

**GEBO CERMEX VIRTUAL COMMISSIONING PROJECT IS RECOGNISED BY THE ALLIANCE INDUSTRIE DU FUTUR**

Gebo Cermex, a world leader in innovative packaging line solutions, has received the official mark “*Vitrine Industrie du Future*”, awarded by the *Alliance Industrie Du Futur (AIF)* in recognition of its efforts to introduce, develop and implement Industry 4.0 initiatives at its plant in Saint Laurent sur Sèvre, France. On receiving the award, the company has highlighted the importance of investing in Industry 4.0 possibilities to build long term competitive advantage.



This mark is awarded by AIF to companies that implement new tools such as digital data exchange and advanced robotics to drive the transformation of business models and organisations as well as design and marketing methods.

Gebo Cermex has been actively working along these lines and this award recognises the significant contribution made by its Virtual Commissioning project – which was led by the team based in Saint Laurent sur Sèvre. Key achievements – which helped the company to meet in full the requirements listed by AIF – included a 20-30% decrease in lead times and production costs; a long-term approach towards zero defects, dramatically improving quality and accuracy; and increased reliability, due to the ability to show customers, in advance, details about the performance of their equipment.

Commenting on the recognition, Christian Bock, Vice President Operations at Gebo Cermex, said: “A typical commissioning phase, when new equipment has to be physically assembled and tested in a workshop, takes approx. 200 hours - with 46% spent in problem solving activities, and 54% covering testing and tuning. The real innovation of our Virtual Commissioning project is that we are able to dramatically decrease the time and costs involved, while anticipating the challenges the equipment might face when installed in the actual production environment. In fact, the Gebo Cermex engineers use advanced tools to virtually build the full machine, checking, in parallel, even the smallest details. This allows them to export the virtual model in the simulation tool and to visualise how the equipment behaves. The virtual 3D model can be viewed, operated and animated via a Human Machine Interface (HMI). Moreover, the virtual commissioning allows for a 3D model to perform a big part of the de-bugging process ahead of installation and it is possible to simulate many scenarios in which the equipment might be working when integrated in the customer’s plant, without using the actual machine.”

Earlier this year, Gebo Cermex unveiled its Agility 4.0™ programme, designed to enable producers to manufacture small production batches at cost levels typically associated with mass production, without compromising on key performance criteria such as Overall Equipment Effectiveness (OEE), Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) and sustainability, to name but a few. It represents a proven, pragmatic approach to make the benefits of Industry 4.0 possible: from initial virtual design to total mastery of the extended factory, the Agility 4.0 programme encompasses smart machines, system and data intelligence, digital connectivity and powerful simulation tools, all within a philosophy of sustainable production.



[www.gebocermex.com](http://www.gebocermex.com)

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**PRESS CONTACT**

**Lucia Freschi**  
+39(0) 521 999452  
[lucia.freschi@sidel.com](mailto:lucia.freschi@sidel.com)

On receiving the official mark “*Vitrine Industrie du Future*”, Marc Aury, President and Managing Director at Gebo Cermex, said: “Industry 4.0 is currently a much-discussed topic in manufacturing. With people now showing different consumer behaviours that influence their purchasing decisions, and distribution looking for more customised delivery methods and increased responsiveness, the packaging industry needs to find new ways to improve line operations in terms of speed, efficiency, flexibility and versatility, to protect its competitiveness in a global, fast-changing market and help to secure the future of European businesses. We see this award as a clear recognition of our efforts, as the first SME (Small Medium Enterprise) to offer this type of service to its customers.”



## **ABOUT GEBO CERMEX**

In a complex industry where know-how is everything, Gebo Cermex is formed from the union of two strong brands: Gebo & Cermex, gathering packaging line engineering experience across a range of market segments from beverages and food to pharmaceuticals, via home and personal care. For over half a century, our experts have improved the performance of production and packaging lines in some of the most demanding industries. Today more than 37,000 equipment and system installations bear our signature. We add value to our customers’ business in four dimensions, from equipment design and manufacturing to line engineering, services and line improvement. Headquartered in the French city of Strasbourg, Gebo Cermex is a people-centric organization with over 2,000 employees and over 20 commercial and manufacturing sites in all major regions around the world.

**No-one knows packaging lines like we do: we are First in line!**



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[lucia.freschi@sidel.com](mailto:lucia.freschi@sidel.com)