

Stevanato Group and Gerresheimer AG Present EZ-fill Smart™, a New and Innovative Ready-To-Use Vial Platform

Leveraging the established EZ-fill® market-leading technology, process, and product optimization to improve quality, reduce total cost of ownership, and shorten lead times

PIOMBINO DESE, Italy--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- [Stevanato Group S.p.A.](https://www.stevanato.com) (NYSE: STVN), a global provider of drug containment, drug delivery and diagnostic solutions to the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and life sciences industries, and [Gerresheimer AG](https://www.gerresheimer.com), a leading global provider of healthcare & beauty and drug delivery systems for pharma, biotech and cosmetics, announced today at CPhI Worldwide the official launch of a new and innovative ready-to-use (RTU) vial platform, EZ-fill Smart™, a solution designed to improve drug packaging quality, reduce total cost of ownership (TCO), and shorten lead times for customers. The new EZ-fill Smart™ is an evolution of Stevanato Group's groundbreaking EZ-fill® platform, and it brings new advancements that can create significant enhancements to customer product offerings amid growing demand for RTU vials.

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Stevanato Group and Gerresheimer AG present EZ-fill Smart™, a new and innovative Ready-To-Use vial platform (Photo: Business Wire)

The companies have implemented process and product changes that can offer substantial improvements for customers. The EZ-fill Smart™ platform leverages increased automation throughout the manufacturing process to increase productivity and reduce human errors. The optimized platform features no glass-to-glass and no

glass-to-metal contact, which improves quality and integrity of the vials throughout the product life cycle. The companies have redesigned the secondary packaging, which can yield a significant reduction of particle risks during customers' operations, delivering

improved quality.

The new EZ-fill Smart™ now offers the market a sterilization method that is more environmentally friendly compared to traditional Ethylene Oxide (EtO) sterilization, and that is an alternative sterilization method that can result in improved safety. Intended to be suited for primary packaging solutions in use with highly sensitive drugs, it also incorporates guidelines given by regulatory bodies supporting the current direction to replace EtO sterilization. Together, Stevanato Group and Gerresheimer AG have obtained positive results to date and are in the validation process with this sustainable sterilization method.

EZ-fill Smart™ is intended to improve sustainability in multiple areas, increasing the packaging efficiency, implementing a new eco-friendly sterilization method, and using biopolymers and recycled plastic.

Developed in close cooperation with major machine vendors, EZ-fill Smart™ can provide a proven seamless integration with standard fill & finish operations. The platform also accommodates both small and large batch production. The companies have implemented advancements that can help ensure the processability on filling lines with the primary aim to facilitate the complete automation of the in-feeding process. Along with the Nest & Tub configuration, EZ-fill Smart™ will also be available in tray configuration to support and accelerate the conversion from bulk to RTU vials that is already underway in the market. Customers choosing this option can benefit from the improvements gained with the newly designed Nest & Tub configuration.

EZ-fill Smart™ with Nest & Tub configuration, including process and product optimization, is expected to be available for the commercial phase during the first half of 2024. By mid-2023 the new solution is expected to be available to customers for initial validation. EZ-fill Smart™ with tray configuration for high volume is expected to be available on the market during the first half of 2024.

“Our EZ-fill® technology is a well-established standard in the industrial process for RTU primary containment solutions, and the new and innovative EZ-fill Smart™ platform responds to increasing demand from customers for RTU products,” said Mauro Stocchi, Chief Business Officer at Stevanato Group. “We believe EZ-fill Smart™ will help pharma companies, CMOs, and CDMOs easily adopt the market-leading technology by optimizing quality, costs, and machinability while keeping our environmental impact in mind.”

“As an innovative and leading solution provider for the pharma and biotech industry, Gerresheimer responds to customer demand with a best-in-class solution. We are convinced that the new EZ-fill Smart™ platform is the next industry standard for RTU vials and in the future also for cartridges,” said Lukas Burkhardt, Member of the Executive Board of Gerresheimer AG. “The new platform will enable customers to optimize their processes, improve their quality and their CO2 footprint. In addition, our customers can benefit from a significant reduction in the total cost of ownership.”

EZ-fill Smart™ will be officially presented at CPhI Worldwide on November 1-3, 2022, in Frankfurt at Stevanato Group (booth 30F30 in hall 3.0) and Gerresheimer AG (booth 30 B21 in hall 3.0).

For more information, visit www.stevanatogroup.com or www.gerresheimer.com.

Forward-Looking Statements

This press release may include forward-looking statements. The words “growing,” “improves,” “will,” “expected,” “aim,” “increasing,” and similar expressions (or their negative) identify certain of these forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are statements regarding the Companies’ intentions, beliefs or current expectations concerning the collaboration. The forward-looking statements in this press release are based on numerous assumptions regarding the Companies’ present and future business strategies and the environment in which each Company will operate in the future. Forward-looking statements involve inherent known and unknown risks, uncertainties and contingencies because they relate to events and depend on circumstances that may or may not occur in the future and may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of the Companies to be materially different from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Many of these risks and uncertainties relate to factors that are beyond the Companies’ ability to control or estimate precisely, such as future market conditions, currency fluctuations, the behavior of other market participants, the actions of regulators and other factors such as the Companies’ ability to continue to obtain financing to meet its liquidity needs, changes in the political, social and regulatory framework in which the Company operates or in economic or technological trends or conditions. Readers should therefore not place undue reliance on these statements, particularly not in connection with any contract or investment decision. Except as required by law, none of the companies assumes no obligation to update any such forward-looking statements.

About Stevanato Group

Founded in 1949, Stevanato Group is a leading global provider of drug containment, drug delivery and diagnostic solutions to the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and life sciences industries. The Group delivers an integrated, end-to-end portfolio of products, processes and services that address customer needs across the entire drug life cycle at each of the development, clinical and commercial stages. Stevanato Group’s core capabilities in scientific research and development, its commitment to technical innovation and its engineering excellence are central to its ability to offer value added solutions to clients. To learn more, visit: www.stevanatogroup.com.

About Gerresheimer AG

Gerresheimer is the global partner for pharmaceuticals, biotech, healthcare, and cosmetics with a very broad product range for pharmaceutical and cosmetic packaging solutions and drug delivery systems. The company is an innovative solution provider from concept to delivery of the end product. Gerresheimer achieves its ambitious goals through a high level of innovative strength, industrial competence and concentration on quality and customer focus. In developing innovative and sustainable solutions, Gerresheimer relies on a comprehensive international network with numerous innovation and production centers in Europe, America and Asia. Gerresheimer produces close to its customers worldwide with around 11,000 employees and generated annual revenues in 2021 of around EUR 1.5b. With its products and solutions, Gerresheimer plays an essential role in people's health and well-being. For more information: www.gerresheimer.com.

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