**Ein Bild, das Zeichnung enthält.

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**PRESS RELEASE**

* **Pharmaceutical technology newcomer BBG presents compact, fully automatic stand-alone capsule filling machine "Mercury 800" for 800 capsules per minute**
* **Further packaging machines for pharmaceutical products and food supplements announced for 2021**
* **Premiere at the 59th CIPM China International Pharmaceutical Machinery Expo at Chongqing/China**

*Mindelheim, Germany/Changchun, 9 December 2020.* BBG, the manufacturer of molds, machinery and plants, is entering the market for the construction of packaging machines for pharmaceutical products and food supplements. The first innovation to make its debut was the compact, fully automatic stand-alone capsule filling machine "Mercury 800" launched at the end of 2020. This machine is used to fill up to 800 capsules (sizes 5 to 000) per minute with powder.

According to BBG, the "Mercury 800" is currently the only capsule filling machine to feature an integrated polishing unit. Compared to multi-component systems, it offers a significantly smaller footprint, which reduces both the space required in the clean-room and the cost incurred. Moreover, the machine is particularly efficient and also quick to clean thanks to an integrated powder recovery system.

**Compact design helps to integrate all components within small footprint**

All the components required for filling capsules are integrated in the "Mercury 800". On the one hand, these include the tanks for capsules and powder, which can be loaded either automatically or manually, and the collection container for defective or incompletely filled capsules. On the other hand, the machine features the capsule polisher as well as the electrical switchbox and the clearly designed control panel for operating the system. Nevertheless, with an overall height of just under 2 meters, the "Mercury 800" only requires a floor space of around 1.6 square meters.

**Expertise from the German machinery and plant engineering sector**

The capsule filling machine was presented by BBG Asia Ltd., the Chinese subsidiary of the German BBG GmbH & Co. KG, on the occasion of the 59th CIPM China International Pharmaceutical Machinery Expo at Chongqing/China.

The pharmaceutical technology newcomer has announced the market launch of additional packaging machines for 2021. As Christian Fritz, General Manager of BBG Asia, says: "We wish to use BBG's expertise in machinery and plant engineering to build compact and efficient packaging machines that offer the highest quality standards, ease of operation and maximum productivity at an attractive price tag. And all this within the smallest possible footprint since space costs money".

**Positive response at the trade show premiere, worldwide sales planned**

He is very satisfied with the response to the "Mercury 800" at the 59th CIPM in Chongqing: "Visitors and the trade press showed great interest at the trade show. The response has been positive across the board". In addition to the major Asian pharmaceutical producers in China and India, the target markets include Europe and North and South America.

**Three innovations planned for 2021: faster capsule fillers and more functions**

BBG is already developing the next innovations. At the 60th CIPM in Qingdao, the group of companies intends to present two further innovations. The "Mercury 2,400" is a stand-alone capsule filling machine for 2,400 capsules per minute, which operates three times faster than the model now presented. The second innovation planned is a packaging machine that fills the full capsules into plastic containers, checks for metallic residues, weighs and labels them.

As if that were not enough, General Manager Fritz plans to celebrate a third premiere next year: "At the end of 2021 at the 61st CIPM in Chongqing, BBG will then present the final process step: The automatic packing of plastic containers into cardboard boxes.

**The "Mercury 800" offers simple and reliable operation**

The way the "Mercury 800" works is simple: First, empty capsules are fed from the integrated tank into the hopper and aligned there. Following that, a vacuum separates the two capsule half-shells. Then the lower half of the capsule is filled with the specified amount of powder, which is drawn from the integrated tank by vacuum. In the next step, capsules that are not separated are mechanically sorted out. Vertical pressure up to a defined stop closes the two capsule half-shells afterwards. A polishing brush then removes any powder residue from the capsule surface. In the final process step, empty or insufficiently filled capsules are sorted out by vacuum and the in-spec parts are ejected.

The capsule filling machine can be operated almost intuitively through a Siemens SIMATIC S7-1200 PLC controller, explains General Manager Fritz: "This is so simple that any user can handle it within a quarter of an hour".

**BBG’s customers are active the world over**

With its entry into the development and construction of packaging machines for pharmaceutical products and food supplements, the tool, machine and plant manufacturer BBG broke new ground at the end of 2020. The group is a renowned specialist for the plastics processing industry. In addition to end-to-end production lines, BBG designs, develops and manufactures molds for processing polyurethane (PUR), PVC, TPE and other elastomers, as well as a wide range of composite materials. This includes production processes such as PUR-CSM (PUR Composite Spray Molding), LFI (Long Fiber Injection), RTM (Resin Transfer Molding), SMC (Sheet Molding Compound) or GMT (Glass Mat reinforced Thermoplastics), which are selected depending on the desired qualities of the finished products. The company also focuses on solutions for lightweight construction, the processing of composites and the production of fiber composite components in a large number of industries.

BBG, the family-owned business, which is run by Hans Brandner and is located in Mindelheim/Allgäu, supply their products to their customers all over the world, with the Asian market playing an important role in addition to the markets in Europe and North America. With a headcount of around 170, BBG generated worldwide sales to the tune of 25.4 million Euros in 2019.

**Photos:**

Ein Bild, das Person, Mann, drinnen, stehend enthält.

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Photo 1:

Christian Fritz, General Manager of BBG Asia, presenting the stand-alone capsule filling machine “Mercury 800” at its premiere on the occasion of 59th CIPM China International Pharmaceutical Machinery Expo at Chongqing/China at the end of 2020 (photo by BBG).

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Photo 2:

The “Mercury 800” capsule filling machine is used to fill up to 800 capsules (sizes 5 to 000) per minute with powder in a fully automatic operation. The machine is particularly efficient thanks to its patented powder recovery system (photo by BBG).



Photo 3:

All the components required for the filling of capsules are integrated in the compact “Mercury 800”. Nevertheless, with an overall height of just under 2 meters, the “Mercury 800" only requires a floor space of around 1.6 square meters (photo by BBG).

**Please visit for a download of the press release (Word documents) and print-quality photos:**

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