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Film and Sheet EXTRUSION

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Biodegradable solar cell allows digital agriculture

VTT has developed a degradable solar cell module that can be attached to a plant leaf to monitor agricultural crops.

While 'digital agriculture' is on the rise, it requires increasing use of measurement electronics in farming – but electronic waste and the lack of a power supply pose problems – which this promises to overcome.

The cell is small and light enough to be attached directly to a leaf, or the stem of a plant. It is about the size of a credit card, and very thin and flexible. After the growing season, the cell decomposes along with the rechargeable power supply that the cell charges.

"When a solar cell is used in an agricultural application, biodegradability is essential," said Maria Smolander, research team leader at VTT. "In this case, there is no real harm caused if the cell cannot be removed from the field, even if it is in close contact with the soil."

The device was developed by VTT and five



Above: VTT's degradable solar cell can be used to monitor agricultural crops

partners: the universities of Tampere, Glasgow and McGill, plus Lukasiewicz-IMIF in Poland and CSEM in Switzerland.

In the project, VTT developed the solar cell and Tampere University developed a battery-like supercapacitor that stores energy. The project has also developed compostable sensors and modules that transmit collected data wirelessly.

The aim is not to collect a large amount of energy, but about sensors with a low energy consumption that can monitor the state of the

environment. The degradable solar cell is not intended to match the performance of conventional cells – and there is no need for a long service life.

Depending on conditions, a biodegradable solar cell will decompose within weeks or months. Surface protection can be used to extend its lifetime. The VTT cell uses a bio-based thin film substrate and has a partly inorganic structure. It is less than 35 microns thick and, even with protection added, total thickness is only tenths of a millimetre.

➤ www.vttresearch.com

EuPC adds film sector group

EuPC, which represents European plastics converters, has created a new sector group called European Plastic Films (EuPF). It brings together European companies active in the film extrusion, to boost collaboration and innovation, it says.

The founding members are Crocco, Trioworld, RKW, Armando Alvarez and Ergis. Renato Zelcher, CEO of Crocco has been appointed president.

"Our goal is to contribute to ongoing policy dialogue, promote circular solutions and drive technological progress in line with the EU's Green Deal," he said.

The group will focus on priorities including: representing the interests of plastic film producers in EU legislative discussions; supporting the implementation of circular economy measures specific to film; and engaging with policymakers and stakeholders.

➤ www.eupc.org

Tracing a path to packaging recyclability

Fraunhofer IVV has developed new concepts for sustainable flexible plastic packaging. As part of the Circular Food Pack project it has used tracer-based solutions to achieve a sorting purity of 99%.

In combination with efficient cleaning technologies, the project has recovered recyclates from flexible packaging waste that can be used to make new packaging

for sensitive filling goods.

Recyclates from packaging waste obtained without tracer marking are suitable for personal and health care packaging. In the production of new packaging, these recyclates can account for up to 62% of the plastic required.

Fraunhofer IVV said that its solvent-based recycling process achieved a cleaning efficiency of up to 99.8% for

both highly volatile and medium volatile contaminants – and that scaling up the process creates opportunities for recycling food packaging.

Its PE recyclate for making blown films – and for further processing into MDO PE – has been used to create demonstrator packaging with a recyclate content of up to 30%.

➤ www.ivv.fraunhofer.de

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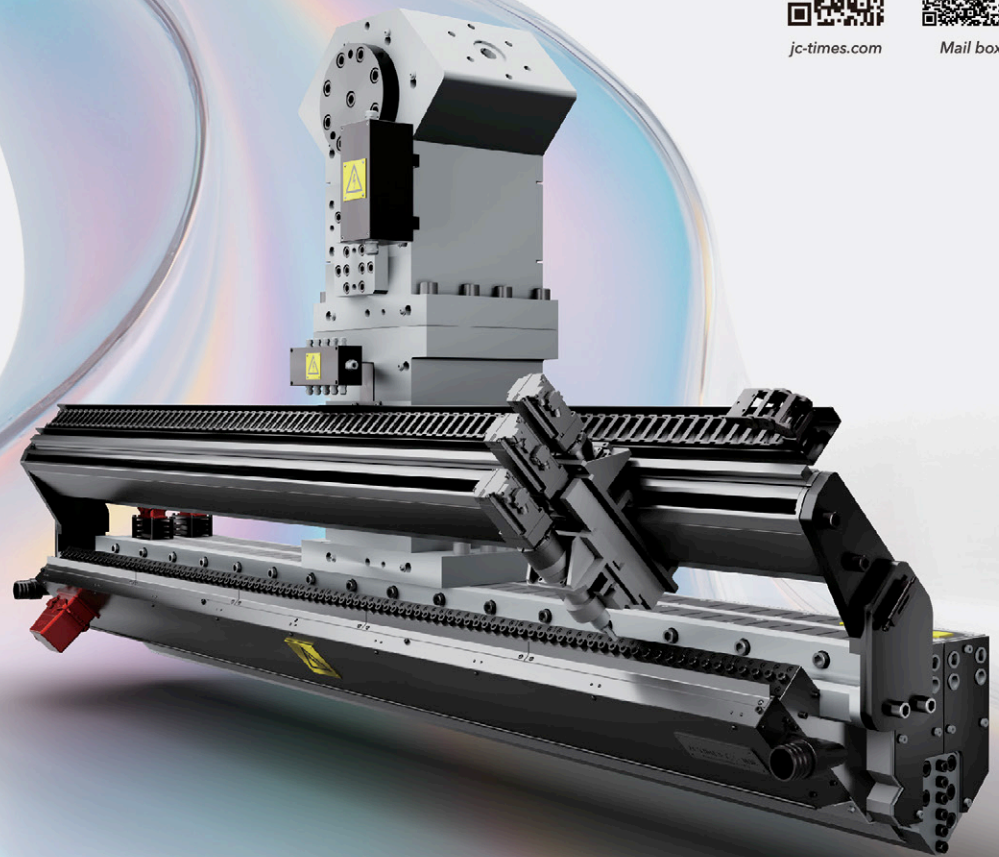
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IN BRIEF...

US-based **TekniPlex Healthcare** has begun production at a new 200,000 sq ft facility in Madison, Wisconsin, which will serve as the flagship for its barrier protection systems division. This will help it support medical device and pharmaceutical companies with better access to sterile barrier packaging, it says. The site has the capability for future expansion, according to the company.

www.tekni-plex.com

German farmers can now return used greenhouse films through the ERDE system, whose partners include **RIGK**. After collection, films are recycled into recyclate that can be used to make new films. As well as Plastika Kritis, which supported pilot collections last year, Groupe Barbier, RKW SE and Reyenvas have joined the scheme.

www.rigk.de

Cup returns system sees less littering in Lisbon

Lisbon claims to have become the first European capital with a city-wide reusable cup system.

A collaboration with Tomra and hospitality association AHRESP could remove thousands of littered cups from public spaces with a deposit-return system.

Customers who buy drinks from one of two kiosks will now receive reusable cups – which will be returned to Tomra ‘reverse vending’ machines that will repay a deposit. Full roll-out of the system is planned for October 2025.

Every night, an estimated 25,000 cups are used across Lisbon’s entertainment areas. Although they are labelled as “reusable”, no system has been in place to collect, clean and recirculate them.

The new system follows a



Tomra’s system could help to remove 25,000 littered cups from Lisbon’s streets

new regulation banning single-use plastic cups in Lisbon.

“The system deployed in Lisbon is designed specifically for urban areas – making reuse easy, clean and rewarding for everyone involved,” according to Geir Sæther, head of Tomra Reuse.

By October, the city will introduce a standardised

‘Lisbon cup’ for all participating bars and venues in central neighbourhoods, with 17 return points planned across the downtown area.

The initiative builds on an earlier Tomra project in Aarhus, Denmark, where over 1 million cups have been returned over 18 months – at a rate exceeding 85%.

➤ www.tomra.com

BOPP base film for adhesive graphics



Innovia has developed a high-opacity BOPP base film for self-adhesive graphics. Rayoart GWP82 Matt HOP is an 82-micron thick film with a newly developed matt print coating for improved scratch and chemical resistance. Enhanced adhesion allows it to be used on many surfaces and an optimised adhesive receptive layer gives a strong, durable bonding with improved pigmented adhesive compatibility, says the company.

“This film has been designed for maximum visual impact,” said Bron Hekkema, director of the graphics business unit. “The matt finish gives a premium, glare-free look and excellent dimensional stability for easy conversion and better UV and latex printing.”

It has been optimised for reduced material use, offering 10-year indoor and four-year outdoor life when laminated.

➤ www.innoviafilms.com

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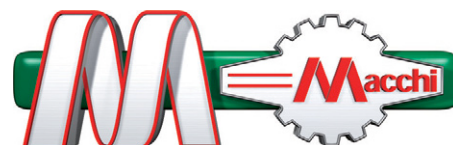
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Unemployment rising in US plastics

Unemployment in the US plastics industry is rising, says the Plastics Industry Association.

Quoting the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), it says unemployment in the sector rose to 5.7% in May, equivalent to 1,700 jobs – the third consecutive monthly slump in employment numbers.

The association says that, historically, the sector has seen unemployment rates above 5% even in periods of rising production and capacity utilisation.

However, it said that a 5.7% unemployment rate was “concerning” – especially when compared to an overall unemployment rate of 4.2% and manufacturing rate of 3.6%.

It also pointed to a shift in demographics. The share of workers aged 16-24 rose from 8.5% in 2023 to 10.3% in 2024, while that of workers aged 55 and older fell slightly, from 28.9% to 28.0%.

“Assuming this older cohort retires at the full retirement age of 67, an estimated 84,000 new job openings

are expected to emerge in plastics product manufacturing over the next 2-12 years,” said the association.

Several roles are also expected to be in high demand over the next decade, including engineers (up 13.6% from 2023 to 2033, reaching 25,100 jobs) and industrial machinery mechanics (up 22% to 22,200 jobs). While growth in production occupations is expected to slow to 3.6%, this will remain the industry's largest group by 2033 – with 368,000 jobs.

➤ www.plasticsindustry.org

Aimplas research assesses microwave packaging safety

Aimplas of Spain is leading a project that will evaluate the risks associated with reusable plastic food packaging when exposed to high temperatures in microwaves and dishwashers.

The project, called SafeReuse, aims to establish a methodology that guarantees food safety and consumer health protection, while providing a system to support compliance with regulatory requirements. Through in vitro bioassays, SafeReuse will analyse NIAS (non-intentionally added substances) and MPs (microplastics) that may be

released from reusable plastic materials.

“These short-term bioassays also play an increasingly important role in identifying toxicological risks,” said Carmen Moreno, researcher at the Food Contact and Packaging Laboratory at Aimplas.

One main challenge in the project is a lack of standardised procedures to assess these risks. By developing one, Aimplas says the project will help to build trust in the safety of plastic products.

“This could help shift negative perceptions and

promote a more realistic and balanced view of plastics, their health impacts and environmental footprint,” said Moreno.

The project will also give companies a competitive edge in the field of food safety. It is carried out in collaboration with Pohuer Creative Injection and Great Plastic, which manufacture and develop plastic materials.

“Providing personalised, data-driven recommendations will enable users to make informed decisions,” said Moreno.

➤ www.aimplas.es

Additive improves packaging

Nexam Chemical says it has secured the largest customer so far for its Reactive Recycling additive technology.

The customer makes packaging based on recycled plastic – and uses Nexam’s additives to enhance its properties.

Combining mechanical recycling with the correct additives allows an increase in the use of recycled material – even when feedstock quality is lower, says Nexam.

“This is confirmation that our Reactive Recycling technology works in real-world, large-scale applications,” said Henrik Bernquist, business manager at Nexam. “We forecast sales in this segment to be higher in Q2 than in previous quarters.”

Several similar projects are also progressing.

➤ www.nexamchemical.com

Cavitation for MDO packaging

Thanh Phu Packaging of Vietnam is using VO+ cavitation masterbatch from Void Technologies to develop a new generation of machine-direction oriented (MDO) polyethyl-

ene (PE) films.

The films will be used for pet food laminates, frozen food packaging and hygiene applications.

This collaboration combines Thanh Phu’s

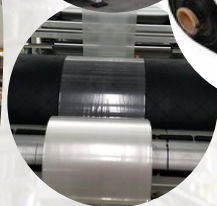
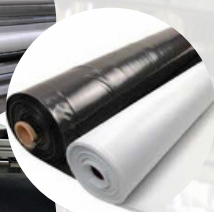
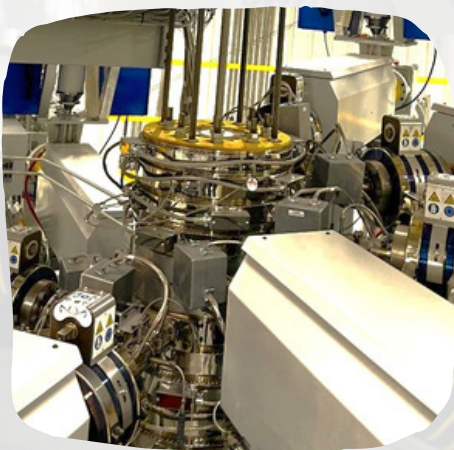
manufacturing and MDO expertise with Void’s material technology to produce pearlescent white packaging that uses less plastic.

➤ www.voidtechnologies.com



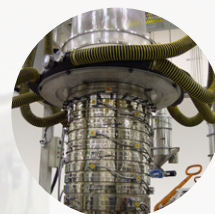
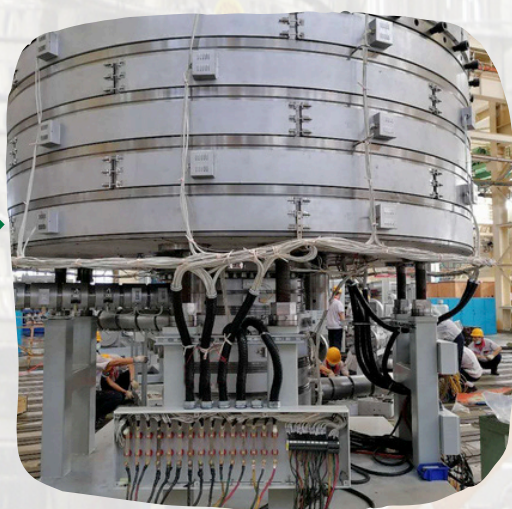
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Cosmo adds BOPP plant to boost output

Cosmo First of India has commissioned a new BOPP packaging manufacturing line at its plant in Aurangabad, Maharashtra.

The line, which has an annual output capacity of 81,200 tonnes, will increase the company's total BOPP capacity by around 40% to 277,000 tonnes.

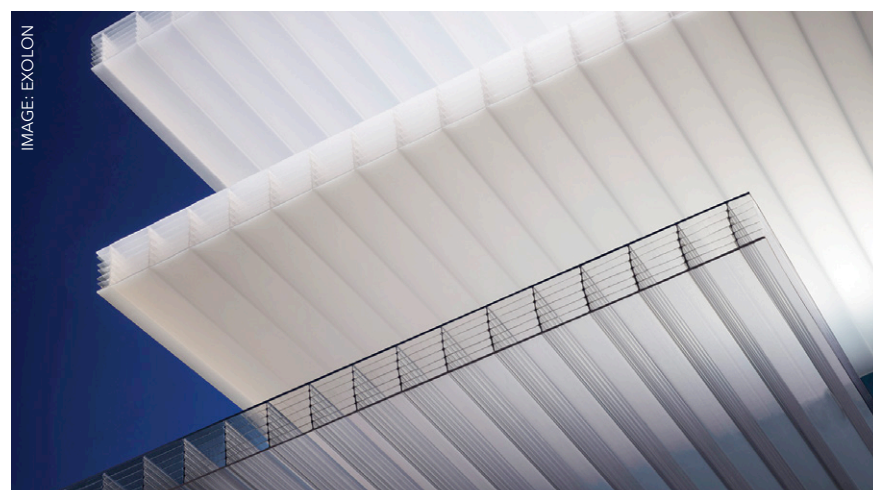
It is equivalent to an investment of around US\$40 million.

The line will help Cosmo further

expand its product portfolio across speciality films and packaging – which have been growing at a CAGR of 10% for the last six years, it says. It expects to launch more new speciality films this year.

"We expect the line to get filled fast due to a favourable gap in supply and demand in the domestic industry," said Pankaj Poddar, group CEO Cosmo First.

➤ www.cosmofirst.com



Exolon buys Corplex polycarbonate business

Exolon is to acquire the AkyVer polycarbonate sheet business from France-based Corplex.

The agreement, signed in early July, is expected to close by mid-August.

Plastic sheet extrusion specialist Exolon will take ownership of the assets, trademark rights, sales operations and intellectual property – including product and patent rights – of the AkyVer brand.

The portfolio includes a variety of polycarbonate multiwall sheets (Sun Type), panel products (Panel) and

sheet systems (Connect/Prime). Production of these items will be integrated into Exolon's manufacturing facility in Nera Montoro, Italy.

Exolon says the acquisition enhances its existing product range, especially in the construction sector. For Corplex, the sale aligns with its decision to focus on its core business: the extrusion of polypropylene sheets and their conversion into tailored applications in logistics, industrial packaging and reusable transport.

➤ www.exolongroup.com



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A new lignin-based polymer, a commercial roll-out of PHA straws, faster-degrading PLA and a PLA 'cooling film' for buildings are among recent bioplastics applications

Growing market: latest advances in bioplastics

Applications in bioplastics are growing fast, with many converters now offering bio-based versions of conventional products.

In one recent example, **Scanfill** of Sweden has begun offering Degrafoil Flow 1.7 – a thermoformable film made of Flow 1.7, from Finnish company **Sulapac**.

Flow 1.7 incorporates around 20% wood flour from industrial side streams into different biodegradable biopolymers, including polylactic acid (PLA). It supplies this to Scanfill as granules. The material can be used as a direct replacement for conventional polymers such as polystyrene and PET.

Scanfill says Degrafoil Flow 1.7 products have a smooth, fibre-like surface that “feels distinct from conventional plastic”. The product can be coloured in many ways but is not available as a transparent grade.

It is available in widths up to 1450 mm and thicknesses 350-1200 microns.

“With Degrafoil Flow 1.7, our clients can respond to demands for renewable content and

reduced carbon footprint while continuing business as usual,” said Karl Banke, sustainability specialist and technical support at Scanfill.

Degrafoil Flow 1.7 is made at Scanfill’s facility in southern Sweden following the requirements for food contact materials.

Wood-based thermoforming

Primex has introduced a line of bio-based wood-plastic composite sheet to the US market.

The material, called Prime Sulapac – developed by Sulapac – is a combination of wood from industrial side streams and biodegradable biopolymers. This gives the aesthetic appeal of natural fibre products with the durability and functionality of plastics – and can be used for thermoforming and other applications.

Prime Sulapac sheets for thermoforming have a high bio-based content and are industrially compostable. The material has a low carbon footprint and can be mechanically recycled, helping to minimise waste. It leaves no persistent microplastics

Main image:
Scanfill's new thermoforming film is made from Sulapac's Flow 1.7 PLA-based material



Above:
Sulapac's
thermoforms
at lower
temperature,
which can save
up to 20% in
energy

or toxic chemicals behind, says the company.

"Our key design principle is to create materials that are safe for people and the planet," said Joona Kontinen, growth and innovations manager at Sulapac. "To ensure this, we conduct rigorous testing – with internal standards often ahead of regulation."

Unlike many bio-based materials that require strict temperature control during manufacturing, Prime Sulapac has "a more forgiving processing window" for greater manufacturing flexibility and fewer production challenges, it says. Its lower thermoforming temperature requirements can save up to 20% in energy savings due to shorter heating times. This can cut production time and increase operational efficiency.

It has been used to replace traditional plastics such as PS, PP, and PET, for packaging inserts and other thermoformed products including point-of-sale displays, logistic trays, single-use food packaging, and blister cards.

Expanded PLA

TotalEnergies Corbion and **Useon** have teamed up to develop and commercialise PLA foam technology.

Expanded PLA (EPLA) is an industrially compostable material that is designed for packaging, thermal protection and other moulded applications. It combines Useon's direct bead foaming technology with TotalEnergies Corbion's Luminy PLA.

EPLA foam products are lightweight, protective, and durable – making them suitable for packaging, food service, and cold-chain applications. It breaks down into water, carbon dioxide and biomass when industrially composted.

"With EPLA, businesses now have access to a foam material that performs well and aligns with growing regulatory and consumer demand for circular alternatives" said Chen Zhiqiang, CEO of Useon.

Under the agreement, both companies will promote EPLA technology globally, share application developments and collaborate on new product innovation.

Hao Ding, global marketing director of TotalEnergies Corbion, added: "Useon's technical leadership in foam extrusion, combined with Luminy PLA, offers a new product range that reduces carbon footprint without compromising functionality or quality."

The collaboration was showcased at Chinaplas 2025 EPLA foam, where visitors to Useon's stand saw real-world demonstrations of EPLA moulded foam using direct bead foaming.

Faster degradation

NatureWorks has expanded its Ingeo line of biopolymers with its Extend platform – which enables faster biodegradation and achieve higher levels of productivity.

The new materials in the Ingeo Extend platform are designed to undergo composting eight times faster than existing grades. They can also be blended with other Ingeo PLA grades to enhance their comparative biodegradation and disintegration rates, it says.

Ingeo Extend 4950D – the first grade in the platform – is a new PLA that increases the production efficiency of BOPLA films and lowers their production costs. It also allows for a stretch ratio of up to 7x in the transverse direction (TD) and can be used as an adjunct with other Ingeo PLA grades for more economical production of films on production equipment normally used to make BOPP.

Oriented film producers and brand owners can use it to reduce BOPLA production costs. In addition, biaxial films made from it break down at a faster rate relative to unmodified Ingeo PLA, depending on the amount in the blend. Sealing performance is also improved, especially in coextruded film structures – where it is added in the sealing layers up to 15%. New BOPLA films made with it have heat resistance up to 130-140°C, high clarity and good mechanical properties – including low shrinkage.

"These films are ideal to replace small-format food packaging made from polymers such as polypropylene," said Roger Tambay, chief growth officer for NatureWorks.

NatureWorks has also helped Flo Group to develop a compostable single-serve coffee pod, made from its Ingeo PLA.

The pod, called Keygea, combines sustainability and high performance, ensuring "flawless coffee extraction without compromise on quality".

The pod optimises water flow during extraction, for a premium sensory experience, says Flo. Engineered with high-barrier properties, Keygea protects against oxidation to preserve the coffee's aroma and freshness for longer.

Made with a new thermoforming technology, Keygea claims to be one of the lightest pods on the market, weighing 2.6g.

PHA straws

Tous les Jours, a US-based chain of French-Asian cafés, has begun using straws made of PHA from **CJ Biomaterials** (CJ BMS).

Since introducing the PHACT PHA straws at Tous les Jours stores across South Korea in 2023, CJ began developing a PHA compound that could meet certifications for both compostability and marine biodegradability. In 2024, it launched PHACT CB0400A, a PHA compound made from CJ grades of amorphous and semi-crystalline PHA. From here, it collaborated with ANU Drinkware, a manufacturer of sustainable straws, to make the new straws for Tous les Jours.

"This launch highlights how a collaboration between brands, converters and biopolymer manu-

facturers can accelerate the commercialisation of biobased products," said Max Senechal, chief commercial officer at CJ Biomaterials.

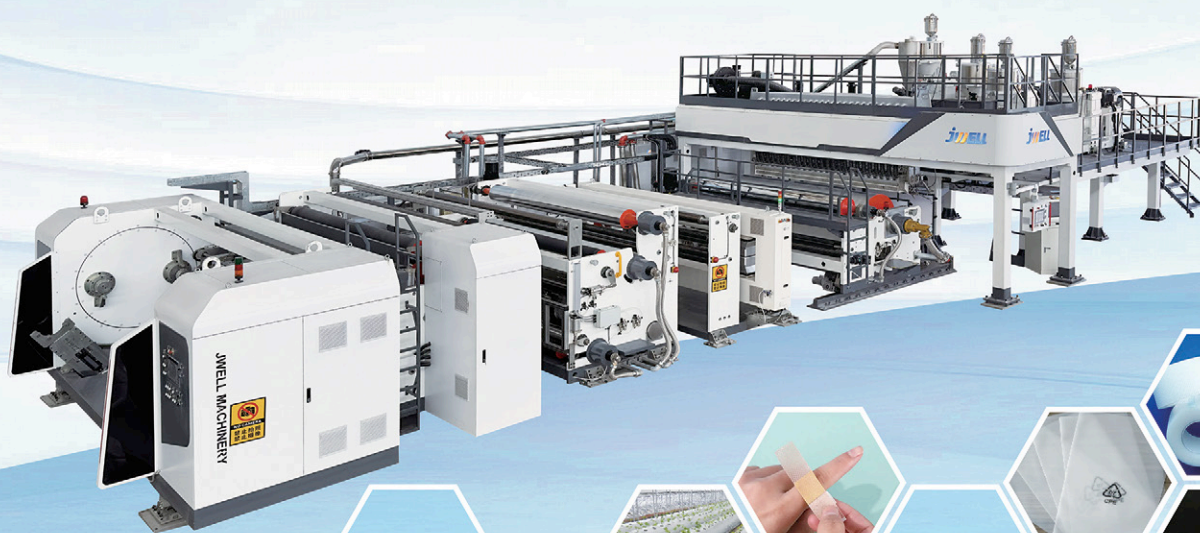
The new CB0400A compound uses CJ's amorphous grade of PHA, PHACT A1000P, to reduce brittleness in straws and increase durability compared with incumbent compostable polymers. In CB0400A, aPHA is used in combination with S1000P, a semi-crystalline grade of PHA launched last year. This compound also expands the portfolio of PHACT grades available for straw manufacturing

Above:
NatureWorks
has helped Flo
Group develop
a compostable
coffee pod
from Ingeo PLA



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Right: Café chain Tous les Jours has started using straws made of PHA from CJ Biomaterials

that began with CA1270P.

PHA is made by fermenting sugar from plant feedstocks, has US FDA food contact approval and is certified as biobased by the USDA's BioPreferred programme.

"This shows how we can rapidly develop and trial PHACT PHA compounds that meet market demands for specific performance attributes, such as softer, more durable straws that can also achieve marine degradability certification," said Senechal.

Lignin polymer

Swedish Greentech company **Lignin Industries** has announced €3.9 million in new funding to support the commercialisation of Renol, its patented thermoplastic made from lignin – a naturally abundant organic polymer found in plants.

The company said it has secured significant commercial interest since emerging last year and is collaborating with numerous customers in sectors such as consumer electronics, home accessories and appliances, and construction.

Founder Christopher Carrick said the company's proprietary process upcycles lignin into a sustainable, high-performance bio-based thermoplastic. He said that the abundance of feedstock and the ability to fit within existing plastics processes is enabling adoption.

Bio-based milestone

Polyolefins producer **Braskem** is celebrating the 15th anniversary of its *I'm Green* bio-based polyethylene (PE) portfolio, and further developing it with a 37% expansion in production capacity at its green ethylene unit in Brazil.

Walmir Soller, CEO, said: "The expansion of our bio-ethylene unit in 2023 was a significant step forward in our mission to support the industry and brand owners on the sustainability journey, and it



IMAGE: CJ BIOMATERIALS

brings us closer to our goal of becoming carbon-neutral by 2050."

Braskem's sugar cane-sourced ethylene is said to offer the same quality and versatility as fossil-based products, but with the added benefit of capturing around 2 tonnes of carbon dioxide for every tonne produced. Total production capacity for green ethylene now stands at 275,000 tonnes/yr.

Bioplastic boost

Aimplas is leading a project called Bioprocess, which aims to improve the mechanical and barrier properties of bioplastics.

It aims to produce films for high-performance flexible packaging in sectors such as food, cosmetics and detergents. The research involves two other companies: Potato Bioplastics, which makes bioplastics from renewable sources; and Gaviplas, a flexible film manufacturer.

"We have adopted the one-step approach for making films from natural polymers, as it offers advantages of efficiency, sustainability and product quality – and preserves the natural properties of the materials," said Alicia Naderpour, a packaging researcher at Aimplas.

Another goal is to enhance the properties of bioplastics by orienting polymer chains without compromising their biodegradability or compostability. Aimpas applied machine direction orientation (MDO) extrusion to various commercial bioplastics to make flexible biodegradable or compostable films.

It has also developed new formulations of natural polymers – such as polysaccharides and animal and plant proteins – to assess their mechanical and barrier properties after non-oriented sheet extrusion and MDO extrusion. The natural materials

Right: Bioprocess, led by Aimplas, intends to raise the physical properties of bioplastics



IMAGE: AIMPLAS

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may come from algae, corn or potato starch, gelatins or proteins, and are often industry by-products.

Quicker testing

Aimplas has also developed a new way of assessing plastic biodegradability that it says is three times faster than conventional methods.

The Spanish research institute says conventional biodegradation tests, as required by current regulations, are time-consuming and costly, which limits the ability to explore new formulations from the early stages of development. It says the new test will help companies speed up decision-making when developing compostable materials.

The new test puts materials through simulated industrial composting conditions, to measure the conversion of polymeric carbon into CO₂. This can obtain preliminary results in much shorter timeframes, allowing companies to identify the most promising formulations early on.

Though it does not replace the standardised tests needed for product certification (as defined by UNE-EN 13432 and related standards), the test can be used as a 'filter' to identify the most promis-



IMAGE: AIMPLAS

ing samples. This reduces risk and accelerates the path to certification in line with international standards, says Aimplas.

Bioplastic packaging

A new pan-European research project aims to develop new types of bioplastics for food packaging.

Greco, which runs for four years, has 22 partners including TotalEnergies Corbion and Aimplas. It aims to develop food packaging based on novel

Above: Aimplas says its test for biodegradability is three times faster than existing methods

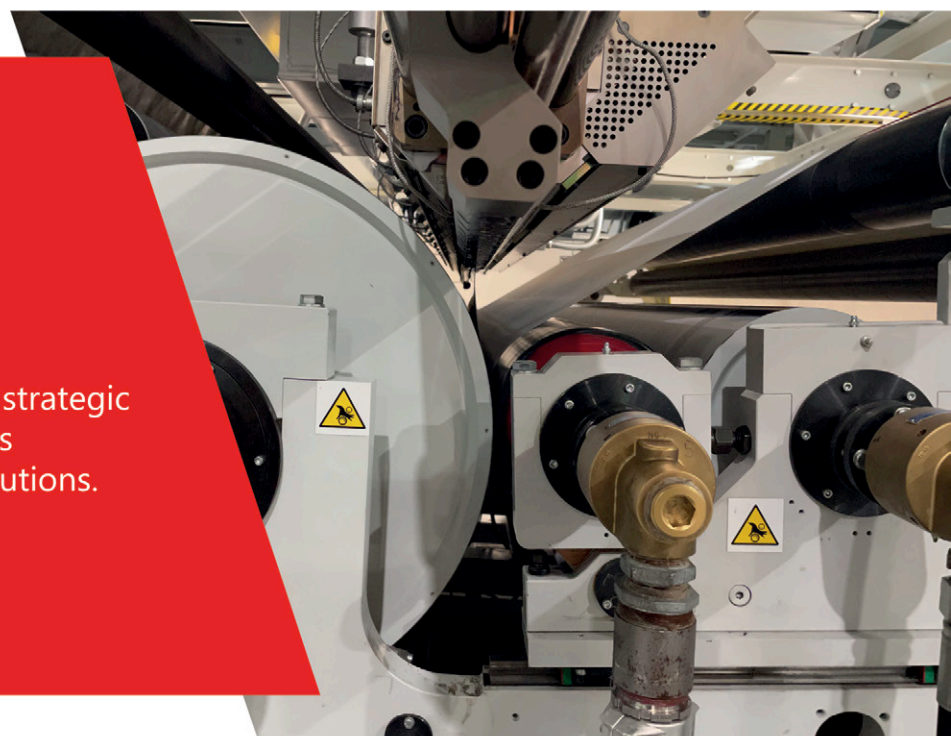


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PLA 'cooling' film cuts need for aircon

Scientists in China and Australia have developed a PLA 'cooling' film that could cut building energy use by 20% by reducing the need for air conditioning.

The bioplastic 'metafilm' – whose crystal structure has been modified – is used as a durable radiative cooler that reflects sunlight. When applied to buildings, it passively cools temperatures by as much as 9.2°C during peak sunlight and reflects almost 99% of the sun's rays, say the researchers.

It was developed by researchers from Zhengzhou University in China and the University of South Australia (UniSA) and is described in *Cell Reports Physical Science*.

"Our metafilm offers an environ-

mentally friendly alternative to air-conditioning, which contributes significantly to carbon emissions," says UniSA PhD candidate Yangzhe Hou, who is also from Zhengzhou University. "It reflects nearly all solar radiation but also allows internal building heat to escape directly into outer space. This enables the building to stay cooler than the surrounding air, even under direct sunlight."

The film will perform even after exposure to acidic conditions and ultraviolet light – which typically hinder similar biodegradable materials, he added.

The film is made using a low-temperature separation technique that reflects 98.7% of sunlight and

minimises heat gain.

In tests, the film showed an average temperature drop of 4.9°C during the day and 5.1°C at night. Field tests carried out in China and Australia confirmed its stability and efficiency under harsh environmental conditions: after 120 hours in strong acid – and the equivalent of eight months' outdoor UV exposure – it retained a cooling power of up to 6.5°C.

The researchers are now looking into large-scale manufacturing opportunities and potential applications in buildings, transport, agriculture, electronics and the biomedical field – including cooling wound dressings.

➤ <https://english.zzu.edu.cn>

➤ www.unisa.edu.au

PLA copolymers, functional coatings, additives and catalysts.

"Greco aligns with the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) by developing bio-based, biodegradable, and recyclable PLA copolymers for food packaging," said Dimitrios Bikiaris of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in Greece, who is the project coordinator.

The project aims to use modelling tools – and an iterative approach – to develop PLA copolymers with better biodegradability, performance, production rates, yield and quality. It will assess various end-of-life scenarios, including testing the recyclability of the bio-based polymers and materials using mechanical and chemical recycling (in both open- and closed-loop systems). The biodegradability of the developed materials will be tested in marine, water, and soil environments. The materials will also be tested for industrial composting conditions and home composting.

Aimplas of Spain will use reactive extrusion (Rex) to develop tailor-made PLA-based copolymers for food packaging.

"Developing PLA copolymers by reactive extrusion – and producing additives by mechanochemistry – is groundbreaking," said Belen Monje Martinez, a researcher at Aimplas. "This will help us achieve more sustainable, bio-based, recyclable and biodegradable PLA compounds and coatings."

Greco has received €7.6 million funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research programme.

Aimplas is also involved in COM4PHA, a project that aims to develop new biodegradable bioplastics for cosmetics, food and agricultural packaging.

It is led by biotechnology company **Venviro-tech**, which uses bacteria to transform organic waste into PHA. Spanish packaging producer Enplast is another partner.

The partners say that most commercial PHAs have processing limitations, so one objective of the project is to optimise them for various applications – as well as to scale up their production and supply.

COM4PHA will develop new formulations based on PHAs. It is working on formulations based on the PHBV copolymer for applications in packaging and agriculture. These technologies include using the copolymer as a coating on agricultural mulch films, adding barrier and antimicrobial properties to maintain crop quality based on the barrier and antimicrobial properties of the coating.

The overall objective is to optimise the synthesis of the material and eventually offer PHBV at an industrial level – so it can be used in applications currently occupied by conventional plastics.

Biotech boost

Biotechnology is playing a more decisive role in the development of bioplastics, according to **IDTechEx**.

This is because monomers such as lactic acid and succinic acid are increasingly being made by fermentation-based processes.

Fermentation is still the dominant route for lactic

acid – the precursor of PLA. It is made mainly by the fermentation of sugars from biomass using microbial strains such as *Lactobacillus*. Compared to chemical synthesis, fermentation generates fewer by-products and typically has a lower energy requirement, says IDTechEx in a recent report, *White Biotechnology 2025-2035*.

While PLA is well established, other bioplastics such polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHAs) – a family of microbially produced polyesters – are also on the rise. However, the PHA industry is at an earlier stage of development, with producers only now starting to scale up commercial production.

"Despite these efforts, the outlook for PHA is less predictable than for PLA, and future growth will depend on overcoming both technical and economic barriers," said the report.

Succinic acid, which is also produced by microbial fermentation, is seeing "a second wave of industrial interest" following a failed commercialisation push in the early 2010s. Companies like Landian Biotech are reintroducing bio-manufactured succinic acid at a larger scale, with ambitions to reach 500,000 tonnes/year. This renewed interest is partly driven by price rises in maleic anhydride – a conventional petrochemical route to succinic acid and its downstream product called 1,4-BDO, which is used to make biopolymers like PBS and PBAT.

UAE tie-up

Emirates Biotech has signed a partnership with the United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) to carry out collaborative research on new applications for polylactic acid (PLA).

A series of joint research projects will explore ways to improve PLA's performance and environmental benefits, said the company.

"This collaboration will be instrumental in positioning PLA as a credible and sustainable alternative to fossil-based plastics," said Aman Kulshrestha, chief technology officer at Emirates Biotech

At the same time, the company has signed a supply contract with Sulzer, to supply process equipment for the PLA production facility it is currently building.

Under its Falcon PLA project, Emirates Biotech plans to start building a "world scale" PLA plant towards the end of this year, with completion due by early 2028. This latest contract takes the company's financial commitment to Falcon PLA past US\$90 million, it said.

Marc Verbruggen, CEO of Emirates Biotech, said: "This equipment supply contract is a decisive



IMAGE: DANIMER SCIENTIFIC

step forward for us. This is a major financial and strategic commitment as we lay the foundation for a state-of-the-art PLA facility."

Teknor takeover

Teknor Apex has acquired bioplastics manufacturer **Danimer Scientific** – which filed for bankruptcy earlier this year – after bidding US\$19 million for its assets.

Danimer operates two production plants – which make PLA and PHA – with more than 200,000 sq ft of laboratories, manufacturing facilities and testing space. Applications for its materials include films, single-use injection-moulded articles and packaging.

After the takeover, it will continue to operate as a separate entity under its own name.

"Danimer's patented fermentation-based biopolymer manufacturing process enhances our product portfolio," said Don Wiseman, CEO at Teknor Apex. "Its expertise in biopolymers like PHAs and PLA – as well as its custom formulation know-how – makes it a valuable partner in our mission to develop alternatives to conventional polymers."

Above:
Danimer has a commercial PHA production facility in Winchester, Kentucky

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Single minded: pouches shift to mono materials

Plastic packaging companies are under pressure to improve sustainability. Switching to all-PE or all-PP designs helps them boost recyclability while keeping physical properties

Delegates at the recent *Innovation in Pouches* conference – organised by **AMI** – learnt the importance of mono-material designs to sustainability.

Design for recyclability (DfR) is a key concept in sustainable packaging, and has many elements according to Peter Niedersuess, senior application marketing manager at **Borealis Consumer Products**.

The typical approach is to choose a mono-material solution – though this still involves several layers with differing properties. For pouches, a top film might need thermal resistance, high-quality optics and printability; a lamination layer needs to be compatible with mechanical recycling; and a sealant film needs easy processability and stiffness/toughness.

The company applies its PE and PP materials to this, with processes such as biorientation, MDO stretching and the addition of an EVOH layer.

He highlighted a new product called Borpure, which offers good sealing along with high stiffness and toughness. Its RE539MF grade has been used as a sealant film, while RB787MF has the necessary optical properties for use as a top film.

In addition, its Borstar and Borshape products have been used to create laminates based on blown, cast and MDO film. Borshape FX1003 has been used as a functionalisable surface material for a skin layer – with strong bonding to barrier coatings (such as metallisation), adhesives and inks. It can also add to laminate strength and raise barrier properties – having up to seven times the moisture barrier and 375 times the oxygen barrier of uncoated film, he said.

In one example of a pouch product, it replaced a three-layer PP/Al/BOPET design with an all-PP version. In another, it created a three-layer PE-based product: a 20-micron MDO film that is



IMAGE: BOREALIS

surface- or reverse-printed; a lamination layer; and a 60-micron sealant film including Borshape and PCR-based Borcycle M in the core layer.

MDO for pouches

Susanne Zobel-Reusch, head of business development at **Polifilm** in Germany, also highlighted new PE- and PP-based mono-material solutions for pouches.

Here, an outer layer of MDO-PE – with an EVOH barrier layer if needed – can replace a traditional PET layer. This is available as a 25-micron layer as standard, but with an 18-micron ‘ultra-thin’ version.

PP can also be used in the same way. In one example – a project with Interzero and B&K – the company helped to create a recyclable coffee pouch. It used a white 120-micron layer with a barrier to create a flat-bottom pouch.

“The film is also suitable for many other products and packaging formats,” said Zobel-Reusch. “It can be customised to the required properties – such as with or without a barrier.”

Main image:
Borealis is one of many companies offering grades to make mono-material packaging

Welding concept speeds up spout sealing

Petr Vaško, European applications and tooling manager at **Dukane** in the Czech Republic, explained a new ultrasonic welding concept that could speed up production of items like pouches.

He said the company's SynQro process performs welding of a PE mono-material to a spout in a single step using two ultrasonic stacks and advanced process control.

When used in a spout sealing application, SynQro seals a spout or nozzle inserted in a pouch or container from both sides in a single step. Ultrasonic bonding creates a tight, uniform seal that is resistant to leaks and other forms of damage. Ultrasonic energy seals through product residues without damaging the seal and maintains product integrity. It is aimed at spout-sealing applications

for packaging liquids or semi-liquids to prevent leakage or spillage during storage or transport.

The process compares favourably with a traditional ultrasonic welding system – which uses three or four steps – and with traditional heat-based systems, which can lead to contamination if product stays in the sealing area, he added.

➤ www.dukane.com

Heat resistance

Dietmar Lenko, vice president consumer innovation & product sustainability at **Constantia Flexibles**, said the company's EcoLam is a PE laminate with extra heat resistance, for use in pouches.

It has developed a range of grades with increasing barrier performance. EcoLam itself is an oriented PE/PE structure, while EcoLamPlus uses a barrier version and EcoLamHighPlus a metallic or aluminium oxide layer. Materials are printable by gravure or flexo, can be laminated by extrusion and solvent-based or solvent-free adhesive. They also boast high transparency and a heat-resistant outer layer. A low seal initiation temperature ensures a wide operational window, while different grades add different functionality such as easy tear or high stiffness.

EcoLamPlus has been used to create stand-up pouches with fragrance release concept – such as a fabric conditioner for Unilever – which it redesigned in PE/PE from the original PET/PE. The product has been launched commercially in South Africa.

Separate to this, it can be used stand-up pouches with a spout. In this case, it was for a liquid soap, replacing a previous PET/PE container. Drop resistance and shelf appearance were maintained. It also has a good water and oxygen barrier. In another example, it was used for a stand-up pouch with zipper – using 35% PCR.

The company also offers its Ecover mono-PP laminates for pouches – in which oriented PP replaces PE. It has been used to make a new mono-material pouch with high barrier properties thanks to an SiOx layer.

It has enough heat resistance to

withstand sterilisation during retort processing, which ensures food safety. It is also microwave compatible and is available in different shapes and sizes, with features such as zip and spout. Ecover has been used to make baby food pouches

Low SIT

Berry Global has introduced a sealant film with a low seal initiation temperature (SIT).

Entour Set is a 23-micron PE film – and would be combined with an outer film with a higher SIT. The new structure would replace a typical multi-layer (and multi-material) version.

The Entour Set low haze sealant film has enhanced stiffness for good body texture and a sealing initiation temperature (SIT) of 80-85°C. It is combined with an outer layer of Entour Bold, whose SIT is 140°C.

Advantages of a higher outer SIT and a lower inner SIT include: good sealing at lower sealing bar temperatures; the chance to increase packaging line speed and minimised deformation of the outer MDO-PE film.

Entour Set can also incorporate 35% PCR according to Neal Geryl, business development director at Berry Global. This has been used to make fertiliser bags, in a co-operation between Berry Global, machine manufacturer Syntegon and final customer DCM. A high gloss creates luxury appeal, while there is strong sealing with no deformation in the MDO outer film. The overall stiffness of the body gives good sensory rigidity of the back, allowing it to remain standing.

MDO PE outer layer films are

Right:
Constantia's
EcoLam is a
range of PE
laminates with
extra heat
resistance, for
use in pouches





available in 20- and 25-micron versions for both duplex as triplex structures. They are PFAS-free and available in gloss and matt finishes.

Flexible effect

Alessandro D'Agostino and Vicken Boniekerian, of **Mondi Consumer Flexibles**, said that the new PPWR rules from the EU will have a huge effect on pouch design and production.

For said PPWR would affect a typical pouch with a spout in several ways, including: a ban on the use of PFAS chemicals; packaging minimisation; and rules on recyclability, recycled content and labelling.

"PPWR mandates a higher level of recycled content, companies need to secure access to PCR materials," they said. "This involves ensuring supply chain readiness, managing volume allocations, and PCR volume ramp-ups."

Ways of solving this include using a mass balance system to trace recycled content for chemically recycled materials, as well as ISCC certification and system digitalisation.

"Planning early is key - by securing PCR supply and avoiding bottlenecks," they added.

Solving these problems can ensure that users can take full advantage of flexible packaging like

pouches - which are typically lighter or more recyclable than alternatives like glass, cans or composite cartons.

It can be used for many applications such as liquid detergents and dishwasher and laundry tablets. Pouches are typically all-PE designs that are rotogravure- or flexo-printed and suitable for VFFS.

Compostable pouches

Instead of creating a single-material, recyclable film for pouches, another sustainable approach is to make it compostable. If it composts - in either a home or industrial process - this overcomes the need for physical recycling.

Gaëlle Cavalié, technical sales engineer at testing and inspection company **Normec**, told delegates that 74% of Europe's food waste is landfilled or incinerated - and 10% of the food waste is related to date marking.

"This means food that is discarded together with the packaging," she said.

However, compostable packaging could help to increase the amount of food waste that is sent to composting facilities instead of landfill/incineration, she said.

"Compostable food contact materials can significantly increase the biowaste collection rate for all expired food," she added.

Only a few items - such as teabags and stickers for fruit and vegetables - must be compostable under PPWR (by around 2028) - while Member States are free to decide on other items (such as lightweight carrier bags).

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Left: Berry Global has added a sealant film with low seal initiation temperature to its Entour range

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IMAGE: BW CONVERTING

Clean break: taking film to a new level

Downstream equipment - from MDO stretching technologies to surface inspection and cleaning systems - helps to raise the quality of extruded products

The many variants of downstream extrusion equipment perform jobs as varied as web guiding, surface inspection and cleaning - for products including packaging and battery film.

Baldwin - part of BW Converting - says its new in-line cleaner will transform the production of advanced battery film. It showcased the Electrode Press Industrial Cleaning (EPIC) system at last year's Battery Show North America, held in Detroit. It can be combined with its Corona Pure surface treatment system for a "superior, cost-efficient solution in cell manufacturing", it says.

The system offers automated cleaning in calender processes, specifically for anode and cathode film production. Operating at up to 150°C, EPIC ensures high surface cleanliness, leading to higher battery film quality and productivity. It uses

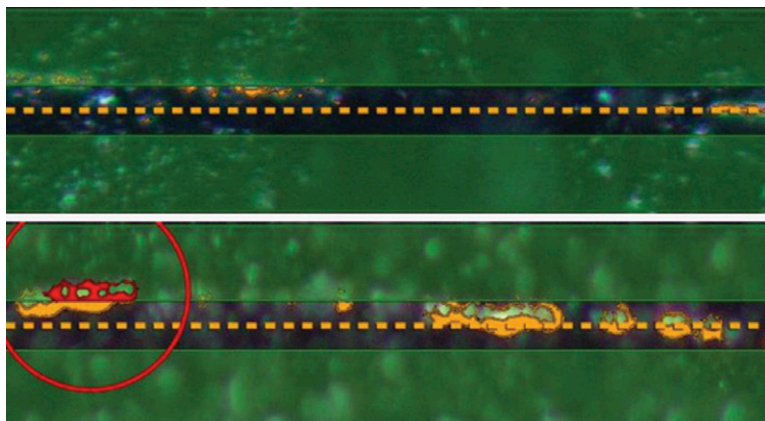
a solvent formulated to withstand high heat to clean the calenders automatically with the machine running. The process takes 2-4 minutes - compared to a typical 45 minutes - by cutting the need for cooling and manual cleaning.

EPIC was adapted from Baldwin's established film cylinder cleaner for film extrusion. It can be provided by OEMs who make calendering units or retrofitted to existing equipment. For a retrofit, it can be installed in a single day. BW Converting has tested the system for eight months at three factories - where it is running every day on calenders.

"We're excited with the benefits we see at our early-bird customer base - and can't wait to enhance automation in more battery factories," said Dennis Behnisch, product line leader for surface, cleaning and spray at Baldwin.

Main image:
Baldwin's EPIC in-line cleaner is used in the production of advanced battery film

IMAGE: BST



Above: BST and Lazpiur have developed new burr detection methods for battery electrode production

Battery boost

BST has teamed up with **Lazpiur E-Mobility** – an expert in machine vision systems – to develop new ways to enhance burr detection and control on battery electrode production lines.

By combining BST's turnkey inline inspection systems with Lazpiur's vision technologies, the companies say they can offer new ways to detect burrs with greater precision, speed and reliability. Under the agreement, BST has exclusive rights to market and distribute the integrated solution globally.

"With the continued growth of battery production worldwide, quality challenges like burr formation have a direct impact on safety and performance," said Klaus Hamacher, director of new business development at BST.

Burrs are tiny unwanted metallic residues generated during the slitting of electrodes. If not detected and removed, they can lead to short circuits, lower battery lifespan and even fires. The BST Slitting Control solution uses Lazpiur's machine vision technology to create an inline platform for real-time burr detection and process control.

Aritz Frojan, business unit director at Lazpiur E-Mobility, added: "This partnership enables the next level of quality assurance in battery cell production."

Web guidance

At ICE Europe 2025 – held in Munich in March – BST presented several solutions to make production processes smarter and more efficient, with developments in web guiding, surface inspection, web monitoring and inspection.

With Commander Smart Com 100, BST presented a new, intuitive operating concept for web guiding control, allowing sensor and control units to be controlled from a single interface. Together with the new EKR CON 610 control unit, the new CLS CAM 200 line and contrast sensor offer more precise control and is more compact than its

Making printing improvements

Nilpeter Asia Pacific, which manufactures printing equipment, recently launched its FlexClean non-contact web cleaner – which integrates 1100 AC anti-static bars from **Fraser Static Control**.

Adding the anti-static technology has led to improvements in print quality and reduced waste, says Nilpeter.

A big challenge in flexo printing is controlling static electricity, which can attract dust and particulate contamination during web handling. These affect print quality, leading to rejected products, delays and higher costs, according to the company.

FlexClean uses airflow to remove contaminants, while anti-static bars neutralise the web and contamination to improve cleaning. Further static control maintains the low level of static charge to prevent recontamination. A controlled balance of positive and negative ions neutralises static at the source, which prevents electrostatic attraction and makes the production environment cleaner.

Nilpeter says this offers several benefits, including lower rejection rates, higher production efficiency, reduced waste and enhanced print quality.

Meanwhile, Promographic & Design in Mexico has fitted **Vetaphone** corona technology to its own Nilpeter flexo and HP Indigo digital presses to improve surface treatment.

"About 60% of our revenue comes from the production of heat shrink sleeves, with the rest derived from self-adhesive labels and pouch solutions," said Fabiola Renteria, head of the commercial department at Promographic.

Its relationship with Vetaphone stretches back 20 years. The latest installation – two 410mm wide VE1A-A units with four ceramic electrodes in each – has helped the company to raise product quality, it says.

Company founder Ricardo Villar added: "In the short term, we are investing in two more printing presses – a third HP Indigo press and a third Nilpeter press – to raise production capacity."

The next phase will see more growth, as the company builds a new plant that will allow it to increase production.

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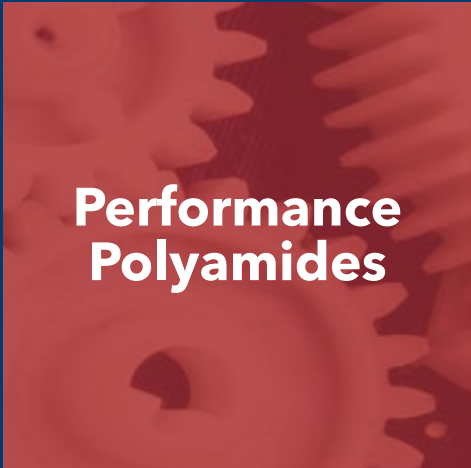




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predecessor. The exact positioning of the processed material effectively minimises waste and downtime, ultimately increasing productivity, says BST.

Its CoatingControl system ensures alignment of the coating positions using line scan or CIS camera technology with minimum space requirements. Maximum control accuracy is achieved thanks to robust edge detection. Together with SlittingControl, it can help to improve precision in applications such as lithium-ion battery separator film.

SmartData is BST's intelligent solution for networked production processes – which, the company says, increases the quality of web processing, simplifies work processes and automates them across all processes. It integrates into existing prepress and MIS systems and enables centralised control and analysis of production processes. Meanwhile, its AI-based inspection system, iPQ-Check, helps customers enhance print quality. With the new iPQ-Check Digital, BST offers a solution that is designed for fully digital printing systems that enables fully automatic inspection from the first print format. Thanks to SmartData, the system is fully integrated into the customer's workflow, enabling operator-free job setup and



automatic job changeover. AI-supported defect detection enables precise classification of defects and the creation of customer-specific defect categories.

High resolution

Fife – part of **Maxcess** – has launched two new web guiding solutions: the SmartDrive actuator and GuideLine HR high resolution digital sensor.

The SmartDrive actuator features an integrated

Above: BST's CoatingControl ensures alignment of coating positions using line scan or CIS camera technology

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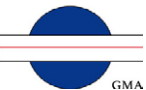
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1000mm wide **Maier** 2 station auto splice winder



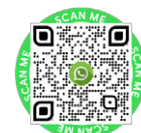
1040mm wide **Welex** 3 roll polishing stack



600ltr **Mixaco** High Speed Mixer



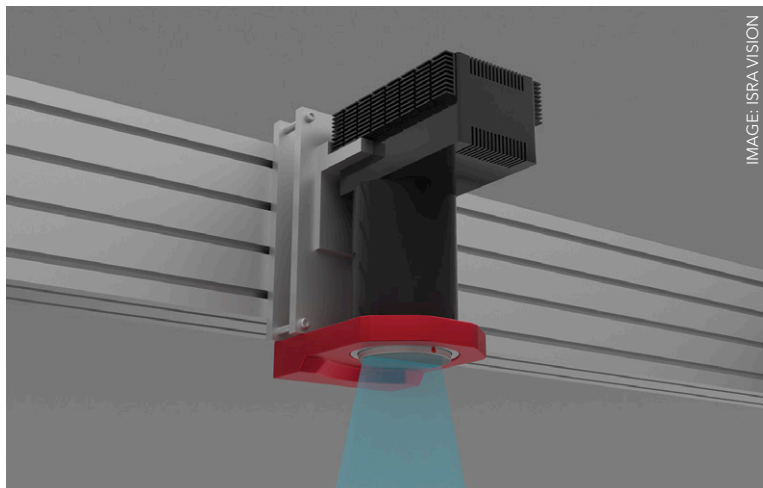
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Above: Isra has enhanced its Smash optical inline inspection system for polarisation films

controller, drive and motor. It is an easy to install solution for automated edge and centre guiding in converting, laminating, and printing applications. Fife says its speed, responsiveness and high accuracy continuously correct material position errors. The direct-drive gearless design smoothly maintains maximum thrust and speed through the entire stroke with stroke lengths up to 400mm. Regardless of mounting position, the integrated servo centre and zero-drift, absolute position encoder ensures there is no need for recalibration of the unit.

The GuideLine HR digital sensor is based on the earlier GuideLine digital sensor, which guides to lines, edges of lines and graphic patterns on the fly, including bar codes. It can be used in edge-guiding transparent films, low contrast conditions and with black-on-black applications where traditional line sensors do not work.

GuideLine has higher resolution than its predecessor (0.0008mm, compared to 0.002mm). It is designed specifically for the highest accuracy and repeatability, says the company.

"These innovations provide the automated solutions our customers need to conquer demanding guiding applications," said Rob Stoebick, global product manager at Fife Guiding Solutions.

Optical inspection

Isra Vision recently enhanced its optical inline inspection system for polarisation films.

The company has equipped its Smash system with a new sensor that improves the detection of typical defects such as scratches and perforations. Thanks to a special extra lens, the polarisation angle of the camera can be automatically changed. Pre-configured, product-specific profiles can be transmitted online to the camera. There is no need to stop production when making adjustments – which further optimises inspection performance

and product quality while saving time and cost.

The system offers automatic surface inspection for optical films such as prism films, polariser films, protective films and window films. High-resolution line-scan cameras and lighting technology help it to recognise even the smallest defects – even at line speeds up to 150 m/min.

The trainable defect classifier QuickTeach helps to simplify and accelerate system start-up. The system also includes a set of tools for data recording, analysis and reporting functions. The polarising filter used for inline inspection allows automatic adjustment of the polarising angle in the event of phase changes in the film. It sets the polariser to full-light extinction or other predefined settings without the need to stop production. Because the camera always receives an optimum input signal, defects can be recognised even more efficiently and reliably, says Isra. This helps to optimise product output and raise quality.

Product-specific settings can be pre-configured as recipes and transmitted online to the camera during operation. Compared with the manual setting of the polarization angle, the automatic adjustment ensures higher precision and saves both time and money.

Using the new filter, the waste generated during production start-up can typically be reduced by up to 1,000 sq m for each eight-hour shift, depending on roll width and line speed. This increases the amount of saleable product and protects resources by reducing material consumption and production waste.

MDO boost

SML has set up a new version of its multi-purpose cast film line at its technology centre – which also includes a machine-direction orientation (MDO) unit.

"The line has the technical capacity to fulfil almost every customer requirement in cast film production," said Elias Mayrhofer, an R&D engineer at SML.

The line can produce cast PP, PE and PET, as well as mono-oriented films. Products range from film for metallised and laminated food and non-food packaging to easy-to-recycle stand-up pouches made from MOPE film and easy-tear MOPP film. The line can be further optimised to make special-ist products, it says.

A key feature of the new film line is the MDO unit, which is designed for the manufacture of easy-to-recycle mono-material films such as MOPP, MOPE and MOPET. It allows machine direction properties such as film strength, stiffness and puncture resistance are increased, while film

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thickness and elongation are decreased.

One of the main features of the MDO unit is the process-optimised roller arrangement. Adjustment of the stretching gap takes place in a motorised fashion, making product changes simpler. As the stretching rollers have a diameter of 220mm, the stretching gap can be kept in a range of 50-200mm. The distance between stretching rollers can be reduced to a few millimetres. The position of the nip rollers in the stretching area is also adjustable. This ensures an ideal stretching process of the film, independent of the defined stretching gap.

All the process parameters of the MDO unit are digitally recorded and can be comfortably set and adjusted with SML's new HMI.

Stretching effect

At Chinaplas earlier this year, **Reifenhäuser** also presented MDO technologies for making mono-material films that are more easily recyclable.

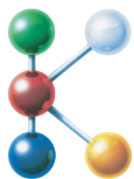
"In flexible packaging, we are seeing a huge trend towards recyclable mono-material composites, both for blown and cast films," said Marcel Perrevort, CSO of Reifenhäuser. "Our MDO stretching units enable enhanced mechanical prop-

erties for all-PE or all-PP films, allowing PET films to be replaced."

With the Evo Ultra Stretch MDO unit for its blown film lines, manufacturers can make all-PE mono films for applications such as high-barrier food pouches. Integrating the MDO unit directly into the haul-off, the film is stretched using the 'first heat' of the process, for maximum efficiency and film stability. In addition, the all-PE film achieves the required barrier effect with a 5% EVOH content, which meets the criteria for recyclability. At the same time, Ultra Stretch enhances the performance of the EVOH barrier layer while reducing material usage, delivering cost and sustainability benefits.

CLICK ON THE LINKS FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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- www.isravisio.com
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K2025: ready for launch

After a three-year wait, the K show is back. In this special section, we look ahead to the global plastics industry's key event - and provide essential links to help you get the most from your visit

In just three months, the world's largest plastics show opens its doors again. K2025 runs from 8-15 October in Dusseldorf, Germany.

The show will fill all 18 halls of the venue - with more than 3,000 exhibitors from over 60 countries expected to promote their raw materials, additives, semi-finished products, machinery, ancillary equipment and services to the plastics industry. K2022 recorded 3,020 exhibitors from 59 countries on 177,516 m² of net exhibition space. It also welcomed 177,486 trade visitors - of whom 71% came from outside Germany.

Sustainability remains of growing concern in the plastics sector, so the circular economy will again feature heavily. As well as machinery - such as equipment for processing, recycling and waste management - there will also be many examples of new materials - such as bioplastics and formulations with higher levels of recyclate.

There is a return for the Science Campus - which allows business to exchange ideas and information with academia. This year, exhibitors - in addition to having their main stands - can take part directly. The Start-up Zone also returns.

'Plastics shape the future' is organised by

PlasticsEurope Deutschland and Messe Düsseldorf. It illustrates current and future developments. It consists of seven themed days - with discussions on innovative technologies and materials, keynotes and a political panel - plus a Career Day and Start-up Pitch.

This year's VDMA Forum is called 'The Power of Plastics'. VDMA and member companies will show how technology is vital for implementing circularity.

Building up to the show

In the run up to K2025, *Film & Sheet Extrusion* will be publishing detailed previews of the innovations that will be presented.

Look out for our K Preview issues in September and October - followed by a K2025 review in the December issue. You can also follow the news on our [@plasticsworld](#) feed on X.

Exhibitors can send press releases to lou.reade@amiplastics.com. Full details of our special coverage of K2025 are in our [media pack](#).

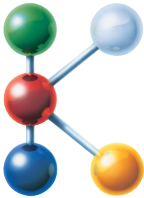
Dates:
8-15 October 2025

Venue:
Dusseldorf Fairground,
Dusseldorf, Germany

Hours:
10:00 to 18:30 daily

Organiser:
Messe Dusseldorf

Website:
www.k-online.de



knowing the score

Use our selection of web links to make your visit to Dusseldorf - and K2025 - as productive and enjoyable as possible



IMAGE: SHUTTERSTOCK

BUY YOUR TICKETS

You can save queueing (and some money) by buying entry tickets in advance. A three-day ticket now costs €125, while one-day tickets are €60 (€20 concessions, such as students or pensioners) when bought in advance. Order tickets by clicking **here**. A catalogue costs €30: but a voucher online and exchange it at the show.



IMAGE: SHUTTERSTOCK

GET K ON THE PHONE

Lots of useful K2025 data is now available on your smartphone or tablet - including exhibitor and product databases, exhibition plans, travel information, hotel listings, city guides and restaurant reviews - via the 'The K App'. To download the free app, visit the page **here**, which has links to both the AppStore (for iPads and iPhones) and Google Play (for Android devices).

BOOK YOUR ACCOMMODATION

Dusseldorf accommodation fills up fast during K and the best options go early. Find out what's still available and make your reservation as soon as possible at the official **website**.



IMAGE: SHUTTERSTOCK

CHECK OUT THE REST OF DUSSELDORF



IMAGE: SHUTTERSTOCK

After a hard day at K2025 you will have earned some relaxation time. Make the most of your evenings in the city by checking out the restaurants, pubs, bars, culture and entertainment on offer. This official guide has useful listings, as well as guides to the sights and neighbourhoods: <http://bit.ly/DusseldorfGuide>

Also worth a look is the Wikitravel page on the city: <http://bit.ly/wikiguide>

And if the Altstadt and its 260 pubs get too crowded, try heading to the **Media Harbour**, for its modern architecture and venues, which include restaurants, bars and clubs.



IMAGE: SHUTTERSTOCK

ORGANISE YOUR TRAVEL

Düsseldorf is well connected and getting around the city is easy thanks to its excellent public transport network. However, your admission ticket to the show does not include free use of local transport, as it did in the past. Instead, visitors can travel using the **eezy app**, which is like an 'e-ticket'. Details on transport can be found [here](#).

GET ROUND THE EXHIBITORS

With more than 3,000 exhibitors to choose from and a total exhibition area of more than 170,000m², it makes sense to plan your time at the show before you head off. The good news is that you can search for participating companies by name and by product using the online K2025 database.

To search by company, click [here](#)

To search by products, click [here](#)

You can also locate companies using the interactive floorplan which can be found [here](#)



IMAGE: MESSE DÜSSELDORF/TILLMANN



IMAGE: SSPB

SOAK UP SOME CULTURE

There's always plenty going on in Düsseldorf outside the Messe, as the city is home to more than 100 galleries and museums. One exhibition at Kunstpalast, which is running during K2025, celebrates the work of Hans-Peter Feldmann - including photographs, sculptures and expansive installations. Kunstpalast also presents the work of 30 female artists who were active in Düsseldorf during the 19th century - at a time when they were not allowed to study at the renowned art academy. Finally, Freaks of Nature (pictured) is a special exhibition at Schloss Benrath focusing on "the fascination of hybrid creatures".

TRY SOME RETAIL THERAPY

If retail is your thing - and especially designer goods - then Düsseldorf will not disappoint. Königsallee - known as 'Kö' to locals - includes many of Europe's leading fashion names and is likened with London's Knightsbridge or New York's Fifth Avenue. However, neither of those locations can boast a setting to match the tree-lined, man-made 'river' that runs through this premium shopping district. Catch the flavour [here](#).



IMAGE: DÜSSELDORF TOURISMUS: MARKUS LUGS



IMAGE: DÜSSELDORF TOURISMUS: U. OTTE

DON'T FORGET THE ALTBIER!

Regular visitors will already know that Düsseldorf's local brew is the Altbier, a malty copper-coloured ale of around 4.5% strength produced using a special top-fermented lagering method. The name translates as 'old beer' but is actually derived from the Latin word 'altus', which means 'high' and refers to way the yeast rises during brewing. Try it out in one of the city's numerous brew-pubs. Details of these and a short history of Altbier can be found [here](#).

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Download these new product brochures

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DIING KUEN: BLOWN FILM



In this brochure, Taiwan-based Diing Kuen provides all the specifications of its blown film technology to produce mono, two three, five and seven layers.. The film lines are divided into four categories: HTRL horizontal top rotating; EBLR vertical top rotating; BFL fixed; and other types.

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD](#)

AMUT: FOIL EXTRUSION LINES



Built on more than 50 years of plastics expertise, Amut's range of extrusion lines for production of foil and sheet covers a broad range of applications. They can produce mono or multi-layer sheet as thin as 150 microns and as wide as 3.3m at rates up to 4 tonnes/hr or more.

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COLINES: BARRIER FILMS



This new brochure from Colines focuses on extrusion lines for the production of barrier films for vacuum and modified atmosphere packaging to preserve foodstuffs and medical products.

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD](#)

BRUCKNER: BOPP/BOPE FILMS



Brückner Maschinenbau says its BOPP/BOPE film lines offer benefits including high stiffness and sealing strength, excellent transparent barrier, outstanding puncture resistance and linear tear opening behaviour. Find out more in this brochure.

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD](#)

HAN KING



Han King, based in Taiwan, has produced this brochure outlining its machines for blown film extrusion, covering five-layer film, three-layer co-extruded film, agricultural film, geomembranes; plus other products in stretch hood, lamination and bags.

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD](#)

VAN MEEUWEN: ADDITIVES



Van Meeuwen's functional additive range for plastics film and sheet producers includes anti-blocks, anti-statics, anti-fogs and specialty fluids. Suitable for plastic packaging applications, products comply with EU food contact regulations.

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If you would like your brochure to be included on this page, please contact Claire Bishop claire.bishop@amiplastics.com. Tel: +44 (0)1732 682948

Polifilm

Head office:	Cologne, Germany
CEO:	Christian Runkel
Founded:	1972
Ownership:	Private
Sales:	€562 million (2023)
Employees:	Around 1,600
Profile:	Polifilm, founded in 1972, is a manufacturer of extrusion and protection films – which are made and sold by 11 production facilities, 13 sales offices and more than 20 distribution partners worldwide. Its products are made from polyethylene (PE) and polypropylene (PP).
Product lines:	The company produces films for a number of end markets, including construction, processing, agriculture and logistics. Its extruded products include hand-, machine- and pre-stretch film, and films for labels and packaging. It also offers films to protect valuable surfaces – on substrates such as metal, plastics and glass – from damage during production, processing and assembly. Other protective films are for the automotive sector (such as to protect exteriors) and for logistics (such as stretch hoods and cover sheets).
Factory locations:	The company has 11 different production facilities, in countries including Germany, South Africa, Vietnam, Israel, Mexico, the US, China, France and Italy. It says it has 120,000 tonnes/year production capacity, of which around 50,000 tonnes/year is for laminating films. Polifilm recently set up a subsidiary in Romania, which will also supply countries such as Hungary and Slovakia.

To be considered for 'Extruder of the Month', contact the editor on lou.reade@amiplastics.com

Film and Sheet FORTHCOMING FEATURES EXTRUSION

The next issues of Film and Sheet Extrusion magazine will have special reports on the following topics:

September 2025

Multi-layer packaging
Thermoforming
PVC plasticisers ● Lab extruders
K2025 materials preview

October 2025

Materials recycling/granulators
Extruder developments
Biax film ● PEWE
K2025 machinery preview

Editorial submissions should be sent to Lou Reade: lou.reade@amiplastics.com

For information on advertising in these issues, please contact:

Claire Bishop: claire.bishop@amiplastics.com Tel: +44 (0)1732 682948

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Film and Sheet June 2025

In Film and Sheet Extrusion's June issue, expert views on stretch and shrink film are reported in the cover feature, while other articles are about developments in masterbatch, the latest in printing and what's new in extrusion dies.

[▶ CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)



Film and Sheet May 2025

Film & Sheet Extrusion's May edition issue looks at new applications in the world of waterproof membranes, the use of recycled content in sheet, and the latest dryer and mixer offerings.

[▶ CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)



Compounding World July 2025

The cover story in the July issue of Compounding World magazine takes a look at the different antimicrobial additives and processes available to compounders, while other features are on materials handling, colour measurement and odour/emissions control.

[▶ CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)



Plastics Recycling World May-June 2025

Plastics Recycling World's May-June edition looks at how post-industrial recycled content is growing in new applications, success stories at shredder companies, and new compatibilisers.

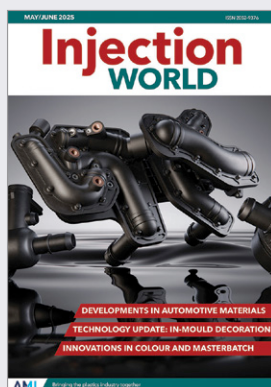
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Pipe and Profile Summer 2025

Pipe and Profile Extrusion's Summer edition has a cover feature on medical tubing, exploring its multiple applications in healthcare, while other articles cover screw and barrel innovation, die developments and the latest in corrugated pipe.

[▶ CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)



Injection World May-June 2025

The May-June issue of Injection World magazine looks at leading materials companies innovating in automotive injection moulding, advances in in-mould decoration and developments in masterbatch.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)

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GLOBAL EXHIBITION GUIDE

2025	8-15 October	K2025, Dusseldorf, Germany	www.k-online.com
	12-13 November	Plastics Extrusion World Expo North America, Cleveland, OH, USA	https://na.extrusion-expo.com/
	3-6 December	PlastEurasia, Istanbul, Turkey	https://plasteurasia.com
2026	9-12 January	Plastex, Cairo, Egypt	www.plastexegypt.com
	20-22 January	Swiss Plastics Expo, Lucerne, Switzerland	https://swissplastics-expo.ch
	30 March - 1 April	Plast-Alger, Algiers, Algeria	www.plastalger.com
	31 March - 2 April	Plastics & Rubber Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh City	https://plasticsvietnam.com
	21-24 April	Chinaplas, Shanghai, China	www.chinaplasonline.com
	22-23 April	PlastTeknik Nordic, Malmö, Sweden	www.plasttekniknordic.com
	5-10 February	PlastIndia, New Delhi, India	www.plastindia.org
	7-13 May	Interpack, Dusseldorf, Germany	www.interpack.com
	19-22 May	Elmia Polymer, Jönköping, Sweden	www.elmia.se/en/polymer
	2-4 June	Interplas, Birmingham, UK	www.interplasuk.com
	2-5 June	Equiplast, Barcelona, Spain	www.equiplast.com

AMI CONFERENCES

15-16 July 2025	Agricultural Film North America, Tampa, USA
19-20 August 2025	Rigid Packaging Forum North America, Cincinnati, USA
26-27 August 2025	Bioplastics, Cleveland, USA
16-18 September 2025	Single-Serve Capsules Europe, Malaga, Spain
18-20 November 2025	Polymers in Roofing, Brussels, Belgium
9-10 December 2025	Flexible Packaging Innovation & Recycling, Vienna, Austria
9-10 December 2025	Stretch & Shrink Film North America, Tampa, USA
2-4 February 2026	Polyethylene Films, Tampa, USA

For information on all these events and other conferences on film, sheet, pipe and packaging applications, see www.amiplastics.com

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