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Plastics Recycling WORLD

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Erema annual results show fall in sales

In the financial year ending in March, the Erema Group posted revenue of €235m, representing a drop of 28% compared to the previous year.

"Many customers are postponing their investments," explained Horst Wolfsgruber, CFO of the Austrian plastics recycling machinery group. "We feel the effects of that straight away. That the group was able to close the past financial year with a profit in these challenging market conditions fills me with pride and gratitude."

The company said that because it operates internationally, it can compensate for the lower demand in Europe, its largest market, with orders from other parts of the world.

"Asia is making great strides and America is also gaining ground, chiefly with the recycling of production waste," said Manfred Hackl, Group CEO. "Africa is some way behind in fourth place,



Manfred Hackl, CEO of Erema Group, next to melt filter

but it is here that we will see the sharpest rise in the demand for plastic, and therefore for recycling solutions, in the coming years."

To increase the role of recycling in future, the company suggested that a framework of reliable rules and guidelines making investment possible may be required, such as those already in place for packaging (PPWR) and end-of-life vehicles (ELV) in the European Union.

"The most important thing is that the rules are clear, reliable and implemented consistently all over Europe," said Hackl.

If rules are not implemented consistently, companies will not make the necessary investments, he said. A standardised system would make recyclates more attractive in the market and then recycling can establish itself as part of a long-term raw materials strategy, he said.

➤ <https://erema-group.com>

Green light for UK film project

Endolys has secured planning approval for a £125m film recycling facility in Darlington, paving the way for one of the UK's largest chemical recycling projects.

"Planning approval is a major milestone for Endolys and for advanced recycling in the UK," said Mark Leggett, CEO of Endolys. "We're creating skilled jobs, regenerating an iconic industrial site and delivering infrastructure that will recycle plastic film that currently has few viable recycling options."

Planning approval allows installation of 12 pyrolysis units, with operations expected to begin before the end of the year. The completed facility is set to process up to 120,000 tonnes/yr of waste plastics, producing around 80,000 tonnes of recycled pyrolysis oil for use by European refineries.

➤ www.endolys.com

Syklo combines recycling with biocomposites

Syklo Group has officially opened its new Hyvinkää circular economy hub, combining Finland's largest plastic recycling plant with an industrial-scale biocomposite facility.

The total investment is €70-80m, making it unique in scale on an international level, according to Syklo. The recycling plant is able to process 50,000 tonnes/yr, raising Finland's recycling capacity by 50%.

"Finland's recycling rate has long

been among the weakest in Europe," said Teemu Koskela, CEO of Syklo Group. "With this investment, we are turning the direction for the whole country. Our ultimate mission is to build a more sustainable world, where materials are kept in circulation."

The plant's process uses a closed-loop water system, while the sorting stage utilises patented technology from partner Impact Recycling.

The final product, Sykloplast pellets,

meet the industry's requirements for consistent quality and technical performance, even in the most demanding applications where recycled plastic could not be used before.

These pellets are a raw material to be supplied to the neighbouring biocomposite facility, cutting transport costs and overheads.

➤ www.syklo.com

➤ <https://impact-recycling.com>



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DePoly launches showcase

Swiss startup DePoly has officially inaugurated its first Showcase Plant in Monthey. Billed as the first depolymerisation facility of its kind and scale in Switzerland, the plant represents a major milestone in the company's growth.

"This represents six years of asking if the circular economy is possible, and proving that it is," said Samantha Anderson, CEO and Co-founder of DePoly.

"It's the first visible step toward a future where waste is no longer seen as a problem to manage, but as a resource that can be continuously reused," she said.

Unlike mechanical recycling which progressively degrades material quality with each cycle, DePoly said its technology breaks PET down into its original chemical components, enabling it to recreate virgin-quality raw materials with no loss of performance.

➤ www.depoly.co

RCS opens large rHDPE plant in Germany

German family-owned waste management and recycling company RCS Group has invested €75m in a new recycling plant north of its main site in Werne, with the official groundbreaking ceremony taking place on 28 August.

Spread over 65,000 m², the facility has been described as one of the biggest investment projects in the company's history. A key focus is the development of innovative processes for food-grade HDPE recyclates, which the company hopes to use to strengthen its market position in recycled plastic packaging.

"Developing food-grade HDPE recycle is one of the



IMAGE: RCS

major challenges facing our industry," said Alexander Rimmer, Managing Director of the RCS Group, in a statement. "We are specifically investing in innovative process R&D to open up new material cycles, enabling recycled materials to be used in even more

applications."

The new site, constructed by partner Goldbeck, is expected to process around 100,000 tonnes/yr with a focus on HDPE, PS, and PET trays. In addition, approximately 60 new jobs will be created.

➤ www.rcs-entsorgung.de

PreZero acquires recycler in Portugal

Schwarz Group company PreZero has successfully completed the acquisition of Tratris, an industrial waste management and treatment company located in Tondela, Portugal.

Tratris currently recycles approximately 11,000

tonnes/yr of materials from the industrial sector.

"[This acquisition] is a key milestone in our growth strategy in Portugal," said Tiago Borges, Managing Director of PreZero Portugal.

He said that by combining Tratris's regional pres-

ence with PreZero's know-how and the facilities it already operates in Tondela, operational synergies will be achieved. This strengthens PreZero's ability to deliver circular solutions at an industrial scale.

➤ <https://prezero.com>

Lindner helps Plastika restart following fire

Following a major fire in spring 2024, Kosovan manufacturer and recycler Plastika Kosovo is back in production with a new washing line supplied by technology partner Lindner Washtech.

Ardit and Arian Shabani, Managing Directors of Plastika, said the custom-designed system significantly accelerated the reconstruction phase and also

created a solid foundation for the company's further development. "The close cooperation with Lindner Washtech demonstrates what is possible when partnership extends beyond day-to-day business," they said.

The new Lindner washing plant is designed for double the recycling capacity while delivering consistently

high output quality, which allows for the processing of larger quantities of plastic streams.

The supplied line covers the entire process, while a stationary Micromat 2000 single-shaft shredder ensures uniformly shredded material.

➤ <https://plastika-ks.com>

➤ www.lindner-washtech.com

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Aesthetic focus for printer project in Japan

Fujifilm Business Innovation Corporation and Teijin have established a horizontal closed-loop recycling scheme for exterior printer parts in Japan. Recycled plastic material recovered from exterior parts of multifunction printers collected from the market after use will be reused in parts such as front covers, which require a high level of appearance quality.

In 1995, Fujifilm Business Innovation established the Closed-Loop System, a resource circulation framework covering the entire product lifecycle from product planning, development, and manufacturing, through to disposal.

The company has previously regenerated

printer components through cleaning and blast processing. However, for exterior parts requiring a high level of appearance quality, conventional recycling methods have not always

been able to meet the required standards.

The material introduced through this initiative contains 80% recycled content derived from plastics sorted through the company's collection network, and has been designed to meet physical properties and colour tone requirements.

In May 2024, the company set a target of reducing the input ratio of newly extracted resources for applicable products to 60% or less by the fiscal year ending March 2031. Going forward, it will continue to expand and strengthen resource-circulation initiatives focusing on the broader adoption of reused parts.

➤ <https://fujifilm.com>
➤ www.teijin.com



IMAGE: FUJIFILM

Positive packaging in Italy

According to an annual report published by the Italian Packaging Consortium (CONAI), Italy successfully recycled 77.3% of its packaging waste in 2024, which roughly translates to 10.7m tonnes of material.

"Less than 15% of end-of-life packaging is not recovered in our country," said General Manager Simona Fontana. "And since packaging accounts for 8% of total waste, this share is truly marginal. Today it is essential to invest in strengthening separate waste collection and fostering a circular culture."

The data marks an increase of about one percentage point compared to 2023, when the amount of recycled packaging was just under 10.5m tonnes. There was also a slight rise in the quantity of reusable packaging in 2024. More than 1.24 million tonnes of reusable packaging were formally declared to the Consortium, up by more than 20,000 tonnes compared to 2023.

➤ www.conai.org

Aliplast to operate new Polish company

Aliplast Polska, the Polish subsidiary of Aliplast (Hera Group) has signed an agreement to acquire 70% of Kronos Polymer Polska, a new company to be formed as a spin-off from Kronos Polymer.

"This transaction will enable us to further expand Aliplast's production

capacity, in line with the Hera Group's strategy, which sees resource regeneration as a fundamental pillar," said Michele Petrone, Aliplast CEO.

He said that strengthening its presence in Poland, where Aliplast has been operating for some time, will

allow the company to pursue demand growth for recycled plastic in the country.

Kronos Polymer operates at a newly built industrial site in Gniez, about 300 km from Aliplast Polska's Tuszyn branch.

➤ www.aliplastspa.com

Jayplas plans recycling expansion in Wales

UK recycler Jayplas is to establish operations at the former Toyoda Gosei factory in Gorseinon, Swansea, and at Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate, Tredegar, more than doubling Wales' total reprocessing capacity for recycled

plastic to at least 100,000 tonnes/yr. Both sites are expected to be fully operational by March 2028.

"Expanding our plastic reprocessing capacity in Wales is a vital step that will see the recycling, that we are world

class at collecting, being processed into valuable material that goes back into the economy," said Welsh Minister for Rural Resilience and Sustainability, Llyr Gruffydd.

➤ <https://jayplas.com>

England delays films plan but Wales pushes ahead

The UK government has confirmed that the planned mandatory collection of plastic films and flexible packaging has been delayed in England.

All local authorities in England were expected to start collecting these materials from the kerbside from 31 March 2027 under the Simpler Recycling regulations, but Defra has now confirmed that this is to be pushed back to 2030 after concerns were raised about end markets.

It is understood that the official Simpler Recycling

IMAGE: EXETER CITY COUNCIL



regulations will be updated during the next parliamentary period.

"While increasing recycling is vital for a circular economy, collection alone isn't enough," said Noel Marques-Neves,

Operations Director at Hahn Plastics UK. "This delay offers a chance to develop the infrastructure needed to succeed. Now the focus should be on enhancing supply chains and processing capacity

before collections begin."

Meanwhile, the devolved government in Wales has confirmed it will press on with plans to introduce household collections of plastic film and other flexible plastics from 2027.

David Gudgeon, Head of External Affairs at Reconomy, said Wales "is clearly confident that it will have the systems needed to process flexible plastics and keep materials in use by then."

➤ www.gov.uk

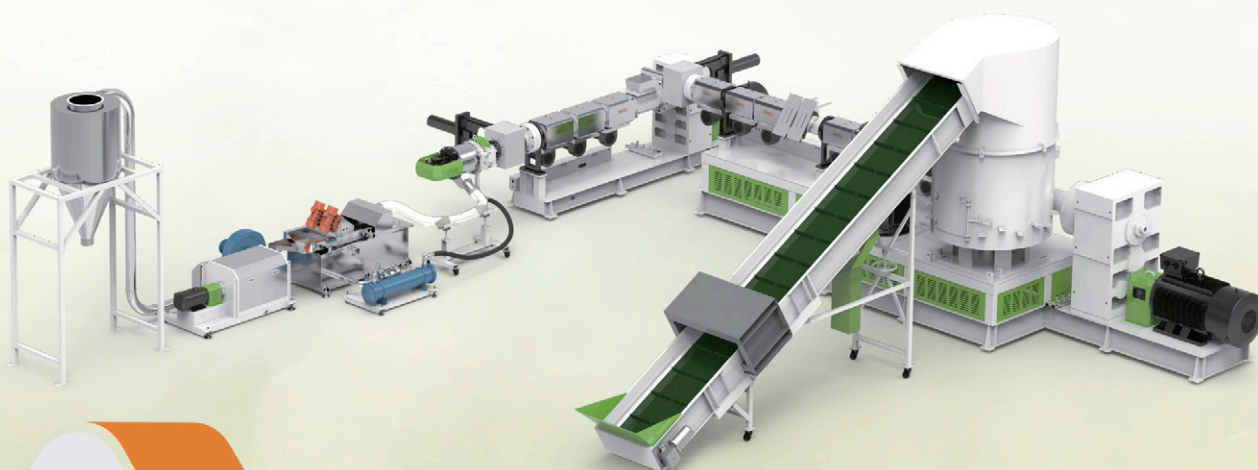
➤ www.gov.wales

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IMAGE: KUNSTSTOFF RECYCLING GRÜNSTADT



Professor Edward Kosior writes that the JRC's chemical recycling report points the way to advancing plastics recycling by balancing chemical and mechanical approaches

Food-grade polyolefins and the capacity recyclers already have

When the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) published its recent cost analysis of chemical recycling in the EU, most of the early commentary framed it as another round in the mechanical-versus-chemical debate.

For recyclers and reprocessors deciding where to put capital over the next few years, that framing misses the point. The report in fact is less a verdict on a technology than a signal about where investment in sorting and decontamination capacity will pay back fastest – and it argues, more directly than most industry data has so far, for upgrading the mechanical recycling capacity that already exists rather than waiting on chemical recycling to scale.

What the report actually measured

Economic viability of chemical recycling – Current

and future perspectives examined the two chemical recycling routes that account for essentially all current EU capacity: pyrolysis, used for polyolefins and polystyrene, and solvolysis, used for PET and polyurethane.

The headline number is stark. Chemically recycled polymers currently cost 1.5 to 3.5 times more than virgin material. For pyrolysis – the relevant pathway to PP and PE and the one most directly competing with mechanical recyclers' own output – the multiple is 1.4 to 3.7, driven largely by yields of only 30-50% relative to plastic waste input, plus significant energy demand and challenging feedstock preparation costs.

Solvolysis fares better on yield, regularly exceeding 90%, but even so, solvolysis-derived PET remains more expensive than food-grade virgin or



Why the polyolefin fraction has been harder to capture

PET's mechanical recycling infrastructure had a head start. Bottle-to-bottle rPET is a mainstream compliance route, helped by a waste stream dominated by a single format – the beverage bottle – collected through deposit and kerbside systems with comparatively low contamination.

Rigid PP is harder to sort. Food trays, pots, tubs, closures and personal care packaging arrive mixed, in a wide range of colours and resin grades. Pulling food-grade candidates out of that stream and proving the resulting material is free of substances that concern regulators, has historically been a tougher separation problem than anything PET presented – and it's a problem that sits squarely in the recycler's own plant, not somewhere further up or down the supply chain.

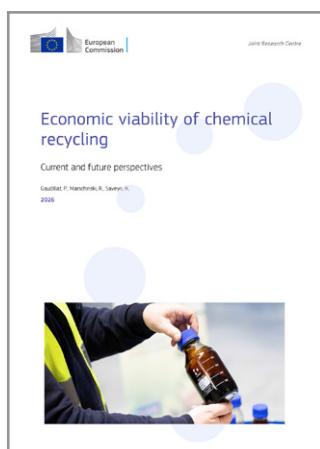
That's also the gap the JRC's cost comparison doesn't capture. Its economics assume the feed-stock is already sorted into usable polymer streams. For PP and PE, getting to that starting point – not the reprocessing itself – has been the industry's real constraint, and it's a constraint that sorting and decontamination technology is now addressing directly.

The equipment case: what's changed on the plant floor

This is the part of the narrative a cost-per-tonne report isn't designed to tell, but it's the part that matters most for a recycler weighing upgrade capex. AI-based NIR sorting now separates PP packaging by polymer type, colour and likely prior use with a precision that wasn't commercially available even five years ago. Paired with more intensive washing and decontamination stages – designed to remove absorbed contaminants rather than simply melt and re-pelletise whatever comes in – and rigorous chemical validation against food-contact migration limits, these process upgrades have already produced recycled PP with EFSA novel-technology registration and USFDA Letters of No Objection covering food-contact applications A through H.

Recycled polyolefin films – long written off as unrecyclable to food-contact standard because of multilayer structures and grease or food-residue contamination – are moving through the same pilot-to-early-commercial trajectory.

For a recycler, this changes the calculation on existing capacity. Much of Europe's mechanical recycling capacity is currently underutilised, and it can be upgraded with modern sorting and decontamination modules faster and at markedly lower



**The JRC report
Economic viability of
chemical recycling -
Current and future
perspectives, written
by P Gaudillat,
R Marschinski and
H Saveyn can be
downloaded at
the European
Commission's
[website](#)**

mechanically recycled PET.

None of this is a case for shutting chemical recycling out of the picture. The JRC is explicit that it expects the technology to keep playing a role in meeting recycled-content obligations in the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR), particularly for the mixed and contaminated fractions mechanical recycling cannot economically process. What the report does is remove the ambiguity about where the cost advantage sits today: with mechanical recycling, wherever a recycler is technically equipped to do the job.

That "wherever" is the key word and it's where this becomes a question about recyclers' own equipment and processes rather than an abstract policy comparison.

capital cost than new pyrolysis capacity can be built from scratch. Every tonne of previously “chemical-recycling-only” polyolefin waste that a sorting and decontamination upgrade pulls into the mechanical stream is a tonne that carries the JRC’s cost advantage with it – and it’s a tonne a recycler can capture with a process upgrade rather than a new-build.

Reading the economics without overstating them

It’s worth being precise about the comparison. The JRC models chemical recycling costs against virgin material, not directly against mechanical recycling costs for equivalent food-grade output. Mechanical recycling’s yield advantage is structural – it preserves the polymer rather than breaking it down to monomer or hydrocarbon building blocks and reconstructing it, so a far higher share of input tonnage ends up as saleable output. That translates directly into lower energy intensity per tonne recovered and a correspondingly lower carbon footprint, a conclusion the JRC’s modelling supports even though carbon accounting sits outside its core cost analysis.

The honest caveat, which the JRC also flags, is that mechanical recycling has its own ceiling. Polymer properties degrade incrementally with each thermal reprocessing cycle, and heavily contaminated, degraded or genuinely mixed-polymer streams will keep needing a route that chemical recycling – pyrolysis in particular – is better suited to provide. The JRC’s yield and cost figures for pyrolysis aren’t an argument against the technology; they’re an argument for deploying it where it’s genuinely needed, rather than defaulting to it for any polyolefin stream that’s proved hard to sort.

What it means for capacity planning

The regulatory backdrop sharpens the timing. Under PPWR, contact-sensitive plastic packaging other than PET must contain a minimum of 10% post-consumer recycled content by January 2030, rising to 25% by 2040; other plastic packaging carries a 35% target by 2030, rising to 65% by 2040. Brand owners will be sourcing hard against those

targets and recyclers who can qualify food-grade PP and PE now are positioned to capture that demand at a structural cost advantage over chemical recycling routes – provided the sorting and decontamination investment is in place to earn it.

That argues for three things recyclers should be weighing in parallel: continued investment in sorting and decontamination infrastructure, since this is where addressable tonnage actually grows; closer engagement with brand owners and converters on design-for-circular-recycling, so more of what enters collection streams is genuinely suited to mechanical recovery rather than requiring intensive processing by default; and realistic assessment of underused existing capacity as the fastest, lowest-capital route to expanding output, ahead of new-build chemical recycling projects.

Where chemical recycling still has the better claim

None of this argues for sidelining chemical recycling. Multi-material laminates, heavily degraded and contaminated waste and streams where sorting to food-grade purity isn’t realistically achievable will stay outside mechanical recycling’s reach for the foreseeable future, and pyrolysis and solvolysis remain the only current routes capable of recovering any value from them. The JRC’s own framing – that chemical recycling can help meet PPWR obligations despite its cost disadvantage – reflects that reality. The two technologies serve different fractions of the waste stream, and the boundary between them has moved, and continues to move, in mechanical recycling’s favour as sorting and decontamination technology improves.

The commercial takeaway for recyclers

For reprocessors assembling investment plans for 2030 and beyond, the JRC report is best read as a prompt to test an assumption about their own feedstock, not as a verdict on any single technology. Where a polyolefin waste stream can be sorted, decontaminated and validated to food-contact standard, the economics now favour capturing that polymer through an upgraded mechanical line rather than watching it get diverted to a pyrolysis plant. Where it genuinely can’t be sorted to that standard, chemical recycling remains the only credible route and merits continued investment on those terms.

Getting that allocation right – stream by stream and increasingly plant by plant – is now as much a capital-planning decision as a technical one. The JRC’s numbers finally give recyclers a solid basis for making it.



About the author

Professor Edward Kosior is CEO and Founder at Nextek, which is leading the Nextloop program for closing the loop on food-grade PP.

➤ www.nextek.org

➤ www.nextloop.com



The rush to recycle rigid polyolefins

The need to meet PPWR deadlines for the use of recycled content in packaging has sparked innovation in the PP and HDPE value chain. Laura Florez reports on new developments

The EU's Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) introduces binding minimum quotas for the use of recycled content in packaging. Starting in 2030, plastic packaging for food or cosmetic products that is not made from PET must contain at least 10% post-consumer recycle (PCR), and these materials are strictly to be derived from used packaging. From 2040, this content will rise to 25%.

The biggest challenge, however, is that these volumes are not yet available in the market. And the requirements to produce these materials are demanding. Even though the technology is already there, the approvals required by the authorities (such as EFSA in Europe and FDA in the US) may extend over several years, and the sorting and decontamination technologies demand significant investments. All this under an atmosphere where the recycling industry is undergoing mounting pressure, due to volatile prices, weak current

demand and high energy costs.

A great deal of innovation has seen the light in the past twelve months to overcome this challenge. Several efforts prove that circularity is achievable for PP and HDPE in rigid packaging, even in food and contact-sensitive applications.

In August, Austrian recycling technology manufacturer **Erema** presented its financial year results. During the press conference, the company highlighted that this is the third year where the plastics recycling market finds itself under considerable pressure, having to cope with high energy costs, lack of demand for recyclates and intense international competition. According to Manfred Hackl, CEO of the Erema Group, "In Europe we have created a cost structure that puts industrial companies at an increasing disadvantage in the international marketplace."

According to Hackl, the key to a further expan-

sion of recycled plastics is to increase the material flow in the loop while maintaining high quality. When input materials vary, robust systems are essential, and filtration, degassing and a thorough understanding of the process define the process stability and the product quality. Ultimately, the circular economy is achieved when the material's design, collection, sorting, washing and extrusion are compatible and the recyclate is subsequently used in new products of equal quality. The integration of the chain has proved to be of advantage for several technology suppliers.

To increase the role of recycling in meeting the rising demand for plastic in future, a set of reliable rules is required that makes investment possible. Regulations such as those for packaging (PPWR) are important milestones. "We need a standardised system to make recyclates more attractive. Only then will recycling be able to establish itself as part of a long-term raw materials strategy", said Hackl.

Circular PP

Last September, for the first time recycled polypropylene was approved for food contact under the European Standard (EU 2022/1616). **Prevented Ocean Plastic** sourced PP cups collected in East Borneo. This new initiative brings together global partners and in its first year it is expected to prevent 500m PP cups from entering the ocean.

Prevented Ocean Plastic has established a franchise model for collection, supported by Danone Aqua in Indonesia. The for-profit model, launched at the beginning of the decade, has since been financially supported by five separate institutions, establishing the unique capability to sort and customise input feedstock for high-quality recycling.

Once collected, sorted and washed, the material is then processed by Petman using technology from **Starlinger Viscotec**, turning it into high-quality, food-safe recycled polypropylene (rPP) and then supplied by Bantam Materials UK (owner of the Prevented Ocean Plastic programme) to offtakers. Early adopters include Spectra Packaging, to produce blow moulded and injection moulded packaging.

Interzero is opening a new site in Dessau, Germany, targeting the production of food-grade PP regranulate. The company has developed a process to recover food-grade and near-food grade material obtained from Germany's light-weight packaging collection system (dual system Gelber Sack, or Yellow Bag) through mechanical processing. According to a 2024 study carried out by Pforzheim University, around 11% of plastic packaging in the Gelber Sack is made out of PP.

The company has worked to develop sorting and recycling processes to produce mrPP (mechanically recycled PP). Though the company does not provide detailed information about its technology, it confirms that it is building a pilot plant to produce 5,000 tonnes of mrPP granulate per year, and that all tests relating to sorting and recycling, as well as initial tests for the use of the material in food packaging, have been completed successfully. The EFSA approval for the use of the regranulates in food-grade, near-food-grade and cosmetic applications is being initiated.

"The PPWR is increasing the pressure to adapt regulations. A strong European circular economy now needs room to manoeuvre. In the end, what matters is how safe and functional the product is – regardless of the feedstock," said Interzero CEO Jan Kroger. "Achieving the goals of the PPWR will require strong technologies working together. For PP recycling, this means using mechanical and chemical recycling in a complementary way, in order to keep as many recyclable materials in the loop as possible. The task now is to create the right framework conditions so that this technological know-how can be used."

Several suppliers are delivering either resins or semi-finished products which already have the required amount of recycled content to comply with regulations. The Swedish company **Scanfill** offers a plastic foil consisting of 30% post-consumer recycled PP, developed to meet the PPWR requirements. The material is obtained from collected plastics cups from coastal areas. A partner uses an "advanced recycling process", states Scanfill without specifying any further detail, and both the partner and Scanfill ensure quality and traceability. The foil is approved for food contact, is available in various levels of

Right: PP cups collected by Prevented Ocean Plastic in East Borneo. In its first year it is expected to divert 500m PP cups to recycling



IMAGE: PREVENTED OCEAN PLASTIC

transparency and, as the company expresses, it is the first of its kind to be offered in large volumes. "For our customers, this foil means access to a high-quality recycled plastic foil, while also contributing to reduced pollution in coastal areas", said Niklas Linde, area sales manager.

Ineos Olefins & Polymers Europe has launched a new hybrid polymer grade with 70% recycled content, designed for contact-sensitive packaging. The drop-in solution is commercialized under the brand Recycl-IN, and it is a combination of mechanically recycled plastics with advanced "booster" polymers. The PP homopolymer is designed for thin-walled injection moulding and it is suitable for the manufacturing of both coloured and translucent applications, such as screw-caps, jars, lids, mascara reservoirs and deodorant roller balls, amongst many others. The manufacturer claims that the processing conditions, as well as the mechanical strength and



IMAGE: INEOS

optical properties, are comparable to those of virgin counterparts, while reducing the carbon footprint by 35%.

Borouge International aims to advance recycled content use in rigid packaging through the introduction of the Borcycle C grades, which deliver virgin-like properties and full food-contact compliance. These materials incorporate chemically recycled PP, sourced via a mass-balance approach and are ISCC Plus certified. The technology can be

used as drop-in replacement for conventional fossil-based PP in thin-wall injection moulded containers, lids and thermoformed cups.

Ready-to-comply

Another approach has been to deliver ready-to-use packaging solutions, which comply with the existing regulation. **PureCycle Technologies**, a US based Company, has partnered with IPL Schoeller to produce a new off-the-shelf container line,

Left: Ineos says its Recycl-IN materials for contact-sensitive packaging are a combination of mechanically recycled plastics with advanced "booster" polymers

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Right: PureCycle and IPL Schoeller have developed SnapPack Square EVO containers, incorporating 20% of PureFive recycled PP

SnapPack Square EVO, incorporating 20% of PureFive rPP in every unit, giving brand owners a shelf-ready path to meet New Jersey's recycled content mandate and get ahead of upcoming EPR regulations.

The recycled PP, commercialized as PureFive, is obtained through a patented dissolution process and is APR certified for post-consumer recycled content. The recycled resin has virgin-like properties.

The launch comes as retailers and brand owners in the US face a growing patchwork of packaging regulations. New Jersey's Recycled Content Law currently requires rigid plastic packaging to contain a minimum of 10% post-consumer recycled content, a threshold that rises to 20% and will include food packaging by 2027 and continues climbing to 50% by 2036. EPR laws in California, Oregon and other states will impose similar source reduction and recyclability requirements between 2027 and 2032, with the first deadlines arriving as soon as 2027. SnapPack Square EVO is intended to give brand owners and producers a ready path to compliance and a head start on meeting those requirements, without waiting on a custom qualification process.

Amcor has achieved UN certification for its industrial containers in the sizes 5.5 L and 5.8 L containing up to 50% of PCR. When combined with the 40 µ thick internal LDPE bag stipulated for the certification, the containers offer a high-quality solution for the safe storage and transportation of solid and powdered hazardous goods in markets such as chemicals, medical waste and automotive. In addition to satisfying consumer and customer demands for more sustainable packaging solutions, the availability of 50% PCR content will also help companies to meet current and impending EU and national packaging legislation.

The Pamplona Factory, where the containers are



IMAGE: PURECYCLE/IPL

produced, has RecyClass certification, validating claims around recyclability and the incorporation of recycled materials for its customers. "While companies naturally wish to adopt more sustainable packaging solutions, it is equally important to maintain a container's overall performance, and this is especially critical for hazardous goods. Our UN containers with PCR content continue to offer optimal security and reliability, meeting the strict demands of the UN approval procedures," said Ignacio Igea, Sales Director Industrial, Spain, Portugal & Italy for Amcor Rigid Packaging Solutions International.

Decontamination

Last June, **Coperion** announced that it has received a Letter of No Objection (LNO) from the FDA for its HDPE and PP recycling technology. Coperion uses the combination of twin-screw extruders and EcoFresh silo degassing, and it can deliver a production capacity of up to 6,000 kg/h with the combination of these technologies; even low residence times are enough to reliably remove low-volatile migratory substances. The raw material consists of used HDPE beverage bottles and their caps. The material stream for rPP is sourced from vegetable trays, packaging and yogurt containers, all applications used for food contact.

"The FDA's LNO means that rHDPE and rPP manufactured with our technologies can be used for new food packaging in proportions up to 100%," said Stefan Lachenmayer, Global Commercial Director Recycling at Coperion. "As a result, we provide recyclers the assurance that our energy-efficient mechanical recycling process manufactures high-quality recyclate. These include, for example, packaging for high-temperature, heat-sterilized, pasteurized or frozen products."

The material is fed into the twin extruder using Coperion K-Tron gravimetric feeders, where it is melted, intensively mixed, homogenized and degassed using twin screws. The company has tailored both the process parameters and the screw configuration to meet the requirements of the recycling application. Plastic is then purified of

Below: Amcor has achieved UN certification for its industrial containers incorporating up to 50% PCR



IMAGE: AMCOR

IMAGE: COPERION



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

solid foreign materials via a melter filter and then pelletized. The newly developed and standardized EcoFresh silo degassing unit serves as a second decontamination step.

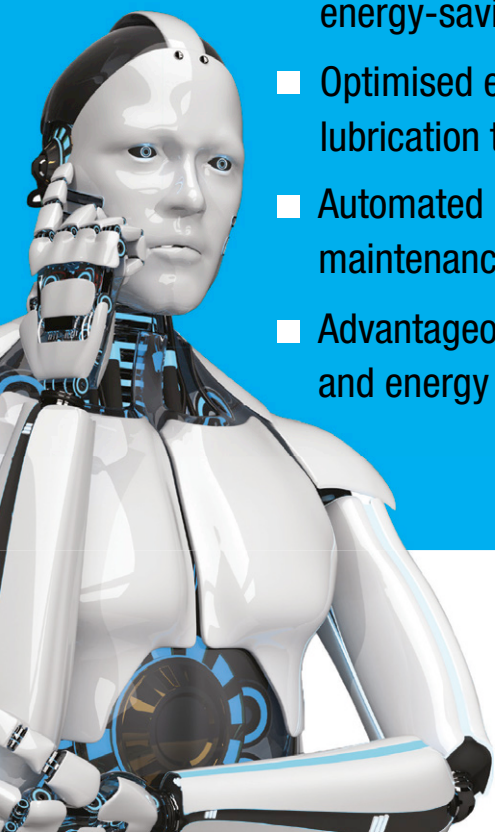
Recyclers can test the decontamination performance of the Coperion extruder and EcoFresh at the Coperion Recycling Innovation Centre in Niederbiegen near Weingarten, Germany, where both technologies are available for extensive trials using original material streams. Together with Herbold Meckesheim's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

"The basis for the suitability of our HDPE and PP recycling solutions for manufacturing food-contact materials lies in our integrated approach as a system provider. We look at the entire process and apply our decontamination technologies precisely at specific points in the process chain. It is their optimal interplay that makes the efficient achievement of the necessary level of decontamination possible," said Lachenmayer.

At the K2025 Show, Erema introduced its EcoGentle plasticizing technology into the Intar-

Smart Control optimises granulators

- Digitally controlled grinders for efficient, energy-saving plastics recycling
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ema series of recycling machines. This expands the PET-proven technology into HDPE and PP applications as well, with the target of energy reduction. In combination with the Counter Current technology, EcoGentle ensures a coordinated interaction between the intake section and the extruder section, thus melting the material gently, under lower temperature and with higher efficiency. It is possible to increase the flexibility in terms of the material fed, and the produced pellets have a higher quality.

In the post-consumer segment, EcoGentle enables the reliable processing of regrind material with different bulk densities and viscosities. For multipurpose applications (HDPE and PP), the plasticising technology lowers the temperature of the melt by up to 13° C and reduces the power consumption of the extruder drive by up to 6%. In real life, this translates into stable processes, less wear, longer component service life and lower production costs. Existing Erema systems can be retrofitted with this technology.

Erema has initiated numerous approval projects and, together with customers, it has already received positive LNOs from the FDA for HDPE, PP and LD/LLDPE. There are two decisive prerequisites needed for food-grade: an input stream consisting of at least 99% food packaging, and technology that is able to clean and decontaminate the input material. A key technology here is the combination of Intarema TVEplus RegrindPro and the ReFresher, which removes odours.

Also from Erema is Volex, the technology for postconsumer recycle degasification directly on the extruder. The targeted optimization of the screw geometry enables the process to achieve degassing performance levels so far only achievable with larger machine models. When combined with water injection, the technology opens further potential for sensitive applications.

As the demand for high-quality PCR is expected to increase, **Gneuss** has proposed a retrofittable solution, able to reduce the quality variation when expanding existing capacity. The system can be tailored to increase the capacity of the extrusion and the filtration; through the optimization of both processes it is possible to achieve a super-clean recycling process, even when involving higher loads of contaminated recycle.

The extrusion solution is based on a specially designed screw technology that, in addition to melting and homogenizing, facilitates the degassing and decontamination of the melt. This enables the reliable processing of materials with high moisture content, volatile components, or low bulk

density. The filtration based on rotary technology ensures the continuous and stable removal of contaminants. Fully automated operation allows for use even with fluctuating material qualities and higher proportions of recycled material, without interrupting the production process.

The extruder and filtration systems can be integrated into existing plants either together or separately. They are custom-configured to meet specific objectives, such as increasing the recycled content, stabilizing fluctuating material qualities, or enabling food-contact applications.

Cap recycling

Recently, Gneuss presented a case study demonstrating a closed loop for HDPE bottle caps. Because the caps are already collected together with PET bottles, they can be processed back into bottle caps, thus closing the loop. The company offers the Omnimax recycling system, which has already undergone several challenge tests and has been awarded several food contact approvals and LNOs. The technology does not require any upstream or downstream process steps, which is of great importance for PE, as it can only be treated in other processes at very low temperatures, and requires long residence times due to the slow diffusion process involved.

The Omnimax purifies the polymer subjecting it to highly efficient degassing, using an MRSpure recycling extruder and a robust vacuum system to remove volatile contaminants. The MRS is preceded by a melt extruder, which separates the plasticizing and degassing process, so that the parameters can be optimized for each process. Downstream of the melt extruder, the RSFgenius filtration system removes hard contaminants by ultra-fine filtration.

Starlinger's Recostar dynamic recycling system obtained a LNO from the FDA for a PP cap-to-cap recycling process. This applies for the manufacture of bottle caps for beverages under Conditions of Use C to H. Bottle caps made of 100% recycled post-consumer polypropylene produced on the Starlinger recycling system can thus also be used for hot fill applications. The technology already obtained in 2021 an FDA LNO for HDPE cap-to-cap applications.

The machine configuration for the approved recycling process includes a Recostar dynamic recycling extruder equipped with a C-VAC degassing module for highly efficient degassing, as well as the PCUplus unit at the end of the recycling process. The latter ensures permanent odour reduction and completes the removal of VOCs,

which are important steps in the production of food-grade recyclates from post-consumer plastics.

The German recycler **RCS Plastics** has announced an investment of €75m to expand its processing capacity to up to 100,000 tonnes/yr. A key focus of the new facility is the development and production of food-grade recycled material from HDPE caps. With this project, the RCS Group aims to be a pioneer in the field and set new benchmarks for the circular economy.

"Developing food-grade HDPE recyclates is one of our industry's major challenges. We are making targeted investments in innovative processes to unlock new material cycles and enable the use of recycled materials in an even wider range of applications," said Alexander Rimmer, Managing Director of the RCS Group.

Technology progress

NextLoop Americas announced that the FDA approved its recycling process for producing food-grade rPP. The approval covers all food-contact conditions (A to H) across the full spectrum of applications. Launched in 2024 as an extension of the NextLoop initiative originally started in Europe, it mobilises partners across the value chain, amongst recyclers, brand owners and other stakeholders, to introduce infrastructure, technologies and regulation for safe and scalable recycling processes.

Alpla and the independent Dutch Institute **NTCP** are working on a future-proof and affordable solution for plastic food packaging. The patented recycling technology is expected to deliver food-safe HDPE recycled material on an industrial scale for the first time. Following several years of R&D

with successful laboratory results, the two project partners have just started evaluating the solvent-based process at the NTCP site in Heerenveen.

Intensive testing of all process steps of the patented technology will be performed as part of a collaborative innovation project. The aim is to obtain approval from EFSA in the near future. The construction and operation of the pilot plant will provide valuable insights for scaling up the process. Alpla has set up its own recycling company in the Netherlands for this purpose.

"To date, there is no certified process in the EU for the production of food-grade HDPE recycled material. Our highly efficient technology for cleaning and processing post-consumer recycled material could be a real game changer," said Michael Heyde, Head of Technology Recycling Division at Alpla.

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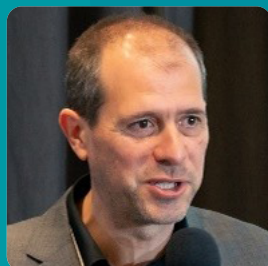
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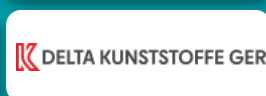
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EXTRUSION LINES – ENGINEERED TO PERFORM

Smarter sorting comes to recycling industry



IMAGE: SHUTTERSTOCK

Systems powered by artificial intelligence are enhancing sorting technology and other parts of the materials recycling process. Chris Saunders finds out what suppliers have developed

As the recycling industry faces increasing pressure to deliver consistently higher-quality materials, sorting technology has become one of the most critical areas of innovation across the entire value chain. From MRFs to packaging waste sorters and plastics recyclers, artificial intelligence (AI) is being introduced by many suppliers of technology and software for various stages in the materials recycling stream. At the plant level, new digital products and services are being promoted for improving efficiency and automation in the way recycling plants are monitored, managed, and optimised.

Sorting and separation technology companies are also innovating. Established optical sorting methods for plastics recycling are now being complemented by sophisticated multi-sensor platforms capable of identifying polymers according to chemistry, colour, shape, density and molecular composition, but perhaps the greatest technological leap forward in recent years has been the implementation of AI. Unlike conventional rule-based systems, machine-learning algorithms improve as they go along, enabling recyclers to adapt to changing packaging designs without

hardware modifications. AI can distinguish between objects that appear almost identical to traditional optical systems, such as food-grade and non-food-grade PET packaging, with some systems also capable of recognising damaged or partially obscured packaging that would previously have been rejected or incorrectly classified.

Indicative of this growing emphasis on AI, **Tomra** has increased its investment in tech company **PolyPerception** to 51% and unveiled the next evolution of the Waste Analyzer, an AI-powered analytics solution that improves sorting performance through end-to-end material tracking. One of the most significant upgrades is the natural language interface that enables operators to extract plant data in plain language. The platform also introduces a 'similarity search' function, which enables operators to instantly identify visually similar items in the stream, and a more sophisticated text and brand search.

"AI has always been part of Tomra's DNA, but we are now entering an entirely new phase," said Lars Enge, EVP and Head of Tomra Recycling. "With our majority stake in PolyPerception, we are moving

Main image:
Artificial intelligence is increasingly featuring on plastic waste sorting lines

beyond [using] AI as a sorting tool to [using] AI as a central intelligence for the recycling plant. By combining our advanced sorting systems and digital solutions with PolyPerception's AI platform we are creating an end-to-end solution that doesn't just optimise machines but fundamentally redefines how plants operate."

To complement this progress, Tomra is also introducing a new deep learning application to its Gain Next ecosystem, which targets long-standing industry bottlenecks where the company says traditional sensor-based sorting has reached its limits. The first application addresses the rising demand for food-grade PET trays as a critical feedstock. By training Gain Next on thousands of images, the system can now distinguish between takeaway or supermarket trays and consumer or medical packaging to purity levels of over 95%.

New facilities

China-based **DataBeyond** recently revealed that its flagship project in Taichung, Taiwan, has entered a phase of routine, high-efficiency operation. As the region's first project to achieve unmanned digital and intelligent sorting of mixed plastics, the development marks a major leap in waste resource processing, according to the company. By deploying a fully-automated AI Factory Management System, the Taichung facility's throughput has risen from 2 to 10 tonnes/hr without needing workers.

"The Taichung project proves that AI can liberate humans from dangerous work, allowing labour to become more dignified while giving waste a second life," said Mo Zhuoya, CEO of DataBeyond.

The centre's core competitiveness lies in DataBeyond's proprietary AI + Multi-Sensor Fusion technology, which utilises 256-band hyperspectral imaging and deep learning to identify various materials and

colours, including PET, PP, PE and ABS.

There are hundreds of millions of tonnes of light materials in construction and demolition waste, with PP and PE film accounting for approximately 50%. DataBeyond says the key to unlocking these resources lies in efficient sorting technology. Leveraging its AI database, DataBeyond's Fastsort-Film system sorts PP/PE film from complex light materials with over 95% accuracy, while efficiently removing PVC, PET, and other impurities, thus ensuring feedstock purity for subsequent pyrolysis-based recycling.

A major North American plant opened this summer, when **WM** completed its \$73m Denver East Recycling Facility in Aurora, US. "The new facility is equipped with the cutting-edge technology needed to process more material more efficiently and to produce a high-quality product that can be used to create new products," said David Brannon, Area Vice President, WM Four Corners.

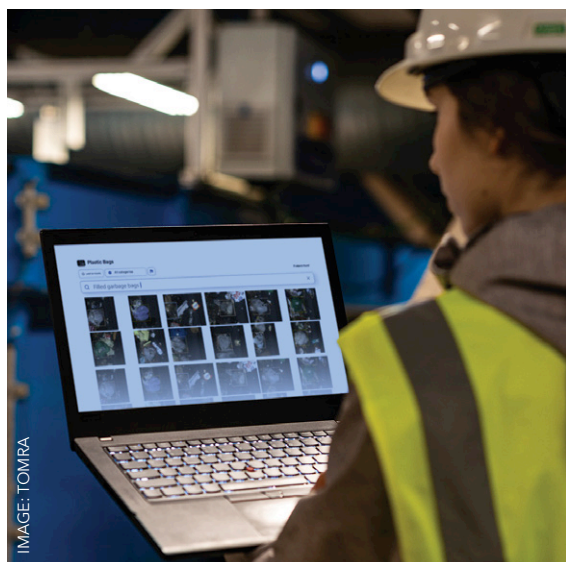
The operation is expected to process more than 175,000 tonnes/yr, and uses almost two miles of conveyors to carry materials through more than 30 automated stations featuring optical sorting and AI technology. It forms part of WM's enterprise-wide plan to invest more than \$1.4bn in 39 new and upgraded recycling plants across North America by 2027. Many of its facilities feature onsite Recycling Education Centres which host group tours of the plant to help foster a better understanding of how recycling works.

Sorting innovations

Swiss plant equipment manufacturer **Bühler** has expanded its portfolio with the Sortex J SpectraVision. Designed for HDPE and other polyolefin applications, the system supports advanced colour sorting and colour grouping, enabling recyclers to produce more consistent recyclates and meet increasingly demanding end-market specifications with high levels of purity, throughput, and yield. For more challenging applications such as PVC and technical plastics, the Sortex H SpectraVision combines colour cameras with advanced short-wave infrared (InGaAs) sensing technology and shape recognition capabilities. This enables the detection and removal of contaminants that can be difficult to identify using conventional colour-based inspection alone.

The company has also introduced the Spark Pro, an entry-level optical colour sorter designed to offer user-friendly operation and multi-commodity flexibility. The platform incorporates newly developed high definition infrared camera technology and simplified machine setup, helping operators

Right: Tomra's PolyPerception platform interprets data and transforms it into relevant insights in seconds



achieve efficient sorting performance with minimal complexity.

"In PET recycling, demand for stringent food-grade recyclate meeting EU regulatory norms continues to drive interest in integrated sorting approaches," said Shravani Saxena, Product Manager, Optical Sorting, Bühler Group. "Sortex A GlowVision combines colour and polymer sorting on a single platform, helping recyclers improve throughput and product quality in bottle-to-bottle recycling applications. By integrating UV, NIR and RGB technologies, the system delivers high-purity output while targeting challenging defects."

At IFAT 2026 in Munich in May, **Steinert** demonstrated its AI-based sorting program for food-grade PET materials. The Steinert Intelligent Object Identifier enables precise differentiation and separation of food and non-food packaging. Steinert said the system has been in continuous operation at Netherlands-based Cirrec. IOI detects characteristic patterns such as ready-meal tray shapes, typical printing and surface textures in PET packaging.

Investing in advanced sorting technology has typically meant purchasing a complete sorting machine with sensor technology. With the introduction of its Redwave NIR Modular, **BT-Systems** is challenging the traditional model by giving recyclers and OEMs access to **Redwave's** proven sensor-based sorting technology without the need for a complete installation. Instead of replacing conveyors, frames, and infrastructure, customers can integrate the technology directly into existing or newly designed plants resulting in greater flexibility, faster implementation, and a more targeted investment.

Customisation

"The recycling industry is becoming increasingly customised, and our customers want more control over how their facilities are designed and expanded," said Julian Tauterer, COO, Redwave. "The NIR Modular gives plant builders and recycling operators the freedom to integrate Redwave's proven sorting intelligence into the systems they already have or future systems they want to build."

The system combines industrial-grade NIR hyperspectral imaging with Redwave's high-performance valve technology to deliver exceptional sorting accuracy, while optional RGB camera technology and metal detection capabilities further expand the platform's versatility. The modular architecture allows customers to build around existing infrastructure, reduce engineering complexity, shorten project timelines, and expand capacity.

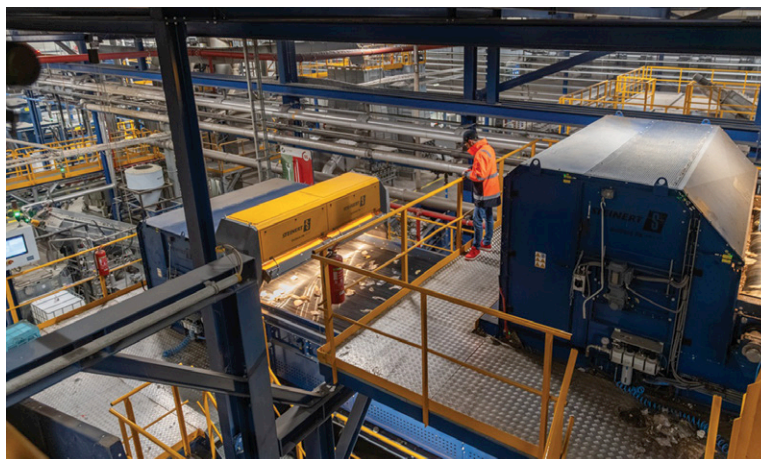


IMAGE: STEINERT AI

A longstanding obstacle in sorting has been the identification of black plastics, which cannot be detected using standard NIR systems. **Sesotec** introduced the Varisort+ Carbon Black sorting system as a concept at IFAT in Munich in May, and the following month transferred the first example from production to its in-house technical centre. Relying on Mid-Wave Infrared Technology (MWIR), the system detects black plastic parts at a relatively coarse grain size after pre-shredding and sorts them by material type before grinding. The material is illuminated with mid-wavelength radiation and an MWIR sensor captures the material-specific spectra, which are then analysed using intelligent software, established AI models, and spectral analysis.

"The feedback at IFAT highlighted the significant demand for a reliable solution to sort black plastics," said Tobias Eder, Head of Technologies Sorting & Plastics at Sesotec. "With the combination of MWIR technology, intelligent software, and our extensive experience in spectral analysis, we can tackle this challenge early in the recycling process. Once integration is complete, we will deploy the system with our customers under real-world conditions and fine-tune it based on practical insights."

In May, separation equipment manufacturer **Gep Ecotech** announced that it was opening its first sorting centre for domestic waste in Huangpi District, Wuhan, China. The project covers an area of approximately 37,146m² and is expected to fill the gap in regional waste sorting and disposal while establishing a closed-loop system. Various recyclables such as metals, plastics, waste textiles and paper will be sorted and processed on-site, while the remaining non-recyclable materials will be packaged and transported to incineration plants.

Based on the project requirements, Gep Ecotech tailored two core solutions: a bulky waste treatment line and a recyclable material sorting line

Above: Steinert has developed AI-based sorting technology for food-grade PET

Right: The Bollegraaf One uses Greyparrot's AI vision system

which relies on the collaborative operation of multi-stage equipment such as a roller screen, magnetic separator, and ballistic screen, to achieve automated and precise separation. The process requires minimal manual intervention, which not only reduces labour costs but also enhances efficiency and lowers energy consumption.

Operational efficiency

Technology companies are also promising to increase efficiency in the overall running of materials recycling operations. In May, **Bollegraaf** introduced Bollegraaf One, which it says is a digital environment designed to transform the way recycling and sorting plants are managed. Plant performance usually depends on operator experience, manual interventions, and reacting to issues after they occur. Bollegraaf One is built around increased visibility across the plant through live dashboards, machine data, throughput monitoring, and key performance indicators, detecting anomalies early, prioritising actions, and receiving intelligent recommendations. According to the company, it combines decades of recycling prowess with advanced analytics and AI-driven technologies, and represents a major milestone toward autonomous recycling plants.

Bollegraaf One has been developed in collaboration with data consulting firm WaDaCon, and is powered by waste intelligence platform **Greyparrot**. In its 2024 partnership agreement with the latter, Bollegraaf transferred its AI vision business to Greyparrot, bought a shareholding and became



IMAGE: BOLLENGRAAF

worldwide distributor and strategic partner for Greyparrot's Analyzer, which provides 100% visibility into waste streams at recycling plants using AI camera systems.

"Recycling plants are becoming more complex every year, while expectations for performance continue to rise," said Tom Wijkkel, Product Manager and project lead for Bollegraaf One. "Our customers need more than data, clarity, guidance, and confidence. Bollegraaf One delivers exactly that."

At IFAT, US company **Machinex Technologies** unveiled Mind, a new AI platform which it claims can bring system-wide intelligence to modern sorting operations through real-time decision-making, system optimisation, and advanced reporting.

"The future of recycling isn't just automation, it's intelligent systems," said Chris Hawn, CEO of Machinex. "For years, intelligence has been applied

Inspec.tech's window onto pellet quality



IMAGE: INSPEC.TECH

Pellet inspection and sorting system detects and rejects sub-par material

Compounding companies need to be sure of pellet quality, especially when incorporating recycled material.

Inspec.tech is now offering dedicated pellet inspection and sorting systems which detect and reject sub-par material before it reaches production lines. Real time, in-line inspection and optional sorting provide a critical and previously unavailable window into the process for pellet producers as it allows them to objectively monitor production as it happens, ensuring that any increase in contamination, shift in colour, or change in pellet size and shape, is flagged instantly. This allows operators to receive immediate alerts to make the necessary line adjustments.

In addition, sorting functionality can be implemented to automatically reject disqualified pellets before they reach finished product storage. The system can be configured with various cameras and illuminations to optimise cost and performance across a wide range of resins from challenging dark PCR to ultra-clean recycled materials.

to one machine at a time. With Mind, we're extending that intelligence across multiple units into a unified system, moving beyond individual equipment. It gives operators the control and insight needed to manage complexity, improve performance, and make smarter decisions."

Mind combines computer vision, machine learning, and real-time decision-making to detect and classify materials, transform insights into actions, and improve system performance. Operating as a closed-loop intelligence system, it enables MRFs to adapt to evolving material streams while maintaining efficiency and consistency. Machinex is also introducing Mind AirPulse, a pneumatic separator which translates intelligent decisions into precise, high-speed sorting actions exceeding 20x the sorting rate of a manual sorter.

A similar approach to that of Machinex is being deployed by **EverestLabs** which has developed Navigator, an AI assistant for plant operators built specifically for MRFs and plastics recycling plants which acts as an intelligent layer across the facility, continuously monitoring material flow, equipment performance, and operational conditions. Using vision AI, Agentic AI, and a conversational interface, it can identify operational blind spots, uncover sources of material loss, detect bottlenecks and performance changes, and recommend actions operators can take. Navigator is designed to work alongside existing equipment, bringing insights from across the facility into a single operational view.

"Instead of individual machines operating independently, equipment, sensors, computer vision, and robotics can work together as part of a coordinated system," said Apurba Pradhan, Head of Product and Marketing at EverestLabs. "AI can analyse data from across the plant, recognise patterns that may be difficult to identify manually, and help determine where changes could have the greatest operational impact. Vision AI systems can continuously capture information about material moving through the facility, while robotic systems can act on that information."

US advances

Bulk Handling Systems (BHS) recently announced a new automated MRF on the Western Colorado slope in the US to be run by Bruin Waste. The new facility, set to begin operation later this year, combines Max-Air Air, a sorting solution combining AI with high-speed air ejection, SpydIR-HS, a high-resolution optical sorter using Hyper Spectral Imaging, and Total Intelligence Platform which provides real-time monitoring and analytics.

AMP designs, builds, and operates plants to



IMAGE: AMP

process single-stream recycling and municipal solid waste. A significant recent development was the finalisation of a 20-year agreement with the Southeastern Public Service Authority (SPSA) in Virginia, US, in which AMP will deploy AI-powered sortation and recovery infrastructure to process approximately 540,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste annually. The system is expected to become the largest recycling project in the US, diverting at least 50% of the material delivered by SPSA from landfill. The company will leverage two sortation facilities in Portsmouth, Virginia, while collaborating with SPSA to dispose of residuals.

AMP's technology directly applies computer vision, deep learning, robotics, and high-speed air-jet sorting, and has already demonstrated its viability at commercial scale. During a third-party-validated acceptance test in early 2026, more than 500 tonnes of municipal solid waste was processed and approximately 360 tonnes diverted into recyclable and organic streams, surpassing the project's contractual requirements.

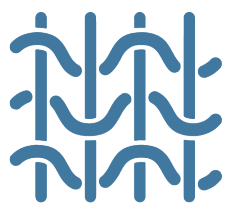
Above: AMP says it has deployed more than 400 AI systems around the world

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The free-to-attend Compounding & Recycling Expo, taking place on 23-24 September at Messe Frankfurt, Germany, showcases the growing overlap between polymer compounding and recycling, bringing the full value chain together for two days of innovation, collaboration and technical insights.

The organiser AMI (publisher of *Plastics Recycling World*) calls the event "a unique platform for the industry to explore the future of polymer performance, sustainability and circularity".

The exhibition will showcase cutting-edge solutions from leading suppliers of compounding machinery, raw materials, additives, recycling technology, and testing equipment. Exhibitors include BASF, Sun Chemical, SI Group, JSW, Hosokawa Alpine, Farrel Pomini, Maag, Invista, Orion, Gneuss, Theysohn and many other industry leaders.

Find out about the companies exhibiting at Compounding & Recycling Expo from p30.

Attendees also gain free entry to two focused conference theatres offering expert-led sessions on

Europe's compounding and recycling value chain will present innovations at AMI's expo and conference in Frankfurt this month

markets, technology, applications and regulation. Featured presentations from industry leaders include:

EU recycled plastic content targets: advancing a coherent framework in a global context - Maria Vera Duran, Policy Director, **Recycling Europe**;

Innovative strategies for ensuring safety and sustainability in food contact packaging - Marinella Vitulli, CEO, **Food Contact Centre**;

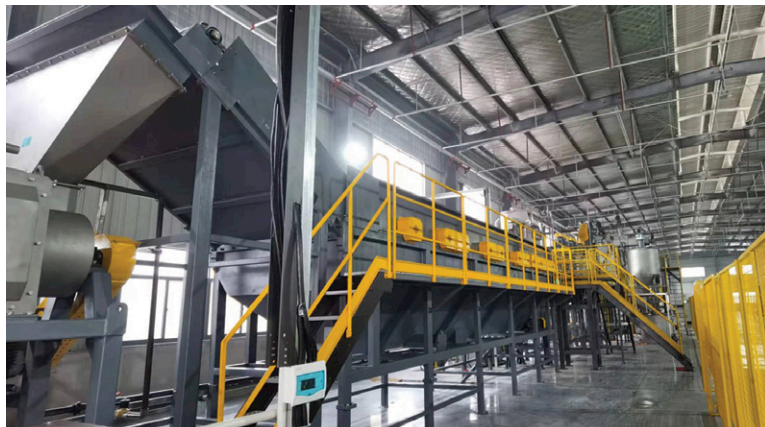
Improving polymer processing with new additive technologies - Kim Van de Velde, Application Engineer, **3M**;

Advancing post-consumer recycling of nylon 6,6 - Michael Heeran, European Technical Marketing Manager for Nylon Polymer, **Invista**.

Key information

Compounding & Recycling Expo, Messe Frankfurt, Hall 11
 Wednesday, 23 September 2026: 9am - 5pm | Thursday, 24 September 2026: 9am - 5pm
 Free registration can be completed at the event [website](#)

IMAGE: BORETECH



Above:
Recycled PP
washing line
from BoReTech

3M

The latest addition to the 3M polymer processing additive portfolio is HX 9551, a free-flowing, hydrocarbon-based processing additive developed to deliver robust and consistent extrusion performance. It helps improve optical properties such as haze, clarity, and gloss while reducing extrusion pressure, die build-up, melt fracture, and energy consumption during polyolefin processing. The product is particularly suited for polyolefin formulations containing antiblocking agents, pigments, and other inorganic additives.

➤ www.3m.com

Aimplas

Aimplas is a technology centre with over 30 years of expertise in the plastics industry. It supports companies throughout the value chain, from raw material manufacturers to end users. It has 15,000 m² of state-of-the-art facilities and 50 pilot plants for various plastic processing applications.

➤ www.aimplas.net

BASF Chemetall

In plastics recycling, Chemetall offers specialized cleaning agents and silicone- and non-silicone defoamers for removing residues, labels, inks and adhesives. Chemetall's Gardoclean, Gardobond-Additive, and Gardo Pure products optimize washing and wastewater treatment, ensuring high-quality, cost-efficient and food-industry-compliant recycling, says the company.

➤ www.chemetall.com

BoReTech

BoReTech started in 1989 as a recycler in the PET bottle recycling industry in Taiwan. Now its technology portfolio provides total solutions for plastics recycling systems, polyester staple fibre production, and textiles, as well as bottle-to-bottle plant and services.

➤ www.bo-re-tech.com

BRB International

BRB Silicones, a business unit of BRB International, is a leading specialty silicones producer, offering emulsions, antifoams, water repellents, elastomers, lubricants, silanes, resins and customised formulations, alongside core and specialty intermediates for the global silicone industry. It provides a wide range of organofunctional silanes for compounding applications, including adhesion enhancement, coupling and crosslinking.

➤ www.brb-international.com

CeNTI

CeNTI - Centre for Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials - is a private, non-profit centre for technology and innovation based in northern Portugal. With a team of over 190 researchers and extensive experience in collaborative national and international R&D projects, CeNTI specialises in applied nanotechnology, advanced and sustainable materials, and smart systems, helping companies turn ideas into innovative products and solutions.

➤ www.centi.pt

CMG Granulators

CMG Granulators designs and produces solutions for the recycling industry, represented by granulators, shredders, integral feed conveyors, regrind evacuation and conveying systems and powder separation executions. It says that more than 30,000 CMG units have been installed at customers in Europe, America, Middle East and Asia.

➤ www.cmg-granulators.com

CPM

CPM Engineered Materials is a compounding technology partner which helps customers overcome processing challenges and keep production moving reliably. Challenges include: formulation changes; raw material variability; production ramp-up; and long-term process robustness.

➤ <https://onecpm.com>

Delta Kunststoffe

Delta Kunststoffe - a member of the Kafrit Group - says it is very excited to be working with Plastics App to showcase its products and new projects. Delta's specialties include colour formulations, electrically conductive plastics, and specialty compounds, and it also offers additives and contract compounding.

➤ www.delta-kunststoffe.de

Econ

Econ specializes in the development, production, and global marketing of innovative solutions for

underwater pelletizing technologies and screen changers. It says global producers of virgin resins, compounders, masterbatch manufacturers, and recycling companies all value the quality and efficiency of its equipment.

➤ **Econ LinkedIn page**

Entex Rust & Mitschke

Entex is a leading manufacturer of planetary roller extruders, tempering systems, and calender rolls. With a strong focus on innovation and modular design, Entex serves various industries, including plastics, recycling, rubber, chemicals, and food, providing comprehensive solutions for complex processing needs.

➤ **www.entex.de**

Euro Machinery

Euro Machinery buys and sells used machines within flexible plastic converting and plastic recycling. These include blown film extruders, cast film extruders, flexo printers, laminators, bag machines, winders and slitters. In recycling, it offers extruders, shredders, granulators, agglomerators and other equipment.

➤ **www.euro-machinery.com**

Farrel Pomini

Farrel Pomini designs and manufactures compounding systems for polymer applications. Known for superior energy and maintenance efficiency, its products include the CP Series II Compact Proces-

sor and FCM Continuous Mixer. It also offers extensive aftermarket solutions to enhance operating efficiencies and customer profitability.

➤ **www.farrel-pomini.com**

Filtec

Filtec, established in 1993, specialises in filtering and pelletising equipment for plastic material processing. The company offers solutions for underwater pelletisers, water ring pelletisers, screen changers, and more.

➤ **www.filtecsrl.eu**

Fine-Blend Polymer

Fine-Blend Polymer focuses on developing specialty compounds and polymer additives. It provides a range of innovative products that enhance the properties and performance of plastics, catering to various

industries and applications with

customised solutions and technical support.

➤ **www.fineblend.com.cn**

Food Contact Center

Food Contact Center's core business focuses on the analysis of materials, articles and their interaction with food, helping companies in implementing both mandatory and voluntary quality systems, including Good Manufacturing Practices (EU Regulation 2023/2006), ISO 22000, BRCGS and FSSC 22000.

➤ **www.foodcontactcenter.com**

**Left: Entex
L-WE 30
laboratory
roller extruder**



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Gamma Meccanica

Gamma Meccanica designs and produces machines and plants to recycle a wide range of plastic materials. It says its lines are characterised by a high level of automation, maximum quality of the recycled product (granules) and improved energy savings.

➤ www.gamma-meccanica.it

Gates Industrial Europe

Gates Corporation is a leading manufacturer of application-specific fluid power and power transmission solutions. Its product portfolio includes pumps, belts and hoses.

➤ www.gates.com

Georg H Luh

Georg H Luh specialises in mineral raw materials like graphite and mica for various applications, including flame retardancy and conductivity. The company offers comprehensive solutions, from consulting to material supply and testing, ensuring high-quality standards and innovative applications for its clients.

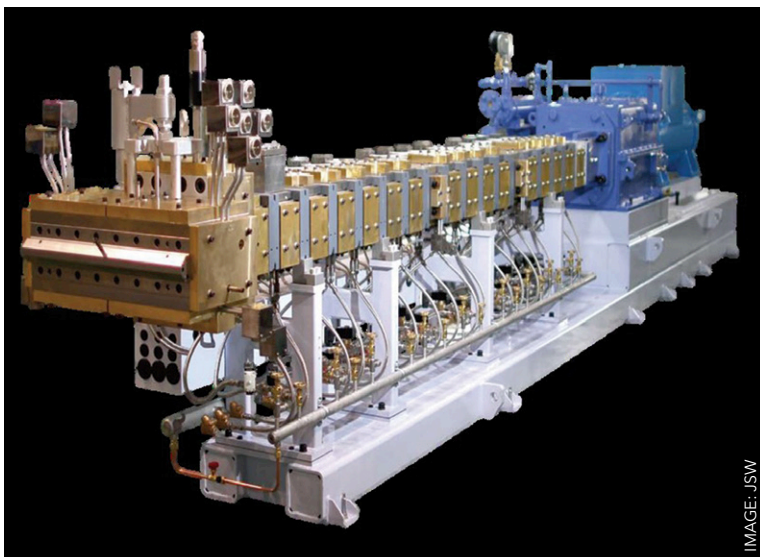
➤ www.luh.de

Gneuss

With over 40 years of experience and over 100 patents, Gneuss is a supplier of innovative solutions for the recycling industry. The patented Gneuss MRS is a key element of the Gneuss OMNI Recycling Systems and offers new possibilities for recycling, with its highly efficient devolatilisation for extrusion of hygroscopic polymer such as polyester and for the extraction of volatile contaminants. Gneuss also offers fully automatic screen changers, making the efficient processing of highly contaminated materials possible.

➤ <https://www.gneuss.com>

**Below: TEX
extruder from
JSW Europe**



Guangzhou Tyrone

Guangzhou Tyrone specialises in environmental technology solutions, offering products and services aimed at improving sustainability and reducing environmental impact in various industries.

➤ www.tyrone8.com

Hosokawa Alpine

The company manufactures machines and systems for processing powders, granules and bulk materials as well as systems for producing and processing blown film. It has developed solutions for the efficient recycling of production waste as part of a closed material circuit. The portfolio includes the design and manufacture of complete systems and machines for dry recycling tasks.

➤ www.hosokawa-alpine.com

ICMA San Giorgio

ICMA designs and manufactures co-rotating twin-screw extruders and complete extrusion systems for advanced compounding, recycling and direct extrusion (in-line compounding). ICMA solutions are used for the production of technical compounds and masterbatches, as well as for the direct extrusion of sheets, foils and customized products, including applications involving recycled, bio-based and highly filled materials, ensuring reliable industrial performance.

➤ www.icmasg.com

IKTR

Institut für Kunststofftechnologie und -recycling (IKTR) is a R&D company supporting industrial companies and SMEs in developing new processes and products. As a service provider for companies, it conducts analyses, investigations, and feasibility studies.

➤ www.iktr-online.de

Invista

Invista is a global leader in the production of nylon 6,6 polymers used in the automotive, industrial, consumer electronic and apparel/textile industries. The company is focused on producing high-quality nylon 6,6 polymer feedstock to compounders, direct-to-mould and fibre spinners. The group operates polymer production assets in Europe, North America and China, providing customers with reliable, regional supply systems.

➤ <https://nylonpolymer.invista.com>

Japan Steel Works Europe

JSW Europe specialises in plastic machinery, including large polyolefin extruders, twin screw

extruders, and film and sheet manufacturing equipment. It provides after-sales services such as maintenance support, barrel/screw measurement, consulting for modification and parts inventory. It offers to carry out extrusion trials with its TEX extruder in its extrusion technical centre in Düsseldorf, Germany

➤ www.jsw.de

J-Tec Material Handling

J-Tec specialises in automated material handling systems and process engineering solutions for the food and chemical industries. Known for its personalised approach, J-Tec offers customised solutions from conceptual design to installation and maintenance, ensuring tailored project success through its extensive international expertise and in-house knowledge.

➤ <https://j-tec.com>

LKAB Minerals

LKAB Minerals, part of the Swedish company LKAB, supplies natural minerals engineered for functionality and usability across various industries. Committed to innovation and responsibility, LKAB Minerals partners with customers to deliver high-quality, reliable mineral products.

➤ www.lkabminerals.com

Maag Germany

The Maag Group is a broadly diversified global solutions provider with integrated and customizable systems in process technology for the polymer, chemical and petrochemical industries. Its pump & filtration systems, pelletizing & pulverizing systems, recycling systems and measurement & control systems divisions consolidate the many years of experience and in-depth know-how of the AMN, Automatik, Ettlinger, Gala, Maag, Reduction, Scheer, Witte, Xantec and Sikora product brands.

➤ <https://maag.com>

Metalworks

Metalworks (MW) manufactures welded and bolted aluminium silos, stainless steel silos, as well as machinery and components for the storage and the mechanical and pneumatic conveying of bulk materials. MW also produces bulk material equipment, such as: manual systems for emptying bags and bulk bags; automatic bag-emptying machin-

ery; special components for pressure and vacuum pneumatic conveying; continuous dosing and blending of powder, granular, and flake materials.

➤ www.metalworksal.com

Mixaco

Mixaco, with over 50 years of experience, is a global leader in industrial mixer systems. The company serves many industries, such as powder coating, masterbatch, compounding and plastics, as well as PVC/WPC, rubber, chemical and food industry

➤ www.mixaco.com

Mixron

Mixron offers a wide variety of mixing systems for bulk materials. Specialising in PVC dry blend, WPC, and masterbatch, it provides turbo mixers, cooler mixers, and container mixers, enhancing blend quality and ease of use while maintaining maximum customer value.

➤ www.mixron.it

Left: Mixron MTP high-speed turbo mixer for PVC dry blend



MPI Chemie

MPI Chemie, an independent Dutch chemical company, supplies a wide range of additives like UV absorbers, light stabilisers, and antioxidants. With a strong focus on the European plastics and coatings industries, MPI is known for cost-efficiency, excellent service, and compliance with European regulations.

➤ <https://mpi.eu/chemie>

Netzsch

Netzsch has a wide range of instruments for thermal analysis, calorimetry, the determination of thermophysical properties, rheology and fire testing.

➤ <https://analyzing-testing.netzsch.com>

Nexam Chemical

Nexam Chemical develops smart additives that repair and upcycle recycled plastics to enhance their performance. Its focus is on easy-to-use masterbatches for rPET, rPE, and rPP that boost properties and processability, enabling customers to safely increase recycled content or incorporate more challenging feedstock in demanding applications such as packaging, films, and technical parts.

➤ nexamchemical.com



Orion Engineered Carbons

Orion Engineered Carbons is a leading global supplier of carbon black which has innovation centres on three continents and 15 plants worldwide, offering a diverse variety of production processes resulting in unique performance of the carbon black.

➤ <https://orioncarbons.com>

Pinfa

The Phosphorus, Inorganic and Nitrogen Flame Retardants Association is a Sector Group within Cefic, the European Chemical Industry Council. Pinfa represents the manufacturers and users of non-halogenated phosphorus, inorganic and nitrogen flame retardants.

www.pinfa.eu

Plas Mec

Plas Mec manufactures equipment for mixing plastic materials and other polymers. Known for its durable, high-quality machines, it offers solutions like the Combimix-HC and TRR Container Mixer, catering to various mixing requirements.

➤ www.plasmec.it

Plastics App

Plastics App is a compounding innovation lab specialising in biodegradable and sustainable compounds, EMI shielding, and reactive extrusion. It supports R&D, prototyping, and testing, offering holistic project management from ideation to full-scale development.

➤ www.plastics-app.com

Polycompound

Polycompound, based in Switzerland, produces custom compounds and masterbatches. It has extensive experience and technical knowledge of

compounding with co-kneaders, from lab-scale through to large-scale production. It has flexible production facilities and a big range of equipment including in-house quality control.

➤ <https://polycompound.ch>

Potters

Potters Industries produces solid glass beads and hollow microspheres for different applications like road marking paints, metal finishing, plastics, coatings and many more.

➤ www.pottersindustries.com

Recycling Mondo Plast

The Romanian plastics recycling company has an annual capacity of up to 12,000 tonnes of recycled granules. It operates two Erema recycling lines equipped with laser filters and automatic washing lines.

➤ <https://recyclingmondoplast.ro>

Rianlon

Rianlon provides anti-ageing additives and application technologies for polymers, coatings, and lubricants. Its products include antioxidants, light stabilisers, and customised blend solutions.

➤ www.rianlon.com

Sachtleben Minerals

Sachtleben Minerals markets barite and fluorite products, offering reliable industrial mineral supplies. It is recognised for its innovative solutions and consistent supply capabilities.

➤ www.sachtleben-minerals.com

Schwing Technologies

Schwing offers all advanced thermal cleaning technologies that remove polymers and organic contaminants from metallic tools and machine parts of any type and dimension. In addition to (vacuum) pyrolysis plants and fluidized bed systems for thermal cleaning, it also designs and manufactures application-specific fluidized bed reactors for the thermo-chemical conversion of powdery substances by means of flowing reaction gases in variable atmospheres.

➤ <http://www.schwing-technologies.com>

Sciences Computers Consultants

SC-Consultants optimises twin screw extrusion processes with specialised simulation software. Serving industries globally, it provides tools to master and optimise processes, saving materials and costs.

➤ www.sccconsultants.com

Below: The Plas Mec stand at Plast 2026 in Italy



IMAGE: PLAS MEC

Sun Chemical shows strong range of pigments

At the Compounding & Recycling Expo, Sun Chemical says it is highlighting its focused portfolio of pigment preparations designed to help plastics converters improve colour performance, processing efficiency, dimensional stability and visual impact.

Featured solutions include: Eupolen NQ for polyolefins, with a particular focus on green and blue shades; Microlen Piano Black 0078 MCN, which combines exceptional jetness with optimised value in use; and Microlen Pink 4410 MCN, a brighter, more chromatic pink pigment preparation engineered for polyolefins, rubber and select engineering plastics.

Sun Chemical will also showcase its Microlen and Eupolen non- and low-warping pigment preparations for HDPE applications such as bottle crates, pallets, containers and caps and closures.



Shanghai Qishen Plastic Industry

Founded in 2007, the recycling company's annual production is more than 80,000 tonnes, with its output including PP, ABS, PC, and PC/ABS, PC/PBT.

➤ www.shqishen.com

SI Group

SI Group is a leading global manufacturer of performance additives, process solutions, chemical intermediates, and active pharmaceutical ingredients. With a manufacturing footprint spanning four continents, it serves customers in 80 countries and continues to develop innovative solutions to meet the evolving needs of customers.

➤ <https://siigroup.com>

Siempelkamp Size Reduction Solutions

Siempelkamp Size Reduction (formerly Pallmann) is part of the Siempelkamp Group and one of the leading manufacturers of machines and complete systems for the preparation and size reduction of nearly all materials.

<https://size-reduction.siempelkamp.com>

Sun Chemical

Sun Chemical produces pigment preparations that enhance efficiency and sustainability in colouring processes (see box).

➤ www.sunchemical.com

Theysohn Extrusionstechnik

Theysohn Extrusionstechnik provides extruder systems, from laboratory to large-scale turnkey solutions. It specialises in polyolefins and PVC applications, offering innovative and custom

solutions. Its portfolio includes co-rotating and counter-rotating extruder systems along with advanced Cascade technology.

➤ www.theysohn.com

UniteChem

UniteChem Group, based in China, is a leading supplier of light stabilisers and UV absorbers for plastics. It engages in R&D, production, and application development, serving diverse industrial needs.

➤ www.unitechm.eu

Wells Performance Materials

The UK-based company specialises in the production of additive masterbatches for plastics, offering solutions for enhanced material performance and sustainability.

➤ www.wellspm.com

WIS Kunststoffe

The company, which has five sales offices in Germany and further offices in Austria, Switzerland and Eastern Europe, offers a large portfolio, ranging from standard products, compounds and special offers to reggranulates and ground materials, as well as masterbatches and additives.

➤ <https://wiskunststoffe.de>

X-Compound

X-Compound is a leading supplier of continuous kneaders. It says it provides machinery to achieve excellent compound qualities using its gentle and efficient mixing technology.

➤ <https://www.troester.de/products/x-compound>



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Ecomondo aims to build international following

Italy's established event for the circular economy is looking to attract a broad range of stakeholders in plastics and other sectors.

By Chris Saunders

The 29th edition of Ecomondo, the Italian Exhibition Group (IEG) international trade fair for the green, blue, and circular economy, takes place from 3 to 6 November at the Rimini Expo Centre. As European policies driving the ecological transition continue to gain momentum, this year's event - where representatives from the research community, industry players, and various policymakers, will come together to address the major industrial and environmental transformations reshaping global markets - promises to deliver a more global, innovation-driven, and cross-sectoral approach than ever before.

The event provides a strategic platform for companies to foster dialogue, build partnerships, and unlock new business opportunities while also serving as a catalyst for start-ups, scale-ups, and SMEs operating in the circular economy, supporting their growth and accelerating innovation.

The 2026 edition aims to build on the success of Ecomondo 2025 which, according to official figures, attracted 108,800 visitors, a 7% increase, with a 9% share coming from outside Italy, and 1,850 exhibitors, 21% of which were international.

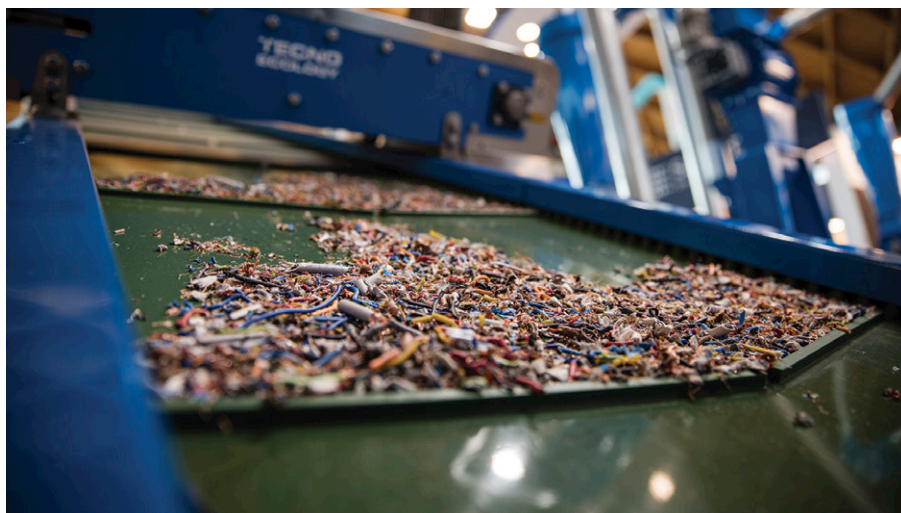
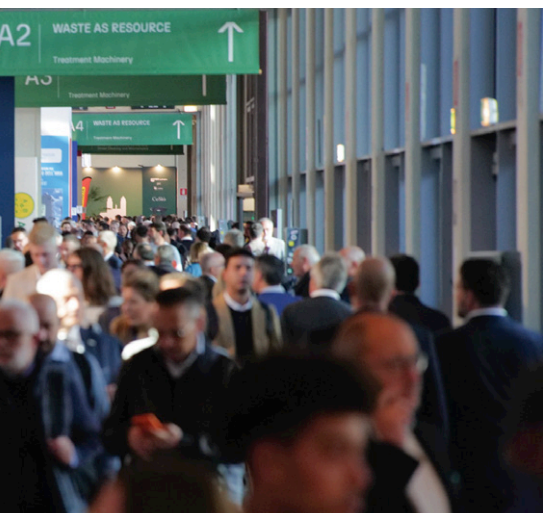
Ecomondo 2026 is further strengthening its international profile with the aim of attracting an even higher number of buyers, delegations, and industry associations from all continents, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) and the Italian Trade Agency (ICE).

Growing network

Through a multi-stop 'roadshow' taking in Spain, Morocco, Germany, Hungary, and Canada, the organisers are aiming to not only build awareness of Ecomondo but also strengthen institutional and commercial ties, while expanding its international network.

This network already includes Ecomondo Mexico, a strategic platform for the Latin American market and a key showcase for Made in Italy environmental technologies; Ecomondo China, which this year has evolved into a forum held in Shanghai on 11-12 June; and the Green Med Expo & Symposium in Naples.

With the involvement of new European and international institutional partners, including the European Commission, as well as leading continental agencies and key stakeholders such as the OECD and FAO, Ecomondo's conference programme, curated by its international Technical and Scientific Committee, will feature additional summits, meetings, and conventions held in English to broaden their appeal.



Conference themes

A strong focus will be placed on key European regulatory dossiers, with high-level insights into the Circular Economy Act, Bioeconomy Strategy, Biotech Act II, the Pact for the Mediterranean, the RESourceEU Action Plan, and the Critical Raw Materials Act, as well as new provisions on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

Other key themes at Ecomondo 2026, with a continued focus on international cooperation and strengthening partnerships with the Mediterranean and Africa, will include healthy and circular cities, artificial intelligence (AI), and new digital technologies which can support the ecological transition, as well as the bioeconomy and bioenergy.

During the first two days of the event the States General of the Green Economy will return, an event which is organised by the Foundation for Sustainable Development in collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security (MASE) and promoted by the National Green Economy Council, with a second plenary session held entirely in English.

The organisers say the presence of a steadily growing number of participants, united by the shared goal of accelerating the ecological transition, confirms Ecomondo's role as an increasingly important global platform.

Textiles feature

One of the key new features of the 29th edition of Ecomondo is a dedicated exhibition section for circularity in textiles, which will take up an entire hall and act as an international hub for the full supply chain at a crucial moment in the rollout of new European sustainability regulations in the sector.

Elsewhere, the Waste as a Resource exhibition area is also expanding, while the Water Cycle & Blue Economy sector will be reorganised into the

Blue Economy and Trenchless Districts, focusing on wastewater recovery and reuse, trenchless (No-Dig) technologies, and advanced solutions for pumps, valves, and control systems supporting smart network monitoring and sustainable water resource management. At the time of writing the following sectors have also been confirmed: Sites & Soil Restoration, Earth Observation and Environmental Monitoring, Bio-energy & Agriculture, and Circular & Regenerative Bio-Economy, as well as the Circular & Healthy City and Paper District. Another exciting area of the show promises to be the Innovation District.

Ecomondo 2026 is curated by IEG in collaboration with a wide range of partners including: the European Commission; UNIDO ITPO; the Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; the Ministry of Business and Made in Italy; the Italian Trade Agency; the Emilia-Romagna Region; the Municipality of Rimini; the National Association of the Automotive Industry; ART-ER; Assoambiente; the Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking; the Italian Biogas Consortium; the Italian Composting Consortium; the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies; the National Packaging Consortium; the European Biogas Association; ENEA; the European Supplier of Waste-to-Energy Technologies; the European Environment Agency; the European Waste Management Association; the Foundation for Sustainable Development; the Higher Institute for Environmental Protection and Research; the International Solid Waste Association; Legambiente; OECD; Recycling Europe; the National Union of Construction Equipment & Attachments Companies; Unicircular (the Assoambiente section); Utilitalia; and Water Europe.

➤ www.ecomondo.com

Main image:
Previero says a key strength of its upgraded MU 916 PRH2 (pictured) and MU 920 PRH2 granulating systems lies in their flexibility



IMAGE: PREVIERO

Granulator manufacturers show commitment

New developments in granulator technology focus on granulate quality, higher throughput, energy efficiency and safety, as shown at recent exhibitions

Granulator suppliers are underlining their confidence in the plastics recycling market with fresh investment, expanded production capacity and a new generation of machines designed to deliver higher throughput, cleaner regrind and lower energy use. From CMG's manufacturing move into India to product launches from Herbold Meckesheim, Hellweg, Neue Herbold, Rapid and Previero, the latest developments show size reduction becoming more efficient, automated and closely aligned with recyclers' demands for quality, safety and uptime.

CMG Granulators is starting operations this

month at a new manufacturing subsidiary in Pune, India. The Italy-headquartered granulator company says its new venture will support growth of one of the world's most dynamic markets for plastics processing and recycling. "India is now one of the countries where the future of plastics processing and recycling is being shaped," said CMG. "The growth of industrial production, infrastructure investments, evolving regulations and increasing focus on the quality of recycled materials are accelerating a transformation that is set to have a global impact."

But CMG stresses its decision to invest in India is not based solely on a specific geographical expansion, but also reflects its commitment to being present where new growth opportunities for the industry are happening.

Giorgio Santella, CEO of CMG, said: "We look at India from a perspective that goes beyond the idea of expanding into a new market. We consider it one of the key hubs where the future of advanced plastics recycling is being defined. Being present



means actively contributing to this transformation by supporting customers with technology, expertise and a local structure capable of turning operational proximity into tangible value."

He said CMG India's industrial approach is based on innovation, regrind quality, energy efficiency and the development of tailor-made solutions for every process. "We are convinced that the future of recycling depends on strong partnerships, technical continuity and an increasingly integrated presence aligned with our customers' needs, together with the use of reliable and efficient technologies that support stable, high-quality processes," he said.

The new facility in Pune will manufacture size reduction equipment based on CMG's original design, maintaining the group's technological, quality and performance standards. Local manufacturing will enable faster delivery times, greater competitiveness and an even closer presence to meet the needs of the market, says CMG. Acting as a centre of expertise for plant engineering, technical support and business development, the facility's specialised team, trained directly in CMG technology, will serve as a point of reference for processors, recyclers and plant builders, providing support throughout the entire project lifecycle.

CMG's EV Evolution Series granulators are engineered specifically for post-consumer plastics. Each model is optimised to reduce energy utilisation by up to 50% compared to conventional granulators, through advanced cutting geometries,

unique rotor design, and intelligent drive systems, says CMG. These provide high energy efficiency and low total cost of ownership.

K show launchpad

At the K2025 exhibition in Germany, CMG launched the EV 92-220 granulator designed for heavy-duty applications and large volume streams. It features a new cutting chamber architecture and advanced control integration, for enhanced reliability under high loads.

In addition, the company launched the G55 granulator line for high-capacity applications. The standard configurations of the new series cover capacities from 700 kg/h to 1,300 kg/h. The G55 line comprises two models: G55-90 and G55-120. These include integral sound enclosure and an innovative feed hopper design that accommodates a variety of shapes and dimensions of parts that can be granulated. Energy utilisation is 25 Wh/kg – around half that of conventional solutions, it says.

CMG also introduced evacuation, dedusting and powder containment systems. These Re grind Evac Systems start at a capacity of 200 kg/h and, in ten different sizes, reach a capacity of 7,000 kg/h.

The systems operate under full vacuum, so regrind material is evacuated from the granulator and gently conveyed to a cyclone receiver and through a dedusting chamber – all under negative pressure. The regrind is deposited in a storage bin, gaylord or big-bag while the powdery air is handled by a self-cleaning filter unit.

In 2025, CMG expanded its Italian production headquarters with a new 800 sq m area, dedicated to logistics, enabling more efficient management of internal flows and freeing up production areas to meet increasing demand. CMG says the investment will allow it to improve organisation, production capacity and delivery times.

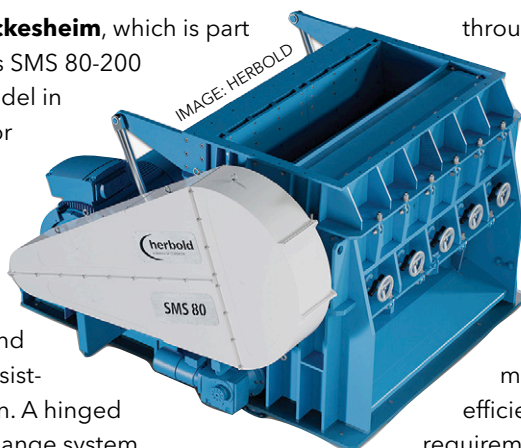
Alongside the production area, the CMG HQ also hosts a new 1,000 sq m technical centre, dedicated to granulation tests and technical support. It features a test area equipped with granulators and shredders of various sizes and capacities that can process a range of materials – as well as a training area.

Customers can see CMG machines in operation, directly evaluate processing and reuse methods for their own materials and verify the quality of results firsthand. If customers cannot attend tests in person, CMG can carry out granulation trials anyway. The material is delivered to the company, where it undergoes testing. At the end of the process, the material is returned to the customer, together with a technical report.

Left: CMG showcased a series of new granulators and shredders during K2025

Right: Herbold Meckesheim showcased several granulation and drying advances at K2025

At K2025, **Herbold Meckesheim**, which is part of Coperion, showcased its SMS 80-200 granulator – the largest model in the series – which is built for demanding applications. It integrates energy-efficient double cross-cutting action and pre-adjustable rotor and bed knives to produce high-quality regrind with minimal fines and consistent particle size distribution. A hinged housing and quick knife change system help to reduce downtime and operational costs.



throughput rates, while the energy consumption is unchanged.

Standard machine extensions like the vibro-feeder or mounting bracket for the vacuum feeder blend into one compact machine concept. Meanwhile, all parts offer good accessibility. The machine also has an optimised door lock, which operates efficiently and with less space requirements. Cables, connections and sensors are now housed in one central

processing unit, while the control unit for the water injection is now placed in a dust-proof, splash-proof housing.

The clear design and the compact construction offer simple operation as well as easy maintenance for customers, says the company.

Online flow

Hellweg Maschinenbau has begun integrating an online flow measurement system called Smart Flow into its products.

It complements information already available via Hellweg's Smart Control system for bearing temperatures, speed and power consumption. Together, they provide a basis for Hellweg's next step: integration of self-learning AI modules. These will calculate the optimum ratio between material properties, feed and required power during granulator operation. The control system will then independently regulate the machine parameters to maximise energy efficiency without human intervention.

"The importance of the grinding process for successful recycling is still far too often underestimated," said Mark Hellweg, managing director of Hellweg.

The energy consumption of the granulators used for this purpose is not specified on the type plate. It is a free variable that can be adjusted to the requirements of a specific material flow at any given time. Digitalisation of the relevant parameters, including mass flow, is necessary for AI to carry out the optimisation to reduce energy consumption and contribute to a reduced carbon footprint of the granulators, he said.

The core of Smart Flow is a sensor that measures the flow rate (bulk flow) without contact and is positioned in the riser pipe of the extraction piping. Its data is transmitted to the Smart Control system, where it is processed and displayed in the form of the (extrapolated) mass ground per hour as a

Large scale

A forced feeding system – via three horizontally mounted screws – enables a high throughput of PET and rigid plastics, making it ideal for large-scale recycling. The SMS series is optimised for a range of materials and ideal for the size reduction of standard applications in the recycling industry, as well as special processing needs – such as heavy lumps, thin films, or substantial amounts of material.

Also at the event, the company's latest innovation, the T 150-300 mechanical dryer, debuted in a new size. It has a fully redesigned construction, including a rotating sieve basket with integrated water spray nozzles for full-coverage cleaning and a centrifugal drying chamber for rapid moisture removal.

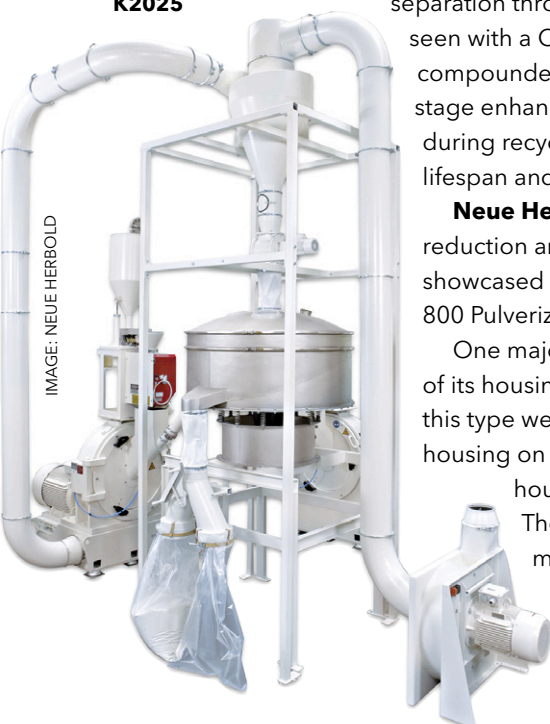
At Coperion and Herbold's recycling pavilion, a Herbold hydrocyclone separation stage – a key component designed to deliver precise material separation through centrifugal forces – was seen with a Coperion ZSK FilCo filtration compounder. Herbold's hydrocyclone stage enhances the purification of plastics during recycling, extending equipment lifespan and improving product quality.

Neue Herbold, which offers size reduction and recycling machinery, showcased its recently re-engineered ZM 800 Pulverizer at K2025.

One major update is the optimisation of its housing. In the past, machines of this type were made with a round housing on a platform – but now the new housing has a curved design.

The reason for this is that the material's angular momentum is used for the discharge, as it is pre-accelerated for the subsequent air conveyance. This results in higher

Below: Neue Herbold showcased its re-engineered ZM 800 Pulverizer at K2025



measure of the machine's current performance.

The reliability, precision and repeatability of the data generated by Smart Flow is based on the sensor's operating mode, which uses microwave technology to measure bulk flow. The signal generated by the Doppler effect reflects changes in particle concentration and velocity, enabling an early response. Thanks to contactless measurement, the sensor requires no maintenance.

New releases

Rapid Granulator introduced several new products at K2025 - including its largest granulator yet.

Designed for high-volume, industrial-grade recycling, the 800 Series is optimised for wet granulation applications. It uses an efficient scissor-cut system that reduces wear and saves energy during cutting, while a reversible screen further extends service life and operational uptime.

"The 800 Series is the pinnacle of granulation technology for Rapid," said Anders Martensson, Sales and Marketing Director at Rapid. "It is our largest and most powerful granulator, and introduces a level of operator safety not yet seen in this industry."

It allows for knife changes from the back of the machine, keeping operators at a safe distance from the rotor and eliminating the need to work within the cutting chamber.

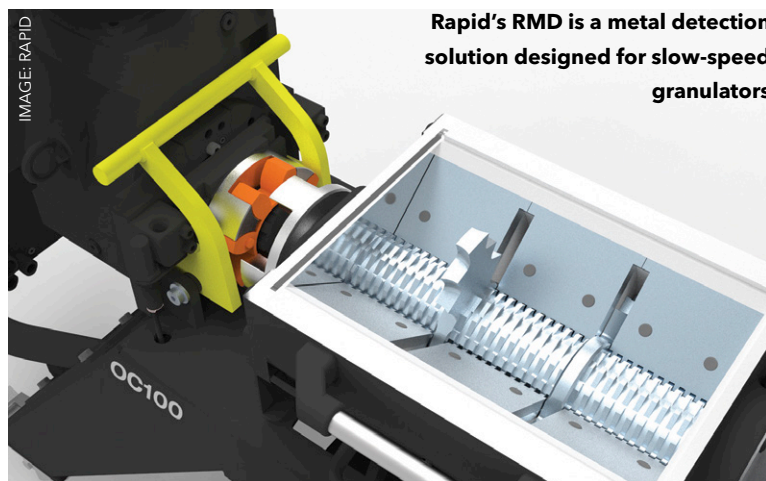
The company has also expanded its GT series with the GT1600, which is designed to handle skeletal waste streams from thermoforming processes.

Rapid has also taken a step forward in digital production monitoring with its latest innovation, called Predict, which gives operators instant insights into how their granulators are performing. This can help them perform tasks such as material feeding, operational adjustments, and energy-optimised performance improvements at the production source, to speed up decision-making.

Finally, its RMD (rapid metal detection) is a safety solution designed for slow-speed granulators. It instantly halts the rotor as soon as metal is detected - safeguarding the interface between fixed and rotating knives - without interrupting production.

RMD is fully integrated into the granulator, remaining hidden and non-intrusive. Unlike conventional metal detectors, it protects where it matters most, before contaminants reach the cutting chamber, says Rapid. This prevents costly damage to the rotor and knives while minimising downtime and maintaining process continuity.

Italy-based **Previero Sorema** says it continues to evolve its solutions to meet the real needs of plastics recyclers. The latest upgrades to MU 916



and MU 920 granulators "are a clear expression of this approach, combining reliability, ease of use, and enhanced safety to support increasingly demanding production environments", said the company at the Plast show in June.

Simple maintenance

The new versions offer more stable and consistent performance over time, helping operators achieve high-quality output while optimizing operational efficiency, it said. Maintenance has also been made simpler and more accessible. The updated machine structure allows for faster interventions, reducing downtime and making routine operations smoother and more intuitive for operators.

Previero said a key strength of the upgraded MU 916 PRH2 and MU 920 PRH2 lies in their flexibility. A wide range of optional features enables each machine to be tailored to specific processing needs, whether dealing with different types of plastic materials or operating in particularly demanding conditions. These options are designed to extend component lifespan, improve durability, and ensure long-term performance.

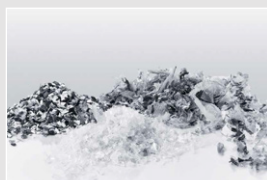
Safety has also been a central focus in the development of these upgrades. New solutions have been introduced to provide greater control during maintenance activities, giving operators increased confidence when working on the machine and contributing to a safer overall working environment.

CLICK ON THE LINKS FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- > www.cmg-granulators.com
- > www.herbold.com
- > <https://neue-herbold.com>
- > <https://weima.com>
- > www.hellweg-maschinenbau.de
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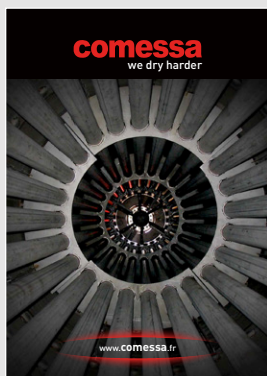
RECYCLING TECHNOLOGY
FOR POST-CONSUMER PLASTICS
circular economy, recycling and upcycling, customized separation quality for highly contaminated and printed plastics, color reduction technology, food contact materials, rigid and flexible

Starlinger

Starlinger Recycling Technology provides a comprehensive view of its plastics recycling technologies in this brochure, covering all materials and formats, plus its plant expertise.

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COMESSA: THERMAL TREATMENT OF SOLIDS



www.comessa.fr

COMESSA is specialized in drying, cooling, calcining of particles. This brochure introduces you to an overview of its technologies applied to polymer, chemical, battery, agri-food, fertilizer, mineral and recycling industries.

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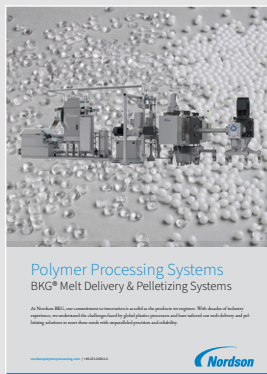
BB ENGINEERING: RECYCLING SYSTEMS



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BB Engineering explains in this brochure how its technologies recycle PET into fibre and pellets, covering its VacuFil recycling systems, Visco+ vacuum filter, VarioFil R/R + compact spinning lines, extruders and more.

NORDSON BKG: MELT DELIVERY



Polymer Processing Systems
BKG® Melt Delivery & Pelletizing Systems

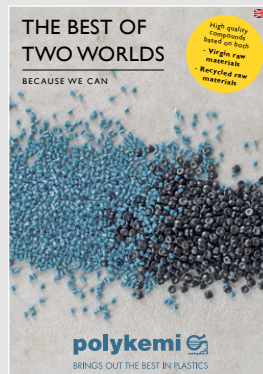
As Nordson BKG, our commitment to innovation is visible in the products we engineer. With decades of industry experience, we understand the challenges faced by global plastic processors and have tailored our melt delivery and pelletizing solutions to meet their needs with superior precision and reliability.

Nordson

The technology portfolio of Nordson BKG, part of Nordson Polymer Processing Systems, includes a full range of melt filtration systems, melt pumps, polymer valves and jet cleaners plus pelletising systems, all detailed in this brochure.

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POLYKEMI: COMPOUNDS



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Polykemi's engineering compounds based on virgin and recycled materials can be used in applications ranging from housings and panels to vehicle carriers and grilles, as shown in case studies in this brochure.

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Plastics Recycling World July/August 2026

In its cover feature, Plastics Recycling World's July-August edition looks at technology for the critical role of washing in a recycling line. The other features in this edition explore polyurethane and chemical recycling.

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Plastics Recycling World May/June 2026

Car companies in Europe are ramping up recycled plastics projects, as shown in the cover feature of Plastics Recycling World's May-June edition. Other articles look at shredder technology, compatibilizer additives and the Plast 2026 show.

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Injection World July/August 2026

The ability of thermoplastics to break new ground in medical moulding is explored in the main feature of this edition of Injection World. Other articles cover recent developments in 3D printing and bio-based materials.

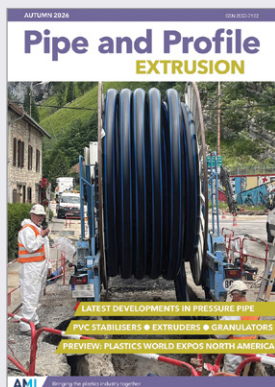
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Compounding World September 2026

Compound fillers derived from natural feedstocks are becoming more common, as detailed in the main feature of Compounding World's September edition. There is also a Preview of Compounding & Recycling Expo in Frankfurt and the latest in pigments and light stabilisers.

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Pipe and Profile Extrusion Autumn 2026

The cover feature of Pipe and Profile Extrusion's Autumn edition looks at pressure pipe companies winning praise for their work. The issue also contains features on the latest in extruder and recycling technologies, plus PVC stabilisers.

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Film and Sheet Extrusion September 2026

Film & Sheet Extrusion's September edition explores the impact of AI technology on masterbatch development, innovations in multilayer film, developments in plasticisers and new materials handling equipment.

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GLOBAL EXHIBITION GUIDE

2026	23-24 September	Compounding & Recycling Expo, Frankfurt, Germany	https://eu.compoundingworldexpo.com
	12-16 October	Fakuma, Friedrichshafen, Germany	www.fakuma-messe.de
	3-5 November	PU China, Shanghai, China	www.puchina.eu
	3-6 November	Ecomondo, Rimini, Italy	www.ecomondo.com
	10-13 November	Plastimagen, Mexico	www.plastimagen.com
	11-12 November	Plastics Recycling World Expo, Cleveland, US	www.na.plasticsrecyclingworldexpo.com
	1-5 December	IPF Japan, Chiba	www.ipfjapan.jp
	2-5 December	Plasteurasia, Istanbul, Turkey	https://plasteurasia.com
	14-16 December	RACE, Mumbai, India	www.raceexpos.com
2027	2-4 March	JEC World, Paris, France	www.jec-world.events
	7-8 April	Textiles Recycling Expo, Charlotte, NC, USA	www.textilesrecyclingexpo.com/usa
	13-16 April	Chinaplas, Shenzhen, China	www.chinaplasonline.com
	20-22 April	UTech Europe, Maastricht, Netherlands	www.utecheurope.eu
	27-29 April	Plast-Alger, Algiers, Algeria	www.plastalger.com
	3-7 May	NPE 2027	www.npe.org
	11-12 May	Moulding Expo, Stuttgart, Germany	www.moulding-expo.de

AMI CONFERENCES

3-4 November 2026	Fire Resistance in Plastics, Düsseldorf, Germany
24-25 November 2026	Flexible Pack Recycling, Vienna, Austria
1-2 December 2026	Polymer Engineering for Energy, London, UK
8-10 December 2026	Wind Turbine Blades, Düsseldorf, Germany
8-9 December 2026	Stretch and Shrink Film North America
24-25 February 2027	PVC Formulation, Charlotte, NC, USA
2-4 March 2027	Cables Europe, Düsseldorf, Germany
20-22 April 2027	Stretch and Shrink Film, Málaga, Spain
1-3 June 2027	Global FilmTech Forum, Savannah, GA, 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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