Felix Nink

Phone +49 711 811-57526

felix.nink@bosch.com