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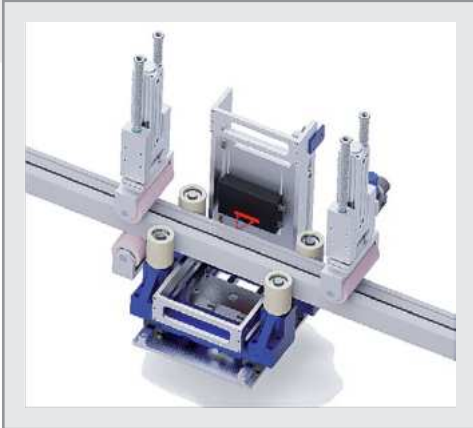
EXTRUSION INTERNATIONAL

USA



Regular RECYCLING Section p. 45

Stein Profile Stacker



Profile length measurement during extrusion

Measuring sensors are used to determine the length of individual profiles before a profile layer is formed.

The measured length can be used to check and correct the cutting device of the extrusion line or for documentation (quality assurance) of the produced profile lengths.



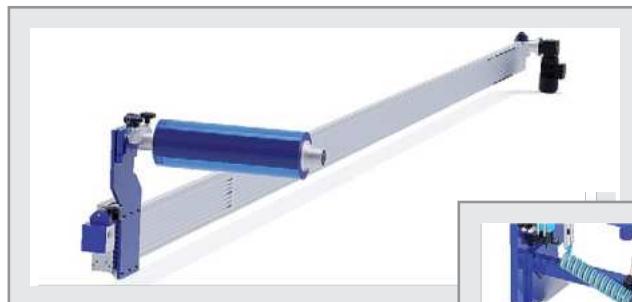
Cassette handling

The handling system allows empty cassettes to be fed into the automatic stacker and the filled cassettes to be pushed out.



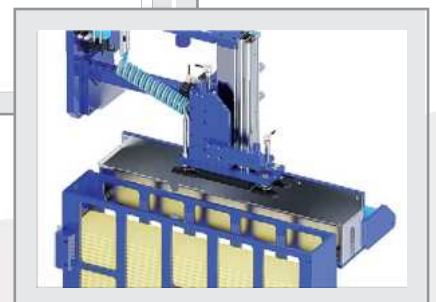
**NEW
VERSION**

Completely enclosed work area
or secured with a light barrier.

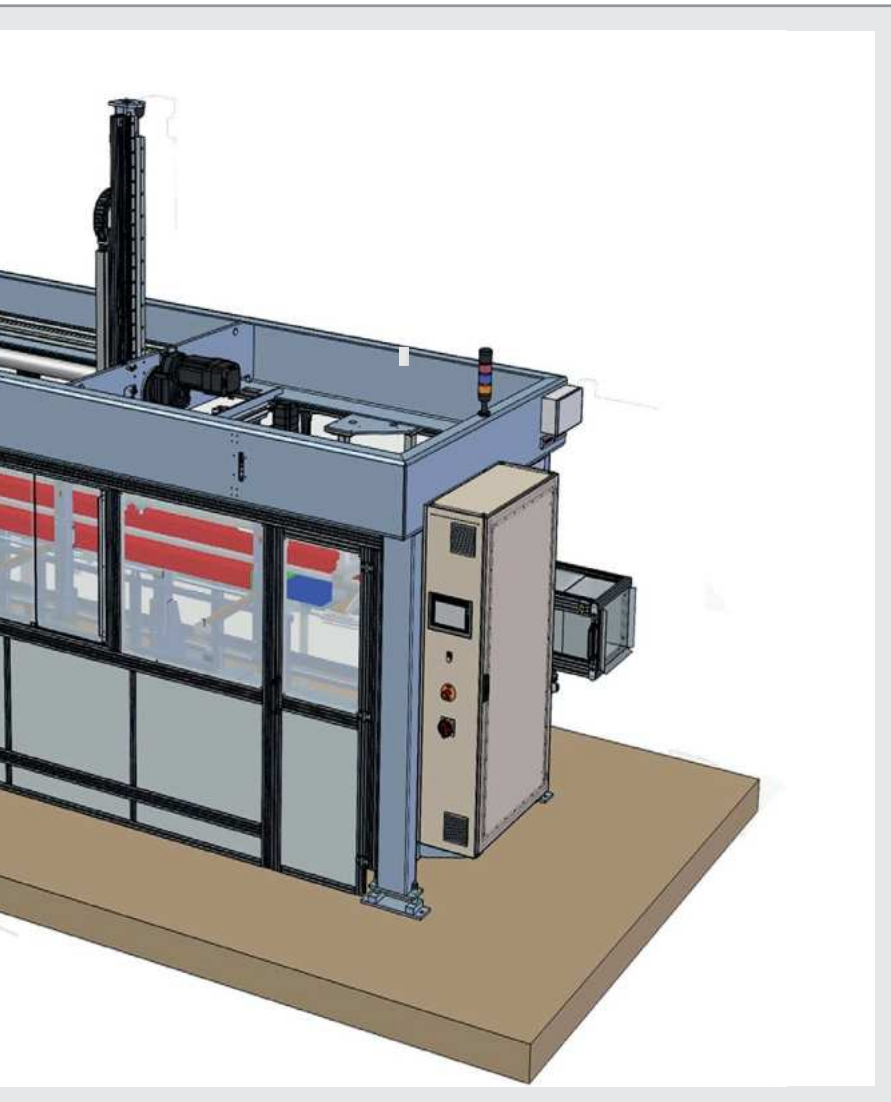


Profile interlayer

Endlessly laid as a foil between the profile layers or with individual strips laid on the layer.



**As a specialist in the field of
special machine construction,
we always find a solution!**



Cassette spreader

With the help of a cassette spreader it is possible to realise the same packing density of the manual packaging.



Stacking of special profiles

Stein Maschinenbau offers technical solutions for stacking of heavy and large monoblock profiles.

Based on decades of experience, we can unusual profile geometries or special layer can be evaluated for their automated stacking.



Weight determination during extrusion

With the help of special weighing units, individual profiles can be weighed before a profile layer is formed. The determined weight can be used to optimise the extrusion.



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SML announces the launch of the FlexiPET, a brand-new production-scale demonstration line for thermoforming sheet located at SML's Technology Centre. The line features a completely redesigned machine architecture, and delivers smart innovations at every level



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With the new M²-USG generation, MAAG introduces a system designed to deliver enhanced process stability, higher throughput, and consistently superior pellet quality

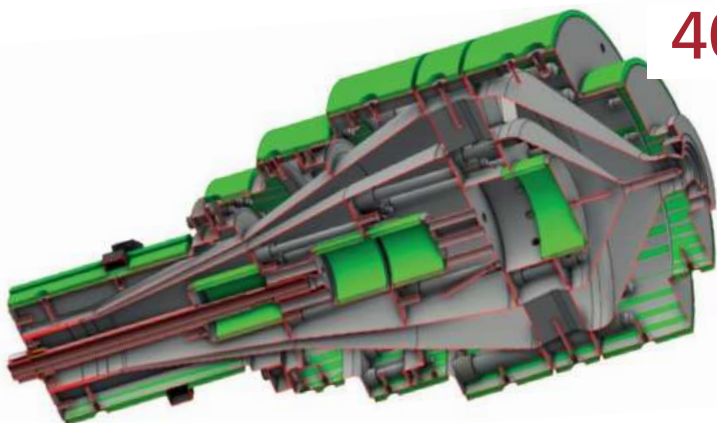


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Hosokawa Alpine has thoroughly modernised its test centre for blown film applications at its Augsburg site. Customers can develop their ideal film formulation there

CONEXTRU has recently released a new generation of PVC pipe heads, which are suitable for use with U-PVC, M-PVC and O-PVC. This product is designed specifically for C-PVC or 100% regrinded PVC material

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Czech packaging specialist UNIPACK has modernized its polyester strapping tape production line by replacing an existing extruder with a Gneuss OMNI extrusion system

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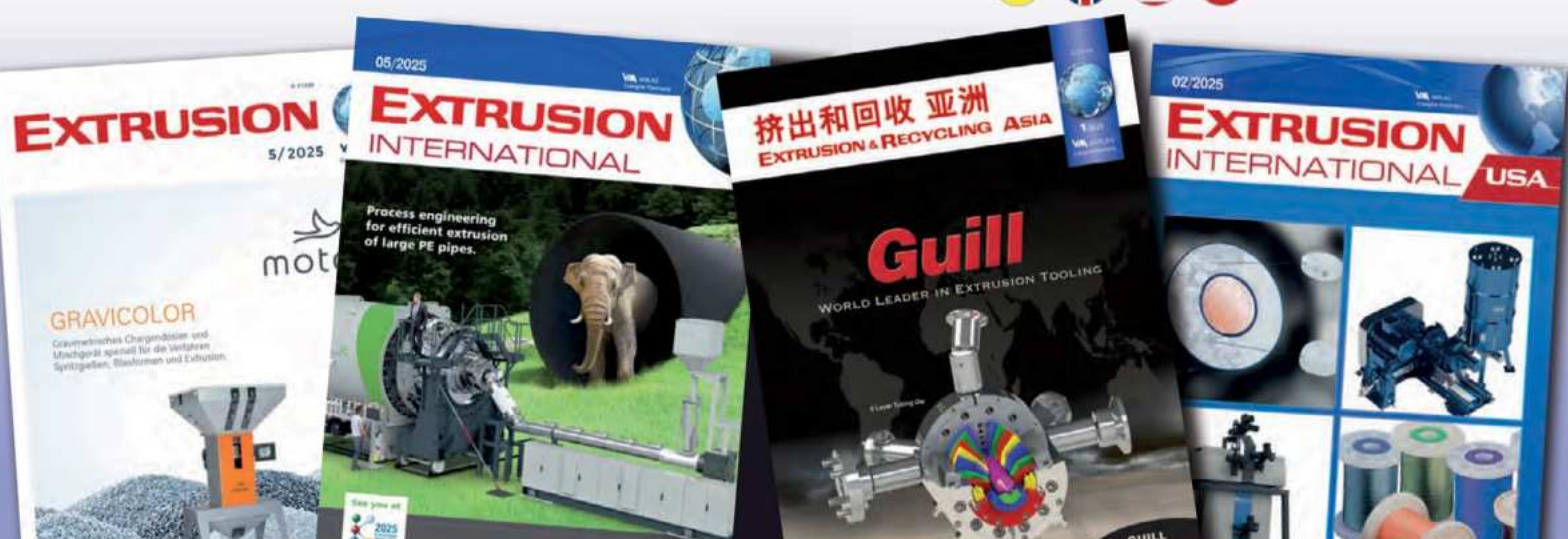
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MEDIA DATA 2026

MAGAZINE · WEBSITE · NEWSLETTER

EXTRUSION

EXPERT MEDIA ON PLASTICS EXTRUSION





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Fakuma 2026

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Friedrichshafen / Germany
► www.fakuma-messe.de

interpack China 2026

16 – 18 November 2026
Shanghai / P.R. China
► www.interpack-cn.com

wire India and Tube India 2026

30 November – 2 December 2026
Mumbai / India
► www.wire-india.com
► www.tube-india.com

Anuga FoodTec 2027

23 – 26 February 2027
Cologne / Germany
► www.anugafoodtec.de

ArabPlast

24 - 26 March 2027
Dubai / U.A.E.
► arabplast.info

USE 2027

20 – 23 April 2027
Düsseldorf / Germany
► www.USE-expo.de

NPE2027

03 - 07 May 2027
Orlando, FL / USA
► <https://e.plasticsindustry.org/>

Plastasia 2027

20 – 23 May 2027
New Delhi / India
► www.plastasia.in

Pipe Conference – PPXXIII

27 - 29 September 2027
Houston, Texas / USA
► <https://ppxxiii.com>

GREENPLAST

28 May – 1 June 2028
Milan / Italy
► www.greenplast.org



K 2028 Advisory Board begins Preparations for the World's Leading Trade Fair

The inaugural meeting of the Exhibitor Advisory Board has marked the start of preparations for K 2028. The world's leading trade fair for the plastics and rubber industry will take place in Düsseldorf from 18 to 25 October 2028. The Advisory Board supports Messe Düsseldorf in the strategic and conceptual development of K and advises it on fundamental issues regarding the focus, programme structure and communication of the world's leading trade fair.

At the start of the Advisory Board meeting, the committee unanimously elected Dr Axel von Wiedersperg, CEO of Brückner Group SE, as its new Chairman. He succeeds Ulrich Reifenhäuser, who has led the Advisory Board since

2004 and played a key role in shaping K over the past two decades.

Dr Axel von Wiedersperg holds a doctorate in law and has been Managing Director of the Brückner Group since 2009. He possesses many years of industry and market knowledge in the plastics and rubber sector, as well as an extensive international network within the industry. He has been a member of the K Exhibitor Advisory Board since 2023 and was therefore already involved in the preparations for K 2025 and the strategic development of the trade fair. In addition, he serves on the board of the VDMA Plastics and Rubber Machinery Association.

The meeting focused on a joint review of K 2025, the evaluation of the



exhibitor and visitor survey, and an initial outlook on the direction of K 2028. Key themes for the upcoming event were discussed, and the next steps for the strategic development of the world's leading trade fair were initiated.

The K Exhibitor Advisory Board represents the entire spectrum of the trade fair – from machinery and plant engineering through the production of plastics and rubber to their processing. It comprises representatives from the exhibiting indus-

try as well as leading industry associations.

Exhibitor registration for K 2028 opens in January 2027.

► www.k-online.com

Early Summer Date and New Runtime

The excitement following interpack 2026 is still palpable: meaningful encounters, strong business deals and plenty of inspiration continue to have a lasting impact. At the same time, the focus is firmly on the future: for 2029, interpack is setting the course for the future with a new date and a new runtime.

The next interpack will take place from 10 to 15 June 2029. This means that the world's leading trade fair for processing and packaging will now be held in early summer and will adopt a new schedule: six days of the fair, from Sunday to Friday. interpack is thus refining its format and responding to the trend whereby leading international trade fairs must now focus even more strongly on efficiency and high-quality networking opportunities.

"interpack is the most important platform in its sector. Building on this position, we are consistently developing the event further. We listen carefully to what exhibitors and visitors need and are creating a format that will support their success at the trade fair even more effectively. This is the first visible sign of that. Further innovations will follow," says Thomas Dohse, Director of interpack, commenting on the plans for 2029.



The change is based on in-depth discussions with exhibiting companies and has been thoroughly discussed with the interpack Advisory Board and international industry associations. It responds to the frequently expressed desire for a more compact event schedule, which focuses on high-quality contacts and a more targeted use of time at the trade fair. By running from Sunday to Friday, interpack combines a wide international reach with greater efficiency for exhibitors and visitors.

The early summer date ties in with the unique energy of interpack: the walkways, outdoor areas and the entire site will once again become bustling hubs of interaction. This creates an industry meeting place that further emphasises the festival-like atmosphere for the global processing and packaging community.

Close collaboration with the industry and the ability to respond flexibly to new developments remain key factors in interpack's success.

► www.interpack.com

INNO-Pouch 2026 – Europe's Pouch Summit in Barcelona

INNO-Pouch will bring the European pouch industry together for the ninth time on 8 and 9 October 2026 – hosted by HP in Sant Cugat (Barcelona), Spain. As the only European trade event with an exclusive focus on stand-up pouches, this year's event will be dedicated to the three pillars of modern flexible packaging: digitalisation, compliance and technical performance – and also offers an exclusive insight into the HP Digital Pouch Factory.

Under the theme 'Smart Pouches – Digital, Compliant, Tight', international experts will discuss how digital technologies, new material concepts and regulatory requirements are shaping and accelerating the development of the next generation of stand-up pouches. The focus is on AI-supported packaging development and digital product information. Experts will outline practical approaches that comply with the strict requirements of EU regulations (including the

PPWR) in a legally compliant manner. From a technological perspective, the focus is on the challenge of 'tightness' – how mono-materials can maintain maximum barrier performance and seal strength despite reduced complexity.

Europe's Pouch experts meet in Barcelona

The conference will be held in English and will be simultaneously translated into several languages, creating the ideal conditions for the international exchange of knowledge, experience and best practice.

Exclusive insights into the HP Digital Pouch Factory

A particular highlight is the tour of the HP Digital Pouch Factory at the Sant Cugat del Vallès site. Participants will gain an insight into modern digital printing and production processes for flexible packaging and experience innovative pouch technologies in an industrial application.

Networking for the packagings of tomorrow

In addition to the expert presentations, INNO-Pouch offers a wide range of opportunities for personal interaction. Manufacturers, brand owners, converters, machinery manufacturers and technology providers use the event to



share experiences, make new contacts and develop joint solutions to the challenges facing the packaging industry.

Julian Thielen, Co-CEO of Innoform Coaching GmbH: „The future of flexible packaging lies at the intersection of material innovation, digitalisation and sustainability. With INNO-Pouch, we are creating an international platform where experts from across Europe can share their knowledge and work together on the packaging solutions of tomorrow.“

➡ innoform-coaching.de/en/tagung/inno-pouch-smart-pouches-2026?tab=agenda&day=2

NPE2027 Builds Momentum as West Hall Sells Out

As the industry prepares for its return to Orlando, Florida, NPE2027: The Plastics Show®, produced by the Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS), continues to build momentum, with West Hall exhibit space now completely sold out. This milestone brings the total floor space sold to 87% and includes commitments from more than 300 new exhibiting companies participating in the largest plastics trade show in the Americas.

"This level of early commitment and the strong pace of exhibit sales reflect the excitement building around NPE2027 and the importance companies place on being a part of the plastics industry's leading event in the Americas," said Matt Seaholm, Presi-

dent and CEO of the Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS). "From long-time industry leaders to first-time exhibitors, businesses are securing their place now because they know NPE is where the global plastics community comes together to do business, showcase innovation, and help shape the future of our industry."

Taking place May 3 to 7, 2027, NPE2027 is expected to welcome more than 51,000 attendees and 2,200 exhibitors from over 130 countries. The triennial event will showcase cutting-edge technologies, equipment, materials, and services spanning the full plastics value chain, including recycling and sustainability, packaging, automotive, medical, consumer prod-

ucts, building and construction, and manufacturing.

Companies that have not yet secured exhibit space are encouraged to apply now. Opportunities remain available in the South Hall, including space within the five Technology Zones, and the Tangerine Ballroom, which will feature the new Sustainability Park – an immersive destination spotlighting real-world solutions shaping the future of sustainable plastics.

Companies interested in exhibiting at NPE2027 can learn more and submit an application at: <https://npe.org/become-an-exhibitor/>.

For additional information about NPE2027:

➡ www.npe.org

New Website

Guill Tool & Engineering, West Warwick, Rhode Island (USA), world leader in extrusion tooling design and manufacturing, has unveiled a new website.

The new site offers a detailed look at the company's entire product line, which offers a wide-range of standard and custom designed extrusion tooling, including cross-heads, in-line heads, rotary heads and extrusion tips & dies. Highlight among the new products is the inline Spiderless Pipe Die, unique in the world market currently for its design efficiency and process performance on small to medium sized plastic pipe.

The site includes a full listing of all products and specifications with calculation tools to compute annual cost of lengthy concentricity adjustments and crosshead replacement analysis, plus calculators to compute draw-down, feet per minute and pounds per hour, making extrusion production schedul-

ing and estimating far more accurate and efficient. The website also includes charts and tables with detailed data and a full library of downloadable literature organized by industry and tool type. Guill markets its equipment worldwide and is currently seeking new representatives in select countries.

The Guill website is mobile phone friendly and offers the convenience of allowing users to request a quote online.

For more information:

Guill Tool & Engineering
www.guill.com

Jacob Marcure, Senior Design Engineer
jmarcure@guill.com

Peter Leary, Technical Sales Engineer, Extrusion Division
pleary@guill.com

Pipe Conference – PPXXIII

Baystar has signed up as a main corporate sponsor for next year's PPXXIII Conference and Exhibition in Houston.

Baystar is a U.S.-based integrated producer of high-performance polyethylene (PE), delivering advanced and customizable materials for a wide range of applications across infrastructure, energy and consumer markets.

PPXXIII will be hosted through 27-29 September 2027 in Houston, Texas.

Mike Casavant (Plastics Pipe Institute, PPI), Chair of the Technical Program, explains: "Innovation sustains the world of plastic pipes and we are excited with this major industrial presence on our conference platform."

Baystar is based in Pasadena, Texas, and was formed in 2018 as a 50/50 joint venture between Borealis and TotalEnergies.

Vice President, Commercial PE, Sonia De Greef: „Baystar is honored and excited to support this world-leading technical conference, which aligns well with our strategic priority to safely deliver best-in-class solutions and grow within the North American pipe market. Our PE pipe resin portfolio covers a wide range of applications, from multimodal PE4710/PE100 pressure pipe using Borealis' Borstar® 3G technology to conduit and corrugated pipes. We are proud to be part of an innovative and dedicated industry that enables sustainable, long-lifetime pipe systems for critical water supply, energy, industrial, telecom, and water management."

Conference call for abstracts

Organizers of next year's PPXXIII Conference have issued a call for abstracts. Potential speakers for this international plastic pipe conference have until 6 November 2026 to submit a 300-word summary in the English language.

This event will feature around 90 speakers and an audience of about 400 delegates from over 45 countries. Conference speakers typically review the most fascinating advances within the industry. Speakers come from diverse backgrounds and include professors, researchers, engineers, business leaders, marketers and technicians.

Their abstracts may describe, for example, the latest technical advances in materials, additives/ingredients, testing, performance and environmental assessment or even announce major market breakthroughs or assess case studies.

A special online portal to guide and process abstracts has been created via:

➔ <https://ppxxiii.com/abstract-portal-guideline-docs/>

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PLAST 2026 – An Edition Beyond Expectations

The twentieth edition of PLAST, the international exhibition dedicated to the plastics and rubber industry, successfully ended on June 12th at Fiera Milano, Rho. Four intense days of exhibition confirmed the event's role as a benchmark for the sector, decisively overcoming the cautious outlook of the eve in a global geopolitical and macroeconomic context marked by severe uncertainties, trade tensions, and instability in international markets.

The final figures certify the success of the event: 35,000 attendees – with a significant share of foreign visitors equal to 25%, coming from 110 countries – and over 1,000 exhibiting companies, 44% of which were international. The entire event spanned an exhibition area of 40,000 square meters: an impactful result for a market undergoing a phase of profound transformation.

A complete supply chain: from specialized halls to startup innovation

The strength of PLAST 2026 certainly lay in its ability to capture a snapshot of the entire supply chain. Great interest was generated by the satellite shows and thematic areas: RUBBER, the meeting point for the elastomer industry, organized in collaboration with Assogomma; 3D PLAST LAB, developed with Indexlab – Politecnico di Milano, focusing on the frontiers of additive manufacturing; and PLAST MAT, the showcase dedicated to polymeric materials.

A fundamental added value in terms of new content was brought by the innovation ecosystem, thanks to the presence of around twenty Italian startups that presented cutting-edge solutions ready to be integrated into the manufacturing fabric to visitors.

A qualified audience and internationalization

Among the most encouraging signs, the extremely high professional profile of the visitors stands out. Thanks to the enhancement of the strategic incoming project developed in collaboration with ICE Agency, among the approximately 9,000 international op-



*Mario Maggiani, Managing
Director of Promaplast*

erators visiting, the presence of over 350 selected foreign delegates must be highlighted, who confirmed the strong attractiveness and commercial centrality of the fair.

Drawing the balance of this edition is Mario Maggiani, Managing Director of Promaplast: "We do not hide that our forecasts on the eve were marked by the utmost prudence. We feared far heavier repercussions of the global geopolitical situation on PLAST, which instead confirmed itself as a European point of reference for the plastics and rubber industry, restoring confidence to many of the exhibitors we met. The reality is that today the exhibition world, more than other sectors, is suffering the backlash of a diversification in ways of doing business, especially in the B2B field; this is why we are diversifying the format of PLAST, not



*Alessio Fineo, Head of the Exhibition
Department at Promaplast*

only through the addition of satellite shows but also by providing a conference program capable of covering all facets of the supply chain and responding to the updating needs of a rapidly evolving sector."

He is echoed by Alessio Fineo, Head of the Exhibition Department at Promaplast: "From the opinions gathered at the fair, many have noted the quality of the visitors and the delegations of foreign companies that showed interest in the products on display. The efforts of the entire team to promote PLAST generated results that went beyond expectations."

A top-tier program of conferences and seminars

Confirming the dynamism of the event was the success of the program of seminars and institutional conferences, which in some cases registered a full house. The rich educational and debate palimpsest was made possible thanks to the fundamental synergy with the main stakeholders and industrial partners of the sector.

The appointment with the next edition of PLAST is set for 2029, once again in the pavilions of Fiera Milano, Rho. The precise dates will be released later.



PLASTPOL 2026 – *The Plastics Industry Once Again Convened in the Heart of Europe*

15,000 visitors from Europe, Asia, and Africa, 660 exhibitors from 36 countries, hundreds of live-running machines, multi-million contracts, and a spectacular 30th anniversary celebration – the International Fair of Plastics and Rubber Processing PLASTPOL once again confirmed its position as the largest plastics industry event in Central Europe and one of the key meeting points for the global market. For four days, Kielce (Poland) became a centre of international business, technology and industrial premieres.

For many international companies, PLASTPOL remains the most important gateway to the Central and Eastern European markets. The trade fair brought together manufacturers and technology suppliers from across the globe – from Europe, Asia, and the Middle East to North and South America. Visitors from all corners of the world representing a wide range of industries attended the event, including medical, packaging, food processing, automotive, electronics, household appliances, logistics, and defence sectors. Thanks to its strategic location and rapidly growing industrial sector, Poland once again demonstrated its role as the industrial heart of this part of Europe.

The exhibition halls of Targi Kielce showcased the world's latest technologies for plastics processing. Live demonstrations featured injection moulding machines, extrusion systems, industrial robots, fully automated production lines, and advanced recycling technologies in operation. Among the products manufactured on-site were insulin pen caps, medical autoinjector components, lunchboxes, technical industrial parts, and products made from recyclates and natural materials.

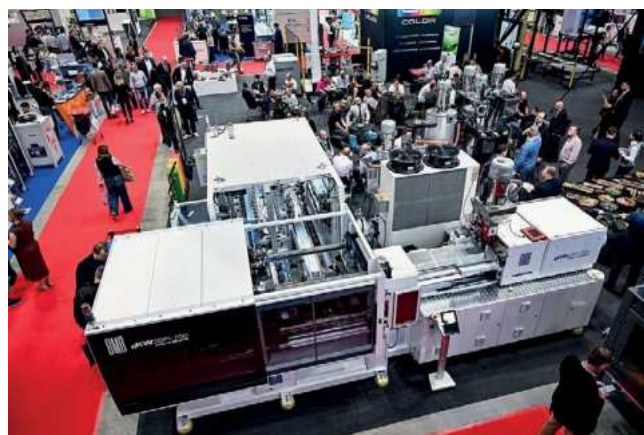
Contracts and Investments in Kielce Despite a Slowdown in the Plastics Market

This year's PLASTPOL trade fair once again demonstrated that, despite a slowdown in the European plastics market, companies continue to invest in automation, energy-efficient technologies, and advanced production solutions. During the event, contracts were signed for machinery, production lines, and raw materials worth millions of euros.

30 years of PLASTPOL – the industry celebration

The anniversary expo was of a unique character. During the Platinum Plast Gala, companies were honoured that have shaped PLASTPOL's history and contributed to the development of the plastics industry since its very first editions.

A particularly memorable moment of the gala was the recognition of Kamil Perz, Director of the PLASTPOL trade fair, who has co-created and developed the event for 30 years. The management of Targi Kielce presented him with a symbolic statuette of Atlas carrying the globe as a tribute to his contribution to the development of one of Europe's most important plastics industry events.



Knowledge, regulations and the future of the plastics market

Conferences and technical seminars addressing the sector's long-term future are an integral pillar of the exhibition. The European premiere of the Plastics Europe report on the circular economy, along with conferences on recycling, energy efficiency, and new EU regulations for the packaging market, generated considerable interest.

A new feature of this year's edition was the international event "Italian Polymers, Compounds & Masterbatch Solutions – Expertise Driving Innovation in Automotive", organised jointly with Confindustria Polonia. Italian companies presented cutting-edge solutions for the automotive sector, underscoring PLASTPOL's growing importance as a platform for international industrial cooperation.

At the PLASTPOL trade fair, representatives of exhibiting companies were also recognised in the OMNIPLAST competition for their specialist knowledge and industry expertise. The winner of this year's edition was Monika Zuber from Sierosławski Group. Tomasz Pyrek, representing DRP Group, was the runner-up, and third place was awarded to Justyna Przęczek from Polimer Projekt.

PLASTPOL 2027 in the Targi Kielce's new expo hall

Preparations are already underway for the next PLASTPOL trade fair, scheduled for 18–21 May 2027 - the organisers look forward to meeting you at the expo. For the first time, exhibitors will also showcase their products in the new exhibition hall at Targi Kielce, one of the largest and most modern trade fair facilities currently under construction in Central Europe. Designed to enhance exhibitor comfort, innovative product presentation, and overall trade fair efficiency, the new expo hall will offer more than 15,500 square metres of exhibition space and a height of 15 metres.

"Thanks to the new hall, we will be able to offer exhibition opportunities at an even higher, truly global standard," emphasises Kamil Perz, Project Director.

New Office in China Opened



The iNOEX SiST team in front of their new offices in Suzhou

iNOEX is taking another significant step in its development in China with the grand opening of its new Suzhou office during Chinaplas. The modern facility offers an innovative work environment and strengthens the local service infrastructure for customers and partners. Jan Lohoff (Managing Director of iNOEX GmbH and iNOEX China) and Dr Jürgen Philipps

(Managing Director of PIXARGUS GmbH) attended the opening as part of their participation in Chinaplas, and celebrated the occasion with the local staff.

For over 40 years, iNOEX has been synonymous with continuous development and technological innovation. The company's success story in

China began over twenty years ago with sales activities, followed by the establishment of a representative office in Beijing, which then expanded to become a trading, sales and service company. A few years ago, moving to Suzhou was an important step in establishing iNOEX's presence in China. The move to the new, larger office and the establishment of an additional local warehouse for finished systems marks another significant milestone in the company's location development.

As a technology and market leader in the pipe, cable, film, and profile industries, iNOEX supports end customers and OEM partners supplying extrusion customers worldwide. Its precision measurement technol-

ogy and extrusion line solutions are used and valued worldwide.

The new office in Suzhou boasts a spacious and modern work environment. The specially expanded area is equipped for the storage of local spare parts, as well as for maintenance, repair and technical after-sales support, ensuring even more efficient customer service. As Jan Lohoff emphasised: „Our goal was to create a modern, comfortable workplace and strengthen our local service base, offering our partners more efficient and attentive support – German quality and Chinese speed.“

The Suzhou location distributes products from the iNOEX and ASCONA brands for the plastic and aluminium profile industry. Close collaboration with our sister company, PiXARGUS, expands our product portfolio and enables us to offer comprehensive 360° solutions to our customers.

Although it has a new office, iNOEX's ambition remains the same: to combine innovation and service. The company would like to thank all its customers, partners and employees for their continued support, and is looking to the future with confidence.

“With professional technology and dedicated service, we aim to forge a successful future with our partners”, says Jan Lohoff.

From left to right: Frank Chen (Technical & Service Director), June Huang (CFO), Jan Lohoff (Managing Director) und Henry Qin (Sales Director)



Expoquimia and Equiplast close a Solid Edition as Key Industry Meeting Point

Expoquimia and Equiplast closed their doors at Fira de Barcelona's Gran Via venue with a very positive balance, consolidating their role as a major meeting point for the industrial community. Both shows have demonstrated their ability to bring together the manufacturing sectors around chemicals and plastics, supporting companies in making investment decisions thanks to a representative commercial offering and spaces for knowledge sharing and exchange. All this in a context of industrial transformation that has fostered business and sector dialogue.

Held simultaneously, the two fairs organised by Fira de Barcelona have brought together a total of 20,803 visitors, which represents an increase of 10% compared to the 2023 edition. The commercial offer of Expoquimia and Equiplast has grown by 35%, with nearly 800 exhibitors and more than 1,600 brands represented in halls 2 and 3 of the Gran Via venue. These figures reflect the market's interest in moving towards more efficient, innovative and responsible production models, as well as the dynamism of the chemical and plastics industries, whose solutions are essential in most manufacturing processes.

After four days of activity, most of the exhibitors and visitors have been satisfied with the development of the shows, highlighting the quality of the professional contacts generated. In this sense, the participants have endorsed the new positioning of Expoquimia that strengthens the connection between chemistry and industry, highlighting its transversal nature as a driver of competitiveness for multiple sectors such as pharmaceuticals, automotive or packaging, among others. In the case of Equiplast, the presence of the entire plastic value chain has been valued, growing especially in the fields of recycling and the environment.

Great activity tracking

The programme of activities has been very well received. More than 200 have been held between the two shows, including conferences, round tables, presentations and other invited events, which have brought together more than



6,000 attendees. A participation that confirms the sector's interest in content related to sustainability, digitalisation, new materials and the technological evolution of industrial processes.

According to the president of the Expoquimia Organising Committee, Carles Navarro, "this edition has highlighted the importance of chemistry to help other sectors face the challenges in terms of sustainability and digitalisation without losing competitiveness". Navarro also stressed that "Expoquimia has consolidated its function as a space for meeting and reflection at a decisive moment for industrial investment".

For his part, the president of the Equiplast Organising Committee, Bernd Roegel, stressed that "Equiplast has once again demonstrated its strength as a trade show, with a transversal offer representative of the plastics value chain that responds to the real needs of the market, with a clear focus on circularity".

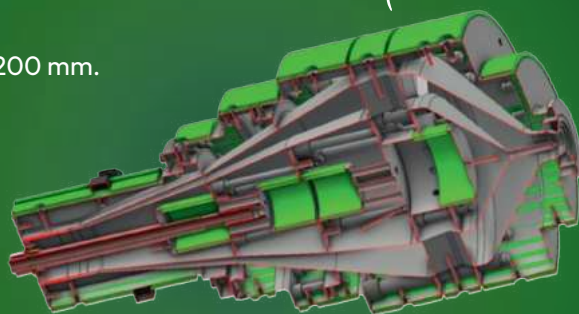
The next joint edition of Expoquimia and Equiplast will take place in May 2029.

➔ www.equiplast.com



The new product line covers with 8 pipeheads Diameter range 10 mm to 1200 mm.

- ALL PIPEHEADS ARE DESIGNED FOR PRESSURE CLASS 16
- HIGH COMPRESSION & LARGE VOLUME FOR SMOOTH INNER SURFACE AT HIGH OUTPUT
- SPECIAL TORPEDO TIP FOR UNIFORM FLOW
- USE OF DIE SETS ON NEXT BIGGER HEAD BY USING RANGE ADAPTERS



Pipe's are us

www.conextru.eu | dobrowsky.j@conextru.eu



2025 Year-End Results for the Plastics and Rubber Machinery Industry

The annual Amaplast Member Assembly was held on Tuesday, 30 June 2026. Amaplast is a trade association affiliated with CONFINDUSTRIA that brings together over 170 manufacturers of machinery, equipment, and moulds for plastics and rubber.

On this occasion, President Massimo Margaglione reviewed the performance of the industry in his annual address, commenting on the findings of the sixth edition of the National Statistical Survey conducted by the MECS-Amaplast Research Centre. The survey covered 435 manufacturing companies, employing almost 15,300 people, which generated total turnover of 4.62 billion euros in 2025 (-4.2%), with exports accounting for 73% of sales.

In terms of company size, the largest category (around one-third of the total) represents the smallest businesses, with annual turnover not exceeding 2.5 million euros, collectively accounting for a modest 3.8% of total industry sales value. At the opposite end of the scale, the largest companies (annual turnover exceeding 50 millions) represent just 2.5% of the total but generate 29% of the total value of sales. Once again, the survey confirms that average turnover per employee increases with company size, as does proportion of exports, exceeding 84% among the largest companies, as opposed to 46% for the smallest. Similarly, larger companies, benefiting from well-established commercial organizations, tend to serve more distant markets, whereas smaller businesses generally concentrate on European destinations.

With regard to client industries, the overall picture remains broadly stable compared with previous years. The largest share of turnover is generated by sales to the packaging sector (approximately 31% from food packaging and 16% from non-food packaging, both showing slight growth), followed by automotive, which declined slightly to 14%, construction at 11%, and medical applications at 5%, both remaining broadly stable.

In terms of machinery categories, excluding the heterogeneous "other



President Massimo Margaglione

machinery" segment, extruders and relevant downstream equipment remain the largest product group, accounting for 18.2% of total industry turnover. They are followed by auxiliary equipment at 14.6%, and moulds and dies at 9.2%.

Exports, historically the industry's principal growth driver, declined by 5% compared with 2024 after four consecutive years of expansion, settling at a total value of 3.41 billion euros, according to ISTAT data. It is worth noting that, from the low point recorded in 2020, export flows had rebounded by 32% by the end of 2024.

Looking at the main destination regions, Italian manufacturers recorded the strongest export growth in the Far East (averaging around +12%), driven by the excellent performance of the two largest markets, China (+8%) and India (+40%).

Within the European Union, exports remained broadly stable overall, although the two leading destinations – Germany (-4%) and France (-12%) – both showed a downward trend. Germany continues to experience a difficult market environment, with conditions proving even more challenging than those faced by Italian machinery manufacturers.

The decline in technology supplies to German plastics processors, combined with the simultaneous increase in exports to the United States (+9%, despite the difficulties and uncertainties caused by the introduction of tariffs), has brought the US virtually level with Germany as the leading destination for Italian exports in the sector, with exports to each market amounting to around 380 million euros. Such a narrow gap between the two countries is a completely novelty.

Elsewhere in the Americas, while the US market remained resilient, exports to Mexico declined by 32%, although the country had experienced exceptionally strong growth during the preceding period.

Further south, the difficult economic situation in Brazil weighed heavily on performance, with Italian exports falling by 45%, a decline only partially offset by the recovery in demand from Argentina (+32%).

Given the challenging regional environment, the 20% decline in exports to the Middle East is unsurprising. Across Africa, however, performance was mixed: exports to Mediterranean

countries increased by an average of 12% (with Tunisia the only exception), whereas shipments to sub-Saharan African markets contracted by 30%, despite positive performances in Nigeria and Kenya.

According to ISTAT data, imports increased significantly by 23%, reaching a value of 1.17 billion euros. This trend can largely be attributed to the effects of the Industry 4.0 and Transition 5.0 investment incentive programmes.

Most recent ISTAT foreign trade data for the first quarter of the current year indicate a slowdown, with

imports declining by approximately 31% and exports by around 4%.

During the meeting, the nine members of the General Council for the 2026–2028 term were elected:

- Alessandro Balzanelli – FB BALZANELLI
- Michele Bandera – BANDERA
- Elena Barrale – EUROVITI
- Alessandra Bosco – INGLASS
- Andrea Comerio – COMERIO ERCOLE
- Alberto Piva – PET SOLUTIONS
- Fabiola Plebani – MAST
- Renzo Privitera – GEFRA
- Corrado Zanga – UNILOY.

According to President Massimo Margaglione, "Although the sector's performance declined compared with 2024, the overall picture is not particularly alarming, both because it follows four consecutive years of growth and in light of the numerous and serious geopolitical challenges that have characterized the global environment for some time. Despite considerable difficulties, our companies have demonstrated their ability to withstand these pressures."

AMAPLAST

www.amaplast.org

Presence in North America Strengthened

Measuring technology specialist PiXARGUS is further expanding its sales activities across the Atlantic under the umbrella of the CiTEX group. Jeff Foster, Vice President Business Development of the CiTEX sister company iNOEX LLC, is now representing PiXARGUS for North America.

A renowned expert in inline metrology, with deep knowledge of the American market, Jeff now also brings inspection systems from PiXARGUS into his portfolio: "Jeff is an ideal addition who will further strengthen PiXARGUS' presence across the USA, Canada and Mexico," says PiXARGUS Sales Manager, Michael Frohn.

Expert in complex solutions – from consulting to the implementation

Jeff Foster is a US citizen. Since last year, he has been successfully leading the North American sales activities of iNOEX LLC. He brings with him 18 years of inline metrology and automation experience. Jeff is a seasoned expert who accompanies his clients with profound consultation all the way through to the successful implementation of solutions of complex scope – always with the aim of maximizing productivity and quality for his clients. Now, he is also going to assist the clients of PiXARGUS with his know-how and expertise. Sales Manager Michael Frohn is confident that "With this move, we are under-



scoring our commitment to growth and closer customer relationships."

Demo tour of the new PiXARGUS ProfilControl 7 XLine series

iNOEX LLC is well prepared for the new sales area: It has obtained from PiXARGUS an AllRoundDia DualVision system as well as the company's brand new inline inspection systems ProfilControl 7 PlastX for plastic profiles and ProfilControl 7 RubberFlex for rubber extrusion. Jeff will soon get in touch with interested US-based PiXARGUS clients. He is additionally planning a dedicated initiative for the market launch of the new

Jeff Foster, Vice President Business Development of CiTEX sister company iNOEX LLC, is now also the port of call for PiXARGUS clients

XLine series in the American market: Selected companies will get the opportunity to experience live – at their sites – the capabilities of the smart inline inspection systems.

PiXARGUS GmbH
A CiTEX Group Company
www.pixargus.com

iNOEX LLC
A CiTEX Group Company
www.inoex.com

Acquisition

The MAAG Group announced that it has signed a definitive agreement to acquire Cloeren Incorporated, based in Orange, (Texas), USA. With this strategic acquisition, the Group is expanding its expertise in plastics processing and strengthening its position as a leading global provider of integrated system solutions for the polymer and plastics industry.

Cloeren designs and manufactures high-performance, custom-designed extrusion slot dies and feedblocks primarily for polymer and plastics applications. The Company is based in Orange, TX, in close proximity to North America's petrochemical and energy export hub, with additional manufacturing locations in Marshall, Texas/USA; Eau Claire, Wisconsin/USA; and Micheldorf, Austria.

Cloeren is a global leader in the production of extrusion dies, with highly regarded technical capabilities and a blue-chip customer base. The acquisition adds complementary extrusion technologies to MAAG's portfolio and expands its ability to serve customers with a broader, more complete solution across polymer processing applications.

With Cloeren, MAAG Group is gaining a technologically leading partner whose products, expertise, and track record of innovation perfectly complement our existing portfolio. By combining the expertise of both companies, the MAAG Group is laying the foundation for further sustainable growth and strengthening its development capabilities across the entire plastics processing value chain. Going forward, customers will benefit from an even broader portfolio of solutions, greater process expertise, and an expanded range of technologies for demanding applications.



Ueli Thürig, President, MAAG Group: "Cloeren is a strong strategic fit for MAAG and will further enhance our capabilities in extrusion applications. The addition of Cloeren's technologies and engineering expertise expands our solutions offering and strengthens our ability to support customers with highly engineered, mission-critical equipment."

Cloeren's existing business operations will continue as usual. Customers and business partners will continue to benefit from the company's proven products, services, and dedicated staff, as well as from the expanded resources and opportunities available within the MAAG Group.

MAAG Group
www.maag.com

Setting the Course for the Future

Dr. Christian Frank, General Manager at SIKORA GmbH, handed over operational responsibility as CEO to Alaaddin Aydin, also General Manager, effective July 1, 2026. With this step, SIKORA is ushering in the next phase of the company's development while ensuring continuity and a timely, orderly succession.

Going forward, Christian Frank will focus within the General Management on the strategic development of SIKORA, overseeing a smooth transition, and pursuing potential acquisitions and growth initiatives (M&A).

"By arranging the succession early on, we are creating continuity and ensuring that SIKORA can consistently continue on its successful path. At the same time, I am looking forward to focusing more strongly on the strategic development of the company and new growth opportunities in the near future," says Christian Frank.

Upon assuming the role of CEO, Alaaddin Aydin will take over all business areas previously led by Christian Frank – such as R&D, Operations, and Finance – and will be responsible for their further development. Holger Lieder, also a member of SIKORA's General Management, will continue to retain responsibility for Sales, Service, Marketing, and Internal Services.



SIKORA's management team; from left: Holger Lieder, Alaaddin Aydin, and Dr. Christian Frank – Christian Frank will hand over operational responsibility as CEO to Alaaddin Aydin effective July 1, 2026

"SIKORA has a strong team, a clear direction, and promising future prospects in the field of 'Measurement & Control Systems,'" says Alaaddin Aydin, adding: "I look forward to shaping the next steps in our development together with the team and capitalizing on the opportunities that lie ahead."

In addition to this new role as CEO, Alaaddin Aydin will continue to serve in his strategic capacity as VP of MAAG Germany. This will allow the perspectives of MAAG and SIKORA to be combined under one roof and synergies to be leveraged strategically to ensure the company's continued success. Thorsten Thuemen took over the day-to-day operations of MAAG Germany as Managing Director effective July 1, 2026.

Following a successful transition phase, Christian Frank will leave SIKORA at the end of 2027 at his own request to take on new entrepreneurial roles and challenges outside the group. With this early reorganization and the planned joint transition period, SIKORA is laying the groundwork for sustaining the company's success in the long term.

SIKORA GmbH
www.sikora.net

Global Footprint Secures the Industry's Future Role

Global plastics production has been growing steadily for decades, driven by increasing demand in packaging, mobility, medical technology, and electronics. Plastics have therefore become one of the most important industrial materials worldwide.

However, this development is not reflected in the machinery and equipment sector. While demand for plastics continues to rise, manufacturers of production equipment are coming under increasing pressure. Rising costs, declining margins, and intensifying global competition – especially from suppliers in China – are fundamentally changing the rules of the industry.

The overall economic environment remains challenging for the plastics and rubber machinery sector, as companies are facing not only a cyclical slowdown but also structural pressure. The start to 2026 was difficult: in the first quarter, order intake declined by 5 per cent in real terms, while revenues were 3 per cent below the previous year's level.

However, a stabilisation is expected over the course of the year. In particular, demand from Asia and the Americas is likely to provide new momentum and partly offset the weak start. The VDMA Plastics and Rubber Machinery Association therefore expects a sideways movement for 2026, with revenues likely to remain at around ± 0 per cent.

Overall, there are signs of a continued positive trend in the Americas and Asia, which could lead to modest growth for the plastics and rubber machinery sector from 2027 onwards. Despite challenges such as tariffs, the United States remains a stable anchor market, with solid demand from packaging and medical technology. China, supported by a growing middle class, remains one of the key centres of global plastics consumption, with positive effects on demand for machinery.

For plastics and rubber machinery manufacturers, it is essential to make use of the opportunities offered by a growing materials market. At the same time, they must set the course for the future in order to remain competitive in a highly competitive and margin-sensitive environment. High technology and quality leadership remain essential. Digitalisation, artificial intelligence, and automation are key drivers. Connectivity and data flows across the entire value chain are creating new business models and added value. However, without structural adjustments, price pressure cannot be managed.

Production and sales structures must be rethought and organised on a much more global basis. German and European technology providers need to adapt even more closely to local market conditions, customer needs, and business cultures in their respective regions. Only then can they offer what their customers require – and at competitive prices.

At VDMA annual conference of the Plastics and Rubber Machinery Association, Sandra Füllsack, Chairwoman of the Board, emphasised: "Consistent action is essential if our industry is to remain competitive worldwide in the future. We stand for quality leadership and innovative technology. We are driving digitalisation and automation in production – more than ever, this is crucial for the future of our customers. At the same time, we must ensure a sensible allocation of production capacity within our companies. This means adjusting capacities in Europe, while strengthening our presence in growth markets and following local market dynamics. This applies in particular to Asia and the United States."

Europe and China are driving the transformation towards more sustainable production and material cycles. Sustainability is no longer only an environmental issue. Plastics recycling is becoming a key lever for resilience, as it reduces dependence on fossil raw materials and strengthens long-term security of supply.

Regulatory requirements in both regions will further accelerate this development and are expected to provide important momentum for the still weak economic situation in plastics recycling.

The industry's international presence remains a decisive competitive advantage. VDMA member companies operate more than 2,600 international locations – in many cases including production facilities – in key markets such as China, India, and the United States. This is complemented by a global network of VDMA offices supporting companies locally.

"The industry is operating in a challenging environment, but at the same time demonstrates strong adaptability and a global presence," said Verena Thies, Vice President of VDMA. "VDMA member companies and the Association form a strong global network that pools expertise and helps companies to address regional markets in a targeted way."

VDMA e.V.
Plastics and Rubber Machinery
vdma.eu

Extended Warranty Up To 5 Years

The inventor and global market leader in corona surface treatment now offers an increased warranty period on its technology from the class-leading standard period of two years up to five full years to provide users with added peace of mind.

With 75 years of experience and knowledge in surface treatment there is no manufacturer better placed than Vetaphone to make this unique offer to its customers, whether OEM or end-user, and it is a clear indication of its confidence in the quality and reliable performance of its technology.

Explaining the new offer, Support & Spare Parts Manager, Anders Dueholm stated: "Vetaphone technology has always been cutting-edge with a proven track record of reliability in even the hardest working environments. Now, as a commitment to our customers we are offering to extend the standard warranty period from two years to five to provide the added peace of mind that comes from cost predictability and reduced downtime."

The new scheme, which was launched in May 2026, allows custom-

ers to opt for extended cover up to 3 or 5 years from the date of the original machine purchase. It covers defects in materials and workmanship for the most critical components of the corona or plasma treatment system, including the generator and transformer, the sensors and switches, the machine frame, and the remote support that relates to these items.

"In today's increasingly competitive production environments, it is important to take all steps possible to ensure reliability and consistent performance. The extended warranty is intended to reduce some of the unpredictable elements of everyday production and help limit downtime and material waste," he added.

The extended warranty scheme applies worldwide and is based on the power of each unit on a sliding scale from 1kW up to 40kW, so all systems are covered, irrespective of whether you are printing, laminating, converting, or extruding. If a component fails during the warranty period, Vetaphone will replace it free of charge if onsite assistance is not required.



Vetaphone now offers extended warranty coverage of up to five years for critical corona and plasma treatment system components

"Vetaphone sees this as another pioneering move in surface treatment and one that confirms its position as market leader. I am anticipating a heavy take-up in response to this offer as managers look for new ways to ease pressure on production costs," he concluded.

Interestingly, one of Vetaphone's leading OEM customers has already taken up the offer as an insurance policy to support its own service agreement – a good third-party testament to its value.

Vetaphone
spareparts@vetaphone.com
www.vetaphone.com

Lab Capabilities Expanded

Guill Tool, global leader in extrusion tooling, has expanded its lab capabilities to better serve the global extrusion market with the creation of Guill Labs. The labs include the company's state-of-the-art rheology lab and a facility focused entirely on the extrusion process.

Guill's existing rheology lab measures the flow characteristics of plastics and rubber to predict how a customer's material will flow through the company's extrusion dies before production. Tooling geometry is virtually optimized, and the project can be viewed in 3D CAD. Machines used include a rotational rheometer, scanning calorimeter and thermal conductivity meter.

The rotational rheometer quickly generates visco-elastic data for polymer melts, precisely capturing polymer melt properties. Test temperature ranges between ambient and



Tensile testing rig in the extrusion facility

300°C. The lab's scanning calorimeter characterizes the thermal properties of a polymer sample, such as crystallization temperature, glass transition temperature and heat capacity of the



The rheology lab's scanning calorimeter

sample. Knowing these thermal properties permits the simulation of shear heating and hot and cold spots in the flow area. The thermal conductivity meter is used to determine the thermal conductivity of the polymer sample across a range of temperatures.

This in-house lab provides faster turnaround on test results, reducing delays during the design process and offering better control over the testing parameters. The result is a high-quality part delivered on time.

The new test extrusion facility features various pieces of equipment in-



Design Engineer Jacob Marcure working in the rheology lab



Fluidized bath in the test extrusion facility

cluding two Killion 1.25" extruders, an RDN 2.0 PVS vacuum tank, one Keyence LS9000 dual axis laser gauge, two Dri Air ARID-X 10 30lb capacity dryers, an RDN 212 belt puller, an Accurate Thermal Systems FTBLL47 fluidized bath and a new Mark-10 F1505-IM tensile testing rig. In addition, the test lab permits single and co-extrusion capabilities with its tried-and-true die designs. Access to exotic extrusion processes such as rotary die extrusion

of filament and tubular end-products are also available. The addition of the tensile testing rig allows for mechanical testing of finished product samples in-house for even faster trial results.

Supporting extrusion trials, the test lab also offers extrusion training, die cleaning services, sample inspection, and end-product testing. Guill's fluidized bath has a 50°C-605°C temperature range and a working volume of 15.7" x 47."

Customers can test materials, dies and actual extrusion run time... all on Guill premises.

Guill Tool & Engineering Co., Inc.
Jacob Marcure, Senior Design Engineer
 jmarcure@guill.com
Peter Leary, Technical Sales Engineer,
 Extrusion Division
 pleary@guill.com
 www.guill.com

Latest Advances in Stretch Film Production

Building on the success of previous generations of SmartCast stretch film lines, SML has now developed the fourth generation of the SmartCast Infinity, equipped with the latest advancements: a newly developed nanolayer feedblock for 101 layers.

Nanolayer technology is an advanced technology in stretch film production to improve film quality and wrapping application. Nano-layered film gives stretch film incredible performance despite its thickness. While Nano67 is already an established technology for high-end applications on the market, SML now pushes this technology further.

In close collaboration with Cloeren and drawing on the vast experience and learnings of Nano67, we developed a truly unique piece of equipment. The new nanolayer feedblock was custom-engineered to meet highest requirements. This design differs from every previous solution in three key ways:

- 101 layers – the highest number count ever achieved in stretch film



- Highest percentage of nano-structured film in the total film
- Highest number of extruders – the nanolayer feedblock is fed by eight extruders

Overall, these features offer higher flexibility to influence film properties. "Nano101 lets us combine a wider range of functional materials, in different sequences and at lower percentages. While the stretch films produced on our machinery already exceed the market requirements for elongation,

(Copyright: KHP Karin Hackl)

Nano101 focuses on influencing tear propagation, holding force and puncture resistance," explains Thomas Rauscher, Product Manager at SML.

With Nano101, SML now offers two innovative nanolayer technologies as standard: the time-proven Nano67 and the brand-new Nano101.

SML Maschinengesellschaft mbH
 www.sml.at

Turnkey Solutions for Powder and Bulk Material Processing

The Hosokawa Micron Group will be presenting its 360-degree service portfolio for powder and bulk material processing at **Powtech TechnoPharm 2026**, taking place from 29 September to 1 October at the Nuremberg Exhibition Centre, **Hall 7a, Stand 530**. Headquartered in Osaka, Japan, the Group brings together several engineering companies specialising in the processing of powders and bulk materials. Customers thus benefit from the provider's high level of turnkey expertise in complete systems. Whether in the food, chemical, pharmaceutical, recycling, minerals or metals sectors – the Group offers complete turnkey systems for a wide range of industries.

Machinery on display for various applications

At Powtech, visitors to the stand will be able to see the group's expertise for themselves through a range of machinery solutions. On display will be the Picoline laboratory mill, which Hosokawa has developed for scale-up from the laboratory to production, enhanced with containment solutions to protect process personnel from toxic products.

Also on display is a mini model of the MS-75 compactor, which can be used, amongst other things, in the chemical industry for lignin and fer-



tiliser production; in the minerals and metallurgical industries for briquetting and compacting sponge iron, coal, metal dust, limestone or talc; and in the food industry for compacting protein concentrate.

The Vitomix batch mixer rounds off the range of machinery solutions on display. The low- and mid-shear ribbon screw mixer has a throughput up to eight times higher than conventional screw mixers due to its extremely short cycle times.

Solutions for the processing of rubber, fibres, ceramics, glass and recovered carbon black

In addition to the machines on display, visitors can also find out about efficient solutions for rubber grinding and fibre processing, bespoke processes for the ultra-fine grinding and

At POWTECH 2026, the Hosokawa Micron Group will present its comprehensive 360-degree range of solutions for the processing of powders and bulk materials

classification of ceramics and glass, and processing systems for recovered carbon black.

The Hosokawa Micron Group's trade fair presence is rounded off by a series of webinars in the run-up to the event, covering the topics of compaction, powder and bulk material handling, and laboratory solutions.

Concentrated expertise from four companies

The exhibition presence highlights the diverse expertise of the Hosokawa Micron Group. The Group's international experts work hand in hand on their projects. All process steps are integrated and supplied from a single source. This ensures smooth process flows with a high level of efficiency. "With our turnkey solutions, our customers receive perfectly coordinated technologies, a single point of contact from planning through to service, and maximum process reliability. This saves them time, reduces interface risks and enables them to benefit from the highest levels of efficiency, quality and future-proofing," says Markus Eggenmüller, Vice President Sales Powder & Particle Processing at Hosokawa Alpine.

Exhibit at POWTECH 2026: the Picoline laboratory mill from Hosokawa Alpine. The flexible platform, in combination with various process modules, enables rapid and tailored process development



Hosokawa Alpine

www.hosokawa-alpine.com

New WARP 125 Radar Measurement System Launched

Following its successful debut at the K trade fair in Düsseldorf last October, iNOEX GmbH is now officially launching the new WARP 125 radar measurement system. With WARP 125, the company sets another milestone in inline measurement technology for pipe production, offering customers cost-effective access to state-of-the-art radar technology.

WARP 125 impresses with its compact design, innovative 8-point measurement, and flexible application for mono and dual-strand extrusion lines. It provides precise and reliable measurement of wall thickness distribution, inner and outer diameter, ovality, and eccentricity. The intuitive WebIQ software and modern 21" terminal ensure easy operation and quick integration into existing production environments.

"With WARP 125, we offer our customers a future-proof solution that guarantees not only highest precision and flexibility but also outstanding cost-effectiveness," says Markus Hildebrandt, Head of Productmanagement at iNOEX. "The response at the K trade fair demonstrated the industry's strong demand for innovative and economical measurement systems. We are excited to celebrate the official market launch and provide our customers access to this technology."



*WARP 125 Radarsystem (Mono-Strand)
with 21" Terminal*



WARP 125 Radarsystem (Dual-Strand)

WARP 125 is specifically designed to reduce production costs while improving quality assurance. Of course, the system can be expanded with gravimetrics and proven iNOEX control loops. Maintenance and adjustments are possible during ongoing production, significantly increasing efficiency and availability. With a measuring range of 25 to 125 mm outer diameter and wall thickness from 2 mm, WARP 125 covers a wide spectrum of pipe dimensions. Its compact design allows

use even in tight spaces and ensures rapid ROI.

With the launch of WARP 125, iNOEX GmbH reinforces its position as an innovation leader in measurement technology for pipe production. Customers benefit from reliable measurement results, flexible application, and a future-proof system architecture – all at an attractive price.

iNOEX GmbH,

www.inoex.com/products/warp-125

Pilot-Scale Extrusion with Lab-Level Insight

Anton Paar has expanded its extrusion portfolio beyond the laboratory scale with the launch of the Brabender TwinLab B-TSE-S 30/40 for pilot-scale extrusion.

With throughput up to 100 kg/h, the new twin-screw extruder brings lab-grade process understanding into pilot-scale production, enabling users to validate process parameters and produce relevant quantities under realistic conditions.

"From small-batch production to process transfer, the expectation remains the same: data must be trustworthy," says André Kayser, Product Manager at Anton Paar. "Building on Anton Paar's expertise in lab-scale extrusion, TwinLab B-TSE-S 30/40 translates this measurement mindset to pilot scale, combining transparent process data with higher throughput."

The most compact extruder in its class, TwinLab B-TSE-S 30/40 features an integrated drive for use in tight pilot environments without compromising performance. The



co-rotating twin screws are driven by 39 kW, operate up to 1,200 rpm, and deliver 150 Nm per screw under process conditions of up to 450 °C and 300 bar.

A clamshell barrel opens at the touch of a button to provide direct access to process areas for cleaning, screw changes, and inspection without the need for teardown. For demanding materials and frequent product switches, the detachable liner inserts can be released by loosening a few bolts, allowing quick changes of liner materials or hardness for abrasive, corrosive, or sensitive recipes while minimizing cross-contamination between runs.

TwinLab B-TSE-S 30/40's unique integrated engineering interface enables software-based I/O configuration for digital and analog signals. This allows users to add or re-map sensors, actuators, feeders, and downstream devices without hardware rebuilds, enabling effortless adaptation to changing application requirements.

The industry-leading MetaBridge software provides process visibility and control, recording and visualizing key parameters such as torque, temperature, pressure, screw speed, and throughput to support trial comparison, standardized reporting, and data export.

Designed for efficient development, reliable small-batch production, and smooth transfer to larger-scale operations, TwinLab B-TSE-S 30/40 combines a compact footprint, easy



process access, flexible configuration, and comprehensive data capture to support efficient and consistent extrusion workflows.

Anton Paar

► www.anton-paar.com

Eliminating Downtime and Boosting Film Quality with Continuous Melt Filtration

Nordson Corporation, through its Polymer Processing Systems (PPS) division, announced that Huhtamaki's Elif division, a global leader in sustainable flexible packaging solutions, has successfully implemented Nordson's BKG® continuous melt filtration technology to improve blown-film production performance while increasing the use of recycled materials.

As part of its sustainability strategy, Elif set out to increase recycled content in its polypropylene (PP) and polyethylene (PE) blown-film applications. However, the variability typically associated with recycled feedstock created significant processing challenges on its extrusion line operating at 350 kg/h. The company experienced frequent production interruptions, elevated waste levels, and visible film defects due to inconsistent melt filtration.

To address these challenges, Elif partnered with Nordson Polymer Processing Systems to evaluate a continuous melt filtration solution designed for demanding blown-film applications.

Addressing Downtime and Product Quality Challenges

Elif's existing discontinuous filtration system proved insufficient to handle fluctuations in melt purity inherent in recycled materials. As a result, the operation faced:

- Frequent downtime caused by filtration interruptions
- Increased gel content leading to product quality issues
- Reduced operational efficiency and higher material waste
- Limited flexibility in processing varying recycle qualities

These challenges impacted productivity, commercial output, and the company's sustainability objectives.



Nordson BKG® Continuous Melt Filtration Solution

Nordson provided a BKG® HiCon™ K-SWE-HD/RS continuous melt filter for on-line testing. Installed downstream of a 90 mm extruder and operating at inlet pressures of up to 550 bar, the system delivers filtration fineness between 125 and 150 µm.

- The BKG® HiCon™ system offers several performance advantages:
- True continuous filtration eliminates process interruptions
- Stable melt pressure and temperature ensure consistent film quality
- Robust handling of recycled materials with varying contamination levels
- Reduced waste and improved overall line efficiency
- Proven reliability in high-performance blown-film applications

The system's advanced backflush technology enables continuous, automated screen cleaning without interrupting production, ensuring stable processing even during contamination peaks.

Measurable Performance Gains

Following a short trial period, Elif reported immediate and measurable improvements, leading to the purchase and full implementation of the system.

Key benefits achieved include:

- Elimination of unplanned downtime related to melt filtration
- Increased output of sellable product
- Reduced material waste and improved process efficiency
- Significantly enhanced film quality with minimal gels
- Improved operator safety through fully automated, hands-free operation
- Increased flexibility in processing a broader range of recycled materials

"The introduction of the fully automated self-cleaning filter greatly improved our operator safety. With the BKG® HiCon™ K-SWE-HD/RS, we were able to replace manual filter changes on a running machine – which previously posed high safety risks – with an automated, waste-free process requiring no operator intervention," said Karim Saber, Global Senior Manager Extrusion & Recycling Operations.

Supporting Sustainability and Profitability

By stabilizing extrusion conditions and eliminating filtration-related interruptions, Elif has strengthened both its sustainability performance and operational profitability. The ability to reliably process higher levels of recycled content without compromising quality supports the company's broader environmental goals.

"This project clearly shows the value of continuous melt filtration when processing recycled materials," said Frank Thomas, Manager Sales, Nordson BKG®. "By combining automation, process stability, and robust filtration performance, we help customers like Elif achieve their sustainability goals while improving safety, efficiency, and profitability."

Nordson Polymer Processing Systems
➔ www.nordsonpolymerprocessing.com

Nordson Corporation
➔ www.nordson.com



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for plastics processing

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 **SCHALL**
TRADE FAIRS FOR MARKETS

50 Anniversary Celebrated – From a Family-Owned Business to a Leader in Flexible Polyethylene Packaging

A success story built around customer needs since 1976. It's time to raise a toast to Plastotecnica, a B2B manufacturer of flexible polyethylene packaging that offers customizable solutions and yesterday celebrated its 50th anniversary with an event for customers, suppliers, employees, and local institutions at Villa Selvatico in Battaglia Terme. Following opening remarks by Luca Iazzolino, CEO of Plastotecnica, Paola Carron, President of Confindustria Veneto Est, and Elisa Venturini, Regional Councilor for the Environment of the Veneto Region, took the stage to express their appreciation for the company's milestone and its contribution to the region's development. Leopoldo Destro, Vice President of Confindustria, was also present at the event.

Financial data

Plastotecnica produces high-quality, recyclable flexible packaging at its two plants in Pernumia and Bagnoli di Sopra, and in collaboration with its subsidiary ReFilm, a joint venture in Occhiobello (Rovigo) in which it holds a 51% stake. The company currently employs 334 people, including approximately 30 temporary workers who are subject to the same terms and benefits as direct employees. The year 2025 closed with revenue of 155 million euros. Performance in 2026 confirms a growth trajectory: in the first half of the year, the company recorded a 5% increase in volume and a 15% increase in revenue compared to the same period the previous year, with exports accounting for 32%. Based on these results, the company expects to close 2026 with revenue in the range of 200 million euros, accompanied by a significant improvement in profit margins.

From the early days to industrial scale

Plastotecnica's journey began in July 1976 thanks to Lorenza Dal Prà and her husband Mario Iazzolino in a garage in Padua, where they started producing plastic bags for retail outlets and neighborhood stores. The family business, originally named "Plastotecnica di Dal Prà Lorenza," grew, prompting the two founders to move from the garage to their first rented warehouses and then, in 1981, to the new



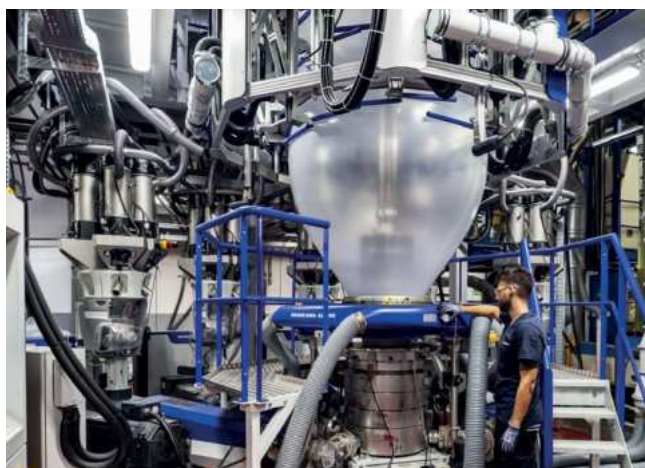
plant in Pernumia. In 1984, the owners decided to shift the business from producing bags for retail to supplying packaging for industry, particularly for major mineral water brands. This was a major turning point that led Plastotecnica to grow exponentially and become the Italian leader in flexible packaging.

Industrial growth at the Bagnoli site and the newly formed ReFilm

Having reached full production capacity at the Pernumia plant within just a few years, the company launched its new facility in Bagnoli di Sopra in 1992, where significant industrial development took place and where, since 2000, the corporate headquarters has also been located. In 2024, together with other partners, Plastotecnica founded ReFilm in the Rovigo area, a company that produces certified post-consumer recycled plastic derived from used packaging, intended for the manufacture of high-quality products.

"Reaching this 50-year milestone is a testament to the initiative and foresight of my parents, who were able to anticipate the needs of a rapidly expanding market," says Luca Iazzolino, CEO of Plastotecnica and President of Confindustria's Rubber and Plastics Federation since 2025. "The success of our company has been made possible by the passion and motivation of our employees and partners, the support of our customers, and the trust of our suppliers and financial institutions. To all of them, we extend our heartfelt thanks."

"To compete with exporting countries such as China, Turkey, and Egypt," continues CEO Iazzolino, "we have decided to focus on high-quality products and a tailor-made approach, sharing our research and development with our customers to create customized solutions. To further reduce our environmental impact and meet EU sustainability targets, we have always worked to reduce the weight of our packaging and increase the content of post-consumer recycled plastic in our products. These past few challenging years have also prompted us to completely revamp our management team, which has an average age of about 40



and is performing very well. And we've done this without relying on external resources, but by developing our internal talent. Furthermore, in light of the growing focus on environmental issues and in compliance with new European regulations in this area, the establishment in 2024 of our

subsidiary ReFilm in collaboration with an industrial partner allows us to look to the future from new perspectives."

Plastotecnica

► www.plastotecnica.com

New Testing Method Developed

The SKZ Plastics Center has developed a new testing method that significantly speeds up the determination of the permeability of plastic pipes. While conventional tests take several weeks or even months, the newly developed method delivers reliable measurement results within just a few hours. This opens up significant opportunities for pipe manufacturers in terms of quality assurance, testing costs, and development times.

SKZ Develops Accelerated Test Method for Pipe Permeation Properties

Plastic pipes are used for the safe transport of gases and liquids. Ideally, the transported medium reaches its destination completely and unchanged. In practice, however, even minor material permeability poses a significant challenge. So-called permeability – that is, a material's ability to allow certain media to pass through – is therefore considered a key quality characteristic in pipe manufacturing and is tested in accordance with standards.

Standard-compliant permeation testing has been time-consuming to date

Testing the permeability of pipes according to DIN 53380-3. Due to the geometry, material thickness, and the required steady-state measurement conditions, these tests often take several weeks to months. This represents a significant time and cost factor, particularly in development, approval, and complaint resolution processes.

IGF Project "Rohr-Perm" Enables Drastic Reduction in Testing Times

In the IGF project "Rohr-Perm" (Project No.: 01IF22636N), funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, the SKZ in Würzburg developed an alternative testing concept. The goal was to significantly shorten the testing time required to determine the permeation properties of plastic pipes without compromising the reliability of the results.

Test approach based on planar specimens and validated correlations

At the heart of the new method is the examination of a planar chip taken from the pipe. Its permeability is determined using established test methods for flat specimens in accordance with DIN 53380-2, which allow for significantly shorter measurement times.

Using correlation factors determined and validated in the project, the permeability of the entire pipe can then be reliably calculated. The correlation factors were systematically determined by comparing measurements on pipes



and chips according to different standards, as well as using a rapid helium test developed at SKZ.

High correlation demonstrated for PE, PP, and PVC pipes

The investigations on pipes made of polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), and polyvinyl chloride (PVC) showed a high degree of agreement between the measurement results from pipe and chip tests. Thus, the "Rohr-Perm" project makes a significant contribution to the accelerated and practical determination of the barrier properties of plastic pipes.

"Especially for PP and PVC, we were able to demonstrate a significant correlation of results when using identical measurement gases. The developed method enables the pipe industry, for example, to reduce measurement time from several weeks to a few hours when testing oxygen permeability," explains Franziska Eichhorn, Senior Engineer at SKZ.

Greater efficiency and quality assurance for the pipe industry

The industrial benefits of the new testing method lie particularly in the significant reduction of testing times and costs, as well as in the possibility of using permeation tests more widely in quality assurance in the future.

"The project highlights the added value of methodological transfer. Established measurement methods from other product areas can – with appropriate validation – be successfully transferred to new applications. This often results in significant potential for efficiency gains and cost savings," emphasizes Dr. Linda Mittelberg, Head of the Quality and Lifecycle Division at SKZ.

The SKZ Plastics Center

► www.skz.de

SPE's Microplastic Forum

October 20–21, 2026, Baltimore, USA

Whether you're evaluating how microplastics are generated throughout the product lifecycle, exploring detection and mitigation technologies, or preparing for evolving regulatory and customer expectations, organizations are under increasing pressure to understand and address microplastics in practical, measurable ways.

SPE's Microplastics Forum brings professionals from plastics manufacturing and processing, material development, environmental and sustainability programs, regulatory affairs, academia, water and wastewater treatment, consulting, and legal disciplines to find solutions to one of the industry's most significant technical and regulatory challenges.

The forum focuses on practical strategies for understanding, detecting, reducing, and managing microplastics while

supporting material performance, product innovation, and regulatory alignment.

Topics include:

- The evolving science and regulatory landscape surrounding microplastics
- Detection, quantification, and characterization methods
- Strategies to reduce and prevent microplastic generation and release
- Capture, filtration, separation, and material recovery technologies
- Product, material, and process innovations that support responsible plastics manufacturing

SPE-Inspiring Plastics Professionals
<https://www.4spe.org/mpf26/>

Call for 2026 Vinyl Week Presentations

The Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS) and the Vinyl Sustainability Council (VSC) have announced a call for presentations for 2026 Vinyl Week, the vinyl industry's premier event for processors, suppliers and sustainability leaders. Vinyl Week brings together two flagship industry events, the PLASTICS 36th Annual Vinyl Compounders Conference and the Vinyl Institute Sustainability Summit, into one dynamic, collaborative forum.

"The vinyl industry is constantly evolving, and Vinyl Week is the forum where many of the conversations driving that progress take place," said Patrick Krieger, senior vice president of sustainability and policy at PLASTICS. "We're looking for speakers who can share practical insights, emerging trends and innovative solutions that will help attendees prepare for what's next."

"Vinyl Week has become the premier gathering for collaboration across the vinyl value chain," said Jay Thomas, executive director of the Vinyl Sustainability Council. "We're excited to continue building momentum in 2026 and welcome another outstanding group of speakers and attendees."

2026 Vinyl Week will be held **December 8 to 10** at the Omni Charlotte Hotel in **Charlotte, North Carolina**.

PLASTICS and VSC welcome presentations that align with Vinyl Week's commitment to innovation, market insight and sustainability, addressing topics of interest to leaders across the vinyl industry, including but not limited to:

- Sustainability in product design, manufacturing and responsible sourcing
- Emerging trends and applications in key flexible vinyl end-use markets
- Next-generation vinyl materials, renewable feedstocks and net-zero resin solutions



- Global PVC and plasticizer market outlooks and business opportunities
- Technology innovations shaping the future of flexible vinyl

Vinyl Week draws attendees from across the vinyl value chain, including resin and plasticizer producers, compounders, formulators, converters, recyclers and manufacturers of both industrial and consumer products.

➔ <https://www.plasticsindustry.org/newsroom/2026-vinyl-week-call-for-presentations/>

Sustainability Report Highlights Role in Electrification, Circular Economy

Orion released its 2025 Sustainability Report, showcasing how the company's materials are advancing electrification, energy storage and the circular economy.

With the theme "Driving innovation – essential for the future," the report's highlights include upgrading technology in Sweden that recovers heat from the production process and supplies it to a city. In South Africa, operational improvements reduced waste by 30%. And globally, Orion achieved a safety record at its plants that was nine times better than the chemical industry's average.

The company's achievements with sustainability were recognized with several honors, including a Platinum rating from EcoVadis, 10 safety awards from the International Carbon Black Association, a listing on the European Commission's Innovation Radar and a "Green Factory" designation in China.

Key growth opportunities include supplying differentiated conductive materials for:

- Battery energy storage systems, driven by increased use of renewable energy and the expansion of energy-intensive data centers.



- High-voltage wire and cable applications, which are essential to electrification infrastructure.

- Lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicles, a market that continues to grow despite short-term volatility.

"We see sustainability as a strategic business opportunity," Orion CEO Corning Painter said. "Our ultra-pure conductive additives help power the global energy transition, from electric vehicles to grid-scale storage. We are helping enable a cleaner, more electrified future."

The report also highlights the impact of Orion's bio-circular products. For example, ECORAX® Nature 200 can reduce product carbon footprint by up to 100% compared with conventional fossil fuel-derived grades, demonstrating the environmental benefits of circular and bio-circular solutions.

The full Sustainability Report is available on Orion's website:
<https://orioncarbons.com/sustainability/>

Hearing on Recycling Bills to Boost American Manufacturing and Jobs Commended

The Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS) released the following statement after the House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade hearing on the Recycled Materials Attribution Act (RMAA) and the Packaging and Claims Knowledge (PACK) Act.

"We thank Chairman Gus Bilirakis, Ranking Member Jan Schakowsky, and the members of the Subcommittee for examining these important bipartisan proposals. We also recognize Reps. Nick Langworthy and Randy Weber, the original sponsors of the RMAA and the PACK Act, respectively.

The RMAA and the PACK Act represent some of the most consequential recycling policy reforms in decades. Together, these bills would establish consistent national definitions for recycling, recycled content, and recycling claims and labeling – creating the regulatory certainty needed to strengthen American manufacturing, encourage investment and innovation, and address today's growing patchwork of state requirements. That consistency would support clearer recycling claims, reduce consumer confusion, strengthen recycling markets, and help increase recycling rates.

The House Energy & Commerce Committee's recent unanimous approval of the Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility Act, the Senate's passage of the STEWARD Act, and today's hearing underscore growing bipartisan momentum to strengthen America's recycling system. PLASTICS looks forward to working with Congress to advance these bipartisan proposals."

➡ <https://www.plasticsindustry.org/newsroom/plastics-recycling-legislation-hearing/>

100 Years of Manufacturing Excellence in Switzerland Celebrated

SI Group marked a major milestone on May 28, 2026, celebrating 100 years of manufacturing at its Pratteln, Switzerland facility. The centennial celebration brought together customers, employees, and community representatives to recognize the site's enduring contribution to Swiss manufacturing and its continued role in serving global markets.

Since opening in 1926, the Pratteln facility has continuously evolved to meet changing industry needs, growing from its origins as a tar processing operation into a key production site for specialty alkylphenols and alkyl-cresols, critical intermediates used in high-performance antioxidant applications. Since its acquisition by SI Group in 1994, the facility has benefited from ongoing investments that support safe, reliable, and sustainable operations while strengthening the company's leadership in specialty chemicals.

"Reaching 100 years of operation is an extraordinary achievement and a reflection of the generations of employees whose dedication, expertise, and commitment have shaped Pratteln's success," said David Bradley, Presi-

dent and CEO of SI Group. "This milestone honors our past while reinforcing our commitment to investing in the future of the site, our customers, and the community."

As part of the celebration, guests toured the manufacturing facility and attended a reception highlighting the site's rich history and longstanding partnerships. The event concluded with an employee celebration recognizing the team's contributions that continue to drive the facility's success.

To commemorate the occasion, SI Group also announced a charitable donation to Cartons du Coeur Baselland which provides food assistance to individuals and families in need throughout the area.

The Pratteln centennial reflects not only the history of a single manufacturing site, but also SI Group's commitment to innovation, operational excellence, and long-term customer partnerships around the world.

SI Group

➔ www.siigroup.com

Circular Carbon Black Production Launched in China

Orion, a global specialty chemicals company, announced it is producing circular carbon black at its ISCC PLUS-certified plant in the eastern coastal city of Qingdao, China.

The facility is making three grades – ECORAX® Circular 200, 210 and 215 – from tire pyrolysis oil (TPO). ECORAX® 200 is a hard black suitable for tires, while the 210 and 215 grades can be used for tires and mechanical rubber goods (MRG).

"This new capability in China marks a key step in offering circular carbon black grades globally," Orion CEO Corning Painter said. "The product line extension gives us greater flexibility to meet growing demand for circular products, while maintaining the performance, consistency and quality our customers expect."

Orion was the first carbon black producer to make carbon black with 100% TPO and to commercialize multiple ISCC PLUS-certified grades from various feedstocks at plants across the world.

Last year, Orion significantly scaled up its circular capabilities in Europe, launching large volume production of ECORAX® Circular 200 and 210 – both made from TPO – through a commer-



cial reactor in Jasło, Poland. The ISCC PLUS certification of these products verifies transparent, traceable sourcing of sustainable raw materials.

ECORAX® Circular 200 and 210 are hard black grades designed as full drop-in replacements for ASTM grades N326 and N330, respectively, which are made from conventional feedstocks. The circular alternatives enable tire manufacturers to incorporate sustainable materials without compromising performance.

Both facilities in China and Poland use specially designed infrastructure with dedicated oil tanks that segregate the two main feedstocks: TPO and carbon black oil. The materials are then introduced in separate streams into a reactor to make the ECORAX® Circular grades.

"We now have the complete infrastructure to receive, store and dose TPO in our production in a completely controlled way," said Pedro Riveros, senior vice president of Global Rubber

Carbon Black at Orion. "Our technology allows us to modulate the blending ratio of TPO and carbon black oil, enabling us to have a more precise measurement of the TPO content. This is vital for quality consistency and useful

for our customers to execute their circular commercial strategies."

Riveros added, "In Europe, Orion has invested in TPO production and will be the off taker of the circular feedstock at multiple sites on the con-

tinental. We will continue to look for opportunities that will support and underpin our global strategy."

Orion S.A.

▶ orioncarbons.com

New Board of Directors Announced

SI Group announced the appointment of its new Board of Directors following the completion of a comprehensive recapitalization transaction late last year. Members of the new Board of Directors were appointed by the Company's new institutional ownership group in collaboration with SI Group's executive leadership team.

The newly appointed members are accomplished leaders with deep expertise in the chemical industry, global markets, and business strategy who will help build on SI Group's strong foundation and support the company's next phase of growth. The Board will work closely with management on initiatives focused on better serving customers, innovating with purpose, and creating long-term value.

The Board will be comprised of the following members:

- **Shawn Abrams**, Former President, Catalyst Technologies at W.R. Grace & Co. and currently serves on the Boards of Directors of PQ Corporation, Clean Chemistry, and Saville Corporation
- **Luis Fernandez-Moreno**, Former Interim President and Chief Executive Officer of Ingevity and currently serves on the Boards of Directors of Ingevity, Select Water Solutions, HASA, and Huber Engineered Materials

- **Daryl Roberts**, Former Senior Vice President and Chief Operations & Engineering Officer at DuPont and currently serves on the Boards of Directors of AdvanSix and American Electric Power

- **Jan Trnka-Amrhein**, Partner, Credit Opportunities at American Industrial Partners and currently serves on the Boards of Directors of Enviva Biomass and Apex Tool Group

- **David Bradley**, President and Chief Executive Officer, SI Group and serves on the Boards of Directors of Ecovyst and South Texas Truck Centers

"SI Group is proud to welcome this distinguished group of leaders to our Board of Directors," said David Bradley, President & CEO of SI Group. "Our new Board brings deep operational and industry expertise, along with a shared commitment to creating differential value for our customers and shareholders. Together, we will build on SI Group's century-long legacy of innovation and partnership as we position the company for continued success over the next 100 years."

SI Group

▶ www.siigroup.com

Statement on USMCA Negotiations

The Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS) President and CEO Matt Seaholm issued the following statement:

"As we reach today's milestone in the review of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), the Plastics Industry Association supports continued engagement among the United States, Mexico and Canada to preserve and strengthen an agreement that has become foundational to North American manufacturing.

USMCA provides the certainty businesses need to invest, innovate and build resilient supply chains across North America. For the U.S. plastics industry, Mexico and Canada are our two largest export markets, purchasing nearly \$19.8 billion and \$14.3 billion in U.S. plastics products annually. Those trading relationships support

American manufacturing, sustain high-quality jobs and strengthen industries ranging from healthcare and food packaging to automotive and construction.

As global competition intensifies, a strong and modernized USMCA will help ensure North America remains the world's most competitive manufacturing region. We look forward to working with the administration and policymakers to strengthen the agreement, expand opportunities for American manufacturers, and provide the long-term certainty businesses need to grow, invest and create jobs here at home."

▶ <https://www.plasticsindustry.org/newsroom/statement-from-plastics-president-and-ceo-on-usmca-negotiations/>



Matt Seaholm

CHINAPLAS 2026

CHINAPLAS 2026 was ended on April 24 and the 4-day show was well-attended by 350,189 visitors (an increment of 24.53% compared to CHINAPLAS 2025 in Shenzhen). Among them, 86,440 visitors (24.68%) were from overseas countries and Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan region of China (a 26.11% increase compared to CHINAPLAS 2025 in Shenzhen). Visitors were astonished by the innovations showcased at the show. Business deals were concluded at every corner of the halls.

The fairground was filled with visitors, highlighting the show's strong appeal and dynamic industry presence. Thousands of visitors experienced seamless entry into the exhibition venue.

At the eight captivating country/region pavilions, visitors immersed themselves in diverse international business opportunities and expanded their global network.

As a premier trade show and an interactive platform for sourcing between the industry elites and buyers from corporations in the plastics and rubber industries, countless trade deals were concluded in the exhibition halls, forging new connections and paving the way for industry growth and success.

A fascinating showcase of product exhibits from cutting-edge innovations to tried-and-true solutions offered a full array of applications that catered to the diverse needs from different industries and sectors.

Overseas visitors were satisfied with the large scale of the exhibition as they could easily find a substantial number of professional suppliers who provide high-quality products and solutions that meet their business needs.

Adsale Group's "CPS+ eMarketplace" held a co-operation signing ceremony with the Shanghai Plastics Industry Association, Zhejiang Plastics Industry Association, and Anhui Plastics Association at the fairground.

Plastics and rubber professionals were invited CHINAPLAS overseas ambassadors, supporting international promotion of the exhibition.



Excitement filled the air as visitors embraced the newest addition of interactive experience at CHINAPLAS 2026 – AI: Top Luck x Trendy Headline. Visitors immersed themselves in AI technology and forged unforgettable memories.

Brands joined forces in the Plastics Recycling & Circular Economy Conference for technology exchange and business matching, together building opportunities and addressing challenges in the development of plastic circular economy.

At The Power of Plastics Forum, industry leaders addressed the breakthrough recycling technologies, smart processing of recyclates, and AI-driven digital solutions.

Over 40 innovative technologies were launched on site, covering five themes: Green & Low-carbon Solutions, Innovative Packaging Solutions, Automotive Plastics Solutions, Specialized & Niche Chinese Technology Presentations and 2026 New Materials.

Visitors acquired insights on the high value-added and sustainable additives solutions at the Additives Seminar. They explored how additives redefine plastic's life cycle for achieving ESG.

Medical Plastics Connect provided an exclusive lens into high-tech domestic materials and world-class frontier technologies by leveraging expert insights and industry resources sharing.

CHINAPLAS joined hands with prestigious universities including Shanghai Jiao Tong University, East China University of Science and Technology, and Donghua University to grandly launch the special event "InnoAccelerate" during the exhibition. The event built a precise, efficient and reliable innovation docking platform between enterprises and universities, accelerating the industrialization of scientific and technological achievements, and empowering high-quality innovative development of the industry.

At Applications In Focus, participants revealed the pain points of the end-user industries and sought collaborative solutions across the supply chain through



seven themed forums. These forums covered over 50 hot topics, including automotive, medical, packaging, antimicrobial, cables, eco-friendly PVC products and etc., promoting the sustainable development of the plastics and rubber industries through synergy.

Grand Finale on CHINAPLAS Day 4 – "Decode Trends Forum" was held in the morning, covering topics of CMF Trends and Applications, Seminar on Innovation & Development for Humanoid Robots & Low-Altitude Aircraft and Unlocking Opportunities in Plastics and Rubber Industries.

CHINAPLAS built a direct bridge between top graduates and high-quality enterprises by bringing traditional campus recruitment to the industry exhibition.

Under the themed of "From Products to Technology. From Technology to Products", the gallery show-

cased 200+ pieces of innovative exhibits to inspire visitors, revealing the manufacturing technology behind the products, and connecting visitors with ideal suppliers.

The factory tour spent an afternoon at Shanghai FANUC Intelligent Factory Phase III. Participants stepped into the "Super Smart Factory" of the robotics industry, experienced an immersive visit to the Smart Manufacturing Experience Center, explored the robot simulation production line, and engaged in sharing sessions with technical experts.

CHINAPLAS 2027 will be held in Shenzhen in April 13 to 16, 2027.

www.ChinaplasOnline.com

An Interview with Denny Huang, President Everplast Machinery Co. Ltd

Everplast Machinery is a Taiwanese company with over 35 years of experience in profile pipe and attrition net production, as well as 3D printing for pellet materials. The representative discusses the company's focus on precision medical tube machines and shares insights about the current state and challenges of the plastic industry in China. They also comment on the exhibition trends, noting a lack of new developments at Chinaplas 2026 compared to previous years, and highlight industry consolidation efforts such as mergers with German machine makers.

So now we are talking to a representative for Everplast Machinery. Please tell us the specification of your company.

Denny Heang: Everplast Machinery Company is located in Taiwan and we are in this field more than 35 years. We focus on the profile pipe and the compound and the attrition net. And just this period of time, almost five years, we also have a 3D printer.

And the 3D printer is basically for the pellets material, not for the filament. And we saw our machine in more than 110 countries. So basi-

cally, this is our brief introduction of our company.

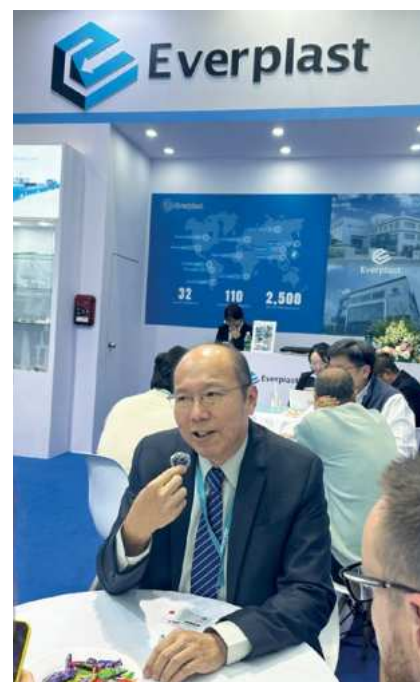
What new solutions do you present at Chinaplas this year?

Denny Heang: We present our precision medical tube machine here. And also, such kind of medical tube is growing more than other kind of products. So, this period of time, we just focus on such kind of precision medical tube machine.

What is your opinion about Chinaplas 2026 comparing last year or 2024?

Denny Heang: This is a good question. Actually, I was this year in China more than two, three or four times. It's my feeling in China local market that no good, to be frankly, no good. So, but all the customers are looking for a cheaper, cheaper price. So I think this is the problem of developing the plastic industry in China.

But of course, the huge market here in China still has some potential, but because of the price problem. So I don't think there will be a huge development. You know, and the idea is that right now, all over the world, for example, for Chinese machine makers, they are starting to merge or buy some companies, some machine makers in Germany.



So anyway, I don't know what's the future for the practical industrial development. In last year case or even this chain car project I asked some of my friends and some of my customers is there something new during the exhibition here normally they say no so this is something I don't know it's a good or no good news.

Thank you so much, anyway.

An Interview with Anthony Michael Caprioli, CEO of Macchi

Anthony Michael Caprioli, CEO of Macchi, discusses their extrusion lines for quality film and their award-winning sustainable monomaterial film technology. Macchi participated in Chinaplas 2026 with a sales stand rather than a live demonstration line, focusing on public relations and potential sales. Caprioli notes the growing importance of the Asian market and recognizes the advancements made by Asian competitors.

What new solutions do you present at Chinaplas 2026?

Anthony Michael Caprioli: We haven't got a running line because it's technically impossible for us to bring a line to the show. So we come in with a stand and a sales representative.

We interact with customers on what we sell. We go over portfolios and

whatsoever. It's public relations and potential sales.

Maybe any highlights, news, big news about your company that you would like to share with our readers?

Anthony Michael Caprioli: We won an award. Provided that we took to the show last year in Germany on sustainability and the type of film that the line actually made. Because it's monomaterial, so it's 100% recyclable. And that was recognized worldwide.

Okay, thanks. What is your general opinion about Trade Fair Chinaplas this year comparing last year?

Anthony Michael Caprioli: What I can see, last year the show was held in Shenzhen and this year it's been held in Shanghai. There are more people here as opposed to last year, but it's the same type of feel. We can see the Asian competitors, the Asian competi-



tion is making great steps forward, so we need to keep an eye on Asia.

So Asian market is important for your company.

Anthony Michael Caprioli: Very important, yes.

Thank you so much for this interview.

An Interview with Rajoo's Territory Sales Manager, Jaldeep Cholera

Rajoo Engineers is a manufacturing company based in Gujarat, India, specializing in extrusion machinery. The representative discusses their latest product innovation, a 9-layer blown film extrusion line designed for high barrier food packaging. They also share positive impressions of the Chinaplas 2026 trade fair and confirm plans to participate in the next year's event in Shenzhen. The conversation highlights the company's technological advancements and their ongoing engagement with industry trade fairs.

We are talking to a representative of Rajoo. Could you please introduce yourself and tell us a few words about your company.

Jaldeep Cholera: Rajoo Engineers is a company based in India, in Western part of India in Gujarat region. We are

manufacturer of extrusion machinery which includes blown film extrusion lines, flat sheet extrusion lines, thermoforming machines and extrusion coating and lamination lines.

What are new solutions do you present this year Chinaplas 2026?

Jaldeep Cholera: We have come up with high barrier blown film line, which is the latest development. We have recently developed a 9 layer blown film line, which can be used for production of high barrier film production which can be like meat packaging, fish packaging, different kind of food packaging applications.

What are your impressions about this trade fair in 2026 comparing last year or maybe previous year?

Jaldeep Cholera: This trade fair means a lot. It is always a good platform to exhibit on this Chinaplas. Compared to the previous one, we are



seeing very good footprints and number of exhibitors is also more.

Do you plan to present something next year in Shenzhen?

Jaldeep Cholera: Yes, obviously, we will be doing it.

Thank you so much for this interview.

FlexiPET – Redesigned Demo Line for PET Thermoforming Sheet

SML announces the launch of the FlexiPET, a brand-new production-scale demonstration line for thermoforming sheet located at SML's Technology Centre. The line features a completely redesigned machine architecture, and delivers smart innovations at every level: most notably SML's new twin-screw extruder TSE80 for polyester, a modernised roll stack, and the new W650 winder.

The FlexiPET is a co-extrusion sheet line configured for a classic 3-layer structure (A/B/A), but which also has the versatility to operate as a 2-layer line (A/B) as required.

Extrusion excellence: TSE 80 combined with high-performance vacuum unit

"At the heart of the line lies the new TSE 80 – a state-of-the-art parallel co-rotating twin-screw extruder designed in-house by SML and specifically optimised for PET," explains Martin Kastner, R&D Engineer at SML. Equipped with a low-maintenance, water-cooled main drive delivering 348 kW, the TSE 80 achieves an output capacity of up to 1000 kg/h for PET.

The TSE 80 demonstrates exceptional material versatility. It is optimised for processing large volumes of materials with low bulk densities – such as flakes or regrind. The concept is also an excellent choice for processing PET/PE flakes, as well as PETG and its post-industrial flake stream (GAG). With its compact design, the TSE 80 ensures high rates of energy efficiency. In addition, the

short residence time in the extruder retains the natural, clear colour of PET, preventing the yellowing of the film.

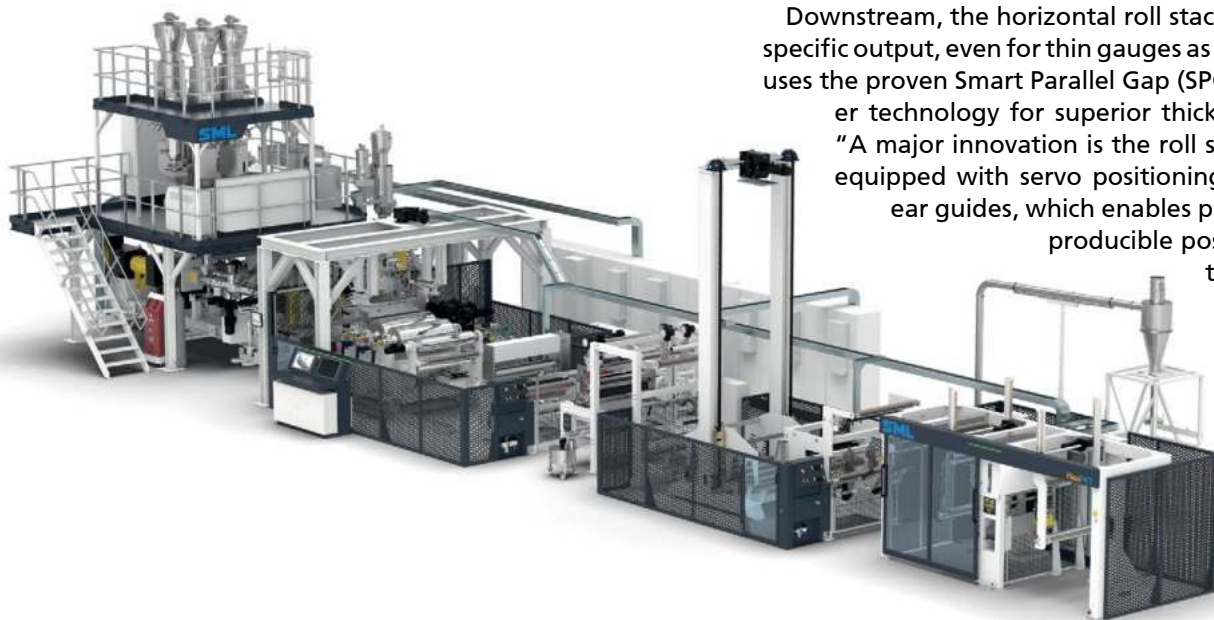
To ensure the highest melt quality for processing PET without pre-drying, the TSE 80 is combined with SML's high-performance vacuum unit. This frequency-controlled two-stage vacuum system employs a roots vacuum pump for high volume flow rates with a dry-running rotary screw pump for low pressure levels. This configuration achieves absolute pressure levels as low as 1 mbar. Due to the dry-running vacuum pumps, the unit ensures high levels of energy efficiency and environmental compatibility.

A gravimetric batch blender with three stations for main components (virgin, flakes, regrind) and two additive dosing stations offers exceptional flexibility for complex formulations.

The co-extruder in the FlexiPET line is an SML single-screw extruder (ES 60/28D) powered by a 64 kW main drive motor. It is designed for processing pre-dried material with an output of up to 200 kg/h for PET.

Precision calendaring

Downstream, the horizontal roll stack ensures a high specific output, even for thin gauges as low as 150 µm. It uses the proven Smart Parallel Gap (SPG) polishing roller technology for superior thickness tolerances. "A major innovation is the roll stack movement, equipped with servo positioning drives and linear guides, which enables precise, 100 % reproducible positioning in both the horizontal





Twin-Screw Extruder TSE80 from SML
(Copyright: KHP Karin Hackl)

and vertical directions," Martin Kastner continues. This feature includes automatic start-up processes, collision protection between the roll stack and flat die, and the ability to store production positions in the SMILE control system. The design complies with Calander standard DIN EN 12301-2021-12, ensuring safety without affecting the visibility of the smoothing roller gap.

W650: new winder for thermoforming film

The FlexiPET concludes with the new W650 winder, a development that combines the best of two worlds. It offers the user-friendly roll handling of a cantilever winder – where the shaft remains in place during changes – combined with the large winding capacities of an A-frame winder (diameters of up to 1,500 mm and 2,000 kg roll weight). A movable winding shaft support ensures the production of perfectly straight-edged reels.

The W650 basic version also includes semi-automatic cantilever operation with automatic cross-cutting via flying knife. Energy-efficient asynchronous servo motors with resolver feedback, combined with SML's in-house winding controller, enable precise winding from the first layer. The W650 is fully modular and can be upgraded with optional modules for specific requirements, such as FFS winding or the processing of two webs on a single shaft. All these modules are currently installed on the demonstration line at SML's Technology Centre.

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Maximum Process Stability and Pellet Quality for Next-Generation Production

For decades, MAAG has set benchmarks in underwater strand pelletizing technology (USG). With the new M²-USG generation, the company introduces a system designed to deliver enhanced process stability, higher throughput, and consistently superior pellet quality. Design improvements combined with advanced sensor integration enable customers to achieve more reliable production and improved operational efficiency.

Focus on Reliability and Product Quality

The new development is engineered to ensure maximum system availability (>99% OEE) and highly stable production processes. Reduced downtime and minimized scrap rates help lower operating costs while improving overall plant profitability.

At the core of the system is the newly developed M²-USG cutting head, designed to simplify operation and maintenance while minimizing the risk of operator error. Maintenance procedures can largely be performed without tools, and cleaning times have been significantly reduced, allowing operators to return to production faster.

From Polymer Melt to Perfect Pellets

MAAG systems are engineered to produce uniform, cylindrical pellets with minimal fines. During the process, the polymer melt passes through a die plate, is cooled and automatically guided into the pelletizer.

Precise control of process parameters is essential. Incorrect settings can cause strand adhesion, unstable cutting conditions, and ultimately production interruptions. The M²-USG addresses these challenges with a series of targeted design optimizations, helping customers maintain stable, efficient, and sustainable production.



*New Underwater Strand
Pelletizer M2-USG*

Mastering the Critical Startup Phase

The startup phase is often one of the most critical moments in pelletizing operations. During this stage, polymer strands must be reliably transferred into the guide system.

A newly developed scraper combines high operating speed with particularly gentle strand handling. The strands are cut sequentially at the die plate and fed into the strand guide section and the cutting head with a controlled time delay. This significantly reduces the risk of strand sticking, clogging or excessive startup waste, resulting in faster and more reliable process ramp-up.

Seamless Transition for Enhanced Stability

An optimized water film on the startup table prevents turbulence and reduces the risk of strands sticking together. In addition, transport water is injected immediately after cutting, preventing potential blockages inside the cutting head, even when processing high-temperature polymers or challenging materials such as polycarbonate.

The result is smoother machine operation, improved process stability and increased system availability for the customer.

Larger Cutting Rotor for Higher Performance

The new cutting head features a compact and optimized design with improved sound insulation. The rotor diameter has increased from 162.5 mm to 200 mm, while the number of blades has grown from 30 to 36.

This upgrade enables significantly higher throughput while extending service life by 20%. A stable cutting gap ensures consistently high pellet quality and reduces maintenance requirements and spare-part consumption further lowering operating costs.

High Capacity in a Compact Design

The M²-USG is available in machine widths of 600, 900, and 1200 mm. At 600 mm width, the system achieves throughputs of up to 13,000 kg/h (PET), while the 1200 mm version reaches up to 24,000 kg/h - significantly exceeding the performance of previous models.

This higher capacity allows processors to achieve the same output with smaller machine sizes, reducing both capital investment and installation footprint.

Integrated Sensors for Maximum Efficiency

Integrated sensors continuously monitor key parameters such as vibration, temperature, flow rates, and pressure to ensure an optimal production at the sweet spot. Any deviations are immediately detected and reported, also via remote monitoring, helping operators prevent process instability and scrap.

A camera system monitors strand flow, while compressed air consumption is also tracked. In addition, energy-efficient reluctance motors contribute to lower energy consumption and improved sustainability.

Conclusion

With its advanced engineering, improved process stability, and outstanding pellet quality, the new M²-USG sets a new benchmark in underwater pelletizing.

Customers benefit from reduced operating costs, higher throughput, improved efficiency, and integrated sensor technology that ensures maximum process reliability.

Extruder and EcoFresh Silo Degassing for Food-Safe Recompounds

Coperion has received a Letter of No Objection (LNO) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for its high-density polyethylene (HDPE) and polypropylene (PP) recycling technology. The letter confirms that the combination of Coperion twin screw extruders and EcoFresh silo degassing used in the manufacture of rHDPE and rPP fulfills the requirements for direct contact with food.

Coperion is the first provider of complete decontamination systems featuring twin screw extruders and EcoFresh silo degassing to offer the market a highly efficient solution for the production of food-grade recyclates, covering capacities from small throughputs up to 6,000 kg/h. Coperion achieves the level of decontamination of rHDPE and rPP required for the LNO through the interplay of these two proven technologies. The quality of this solution was validated in a challenge test and confirmed by the FDA.

This opens up new possibilities for the recycling of food packaging: For example, food-grade regranulate can be produced from HDPE milk jugs or fruit juice bottles and then reused to manufacture similar bottles or related products. Food containers, cups, bowls and trays made of PP can be recycled into new packaging for direct contact with food.

Manufacturing food-grade rHDPE and rPP

Manufacturing food-safe recyclates is one of the greatest challenges in plastics recycling. Such regranulates must be certified as suitable for direct contact with food, fulfilling the highest requirements for purity and safety.

"The FDA's LNO means that rHDPE and rPP manufactured with our technologies can be used for new food packaging in proportions up

to 100 percent", said Stefan Lachenmayer, Global Commercial Director Recycling at Coperion. "As a result, we provide recyclers the assurance that our energy-efficient mechanical recycling process manufactures high-quality recyclate for use cases A-H. These include, for example, packaging for high-temperature, heat-sterilized, pasteurized or frozen products."

Process steps for food safety

Significant for this Coperion system's high decontamination performance are the co-rotating twin screw extruder's high degassing performance and the efficient EcoFresh silo degassing system, where even low residence times are enough to reliably remove low-volatility migratory substances.

Raw material for the Coperion food-safe rHDPE recyclate process consists of used HDPE beverage bottles or their caps. The material stream for rPP compounds consists of vegetable trays, packaging, yogurt containers, and the like.

The material is fed into the extruder via Coperion K-Tron gravimetric feeders, where it is first melted, intensively mixed, homogenized and degassed using twin screws. Coperion profits from its many years of experience in melt and solid devolatilization when designing process parameters and has configured both the process and the screw configuration to optimally meet the



Coperion's EcoFresh silo degassing system and its twin screw extruders have received a Letter of No Objection (LNO) from the FDA and are therefore suitable for the production of food-grade HDPE and PP recyclates (Photo: Coperion, Stuttgart Germany)

requirements of the respective recycling application.

Plastic is purified of solid foreign materials via a melt filter and then pelletized. Next the recompounds pass a second decontamination step in the newly developed and standardized EcoFresh silo degassing unit.

Food-grade tests at Coperion Recycling Innovation Center

Recyclers can test the decontamination performance of the Coperion extruder and EcoFresh at the Coperion Recycling Innovation Center where both technologies are available for extensive trials using original material streams. Together with Herbold Meckesheim's Test Center, where grinding and cleaning of raw materials takes place, Coperion can reproduce the entire recycling process in its test centers.

"The basis for the suitability of our HDPE and PP recycling solutions for

manufacturing food-contact materials lies in our integrated approach as a system provider. We look at the entire process and apply our decontamination technologies precisely at

specific points in the process chain. It is their optimal interplay that makes the efficient achievement of the necessary level of decontamination possible", says Stefan Lachenmayer.

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Trials for Optimal Product Solutions – *Test Centre for Blown Film Production Modernised*

Hosokawa Alpine has thoroughly modernised its test centre for blown film applications at its Augsburg site. Using a 5-layer and a 9-layer blown film line equipped with the latest MDO and automation technology, customers can develop their ideal film formulation there, thereby gaining a sound basis for their investment decisions.

At the test centre of the Augsburg-based engineering firm, which specialises in blown film extrusion lines, customers can carry out test series using their own materials and formulations or test their applications in collaboration with Hosokawa Alpine's experts. "We support our customers in optimising the quality of their products and making their production processes more efficient. Particularly for new developments, trials at our test centre can significantly accelerate the development cycle. This helps to minimise investment risks," says Michael Heinecker, who has been Senior Vice President of Blown Film Extrusion at Hosokawa Alpine since the beginning of May and is the successor to Martin Schorbach. Heinecker was previously Technical Director of the Blown Film business unit and has been with the company for 27 years.

State-of-the-art facilities for customer trials

At Hosokawa Alpine's test centre, customers have access to the company's most advanced 9-layer blown film line to date. It enables them to carry out demanding tests and drive innovation in the field of flexible packaging solutions. The 5-layer line at Alpine's test centre is equipped with the new MDO (Machine Direction Orientation) film orientation line featuring 12 rollers, which is designed for maximum productivity and flexibility. An integrated quick-change system allows the stretching rollers to be replaced in just around 15 minutes, ensuring consistently high line availability and a rapid changeover between different film applications. In addition, an innovative cleaning concept boosts process efficiency: whilst integrated cleaning mechanisms reduce contamination during oper-



At the 9-layer blown film line in the modernised test centre in Augsburg, customers can work with Hosokawa Alpine to develop their ideal film formulation

ation, an ultrasonic bath ensures thorough deep cleaning of the rollers. The 5-layer line is equipped with Hosokawa Alpine's new, modular calibration basket, which stabilises and calibrates the film bubble above the frost zone.

Automation & digital features: Experience efficiency first-hand

At the test centre, visitors can experience Hosokawa Alpine's various automation and digitalisation solutions under real production conditions. Live demonstrations show how intelligent assistance systems, monitoring tools and automated format changes stabilise and accelerate processes. This allows efficiency, process reliability and reproducibility to be directly understood – a decisive advantage for reliable and cost-effective series production.

Expansion of service and consulting expertise

With the modernised test centre, Hosokawa Alpine is taking an important step into the future. "Our test centre strengthens the partnership-based relationship with our customers, who actively collaborate with us to find the optimal solution for their film production. They have the opportunity to directly compare different settings and set-ups. At the same time, they experience first-hand what our systems are capable of," says Michael Heinecker.

Hosokawa Alpine
► www.hosokawa-alpine.com

The Strength of PVC Pipeheads

CONEXTRU has recently released a new generation of PVC pipe heads, which are suitable for use with U-PVC, M-PVC and O-PVC. This product is designed specifically for C-PVC or 100% reground PVC material. It is available with a special head modification that has a lower volume.

The standard product line consists of eight pipe heads in total, with diameters ranging from 10 mm to 1,000 mm, PV 63 to PV 1000. All pipe heads are designed for pressure class PN 16, even for the largest outer diameter. The latest generation of PVC heads boasts a wider range of outer diameters, a development that has been achieved through the implementation of a completely new mechanical engineering design.

The product line is designed to facilitate the use of die sets with the next larger head via range adapters. This feature reduces the number of die sets and investment. The standard version of the die set has eight heating zones, which are segmented with a thermal isolation layer between each pair of zones. This makes thermal centring possible either manually or in combination with automated wall thickness measurement.

Should multiple wall thicknesses be required, the mandrel will be split into two parts: the basic mandrel and the front part of the mandrel. In the event of a change in wall thickness at the same outer diameter, it will only be possible to change the front part of the mandrel. This, in conjunction with horizontal die and mandrel alterations, minimises the time required for dimensional adjustments.

All pipe heads are equipped with a state-of-the-art torpedo tip design, which directs the melt into a ring-shaped flow before it enters the large volume area of

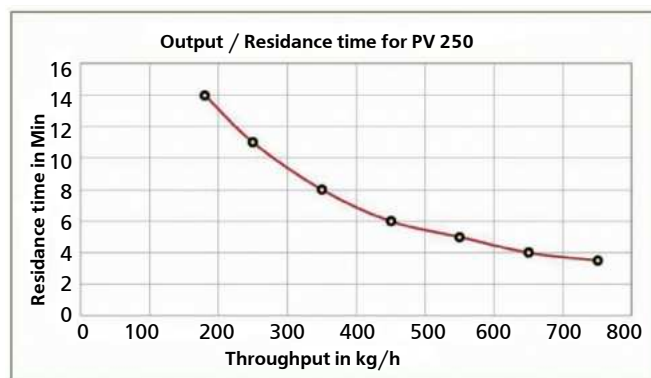


Diagram Residence time over output of PV 250

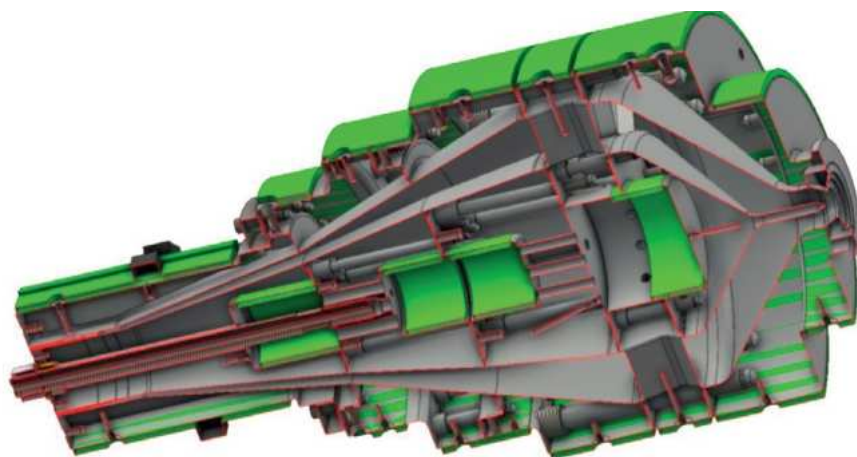
the head. This uniform flow around the circumference results in a much shorter start-up time and faster cleaning with freezing compound.

For the thickest wall PN 16, each head has a high compression ratio of over 5 times the cross section of the torpedo compared to the cross section of the die set.

Torpedo tip

PV 400





Cross section

Therefore, it is not necessary to incorporate any further compression sections. The flow channel subsequent to the torpedo should be streamlined with continuous degreasing until the final gap is reached. The combination of large volume and high compression, along with the small radius of the streamlined-shaped spider, results in a smooth inner surface without visible spider lines.

The new series has also been redesigned in terms of throughput and volume. For all heads, the maximum throughput is achieved at a dwell time of 5 minutes, while the minimum throughput is achieved at a dwell time of 15 minutes. This range of dwell times ensures smooth inner surfaces at high throughput rates while simultaneously allowing for the maximum possible thermal load on the PVC-formulation without causing thermal damage.

The heads are made of chromium-molybdenum steel with a chromed surface, with the exception of the torpedo, which is made of stainless steel. Should there be a requirement for this, the complete heads are also available in stainless steel.

Ceramic heaters provide the necessary heating, both inside and out, especially for the torpedo tip, range adapters and mandrels, which are heated with special

cylindrical inner heaters for optimal heat distribution. An isolation for the head is available as an option.

Double strand extrusion

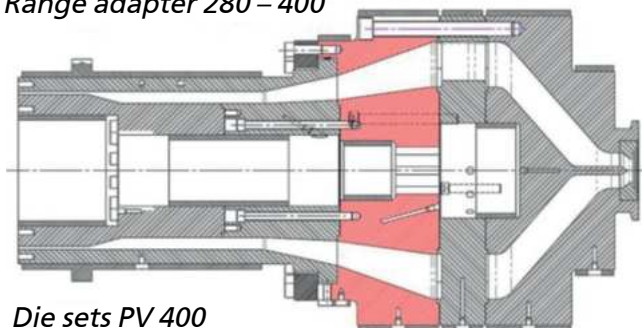
Double strand extrusion is also a popular method when high-capacity extruders are available. Conextru offers two product lines: the PV-2 110 and the high-performance variant, the PV-2-160 HP, which is a modified version of the PV 160 designed for 1,000 kg/h per strand in total throughput of 2 metric tons per hour.

The centre distance is determined according to customer requirements. If required, Conextru also offers vacuum cooling baths for double strand extrusion with PLC control for water temperature and vacuum level.

Multilayer versions of PVC heads

For two or three layers, including a foamed or highly filled middle layer, or for cross heads for coating, CONEXTRU offers five different head sizes: PV 3 110, PV 3 160, PV 3 250, PV 3 400 and PV 3 630. The core of the heads is based on a coat hanger die for all three lay-

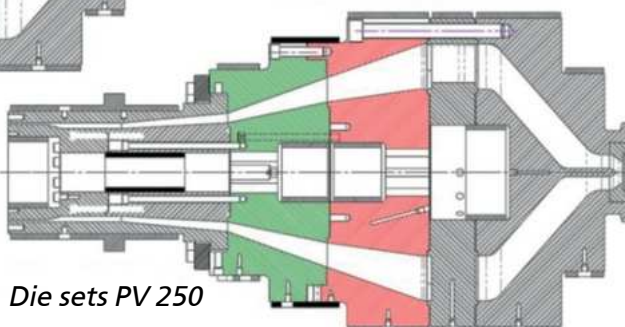
Range adapter 280 – 400



Die sets PV 400

Range adapter system

Range adapter 110 – 250



Die sets PV 250

Pipehead name	PV 63	PV 110	PV 160	PV 250	PV 400	PV 630	PV 800	PV 1000
Dimension range [mm]	16 - 63	16 - 110	63 - 160	110 - 250	110 - 400	160 - 630	160 - 800	400 - 1000
Range adapter use of die sets on next bigger head		16 - 63	63 - 110	110 - 160	110 - 250	160 - 250	160 - 250	
						250 - 400	250 - 400	400 - 630
							400 - 630	630 - 800
Min. wall thickness [mm]	1,0	1,8	1,9	1,8	1,8	1,8	1,8	9,1
Max. wallthickness PN 16 [mm]	4,7	8,2	11,9	18,6	29,7	30	38,1	38,1
Max. output kg/h	250	500	700	900	1200	1200	1500	2000
Min. output kg/h	50	150	200	300	400	400	500	500
Max. volumen with RA and die set	6	13	30	45	100	110	110	140

Table 1: Product line



PV 2 160 HP

ers, with the torpedo not being utilised. The flow channel is a well-known design from PVC sheet dies. PVC sheet dies are characterised by their flat design. These dies, specifically designed for pipe multilayer applications, feature a channel that is arranged in a cylindrical configuration, also known as a manifold.

It is evident that all heads share similar flow channel geometries and characteristics. The root of the issue is invariably a PVC flow channel. The key benefit of this manifold system is that it allows for straightforward modification of the geometry in the event of unexpected layer eccentricity. Each head is available with two or three extruders.

Outlook

The design and rheological specifications of PVC heads have remained unchanged for quite some time and are still based on the torpedo-tube head principle.

The series presented here reflects the current state of the art and, thanks to minor modifications, promises excellent pipe quality. The smooth inner surfaces of the pipes – with no visible web markings – as well as the trouble-free startup and freezing process are particularly impressive in this context. It should be noted here that no changes are expected in the near future.

By J. Dobrowsky

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Manifold 3D print

Significantly Reduced Strap Breaks in Strapping Production

Czech packaging specialist UNIPACK has modernized its polyester strapping tape production line by replacing an existing extruder with a Gneuss OMNI extrusion system. Since the beginning of 2026, the new system has been operating successfully, delivering higher production output, significantly more stable processes, and noticeable energy savings.

UNIPACK produces polypropylene and polyester strapping tapes on several production lines and has continuously expanded its production capacities in recent years. As part of the modernization project, an older extruder was replaced with a Gneuss extrusion system consisting of a 4-component dosing system, an MRS 90 extruder, a 25 mbar vacuum unit, an RSFgenius melt filtration system, a VIS online viscometer, melt pump, and strapping die.

"With the new Gneuss technology, we do not need expensive material preparation (drying and crystallization) with a residence time of 5 - 6 hours, we are able to monitor the viscosity of the material online and, most importantly, thanks to excellent filtration, we have stable production without unnecessary interruptions " reports Project Manager Dušan Rejthar. "Our productivity has increased and the amount of waste has decreased from 7% to 3%."

As feedstock, UNIPACK mainly processes coloured PET bottle flakes, including green, red, and brown materials that are typically no longer suitable for bottle-to-bottle recycling. The system enables the use of up to 100% recycled material.

The company highlights not only the increased throughput but also the consistent quality of the strap-



UNITAPE strapping tapes



Gneuss OMNI recycling system integrated into UNIPACK's strapping tape production line

Project team from UNIPACK and Gneuss during the test phase of the OMNI recycling system at the Gneuss Technical Center in Bad Oeynhausen. From left to right: Dr. Axel Hannemann (Gneuss), Tomáš Medek (UNIPACK), Niklas Moehlmann (Gneuss), Stacho Cupek (UNIPACK), Dušan Rejthar (UNIPACK), and Ladislav Holub (UNIPACK)



ping tapes. This quality has already received positive feedback from end customers. Mechanical properties, particularly elongation and tensile characteristics, have been significantly improved.

"We are very satisfied with the system's performance," says Rejthar. "The cooperation with the Gneuss service team during installation and commissioning was also excellent."

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www.gneuss.com

Efficient Quality Control for Extrusion Line

RR Kabel, one of India's leading wire & cable manufacturers, uses SIKORA's X-RAY 8700 NXT to ensure accurate, real-time measurement and control in its SIOPLAS lines. With more than 2,000 systems sold worldwide, SIKORA's X-RAY 8000 series has set the standard for continuous and reliable quality control in power cable production. The systems deliver precise and reliable measurements of concentricity, wall thickness, diameter and ovality as well as by controlling cables with up to three layers.

Power cable manufacturers, including RR Kabel, install X-RAY devices from SIKORA for quality control in SIOPLAS as well as in CCV lines. In addition, producers of power cables benefit from the final quality control as it ensures the highest quality of the cables delivered to their customers.

The X-RAY 8700 NXT is installed at the hot position of the SIOPLAS line and immediately provides information for fast centering of the crosshead and automatic control of the wall thickness. The system precisely measures the wall thickness, diameter and eccentricity at the beginning of the production line, which ensures that only cables of the highest quality are delivered.

The X-RAY 8700 NXT supports a wide application range, including cables with solid and stranded as well as Milliken conductors with single, double or triple layer insulation. It is also suitable for quality control of insulation material based on polypropylene, including High Performance Thermoplastic Elastomer (HPTE).



SIKORA GmbH

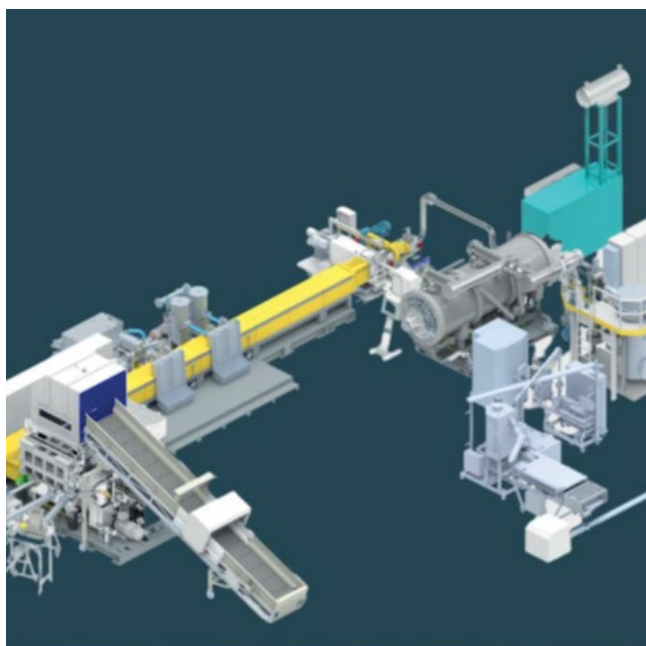
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www.sikora.net

#4-2026

RECYCLING

Regular Section
in EXTRUSION INTERNATIONAL Magazine



Second-Hand Recycling Machines Gain Importance

Herbold Meckesheim continues to strengthen its offering of used machinery for the plastics recycling industry. The company provides second-hand machines from its portfolio available from stock, offering customers a flexible and economically efficient alternative to new equipment. Depending on configuration and availability, machines are available at short notice. The portfolio includes granulators, shredders, pulverizers, plastcompactors, and components for washing lines such as friction washers and dryers. These machines are selected based on defined technical criteria and are supplied in a tested condition, ensuring functional reliability in line with Herbold's quality standards.

Growing Market Relevance of Used Machinery

Used machinery has long been an established part of Herbold Meckesheim's business. In recent years, its importance has increased further due to rising investment costs, shorter project timelines, and the growing need for operational flexibility in the plastics recycling sector.

Within the industry, second-hand equipment is increasingly viewed



Herbold provides expert support for used machinery through application-oriented consulting and technical assistance tailored to individual process requirements (Photos: Herbold Meckesheim, Germany)

not as a temporary solution, but as a fully viable alternative to new machinery. For many applications, it enables faster project implementation while meeting defined technical performance requirements.

Comprehensive Inspection and Refurbishment

Before being offered for resale, all used machines undergo detailed technical evaluation. Depending on machine type, condition, and intended future application, equipment

is either inspected and serviced or comprehensively refurbished.

In selected cases, machines are completely dismantled and individually assessed. Critical components such as bearing seats, roller bearings, seals, and other wear parts are carefully checked for tolerances, dimensional accuracy, and overall condition.

For these processes, Herbold Meckesheim uses the same precision measuring and testing equipment employed in its new machine production. This ensures that refurbished machines meet clearly defined technical and operational standards before delivery to customers.

Technical and Economic Advantages for Customers

Used machinery from Herbold Meckesheim provides customers with a technically proven and economically attractive alternative. One of the principal advantages for customers is the swift availability of used machines, with delivery often possible immediately or within just a few months. Compared to new equipment, second-hand systems

Comprehensive portfolio of used machinery, ranging from granulators and plastcompactors to shredders, pulverizing systems and washing line equipment



offer an attractive balance between investment cost and performance while enabling shorter project implementation times.

All machines are based on Herbold's established engineering expertise and are designed to provide reliable performance in demanding recycling applications. In addition, customers benefit from application-oriented consulting and technical support tailored to their

individual process requirements. This combination of used machinery and professional support distinguishes Herbold Meckesheim from conventional used equipment suppliers.

"We see a clear increase in demand for used machines, driven by higher investment costs and the growing need for short-term solutions," says Karlheinz Herbold, Senior Specialist of Sales Used Ma-

chines at Herbold Meckesheim. "For many customers, a used machine is no longer a compromise, but a deliberate and economically sound decision. They receive proven Herbold technology, expert-level consulting and dependable service, combined with shorter lead times and attractive investment conditions."

Herbold Meckesheim GmbH
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Plastics Recycling Award Europe 2026

At the Plastics Recycling Show Europe, which took place in Amsterdam from 5 to 6 May 2026, recycling machinery manufacturer EREMA was honoured with the Plastics Recycling Award Europe 2026 in the "Recycling Machinery Innovation" category. The award was presented for the VOLEX technology, with which EREMA has significantly improved degassing performance in mechanical plastics recycling.

The award recognises a technological innovation that responds to the increasing requirements placed on recycled materials for demanding applications. The jury praised the remarkable innovation, which allows to achieve a high level of degassing performance: the VOC (volatile organic compounds) content in the recycled pellets is up to 40 per cent lower than that achieved with INTAREMA® TVE-plus® degassing system and up to 75 per cent lower than that of the input material. At the same time, fogging effects – particularly relevant in injection moulding applications – are significantly reduced.

"We are delighted to receive this award. With the VOLEX technology, we are addressing concrete market requirements in post-consumer recycling that arise from the PPWR and other regulatory frameworks," says Clemens Kitzeberger, Business Development Manager at the EREMA Group, who accepted the award in



Award ceremony at the Plastics Recycling Show Europe 2026 in Amsterdam: Clemens Kitzeberger (centre), Business Development Manager Post Consumer at the EREMA Group, accepted the Plastics Recycling Award Europe 2026 for the VOLEX technology. Left: Beatriz Santos (Crain Communications). Right: Emilia Tarlowska (Plastics Recyclers Europe) (Photo Credits: PRAE)

Amsterdam. "What is crucial is the ability to implement high regranulate qualities in a scalable and economically viable way. We see clear added value for our customers in being able to supply more recycled content for higher-value end products."

The award was given to the VOLEX technology with water stripping, which EREMA unveiled at K 2025. Building on the experience gained from market introduction and various material trials, the process has since been further opti-

mised. VOLEX is now also available in a version without water injection, enabling recycling companies to select the most suitable configuration for their specific requirements.

The Plastics Recycling Awards Europe are jointly presented by Plastics Recyclers Europe and Crain Communications, the organiser of the Plastics Recycling Show Europe.

EREMA Engineering Recycling Maschinen
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Investment in Liquid State Polycondensation (LSP) Technology

SANKO Holding, headquartered in Gaziantep, Turkey, is a conglomerate with diversified business operations in various sectors.

Since its establishment in 1904, SANKO has grown into a large and influential holding company with a significant presence in the Turkish economy, employing over 14,000 people in its various subsidiaries and operations. With more than 120 years of experience in the textile industry, SANKO manufactures and trades innovative, high quality and sustainable products for business partners worldwide, across more than 100 countries.

In the textile industry, SANKO is one of Turkey's largest producers, manufacturing yarns, fabrics and finished products. The entire Group is known for its commitment to sustainability and social responsibility, with a focus on reducing environmental impact and contributing to the well-being of local communities. One of the latest examples is the incorporation of RE&UP Technologies, a company already at scale, that is fully dedicated to enabling a circular textile industry with its innovative recycling technologies.

SANKO is now underlining this commitment with a significant investment in innovative recycling technologies from NGR, and thus relies on more than 25 years of experience.

With NGR's Liquid State Polycondensation (LSP) technology, which uses a continuous melt filtration process to remove impurities from recycled polyethylene terephthalate (PET), the manufacturer will produce high-quality products from recycled materials.

Compared to conventional recycling systems, NGR's process offers far better physical cleaning performance with highest energy efficiency.

"Through this investment, we demonstrate our commitment to the environment, sustainability, and social responsibility. Our goal is to leverage the latest innova-



(Image rights: Sanko/NGR)

tive technologies from NGR to reduce environmental impact and improve the sustainability of our operations," said Fatih Konukoglu, Vice President of SANKO Holding.

By investing in NGR's technologies, SANKO's circular tech venture RE&UP will create closed-loop systems and reduce footprint as well as dependence on virgin raw materials.

This is evidence to the importance of sustainability and circular economy in today's business world, as leading companies like SANKO and RE&UP prioritize environmental impact and social responsibility.



Plastics Recycling Awards Europe 2026 – *Winners Revealed*

The winners of the Plastics Recycling Awards Europe 2026 were unveiled at the 10th anniversary Plastics Recycling Show Europe (PRSE) in Amsterdam. From high-performing recycled-content applications to next-generation recycling machinery and game-changing individuals, this year's recipients demonstrate how Europe's plastics recycling value chain keeps advancing circularity in the region.

"This year's winners highlight how innovation is essential in the plastics recycling industry," said Ton Emans, President of Plastics Recyclers Europe. "Particularly at this critical moment for the European plastics recycling value chain, the progress we see reflects how far the industry has come since these awards were launched and underscores the vital role plastics recycling plays in building a resilient and competitive European economy."

Beatriz Santos, Editor of Sustainable Plastics and Awards jury chair, said, "It's been a privilege to see the breadth and quality of this year's submissions first-hand. We congratulate all this year's finalists, the selection process across all seven categories has been truly challenging."

In the „Automotive, Electrical or Electronic Product of the Year“ category, the Eletta Ultra Coffee Machine by De' Longhi Appliances S.r.l. and Sirmax S.p.A. took top honours. Judges praised the entry as a standout, real-world example of using recyclates in a demanding, complex product, proving recyclate integration can succeed at scale in the market.

The „Building & Construction Product of the Year“ award went to Neular Unlimited T&G Board 32x138 Co-extrusion Profile by Neular OÜ. The judges highlighted its market relevance, showcasing how recycled plastics can deliver performance in high-demand construction applications.

The „Household & Leisure Product of the Year“ award was won by the L-Boxx Contractor by Robert Bosch Power Tools GmbH and LyondellBasell. Judges recognised the use of high PCR content, bringing recycled plastics into a robust, everyday product with clear customer value.

The „Plastic Packaging Product of the Year“ trophy went to the 50% rPET White Opaque Bottle for UHT Milk by Parmalat S.p.A. The judges highlighted the solution as a highly relevant packaging

innovation in the light of upcoming legislative requirements, demonstrating how higher recycled content can be delivered in a real, mainstream application.

Winning „Product Technology Innovation of the Year“ was the Milsani Topi rPS Dairy Cup by ALDI Nord, ALDI SOUTH & HOFER with Fernholz and ZOTT. Judges recognised it as a timely, high-impact demonstration of innovation as PPWR targets come into force later this year.

The „Recycling Machinery Innovation of the Year“ category awarded VOLEX by EREMA Engineering Recycling Maschinen und Anlagen GmbH, was recognised by the judges for excellent innovation. It delivers strong degassing performance, lower VOC content and reduced fogging.

This year, two winners were named in the flagship „Plastics Recycling Ambassador of the Year,“ category. Mattias Philipsson, CEO, Svensk Plaståtervinning Site Zero, and Ansgar Thees Ovelgönne, Managing Director, THEES Kunststoffverarbeitung GmbH were recognised for their outstanding work moving the European plastics recycling sector forward.

All winners received a trophy featuring a 3D-printed base made from 100% recycled ABS plastic car dashboards, and a multi-colour top that is laser-cut from compressed HDPE beach clean-up bottle caps.

The Plastics Recycling Awards Europe are organised jointly by Plastics Recyclers Europe and Crain Communications, the team behind the Plastics Recycling Show Europe, the region's leading exhibition and conference for plastics recycling.



Partnership for Advanced High-Quality PCR Recycling in India

Lindner Washtech announces a new partnership with Srichakra Polyplast, one of India's leading plastics recyclers, for the supply of two advanced washing lines for processing post-consumer recycled (PCR) film and rigid plastic waste. The investment supports Srichakra Polyplast's continued expansion in high-quality plastics recycling and reinforces both companies' commitment to advancing circular economy solutions. The new systems will enable the production of premium-quality recyclates for demanding applications and support the growing demand for sustainable plastic solutions in India and beyond.

Srichakra Polyplast is recognized as one of the most respected recycling companies in India and across Asia. As the operator of India's first food-grade rPET recycling facility and one of the largest producers of food-grade rPET and rHDPE materials in the region, the company supports leading beverage and FMCG brands by collecting post-consumer packaging waste and transforming it into high-quality recycled materials. Through its integrated operations and control across the value chain, Srichakra Polyplast helps customers reduce virgin plastic consumption and achieve their sustainability targets at scale.

"We sincerely thank Mr Ravindra and the entire Srichakra Polyplast team for placing their trust in Lindner Washtech. Their commitment to innovation, quality, and sustainability aligns perfectly with our vision for the future of plastics recycling. We are proud to be part of this exciting greenfield project and look forward to a long and successful partnership", said Ganesh Karankal, Director, India, Lindner Washtech.

"Choosing the right technology partner is critical for a project of this scale. After a comprehensive technical and commercial evaluation, we selected Lindner Washtech because



From left to right: Marcel Willberg, Managing Director – Lindner Washtech; Ganesh Karankal, Director, India – Lindner Washtech; Mr Ravindra Venkata Paruchuri, Co-founder & Managing Director – Srichakra Polyplast; Ritesh Nagrale, Technical Director – Srichakra Polyplast; Pravin Nagrale, Business Head – Srichakra Polyplast; Georg Krenn, Managing Director – Lindner Washtech. (Copyright © Lindner Washtech)

of its outstanding technology, process expertise, and proven ability to deliver premium quality recyclates", said Mr Ravindra Venkata Paruchuri, Co-founder & Managing Director of Srichakra Polyplast. "Their strong track record, innovative solutions, and extensive experience in advanced plastics recycling gave us the confidence that they are the right partner for our growth journey."

An equally important factor was the strong local presence and support provided by the Lindner India team. Having experienced professionals available locally for project execution, technical assistance, and after-sales support provided additional confidence in achieving operational and quality objectives.

"As we continue to expand our recycling capabilities and support global brands with sustainable packaging solutions, we look forward to building a long-term partnership with Lindner Washtech and

setting new benchmarks for high-quality recycling in India and beyond", added Mr Ravindra Venkata Paruchuri.

The partnership represents a significant step toward increasing the availability of high-quality recycled plastics in India and the wider Asian market. By combining Srichakra Polyplast's recycling expertise with Lindner Washtech's proven washing technology, both companies aim to raise industry standards for recycled material quality, operational excellence, and circular economy performance.

As a long-term technology partner, Lindner Washtech remains committed to supporting Srichakra Polyplast throughout the project lifecycle and contributing to the company's continued growth and leadership in sustainable plastics recycling.

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