



Diam Bouchage is investing 3.6 million euros in a new AI-driven packaging system at its industrial site in Céret (Pyrénées-Orientales)

Press release – April 23, 2026

As the world's second-largest producer of cork closures, Diam Bouchage is upgrading its packaging lines as part of its industrial modernization plan through 2030, with the aim of strengthening the competitiveness of its French manufacturing facility through quality, responsiveness, and improved working conditions.

This project, which has been recognized and praised by the Minister of Industry, Sébastien Martin, incorporates artificial intelligence into its operations and once again demonstrates Diam Bouchage's ability to invest heavily in cutting-edge technologies to showcase its French expertise in more than 80 countries.

On April 23, the Céret-based company unveiled its new automated packaging line in the presence of Pierre Regnault de la Mothe, Prefect of the Pyrénées-Orientales, and Hermeline Malherbe, President of the Department.

From visual inspection to robotic automation: Diam Bouchage innovates to enhance customer satisfaction and improve working conditions

Since January 2026, three new automated packaging lines have replaced the old manual lines. Previously, an operator visually inspected 45,000 closures per hour. Batches of 10,000 closures were then assembled, and a second operator manually sealed the bags and boxes before stacking them on pallets.

Thanks to the three new automated packaging lines, the closures are now fed into an **optical inspection machine, powered by artificial intelligence, to verify their quality and compliance**. The batches are then processed directly by the new bagging machine, and a **robot seals the cartons and stacks them on a pallet** autonomously.



This new industrial tool offers three significant advancements for Diam Bouchage:

- **Skill development for operators:** visual inspection was both difficult and tiring, compounded by the physical strain of carrying bags of closures weighing over 10 kg. Diam Bouchage supported its employees in adapting their roles so they could become operators of this new machine. Three employees have just been hired on permanent contracts to help operate this new equipment. With this investment, the Céret plant has reached a milestone in automation and in the transformation of maintenance roles.
- **Significant quality improvement:** thanks to artificial intelligence, this equipment prevents unauthorized access while reinforcing the stringent food safety requirements under FSSC 22000 certification¹. This advancement strengthens Diam's premium positioning in the high-tech closure

¹ FSSC 22000 certification, based on the ISO 22000 standard, combines the shared food safety requirements of distributors and manufacturers.

sector by serving the world's finest wineries.

- **Increased responsiveness:** in a market that is increasingly operating on a just-in-time basis, the new packaging machine can package up to 3 million closures per day.

A major investment in line with Diam Bouchage's strong industrial roots in France

The investment to build this new packaging area amounts to **3.6 million euros**:

"We package nearly 500 million closures every year at our Céret plant for shipment worldwide. It was important to use primarily French equipment suppliers to support us in automating our packaging operations. The teams are proud to be part of the transformation of the plant to meet current and future challenges," explains François Garcia, Director of the Diam Bouchage plant in Céret.

"As part of this project and in line with our 2030 goals, 4 new products are scheduled to be launched at the Céret site within the next 12 months. This confirms the group's commitment to its industrial footprint in France, Occitania, and Catalonia," adds Eric Feunteun, CEO of Diam Bouchage.

About Diam Bouchage

Diam Bouchage, the French Oeneo Group's closure division, is the world's leading manufacturer of technological cork closures. As inventor of the closure "free of cork taint", 20 years ago Diam Bouchage created the Diamant® process that exploits the properties of supercritical CO2 to extract the volatile compounds of cork and thus provide all Diam closures with unrivaled organoleptic neutrality. Based in Céret in the Pyrénées-Orientales region of France (66), the company is managed by Eric Feunteun and has 653 employees spread across 3 production sites in Céret (France), San Vicente de Alcantara (Spain), and Fiaes (Portugal). It designs, manufactures and markets closure solutions for still wines, sparkling wines and spirits that are sold worldwide through a network of over 100 distributors. Diam Bouchage generated sales of €222.5 million as of March 31, 2025, and produces 2 billion closures per year.

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