

Healthcare industry BW

ColepCCL: A creative hub to prepare for the company's move into the life sciences

ColepCCL Rapid-Spray, a ColepCLL subsidiary based in Laupheim, Germany, has made a name for itself as the largest European contract filler of aerosols. However, ColepCLL, which employs around 3,500 people in five countries, is now planning to open up new fields of activity in the life sciences area. The Laupheim branch has recently relocated some of its activities to its Innovation Centre in Laupheim. According to the company's managing director, Andreas Maurer, the company is now reorienting its business around (bio)pharmacy and medicine in order to break into the healthcare market, which is a sector with huge future potential, and focus on the sustained development of the company.

During the economic crisis, the company was forced to close two production sites. The managing director of ColepCCL Rapid-Spray and European Operations Director, Andreas Maurer, expects the company to reach its pre-crisis production volume by the end of 2010 (one billion units per year). Maurer believes that the company will need to find solutions for product cycles that are becoming increasingly rapid. The company will close down its last traditional aerosol line at the end of 2010, which means that it will have completely renewed its product portfolio over the last five years.

Multinational team is working on plans for the future

"We are moving away from the traditional filling business and plan to become a problem solver in new areas," said the ColepCCL Rapid-Spray managing director explaining the company's vision. An international team of 25 people has now moved into the company's Laupheim-based Innovation Centre, a creative hub where the team is coming up with ideas to prepare the company's sales, research and development activities for the future.

ColepCCL Rapid-Spray, which employs around 230 people at its Laupheim-based site, has been producing aerosol products since 1962. When the company outgrew the original building, the logistics centre, administration and a development laboratory were relocated to the Innovation Centre, where a team of chemists not only develops services for the cosmetics industry. In addition, a creative team is developing strategies and products to facilitate the company's entry into new industries and its effort to tap into new markets.

The think-tank in the Innovation Centre has already come up with the first product for application in the life sciences, a two-chamber system for an international chemistry company. Ulrich Ader from the company's healthcare business also envisages that the company will produce new ways of applying biopharmaceuticals that are currently administered intravenously.

The first cooperative projects are taking the company in the right direction



Andreas Maurer is now planning to open up new fields of activity in the life sciences area.
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The company currently has a wound healing system called "professional sanitising" in development. Another project, in which the company is working with a laboratory from North-Rhine Westphalia to develop a new approach involving bacteriophages to solve the problem of antibiotics resistance in the food sector, is well underway. The company is also developing small cartridges that can be filled with liquid carbon dioxide for the transport of organs for transplantation.

ColepCCL, which also owns the Laupheim-based company ColepCCL Rapid-Spray, is a manufacturer of aerosol products in personal care, beauty, healthcare and homecare markets. ColepCCL also manufactures cans and tins for varnishes, biscuits, lubricants and olive oil that are marketed throughout Europe. ColepCCL was established in 2004, as a result of the merger between Colep and the European contract division of CCL Industries. CLL left the company group in November 2007. Colep is part of the Portuguese RAR Group which owns 100 per cent of ColepCCL shares and is the sole shareholder of the new company.