

NATURE, HISTORY, MUSIC AND CULTURE... COLOMBIA IS FULL OF BEAUTY AND SPECIAL PLACES, SUCH AS BUGA, A HIDDEN GEM IN THE HEART OF THE VALLE DEL CAUCA REGION, WHERE WE ALSO DISCOVER ENTREPRENEURIAL EXCELLENCES SUCH AS THE FADEPLAST COMPANY, WHICH, FOR THE PRODUCTION OF PET BOTTLES FOR "PRIVATE LABELS", HAS CHOSEN SMI COMPACT STRETCH-BLOW MOULDERS OF THE EBS K ERGON SERIES.

# FADEPLAST

➤ **SECTOR CONVERTER**  
FADEPLAST BUGA S.A.S. - QBCo Group  
Guadalajara de Buga, Colombia

➤ Rotary Stretch – Blow Moulder EBS 4 K ERGON





# COLOMBIA

## BETWEEN TRADITION AND INNOVATION

A trip to Colombia is a dive into history, culture and nature. In addition to beautiful cities such as Bogotá, Medellín, Cali or Cartagena, this country of more than 50 million inhabitants also fascinates with the colourful Barranquilla Carnival, the second most important in Latin America after that of Rio de Janeiro. Colombia also amazes with its

natural beauty, such as the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta mountain range and the Tayrona National Park. But, if you're looking for a hidden gem, Buga is definitely the ideal town. Buga, officially known as Guadalajara de Buga, is a pretty town in the heart of the department of Valle del Cauca, in the western part of the country; it is a place that stands out for its authentic and relaxed atmosphere, colonial

charm and the presence of the great Basilica of Our Lord of Miracles, a place of worship that attracts thousands of pilgrims every year. Buga is also the headquarters of the company Fadeplast, a leader in the production of PET containers for third parties, which is part of the QBCo Group, one of the largest industrial companies in Colombia.



# QBCo GROUP

## A STRONG PARTNER THAT TURNS CUSTOMERS' IDEAS INTO REALITY

The Colombian QBCo Group is a strategic ally for many companies operating in the production and packaging of sauces, margarine, oil, vinegar, jams, soft drinks, cured meats, dairy products, cheeses, dry mixtures and vegan products. In this industrial field, each operator markets a wide variety of brands, so the success of a product on the market also depends on the right combination between the product itself and the packaging through which it reaches consumers. The ability to attract the attention of those who shop is, for example, a considerable advantage

over those who propose a less attractive or more anonymous "dressing" on the shelves in stores.

Not to mention that the process that starts from the idea of launching a new product, to the moment of its actual introduction on the market, can be very long and challenging, especially for many food "start-ups".

For this reason, many manufacturers rely on the skills and professionalism of "co-packers" such as QBCo, whose structure takes care of customer needs by offering a 360° service, which starts from production planning to the sale and distribution of products, ensuring high

flexibility in the processing times of the various brands and timeliness in deliveries.

The numerous and varied production activities of this Colombian conglomerate are carried out within 8 technologically advanced plants located in strategic areas and easily supplied with raw materials; among them there is also the Fadeplast plant in Buga, which stands on an area of 1500 m<sup>2</sup>, whose production processes have the most important quality certifications.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE QBCO GROUP





## PRODUCTION OF BOTTLES IN PET FOR THIRD PARTIES

**F**adeplast Buga S.A.S. operates in the field of manufacturing a wide range of plastic products. Founded in 2013, the Colombian company currently boasts a prominent position among the operators in the “converter” sector, i.e. manufacturers of containers intended mainly for the plants of companies in the “food & beverage” sector. In just over a decade, Fadeplast has reached a prominent position thanks to a constant growth in turnover; An entrepreneurial success that has made it necessary to invest in new technologies to

meet the strong demand for empty bottles from the market. To meet these needs, the Buga-based company turned to SMI for the supply of a fourth compact rotary stretch-blow moulder model EBS 4 K ERGON, which is added to the three already supplied previously. Since 2019, Fadeplast, in fact, has been producing a wide variety of PET and rPET containers using the latest generation SMI stretch-blow moulders of the EBS K ERGON series, a range of compact high-performance machines, which, in a single module, integrate

the preform heating furnace and the stretch-blow moulding section. This is the ideal solution to allow the user of the system high flexibility and maximum efficiency in the production of various types of containers intended for the packaging of water, carbonated drinks, oil, sauces, household detergents, etc. The EBS K ERGON series by SMI offers the advantage of allowing format changes to be carried out quickly and easily and machine management and maintenance operations with great ease.

## LOOKING AFTER LOTS OF BRANDS

**F**adeplast was created with the aim of responding to the countless requests from companies producing beverages, food, detergents, etc., which need a wide range of empty PET and rPET containers for bottling their brands. Many operators in the sector, especially small ones, carry out very varied productions in their plants, with the need therefore to frequently change format to go from one type of bottle to another or from one pack configuration to another. These businesses must therefore rely on the technology and professionalism of companies such as Fadeplast in order to have the containers they need, without having to invest

in the purchase of a stretch-blow moulder to produce them internally. Customers who turn to Buga’s Colombian company know that they can count on the expertise and attention of an experienced partner, able to assist them at every stage of the production process and the choice of raw materials. For the blow moulding of high-quality, high-performance bottles, Fadeplast uses the best raw materials available on the market and continuously invests in new technologies capable of ensuring high competitiveness, as demonstrated by the purchase of four compact stretch-blow moulders from the EBS K ERGON series by SMI.



### ➤ WHY DO MANY COMPANIES BUY EMPTY BOTTLES ON THE MARKET?

- Because the bottler can have the required containers at his disposal without having to invest in the purchase of a stretch-blow moulder.
- Because outsourcing is an eco-sustainable solution, since converters like Fadeplast have state-of-the-art systems that reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- Because small and medium-sized enterprises in the sector benefit from the skills, professionalism and support of those who deal exclusively with the production of containers.
- Because by purchasing empty containers, beverage and food manufacturers can focus on bottling, packaging and distribution activities.



# SMI SOLUTIONS FOR FADEPLAST



## → LESS PLASTICS, MORE LIFE

The research and development of new solutions, together with investments in new technologies and cutting-edge equipment, have allowed Fadeplast Buga to specialise in the production of lighter and more eco-sustainable containers than traditional ones, allowing customers to save on preform material. Furthermore, thanks to the use of efficient stretch-blow moulders, during the blow moulding process, the Colombian company is able to obtain a perfect distribution of the material on the walls of the container and to blow it with the lowest possible weight. Fadeplast uses high-quality and 100% recyclable preforms, in perfect harmony with the innovative concepts of the "bottle to bottle" production system.

The containers made are suitable for food, as they are blown with compressed air filtered by special devices that prevent the passage of bacteria and therefore the contamination of the products to be bottled. The Buga-based company also produces a wide variety of containers for operators in the detergent, cleaning and oil sectors.



## → ROTARY STRETCH-BLOW MOULDER EBS 4 K ERGON

**Functions:** stretch-blow moulding of bottles in PET and rPET of various capacities.

**The key benefits of the stretch-blow moulder EBS K for third party production:**

- plant that meets the needs of flexibility, cost-effectiveness and efficiency of large-scale production
- simple and fast format changes, in order to be able to quickly switch from one bottle format to another and immediately adapt to the changing needs of the converters customer companies
- compact and ergonomic machine design: the preform heating section is integrated into a single module with the bottle stretch-blow moulding section
- highly flexible and high-performance technology, capable of processing various formats on the same machine (from 0.2 L to 3 L)
- solution also suitable for the production of lightweight and recyclable containers
- easy management and maintenance: the blow moulding machine has a low height and therefore no ladders are required for maintenance operations; In addition, the electrical panels are grouped in a single, easily accessible area
- system equipped with two-stage air recovery fitted as standard
- energy-saving furnace panels with even heat distribution
- reduced energy consumption: the stretch-blow moulding carousel is equipped with motorised ironing rods controlled by digital drives, which do not require compressed air
- reduced furnace consumption: optimized chain pitches according to the preform diameter
- reduced pre-blow and blow times and improved quality of the bottles produced
- less wear and greater precision of management of the blow moulding machine, thanks to the movement of the grippers based on a system of preform grippers/bottles without springs equipped with desmodromic cams
- control panel equipped with a simple and intuitive operator interface.





# BUGA

## A HIDDEN GEM

**G**uadalajara de Buga, or simply Buga, is one of the oldest cities in Colombia. Founded in 1555 by Giraldo Gil de Estupiñán under the order of the Spanish conquistador Sebastián de Belalcázar, this town was home to many wealthy families from Spain. Today it is a pretty town of more than 100,000 inhabitants located in the heart of the Valle del Cauca region and an important destination for many Colombians who visit it for religious reasons, thanks to the presence of the Basilica del Señor de los

Milagros (the Lord of Miracles).

Buga is surrounded by the natural beauty of Valle del Cauca, whilst the city's proximity to the Andes Mountains offers breathtaking views such as Lake Sonso. The place also offers a great mix of culture, history and daily life that pervades the streets lined with well-preserved buildings; The latter, with their colourful facades and traditional tiled roofs, reflect the city's long history dating back to the Spanish colonial era.

### ➤ VALLE CAUCA, THE ROUTE OF EMOTIONS

Valle del Cauca is a fertile region of western Colombia, where, thanks to the particular ecosystem, a lot of sugar cane is produced; is a valley surrounded by the Andes Mountains and characterised by jungle, swamps and beaches on the Pacific.

The Valle del Cauca is also a route of emotions that involves nature, music and culture and leads to the discovery of the San Cipriano Nature Reserve, an unspoilt tropical forest embellished with numerous waterfalls, where you can go birdwatching, whale watching or visit the sugar cane museum.