

SOUTH AFRICA'S FIRST B2B PET RECYCLING PLANT

Extrupet, the biggest PET bottle recycler in South Africa, uses Starlinger iV+ technology to produce PhoenixPET, an rPET brand approved for Coca-Cola products.



“We chose Starlinger given their exemplary track record in having already set up plants that were actively supplying the Coca-Cola system around the world.”

CHANDRU WADHWANI
MANAGING DIRECTOR OF EXTRUPET



The new bottle-to-bottle recycling equipment was officially inaugurated on May 11th, 2015 in Johannesburg and produces recycled resin suitable for food-contact PET packaging and the carbonated drink sector. The plant is the first in South Africa to use Coca-Cola-approved technology to produce bottles for carbonated soft drinks, making the country the first one on the continent to use recycled PET for Coca-Cola products.

Extrupet's Joint Managing Director, Chandru Wadhvani, states that the project was first conceived three years ago when its existing capacity was approaching its limit. After extensive investigation of the various options available, Extrupet chose Starlinger given their exemplary track record in having already set up plants that were actively supplying the Coca-Cola system around the world.

The PET recycling line, a recoSTAR PET 165 HC iV+, is designed for producing food grade recycled PET pellets according to FDA and EFSA standards. The plant has a production capacity of 1,800 kg/h and will supply 14,000 tonnes of rPET resin per year to the PET packaging industry in South Africa and neighbouring countries. Quality – a key factor for food-grade rPET. The high quality of the produced rPET plays a key role in obtaining food grade approvals, especially from brand owners such as Coca-Cola. Extrupet's PET recycling extruder is equipped with an in-line quality control system that monitors the

color and iV of the produced pellets. In the downstream inline viscoSTAR SSP reactor the iV level of the produced pellets is increased to the desired level. Organic and volatile components and acetaldehyde are removed, achieving excellent decontamination results. The first-in first-out treatment of both the flakes in the dryer before the extrusion process and the pellets in the continuous SSP process after extrusion ensures consistent residence time, leading to outstanding decontamination efficiency. For thorough quality control and traceability, the recycling line is equipped with an online archiving system of process data.



Extrupet's recoSTAR 165 HC iV+ produces 14,000 tonnes of food-grade recycled PET resin per year



Joint Managing Director of Extrupet Chandru Wadhvani (left), Minister of Environmental Affairs Edna Molewa, President of Coca-Cola Southern Africa Therese Gearhart, and Joint Managing Director of Extrupet Vijay Naidoo, during the official opening of Africa's first bottle-to-bottle recycling plant.