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## **Alcoa Bottle Cap Manufacturing In South America**

*by Barbara Khol*

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The US-based Alcoa corporation recently opened Alusud Embalajes, a plastic soda bottle cap manufacturing plant, in the Barracas suburb of Buenos Aires, Argentina. Plant capacity is 35 million threaded caps per month. Output is destined for markets in Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. Investment in the Barracas plant totaled US\$5 million. In March, a similar facility commenced operations in Chile, and another is under construction in Colombia. The Chilean plant will serve the domestic market, and the Colombian facility's output is to be distributed in Ecuador and Venezuela. Alcoa expansion in South America is administered by the company's office in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The Alcoa cap manufacturing plant in Brazil plans to expand output from 100 million to 160 million units per month. Alcoa's annual sales receipts come to US\$11 billion. Although the company's main business is aluminum, Alcoa also ranks as the largest producer worldwide of plastic threaded caps. Alcoa produces 23 billion aluminum and plastic caps per year. (Basic data from Jornal do Brasil, 05/15/92)

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