

Containment reinvented: New FE WiP marks a technological leap in the processing of highly active ingredients

Schwarzenbek/Düsseldorf, May 7, 2026. At interpack 2026, Fette Compacting is unveiling a new Containment solution for the safe processing of highly active ingredients. The FE WiP (Wash-in-Place) combines state-of-the-art High Containment technology with easy operation and automated processes.

The market for High Potency Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (HPAPIs) is growing steadily. Processing these substances raises the requirements for protecting operators, the environment, and the product. With the new FE WiP, Fette Compacting is presenting its first Containment solution featuring next-generation WiP technology at interpack 2026. The new development brings together proven design principles from several machine series and combines them with state-of-the-art High Containment technology. The completely redesigned machine stands out in particular for its robot integration and a 50 percent reduction in product-contact surfaces compared to the previous generation.

"Our primary focus during the development of the FE WiP was to make operation as straightforward as possible while maintaining full Containment integrity," explains Dr. Martin Schöler, Vice President Technology at Fette Compacting. "Even the best Containment technology is of little value if it proves too complex in practice. The more we automate and integrate, the better we protect operators and the more we enable safe, efficient production."

In the FE WiP, a newly developed machine concept brings isolator, tablet press, and process equipment together into an integrated unit. This results in significantly fewer interfaces – and therefore fewer potential weak points in the process. The system is complemented by a WiP center that controls the cleaning processes, a new filter unit, and an innovative air management system. In addition, Fette Compacting's tableting specialists have integrated closed product return directly into the filling

system, along with single-punch lubrication. New operating software ensures flexible yet simple handling of the entire system.

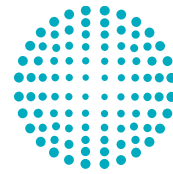
These technical solutions provide customers with the highest levels of process and product safety. The risk of contamination is minimal because hardly any powder residue remains in the machine. Closed-loop powder return significantly reduces product losses, and quality is monitored in real time within the closed system. The FE WiP thereby delivers maximum performance in a minimum footprint, future-proof flexibility, and minimized downtime during product changes. The system can process highly active ingredients up to the highest classification levels – including OEB6, with exposure limits in the nanogram range per cubic meter of air.

Paradigm shift: from cleanroom to integrated machine solution

The FE WiP thus also represents a fundamental change. Production under Containment conditions is shifting away from personal protective equipment and extensive cleanroom infrastructure toward integrated, cleanable, and validatable machine-based Containment packages. Not only the tablet press itself, but the entire process chain – including process equipment such as dust extractors, metal detectors, and air management – must be included in the Containment and cleaning logic.

"Containment is not a stand-alone topic; it runs through the entire production process," Dr. Martin Schöler explains. *"Those who understand the regulatory, technical, and economic interdependencies can develop solutions that improve safety, usability, and production efficiency at the same time. That is precisely the standard we set ourselves – and the standard we deliver with the FE WiP."*

On this technical foundation, OSD manufacturers can build strategic competitive advantages. Integrated Containment concepts enable more efficient changeover processes, lower validation effort, and more flexible use of production lines for a range of products.



Containment from Fette Compacting: expertise as the foundation for development

Fette Compacting draws on decades of experience in Containment for tablet production. Even in the standard configuration, many of the company's tablet presses operate dust-tight and under constant negative pressure. Extended Containment packages include hermetically sealed window flaps, permanently installed glove ports, Rapid Transfer Ports (RTP), manual extraction units, and continuous pressure monitoring. For the most demanding applications in High Containment, Fette Compacting relies on isolator technology with integrated Wash-in-Place (WiP) technology for automatic, safe pre-cleaning – without operators coming into direct contact with the active ingredients. Since 2017, the in-house Containment Guard procedure has systematically documented the retention performance of these systems in a standardized way.

About Fette Compacting

Fette Compacting is the world's leading provider of integrated solutions for industrial tablet production, with more than 6,000 tablet presses operating in production and more than 12,000 machines manufactured to date. The company has specialized in high-performance machines for the pharmaceutical, food, and chemical industries, as well as for special industrial applications. Headquartered in Schwarzenbek, near Hamburg, Germany, Fette Compacting has a second technology and production site in Nanjing, China and a research and development site in Mechelen, Belgium. As a comprehensive process partner, Fette Compacting offers integrated solutions for the entire product life cycle, from formulation development to ongoing production.

The company has an established presence in over 50 countries and is part of the LMT Group, a family-owned, mid-sized group of companies. With over 1,900 employees and more than 20 locations worldwide, the Group achieved a turnover of around 374 million euros in fiscal year 2024.

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