

Press Release

Vetropack resumes production in Ukraine

Bülach / Gostomel, 26 May 2023 – [Vetropack](#), one of Europe's leading manufacturers of glass packaging, is cautiously ramping up operations again at its Gostomel plant in Ukraine. The company began heating up one of two remaining furnaces yesterday. The [production facility in Gostomel](#) had been severely damaged during a Russian military attack at the end of February 2022. Now, with the resumption of production, the site is prepared for potential new crisis scenarios. Meanwhile, a foundation set up by the Vetropack Group is disbursing funds to Ukrainian colleagues particularly affected by the war.

After a stop of just over a year, production of glass packaging is starting up again at Vetropack's Ukrainian site PrJSC Gostomel near Kyiv. From 25 May, the first melting furnace will be brought up to temperature and filled, with the first new glass likely to be produced in June. "For now, we are very happy to be able to resume production," says Pavel Prinko, General Manager of Ukraine and Republic of Moldova Business Unit.

Vetropack is initially resuming the production of white glass for food and drinks, as this is where the company sees the greatest demand. "The domestic market has slowly been recovering, and many companies are restarting production," says Prinko. "We expect demand for glass packaging for food and drinks to increase in 2023 by about seven per cent vs 2022, which is in line with our production capacity." The heat-up of the second furnace is set to follow soon.

The priority in resuming operations is to protect the workforce. In addition, the site is prepared for all possible emergency scenarios. Vetropack has developed various engineering scenarios in an effort to ensure energy supply in the event of blackouts. The company remodeled the electrical distribution system and installed additional generators. Corresponding contingency plans have also been put in place for possible gas supply disruptions.

139 new employees

Until the outbreak of the war, Vetropack produced a variety of glass packaging with three furnaces and eight production lines at the Ukrainian site. On 24 February 2022, however, the company had to begin shutting down production for safety reasons. A short time later, the plant sustained severe damage – one of the three furnaces was destroyed beyond repair. Due to this damage, the company was forced to cut around two thirds of the approximately 600 jobs at the site. Vetropack has now hired 139 employees – primarily former staff of the site – to resume production.

Vetropack Foundation Gostomel disburses aid

Vetropack set up a foundation in the summer of 2022 to support employees whose house or flat was destroyed or who were seriously injured. Employees from other locations, business partners and customers donated money for this purpose – CHF 960,000 were collected in just a few months. At the beginning of 2023, the Vetropack Gostomel Foundation began disbursing the first funds. By April 2023, Vetropack had already supported more than 50 employees.

Images:



Image 1

Vetropack's Ukrainian site PrJSC Gostomel was severely damaged by a military attack in 2022. Significant clean-up work and repairs have been done.



Image 2

Vetropack began heating up one of the two intact melting furnaces in Gostomel on 25 May 2023. However, first they had to manually extract glass that had solidified in the furnaces.



Image 3

Start of production in Gostomel: 139 employees will (re)start work in the newly repaired and cleared plant.

About Vetropack Group

At Vetropack, we enable people to enjoy food and beverages as safely as possible by providing solutions that combine optimum elegance with maximum responsibility. We view glass as the most sustainable packaging solution – and the perfect material to ensure that food is packaged safely. Our holistic Service plus+ approach helps our customers to optimise their value chains and guarantee consumers' safety. Close, long-lasting relationships are the hallmarks of our collaboration with partners. Guided by our understanding of environmental responsibility and cost efficiency, we aim to minimise our carbon footprint throughout the supply chain, and we are committed to recycling as the key to optimising product life-cycles.

Vetropack Group is one of Europe's leading manufacturers of glass packaging for the food and beverage industry with around 4,000 employees and net revenues of CHF 899.4 million in 2022. Vetropack has state-of-the-art production facilities as well as sales and distribution offices in Switzerland, Austria, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Slovakia, Ukraine, Italy, the Republic of Moldova and Romania.

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