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4 News

News from the global plastics compounding industry, including: Sabic sells petchem and ETPs businesses; Arkema plans additives divestment to Praana; Envalior glass fibre move in Belgium; Omikron shares sold to Orinko.



PAGE 4

13 Film additives: PFAS-free options

Additives have long been used to improve film extrusion processes and properties, but now they must deal with new regulatory pressures. Jennifer Markarian reports

PAGE 13



23 Pelletiser progress on show at K2025

Developers of pelletising systems for resin, compound and recycle producers displayed their innovations at the K Show last October. By Chris Saunders



PAGE 23

33 Electrical conductivity: new products

New additives and compounds are benefiting products in cables, packaging, films and applications in rotational and injection moulding. Jennifer Markarian reports

PAGE 33



42 Diary

COMING NEXT ISSUE

› Twin Screw Extruders › Special Effect Pigments › Materials Testing

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IN BRIEF...

Gabriel-Chemie has opened a new sales and logistics location in Nairobi, Kenya, which will serve as a central hub for regional sales, technical consulting, and logistics, allowing the company to support customers locally in a faster and more personal way.

www.gabriel-chemie.com

Kraton has announced that CEO Marcello Boldrini has left the company. To ensure continuity, the Polymer and Pine Chemical businesses will be led by Kraton's Business Presidents, Prakash Kolluri and Minco van Breevoort.

<https://kraton.com>

PlasticsEurope has appointed Rob Ingram, CEO of Ineos Olefins & Polymers Europe, as its President, effective 1 January 2026. He succeeds Benny Mermans, Vice President Sustainability at Chevron Phillips Chemical.

<https://plasticseurope.org>

Sabir sheds ETP and petchem businesses

Sabir is selling its European petrochemical business to German investment group Aequita and its Engineering Thermoplastics business in Europe and the Americas to private equity investment firm Mutaes for a combined \$950m. The ETPs business includes PC, PBT and ABS operations in Europe and the Americas.

Sabir says the divestments form a strong foundation for future profitable growth and reinforce its long-term strategic positioning to add maximum value. Polymers are continuing as a core business, focusing mainly on PE, PP and PC in the Middle East and Asia.

"These transactions are a clear demonstration of our disciplined approach and decisive execution regarding capital allocation and active portfolio management," said Salah Al-Hareky,

Sabir's Bergen op Zoom facility in the Netherlands



IMAGE: SABIR

Chief Financial Officer of Sabir. "By unlocking value to fund higher-return opportunities, we are improving the quality and efficiency of our capital employed and enhancing the group's ROCE [return on capital employed]."

The company says the efforts are a continuation of plans to improve returns, focus on high margin markets and products where it has a clear competitive advantage, recycle capital to higher-return opportunities,

and improve free cash flow.

Importantly, the transactions will allow Sabir to maintain strategic access for its products through exports to both Europe and the Americas, which remain priority markets. Furthermore, its activities in global research, advanced technology, and innovation, will be preserved, supporting effective customer service and sustainable growth.

➤ www.sabir.com

➤ <https://aequita.com>

➤ <https://mutaes.com>

Broadway reaches formulation milestone



IMAGE: BROADWAY

UK masterbatch and compound specialist Broadway announced that, 29 years after its inception, it has completed its 60,000th custom formulation, a blue colour compound in a customer's specified grade of PP matched to Pantone 287C.

"In the early days, the focus was purely on the aesthetic," said Senior Colourist Mark Turner. "Whilst that's still hugely important, today much of our work involves helping customers adopt greener solutions and navigate complex regulations."

These regulations include food contact safety, material traceability, and increasingly, considerations for packaging recyclability in line with EPR and the EU's PPWR. Evolving standards mean the company has also updated certain legacy formulations using newer, compliant chemistries.

➤ <https://broadwaycolours.com>

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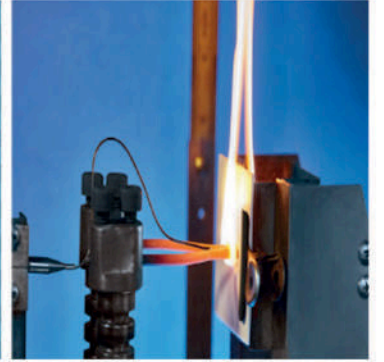
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New measures to support plastics recycling in EU

The European Commission has unveiled a first set of pilot actions designed to accelerate Europe's transition to a circular economy. It said that by optimising the recycling of plastics, these measures will further unlock the potential of the Single Market and enhance the EU's economic security, strategic autonomy, competitiveness, and environmental sustainability.

As part of the package, the Commission is presenting an implementing act to create EU-wide end-of-waste criteria for plastics under the Waste Framework Directive. The Commission is also presenting for vote by Member States an

implementing act concerning the recycled content of PET single-use plastic beverage bottles under the Single-Use Plastics Directive and plans to relaunch and strengthen the Circular Plastics Alliance.

To ensure fair competition between EU-made and imported plastics, the Commission is creating separate customs codes for virgin and recycled plastics and announcing monitoring efforts for EU and global markets for virgin and recycled plastics, which will inform potential trade measures.

Although this is seen as an improvement, some industry insiders think more can be

done. "To deliver circularity at scale, the measures proposed are a first step and/or require legal clarity to create the conditions needed on the ground for impact, innovation and investment along the entire plastics eco-system," said Virginia Janssens, Managing Director, Plastics Europe. "Other measures will need to follow. Europe needs decisive, coordinated and comprehensive political and policy action now to unlock investment in circularity and innovation which is inter-linked with the need to reinforce the EU's industrial base and economic security."

➤ <https://commission.europa.eu>

➤ <https://plasticseurope.org>

Domo subsidiaries insolvent

Domo Chemicals, Domo Caproleuna, and Domo Engineering Plastics, all German subsidiaries of ETPs group Domo Chemicals, have filed for insolvency.

According to Domo Group, its businesses have been affected by persistently weak demand in the European chemicals sector, with high energy costs and a strong rise of imports of polyamide resin from non-EU countries, in particular China, exacerbating the situation.

In response, the management team began a restructuring process in 2024. However, after talks over further short-term financing recently broke down, the three German entities were forced to file for insolvency.

Later, Domo Chemicals confirmed that its Spanish entity, Domo Polymer Solutions Spain, which includes a production site in Blanes and the group IT team in Barcelona, has also filed for insolvency.

➤ www.domochemicals.com

US associations complete merger

The merger of US trade bodies Plastics Industry Association and the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) became effective on 1 January.

The merger plan involves bringing SPE employees onto the staff of the Plastics

Industry Association, creating a collaborative governance framework, and putting in place a long-term structure that achieves the shared goals of the two groups.

SPE will now become a division of the Plastics Industry Association,

governed by an Executive Committee modelled on SPE's current leadership structure. SPE members will retain their membership status, benefits, and professional identity, within the new set-up.

➤ www.plasticsindustry.org

Piovan expands with acquisitions in Italy

Piovan Group has entered into binding agreements to acquire Italian machine and component manufacturers Mix&Co (operating under the Mix, Comav, and Eurosis brands) and BHT. The companies are based between the provinces of Modena and Ferrara, where Piovan already operates two manufacturing sites.

It said these acquisitions will expand and strengthen the group's portfolio of technical solutions offered through its Technical Polymers and Food & Powders divisions, the acquired technologies sharing strong process affinities with Piovan's solutions across polymers, food, and broader industrial applications.

As a result of the acquisitions,

Piovan said its customers will benefit from a wider technology portfolio, now enriched with dosers, mixers, special valves, filters, and other equipment.

In both cases, the current management teams will continue to lead their respective companies as they enter their next stage of development.

➤ www.piovan.com



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Omikron shares sold to Orinko

Italian polypropylene compounder Omikron is selling 70% of its share capital to Orinko Advanced Plastics, a Chinese compounder operating in the automotive sector, for a sum reported to be around €20m. The deal, subject to various approvals, is expected to close within the first half of 2026.

The ownership sale transaction "ensures full management continuity, with Alberto Borio and Giancarlo Rizzi remaining at the operational helm of Omikron in the coming years, ensuring stability and preserving established relationships with customers and partners", said Omikron. "The agreement also maintains employment continuity, consolidating the role of the Robassomero plant as a strategic hub for the European market. Orinko's contribution of investments and technological



IMAGE: OMIKRON

expertise will accelerate ongoing development and innovation plans."

"This partnership represents an excellent opportunity to consolidate and exponentially increase our company's presence in the European automotive sector," said Borio and Rizzi. "Integration with Orinko will allow us to access new technologies, expand our product range, and serve European customers more effectively."

Orinko, founded in 2008 and headquartered in Hefei, Anhui

province, already has a considerable global presence with seven production facilities in Asia, over 2,000 employees, and 2024 revenue of RMB 6.09bn (approximately €740m). It operates through two main product portfolios; polymeric materials and multifunctional films, and is active in the automotive, home appliances, new energy, consumer electronics, and electrical/electronic sectors.

➤ www.omikroncompound.com

➤ www.orinkoplastic.com

OxyChem is bought

US investment conglomerate Berkshire Hathaway has acquired OxyChem from Occidental for \$9.7bn.

Headquartered in Dallas, Texas, OxyChem, a producer of PVC, chlor-alkali and chlorinated organic chemicals, and calcium chloride, has operations in the US, Canada, and Latin America. Its products support critical applications in water treatment, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, manufacturing, automotive, personal hygiene, and residential and commercial construction.

The company will continue to be managed by President and CEO Wade Alleman.

➤ www.berkshirehathaway.com

Vynova problems continue

News outlets in Belgium have reported that PVC producer Vynova has been granted creditor protection for its facility in Tessenderlo-Ham, Limburg province, which employs 600 people. The company has four months to reach an agreement on a recovery plan.

Vynova, owned by Germany's ICIG group, has been struggling for some time due to high energy prices, global overcapacity, competition from cheaper regions, and weak demand for PVC products. As a result, it closed a factory near Maastricht in the Nether-

lands last summer and applied for a court settlement for sites in Germany and the UK. The company also ceased PVC production activities at its site in Beek, the Netherlands, last November, blaming global overcapacity.

➤ www.vynova-group.com

Westlake expands with ACI purchase

US-headquartered Westlake Corp has completed the acquisition of the global compounding solutions businesses of the ACI/Perplastic Group, collectively known as ACI. Headquartered in Portugal, ACI is a global manufacturer of specialty materials, primarily serving the wire and cable sectors.

"The integration of ACI with Westlake's compounding operations represents a strong strategic alignment, offering significant opportunities to further strengthen our Housing & Infrastructure Products business," said Jean-Marc Gilson, President and Chief Executive Officer of Westlake. "This acquisition will enhance the reach

of Westlake Global Compounds and introduce new specialty products and advanced technologies to our portfolio."

The acquisition expands Westlake's manufacturing footprint into Portugal, Romania, and Tunisia, and adds to its existing operations in Mexico.

➤ www.westlake.com

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Arkema sells additives assets to Praana



IMAGE: ARKEMA

Arkema's Vlissingen production facility in the Netherlands

Arkema has announced a proposed divestment to Indian group Praana of some of its plastics additives businesses.

The sale concerns impact modifiers and processing aids – additives used in the manufacture of PVC profiles, pipes and packaging as well as ETPs – which covers the scope for Methyl Methacrylate Butadiene Styrene (MBS) copolymers as well as the European and Asian scope for acrylic copolymers

(AIMPA). These activities, part of Arkema's Coating Solutions segment, generated sales of €44m in 2024.

The transaction entails the divestment of the Vlissingen production facility in the Netherlands, but allows Arkema to keep within its scope its Mobile plant in the US as well as the entirety of its American AIMPA businesses. Arkema said it will continue to manage its portfolio and refocus on higher value-added activities

in Specialty Materials.

The acquiring group Praana produces specialty chemicals and composite materials through Sterling Specialty Chemicals, Galata Chemicals, Artek Surfin Chemicals, and 3B Fibreglass, serving construction, textile, automotive, cleaning, and personal care industries.

The proposed divestment is expected to be finalised in the first quarter.

➤ www.arkema.com

➤ www.praana.com

New Feddersen Group facility

Feddersen Group is building a new Competence Centre at Bredasten, Värnamo, Sweden. The new facility will be twice the size of the current one and be designed as an open arena for demonstrations, test

runs, training, and development projects.

The investment is in line with the group's long-term strategy to strengthen profitability in the plastics and recycling industries.

When the centre opens in

December 2026, KD Feddersen Plastics Machinery, KD Feddersen Distribution, and KD Feddersen Norden Holding, will all move into the new premises for an integrated approach.

➤ <https://feddersen.group>

Farrel Pomini in pyrolysis technology move

Farrel Pomini, a member of HF Mixing Group, has acquired majority ownership of WF Recycle-Tech, increasing its stake from a minority ownership position established in 2021.

WF Recycle-Tech, headquartered in

the UK, pioneered a proprietary, patented pyrolysis system for recycling end-of-life tyres utilising the Farrel Continuous Mixer (FCM), with products including carbon black and oil.

Paul Lloyd, President of Farrel Corp,

said the transaction represents an important step towards further commercialisation of the pyrolysis system.

➤ www.farrel-pomini.com

➤ www.wfrecycle-tech.com

Envalior ends GF operation

Envalior is to cease glass fibre activities at its site in Kallo, Belgium, by the end of 2026.

The group said that despite extensive scenario analyses, intensive cost reduction measures, and other improvement initiatives, operations in Kallo have faced severe challenges for many years. The main causes include high energy, raw material, and labour costs, declining demand in key markets, and significant pressure from low-cost imports.

Envalior said that market conditions have deteriorated to the point where it is producing glass fibre in Kallo at a cost that exceeds the purchase price, making the activity no longer viable.

The closure applies solely to glass fibre production at the Kallo site and would only affect the production of chopped strands. Milled fibres will remain part of Envalior's portfolio.

Production will continue during a consultation process with employee representatives.

➤ www.envalior.com



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Development of PFAS-free options in film

Additives have long been used to improve film extrusion processes and properties, but now they must deal with new regulatory pressures. Jennifer Markarian reports



IMAGE: WACKER

A variety of additives are used in film extrusion to ease processing, improve properties or stability during use, and enhance recycling. Companies are keeping an eye on changes in regulations that may affect this area.

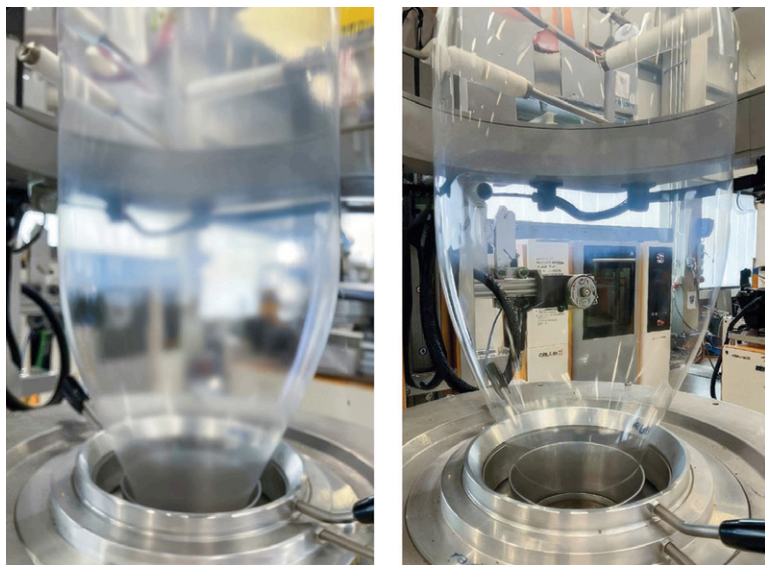
One of the biggest areas of regulatory change for films is in processing aids. Traditional fluoropolymer-based process aids are expected to be subject to limitations related to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) restrictions in some regions. The EU's Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR), for example, limits PFAS in food-contact packaging in the EU beginning in August 2026. Several suppliers have introduced alternative polymer processing aids (PPAs) in the past few years for film applications, where the PPAs are used primarily to reduce melt fracture and die lip buildup.

Henrik Eriksson, Technical Product Manager at **Baerlocher**, sees film producers shifting away from fluoropolymer-based PPAs for food packaging as well as non-food applications, but finding challenges with using alternatives. "The performance of PFAS-free PPA is simply not as robust and indifferent to the intricacies of various use cases, the way a fluoropolymer PPA is. For example, a PFAS-free PPA masterbatch may be more or less compatible with PPA-technology already present in a particular resin, or it can be more or less sensitive to the presence of further additives in the form of antistatics, slip and antiblock agents," said Eriksson.

"While traditional PPA was often added according to the extruder operator's own discretion, film producers now find that the efficient production of certain products requires strict procedures and product specific dosage levels. Therefore, a key

Main image:
Wacker's Genioplast Pellet P Plus is an FDA-compliant silicone-based additive designed for food contact applications, including PP and BOPP films

IMAGE: BAERLOCHER



Above:
Baerlocher's
new PFAS-free
Baerolub Aid is
a PPA based on
oleochemicals
providing melt
clearance in
blown film,
shown on the
right

success factor for Baerlocher in this field has been to work closely together with the converters taking its product under evaluation and provide ample support on how to best implement the product in each and every case."

Baerlocher's new PFAS-free Baerolub Aid is a PPA based on oleochemicals. It is compliant with relevant food-contact regulations worldwide and is available as powder, pastilles, granules or masterbatch. "[The oleochemical composition] provides film manufacturers a new angle of attack when they have been unable to achieve their goals with the polyethylene glycol-based PPAs that are so common on the market," said Eriksson. "Our global activities with this technology have given us extensive experience in its implementation. This enables us to offer our customers the best possible support so that they can use the product successfully under a variety of conditions."

Arkema, which offers conventional fluoropolymer-based Kynar PVDF polymer processing and recycling aids (PPRAs) made without the use of PFAS surfactants, has launched a new Orgasol PA12 powder as an additive for customers who want a non-fluorinated PPRA for polyolefins in film extrusion and other applications. The company's existing Orgasol PA12 ultra-fine, spheroidal PA powders have been used as multifunctional surface modifiers in coatings and technical compounds; the new grade, Orgasol 2002 EXD NAT 1, is a 10-micron powder with a narrow particle size distribution designed as a polyolefin PPA. For film extrusion, addition as a masterbatch is recommended with a final concentration ranging from 500 to 1,500 ppm. The non-fluorinated PPRA is effective at reducing melt fracture and die build-up, although it requires higher levels than fluorinated PPRA. It has food-contact approval and is available

in North America, Europe, Asia Pacific, South and Central America, and Near East/Africa regions.

Silicone options

The latest from **Dow** is Dowsil 5-1050 Polymer Processing Aid, which contains a silicone additive in a polyethylene carrier and is supplied as a masterbatch for ease of feeding into existing extrusion processes. In LLDPE films, the additive mitigates melt fracture, suppresses die-lip buildup, and lowers die pressure at dosage levels of 1-3 wt.%. The PPA is designed for blown and stretch film processes. The company reported that its performance has been validated in pilot-scale and commercial trials.

Wacker highlighted its Genioplast silicone-based additives and production aids. Genioplast Pellet 345 and Genioplast Pellet P Plus are FDA-approved film additives that enhance flow and mechanical properties and serve as slip agents for biaxially oriented polypropylene films, the company reported. Genioplast PE50S08 is a masterbatch with 50% ultra-high molecular weight, non-reactive silicone gum to improve processing efficiency in PE compounds by lowering melt viscosity and die pressure, making it easier to unroll films and enhancing surface feel.

Cargill's Incroflo P50 is a fluoropolymer PPA replacement composed of 86% bio-based material with no silicone polymers or PEG, the company reported. The additive, supplied as a solid pellet, is designed for use in LLDPE film processing, where it has been shown to improve processing at loadings of 1,000 ppm.

Benefits

3M is introducing a 3M Polymer Processing Additive HX 9551, which is a hydrocarbon-based PPA engineered to help deliver the robust and consistent performance the market expects. "Customers may see benefits in their extrusion process such as melt fracture elimination, reduced die buildup, improved processing of high viscosity polymers, and enhancements in gloss, surface smoothness, and clarity," the company reported. "3M has a development approach which includes evaluating performance across a broad range of operating conditions, including different shear rates, temperatures, and resin grades, to help customers/end users ensure reliable operation in their diverse processing applications."

Clariant launched an AddWorks PPA product line that does not contain PFAS, inorganic, silicone, or polysiloxane materials, which ensures broad regulatory compliance for food-contact packaging and supports recyclability under PPWR. AddWorks

IMAGE: CLARIANT



Clariant launched an AddWorks PPA additives range that does not contain PFAS, inorganic, silicone, or polysiloxane materials

PPA 101 FG, primarily focused on EMEA, Americas, and SEAP markets, is a 100% active fine grain composition that can be incorporated into a resin, compound or masterbatch. AddWorks PPA 122 G, targeted for Greater China and SEAP regions, is in a masterbatch form with the same dosing level as traditional PPA masterbatches, simplifying the transition for manufacturers.

The latest from **Avient** is a liquid processing aid designed for film packaging producers in Latin America who want to use a non-fluorinated option without intentionally added PFAS in PE or PP applications, including food-contact uses, with relevant FDA compliance. Hiformer Non-PFAS Process Aid with Antioxidants helps reduce friction between the polymer and metal, which can reduce melt fracture and die build-up, and lower torque to support higher throughput. Typical loading dosage rates are 0.1-0.5% (1,000-5,000 ppm). Avient noted a growing demand for non-PFAS solutions.

"While there is no drop-in, one-size-fits-all replacement for PFAS, there are alternatives," said Avient. "With multiple options available, Avient technical experts will help customers focus on the solution that best meets the application's needs. Avient's new Hiformer Non-PFAS Process Aid with Antioxidants and other non-PFAS processing aids from Avient can be tailored to any carrier."

Antifog and antiblock

PPAs are often needed to ensure that the film surface has good clarity and appearance so that the resulting package has the desired aesthetic. For some packages, particularly for food that can produce condensation, antifog additives are also important.

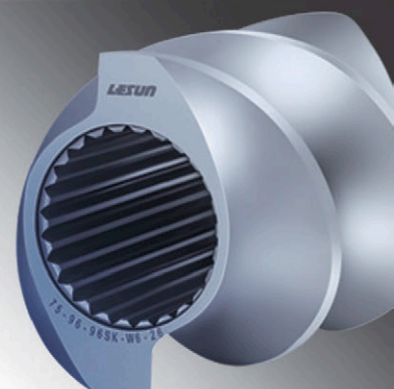
Both cast PP film and BOPP film are finding growing use in food packaging, says additive supplier **Palsgaard**. The latest addition to the company's Einar range of plant-based, food-grade antifog polymer additives is Einar 406 PL, designed for hot fog applications in random copolymer PP films that require immediate anti-fog onset for packaging of

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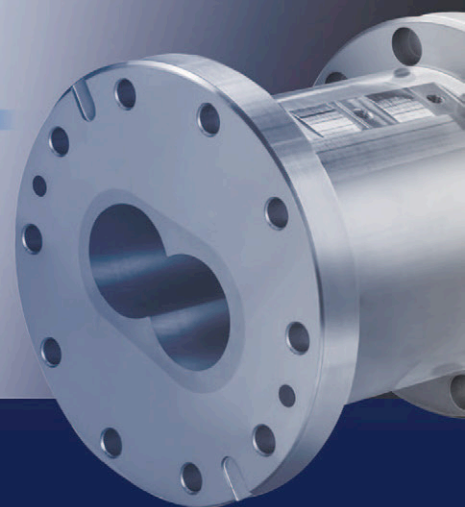


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HOT FOG TEST OF 1.0% EINAR 406PL

Measured in 30 µm random copolymer PP film

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3 min	E	E	E	D	C
10 min	E	E	E	E	E
60 min	E	E	E	E	E
180 min	E	E	E	E	E
	1 day	1 week	2 weeks	1 month	6 months

Excellent	E
Acceptable	D
Better	C
Poor	B
Very poor	A

Performance of Palsgaard's Einar 406 PL antifog film additive

Source: Palsgaard

food stored at elevated temperatures. Recommended loading levels are 0.5-1% when incorporated in a random copolymer PP film layer or 1-2% when incorporated in a homopolymer PP film.

Palsgaard also provides other proven anti-fog agents with quicker onset for packaging of hot foods on display, microwave-ready meals, and food products in cold storage. The additives are blends of fatty acid esters of glycerol and polyglycerol made from vegetable oils, with worldwide approvals for food-contact applications.

Masterbatch producer **Tosaf** said that its new generation of FogFree additives was developed to ensure lasting transparency in a range of packaging, including flexible films. "The formulation maintains optical clarity, prevents condensation, and by keeping the packaging clean and transparent, helps reduce food waste and supports sustainability," said Asaf Eylon, President of Additives & Whites at Tosaf.

Sukano introduced an antiblock masterbatch designed for biaxially-oriented PLA films in conjunction with PLA producer **NatureWorks**. The masterbatch is designed to be used with NatureWork's Ingeo Extend 4950D for compostable small-

format packaging, such as condiment packets, snack and candy wrappers, salad bags, lidding for containers, coffee pods, and sauce dippers, which the companies noted are packaging types set to be restricted by the EU's PPWR. These packaging types are typically too small for existing recycling sortation equipment, but by using compostable plastics, the packaging can be composted with food waste, which should make them acceptable under the PPWR, said Sukano. The companies said that the new materials, designed to be used on existing BOPP equipment, have overcome previous issues that have faced compostable packaging.

"By combining NatureWorks' Ingeo biopolymer innovations with Brückner's biax [film extrusion] technology and Sukano's proprietary S/AB [slip/antiblock] surface additive, we've opened the door to a new generation of ultra-thin, cost-effective barrier films," said Roger Tambay, Chief Grow Officer at NatureWorks. "These advances make it possible to reduce thickness while still delivering the sealability, barrier performance, and lamination strength brand owners need. They advance compostable packaging and enhance paper-based solutions, where Ingeo PLA coupled with Sukano masterbatches provides the functionality required for recyclability in the paper stream. At a time when brands are navigating evolving packaging regulations, this collaboration offers a sustainable and cost-competitive pathway forward."

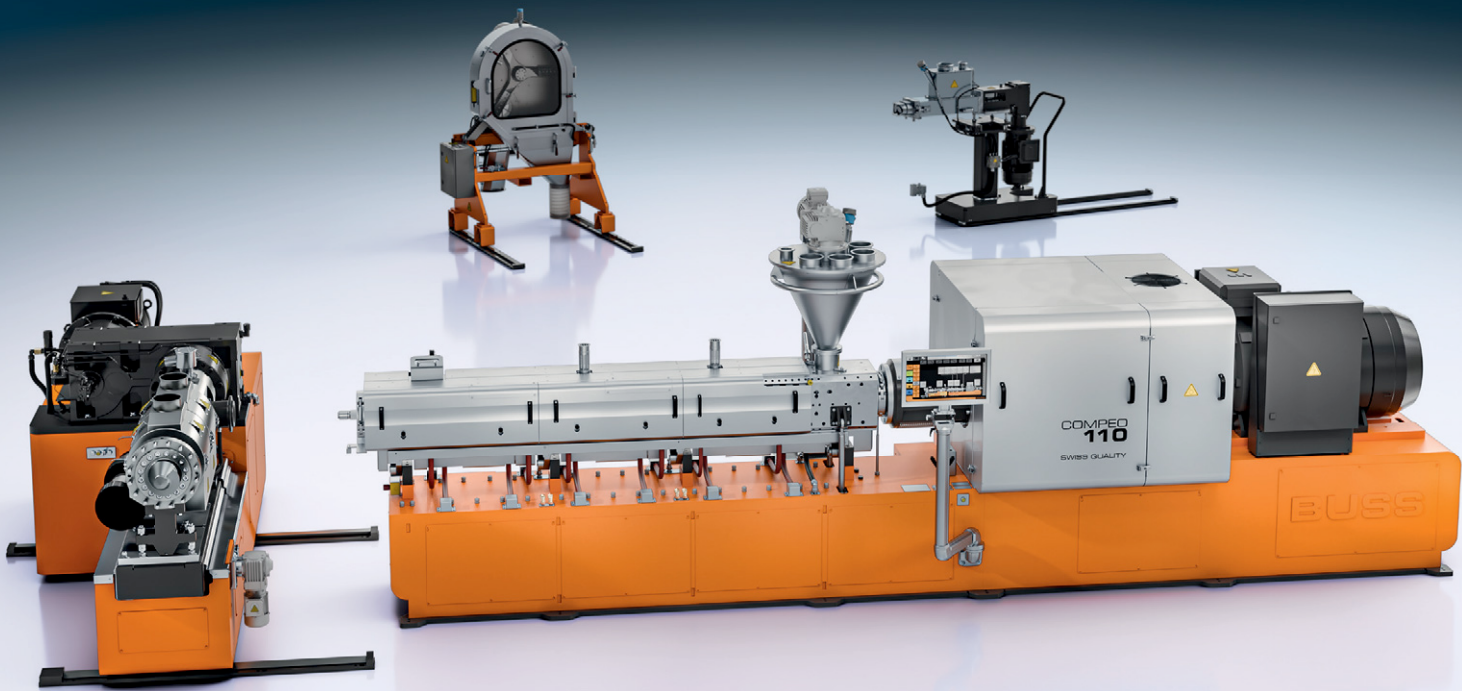
The Sukano masterbatch improves the surface quality of BOPLA coextruded films, which both improves film handling and enhances barrier properties. The antiblock component creates a slightly rough surface texture to reduce contact between film layers, and the slip agent component provides a lubricating effect on finished parts.

"In the inner layer, the masterbatch increases surface roughness, preventing the film from sticking during winding and secondary processing. ➤

Below: Sukano introduced an antiblock masterbatch designed for BOPLA films in conjunction with PLA producer NatureWorks



IMAGE: SUKANO



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In the outer layer, the masterbatch helps create a smooth and uniform surface to obtain a continuous layer of aluminum with strong adhesion. This results in fewer defects in the metal coating, which is key to achieving excellent barrier properties that meet market requirements. The positive results were confirmed by extensive trials at Bruckner Maschinenbau," Sukano reported. The company said that packaging with a very thin aluminium coating layer is able to be composted and can be certified according to EN13432.

Enabling recycling

Innovators throughout the film supply chain have been working for years to improve post-consumer film recycling and to address challenges in collection, sortation, and mechanical recycling into compounds for new films and packages. One of the many challenges is creating a high enough quality post-consumer recycled (PCR) compound that can produce a good film, without gels that cause web breaks or other functional or appearance issues. Additives, such as stabilisers and compatibilisers, are critical to producing high-quality PCR.

Nexam Chemical's Reactive Recycling viscosity-modifying additives repair degraded polymer molecules to allow the use of a higher amount of recycled content or use of lower quality feedstock without processing and production. For film applications, the additive family includes products for polymers such as polyolefins and PET. The company is seeing strong market interest from the packaging industry, particularly from blown film producers. The company recently reported that a

new blown film customer had expanded its use of Reactive Recycling additives in 2025, and that Nexam's development pipeline in blown film has grown to over 20 companies ranging from those in early-stage testing to industrialisation.

Customers have seen positive results, according to Nexam. For example, at blown film producer Kullaplast, use of Nexamite R305 dramatically reduced bubble collapses and improved film quality when using PCR, allowing the producer to incorporate higher percentages of PCR to meet its sustainability goals.

"These developments stand in stark contrast to recent media reports portraying a struggling European recycling industry. The strong market pull we are experiencing reinforces our belief that performance-enhancing additives - used alongside conventional mechanical recycling - represent one of the most realistic, scalable and financially viable paths to circularity," said Ronnie Törnqvist, CEO of Nexam Chemical.

Nexam has a next-generation additive in development that has shown double the efficiency in laboratory testing, offering the potential to further improve customer economics and accelerate adoption within blown film manufacturing, the company said.

"The combination of improved product performance, better economics for our customers, and the increasing regulatory demand for recycled materials creates a very favourable environment for our technology," said Henrik Bernquist, Business Manager at Nexam Chemical.

Achieving the mandatory recyclability and recycled-content targets for film applications

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required by the EU's PPWR will require improvements in both recycling infrastructure and material design, added **BASF**.

"While additives can help restore performance lost during recycling, they cannot compensate for significant contamination or poor-quality recyclates. Improving recyclate quality remains a prerequisite for higher recycled-content films," the company said. BASF's Irgacycle additive solutions are tailored to improve processing stability, melt flow behaviour and mechanical properties in recycled LDPE and LLDPE. "As a result, converters can produce high-quality films with recycled content levels of up to 50% while maintaining mechanical performance," the company reported.

Agricultural film

Films are used in many applications besides packaging. Additives are needed in agricultural films, for example, to protect the film from degradation caused by UV light or harsh chemicals.

BASF said that its Tinuvin NOR 356 AR, a high-performance Hindered Amine Light Stabiliser (HALS), provides long-term stability under severe conditions of solar radiation and agrochemicals, and that Tinuvin NOR 211 AR and Tinuvin NOR112 AR complement this with synergistic protection against sulphur- and chlorine-containing chemicals for extended film service life.

"Field trials in greenhouse and mulch films demonstrate that Tinuvin NOR 356-based formulations can achieve service lifetimes exceeding 36 months, even in regions with high UV exposure," BASF reported. "AR-grade solutions have shown stability at sulphur levels up to 5,000 ppm and

chlorine levels up to 250 ppm. Laboratory studies further confirm that combining Tinuvin NOR light stabilisers with Irgacycle solutions helps maintain tensile strength and optical clarity in recycled-content films, with minimal yellowing during reprocessing."

Syensqo's latest Cyasorb Cyastab A8220 stabiliser is designed to help greenhouse films withstand both UV exposure and harsh chemicals, such as sulphur- and chlorine-based pesticides. Stabilised films retain a high percentage of their original tensile strength and flexibility during use, which results in longer service life and fewer replacements. The stabiliser is suited to films up to 200 microns in thickness and the formulation does not interfere with light transmission, which is critical for greenhouse films. The stabiliser works particularly well in EVA or EBA films, which are commonly used in greenhouses.

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Pelletiser progress on show at K2025

Developers of pelletising systems for resin, compound and recycle producers displayed their innovations at the K Show last October. By Chris Saunders



IMAGE: MESSE DUSSELDORF

The world of pelletising, the process of transforming shredded, melted plastic waste or virgin polymers into small, uniform, dry pellets is evolving rapidly. Significant advancements are being made industry-wide, driven by sustainability mandates, digital automation, market demand, and innovations in hardware and control systems. For example, at the most recent K Show in Dusseldorf, Germany, last October, **Bay Plastics Machinery (BPM)** showcased its Smart (System for Monitoring, Analysis, Recipes and Training) Control for pelletising systems, which lets users precisely control machine speeds, pellet length, and other process parameters while tracking data trends and production events.

The system instantly shows motor data and machine speeds and includes BPM's Digital Pellet Length Control algorithm. Line speeds can be changed at the touch of a button on the main screen or remotely at the operator station, and each pelletising machine has a dedicated control screen and customisable settings to allow for precise operation, easy adjustments, and fast diagnostics. Videos, 3D models, manuals, and educational documents, are accessible through the interface so operators can learn in real time, while the control's troubleshooting tool lets technicians examine active data, which is particularly useful for remote troubleshooting.

"We're Introducing Industry 4.0 to strand pelletising," said Jim Forgash, Vice President of Sales at BPM. "[And] looking upstream at how things are affecting the pelletising process, allowing our customers to document that process and acknowledge to their customers that their process is accurate. We can remotely communicate with the machinery to help troubleshoot, and training videos help the customer become very self-sufficient."

The company used the trade fair to exhibit several pieces of equipment, including one of its flagship AXP08 strand pelletisers featuring the Smart Control system in action, a BT25X lab-scale pelletiser, and a BP50, which has also been designed for lab-scale operations and light production runs. To enable it to more efficiently serve its customers in the EU, BPM, which is headquartered in Michigan, US, is opening a facility in Uden, the Netherlands, and an office in Amsterdam. The Uden facility will store parts and some small equipment so the company can ship in-stock parts to customers within two days of receiving an order, negating often lengthy wait times.

Maag Group unveiled a host of new technologies centred around integrated system solutions at K2025. "Our systems stand for innovation, quality, and efficiency," said Ueli Thuerig, President of Maag Group before the show, while underscoring how

**Main image:
The Maag
Group stand
at K2025**

technical excellence and smart design are transforming the plastics processing landscape. A key element of the group's display was the debut of the Pearlo CS, which the company says marks a milestone in compact pelletising systems. Drawing on the proven Pearlo series, it features the familiar tangential cutting chamber and optimised cutter design. Offered in two sizes, it targets production scales where flexibility and efficiency are essential.

"We developed the Pearlo CS specifically for manufacturers who need top-tier performance in a streamlined footprint," said Product Manager Rico Sandmann.

A Pearlo 350 pelletiser equipped with EAC technology and new die plate design ensuring long tool life, precise cutting, and reduced fines for premium granulate, was billed as the largest underwater pelletising system used in PET production. For high throughputs, the Central Injection System die plate introduces water centrally through the die plate to reduce agglomerates and improve pellet cooling for high-MI polymers.

Strand and underwater

Also on display at the event was an EBG semi-automated dust-reducing dry cut strand pelletising system which offers flexible process control with reduced strand breaks, low moisture content, and minimised dust formation, along with an updated version of the M2-USG underwater strand pelletising system, with an enhanced design. Featuring an enlarged rotor diameter and improved water flow, the next generation M2-USG enables greater throughput and superior pellet quality while additional sensors boost process stability. These enhancements can help customers achieve consistent quality with increased performance, thereby boosting overall efficiency.

Pelletising of fibre-reinforced plastics and other abrasive polymer strands tend to put extreme stress on cutting blades. Typically, polycrystalline diamond-tipped (PCD) blades have been used in such applications, but they are said to be up to five times more expensive than carbide or cemented carbide tools. Maag has developed a new blade material that it says offers longer service life at an affordable price. Its Duration Cutting Blade features VS23, which the company says can increase the hardness of the surface by up to 70%, reducing wear rate and extending the service life by a factor of five to nine compared to conventional carbide tools. This offers a cost-effective alternative to expensive PCD tools by reducing downtime and tool changes in demanding applications,



The M2-USG UP from Maag was one of the items on display at K2025

IMAGE: MAAG

according to the company.

K2025 was also notable for being **Sikora's** first public appearance under its new brand identity and as part of the Maag Group, following its acquisition earlier in the year. The cooperation between the two companies opens up a wide range of technological and geographical synergies. Sikora's expertise in measuring and control technology complements the Maag Group's portfolio in the areas of pump, filtration, and pelletising systems. A close regional proximity also offers advantages, with both having strong presences in the Dach region while being well positioned internationally. The repositioning is said to be very well received by customers and partners alike, reflecting technological advancement and a visible growth strategy.

Recycling

Farrel Pomini is now offering what it says is a cost-effective and safe method for processing virgin or recycled rigid PVC that eliminates traditional finishing requirements with its newly designed Dry Face Pelletiser (DFP). The process begins by compounding the rigid PVC with the Farrel Continuous Mixer (FCM) to a hot-feed single-screw extruder. The PVC cools as it passes through the extruder and moves on to the proprietary DFP that minimises die pressure and potential temperature increases while efficiently cutting pellets. After pelletising, an air transfer system completes the cooling process along with pellet classifying and dust and fine particle removal.

This concept eliminates the need for finishing the rigid PVC with a two-roll mill, water bath, and dicer, allowing for a smaller capital investment and equipment footprint as well as expedited return on investment and enhanced safety. The company says the compact DFP is easy to operate and can be fully integrated into the user-friendly Farrel

Pomini Synergy control system. Plus, the entire line can be completely automated with minimal operator involvement.

China recognition

Cutting edge technology is now spreading far and wide. When the 2025 Jiangsu Province 'Three Firsts and Two Innovations' list, which recognises cutting-edge products and technologies, was released, it featured Chinese company **Useon** for its achievements in high-end PP extrusion pelletising equipment. The recognition was due to a large scale PP pelletising line with a capacity of 100,000 tonnes/yr being independently designed, manufactured, and installed in the workshop of a major domestic petrochemical enterprise. Useon said that by continuously overcoming challenges in key core technologies, the equipment has achieved a level of stable mass production, expanding the customer's profit margins in high-end markets. The project was included in the 'First Set' of the list, indicating the first time a major equipment or product has been developed and used in China.

"Polyolefin extrusion pelletising systems have long been constrained by foreign technology

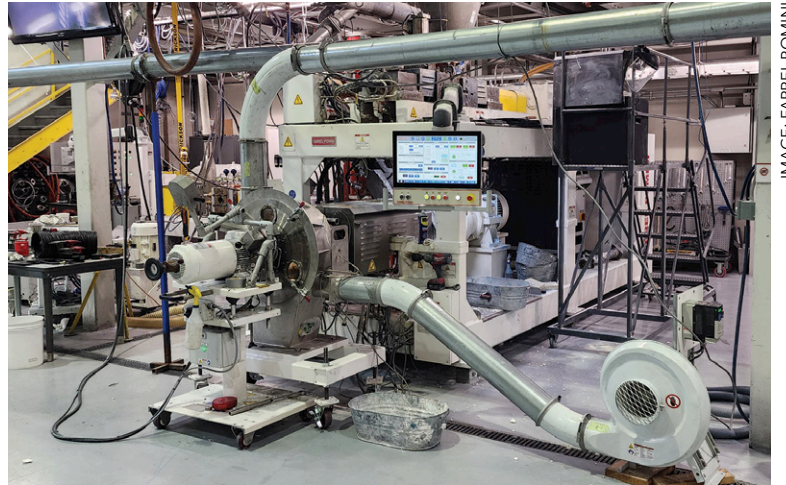


IMAGE: FARREL POMINI

barriers with equipment procurement cycles reaching up to 14 months and costs being extremely high," the company explained. "Through localised technology breakthroughs, Useon has shortened the delivery cycle to 10 months while ensuring equivalent technical performance, significantly reducing customers' procurement costs and enabling production to start months earlier. This is expected to generate additional output value of up to RMB 300m (€36m)."

Above: Farrel Pomini's DFP eliminates traditional finishing requirements to more safely process virgin or recycled rigid PVC

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Right: The Econia 3000 is a fully automated underwater pelletising system designed by Econ for highly efficient and sustainable production

The company says it will continue to uphold its development philosophy of creating value for customers and continuously empowering the industry, accelerate the R&D and industrialisation of domestic high-end equipment, and contribute to achieving independent control of more key technologies in Chinese manufacturing.

The CPS-F is a scalable pelletising platform, developed by **Buss** for demanding compounding processes. The new CPS-F 200 unit, the first size in the flange-based design that can be directly connected to the company's Compeo kneader series, was presented at K2025 with additional sizes following from early 2026. The CPS-F is particularly suitable for cable and performance compounds, as well as viscous or porous polymers. Well-designed mechanical interfaces mean the unit can be combined not only with Buss systems but also integrated as an OEM-independent solution into existing compounding lines. The adaptable flange, adjustable discharge height, and easily accessible utility connections for water and electrical supply, enable flexible integration even with limited installation space.

Cutting consistency

The heart of the CPS-F is an exchangeable, segmented die plate with special geometry that compensates for thermal deformation. This keeps cutting quality consistent even under high pressure and temperature, a key aspect for consistent pellet quality. A rear-mounted drive allows access to the cutting zone without having to open the drive train, which saves time during cleaning and maintenance. A manual rotor brake with release mechanism and viewing windows with optional lighting further enhance operational safety, while additional

features include an optional screen changer for inline filtration, integrated pressure monitoring for process control, short material flow paths for clean processing, and compact, accessible design with clearly defined interfaces. With a throughput range of 80 to 3,500 kg/h, the CPS-F

series, comprising four sizes, spans a broad application spectrum, from flexible lines to high-performance production.

Compared to conventional underwater pelletising systems, Buss said the CPS-F offers advantages including up to 50% lower pressure drop meaning more energy-efficient



operation and a 20-25% lower total cost of ownership. It is suitable for dual-mode users as the unit is switchable between wet and dry operation so it can be used in various application product families. Particularly helpful for manufacturers working with changing formulations or materials sensitive to temperature variations, the CPS-F represents a precise, reliable, and economical solution whether for cable compounds, performance compounds, or specialty applications, according to the company.

Glass fibre

At K2025, Austrian company **Econ** presented its own underwater pelletising system, EUP50, in combination with the Econ Dehydrator, to showcase the granulation of glass fibre-reinforced polymers under real production conditions. The material composition used (PP with 30% glass fibre content) imposes demanding requirements on process stability, cutting precision, and drying efficiency. The company said it chose this arrangement to demonstrate how precise control of process parameters, consistent pellet formation, and reliable residual moisture removal, can ensure uniform product quality even under challenging processing conditions. Econ product specialists were on hand to explain the features and functional principles of the system, including the hydrodynamic design of the cutting head, process water temperature control, and the energy-efficient operation of the dehydrator, helping K visitors gain insights into the system's operation and its suitability for demanding pelletising applications.

In addition, Econ presented other highlights from its current product portfolio, including the Econia 3000, a fully automated underwater pelletising system designed for highly efficient and sustainable production which offers intelligent process control for optimal resource utilisation. Meanwhile, the EPO-N 1000 system provides exceptional flexibility and productivity through its modular construction and adaptable process

Below: The Buss CPS-F 200 pelletising system for cable and performance compounds



IMAGE: BUSS

control, and the monitoring solution PelletVision enables automated, real-time analysis of pellet quality, supporting continuous process control and quality assurance.

Filtec, an Italian, family-owned company that specialises in the design and manufacture of customised pelletising systems, says that it recently supplied its UW Lab system to several customers seeking compact yet high-performance solutions for their laboratory activities or small-scale production. It is described as a versatile underwater pelletising unit designed to handle throughputs of up to 50 kg/h, depending on the type of material, and is ideal for pilot lines, formulation testing, and small-batch production. Filtec said that in the facilities where it has already been installed, UW Lab has proven its effectiveness on a wide range of materials including various grades of PP along with PE, thermoplastic elastomers (SEBS, SBS, TPE), and various polyesters such as PET.

Pellet sorting

Inspec.tech has upgraded its Raw Material Inspection (RMI) pellet inspection and sorting systems with improved cameras and lighting



IMAGE: INSPEC.TECH

technology, including smaller defect detection and alternative light sources including UV lighting strategies if required. Additional developments include enhancements to camera and lighting positioning for improved detection and rejection of defects based on size, shape, colour, contamination such as black specs or burnt material, and cross-contamination.

While commonly applied inline with resin

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Delta Tecnic launches Super Small Pellet

Pellet size is a crucial factor in masterbatch manufacturing. Traditionally, the market has mainly focused on standard granules, which have limitations in colour dilution and homogenisation when used in certain applications. Over time, **Delta Tecnic** has developed different pellet sizes, ranging from micropellets to small micropellets (SMP). Now, the company has released the Super Small Pellet (SSP).

Its smaller diameter means the SSP integrates more efficiently, covering the same colour surface area with a greater number of small particles rather than fewer larger ones significantly enhancing the quality of the final product, according to the company. Plus, in the PVC industry where raw materials are often supplied in powder form, the use of large pellets can lead to settling issues where heavier grains settle at the bottom of the mix.

SSPs are manufactured using an advanced process which typically involves cryogenic grinding. This method not only eliminates the need for mills and other energy-intensive equipment, but also reduces the generation of fine particles which improves worker safety by minimising the risk of inhaling them.

Versatility

The pellet's versatility allows production from small batches of 25 kg to large volumes as required, this level of flexibility being particularly advantageous in the manufacture of PVC films, compounds, and rigid profiles, where optimal dilution is critical. In addition to this, the company said that, the ability to produce small batches supports customisation of colours and properties, enabling Delta Tecnic's customers to meet market demands and specific application needs.

production or compounding, the RMI can also be easily adapted as an offline or portable system moving from line to line. This technology is suitable for resin producers, compounders, recyclers and repelletisers, as well as consumers of pellets who require incoming pellet inspection for critical products and applications.

The company has also introduced its new Material Recovery System (MRS). Based on the proven RMI technology, this system performs automatic, repeated sorting cycles until optimal separation and sorting is completed, enabling the recovery of high value polymers by separating by contamination, colour, size, and shape.

Another innovation from Inspec.tech is the new Raw Material Inspection Lab Model, using the same vision inspection technology as the RMI and MRS. This integral and compact desk top system is capable of handling throughputs ranging from 3 to 66 lbs/minute. Advantages include greater reliability, larger sample sizes, faster and more accurate inspections. Air nozzle sorting is available as an option.

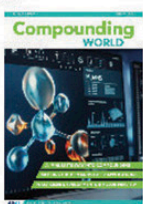
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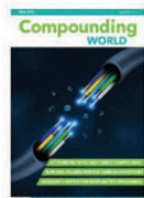
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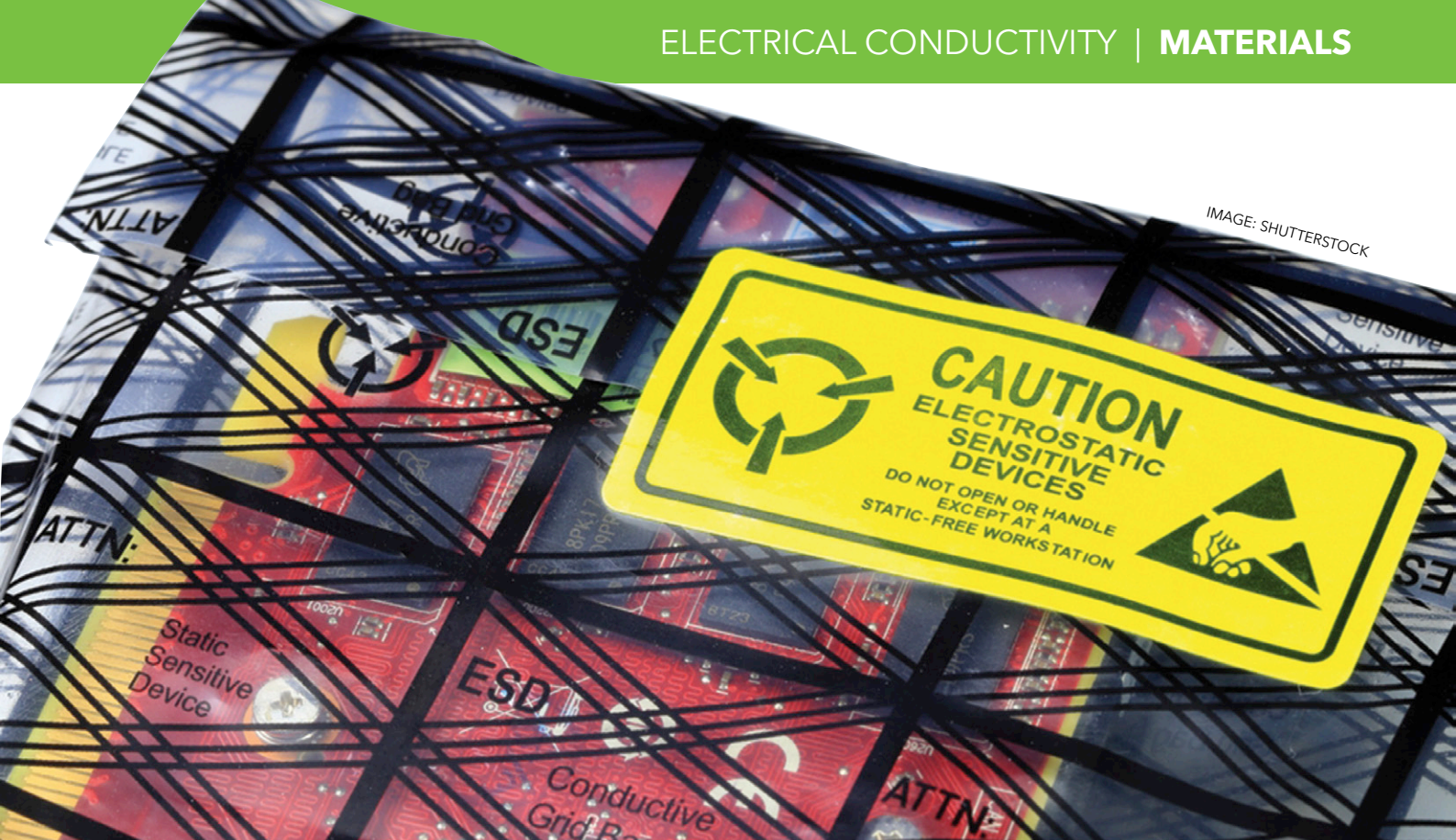


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Materials meet the needs of electrical safety

New additives and compounds are benefiting products in cables, packaging, films and applications in rotational and injection moulding. Jennifer Markarian reports

Additives that make thermoplastics electrically conductive are used in a wide range of applications with varying levels of conductivity. Antistatic compounds prevent dust from collecting on surfaces, for example, and electrostatic dissipative (ESD) compounds for electronics packaging or manufacturing equipment prevent damage and reduce fire or explosion risk from uncontrolled electrostatic discharge. Electrically conductive compounds, containing additives such as carbon black, carbon nanotubes (CNTs), graphite, conductive fibres or graphene may be used for parts in transportation or energy storage. Some applications require compounds that are both electrically and thermally conductive.

Traditionally, additives such as conductive carbon black and carbon fibre, including metal-coated carbon fibre, have been workhorses in ESD and in imparting conductivity to plastics, said AJ

Pasquale, Co-founder and Director of Operations at **Insight Polymers & Compounding**. He added that newer materials, such as CNTs and graphene, are more efficient and can be used at lower levels, with less effect on other properties, such as toughness or viscosity.

"The challenge is finding a balance between properties, with combinations of old and new additives, to achieve lower cost, better performance and more consistency," Pasquale explained. "For example, graphene combined with carbon fibre can deliver both mechanical strength and conductivity, but the industry lacks the experience it has with more established formulations. Conductive carbon black and carbon fibre, for example, are a well-understood combination for balancing toughness and conductivity."

Insight Polymers is combining conductive additives to balance processing, mechanical, and

Main image:
ESD compounds are used for packaging products at risk from uncontrolled electrostatic discharge



Above: Premix Group opened its new facility in Apple Creek, North Carolina in June 2025

impact properties that are optimised depending on the end-use application, said Pasquale. The company also offers CNT masterbatches and fully formulated ESD compounds, and is launching a new, optically clear ESD ABS material in February this year.

In the US, ESD packaging continues to increase with the growth of the electronics manufacturing market, said Jyrki Taiminen, General Manager of **Premix USA**. “The energy industry is [also] growing rapidly, and cable manufacturers are looking for new, sustainable, future-proof solutions.”

Taiminen added that although the automotive sector has faced challenges, the transportation sector overall continues to show growing interest in lightweight engineering plastics for metal replacement.

Premix Group, which has been producing electrically conductive plastics compounds and concentrates in Finland for more than 40 years, opened its new US manufacturing facility in June 2025. The new facility in North Carolina was designed with automated production lines and capacity to scale up.

“2025 has been about ramping up our production and operations and testing our processes, as we have been delivering significant volumes already to a few US customers. [In 2026,] we expect to see the growth continue and accelerate,” said Taiminen.

Smaller footprint

“Market growth for conductive carbon black is driven by sustainable mobility applications (electric vehicles, hybrid electric vehicles, and new mobility markets), the growing lithium-ion battery market, and its increasing use in conductive polymer applications,” said supplier **Imerys**.

The company launched a new, high-purity, extra-conductive carbon black, Ensaco 320G, in

April 2025. Benefits of the new grade include processability and dispersibility, electrical conductivity at low loading rates due to high purity levels, and improved mechanical properties and a smooth surface finish in final products.

Imerys announced that in 2026, all its Ensaco carbon black grades would have a carbon dioxide (CO₂) footprint reduced by 66%, due to the energy recovery plant at the company’s carbon black site in Willebroek, Belgium. The energy recovery plant, managed by E.On, will use syngas from the carbon black production process to generate electricity, which reduces the Scope 1 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of the manufacturing process.

“Imerys is committed to reducing the group’s GHG emissions by 42% by 2030 (versus 2021 baseline), aligning with the 1.5° C trajectory,” the company said. “The carbon footprint is rigorously assessed using the Life Cycle Assessment methodology, aligned with ISO 14040/44 guidelines.”

In addition to carbon black, Imerys produces synthetic graphite. Imerys introduced Su-nergy, an industrial-scale, partially biomass-based, synthetic graphite with excellent electrical and thermal conductivity, in early 2025. Produced in Switzerland, the product is positioned for European manufacturers seeking a shorter and stable supply chain for industrial sectors, such as polymer applications, automotive, electronics, energy storage, and others. The graphite is made from forest residues using low-carbon energy sources, and the process achieves up to 60% reduction in CO₂ emissions compared to traditional methods.

“Recent application testing confirms its excellent thermal conductivity performance in both thermoplastics and adhesives,” the company reported.

Cable applications

Carbon black supplier **Orion** noted that purity and cleanliness of carbon black are important for demanding applications that require long-term stability and high operating temperatures, such as high voltage underground and submarine cables. Cables such as these are critical for expanding and modernising the electrical grid.

“Investments in underground and subsea transmission systems, along with advanced semiconductive technologies, are enabling utilities to transport more power efficiently and reliably over long distances,” said Orion’s CEO, Corning Painter. “Growth rates addressing this end market are among our Specialty segment’s highest.”

“Our acetylene black Printex kappa 105 contributes to keep the compound integrity even in these highly demanding applications,” said Martin Dauch,

Director for Global Marketing - Polymer Systems at Orion. "Printex kappa 105 is produced with a novel technology ensuring exceptional purity levels and a considerably lower carbon footprint, if compared to regular carbon black."

Impact strength of Printex kappa 105 is maintained after aging at 140° C. The compound with acetylene black withstands deterioration better than a PP with regular furnace black, Orion reported.

Orion continues to finish the construction and commissioning of its LaPorte, Texas, plant that will provide an additional 1,200 tonnes of acetylene-based carbon black to North American markets. The plant is expected to open in 2026. The company noted that it wants to support "local production for local consumption," with its plants in France and Germany and the new facility in the US.

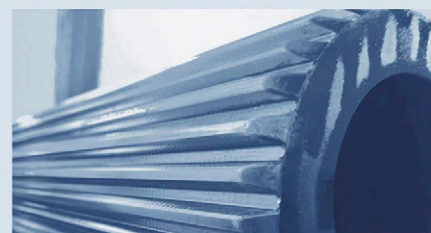
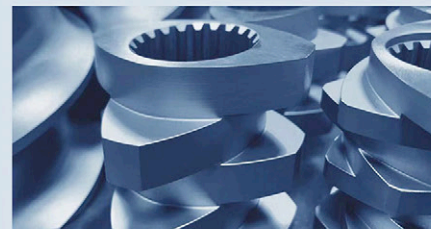
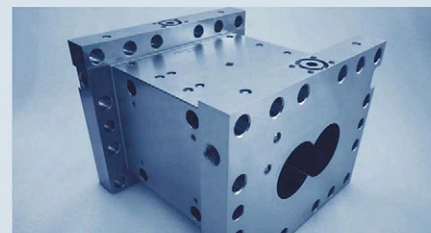
"Electrification of the automotive powertrain and the ever-increasing importance of electronics in daily life keep creating new demands on conductive plastics," said Alexandra Megally, who is Marketing, Strategy and Sustainability Manager, EMEA region, **Cabot Corporation**. "Many of those [demands] can be addressed by tweaks and reformulation with existing additives, but we certainly see an increasing number of requests for conductive carbon blacks with special features - extra conductive,

high purity, reduced interactions, and a combination of those."

New from Cabot is Vulcan XCmax 55 extra conductive carbon black, which combines the benefits of the Vulcan XCmax series with the benefits of low interaction with other ingredients in the formulation. "Vulcan XCmax 55 offers conductivity at around half of the loadings of typical conductive carbon blacks, resulting in increased formulation freedom and better mechanical performance of final parts," reported Megally. "[The product also] offers reduced interactions with other ingredients in the formulation, which then, among a broad range of potential benefits, can lead to better flowability of the plastic compound and allowing other additives to better unveil their full potential."

Megally sees growing demand for conductive thermoplastic compounds in cable industries, where growth is driven by renewable energy expansion and digital transformation. "In the cable industry, global investments in renewable energy, grid modernisation, and electrification are driving the need for reliable cables capable of managing increased electricity demand and bidirectional energy flow. Conductive compounds play a critical role in these applications, offering solutions for energy transfer, grounding, and shielding," she explained.

Industrial packaging is another important industry, where the



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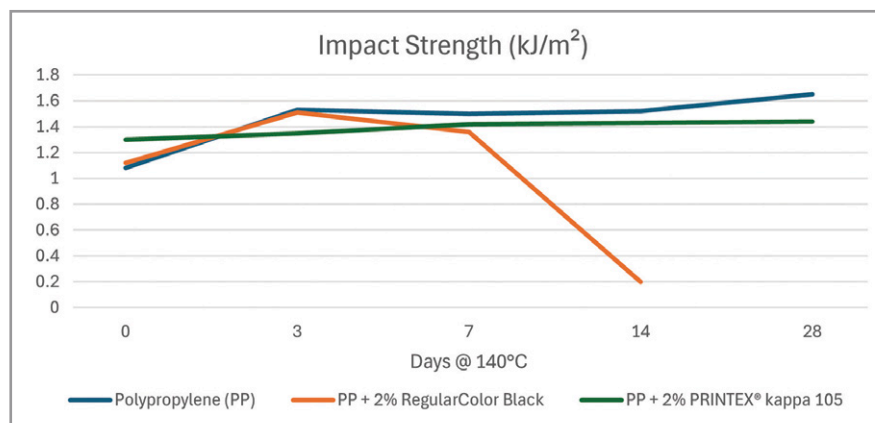
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Orion's acetylene black, Printex kappa 105, has high purity that contributes to compound integrity. Impact strength of a test specimen formulated with the acetylene black is maintained after aging in a furnace at 140° C

Source: Orion

continued miniaturisation of electronic components has significantly increased sensitivity to electrostatic discharge. "Uncontrolled static can lead to immediate damage or latent failures during production, handling, and transportation. At the same time, increasingly stringent safety regulations – particularly in ATEX environments – require electrically conductive materials to reduce fire and explosion risks. Because most polymers are inherently insulating, conductive compounds have become essential to enable controlled and reliable dissipation of static charges," said Megally.

Carbon blends

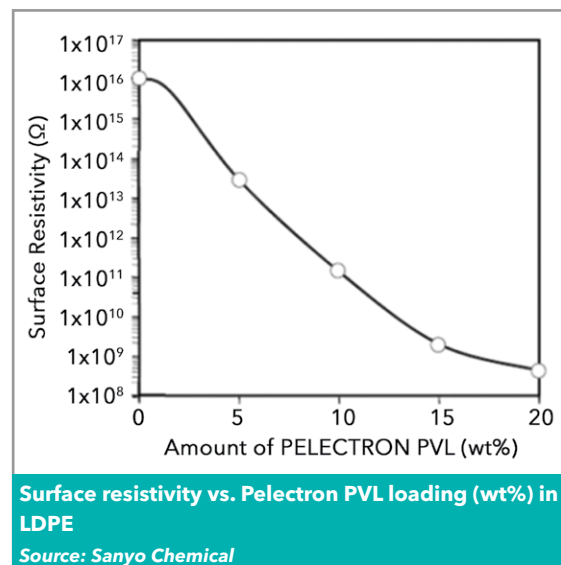
Birla Carbon has developed a carbon black-CNT blend designed for ESD applications in polymers including PP, HIPS, and PC. A small amount of CNTs in a carbon black masterbatch significantly boosts electrical conductivity, said the company. Customers can tailor the loading level of the blend to meet their specific application needs.

"A pre-dispersed carbon black-CNT blended system offers multiple advantages for customer applications," said Birla Carbon. "It enables lower overall conductive filler loading in compounds compared to conventional carbon blacks, which helps maintain mechanical properties and improve impact strength. From an operational perspective, the pre-dispersed format simplifies material handling, minimises dust generation, and reduces the need for special handling requirements – ultimately lowering operational costs for customers."

Some conductive additives allow packaging to be transparent or in colours other than black. ESD packaging for the semiconductor industry, for example, is a growing application in the US, and transparent packaging provides the ability to scan QR codes on the product inside, said Ryusuke Watanabe, R&D Manager of **Sanyo Chemical Americas**, which offers Pelectron inherently dissipative polymer (IDP) additives for permanent antistatic and ESD protection.

Pelectron additives are used in a wide range of applications for their conductive properties. In injection or blow moulded parts and extruded film and sheet, the additives form a conductive network in the surface layer under the high shear of the conversion process.

Rotomoulding, by contrast, is a low-shear process. Sanyo Chemical Americas and compounder **PolyChem Alloy** recently collaborated to launch a novel micropellet solution that provides antistatic and ESD protection to rotomoulded parts, such as industrial or agricultural storage tanks, fuel tanks, or playground equipment. The



team jointly developed a compounding solution that doesn't require shear in the converting step. Another challenge was that rotomoulding typically uses pulverised or powdered materials. Although these powders can be dry-blended with masterbatches, the resulting dispersion in the rotomoulded part may not be adequate for all applications.

The new micropellet solution is a fully formulated compound, made by PolyChem Alloy, that contains Sanyo's antistatic additive as well as any other additives and colour requested by the user. Compared to powder, the non-dusting micropellets are more consistent in size and shape; they provide a much cleaner process, more uniform wall thickness, and reduce explosion risk.

"Pellet size is important – we can now produce micropellets at 300 microns," said Ashton Barlow, Operations Manager at PolyChem Alloy. "Shape is also important. The micropellet shape was optimised to provide flowability that functions like powder in the mould."

The improved flowability allows accurate manufacturing of detailed parts as well as consistent quality and efficiency. Initial products are available in LLDPE and HDPE, but the micropelletising technique is applicable to a wide range of polymers, such as EVA, polyamide 11, and TPU, the companies said.

Conductive LCP compounds

Engineering thermoplastics supplier **Celanese** is seeing significant interest at manufacturers of electrical and electronic devices in electrically conductive liquid crystal polymer (LCP) compounds, said Michael Schaefer, Senior Engineer, Product Technology at Celanese. The company's Vectra LCP is used to mould very thin-walled applications for electrical devices and personal electronics. Typically,

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Left: Cortec produces VpCI films and bags

electrical conductivity is achieved with carbon fibre or other carbon-based fillers, depending on the level of conductivity required. Heavily fibre-filled compounds can be challenging to process, however, especially as the trend continues towards parts with even thinner walls.

"Our forte is developing the material to meet the demands of the application, including the required level of conductivity, but then also supporting with computer-aided engineering and then going to our customers with our field technical support engineering team," said Schaefer. "Design of conductive parts is critical since often the thermoplastic moulding is replacing a metal part that inherently has much higher conductivity."

He continued: "Then, you have the right compound, the correct design, but you still need to mould defect-free parts. Our FTE colleagues bring injection moulding expertise that enables manufacturers to process these very thin-walled applications, even at high conductive filler levels."

Schaefer said that in addition to the upsurge in LCP-related applications, Celanese continues to see steady interest in automotive developments that depend on electrically conductive compounds. He explained that these applications typically are EV battery parts that require conductivity plus strength and durability, and so often are based on one of the company's engineering thermoplastics, such as Zytel polyamide or Crastin PBT.

Tisan Engineering Plastics provides a wide range of compounds with specific ESD protective or conductive characteristics, depending on the required degree of conductivity. R&D experts at Tisan create these formulations by combining special engineering polymers with additives such as carbon black, carbon fibre or other anti-static additives.

The company's electrically conductive com-

pounds based on polyethylene, polypropylene and polystyrene with surface resistivity spectrum from 103-105 ohms/sq can be used in extrusion processes and injection moulding. Tisan's ranges are PPC-based Tisoplen PPC UNR ESD BK, PS-based Tisren PS UNR ESD BK, PS and PE blend Tisblend PS/PE UNR ESD BK and PA66-based PA66 UNR ESD BK.

All carbon-based solutions are exclusively black. If, instead, light coloured products are required, Tisan offers products with antistatic and static dissipative resistivity properties. Its PPH MNF UV AN WT (white coloured) or PC/ABS UNR UV NC (naturel colour) products are examples for plastics with antistatic characteristic with resistivity 1010-1012 ohms/sq.

Cortec launched a new antistatic and corrosion-inhibiting film and bag product, co-Corr Film ESD, for the protection of static-sensitive, multi-metal items, such as electronics. The company reported that the film has permanent anti-static properties to immediately reduce or eliminate static buildup as long as the films or bags are in use, independent of the presence of humidity, and is effective for packaging integrated circuits, printed circuit boards, PCB components, telecommunications equipment, or electronic and electrical panels and enclosures. Outside of electronics, the packaging is also used to preserve finely machined metal parts, specialised bearings, medical devices, and optical equipment.

The new film is also industrially compostable. "Certification from TÜV Austria confirms that the entire material, including the specialised VpCI [vapor corrosion inhibitor] corrosion inhibitors and antistat additives, successfully breaks down into water, carbon dioxide, and biomass, and passes eco-toxicity tests. This ensures the resulting compost is safe for the environment and plant growth. The product holds [the] 'OK Compost Industrial mark, which confirms the product is suitable for disposal in industrial composting facilities," said Cortec.

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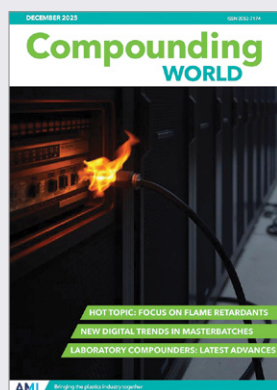
Switzerland's Sukano offers a full range of bioplastic masterbatches and compounds to allow processors to maximise the performance of bio-based resins such as PLA and PHA and to simplify and speed up processing.

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The December 2025 issue of Compounding World magazine has a cover feature on flame retardants, including regulatory and market issues affecting the sector, while other articles provide updates on masterbatch trends and lab compounders.

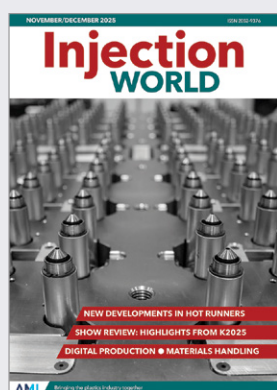
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Compounding World November 2025

The November 2025 issue of Compounding World has features looking at pressures affecting the black and white pigments sector, growth in bio-based compounds, data for PVC recycling and the latest in mixers, plus news from K2025.

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Injection World November/December 2025

The November-December issue of Injection World magazine leads with the latest technologies in the hot runners sector, while other features cover digital production functionality and materials handling equipment.

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Plastics Recycling World November/December 2025

In Plastics Recycling World's November-December issue, materials and technology innovators are making progress in the improvement of mechanically recycled plastics in terms of colours, product quality and PET processing, as detailed in this edition's features.

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Pipe and Profile Winter 2025

Pipe and Profile Extrusion's Winter 2025 edition has a cover feature on wood-plastic composites, and other articles on large diameter pipe, PVC additives and materials handling, plus a review of the K2025 show.

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Film and Sheet January/February 2026

Film & Sheet Extrusion's January/February issue delves into the use of polyolefins in film applications, new bio-based materials, film products in healthcare and support for quality control.

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	11-12 March	PlastExpo Nordic, Helsinki, Finland	https://pfsptec.messukeskus.com
	26-28 March	RePlast Eurasia, Istanbul, Turkey	www.replasteurasia.com
	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
	13-17 April	Wire, Dusseldorf, Germany	www.wire-tradefair.com
	21-24 April	Chinaplas, Shanghai, China	www.chinaplasonline.com
	22-23 April	PlastTeknik Nordic, Malmö, Sweden	www.plasttekniknordic.com
	29-30 April	Textiles Recycling Expo, Charlotte, NC, USA	www.textilesrecyclingexpo.com/usa
	6-8 May	RACE, Mumbai, India	www.raceexpos.com
	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
	2-5 June	FIP, Lyon, France	www.f-i-p.com
	9-11 June	Kuteno, Bad Salzflén, Germany	www.kuteno.de
	9-12 June	Plast, Milan, Italy	https://plastonline.org
	24-25 June	Textiles Recycling Expo, Brussels, Belgium	www.textilesrecyclingexpo.com

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10-11 March 2026	Chemical Recycling, Houston, TX, USA
5-6 May 2026	Fire Retardants in Plastics, Cleveland, OH, USA
19-21 May 2026	Polymer Sourcing, Hamburg, Germany
8-10 June 2026	Chemical Recycling, Frankfurt, Germany
9-10 June 2026	Polymers in Cables, Cleveland, OH, USA

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