

Kunststoffe

international

Magazine for Plastics Technology

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**Plasmamatreat Academy bridges the Gap
between Research and Industry**



Short Interview

Confidence in the Young Generation



Dr. Stefan Sommer has been managing director of Günther Heisskanaltechnik since the beginning of 2023.

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Mr. Sommer, how have you prepared for your new role?

It was important to me from the start to spend time in many technical departments and get to know all the processes. It is only by helping out directly where the action is and coming into close contact with employees that you can get to understand a company.

Why do many companies have such difficulties with the generational change?

The young generation is often not trusted and their capacity to act is restricted. The older generation doesn't want to let go, but to maintain the status quo. That causes obstructions and frustration on both sides. It is important that the older generation should be prepared to support its successors and give advice as required.

What are the biggest entrepreneurial challenges for the future?

Acquiring technical staff! That involves huge efforts, particularly in rural areas. The increasing digitalization of internal processes and of one's own products must be speeded up in order to remain competitive in the future.

You manage Günther together with Siegrid Sommer. What do you learn from one another?

With her over 40 years of experience in hot-runner technology, Ms. Sommer has extensive knowledge. I am grateful that we have held onto this. I can already give new momentum in the fields of the digital world of work and automation.

Interview: Melanie Ehrhardt

Plastics Fair in Milan

Plast 2023 Offers Plenty of Opportunities to Meet up

After being forced to take a break by the pandemic, Plast – International Exhibition for the Plastics and Rubber Industry – returns to Milan's show-grounds from 5–8 September 2023.

So far, more than 700 international exhibitors have already registered for the event and reserved over 36,000 m² of floorspace – to the delight of the organizers. The main exhibition focuses on machinery, auxiliary equipment and molds for processing plastics and rubber. Italian companies are strongly represented in these industrial sectors, with over 400 companies.

Flanking the main exhibition will be three smaller shows – Rubber, 3D Plast and Plast-MAT – each of which will be dedicated to a further area of excellence in the plastics sector.

Amaplast, the Italian trade association, predicts that the country's plastic sector will achieve very good results in 2022, following the double-digit growth achieved across all indicators in 2021.

Overall production for 2022 is expected to reach the threshold of EUR 4.5 billion, up one percentage point on 2021. This may be a small change, but it consolidates the recovery achieved in



The last edition of Plast in 2018 drew over 63,000 visitors. © Promoplast

the previous year, and even exceeds the figure for 2019 (pre-pandemic) by two points.

The 2018 edition of Plast, whose regular 3-year cycle was interrupted by the pandemic, attracted more than 1500 exhibiting companies, showcasing their products on a net exhibition area of 55,000 m². It was attended by more than 63,000 visitors, many of whom came from abroad in confirmation of the event's international appeal and attractiveness. The products on show range from materials to manufacturing processes, from end-products to custom services.

www.plastonline.org

Sound Acoustic Insulation

Toray Expands Airlite Business in Europe

Toray Industries' subsidiaries Toray Textiles Central Europe (TTCE) and Toray Advanced Materials Korea (TAK) have set up new facilities in the Czech Republic to expand the Airlite automotive interior sound acoustic insulation business in Europe. This new facility at TTCE's facility in the Czech Republic went on line in October last year, with an annual production capacity of 1200 t.

The new Airlite facilities will complement TTCE's airbag fabric operations, helping it to expand its automotive materials business. TAK looks to leverage the new facilities to bolster its automotive interior sound-absorbing materials busi-

ness in Europe and step up efforts to serve automakers and leading parts manufacturers as Europe's electric vehicle market grows.

Toray will develop products incorporating recycled materials and other eco-friendly offerings to add value and match customer needs. It will collaborate with customers in its drive to reduce environmental impact and materialize a sustainable economy.

The Toray Group will endeavor to become carbon neutral by 2050 by continuing to contribute to better, more diverse lifestyles and sustainability.

www.toray.eu