

CristalChile invests in high print quality and efficiency

The leading producer of glass containers in Chile, CristalChile is now working with the full range of Gallus Screeny and Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG equipment, in order to integrate direct printing of bottles with high print quality and efficiency. CristalChile increased its decoration department with this substantial investment, which included the complete Screeny C-Line system, as well as prepress equipment from Gallus Screeny and Heidelberg. Rosina Obermayer reports.

This equipment was installed in November 2019 and is now running successfully within the manufacturing chain. It is the first Gallus Screeny C-Line system and also the first Screeny 400Eco. In combination with the screen printing equipment, CristalChile also invested in a Heidelberg Phoenix 800 CtS for the first time, a UV LED direct image setter

for preparing the pre-coated meshes.

The glassmaker invested in a full range of equipment for direct printing of bottles. Besides a Screen C-Line system, the investment package includes a Screeny Tactile mesh, a Screeny fast tension frame and the first Screeny 400Eco development unit.

Key reasons for this broad investment include the high quality

of the screen meshes and reproducibility, leading to a consistently high print quality of products. Now, the large glass bottle producer and direct printer is working with three Kammann machine systems, with a total of 14 screen printing units. In April 2020, two further Kammann production lines will be installed.

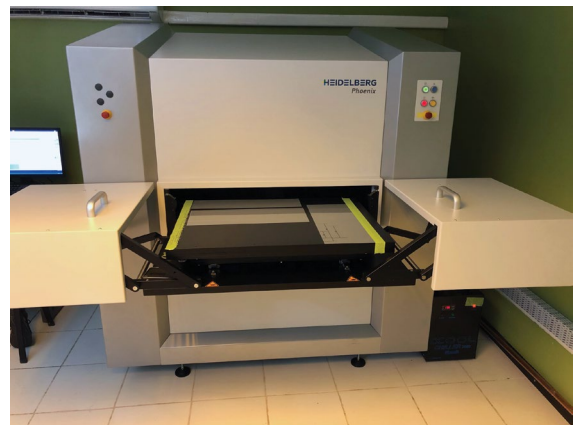
Reproducibility and print quality

The printing plate C-Line convinces with its superior, reproducible quality. The system solution, including the Gallus frame system, is suitable for UV, solvent and one and two-component ink systems. The ideal application is direct printing on hollow objects. CristalChile is using a UV ink system, as well as a thermo plastic ink system.

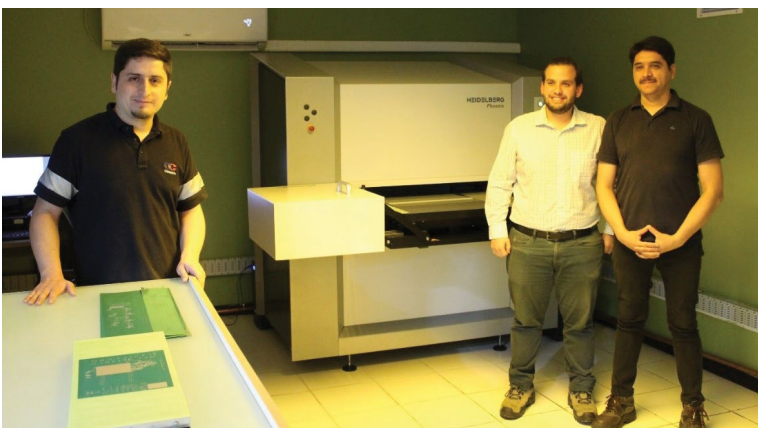
“In total, we are more than just happy with the equipment of Gallus Screeny and Heidelberg



Left to right: Alex Riquelme, Graphic Processes Specialist, CristalChile; Crithian Llanos, Head of Graphic Processes, CristalChile; Nathalie Tschepé, Head of Print Solutions, Bracker SpA; Elvis Villalobos, Process Engineer, CristalChile; David Cuevas, Operations Manager, CristalChile; Christian Bracker, General Manager, Bracker SpA; Juan Pablo Aros, Pre Digital Printing Laboratory Operator, CristalChile; and Gonzalo Carrasco, Graphic Designer, CristalChile. Image courtesy of Bracker SpA.



The Gallus system solution for efficient and high quality screen printing. Image courtesy of Gallus.



Left to right: Juan Pablo Aros, Pre Digital Printing Laboratory Operator, CristalChile; Elvis Villalobos, Process Engineer, CristalChile; and Gonzalo Carrasco, Graphic Designer, CristalChile. Image courtesy of Bracker SpA.



The prepress department with the Screeny and Heidelberg equipment, which was installed at CristalChile in November 2019. Image courtesy of Bracker SpA.

Druckmaschinen” confirms David Cuevas, COO at CristalChile. “We are now able to trust on the print quality consistently and in combination with the reproducibility. This was one of the main reasons for this investment because our customers are often brand owners.”

The Gallus Screeny C-Line screen printing plates enable a fast production time of just six minutes per print-ready screen printing plate. This is leading to a time saving of 60 minutes compared to conventional screen manufacturing.

Less production stops - higher productivity

David Cuevas continues: “Due to the quality of the C-Line screen mesh, the production stops are lower and thus, the production line is now already working more efficiently.” Due to the quality of the meshes leading to fewer stops, overall productivity at CristalChile has increased since the installation in November 2019.

Successful co-operation

CristalChile is producing and printing glass bottles for the beverage and

spirits market and is the leading producer of glass bottles in Chile. With more than 2500 employees, the company is still growing.

Bracker SpA, a specialist for the South American market, enabled this trustworthy co-operation. Christian Bracker and his team were able to support this entire installation successfully, so that the first bottle was printed in time. “We would like to say a huge thank you to Nathalie Tschepe, Head of the Decoration Business Unit at Bracker SpA” comments Matthias Rosenfelder, Head of New Business Screen Printing at Gallus. “Only with her help could this project with CristalChile become such a huge success.”

The spring-mounted plate loading process prevents distortion in the screen printing plate during the squeegee process, which increases the size of print runs. Compared to conventional screen manufacturing, the Gallus Screeny C-Line offers cost benefits and quality improvements when decorating hollow items.

In addition to the Gallus C-Line system, the installed equipment at the Chilean glass bottle producer included

the Gallus Screeny fast tension frames for increased overall efficiency during the screen printing process.

In-house prepress production

CristalChile invested not only in the screen printing equipment itself but also in the prepress production lines, in order to expose the screen printing plates in-house. Thus, the exposure, development and washing out of screen printing plates can be undertaken in-house on demand.

In addition, the automatic developer unit Screeny400Eco and the Heidelberg Phoenix 800 CtS (computer to screen) also enable a high degree of automation within the prepress department.

“The co-operation with Gallus Screeny was incredibly trustworthy” comments Elvis Villalobos, project leader at CristalChile, when summarising the project. “The whole project was going well, from the very beginning with the question of what we need to the very end, the first produced screen and the first printed glass bottle. I would imagine that further equipment by Gallus and Heidelberg will follow.” ●

About the author:

Rosina Obermayer is responsible for corporate communications at Gallus Ferd Ruesch

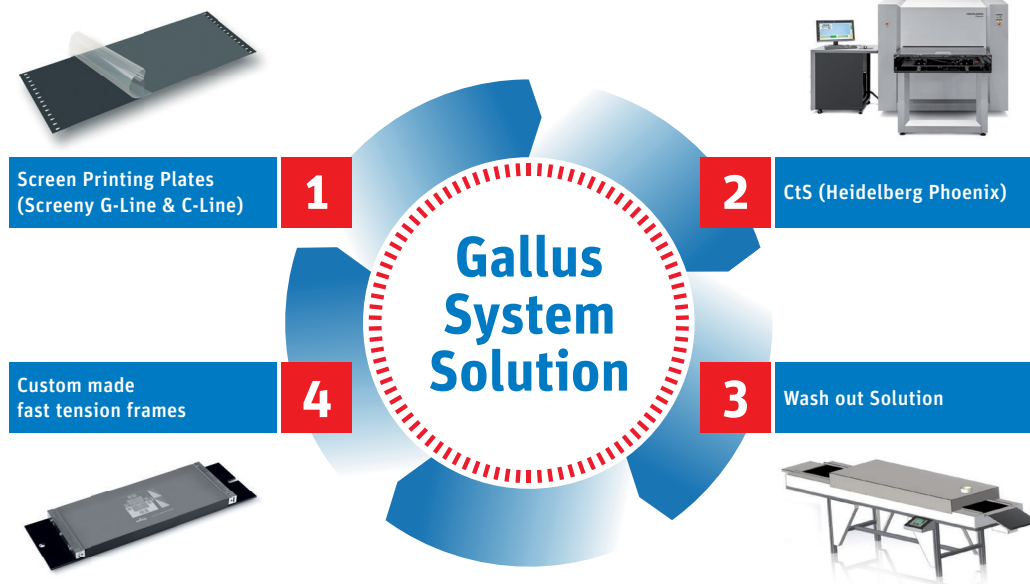
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Gallus Screeny for flatbed screen printing

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