

Premiere in Romania: The Coca-Cola system in Romania becomes the first local beverage producer with its own recycled PET manufacturing unit.

The entire beverage portfolio will be bottled in 100% recycled PET (rPET)

- *Investment of 55 million RON, of which 17.5 million RON represents state aid, for the new in-house production facility of recycled PET*
- *Romania – the second country in the Coca-Cola HBC Group to use this innovative technology for in-house production of rPET.*
- *Starting this year, the company's entire portfolio of soft drinks - Coca-Cola, Fanta, Sprite, Schweppes, Cappy, Fuzetea - will be bottled in 100% rPET packaging.*
- *The project ensures a circular approach, in line with the objectives of the Coca-Cola System to expand the use of recycled PET by 2030 and reduce carbon emissions to net zero, across the entire value chain, by 2040.*
- *Significant emissions reduction: the rPET flakes have an 80% lower carbon footprint than the PET resin; this rPET production unit uses 100% electricity from renewable sources, meaning no emissions generated.*
- *The investment comes in the context of a broad long-term investment strategy in state-of-the-art equipment with a positive impact on the efficiency of operations and the environment. In the last 5 years, the Coca-Cola system in Romania has invested approximately RON 1 billion to improve production capacity and will continue.*

Bucharest, October 4, 2023. For the first time in Romania, a beverage producer will produce recycled PET (rPET) in-house, that will be used for the packaging of its beverages. The Coca-Cola System in Romania - consisting of The Coca-Cola Company and Coca-Cola HBC- installed a PET decontamination unit in the Ploiesti plant, the second largest plant within the Coca-Cola HBC Group, thereby acquiring the unique capability to produce recycled PET (rPET) in-house. The investment supports the transition of the entire PET packaging portfolio of the Coca-Cola System to 100% recycled PET (rPET), having the possibility of a constant supply of food grade recycled plastic. By turning old bottles into new ones, the investment helps create a circular economy for packaging, with fewer carbon emissions generated.

"Efforts to improve our activity from an environmental perspective have been constant throughout the local presence of the Coca-Cola System, supported by continuous investments in operations and sustainability. The investment in our own recycled PET facility is a pioneering initiative on the local market and places Romania as the second country within the Coca-Cola HBC group that uses this innovative technology to produce food grade rPET. We are proud of this achievement, made possible by the determination of the local team and by the collaboration with institutional and private partners in Romania.

The investment in this rPET production unit was approved to become operational at the same time as the largest circular economy project ever implemented in Romania: the Deposit-Return System, which will become operational at the end of the year. We have been involved from the beginning in this joint effort of beverage producers, retailers and the Romanian Government and we are confident that we will have a successful system with the potential to boost the separate collection of plastic, glass or aluminium beverage packaging. Through DRS, beverage producers will be able to access quality raw

material to use in their packaging. At the same time, we are confident that soon the Deposit-Return System in Romania will become an example of good practice for the rest of the European states that are going to implement it." – **Jovan Radosavljevic, General Manager, Coca-Cola HBC Romania**

"We have a responsibility to contribute to solving the global challenge of packaging waste and we aim to make a change for the better through everything we do: the way our drinks are made, the design of the packaging and what happens to it after the drinks are consumed. And this inauguration, as well as the constant innovations and investments over the years, demonstrate our dedication to fulfilling this commitment. We are all part of this project, together with our partners, but also with consumers in Romania, who soon will be able to enjoy our beverages bottled in 100% rPET . Together we can contribute to change, and our message is simple: every simple gesture counts - every PET bottle, separately collected, can get a new life." – **Mark Docherty, General Manager, Coca-Cola Romania**

The investment comes in the context of a broad long-term investment strategy in state-of-the-art equipment with a positive impact on the efficiency of operations and the environment. In the last 5 years, the Coca-Cola system in Romania has invested approximately RON 1 billion to improve and expand production capacity. These investments represent an opportunity to create value and further contribute to the local economy by creating new jobs along the value chain and higher revenues to the state budget.

How it works

After sorting the PET packaging in a specialized facility, they will be transformed into PET flakes, which the company will purchase from constantly verified and audited suppliers to meet demanding quality standards in the food industry. In our plant in Ploiesti, PET flakes go through the last stages of the recycling process, respectively introduction into the sorting equipment, followed by their decontamination to be brought to the quality and safety standards specific to the food industry - a progressive process involving the removal of foreign materials, melting, decontamination and then transformation of rPET resin into granules. Finally, the resulting rPET granules will be transformed into preforms and then beverage containers. rPET bottles can be collected and recycled again.

Investment and benefits

- The installation of the new decontamination line follows a green investment of 55 million RON, of which 17.5 million RON represent state aid.
- The main advantage of in-house decontamination of PET flakes is the availability of quality raw material - recycled PET - a limited resource due to the very strict food safety standards that it must meet in order to be used in containers for drinks.
- The new unit will also facilitate the completion of the transition to 100% rPET packaging for the company's entire product portfolio. Until now, only the natural mineral water brand Dorna has been available in rPET packaging, and starting this autumn, the other brands -

Coca-Cola, Fanta, Sprite, Schweppes, Cappy, Cappy Pulpy and Fuzetea - will be bottled in 100% rPET.

- The project is developed in line with the company's goals to reduce emissions to net zero, accross the value chain, by 2040. The transition of the entire portfolio to rPET will also reflect in a significant reduction in emissions, as the rPET flakes used in our production process have an 80% lower carbon footprint than virgin PET resin. And all electricity used by this unit is 100% from renewable sources, meaning zero emissions generated.

About The Coca-Cola Company

The Coca-Cola Company (NYSE: KO) is a total beverage company with products sold in more than 200 countries and territories. Our company's purpose is to refresh the world and make a difference. We sell multiple billion-dollar brands across several beverage categories worldwide. Our portfolio of sparkling soft drink brands includes Coca-Cola, Sprite and Fanta. Our hydration, sports, coffee and tea brands include Dasani, smartwater, vitaminwater, Topo Chico, BODYARMOR, Powerade, Costa, Georgia, Gold Peak, Honest and Ayataka. Our nutrition, juice, dairy and plant-based beverage brands include Minute Maid, Simply, innocent, Del Valle, fairlife and AdeS. We're constantly transforming our portfolio, from reducing sugar in our drinks to bringing innovative new products to the market. We seek to positively impact people's lives, communities and the planet through water replenishment, packaging recycling, sustainable sourcing practices and carbon emissions reductions across our value chain. Together with our bottling partners, we employ more than 700,000 people, helping bring economic opportunity to local communities worldwide.

In Romania, as in all the countries where it operates, Coca-Cola owns and operates on the basis of its own system, including all the links necessary for the production and distribution of products to consumers. On a local level, the System consists of Coca-Cola Romania (subsidiary of The Coca-Cola Company, owner of the registered trademarks) and its partner, Coca-Cola HBC Romania, which bottles and distributes Coca-Cola products under The Coca-Cola Company license in Romania. According to the "Socio-economic Impact of the Coca-Cola System in Romania" study, based on financial data from 2021, the presence of this system on the local market generates an added value of 519 million euros, equivalent to 0.22% of GDP Romania.

Learn more at www.coca-colacompany.com and follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

About Coca-Cola HBC Romania

Coca-Cola HBC is the strategic bottling partner of The Coca-Cola Company. Together with our customers, we serve 715 million people, covering a vast geographic area in 29 countries and 3 continents. Our portfolio is one of the strongest, most complex and flexible in the beverage industry, offering consumers prestigious brands in carbonated soft drinks, juices, water, energy drinks, teas, coffee and premium spirits. We generate value for all our partners by supporting the socio-economic development of the communities in which we operate and believe that having a positive impact on the environment is vital to the future development of the business.

Coca-Cola HBC has been confirmed as the world's most sustainable beverage company according to the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI).*

As a leader in the local beverage industry, with 3 plants in Ploiesti, Timisoara and Poiana Negrii, Coca-Cola HBC Romania is an important contributor to the development of society and the local economy. The Coca-Cola HBC Romania team has an average of 1,500 employees.

According to the study "The socio-economic impact of the Coca-Cola System in Romania", based on financial data from 2022, the presence of this system on the local market generates an added value of 613 million euros, equivalent to 0.21% of Romania's GDP.

For more information about the company, please visit <https://ro.coca-colahellenic.com>.

**according to the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices results, published on 9 December 2022.*