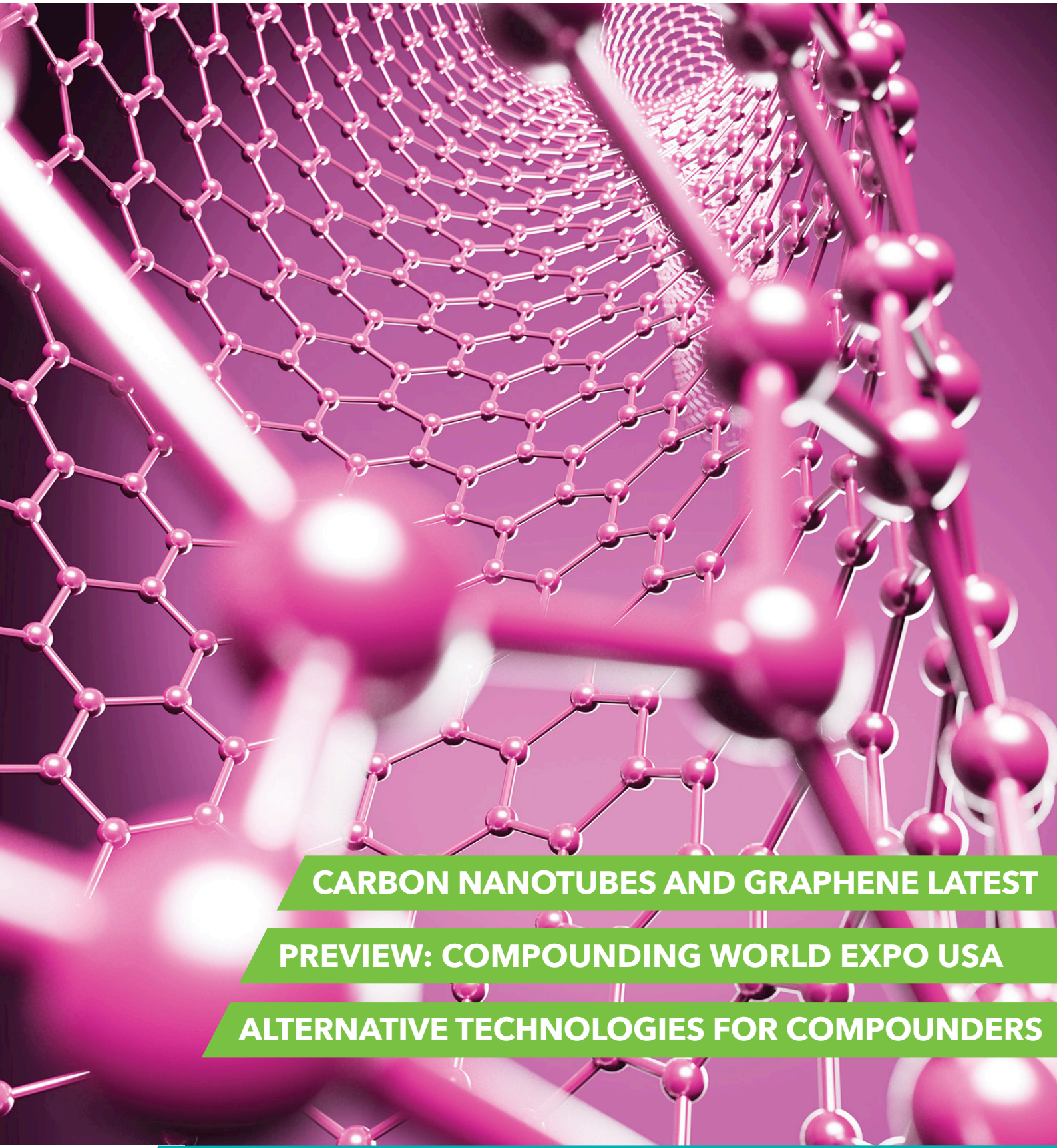
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Compounding WORLD



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COVER PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK



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Borouge opens PP compounding plant

Borouge International, the petrochemical giant recently formed from the combination of Borouge, Borealis, and Nova Chemicals, has started commercial operation of its specialty polypropylene (PP) compounding facility in Schwechat, Austria. The start-up follows an investment of more than €100m to expand and upgrade the site and further boosts the company's manufacturing footprint in Europe.

IMAGE: BOROUGE



Borouge executives at the opening ceremony in Schwechat with federal minister Wolfgang Hattmannsdorfer (third from left) and Johanna Mikl-Leitner, Governor of Lower Austria (third from right)

"Strengthening Borouge International's European industrial base is essential to maintaining competitiveness, resilience and future growth," said Roger Kearns, CEO, Borouge International. "The Schwechat expansion adds important capability to our asset base and reinforces Austria's role as a strategic hub for Borouge International. It is an investment in our future that strengthens our position in attractive markets and creates long-term value for our stakeholders."

At the new facility, PP resins are compounded with recycled material and performance-enhancing additives to create tailored material solutions that combine lightweight design, optimised performance, and increased circularity.

The expansion increases the availability of specialty PP compounds for key growth sectors including mobility, where more circular materials help car manufacturers meet the requirements of the EU End-of-Life Vehicles Regulation.

› **www.borougeinternational.com**

Mocom appoints new CEO

Dirk Sadowski has succeeded Jens Kaatze as CEO of Mocom Compounds, part of the Otto Krahn Group headquartered in Hamburg, Germany.

Kaatze has headed the company since May 2023 and is leaving Mocom by mutual agreement.

Sadowski has been a member of Mocom's management team since September 2020, most recently serving as Co-Managing Director and CFO.

His appointment ensures continuity at the top of the compounds producer. According to the company, his key priorities will include further operational development and transformation.

› **www.mocom.eu**

New Adeka clarifier plant

Japanese chemical company Adeka is building a new manufacturing plant for the Transparex clarifier additive at the Jeonju No. 3 Plant of its consolidated subsidiary Adeka Korea in Wanju-gun, South Korea.

The site, which was acquired in 2018, currently houses manufacturing facilities for semiconductor materials.

Adeka launched Transparex in November 2024 with the aim of advancing the use of polypropylene as a mono-material solution.

Adeka claims it can deliver excellent transparency at a low dosage while maintaining performance during recycling, as well as offering superior heat and chemical resistance.

Transparex has been adopted for a growing range of applications, including food packaging, medical products, automotive components, and consumer goods.

This is Adeka Korea's first capital investment in polymer additives manufacturing facilities in nine years.

› **www.adeka.co.jp**

TotalEnergies takes control of French plant

As part of the restructuring of Plastic Energy's shareholding, TotalEnergies has agreed to acquire its 35% interest in the Grandpuits chemical recycling plant in France making it sole owner.

The plant, located in Seine-et-Marne, started production in March 2026 and can process 15,000 tonnes/yr. It transforms hard-to-recycle plastic waste into pyrolysis oil.

In 2023, TotalEnergies signed an agreement with French partners Citeo and Paprec to secure the plant's long-term supply.

› **https://totalenergies.com**

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BASF in talks for possible acquisition of Evonik

BASF has held exploratory talks with RAG-Stiftung and Evonik regarding a potential takeover of the German chemical company.

At the time of writing, the content and outcome of the talks remain unconfirmed, but BASF has said that as part of its corporate strategy, it "continuously evaluates the strategic option of acquisitions that strengthen its core businesses, deliver a strong strategic fit, drive profitable growth and create value".

Meanwhile, Evonik has announced further restructuring, saying its business portfolio will be set up according to roles, and



specific tasks will be assigned to its major sites throughout Germany.

"We will change old structures and position ourselves better," said Evonik interim CEO Claus Rettig. "Even in this crisis, many parts of our business are growing. We will therefore concentrate growth on our strengths, on the right future topics, and on the most lucrative markets."

It said it plans to close two smaller sites in Germany: at its Hamburg site, around 50 employees currently supply products for the cosmetics and personal care industry; and in Bitterfeld, around 40 employees produce chlorosilanes. These businesses will continue, concentrated mainly at larger German sites.

At the same time Evonik is planning targeted investments in growth markets such as Canada and Slovakia. It said financial leeway for these investments is to be attained through the Evonik Tailor Made restructuring program, reducing the group's cost base. As part of this program, 3,200 jobs will be cut worldwide, including around 2,150 in Germany.

› **www.basf.com**
› **www.evonik.com**

Rowasol's bio-based carrier

German additive producer Rowasol has launched a special bio-based carrier system made from plant-based raw materials for single-use cutlery and straws.

All common thermoplastics can be coloured using liquid universal carrier systems, and most liquid colours are manufactured at room temperature which prevents thermal damage and ensures very low energy consumption and a small carbon footprint during production.

› **https://rowa-group.com**

Struktol launches new additive

Struktol has issued TR 451, specifically designed for use in highly loaded mineral filled polyolefins.

Engineered as an optimised blend of special oleo chemicals, the additive helps compounders meet demanding performance and cost targets in high-filler systems by improving homogenisation and processing efficiency.

TR 451 is formulated to enable the effective use of untreated minerals while maintaining the processing and physical property characteristics typically associated with treated minerals.

Even when using untreated fillers, TR 451 helps retain key mechanical properties such as strength and durability.

› **www.struktol.com**

Functional additive technologies

Americhem has launched two complementary PFAS-free functional additive technologies designed to engineer performance within the polymer matrix.

"Manufacturers are increasingly looking for material solutions that solve multiple performance challenges without adding manufacturing complexity," said Parminder Agarwal, Chief Technology Officer at Americhem. "nPure and nZorb demonstrate how masterbatch formulation, polymer compatibility, and fibre processing work together to deliver application-specific functionality."

The new additive products help customers engineer odour control and moisture management into fibre and nonwoven products, while supporting processing efficiency and scalable commercial manufacturing.

› **www.Americhem.com**

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IN BRIEF...

CPM, the US-based technology group, has announced that Jeremy Patten has joined the company as CEO. Patten most recently served as President of Modine's Performance Technologies segment.
https://onecpm.com

Nordmann is expanding its portfolio through a new partnership with Turkish company **Politem** and now distributes its compounds in the Benelux countries, Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), the DACH region, France and the Nordic countries.
www.nordmann.global

Azelis is extending its distribution agreement with **Imerys** across Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Moldova, Bulgaria, Serbia, North Macedonia, Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.
www.azelis.com

Polyblend converts line to include recyclate


IMAGE: TOTAL ENERGIES

Polyblend, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Total Energies, has announced the Final Investment Decision for the conversion of an existing polyolefins compounding line at its site in Bad Sobernheim, Germany.

The €4m project will expand the production of compounds incorporating mechanically recycled materials in anticipation of forthcoming European circularity requirements in the automotive sector such as the proposed End-of-Life Vehicles Regulation which is expected to introduce mandatory recycled-content targets for new vehicles. The converted line is expected to start operations at the end of 2027 with a capacity to produce up to 15,000 tonnes/yr.

"This investment is a tangible demonstration of our ambition to accelerate the development of circular polymers and expand our portfolio of recycled solutions," said Michel Cassart, Polyblend Site Director. "By leveraging existing industrial infrastructure, we can optimise resources used while maximising the efficiency of our investments and position Polyblend as a key partner in the circular economy."

PP compounds produced by Polyblend are used in a wide range of automotive applications, including engine parts (air conditioning, air filters), interior components (door panels, consoles, dashboards, trim) and exterior components (bumpers, autobody parts).
› **https://totalenergies.com**

Renolit says new mixing plant is imminent

PVC group Renolit has said that construction work on a new €56m mixing plant at its headquarters in Worms, Germany, is progressing according to plan.

The improvements aim to increase cost-effectiveness through a higher degree of automation which allows critical parameters such as speed, time, temperature and sequence, to be monitored and repeated. A properly developed control strategy can reduce operator variability while providing the flexibility needed to accommodate multiple formulations.


IMAGE: RENOLIT

The plant under construction in Worms, Germany

"With this investment, we are safeguarding the long-term performance of our main plant," said Dr Michael Bätz, Plant Manager at Renolit's headquarters. "The new facility enables us to make our production processes more efficient whilst significantly improving working conditions for our staff through modern ergonomic and logistics concepts."

Structural work is due to be completed by December while installation of new equipment will begin shortly before.
› **https://renolit.com**

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TechnoCompound expands LGF capacity

In response to growing demand for long-glass-fibre-reinforced compounds, TechnoCompound is carrying out an expansion at its Bad Sobernheim site in Germany.

The work is being conducted without making significant changes to the processes or altering the technical concept of the existing facilities, with the new production line scheduled to be operational by the second quarter of 2027.



IMAGE: TECHNOCOMPOUND

"By further expanding our production capacity in the LGF sector, we are making a targeted investment in TechnoCompound's future," said Sales Manager Rifat Erden. "The expansion, which will add a further 4,800 tonnes per year, is our response to the steadily growing demand for high-performance, long-glass-fibre-reinforced compounds."

The compounds contain 25-60% PCR material.

› **www.technocompound.com**

Syklo boosts circularity

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%.

These pellets are a raw material for the neighbouring biocomposite facility.

› **www.syklo.com**



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Syensqo invests in India's growth market

Syensqo is investing in a new compounding line for high-performance aromatic polymers at its Panoli site in India, strengthening the company's ability to serve customers in one of the world's fastest-growing automotive markets.

"India is an important growth market for high-performance polymers, particularly as the automotive industry continues to localise and adopt more advanced material solutions," said Tom Wood, VP Product and Asset Manager at Syensqo. "By bringing compounding capacity closer to our customers, we can respond more quickly and efficiently to their evolving needs while offering greater flexibility across our aromatics portfolio."

Planned to be operational by Q1 2028, the new line will double Syensqo's current compounding capacity at Panoli and be the first asset in a modular compounding hub designed to provide increased flexibility.

It will be capable of compounding a broad range of materials, including Ryton PPS, KetaSpire PEEK, Amodel PPA and Ixef PARA, allowing Syensqo to adapt production as customer and market needs evolve.

› **www.syensqo.com**

New Coperion K-Tron process visualisation system

Coperion K-Tron has launched the K-Vision-III, the latest generation of its proven feeder line control and process visualisation system. Completely redesigned with a state-of-the-art hardware platform and modern software architecture, it provides faster and more responsive processing, enhanced connectivity, and an intuitive user experience.

The K-Vision-III allows for centralised monitoring of up to 24 individual KCM feeder control modules on a single process line and introduces advanced recipe management capabilities that streamline process setup and operation.

Ethernet-based communication protocols are supported, said the company.

› **https://coperion.com**

Farrel Pomini signs deal in India

In a move that will provide cable manufacturers in India with a coordinated processing solution spanning compounding through extrusion, compounding machinery group Farrel Pomini has entered into a strategic agreement with Indian company Supermac Industries.

"India is an important and growing market for Farrel Pomini," said Paul Lloyd, President of Farrel Corporation. "Our cooperation with Supermac brings together strong complementary capabilities and provides cable customers with access to proven compounding technology alongside extrusion solutions."

The partnership combines Farrel Pomini's global technology and engineering expertise with Supermac's network.

› **www.farrel-pomini.com**
› **www.supermacindia.com**

Polyfil USA expands headquarters facility



Groundbreaking ceremony Rockaway, New Jersey

IMAGE: POLYFIL

Masterbatch producer Polyfil USA has begun a $12m redevelopment of its headquarters in Rockaway, New Jersey.

The project includes a 2,601 m² addition to the existing 5,482 m² facility, as well as a significant investment in new compounding equipment. The new wing of the facility is slated to be operational next year.

"When we first envisioned increasing our manufacturing space, we knew the road ahead would be challenging – government approvals, environmental regulations, and the complexity of the permitting process, tested our resolve," said Juan Castaneda, Managing Director of Polyfil.

Upon completion, the newly updated headquarters will feature increased production capacity, more than double the amount of laboratories, employee training facilities, modern logistics capabilities, and next-generation manufacturing technologies.

› **https://polyfilinc.com**

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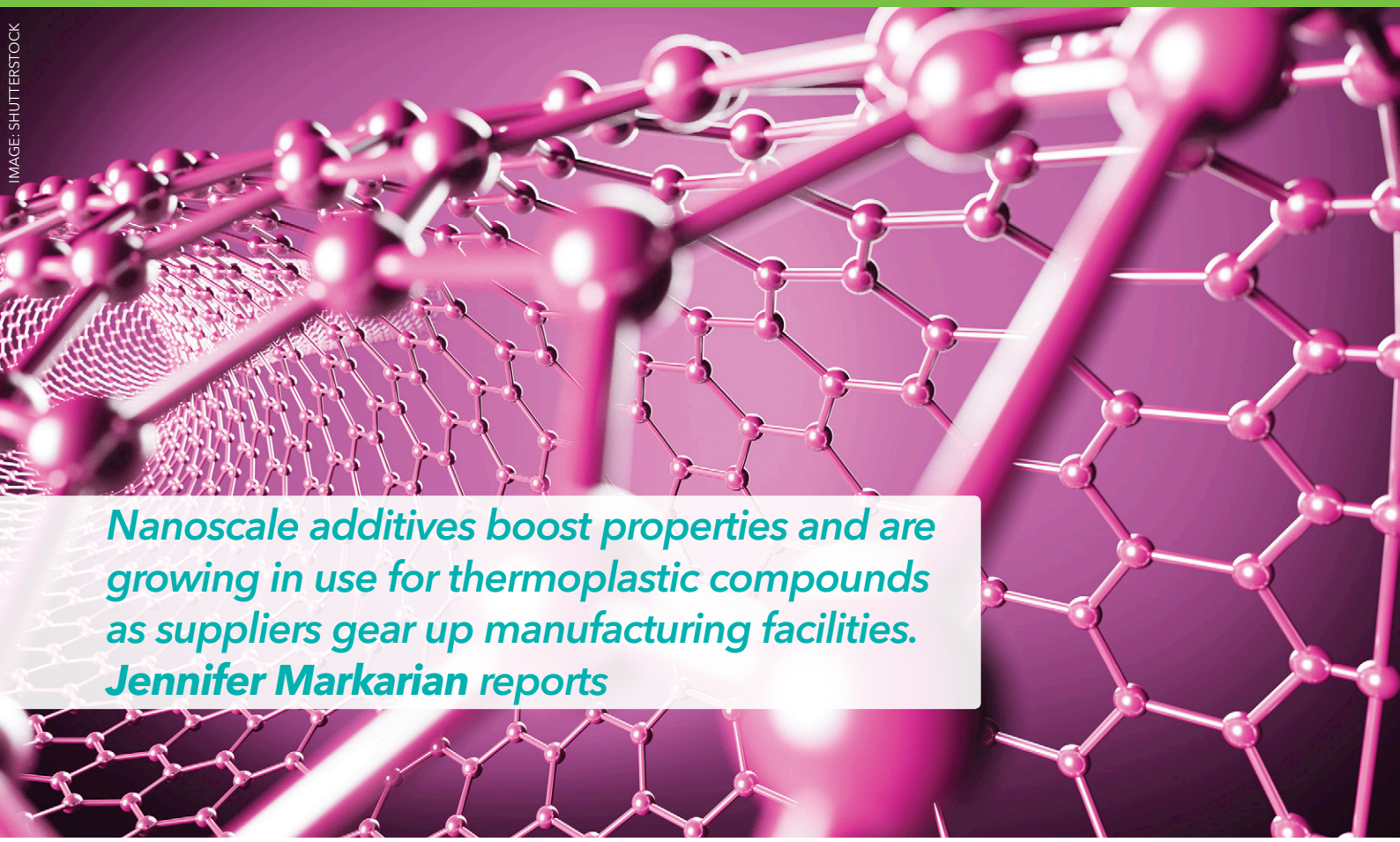


IMAGE: SHUTTERSTOCK

Nanoscale additives boost properties and are growing in use for thermoplastic compounds as suppliers gear up manufacturing facilities. Jennifer Markarian reports

Carbon nanotubes and graphene in perspective

Nanomaterials such as carbon nanotubes (CNTs) and graphene provide powerful performance at very low loadings for conductivity and mechanical properties. With proven benefits in thermoplastic nanocomposite applications, growing demand is driving industrial development and capacity expansion. Compounding technique is key for these additives, because dispersion is important for conductivity and the additives can be challenging to deagglomerate and disperse.

"The conversation is shifting from nanotechnology to compounding," said Alvin Orbaek White, founder of CNT producer **TrimTabs**, which can produce multi-wall carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs), single wall carbon nanotubes (SWCNTs), and nitrogen-doped CNTs for research, development and industrial applications.

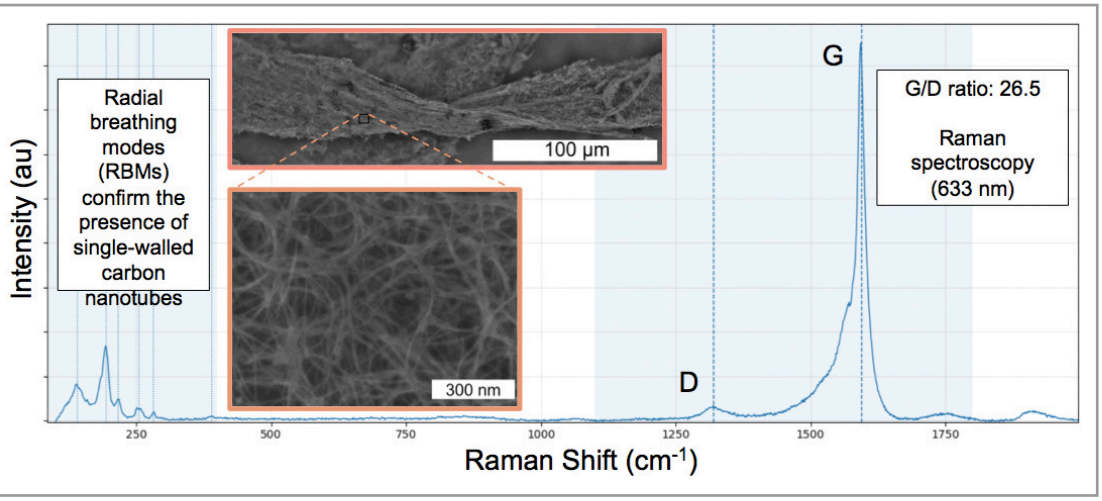
"The question is no longer simply what extraordinary properties a nanotube has in isolation, but what useful function it can deliver in a real polymer system, at practical loading levels, without compromising processing or consistency," he said. "Dispersion, compatibility with the polymer, repeatability and ease of processing ultimately determine whether that performance survives into the finished component."

The company's patented process is a low-cost, low-energy, continuous method that is designed to run commercially in small-volume facilities to provide localized production.

"We are continuing to develop a distributed manufacturing model designed to support sovereign CNT production, with compact production systems that could ultimately be deployed closer to where the material is needed," said Orbaek. "The longer-term aim is to give manufacturers and regions greater flexibility in where they produce their critical advanced materials."

The company is moving into a new, 15,000-sq ft Innovation Centre in Neath, Wales. Orbaek said the new facility provides more space for CNT production, application development and customer engagement.

SWCNTs – also called graphene nanotubes,



Raman spectroscopy and scanning electron microscopy of TrimTabs single-walled carbon nanotubes. Raman analysis shows characteristic radial breathing modes and a G/D ratio of 26.5, while SEM imaging illustrates the nanotube morphology.

Source: TrimTabs

which helps distinguish them from MWCNTs – are being used in thermoplastic compounds at ultralow loadings to combine permanent electrical conductivity with low weight, high durability, and good mechanical performance, while also maintaining processability, colour versatility and the ability to produce complex shapes, say experts at Luxembourg-based producer **OCSiAl**.

The use of SWCNTs is driven by increasing demand for lightweight and energy-efficient solutions, ESD and ATEX safety, metal replacement, and more sustainable and recyclable materials, the company said. "These requirements are particularly strong in automotive and EVs, electronics, industrial equipment, aerospace, UAVs, robotics, AI infrastructure and other high-performance applications," they added.

Graphene production

OCSiAl, which synthesizes Tuball single-wall carbon nanotubes, is expanding capacity to meet demand. The company announced that it would build a graphene nanotube production centre in Differdange, Luxembourg, which the company said will become the world's largest graphene nanotube production facility, with SWCNT synthesis capacity of up to 320 tonnes per year. The planned investment is approximately $300m, and construction is expected to begin in 2027. Plans also include a research centre and facilities for students from technical schools and universities, the company said.

The company currently operates a synthesis unit in Serbia, which started up in 2024. To meet growing global demand, the company is building a second nanotube synthesis unit at the site, which will double its production area and quadruple its SWCNT synthesis capacity to approximately 300 tonnes per year.

The company provides its SWCNTs for polymer applications in powder, pellet, and nanotube-based pre-dispersed concentrates in paste, flakes or pellet form.

Graphene is another carbon-based nanomaterial used for its electrical and thermal conductivity and mechanical properties. While CNTs are tube-shaped, graphene is a flat sheet that can be single-layer or multi-layer. Multi-layer graphene forms like graphene nanoplatelets (GNPs) are used in commercial thermoplastic nanocomposites as well as in energy storage and electronics applications.

Thermoplastics that provide electromagnetic interference (EMI) shielding and electrical and thermal conductivity at lighter weight than metals are increasingly being used in multiple applications. Hyperscale infrastructure spending on AI data centres is driving growth of engineering thermoplastics into servers, connectors, substrates, and thermal paths, where both EMI shielding and heat dissipation from the same component, reported Bruno Figueiredo, co-CEO and founder of **Graphenest**. As a result, companies are turning to additives like graphene that provide this multi-functionality. "A carbon-black-loaded compound provides conductivity and nothing else; a 2D or 1D nanofiller can be argued to provide shielding, thermal conduction, and mechanical retention simultaneously: three line items, one addition rate," explained Figueiredo.

Another growing area is automotive, where radar housings are switching from metal to thermally conductive compounds, he said.

In addition, the frequency used in communications systems is increasing and enclosures are becoming more compact, which means the thickness of shielding must decrease, Figueiredo said. Graphene is one way to meet this challenge.

The latest product from GNP producer **NanoXplore** is GnP D500, a high-purity graphene powder engineered for highly conductive applications. It is produced with NanoXplore's proprietary dry-pro-



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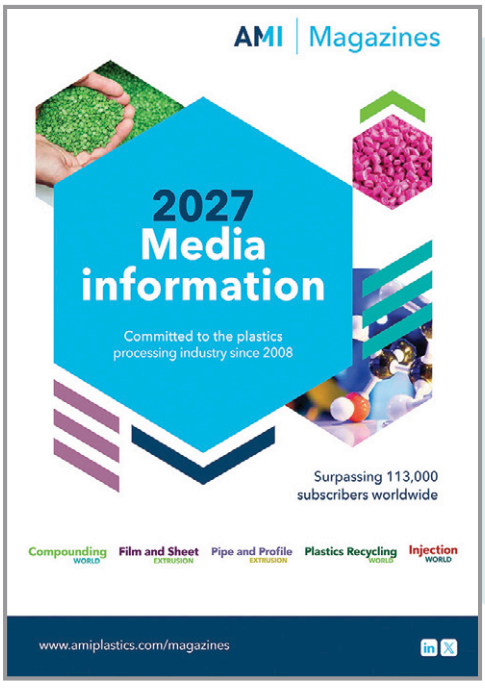
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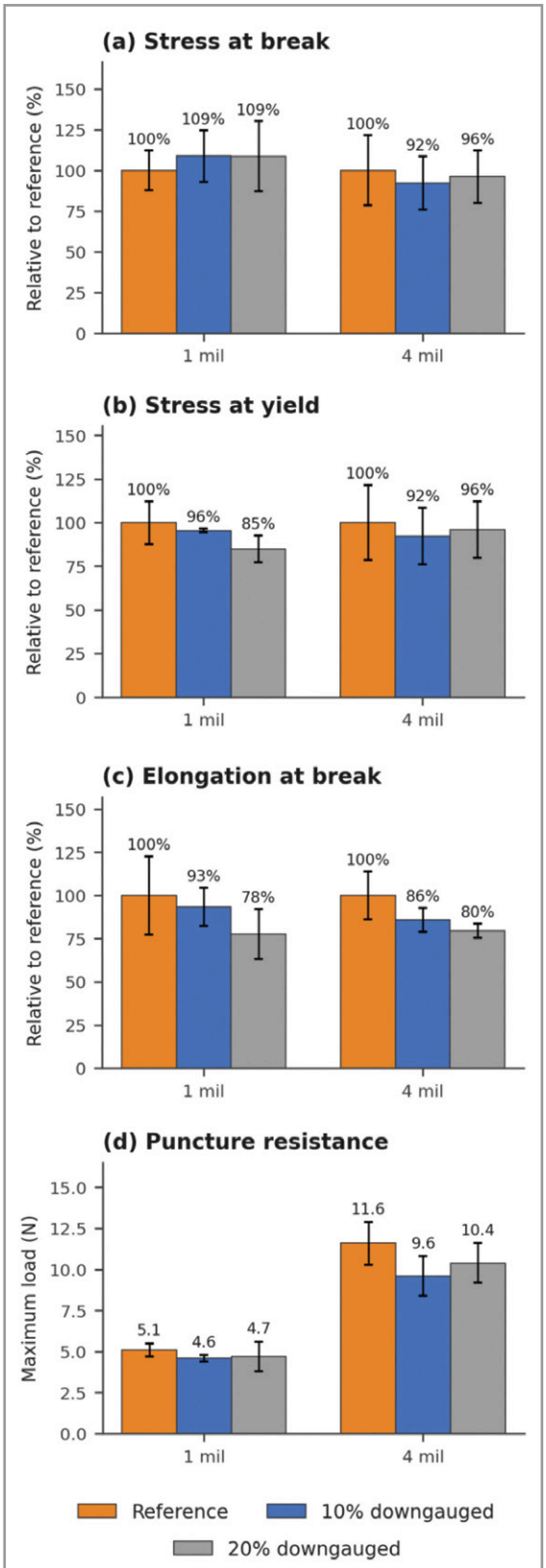
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Mechanical performance of PE films reinforced with NanoExplore's xGnP graphene (1% LDR) at 10% and 20% gauge reductions versus full-gauge references, for 1-mil and 4-mil structures: (a) tensile stress at break; (b) tensile stress at yield; (c) elongation at break (all relative to reference); (d) puncture resistance as maximum compressive load (N).
Source: NanoExplore

cess manufacturing platform. Grades in the product line designated with -HP are high purity energy storage grades for battery applications, while other grades in the line are designed for composites and polymers.

"With a surface area of 500 m²/g, at the high end of commercial-scale graphene powders, D500-HP delivers electrical conductivity and static-dissipation (ESD) performance comparable to leading conductive carbon blacks, while providing more than twice the flexural (bending) strength and stiffness," the company reported. The product is being qualified by customers, and the company expects initial commercial shipments next year. NanoXplore will also be offering masterbatch forms of the new D500 grades.

"For years, conductive additives have forced customers to choose between strength and conductivity, and graphene alternatives have been priced out of mainstream use. The D500-HP breaks both constraints," said Rocco Marinaccio, President and CEO of NanoXplore.

NanoXplore continues to make progress on the scale-up of its dry-process production line. Installation of the first production module, including mechanical and electrical work, has been completed and is in final stages of commissioning. Full ramp-up is expected this year. Depending on product grade, the line is designed to deliver annual production capacity of 500 to 1,000 tonnes, supporting industrial-scale supply of D500-HP and future grades in the xGnP D-series.

Some users balance properties and processability using blends of conductive additives. Combinations of graphene with conductive carbon black or CNTs are becoming increasingly common from both a cost and performance perspective, said Nima Moghimian, CTO at NanoXplore. The combination of different shapes and geometries, such as the sheet structure of graphene with the dendritic structure of carbon black, creates synergy that helps improve overall electrical conductivity, he explained. Blends with graphene also help manage processability because pure conductive carbon black or CNTs can be limiting for viscosity, he suggested.

NanoXplore currently produces high-surface-area GrapheneBlack xGnP, and this year announced the commercial launch of a new GrapheneBlack xGnP masterbatch in partnership with **Techmer PM**. The masterbatch is designed for high-performance plastic film applications, in which it may enable thickness reduction of up to 20% while fully maintaining tensile, tear, and puncture performance, the companies reported. In the past,

cost-effective dispersion of graphene in thin films has been a challenge, but Techmer PM's advanced dispersion technology, Techsperse, ensures optimal graphene distribution for consistent and repeatable properties.

The companies recently reported results from a study that identified optimal dosing of the xGnP masterbatch for a 1-mil PE film and then compared physical properties of this reference film with 10% and 20% downgauging. The optimal let-down ratio was 1%.

"The optimal dose is also close to the minimal dose, keeping additive cost per kilogram of film low, and at these low let-down ratios the impact on the rest of the formulation (density, slip/antiblock balance, pigmentation) is negligible," the authors wrote in a white paper. The additive improves both strength and elongation (eg, toughness) and more than doubled thickness-normalized puncture resistance. These improvements allow downgauging. In addition, the study found that graphene is most effective in thinner films, because the higher shear and elongational stresses produced during thin film production break residual agglomerates, improving stress transfer.

UK capacity expansion

Ontario, Canada-headquartered **Black Swan Graphene** completed a production expansion at its facility located in Consett, UK this spring that more than tripled its annual production capacity to more than 140 tonnes of graphene nanoplatelets. The expansion will support production of Black Swan's GraphCore GNPs, which serves as the foundation of the company's Graphene Enhanced Masterbatch (GEM) products, targeted for polymer nanocomposites. The masterbatch format removes barriers associated with dispersion and compatibility, the company said.

The new commercial facility uses a GEA industrial homogenizer specifically customized for Black Swan's proprietary high-shear liquid-phase exfoliation process. The two companies collaborated on the custom equipment over the past 12 years.

"The completion of this capacity expansion marks a major inflection point for the company," said Michael Edwards, Chief Operating Officer of Black Swan. "We have transitioned from pilot-scale development to full industrial-scale manufacturing. With this facility fully operational, we are well positioned to meet growing global demand for



consistent, scalable 'Made with GEM' solutions that are ready for immediate commercial deployment."

The company now offers a fully integrated, in-house development and production platform. Customers can "transition seamlessly from laboratory-scale testing and formulation, through R&D and pilot-scale validation, to high-volume commercial procurement," the company said. The new production system will meet growing demand and provide capacity for customer-tailored development programs.

Black Swan has a global distribution network established through strategic relationships with masterbatch compounders including Hubron International, Broadway Colours and Modern Dispersions, as well as global distributors such as Thomas Swan, Metco Resources in India, Supergrafeno in South America and Ferro in South Africa.

This spring, the company announced that it completed the acquisition of Falpaco Rubber and Plastic, a Québec-based manufacturer specializing in custom moulding of plastic and rubber components.

"This expansion into downstream manufacturing represents a natural extension of our commercialization strategy," said Simon Marcotte, President and CEO of Black Swan. "Falpaco brings industrial credibility, close customer relationships and manufacturing expertise that materially enhance our ability to deploy graphene at scale. We view this as a compelling operational and financial fit, with graphene acting as a catalyst for growth and value creation within an already well-established business. This integrated platform also enables faster iteration and deployment of graphene-enhanced solutions to market by reducing the need for prolonged joint R&D cycles and enhances the company's ability to engage with larger customers."

New US capacity

Vancouver, Canada based **HydroGraph Clean Power** is planning a large-scale US graphene production facility in Bellville, Texas. In February, the company received regulatory clearance from the US EPA for manufacture. It also received UK and EU Reach chemicals registration. The company said its "explosion synthesis" process creates graphene with "exceptional purity, low energy use and identical batches."

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IMAGE: MODOVOLO

Above: Modovolo is using Lyten's graphene-reinforced PA filaments to manufacture its Lift Quadcopter-X

Graphene into commercial thermoplastic formulations. In June, the company announced that US-based Modern Dispersions had earned certification as a qualified HydroGraph Compounding Partner. In July, Michigan, US-based Midland Compounding & Consulting received certification.

The latest from **Lyten** is a polyamide 3D printing filament that contains the company's Lyten 3D Graphene. The filament is designed for high-performance applications in automotive, aerospace and industrial applications that require high strength-to-weight performance. The material has 100% greater X-axis and Y-axis strength, 43% higher Z axis strength, and a 500% greater impact strength compared to PA12-CF, the company reported.

"We set out to unlock Z axis strength, which has been holding back additive manufacturing from the high-strength market," said Dan Cook, CEO of Lyten. "By utilizing our 3D Graphene supermaterials, our PA1205 actually improves every metric of strength without compromising on manufacturability."

One use of Lyten's filaments is in drones. Lyten collaborated with Modovolo, which has developed a modular 3D printer platform to produce aerospace-grade components at scale for its drones. Lyten's PA1205 ultra-high strength nylon-based filament has improved temperature performance and faster print speeds with minimal warping. It has higher X-Y axis tensile strength, Z-axis tensile strength and impact resistance compared to carbon-fiber based alternatives. Modovolo has been utilizing Lyten's filaments since last year to manufacture its Lift Quadcopter-X, a multi-payload, ultra lightweight drone designed to handle commercial, first responder, and defense tasks.

Insight Polymers & Compounding produces CNT masterbatches and uses CNTs and graphene, as well as conventional-scale additives, to make electrically conductive compounds. Nano-scale materials, such as CNTs and graphene, are more efficient and can be used at lower levels, with less effect on other properties, such as toughness or viscosity, said AJ Pasquale, Co-founder and Director of Operations at Insight Polymers. Current challenges, however, are that these materials are newer and their suppliers need to scale up volume, improve consistency, reduce price and bring them in line with the traditionally used materials, suggested Pasquale.

"Graphene or carbon nanotubes from one supplier could be completely different from graphene or carbon nanotubes from another supplier," he added. "There really aren't similar uniform evaluations yet for some of these developing, growing conductive additives."

Insight Polymers is experimenting with combining nano-scale materials and conventional additives to balance processing, mechanical, and impact properties that are more optimized for end-use applications that require electrical conductivity.

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IMAGE: SHUTTERSTOCK

Compounders are finding that unusual materials sometimes require unusual processes. Chris Saunders reports on alternatives to mainstream compounding technology

Alternative technologies find pathways for compounders

As compounders face growing pressure to process more recycled polymers and increasingly complex formulations, alternative compounding technologies are attracting renewed attention. Recycled feedstocks are becoming more variable, formulations are incorporating higher levels of fillers and functional additives, and processors are increasingly concerned about thermal history, energy consumption, fibre degradation, and residence-time control. These challenges are encouraging compounders to look at specialised technologies resulting not in a wholesale move away from twin-screw extrusion, but rather a growing recognition that there is no single optimum compounding process or machine and co-kneaders, continuous mixers, planetary roller extruders, and other specialised systems, can offer significant advantages where conventional twin-screw technology reaches its limits.

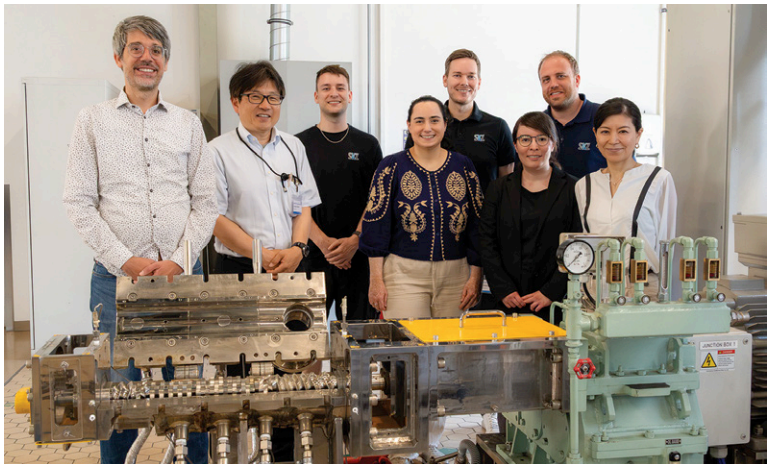
Recycled feedstocks, for example, can combine low bulk density, irregular geometry, moisture, volatile contaminants, and previous polymer degradation. In these cases, feeding capacity, surface renewal, devolatilisation and thermal management can become as important as dispersive mixing. This is creating opportunities for compounding technologies with large free volume, such as continuous mixers, or architectures designed to generate intensive melt-surface renewal, as in multi-rotation and multi-screw concepts.

"In my view, alternative compounding technologies are finding new application areas not because they are becoming more universal, but because the processing challenges themselves are becoming more specialised," said Luis Roca, Compounding Leader, **Aimplas**. "This is not about replacing the twin-screw extruder. It is about matching the machine architecture to the dominant limitation of the process."

To help explore new opportunities, the **SKZ Plastics Centre** in Germany has expanded its processing capabilities by loaning an S2KRC kneading system from **Kurimoto** which can process a wide variety of material systems in a continuous process step. Depending on the material, throughput rates ranging from 5 to 50 kg/h are possible, making the system an excellent fit for SKZ's pilot

Main image: Compounders face a puzzle when processing recyclates and bio-based materials

IMAGE: HOFFMANNBECK/SKZ



Above: Group photo of Kurimoto and SKZ representatives at the handover of the S2KRC mixer at the SKZ Technical Centre

plant. The system will be integrated into SKZ's research and development activities and be available in the future for both publicly funded projects and industrial research collaborations.

"Kurimoto's loan of the kneader represents a valuable addition to the SKZ's technical equipment," said SKZ Division Manager Johannes Rudloff. "With this technology, we can specifically expand our research and service portfolio and provide even better support to companies in the development of innovative and sustainable plastic products."

The collaboration also represents an important step for Kurimoto which sees the partnership as an opportunity to further tap into the European market and intensify the exchange between science and industry. "We are very pleased that the kneader is being used at the SKZ," said Kurimoto's Rieko Ishii. "The SKZ's expertise in the fields of processing and plastics engineering provides the ideal conditions for collaborating with interested parties to explore new applications and demonstrate the benefits of kneading technology for a wide variety of processing methods."

Continuous mixer

Another technology receiving renewed attention is the continuous mixer, which typically employs two counter-rotating, non-intermeshing rotors followed by a single-screw extruder. The mixer performs the principal melting and mixing operation, while the downstream extruder provides further homogenisation, devolatilisation and pressure build-up. This architecture gives the technology a different processing profile from a twin-screw extruder. In particular, continuous mixers can provide high free volume and controlled shear, making them attractive for formulations containing large quantities of fillers or other additives.

Research published in *Polymers* journal in 2025 * examined the influence of rotor geometry, screw design, and operating parameters in a **Farrel Pomini** Continuous Mixer processing polypropylene. The work highlighted how rotor configuration, rotational speed, feed rate, and discharge restriction, can influence residence time and melt temperature. This kind of process understanding is vital as the modern compounder increasingly needs to balance mixing intensity against polymer degradation, which is particularly relevant for recycled materials. Mechanical recycling already exposes polymers to thermal and mechanical histories, so unnecessarily aggressive processing during recompounding can further reduce molecular weight and affect mechanical properties.

The Farrel Pomini approach is also being applied to more specialised processing challenges, a recent development involving developing systems for virgin and recycled rigid PVC using its Continuous Mixer combined with a hot-feed single-screw extruder and Dry Face Pelletizer. The company says the arrangement eliminates traditional finishing stages and can reduce the temperature and pressure associated with conventional pelletising. Farrel Pomini's activities around recycling are expanding too. In January 2026, it announced that it had acquired majority ownership of WF Recycle-Tech, a company involved in end-of-life tyre pyrolysis technology which also incorporates the Continuous Mixer. This points towards an increasingly important role for continuous mixing beyond conventional polymer compounding.

Ring extruder

Sensitive materials require careful temperature control and efficient mixing, while high filler levels and extreme viscosities can make it difficult to achieve consistent dispersion. At the same time, producers must manage changing formulations, raw material variability, and increasingly demanding quality and sustainability requirements. The

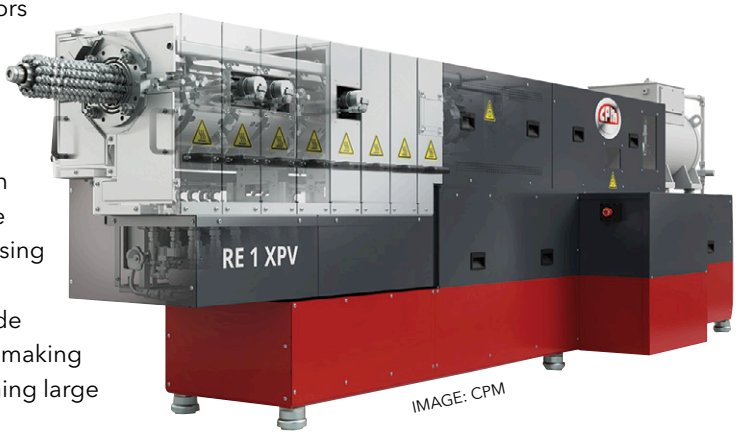


IMAGE: CPM

Right: The RingExtruder from CPM is a process transformation platform designed to help manufacturers transition to continuous production

RingExtruder from **CPM** – a process transformation platform designed to help manufacturers transition from traditional batch processing to continuous production by combining mixing, dispersion, devolatilization, and temperature control into a single operation – is uniquely designed to address these challenges. Its 12 co-rotating screws and epicyclic process section create a controlled, low-shear processing environment that supports smooth mixing and dispersion while protecting sensitive materials from excessive mechanical and thermal stress.

"For high-viscosity and highly filled systems, particularly sealants, continuous processing can create a fundamentally different production model," said Joerg Mayer-Lutz, Product Manager at CPM. "The RingExtruder gives processors the ability to combine multiple process requirements into one continuous operation. That means manufacturers can move beyond the limitations of batch processing while maintaining the flexibility needed for complex formulations."

Another important development to consider is the increasing integration of ancillary equipment and digitalisation. Modern compounding performance depends heavily on feeding accuracy. This becomes particularly challenging when recyclate is supplied as film flakes, fibres, agglomerates, or irregular particles. Digital process monitoring is also becoming more widespread. The SenseHUB platform from **BUSS** provides condition monitoring, health scores, and alarm information for the company's Compeo kneaders, while **Coperion**'s C-Beyond platform collects operating data from extruders and supports analysis and predictive maintenance. For alternative compounding technologies, this could be particularly valuable. Their advantage often lies in highly specific process characteristics such as temperature profile, residence time, shear history, filling behaviour, or pressure development. Digital monitoring provides the means to understand and reproduce these characteristics more precisely.

PVC solutions

An area where alternative compounding technologies continue to demonstrate significant value is the processing of temperature- and shear-sensitive materials such as soft PVC, rigid PVC, and non-halogenated flame retarded compounds. In these applications, maintaining product quality requires careful control of shear, temperature, and residence time throughout the entire process. Coperion's two-stage Kombiplast compounding system addresses these requirements by separating intensive mixing and homogenisation from pressure build-up. The system combines a ZSK twin screw extruder with an ES-A single-screw discharge extruder, enabling excellent mixing and devolatilisation performance while ensuring particularly gentle melt handling before pelletising. This approach helps processors achieve consistent product quality, especially for demanding PVC and cable compounds. ❯

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IMAGE: RTP



Above: RTP Company says that by combining material expertise with its compounding capabilities, it provides solutions for customers

One recent development is the optimisation of Coperion's EGR eccentric pelletiser, which is specifically designed for integration with the Kombiplast system. The redesign included improvements to air supply, material conveying, and pellet handling. Based on simulations and practical testing, pellet conveying now takes place at considerably lower feed pressure, allowing gentler material handling, improving pellet quality, and reducing the risk of agglomerate formation. In addition to quality improvements, the new EGR significantly reduces energy requirements. The redesign also improves operational efficiency through faster heating, simplified die plate changes, and increased machine availability, contributing to higher overall equipment effectiveness (OEE).

German company **Entex** promotes its planetary roller extruder for plastics and bioplastics applications where continuous processing, gentle treatment of temperature-sensitive materials, degassing, and self-cleaning are important. The technology is particularly interesting for compounders who are exploring materials with narrow processing windows. Bioplastics, for example, can be sensitive to hydrolysis or thermal degradation, while some bio-based polymers and formulations contain components that require careful control of residence time and temperature. The ability to manage heat transfer and devolatilisation effectively can therefore become as important as achieving effective dispersion.

New applications

Enva has launched a new compound that enables manufacturers to increase recycled content, reduce carbon emissions, and move closer to circular production. White HIPS-8513 is described as a high-quality recycled high impact polystyrene compound containing 93% PCR content. Developed using Enva's advanced sorting and compounding processes, it represents the company's whitest recycled HIPS grade to date, delivering the consistent colour, physical performance, and dependable long-term supply demanded by modern manufacturers.

The new compound builds on Enva's position as both a recycler of end-of-life white goods and a manufacturer of high-quality recycled plastic compounds, ensuring that plastic recovered from end-of-life refrigerators can now be transformed into a white HIPS compound that delivers performance comparable to virgin material. While White HIPS-8513 has been formulated specifically with white goods manufacturers in mind, where it is suitable for applications including refrigerator liners, shelves, trays, and shelf surrounds, Enva also sees significant potential across the construction sector for products such as piping and ducting, ventilation components, access panels, and loft hatches, as well as possible opportunities within the automotive sector.

Unlike traditional supply chains which often sees manufacturers source recycled polymers from multiple suppliers, Enva controls every stage of the process from collecting and recycling through to producing finished compounds. This integrated approach not only delivers significant environmental benefits but also provides customers with greater confidence in the long-term availability, traceability, and consistency of their raw material supply.

"Manufacturers are under increasing pressure to reduce the environmental impact of their products while maintaining the quality and performance their customers expect," said Bradley Wright, General Manager, Plastics GB at Enva. "White HIPS-8513 demonstrates how a truly circular approach can deliver both."

RTP Company, a compounder of custom engineered thermoplastics, says it continues to formulate and adapt innovative materials as the manufacturing world changes with the times. By combining material expertise with extensive compounding capabilities, the company says it helps customers navigate their challenges and identify thermoplastic solutions designed to meet the demands of their product applications. The company notes that in recent times the global medical market has rapidly expanded its need for thermoplastic materials to manufacture drug delivery devices, surgical equipment, and diagnostic systems. In North America, the industrial and electrical/electronic markets are also growing, largely due to the rise of data centres and the infrastructure installations that support them.

"We specialise in formulating custom materials designed to solve product issues," said RTP Company Director of Marketing, Margaret Cox. "For example, we manufacture lubricated thermoplastics that promote the smooth operation of auto injection pens, or heat-resistant thermoplastics designed for large industrial fans located in extreme environments. Our engineers can often solve multiple issues in a single material, which can save on costs and helps product designers and manufacturers launch products that perform well."

In addition to solving product issues, RTP Company focuses on sustainable materials. "RTP Company has always worked with recycled and resourced renewable materials," said RTP Company's Global Technology Manager, Mark Bennick. "We offer a full range of products utilising sustainable resources, as dictated by the customer and application requirements."



IMAGE: SULAPAC

Left: Sulapac produces a bio-based composite made from wood chips with plant-based binders and biodegradable polymers

Bio-based compounds

Compounds from bio-based sources or incorporating wood-based or plant-based materials often require processing with alternative technology. **Sulapac** was founded in 2016 in Helsinki, Finland, by biochemists Suvi Haimi and Laura Tirkkonen-Rajasalo, who wanted to create a more sustainable alternative to conventional plastic. The solution they came up with is a biocomposite made primarily from wood chips or wood flour combined with plant-based binders and biodegradable polymers. The material was first introduced into the cosmetics industry before being adopted by brands in various sectors from furniture to fast food.

"Showcasing in practice that our Sulapac Solid bio-composite can be efficiently recycled at commercial scale was an important milestone that supports the adoption of this type of PLA-based materials throughout the HORECA sector," said CEO Miki Lahtinen. "The EU's Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation pressures the industry to move towards reusable packaging and with our solution this can be achieved in a way that keeps the material in the loop without downcycling."

The company has partnered with Hesburger, Finland's largest burger restaurant chain, as part of an ambitious project to phase out single-use items. When cups made from Sulapac Solid reach their end-of-life after up to 300 washing cycles, they can be recycled into new food-grade material in a process that has been proved economically feasible by Belgian cleantech company Triple W. A company called Bönde Board has also launched a cutting-board made of the same material, which is dishwasher-proof.

* Note: https://www.mdpi.com/2073-4360/17/5/619

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IMAGE: AMI

Polymer compounding events return to Cleveland

The Compounding World Expo taking place in the USA's compounding heartland in November is playing host to key technology and additive exhibitors

This year's Plastics World Expos 2026 – held on 11-12 November in Cleveland, Ohio – will once again feature both an exhibition and conference.

The free event, which takes place at the Huntington Convention Center, is North America's largest plastics industry gathering of the year.

It brings together four focused expos: Compounding World Expo, Plastics Recycling World Expo, Plastics Extrusion World Expo, and Polymer Testing World Expo. Each includes a range of international suppliers, plus a dedicated conference theatre with full two-day programmes of technology talks, business debates and keynote presentations. The event welcomed nearly 5,500 attendees and 352 exhibitors in 2025.

This year's exhibitor lineup boasts many leading industry players including Ampacet, Cabot, Cargill, Clariant, Coperion, CPM, Davis-Standard, Erema, Farrel Pomini, Galata, IMCD, JSW, KraussMaffei, KW Plastics, Lanxess, Maag, Milliken, Netzsch, NGR, Omya, PTi, Struktol, Thermo Fisher and Westlake.

This year, the show is focusing on the theme of Powering Plastics: Skills, People and the Future. This will be reflected across the exhibition and conference sessions, highlighting the importance of workforce skills, talent development and knowledge transfer.

"The expos are designed to make it easy for industry professionals to meet the right suppliers, compare solutions and stay informed," said Kelly DeFino, exhibition sales team manager at AMI.

Exhibitor slots are still available. For more information on exhibiting, visit the **website**.

The expos will showcase manufacturers of compounding, recycling, extrusion and testing equipment, plus suppliers of polymers, additives, software and industry services.

The event will also host around 100 expert speakers in its four conference theatres. They will explore key themes including materials innovations, process optimisation, recycling technologies, market trends, regulatory developments and the increasingly vital role of AI.

Details on exhibitors of most relevance to compounders and masterbatchers can be found on the following pages.

Main image: Last year's event hosted more than 350 exhibitors from across the plastics supply chain



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- Cleaner dispersion
- Faster processing
- Greater sustainability

Ask Us How

Struktol.com | 800.327.8649

Visit us at Booth C1418 at Compounding World Expo.

Right: Pelletiser rotor from Bay Plastics Machinery

Abir is a plastics recycling and raw material trading company connecting high-quality post-industrial plastics with manufacturers across North America.
› **https://abiroverseas.com/**

Advanced Cryogenic Enterprises treats fine ground materials through ambient and cryogenic processes, while utilizing a variety of types and sizes of equipment.
› **www.acecryo.com**

AdvanSix is a manufacturer of PA 6 resin and PA 6/66 co-polymer used in a variety of applications, including automotive components, packaging, and sporting goods.
› **www.advansix.com**

Aimplas is a plastics technology centre that provides solutions to companies throughout the value chain, from raw material manufacturers to plastic processors and end users.
› **www.aimplas.net**

Akdeniz Chemson, a leading manufacturer of polymer additives, specialises in PVC stabilisers and offers tailor-made solutions to meet customer demands.
› **www.akdenizchemson.com**

Akron Rubber Development Lab (ARDL) is a global independent test laboratory specializing in rubber, plastic, and latex.
› **www.ardl.com**

American Cutting Edge is a leading supplier of machine knives and industrial razor blades, committed to making cutting effortless for their clients.
› **https://americancuttingedge.com**

American Industrial Products specialises in filtration solutions, providing filtration elements, gaskets, seals, spare parts, and equipment to various industries.
› **www.ameinpro.com**

Amfine Chemical is a manufacturer of polymer additives utilising the global leading technology from Adeka Corporation.
› **www.amfine.com**

AZO provides innovative bulk and raw material handling, pneumatic conveying systems, mixer feeding, screeners and bulk containers for the automation of production processes.
› **www.azo.com**

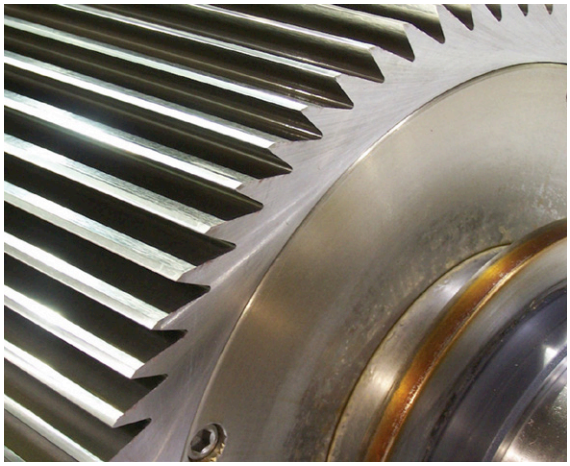


IMAGE: BAY PLASTICS MACHINERY

B&P Littleford designs and custom builds a wide spectrum of mixing, drying, extruding, compounding, reacting, and centrifugal separation equipment for large or small-scale manufacturing applications.
› **www.bplittleford.com**

Baerlocher USA is a leading manufacturer of additives for the plastics industry, delivering tailored solutions in an ethical and supportive manner.
› **www.baerlocherusa.com**

Barentz is a global distributor of life science ingredients and specialty chemicals, offering technical support and customised solutions.
› **www.barentz-na.com**

Bay Plastics Machinery offers a full range of strand pelletisers, conveyors, water baths, air knives/strand dewatering units, and spare parts.
› **https://bayplasticsmachinery.com**

Benvic Chemres is a subsidiary of European compound producer Benvic which was acquired in 2022.
› **www.benvic.com**

Bergen International is a manufacturer of chemical foaming agents which help processors improve performance, efficiency, and sustainability.
› **www.bergeninternational.com**

Bioregion Technology is a specialty materials company that produces 100% bio-derived carbon alternatives to replace petroleum-based carbon black.
› **www.bioregiontech.com**

Birla Carbon is a global leader in carbon black, providing solutions for rubber and specialty applications.
› **www.birlacarbon.com**

Bloc Digital is a digital visualisation agency specialising in creating digital solutions such as CGI animations, high-res imagery, and tradeshow booth design/asset creation.
› **https://bloc.digital**

Brenntag North America, part of the Brenntag distribution group, is located in Reading, PA, US.
› **www.brenntag.com**

Bronkhorst USA provides fluidics handling solutions, including meters and controllers for low flow applications.
› **www.bronkhorstusa.com**

Budenheim is a specialty chemical company that manufactures high-purity ingredients, functional masterbatches, and sustainable chemical solutions.
› **www.budenheim.com**

BUSS is a leader in compounding and pelletising systems, with the versatile BUSS Kneader being widely used.
› **https://busscorp.com**

BYK supplies specialty additives to enhance product quality and streamline production processes.
› **www.byk.com**

CA Picard produces parts for extruders, specialising in twin screw and single screw segmented machines.
› **www.capicard.com**

Cabot supplies specialty carbons, conductive carbons, masterbatches and conductive compounds that can deliver a range of performance attributes.
› **www.cabotcorp.com**

Calcean Minerals & Materials processes oolitic aragonite.
› **www.calcean.com**

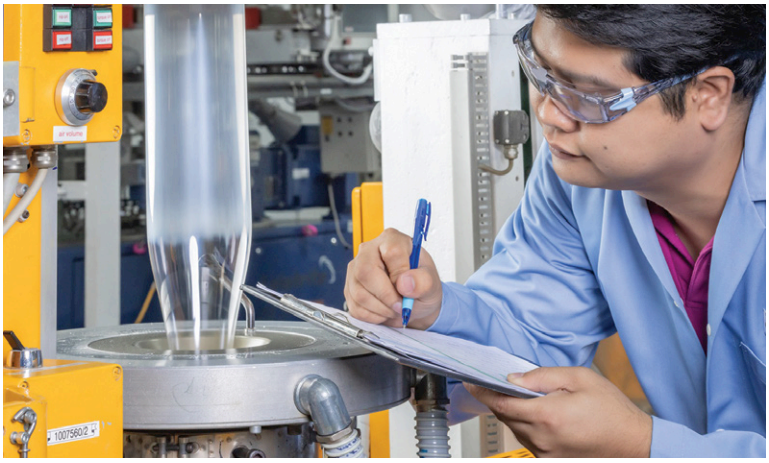


IMAGE: CLARIANT

Above: Clariant says its PFAS-free AddWorks PPA 101 FG additive solves melt fracture (sharkskin) and prevents die build-up in PE blown and cast film

Cargill's Polymer Additives business offers a wide range of high performance and bio-based specialty additives that enhance the performance of polymers.
› **www.cargill.com/polymer-additives**

Carolina PEC offers technical cleaning services and solutions for metallic filtration challenges.
› **www.carolinapec.com**

Chemyork is a global supplier of specialty chemicals and raw materials, offering products like plastic additives, TPE compounds, and engineering plastics compounds.
› **https://chemyork.com**

Cimbar Performance Minerals is a global supplier of mineral-based additives, with 16 production and mining sites worldwide.
› **https://cimbar.com**

Clariant operates an additives business which supplies products with functional effects in plastics, coatings, inks, adhesives, textiles, fibres, and more.
› **www.clariant.com**

Constant Recycling is a recycling company which buys and sells plastic materials.
› **https://constantrecycling.com**



IMAGE: BUSS

Left: BUSS Compeo compounding system

Corporacion Sierra Madre manufactures chemical specialties tailored to customer needs, offering competitive advantages in quality, functionality, performance, cost, and service attitude.
› **www.corpsierramadre.com**

Covia provides mineral-based solutions for a wide range of plastics applications, focusing on physical, chemical, and optical properties.
› **www.coviacorp.com**

CPM is a leader in equipment manufacturing, specialising in twin and multi-screw systems for various industries.
› **https://onecpm.com**

CT Polymers is a custom plastic compounding and recycling company.
› **https://ctpolymers.com**

Dileas Polymer supplies engineered recycled nylon polymers and custom polyamide compounds.
› **www.dileaspolymer.com**

Dorstener Wire Tech specialises in polymer filtration components and extruder screens to enhance throughput and reduce costs.
› **https://dwt-inc.com**



IMAGE: ENTEX

Right: ENTEX Planetary Roller Extruder

Dositech is a global producer of powder and liquid dosing systems for automatic recipe creation.
› **https://dositechglobal.com**

Dover Chemical Corporation is a chemical manufacturing company specialising in polymer additives.
› **https://doverchem.com**

DoverMEI specializes in providing bulk solids handling systems.
› **https://dovermei.com**

EBM Manufacturing specialises in bulk material handling and screening technology.
› **https://gentleroll.com**

ECON North America specialises in underwater pelletising technologies and screen changers, providing innovative solutions for global producers of resins, compounders, and recycling companies.
› **www.econ-us.com**

Ensign Equipment offers bulk material handling equipment worldwide for a wide range of applications.
› **https://ensigneq.com**

Entec Polymers is a leading thermoplastic distributor offering a wide range of resins and compounds supported by experienced sales representatives and technical engineering.
› **www.entecpolymers.com**

ENTEK manufactures extrusion systems and components for various applications, providing turnkey solutions for custom compounding and compounding lines.
› **www.entek.com**

ENTEX specialises in planetary roller extruders for continuous mixing and processing in industries such as plastics, rubber, and chemicals.
› **www.entex.de**

Environ is a distributor of polymer additives and other products which has offices and warehouses in India, US and UAE and represents more than 45 chemical manufacturers.
› **www.environchem.us**

Exline Plastics manufactures, repairs, and rebuilds precision components for plastics compounding equipment.
› **www.exline-inc.com**

Exxel Polymers says plastic scraps in the form of parts, granules or beads are recovered and analysed in order to meet its customers' moulding specifications.
› **https://exxelpolymers.com**

Faci USA is a chemical manufacturing company specialising in water-based dispersions of metallic stearates and oleochemical solutions.
› **www.faci.it**

Farrel Pomini manufactures compounding systems, including the Farrel Continuous Mixer which is designed for distributive and dispersive mixing with low processing temperatures, enhancing efficiency.
› **www.farrel-pomini.com**

Federal Equipment's machinery spans plastic materials production in mixing, compounding, recycling, moulding and extrusion processing.
› **www.fedequip.com**

Galata Chemicals produces PVC additives for a range of industries globally.
› **www.galatachemicals.com**

Global-Pak specialises in bulk packaging solutions with a focus on customer service.
› **www.global-pak.com**

Göttfert offers a range of rheological testing technology for various applications in the polymer industry.
› **www.goettfert.com**

India-based **Golcha Minerals** is a supplier of high-quality, performance-driven talc and mineral solutions.
› **https://golchaminerals.com**

H-P Products delivers a comprehensive range of tube bends, elbows, tubing, couplings, fittings, and accessories.
› **www.h-pproducts.com**

HammerTek Corporation is the inventor and manufacturer of the Smart Elbow deflection elbow used in pneumatic and slurry conveying systems.
› **www.linkedin.com/company/hammertek-corporation/home**

Harvest Solar helps high-energy businesses control costs with custom-engineered solar installations.
› **https://harvestsolar.com**

Harwick Standard is a supplier of raw materials and additives for plastics, rubber, coatings, and adhesives.
› **www.harwick.com**

Hauschild SpeedMixer manufactures and distributes specialised, bladeless centrifugal mixers for polymer and other applications..
› **https://hauschild-speedmixer.com**

Helluva Container specialises in high-quality used and new Gaylord boxes, FIBC bulk bags, liners, films, tapes, and pallets.
› **www.helluva.com**

Heritage Plastics develops calcium carbonate concentrates to improve the performance and productivity of plastic resins, offering solutions to offset rising resin costs.
› **www.heritage-plastics.com**

Holland Colours Americas is a producer of custom colourants and additives for plastics, coatings, and fabrics with a focus on sustainability.
› **www.hollandcolours.com**

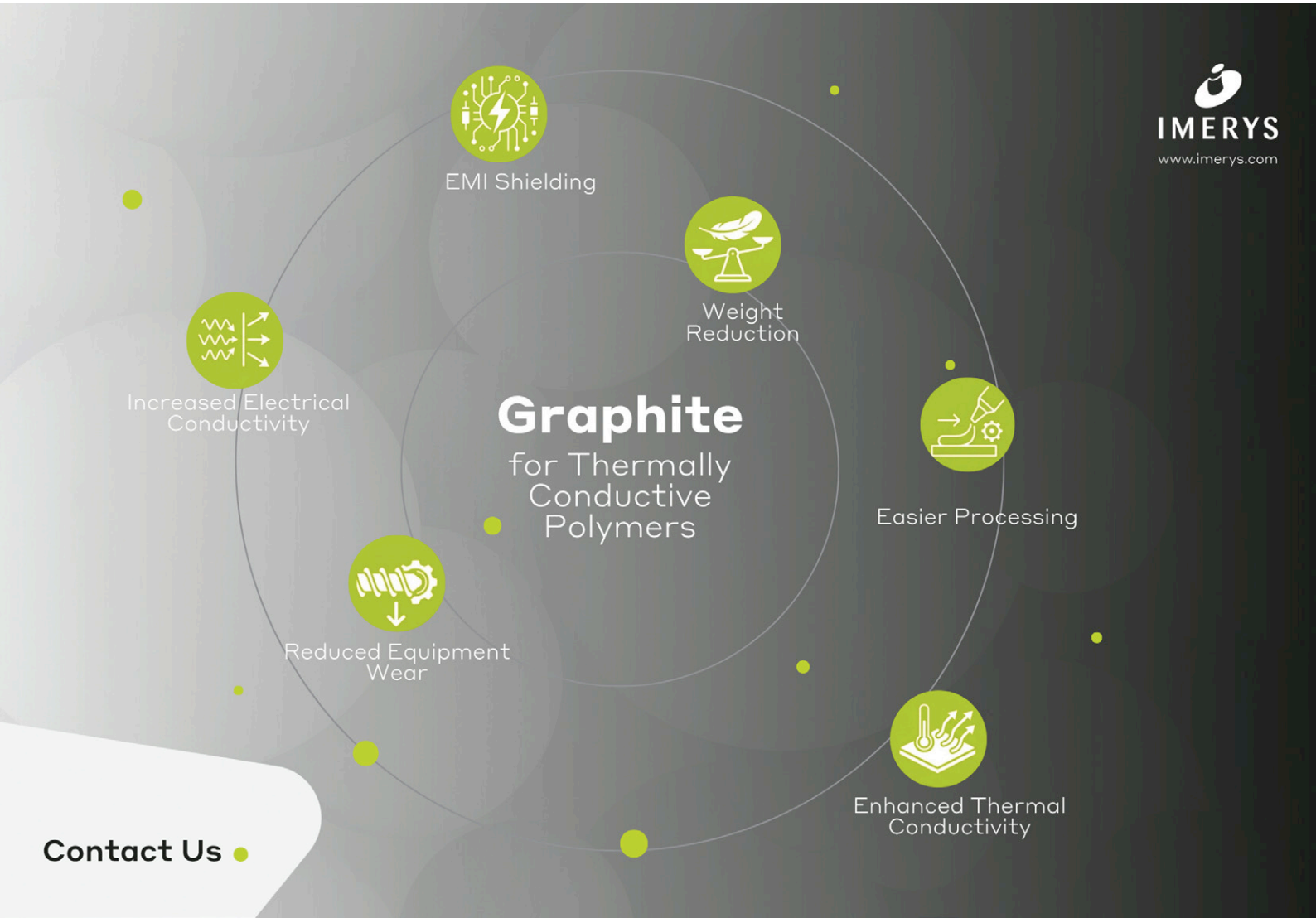




IMAGE: J-TEC

Above: J-Tec Material Handling products include silos

Horizon Systems provides customised material handling and process solutions for the plastics industry, focusing on quality control, safety, and efficiency.
› **www.horizonsystemsinc.com**

HydroGraph is a commercial manufacturer of high-purity synthetic graphene and strategic nanomaterials.
› **https://hydrograph.com**

ID Additives offers a range of chemical foaming agents, purging compounds, plastic mould cleaners, preventative maintenance cleaning systems, and other additives for the plastics industry.
› **www.idadditives.com**

IMCD operates across the USA, providing specialty chemicals and ingredients from global producers to develop innovative solutions.
› **www.imcdus.com**

Imerys has a wide portfolio of engineered talcs, kaolins, calcium carbonates, graphites, diatomites, carbon blacks, micas and wollastonites for the plastics industry.
› **www.imerys.com**

Interlake Plastic Supply is a merchant wholesaler in the chemical and allied products industry, engaging in import and supply operations related to colorants, dyes, and industrial plastic.
› **https://interlakeplastic.com**

Ishihara Corporation USA is the US affiliate of Ishihara Sangyo Kaisha, Ltd. (ISK) of Japan, a global manufacturer of high performance inorganic pigments.
› **www.ishihara.com**

J-Tec Material Handling provides automated material handling systems and process engineering solutions for the food and chemical industries.
› **https://j-tec.com**

J Rettenmaier USA has more than 90 production and sales locations worldwide, providing plant fibre technology solutions for various industries.
› **www.jrsusa.com**

Japan Steel Works (JSW) America manufactures a wide range of process equipment, namely, extruder/pelletising systems, twin screw compounding extruders, film sheet machines and spinning extruders.
› **www.jswamerica.com**

Jay Extrusion Machinery is an Indian extrusion machinery manufacturer and exporter.
› **www.jayextruder.com**

JEG Plastics provides thermoplastic colour concentrates and performance additives to extruders and moulders.
› **www.jegplastics.com**

Joinature Composite (Shanghai) Technology is a modern enterprise integrating research, development, production, and sales.
› **www.zypeek.cn**

Kal-Polymers is a compounder of recycled plastic raw materials, specialising in PP, PE, PET, and PS, among others.
› **www.kalpolymers.com**

Kaneka North America provides innovative additive solutions for the plastics industry.
› **www.kaneka.com**

KEB America delivers full-system drive and control technology engineered to maximise performance, precision, and energy efficiency.
› **www.kebamerica.com**

KibbeChem is a supplier of chemical foaming agents and colour concentrates to the plastics industry.
› **www.kibbechem.com**

Kingfa Science and Technology (USA) has a product portfolio which includes modified plastics, recycled plastics, biodegradable plastics, specialty engineering plastics, and carbon fibre composites.
› **www.kingfa.com**

Kisuma Americas supplies magnesium-based technology for polymer and pharmaceutical/ nutraceutical additives.
› **https://kisuma.com**

Lanxess develops, manufactures, and markets of chemical intermediates, additives, and consumer protection products.
› **https://lanxess.com**

Lawer specialises in industrial weighing systems, providing technologies for the automatic weighing of powder and liquid products.
› **www.lawer.com**

Leistritz Extrusion manufactures twin screw extruders for various applications, including compounding and film and sheet systems.
› **http://extruders.leistritz.com**

LG Chem manufactures petrochemicals, advanced tech and electronic materials, and life science products.
› **www.lgchem.com**

LG Electronics designs and manufactures consumer electronics, home appliances, and vehicle components.
› **www.lg.com/global/business/advanced-materials**

Lingood specialises in the design and manufacture of high-precision material handling, metering, and feeding systems.
› **www.lingood.net**

M Holland is an international distributor of thermoplastic resins, providing suppliers with the most strategic channels to market.
› **www.mholland.com**



MAAG Americas provides customisable systems and integrated solutions in process technology for the polymer and chemical industries.
› **https://maag.com**

Magris Talc is a leading talc producer, supplying quality products for industrial applications globally.
› **www.magrispm.com**

Main Tech designs and manufacture machines dedicated to complete material-handling systems, as well as systems for storage, material drying, dosing, and recycling.
› **https://maintechamerica.com**

Matium is a company that specialises in extruder screen filtration products.
› **www.matium.io**

Melfi Technologies specialises in advanced control systems for precise material handling of powders and liquids.
› **www.melfitechnologies.com**

Meridian Manufacturing focuses on toll grinding plastic polymers and ingredients.
› **www.meridianmfg.com**

Mettle Filtration Products supplies all types of extruder screens, hard-to-find mesh, and extra heavy wire cloth.
› **www.mettlefiltration.com**

Michigan Additive Technologies is a US manufacturer of flame retardants.
› **www.matadditives.com**

Midwest Elastomers is a toll manufacturing company in plastic polymers, adhesives and ingredients to the polymer industry.
› **www.midwestelastomers.com**

Milliken has an additive portfolio which enables the use of virgin and recycled polypropylene and polyethylene in new products.
› **www.milliken.com**

Mine Plastik is a masterbatch and plastic additive manufacturer based in Turkey.
› **https://minecolours.com.tr/en**

Mitsui Chemicals America produces specialty chemicals and high-performance polymers for North and South American markets.
› **https://us.mitsuichemicals.com**

Left: MAAG Pearlo CS underwater pelletizer

Mixaco USA is a leading supplier of mixing systems for the PVC Industry.
› **www.mixaco.com**

Modern Dispersions produces a wide variety of colour, specialty, and additive products for different applications.
› **www.moderndispersions.com**

MoistTech manufactures moisture sensors providing continuous, reliable readings.
› **www.moisttech.com**

Nagase America is part of the Japan-headquartered Nagase trading firm involved in materials and chemicals.
› **www.nagase.com**

Nanoscience Instruments provides advanced microscopy and surface science instrumentation, sales, and technical support to researchers and engineers.
› **www.nanoscience.com**

NanoXplore is a graphene company that manufactures industrial volume graphene using proprietary technology.
› **https://nanoxplore.ca**

National Bulk Equipment (NBE) specialises in designing and engineering equipment for bulk material handling applications, such as conveying, mixing, and storage.
› **www.nbe-inc.com**

Niche Polymer is a custom compounder and toll processor for engineering resins. Its compounds include nylon, polypropylene, polycarbonate, polystyrene, ABS and PCABS.
› **www.nichepolymer.com**

NOF America is a producer of plastic additives to improve wear resistance and anti-scratch properties, reduce friction, prevent squeak noise, among other benefits.
› **www.nofamerica.com**

Norac Additives has been in the metallic stearate business for over 50 years, offering PVC additives like heat stabilisers and lubricants.
› **www.noracadditives.com**

OA Newton specialises in material handling solutions for industries worldwide, providing innovative conveying methods and compounding systems.
› **www.oanewton.com**

OMG Thermoforming designs and builds custom and mass-produced industrial machinery for thermoforming plastic, as well as end-of-line packaging and palletising equipment.
› **www.omgitaly.com**

Orbetron offers extrusion and precision bulk feeding solutions.
› **https://orbetron.com**

Orrex plastics is an independent toll compounder that performs reactive extrusion and complex compounding.
› **https://orrex.com**

Otsuka Chemical America is a specialty chemicals company providing innovative materials and solutions for automotive, electronics, industrial, and advanced technology applications.
› **www.otsukachemicalamerica.com**

Palmer Holland is a North American specialty chemical distributor focusing on specialty plastic additives and resins for various industries.
› **www.palmerholland.com**

Paulson Training develops and markets comprehensive training solutions to the plastics industry.
› **https://paulsontraining.com**

Peacock Colors is a thermoplastic compounder and specialty colour house that develops high-performance masterbatches, liquid colourants, and custom additive packages.
› **https://coloryourworldwithus.com**

Right: Mixaco Infinity Mixer



IMAGE: MIXACO



IMAGE: PLAS MEC

Left: PLAS MEC TRM high speed mixer

Performance Additives has a product portfolio which includes CPE, process aids and impact modifiers.
› **www.performanceadditives.us**

PINFA North America is a not for profit trade organisation of non halogenated flame retardant additive manufacturers, synergist suppliers, compounders, formulators and related organisations.
› **www.pinfa-na.org**

Piovan UnaDyn (Universal Dynamics) specialises in the design, manufacture, and installation of automation systems.
› **www.piovan.com/unadyn**

PLAS MEC specialises in manufacturing equipment and accessories for mixing plastic materials, technical polymers, wood-plastic composites, and more.
› **www.plasmec.it**

Plastic Solutions utilises a network of supply partners to offer both commodity and specialty resins.
› **www.plasticsolutions.net**

Plastic Systems produces advanced plastic solutions for various industries such as automotive, pharmaceutical, PET, and construction.
› **www.plasticsystems.it**

Plastical is a calcium carbonate masterbatch producer located in Alabama, catering to industries like film, sheet, thermoforming, injection moulding, and more.
› **https://plasti-cal.com**

Plastics Plus distributes thermoplastic resins, provides custom blending, and specialises in corporate recycling and sustainability programs.
› **https://plasplus.com**

PMC Group is a global chemicals company with business units that specialise in flame-retardant compounds, specialty chemicals produced from renewable resources, and organometallic catalysts and stabilisers.
› **https://pmc-group.com**

Poly Compounding specializes in toll compounding heat and shear sensitive engineered plastics.
› **https://polycompounding.com**

Polychem Dispersions is located in the major industrial hub of Middlefield, OH, where it conducts rubber and plastics dispersion compounding.
› **www.dispersions.com**

Polykemi's compounds are based on high quality virgin and recycled raw materials, customized with relevant reinforcing agents and additives.
› **www.polykemi.se**

Polymer Additives Group is a leading manufacturer and supplier of flame retardants and smoke suppressants, offering an extensive line of non-halogen flame retardants.
› **www.pagholdings.com**

Polyvel produces plastic additive masterbatches and custom compounds for various industries such as film, fibre and moulding.
› **www.polyvel.com**

Premix USA manufactures advanced electrically conductive plastic compounds and concentrates.
› **www.premixgroup.com**

Prime Materials supplies industrial materials such as calcium stearate, zinc oxide, polyethylene waxes, titanium dioxide, plasticizers, antioxidants, and flame retardants.
› **www.primematerials.com**

Prism Worldwide transforms tyre rubber into performance-oriented circular polymers used in TPEs, thermoplastics, vulcanisates, and asphalt.
› **https://prismww.com/**

Process Engineering Systems USA is a systems integrator specialising in turnkey solutions.
› **https://pes-usa.com**

Procotex Corporation is active in flax fibre hackling, synthetic and natural fibre recycling and technical fibre recycling.
› **https://en.procotex.com**

PromaXX Extrusion provides high-quality spare parts and services for twin-screw extruders, including wear-resistant components and maintenance equipment.
› **www.promaxx.com.cn**

Reedy Chemical Foam manufactures Safoam chemical foaming agents used in thermoplastic processes to reduce weight and lower machine energy.
› **https://reedychemicalfoam.com**

Reiloy USA manufactures wear-resistant components and machinery parts.
› **https://reiloyusa.com**

Reliance Mixers manufactures mixing and compounding equipment for materials like PVC, providing customised solutions for homogenous mixing processes.
› **www.reliancemixers.com**

Rianlon Americas is a supplier of antioxidants and light stabilisers for polymers, coatings, and lubricants.
› **www.rianlon.com**

Romev is the North American distributor for Lingood specialising in engineering, system design, and integration.
› **www.romevinc.com**

Routsis Training offers hands-on and online training programs for the plastics industry, including custom courses in moulding, extrusion, and other processes.
› **www.traininteractive.com**

Royce Global is a New Jersey-based supplier of solvent dyes, colour masterbatches, and various performance additives like nucleating agents for polystyrene foam.
› **www.royceglobal.com**

SACO AEI Polymers is a distributor of specialty additives from Fine-Blend, Javachem and Suli.
› **www.sacoaei.com**



Right: SonicAire industrial dust control fan

Salient Polymers is a technical additives distributor dedicated to delivering advanced polymer solutions
› **www.salientpolymers.com**

Sasol Chemicals (USA) provides polymer processing additives, plasticisers, waxes, and alcohols used in plastics and rubber manufacturing.
› **www.sasol.com**

Sciences Computers Consultants provides simulation software for industrial processes like extrusion and mixing, optimising production efficiency and reducing waste.
› **www.scconsultants.com**

Shamrock Technologies is a leader in micronised wax and PTFE products, supplying specialty powders and additives used in coatings, inks, thermoplastics, and elastomers.
› **www.shamrocktechnologies.com**

SI Group is a developer and manufacturer of performance additives, process solutions, and chemical intermediates.
› **https://siigroup.com**

Sikora offers advanced measuring, control, and testing technology for industries like wire, cable, hose, tube, and plastics, ensuring quality control and process optimisation.
› **www.sikora.net**

SILON specialises in polyolefin-based performance compounds, including crosslinked polyethylene and cable compounds for construction, automotive, and industrial applications.
› **www.silonllc.com**

Silver Fern Chemical is a supplier of specialty chemicals, including metallic stearates (vegetable-based calcium, zinc, potassium, magnesium) and high-performance additives for enhancing extrusion, dispersion, and sustainability in polyolefins, PVC, and masterbatches.
› **www.silverfernchemical.com**

SonicAire designs and manufactures industrial dust control fan systems.
› **www.sonicaire.com**

Spira/flo Pipe is a system for pneumatic conveying

of plastics and other products.
› **www.spiraflopipe.com**

Springfield Industries is an adhesive and adhesive ingredient developer and manufacturer, specializing in reactions (often high viscosity liquid or solid), masterbatches and compounding.
› **www.springfieldind.com**

Star Plastics supplies high-quality thermoplastic materials and custom formulations, specialising in PC, ABS, nylon, and UL-validated recycled content materials.
› **www.starplastics.com**

Steer America is a leading manufacturer of twin screw extruders, providing advanced process control for temperature- and shear-sensitive applications in plastics, pharmaceuticals, and food industries.
› **www.steeramerica.com**

Struktol Company of America specialises in additives for polymers, including PE, PP, PVC, and nylon.
› **www.struktol.com**

Sunrise Plastic Enterprise supplies wide spec, recovered, and recycled plastic.
› **https://sunriseplastic.com**

Technical Process & Engineering Inc (TPEI) is a supplier of mixers and compounding lines for plastics and rubber, offering maintenance, rebuilding, and custom compounding solutions.
› **www.tpei.com**

Techno-UMG America is the North American business of Japan-headquartered ABS group Techno-UMG.
› **www.t-umg.com**

Tecnetics (Tecweigh) designs and manufactures precision feeders, industrial scales, and fully customised solutions.
› **www.tecweigh.com**

The Polymers Center provides technical support and services to the plastics industry, offering masterbatch production, custom compounding, and training in extrusion and injection moulding.
› **https://polymers-center.org**

Thermo Fisher Scientific is a leader in scientific solutions, offering innovative products for polymer analysis and development.
› **www.thermofisher.com**

Toyota Tsusho America is a diversified enterprise promoting specialty additive materials for thermoplastics, particularly in automotive, medical, and packaging industries.
› **www.toyota-tsusho.com**

Trendelkamp designs and manufactures extrusion system solutions, including melt filtration systems, diverter valves, and polymer processing equipment.
› **www.trendelkamp.com**



Left: Vortex's materials handling products include angel hair traps

United Container Company buys, sells, and recycles corrugated boxes and other industrial packaging materials.
› **https://unitedcontainer.com**

US Silica is a global industrial minerals producer, providing over 1,500 products, including EverWhite Pigment, which helps reduce dependency on titanium dioxide.
› **www.ussilica.com**

UWT Level Control manufactures industrial sensors and monitoring systems.
› **www.uwtgroup.com**

Vortex specialises in the design of components for the transport and flow control of dry bulk solids, serving industries with dust-free solutions.
› **www.vortexglobal.com**

Wacker Chemical is a global chemical company offering a wide range of solutions for the chemical and plastics industry.
› **www.wacker.com**

Westlake is a Fortune 500 company providing PE and PVC resins, additives, and compounds for the plastics industry, with strong customer support and technical services.
› **www.westlake.com**

Zeppelin Systems USA is a leader in bulk materials handling systems, offering turnkey solutions and patented processes for plastics producers and forwarders.
› **www.zeppelin-systems.com**

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Adding to the mix: PCR-based materials



IMAGE: SHUTTERSTOCK

Stabilisers, compatibilisers and other additives counteract problems associated with increasing levels of post-consumer recyclate. Jennifer Markarian reports on new products

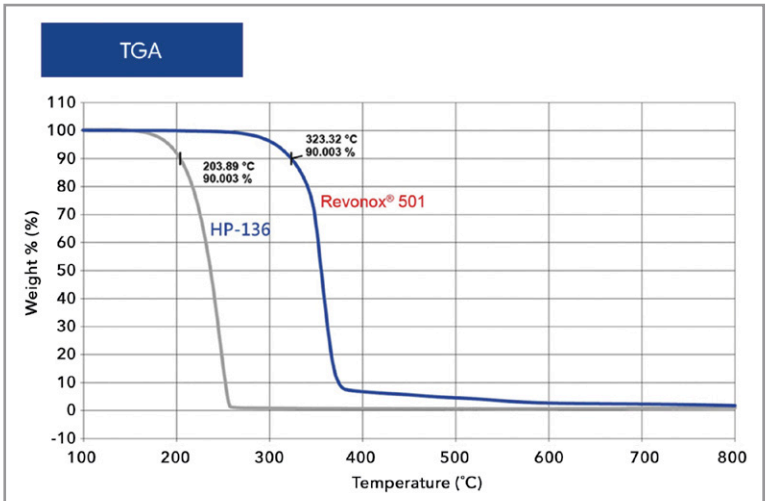
Companies want to increase recycled content in their products without sacrificing quality or performance. Yet recycled content from post-consumer recyclate (PCR) is notorious for higher variability in viscosity, colour and other properties as well as increased risk of degradation in the polymer, contamination, gels and other issues. One of the ways to handle these challenges is increased sorting and quality control of incoming material. As well as this, a wide range of additives, including stabilisers, compatibilisers, processing aids, viscosity modifiers and reinforcing fillers can also be used to remedy problems and boost properties to counteract the effects of increasing PCR content. The goal is to allow greater use of PCR while maintaining processability and meeting performance specifications for the end-use.

New stabilisation systems go beyond the conventional antioxidant packages to do more than prevent oxidation, said James Gacek, Executive Vice President and Managing Director for the Americas at **Chitec Technology**.

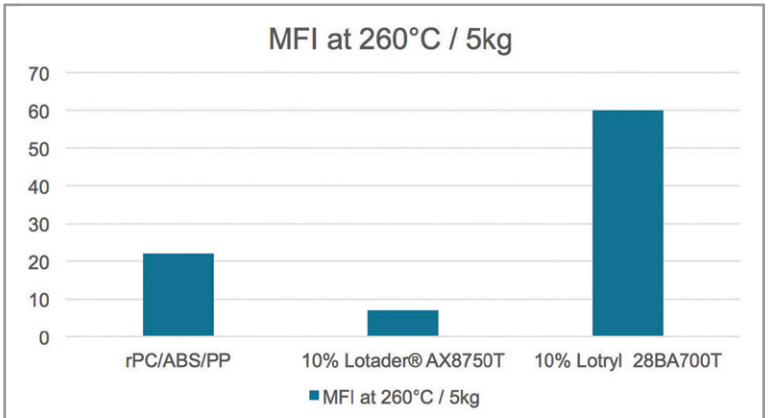
"Conventional antioxidant systems typically rely on combinations of primary phenolic and secondary phosphite antioxidants to minimise thermo-oxidative degradation during extrusion. While effective, these systems may still allow chain scission, molecular weight loss, additive depletion, and deterioration of melt flow properties during demanding processing conditions. Today's formulations require additives that protect polymer molecular weight, preserve processing stability, and improve overall manufacturing efficiency," Gacek explained.

New from Chitec is Revonox 501, a multifunctional processing stabiliser based on a redesigned benzofuranone molecular architecture. Gacek said that the additive combines efficient carbon-centered radical scavenging with thermal stability in a single molecule. It is particularly beneficial for recycled materials, where multiple thermal histories

Main image: problems caused by recycled material can be addressed with additives



Revonox 501, a multifunctional processing stabiliser based on a redesigned benzofuranone molecular architecture, exhibits higher thermal stability than conventional benzofuranone technology. TGA results show virtually no weight loss below 300 C
Source: Chitec Technology



SKFP additives can be used to adjust the viscosity of recycled PC/ABS, including blends that contain PP. Lotader AX8750T increases viscosity (lowers MFI) and Lotryl 28BA700T lowers viscosity (raises MFI)
Source: SK Functional Polymers.

accelerate degradation.

"Compared with earlier benzofuranone technologies, Revonox 501 exhibits significantly higher thermal stability, making it particularly well suited for today's higher-temperature extrusion, compounding, and engineering plastic applications," he added. The additive prevents polymer degradation, helps preserve polymer molecular weight and helps maintain consistent processing performance.

Revonox 501 has also been found to improve the efficiency of conventional antioxidant packages. It can be used to replace a small portion of traditional primary and secondary antioxidants, which improves melt flow stability and reduces overall additive demand, Gacek said. In addition, because less oxidative degradation occurs during processing, the additive also helps preserve the effectiveness of HALS, allowing light stabilisers to deliver improved long-term weatherability in the finished part.

The additive has US FDA food-contact clearances for use in HDPE, PP and PET.

Compatibilisers and coupling agents provide significant benefits for formulations with recycled content, because they act to bring together dissimilar materials. In mechanical recycling, a stream of one polymer may have a small amount of a different polymer remaining in it. This "contaminant" can degrade properties. A compatibiliser counteracts this effect by acting at the interface of the different materials to improve strength properties.

As discussed in *Compounding World's* May 2026 issue, a growing area for compatibilisers is in rHIPS, rABS, rPC, and rPC/ABS blends, to improve properties of materials collected under the EU's waste electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) and end-of-life vehicles directives.

For example, Elvaloy AC 1330 from **Dow** is a copolymer of ethylene and methyl acrylate that can be used as an additive in virgin and recycled ABS to improve processability, impact performance and optical properties, particularly in rABS, the company said. The additive recently received **RecyClass** automotive and EEE technology approval after it was evaluated under RecyClass protocols and found to be compatible with recycling processes.

Engineering compounds

The latest from **SK Functional Polymers** is Lotader AX8900T, a reactive ethylene terpolymer that can be used in virgin or recycled engineering plastics compounds. Lotader AX8900T has a higher melting point than the similar Lotader AX8900, and either additive can be used as a compatibiliser, impact modifier, viscosity enhancer, or for hydrolysis protection. The two additives are produced in two different production sites to ensure strong supply robustness, noted Nico Esselin, Mechanical Recycling Market Development manager at SK Functional Polymers.

Other additives from the company for recycled polymers include Lotader AX8750T, Lotryl 29MA03T and Lotryl 40MA05T. The additives act to compatibilise different components in recycled styrenic blends, such as rPC/ABS, even in the presence of 2% PP contamination, as indicated by an improvement in elongation at break (see chart). The two Lotryl additives significantly improve impact resistance, particularly at room temperature, said Esselin. Lotader AX8900 benefits impact at room temperature and also at low temperatures, down to -30°C.

The additives are being increasingly used as viscosity modifiers in rPC/ABS, said Esselin. Lotader

AX8900 or AX8750T can be used to raise viscosity and Lotryl 28BA700T to lower viscosity, which allows accurate adjustments of the material flow properties to facilitate processing and optimise final part performance, he explained.

A new polyolefin compatibiliser from **Avient**, Cesa Unify A4R, is part of the Additive for Recycling (A4R) product line and can be used in applications with nonpolar polymers, such as PP and PE. The company is also developing formulations for polar–nonpolar polymer combinations.

"Cesa Unify A4R is Avient's latest additive solution developed to compatibilise mixed polymer streams by generating a homogeneous polymer phase and restoring mechanical properties to a level comparable to virgin materials," said Jan Sültemeyer, Global Sustainability and Innovation Manager at Avient.

Beyond packaging applications, Cesa Unify A4R can be used to improve mechanical properties in cable applications with PCR content. Strategies are needed to compensate for the reduced and more variable mechanical properties associated with using PCR while maintaining quality requirements in this area, said Mirco Groeseling, Market Development Manager for Packaging & Sustainability at Avient.

"Major cable manufacturers increasingly view PCR content as an opportunity to reduce the carbon footprint of their products and, consequently, to support the achievement of ambitious sustainability targets," he said.

The latest A4R additive for cable applications from Avient is Cesa Tough A4R, which improves environmental stress crack resistance (ESCR) in rHDPE while maintaining material recyclability. The company reported that ESCR improved by more than 100% in bent strip tests and processability increased by 20%. Flexibility, as measured by strain at break, increased by 35%. Durability, as measured by impact strength, increased 140% with use of the additive in rHDPE.

The additive was developed by Avient's team from its CycleWorks Innovation Centre for Plastic Recycling in collaboration with the Italian cable manufacturer Tratos. It was designed for cable jackets, which need long-term protection against environmental stressors like moisture, soil chemicals, and mechanical strain, the company said. ESCR requirements can restrict how much PCR content a cable jacket can use with conventional formulations, but the new additive technology modifies polymer rheology and strengthens the polymer to protect against degradation, so higher levels of PCR can be used.

Reactive recycling

Nexam Chemical sees expanding commercial use of its Reactive Recycling technology. A US-based customer that had been using Nexam's additives within the Reactive Recycling product family since early 2025 for rigid food packaging expanded use to additional product lines. Additionally, two customers recently moved from evaluation to commercial use of Nexam's technology. One is a Canadian manufacturer of rigid food packaging based on recycled PET (rPET). During industrial trials, Reactive Recycling enabled reduction in the number of defective products by more than 90%, Nexam reported. The technology also allowed normal production speeds and a high proportion of internal regrind without affecting product perfor-

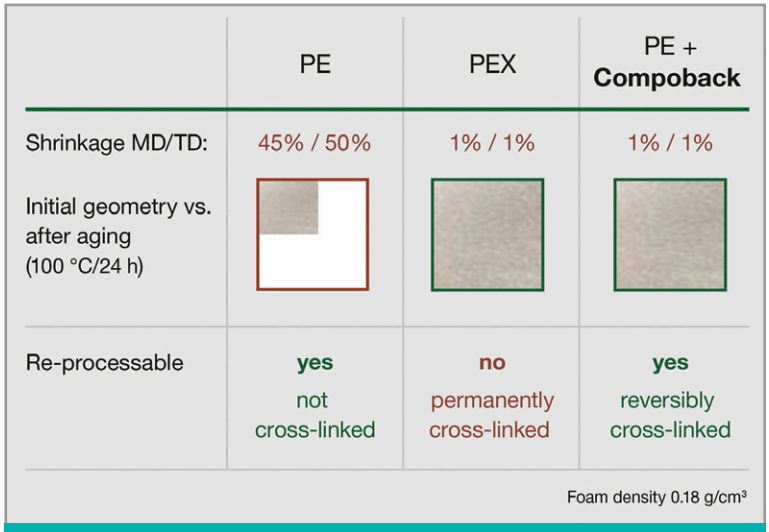


mance. Similarly, a European customer concluded successful testing and moved to commercial use. Nexam reported a more than 80% increase in the number of samples shipped for evaluation by prospective customers in June and July compared with the same period last year, excluding additional samples distributed through Palmer Holland.

"The geographic reach of the interest in our solutions is clearly broadening," said Ronnie Törnqvist, CEO of Nexam Chemical. Enquiries have come from a broad range of geographic markets, including Europe, North America, South America, Asia and Africa. The company added distribution agreements this year with Vanoplast in France and another distributor in Turkey, adding to its distributors in North America and Asia.

Also this year, an independent study tested 1% of Nexamite R201 additive in a 50/50 blend of rPP and virgin material which was injection moulded into a chair. The test found that the additive maintained mechanical properties and improved flexural strength and stiffness, as well as provided a controlled reduction of melt flow rate to an optimal level for injection moulding. The company said that the study validates the additive's capability in injection moulding, in addition to existing applications in extrusion and in blown film.

Techmer PM collaborated with graphene producer **NanoXplore** to launch GrapheneBlack xGnP masterbatch to significantly boost properties in film applications, as discussed in another article in this issue. The product combines Techmer PM's film expertise and Techsperse advanced dispersion technology with NanoXplore's proprietary high-surface-area xGnP graphene technology. The graphene-enhanced solution has the potential to significantly increase the amount of recycled content that can be incorporated into film formulations without sacrificing performance, the companies suggested. They noted that this would benefit packaging manufacturers who are seeking to meet challenging sustainability mandates and circular economy targets.



Brüggemann's Compoback additive: shrinkage of rectangular foam profiles after 24 hours ageing at 100°C
Source: Brüggemann

Recycling innovations

At K2025, **Brüggemann** introduced Bruggolen R8897, a thermostabiliser developed specifically to improve the properties of PP-EPDM recyclates from vehicle front-end applications. The additive helps retain mechanical properties during long-term heat ageing, as demonstrated by laboratory tests that show an improved level of residual Charpy impact after ageing.

Another innovation from the company that improves recyclability is Compoback, which is an additive for polyolefin foams, HFFR compounds, cables and TPEs that is an alternative to crosslinking. The additive allows thermoset-like performance while maintaining the ability of thermoplastics to be reprocessed. As shown in the diagram (left) of square cross-sections of physically foamed PE profiles, the samples without stabilisation shrank by approximately 75% after 24 hours of storage at 100° C. When compounded with Compoback, however, the shrinkage was negligible and similar to conventional, permanent crosslinking.

Processing aids are critical additives for extrusion applications and are even more important when formulations contain higher levels of PCR. Processors are seeking formulations that comply with current and potential regulatory requirements. Conventional fluoropolymer-based processing aids are under pressure due to restrictions on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), such as the restriction in the EU's Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) on PFAS in food-contact packaging.

Multiple non-fluorinated processing aids have been introduced as an alternative to address the need for reducing melt fracture and die buildup in extrusion processes, as discussed in the April issue of *Compounding World*. Most recently, **Gabriel-Chemie** introduced Maxithen PFAS-free PPA masterbatches, which the company described as PFAS- and silicone-free processing aids based on hydrocarbon technology. The company said that the new masterbatches demonstrated comparable process stability and product quality to conventional processing aids in large-scale industrial production trials.

New from **Ampacet** is a slip control masterbatch, Ampacet Slip Scavenger 1540, which is part of the company's R3 Sustainable Solutions portfo-


IMAGE: AMPACET

Ampacet Slip Scavenger 1540 is engineered specifically for flexible packaging using post-consumer recycled polyethylene

lio. The additive enables consistent coefficient of friction in flexible films with high PCR content, which enables higher levels of recycled content to be used without machinability issues. The company explained that variable PCR sources may contain high slip levels that can make films too slippery, which is a particular problem in stack stability. The new masterbatch captures migrating slip additive molecules during pelletising or when blending high slip rPE into new films.

Holland Colours announced last year that two of its additive technologies, CircStab and LightGuard, had successfully passed the RecyClass Recyclability Evaluation Protocol for PET bottles, demonstrating compatibility with PET bottle recycling processes. HolcoPET CircStab, which uses SI Group's EverCycle technology, stabilises PET during recycling by preventing yellowing while preserving brightness and viscosity, the company said. LightGuard 400 blocks UV light to protect light-sensitive contents of transparent PET bottles from photodegradation.

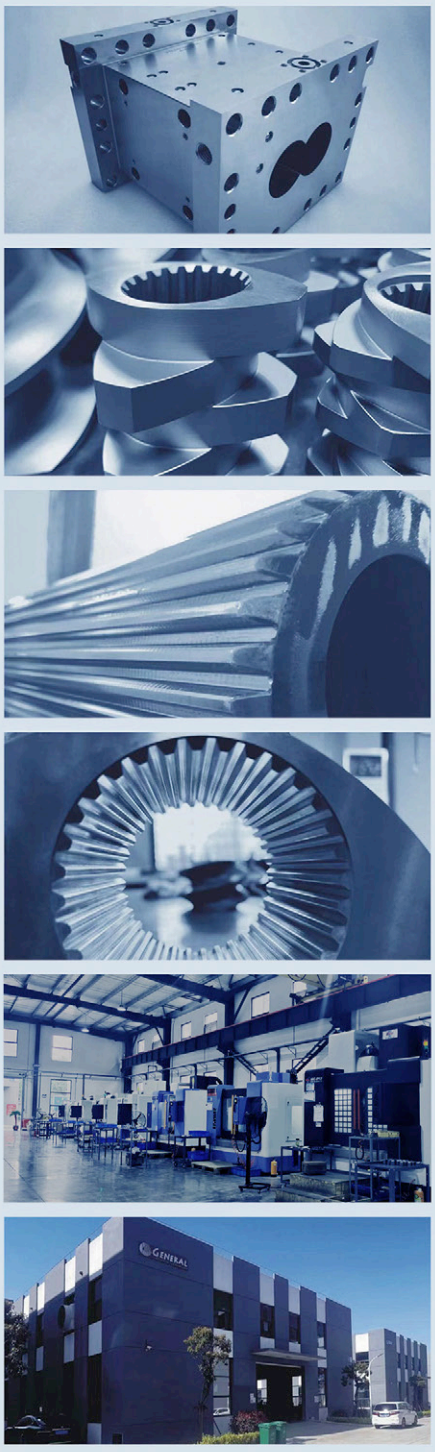
For recycled white opaque PET (rPETo) packaging, challenges include consistent colour and light protection. Since both mono and multi-layer opaque PET bottles are in the recycle stream, the output can appear greyish, the company said. In addition, rPETo can lose brightness and light protection. Holland Colours' Holcopearl ReWhite restores both whiteness and light protection, enabling rPETo to meet strict requirements. Holcopearl ReWhite is added during preform injection moulding and ISBM bottle manufacturing and enables closed-loop recycling for white PET dairy bottles.

Markers or taggants in plastic compounds have been used for traceability and anti-counterfeiting efforts and can also be used to enhance efficient and accurate sortation of recycled materials. For example, the Tracer-Based-Sorting solution from **Polysecure** can be used as an option with the company's Sort4Circle single-step, multi-sensor sorting process. Food-contact approved fluorescent marker particles can be added to the plastic compound and then later detected by sensors in the sorting equipment, allowing closed-loop recycling.

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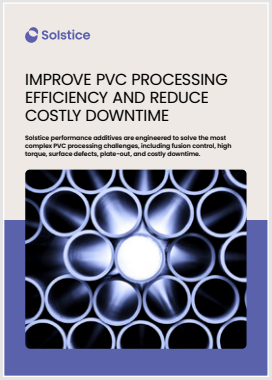
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CABOT: SPECIALTY CARBON BLACK



This brochure from Cabot details the company's range of Vulcan specialty carbon blacks for formulation of low moisture absorption electrically conductive plastics for applications such as ESD packaging.

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FEDDEM: COMPOUNDING TECHNOLOGY



In this company profile brochure, Feddem presents its compounding technology portfolio, including FED-MT co-rotating twin-screw extruders, plus FSB feeder, FSV side vacuum, and FSE side venting units.

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BIOREGION: TRUBLACK TPA IR



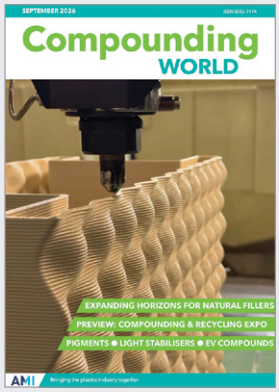
Bioregion Technology has designed TruBlack TPA IR to allow black plastics to be separated in automated recycling lines, without the need for petroleum-based additives, as presented in this brochure.

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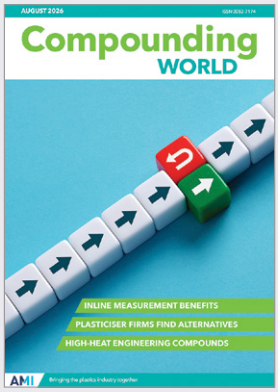
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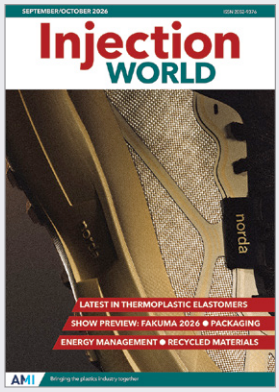
Compounding World September 2026
Compound fillers derived from natural feedstocks are becoming more common, as detailed in the main feature of Compounding World's September edition. There is also a Preview of Compounding & Recycling Expo in Frankfurt and the latest in pigments and light stabilisers.

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Compounding World August 2026
Keeping compounds on-spec can now be done using inline technology during processing, as detailed in the August edition of Compounding World. Other articles cover PVC plasticisers and high-temperature compounds.

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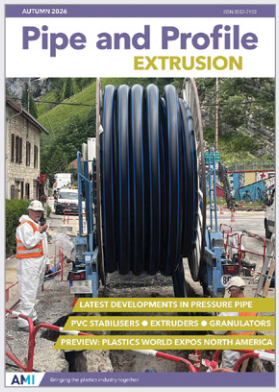
Injection World September/October 2026
Plastics sustainability is a key topic in the new issue of Injection World magazine, covered in features on energy efficiency and recycled materials. Plus: Fakuma 2026 is previewed and TPEs and packaging moulding are explored.

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Plastics Recycling World September 2026
The Compounding & Recycling Expo in Frankfurt is previewed in the September edition of Plastics Recycling World. Recycling of food-grade polyolefins is explored in an opinion article and a feature, while sorting and granulating technologies are also covered.

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Pipe and Profile 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 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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	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	Compounding World Expo, Cleveland, US	https://na.compoundingworldexpo.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 Packaging Innovation & Recycling, Vienna, Austria
1-2 December 2026	Polymer Engineering for Energy, London, UK
8-9 December 2026	Stretch and Shrink Film, Savannah, Georgia, USA
8-10 December 2026	Wind Turbine Blades, Düsseldorf, Germany
9-10 February 2027	Pipeline Coating, Vienna, Austria
24-25 February	PVC Formulation, Charlotte, NC, USA
2-4 March 2027	Cables Europe, Düsseldorf, Germany

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