

PLEXCONCIL - The Plastics Export Promotion Council

PLEXCONNECTTM

Edition 16, October 2020

Authorised Economic Operator Scheme

20 New Sustainable Packaging Innovations



Countryside – Focus on Egypt

Product of the Month
- Polystyrene





THE PLASTICS EXPORT
PROMOTION COUNCIL



1955-2020
Empowering Lives through Plastics

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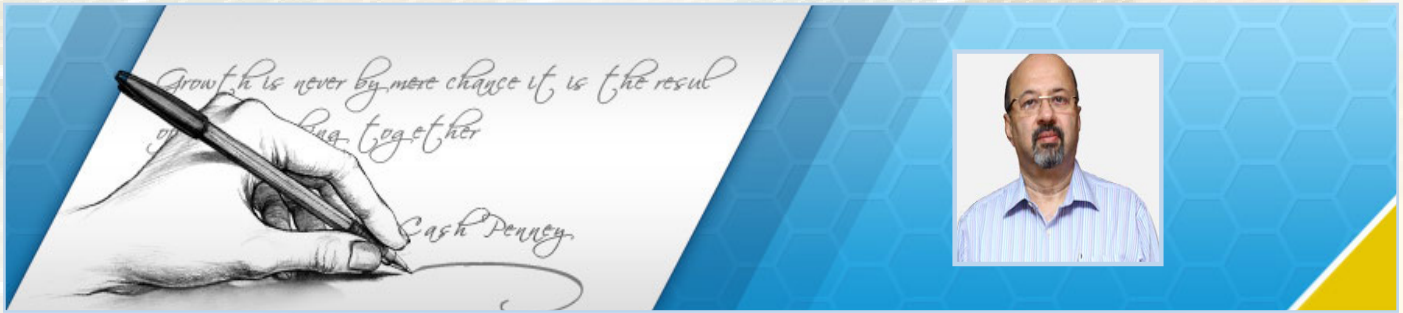
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With the growth of international trade, shipping has become the backbone of global business connecting countries, markets, products, and people as it allows for timely and efficient transportation of goods on a scale that may not otherwise be possible. And given the complexity of logistics today, the World Customs Organization drafted the WCO Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate global trade (SAFE) to secure international trade flow and away from the traditional task of collecting customs duties. The Authorized Economic Operator programme is a core part of SAFE designed with the objective of promoting ease of doing business and trade facilitation.

In India, the Central Board of Customs & Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) introduced the Authorised Economic Operators in line with SAFE to facilitate compliances and clearances in relation to international movement of cargo. The benefits of the AEO programme are numerous and the facility is available at no charge to all businesses involved in Import/Export functions. In this issue of the magazine, we bring you details of the AEO scheme and opinions of numerous exporters who have availed the facility. Their verdict was unanimous. The AEO certificate comes as an enormous relief, both in terms of logistics cost and time; and more exporters must avail of the scheme.

Egypt has been one of Indian oldest trading partners and even today, the country has immense potential for our industry. Our Countryside section covers Egypt and highlights the possibilities in the region.

Meanwhile, in August 2020, India exported plastics worth USD 838 million, down 1.8% from USD 853 million in August 2019. Cumulative value of plastics export during April 2020 – August 2020 was USD 3,911 million as against USD 4,386 million during the same period last year, registering a negative growth of 10.8%.

Creating a Circular Economy starts with product design that is foundational to ensuring that the cyclical impact of sustainability is maintained. This issue covers some of the latest innovation and trends in packaging that are taking place globally and it is important that our industry keeps up with these developments too.

Additionally, we also look at the Polystyrene industry outlook, detailed insights into the processing industry shared by The Organization of Plastics Processors and news and updates that complete the round-up of this month's issue.

Lastly, Plexconcil is proud to welcome its newly formed Youth Committee. Formed with the aim to infuse renewed dynamism and new age perspectives, we heartily welcome their participation in furthering our endeavour to progressing our industry. Please join us in welcoming them and request your continued support to their efforts.

Until then, stay safe and healthy.

Warm Regards,

Ravish Kamath
Chairman

Webinar on GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES & BENEFITS OF PLASTIC EXPORTS held on 04.08.2020

Plexconcil Southern Region and JDGFT, Chennai jointly organized the webinar on the opportunities & benefits of exports and the schemes operational for either to increase their exports or kick start their export business. Dr. M.K. Shanmuga Sundaram IAS, Zonal Additional DGFT, Chennai Inaugurated the Webinar.

Key Take-Aways:

1. Global Opportunities / Global Trade Performance
2. Schemes and Benefits for Export of Plastics/Polymer like MEIS etc
3. Schemes for Manufacturers & Benefits of SEZ/EOUs
4. Amendment in the FTP (Foreign Trade Policy)
5. Launch of new DGFT platform and Digital delivery of IEC related services
6. Way Forward

Webinar on “EXPORT AWARENESS MEET” (Promoting SALEM District - TN as an “Export Hub) held on 19.08.2020

PLEXCONCIL in conjunction with DIC (DISTRICT INDUSTRIES CENTRE), SALEM & PERIYAR UNIVERSITY, Salem organized the “Export Awareness Meet” focussing on promoting SALEM District as an “Export Hub”

- The webinar was Inaugurated by Thiru S.A RAMAN, I.A.S., Collector, Salem District, Tamil Nadu
- Special Address by Prof. Dr. P. Kolandaivel, Vice-Chancellor – Periyar University, Salem

Key Take-Aways

1. Products which has the potential for Exports from Salem (Tamil Nadu)
2. Benefits of Exporting from Tamil Nadu
3. Ease of Doing Exports
4. Schemes and Govt Support and Subsidies for Exports
5. Way Forward

Panelist:

- Mr. Shivakumar, General Manager, District Industries Centre (DIC) Salem, Govt. of TN
- Mr. YV Raman, Regional Chairman, South - PLEXCONCIL
- Mr. P. Mohan, Managing Partner, M/s. Sakthi Polymers, Salem
- Mr. Balaji, Managing Partner, M/s. Sri Sapthagiri Polymers, Salem
- Mr. Ruban Hobday, Regional Director – South, PLEXCONCIL
- Dr. V.R. Palanivelu, Professor and Head Department of Management Studies at Periyar University.

First District level Export Promotion committee Virtual meeting of Kanyakumari district held on 21.08.2020

The First District level Export Promotion committee meeting of Kanyakumari district was held under the Chairmanship of Shri. Prashant **M. Wadnere**, I.A.S., District Collector - Kanyakumari district.

The first DEPC meeting had preliminary discussions on:

- (i) Identification of potential export products from Kanyakumari District;
- (ii) identification of bottlenecks for exports of potential products;
- (iii) identifying training and development needs of Kanyakumari district industries.

The virtual meeting was attended by various trade bodies & associations.

Plexconcil Southern Region gave its inputs and necessary information's for the development of Fishnet Industry and importantly in exploring International Markets.

Council Activities - August 2020

Awareness Program on Role of Trade Remedy Measures & Non-Tariff Barriers in Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan held on 25.08.2020

Indian Chemical Council (ICC) and Forum For Trade Remedies (FFTR) organised a webinar to create awareness about the Role of Trade Remedy Measures & Non-Tariff Barriers in Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. The webinar emphasised the importance of Non -Tariff Barriers such as BIS Standards that need to be imposed on imported goods, particularly finished products, in order to ensure that substandard goods are not dumped into the country. This would also ensure the success of the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan of the Government. The webinar also created awareness about the role of DGTR and the online process and guidelines that are available on DGTR website to initiate Anti Dumping duty against a particular country in case domestic industry is of the view that a particular product is being dumped, and has the data to support their claim.

Speakers at the webinar included Mr. Kartik Bharatram, Chairman, ICC, Northern Region, Mr. Mithileshwar Thakur, Additional DGFT, Mr. M.K. Anand, DG, FFTR, Mr. A.K.Gupta, MD, TPM Consultants.

Mr. Sanjiv R. Dewan, RD, joined the online session.

Eastern Regional Committee Meeting held on 25.08.2020

Eastern Regional office organized Regional Committee meeting on 25.8.20 through WEBEX software (Online). Issues & concerns w.r.t exports of plastic goods from Eastern Region, Councils export promotion activities for the FY 20-21 were discussed. In addition to the above, council's Membership position as on 24th August 2020 (Eastern Region) were also reviewed.

Webinar on Rethinking International Marketing held on 28.08.2020

PLEXCONCIL in conjunction with CHEMEXCIL jointly organized the Web seminar. Dr. Rajendra Prasad Sharma, Associate Professor (Marketing Area), Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Kolkata made a detailed presentation on the subject seminar. He mainly talked about approaches and strategies to survive and thrive during the new normal by choosing the right market opportunities.

Webinar on “District Export Plan- Importance and Way forward” held on 06.08.2020

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his independent Day speech last year highlighted on need to boost exports by developing each district as an export hub. With the recent focus of Government of India to develop each district as the Export Hub, DGFT is playing a key role for preparation and implementation of District Export Plan. In view of this, Plexconcil organized a Webinar on **“District Export Plan- Importance and Way forward”** to understand importance, process and role of Industry for District Export Plan on 6th August, 2020.

Welcome address for the webinar was given by Mr. Arvind Goenka, Vice Chairman, Plexconcil. Mr Shyam Tibrewal, CoA, Plexconcil introduced participants about activities of Plexconcil and appraised about webinar topic. Speaking about webinar topic Shri A K Choudhary, , ITS, Additional DGFT, RA Ahmedabad described the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister to promote Each district as export hub and how this vision is taking shape gradually at central level and then at state level and now at a district level. Ms Maitheyi Naidu, Assistant DGFT, made a detailed presentation about District export Plan. Several queries were resolved by Speaker and colleagues from DGFT Office.

PLEXCONCIL Unveils the APP-t Mobile Convenience for Buyer-Seller Connect

- First-of-its-kind Buyer-Seller Connect on a 24X7 basis for all plastics exporters
- Every exporter can display 3 products through the Council
- Updated information on export schemes and trade notifications by GOI

PLEXCONCIL unveiled the PLEXCONCIL mobile app for plastic exporter members and trade fraternity in early September 2020. Mr. Ravish Kamath (Chairman, PLEXCONCIL) unveiled the PLEXCONCIL app in the presence of Mr. Arvind Goenka (Vice Chairman, PLEXCONCIL) and Mr. Sribash Dasmohapatra (ED, PLEXCONCIL) - and dedicated the app to the nation's plastics exporters, which includes many MSMEs. The app can be easily downloaded from Google Playstore on Android phones and on iPhones.

A first-of-its-kind 24X7 Buyer-Seller Connect marketplace, the App allows every member to display 3 products on this virtual marketplace in addition to offering Business Tools and facilitating Business Inquiries. It provides information on export schemes and various trade notifications by Union Ministry on a regular basis. It also has a section on Events & Exhibitions for exporters.

Mr. Ravish Kamath, Chairman, PLEXCONCIL, said, "The PLEXCONCIL app is a great aggregator tool to bring together all the plastic exporters, especially MSMEs on to a single platform available on mobile phones or digital devices. This is an ideal time for PLEXCONCIL to launch the app considering that every exporter is looking for new business development opportunities in the post COVID-19 scenario and geo-political shifts in global trade dynamics. The app offers unique Buyer-Seller Connect, Business Tools and Business Inquiry generation opportunities for those exporters targeting the US, Asia and the UAE amongst others. PLEXCONCIL seeks to increase India's share in the global plastics export market and this is one of the initiatives to actively engage Indian exporters and motivate them to export more."

Mr. Arvind Goenka, Vice Chairman, PLEXCONCIL, added, "India is currently ranked among the top five consumers of polymers in the world and the PLEXCONCIL app has the potential to unite 50,000 plus plastic processing units employing over 40 lakh trade constituents across the value chain. Plastics are amongst the fastest-growing industries in the world. The plastics industry in India is making significant contribution to the economic development and growth of various key sectors in the country which includes automotive, construction, electronics, healthcare, and FMCG. The plastic processing industry has the potential to bring in foreign investments and make India a global manufacturing hub."

Mr. Sribash Dasmohapatra, ED, PLEXCONCIL, added, "The country's plastics industry offers immense potential in terms of capacity, infrastructure and skilled manpower. Cumulative value of plastics export during April 2020 – June 2020 was USD 2.211 billion. Beating the slowdown, a double-digit growth was seen in Cordage & fishnets and Polyester films while a relatively lesser growth was witnessed in Floor coverings, leather cloth & laminates; Rigid packaging & PET preforms; and Pipes & fittings during June 2020. Recently, India's plastics exports were primarily boosted by higher shipment of plastic raw materials and value-added plastic products including Woven sacks/FIBC, Plastic sheets/films/plates, Optical items, Laminates, Packaging items, and Medical disposables to the European Union, North America, Latin America & Caribbean, and North-East Asia."

The Government is actively seeking to operationalize 18 plastic parks to boost exports and domestic production of plastics. The operationalizing of plastic parks is expected to further increase competitiveness and investments, achieve environmentally sustainable growth and adopt the cluster development approach to consolidate capacities in the plastics sector in addition to job creation. The Council believes that the Indian Plastics Industry offers huge growth opportunities due to lower per capita consumption as compared to world average coupled with low labour cost and availability of skilled manpower and training centers.

Plexconcil Representations – August 2020

Representations made by Plexconcil in the month of August 2020

EAST

1. Representation made to Shri Alapan Bandopadhyay, IAS, Addl. Chief Secretary (Home), Govt. of West Bengal regarding movement of export cargo of M/s Fibro Plasticchem (India) Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata to Bangladesh through Chakdah-Bongaon Road via Gopal Nagar.
2. Representation made to O/o CGST, Kolakata regarding delay in investigation - Risky Exporters Issue of M/s Kolor Impex, Kolkata.

WEST

1. Representation made to Shri. Amit Yadav, DG, Director General of Foreign Trade requesting for amendment in export policy of Textile Raw Material for Masks and Coveralls.
2. Representation to Export Inspection Council for M/s. Hitech Writing instruments regarding issue of Certificate of origin for their shipment to Japan under India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IJCEPA).
3. Representation made to Shri. Amit Yadav, DG, Director General of Foreign Trade regarding pending issues of MEIS and Non - Woven PP Fabric exports.
4. Representation to Minister of Commerce & Industry, Department of Commerce regarding trade request of additional special trains for migrant workers.
5. Representation to Shri N.K Srivastava, Addl. DGFT requesting MEIS to deemed exports.
6. Representation to High Commission of India, London regarding difficulty faced in Exports by Aangan Agrotech Exports Limited

NORTH

1. Representation made to DGFT – regarding revalidation of Advance Authorisation of M/s Cosmo Films Ltd., Delhi. Issue resolved.
2. Representation made to ECGC Ltd. – regarding issue of pending ECGC claims of M/s Vacmet India Ltd., Agra.



Plexconcil’s Youth Committee – Getting Future Ready

We empower ourselves, every time we accept responsibility and choose the thoughts or goals that we act upon. Plexconcil has completed 65 years of progressing the plastic export industry. The success that our organization has witnessed over the years and the role that we have played in the growth of our industry has been the result of the vision and foresight of not just its founding members, but of every successive industry leader and member who has been a part of steering the

organization towards its goals. Today we mark another milestone with our YOUTH COMMITTEE. With the aim to move towards our future, it is important that we keep integrating the new perspectives, views and endeavours of the younger generation. Today, we have many young entrepreneurs among us who have already been creating their distinct mark within our industry, carrying forward the successes of their seniors and shaping the way our industry grows. By constituting this Committee, Plexconcil gears up for another new era that brings with it renewed hopes and horizons. Their dynamism, strong technology base and perspectives are sure to leapfrog our growth to scale new heights and we are proud to welcome vibrant and motivated young entrepreneurs into our fold.

Plexconcil is proud to welcome its newly formed YOUTH COMMITTEE and we request all members to continue to support and encourage them all, the way you always have with us.

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Plexconcil Youth Committee

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Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Scheme

According to the World Customs Organization (WCO), an authorized economic operator (AEO) is “a party involved in the international movement of goods in whatever function that has been approved by or on behalf of a national Customs administration as complying with WCO or equivalent supply chain security standards. Authorized Economic Operators include inter alia manufacturers, importers, exporters, brokers, carriers, consolidators, intermediaries, ports, airports, terminal operators, integrated operators, warehouses and distributors”

The growth of global trade and increasing security threats to the international movement of goods have forced customs administrations to shift their focus more and more to securing the international trade flow and away from the traditional task of collecting customs duties. Recognizing these developments, the WCO, drafted the WCO Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate global trade (SAFE). In the framework, several standards are included that can assist Customs administrations in meeting these new challenges. Developing an Authorized Economic Operator programme is a core part of SAFE.



There are numerous benefits to the AEO certification. Besides receiving priority in processing and clearance of our goods, the certification facilitates the Inclusion of Direct Port Delivery of imports for AEOs. It also helps Self-declaration of SION under Para 4.07A of FTP 2015-20 for AEO Exporters in cases where SION is not notified. The certification includes a Provision of Deferred Payment of duties – delinking duty payment and Customs clearance for AEO T2 and AEO T3, fast tracking of adjudications and refunds including IGST refunds and disbursement of drawback, as well as providing benefits of Mutual Recognition Agreements with other Customs Administrations for AEO T2 and AEO T3. Movement of cargo is much faster. If one follows the required procedure and documentation, getting an AEO certification is fairly easy and I would recommend that more exporters avail the benefits by acquiring the certification. – Prasan Lohia, Director, Merino Industries.

Feature – Policy

With an objective of promoting ease of doing business and trade facilitation, the Indian Customs has taken two initiatives namely Authorised Economic Operators (AEO) Programme and Post-Clearance Audit under Customs.

Through the AEO Programme, the Central Board of Customs & Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) intends to partner with trade in facilitating compliances and clearances in relation to international movement of cargo. The AEO status holders (depending upon their tier status) are accorded benefits over and above the benefits accorded to a normal importer/exporter.



Some of the key benefits are as follows:

- Deferred customs duty payment
- Direct port delivery
- Advance authorisation on self-declaration basis
- Lower bank guarantee requirements
- Customs relationship manager, etc.

With the objective of improving global ranking for cross-border trade, the Government of India is encouraging businesses to acquire AEO status and avail associated benefits. Currently, there are more than 2,200 AEO status holders who are being facilitated by Indian Customs.

In the article below, we bring you some of the Frequently Asked Questions about the AEO Scheme for our exporters.

The process of getting an AEO certification can be compared to getting an ISO certification. The certification requires companies to comply with the established set of rules and guidelines such as setting up of cameras in the loading and unloading areas, etc as well as maintaining the required set of records. If one follows the established guidelines, the process of getting the certification usually takes 2-3 months. I would definitely recommend that exporters obtain the AEO certification as one can get material directly from the port. And once the same is established for exports, consignments can be sent directly to the port. By eliminating many of the interim procedures, exporters can benefit immensely in terms of savings on logistics costs as well time taken. There are consultants who can guide exporters in preparing the right documents and streamline the process of getting the certification.

– Mr. M.V. Sivaraman, Executive Director, Maris Associates, Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu.

What is the AEO programme?

The AEO programme enables Customs administration to identify the safe and compliant business entity in order to provide them a higher degree of assured facilitation. This segmentation approach enables Customs resources to focus on less or non-compliant or risky businesses for control. Thus, the aim of AEO programme is to secure the international supply chain by granting recognition to reliable operators and encouraging best practices at all levels in the international supply chain. Through this programme, the Customs shares its responsibility with the businesses, while at the same time rewarding them with a number of additional benefits.

What is the aim of the Indian Customs AEO Programme?

The AEO programme has the following objectives:

- To provide business entities with an internationally recognized certification;
- To recognize business entities as “secure and reliable” trading partners;
- To incentivize business entities through defined benefits that translate into savings in time and cost;
- Secure supply chain from point of export to import;
- Ability to demonstrate compliance with security standards when contracting to supply overseas importers / exporters;
- Enhanced border clearance privileges in Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) partner countries;
- Minimal security related disruption to flow of cargo;
- Reduction in dwell time and related costs;
- Customs advice / assistance if trade faces unexpected issues with Customs of countries with which India has MRAs with

Is AEO mandatory for businesses involved in the supply chain?

No. The AEO scheme is purely an optional scheme. Applying for AEO status is a business decision depending on the role of the business entity in the supply chain and its willingness to acquire the benefit flowing by acquiring AEO status.

What is the structure of the Indian AEO programme?

There is a three-tier programme for importers and exporters i.e. AEO-T1, AEO-T2 and AEO-T3 in the increasing degree of benefits accorded and compliance requirements. Furthermore, there is single Tier AEO Programme for Logistics Providers, Custodians or Terminal Operators, Customs Brokers and Warehouse Operators who are granted AEO-LO certificate.

What is the validity period of an AEO status?

The validity of the AEO certificate is three years for AEO-T1 and AEO-T2, and five years for AEO-T3 and AEO-LO.

Is the AEO certificate valid at all Customs stations across India?

Yes, it is valid at all Customs stations in India. In other words, an AEO status holder shall get the AEO benefits at all Customs ports/ airports/ Land Customs stations.

What are the benefits of AEO status?

There are a host of benefits for all three categories of AEOs- T1, T2, T3 and LOs. These are listed in paras 1.5.1 to 1.5.4 for AEO T1, T2, T3 and LO respectively of Circular No. 33/2016-Customs dated 22nd July, 2016. Some of the major benefits are listed below:

- Recognition worldwide as safe, secure and compliant business partners in international trade and get trade facilitation by a foreign Customs administration with whom India enters into a Mutual Recognition Agreement/Arrangement;
- Facility of Direct Port Delivery (DPD) of their import Containers and/ or Direct Port Entry (DPE) of their Export Containers;
- Waiver of full or part of the Bank Guarantee requirements, Waiver of Merchant overtime fees;
- Deferred payment of duties;
- Waiver from transactional PCA. Instead Onsite PCA has been provided, the selection of the same shall be based on risk assessment of AEOs;
- Waiver of solvency certification for Customs Brokers;
- A lower risk score in risk analysis systems when profiling;

- Faster disbursal of drawback amount through a process eased out vide Circular 18/2017 Customs dated 29.05.2017;
- Fast tracking of refunds and adjudications
- Self-certified copies of FTA / PTA origin related or any other certificates required for clearance would be accepted;
- Recognition by Partner Government Agencies and other Stakeholders as part of AEO programme

*The AEO certification announced by the Customs Authorities is internationally recognized and does come with numerous benefits for the certificate holders. Many of these benefits are already being availed by business and some are still pending implementation. Considering that even in its current form as exporters would enjoy many benefits, we definitely recommend that more businesses obtain the certificate. The process is simple if companies submit the required documentation. –
Sanjeev Ranjan, Kanplas, Kanpur*

What is deferred payment of duty scheme?

It is a mechanism for delinking duty payment from Customs clearance. It is based on the principle 'Clear First-Pay later'. The AEO-T2 and AEO-T3 certified importers can avail the benefit of these Rules.

How can an AEO avail the facility of deferred payment of duty?

As per Rule 4 of the Deferred Payment of Import Duty Rules, 2016 an eligible importer who intends to avail the benefit of deferred payment has to intimate his intent to the jurisdictional Principal Commissioner of Customs or the Commissioner of Customs and get registered on the ICEGATE site www.icegate.gov.in.

What exactly is a mutual recognition agreement/ arrangement (MRA)?

Mutual Recognition Arrangements/ Agreements (MRA) are bilateral understandings between two Customs Administrations which allow one business partnership program to recognize the AEO validations of the other country's program and extend reciprocal benefits to each other's AEO. The benefits are generally in nature of enhanced system-based facilitation & reduced interdiction, lower risk score for Indian exporter's consignments at foreign port.

Compared to other regulatory processes in India, we must admit that getting an AEO certificate is a much smoother process mainly because the Government has made the process of AEO certification a time bound exercise. While AEO-T1 certification can be obtained within a period of one month after submission of required documents, AEO-T2 & T3 certification can be in three-five months period. In our own case, we applied for AEO -T2 category certificate in September 2018. Our application went into scrutiny and assessment and we received deficiency letter in October 2018 asking for certain additional details. We took some more time to respond. We responded in November, 2018. Post that, examination of company's place was conducted to check the SOP, material movement and control processes provided in our application. Finally, the department granted us AEO-T2 category certificate on 26.12.2018. Getting AEO is easier if Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) and details of the following are well documented and put in place. The application with supporting requirement is lengthy but we believe that most of the manufacturing and export organizations do have them considering the fact that they need to be in compliance with different Industry standards and customer norms anyway.

The AEO certification demonstrates that your role within the international supply chain is secure and that your customs controls and procedures are efficient and compliant. AEO offers a number of benefits, including lower rate of physical inspections of imported/exported goods, faster release of shipments, preferential treatment by Customs Authorities, and deferred payment of duties, to the companies that meet compliance criteria and demonstrate the security of supply chain. In our case, we have found following benefits with AEO – II Certification.

1. The containers selected for scanning are scanned on priority, by giving front line of treatment.
2. For Importers & Exporters wherever we have not opted for DPD/DPE, seal verification/scrutiny of documents by Custom officers is waived off.
3. Consignments are given out of charge or let export order, as the case may be, without any scrutiny by the officers.
4. The BEs/SBs selected for Assessment and/or Examination are processed on priority by the Customs officers.
5. Barring few cases, our refund applications for GST are cleared within 45 days of the submission of complete documents. This was the immediate benefit we have taken post this certification.

6. The easier clearance, less intervention and examination by customs authorities have reduced our turnaround time dramatically. We have noticed almost 20% increase in our daily dispatches because of that. We have been doing supplies to one of the largest global home furnishing clients for multiple destinations. The dispatch planning for the same is now more efficient, predictable as well as less costly than earlier times. This has increased the level of confidence on our ability in worldwide markets in this dynamic world.

We believe that this is great initiative by the government to have clearance of imports and exports with least amount of interventions. For any global players like us with strong SOP and in-house control, with reputed customers all around the world, it is truly beneficial to have such kind of certifications. While the government intends to have many such initiative to come in future, it is important for us to have the best in class processes, controls and checks which not only meets with global customer requirements but also creates benchmark of trust for all the stakeholders. This, in turn, will support increase in transparency, ease of doing business and friendlier business environment. – **Chintan Shah, CFO, Shaily Engineering, Vadodara, Gujarat**

Are facilitation benefits available to Indian AEOs in foreign countries?

Yes, the facilitation benefits will be available in countries with whom India has signed Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA). Indian Customs has signed Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) with South Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong Customs to enable trade to get benefits on reciprocal basis.

Is the benefit of AEO LO status granted to a Customs Broker also given to its clients i.e. importers or exporters?

No. The AEO LO status will only be valid and applicable for the applicant and not for his importers or exporters. They need to apply separately for AEO status.

Where should applications for AEO be submitted?

The application should be sent to the office of the jurisdictional Chief Commissioner of Customs with copy to AEO Programme Manager, Directorate of International Customs or in case of any doubt, to the AEO Programme Manager, Directorate of International Customs, 10th Floor, Tower II, Jeevan Bharti Building, Connaught Place, New Delhi – 110001.

The jurisdictional Chief Commissioner of Customs is the one from where the Importer/Exporter/Logistic operator is doing majority of business in international supply chain.

An online website (Domain name: aeoindia.gov.in) has been created for filing and processing of AEO-T1 application. The applicant can login to the website and file the AEO- T1 application.

What are the requirements for filing AEO T1/ T2/T3/ LO application?

An applicant for AEO-T1 status is to file application online (Domain name: aeoindia.gov.in) in prescribed proforma alongwith a Declaration as indicated in Annexure A- 1, Annexure A-2 to CBEC Circular No. 26/2018 dated 10.08.2018. After introduction of web-based module for filing online application vide Circular 51/2018 dt. 07.12.2018, it is mandatory to file online application only.

An applicant for grant of any of the remaining three AEO statuses, namely AEO-T2, AEO-T3 and AEO-LO, should submit the application in the proforma specified in Table below. The application form as specified in the Circular No. 33/2016-Customs contains Ten annexures. However, an applicant is required to fill-in and submit only those annexures which may be applicable to it, as mentioned below:

S. No.	Annexure	Subject	AEO T2	AEO T3	AEO LO
1	Annexure-A	Application Form	Yes	Yes	Yes
2	Annexure-B	Security Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes
3	Annexure-C	Process Map	Yes	Yes	Yes
4	Annexure-D	Site Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes
5	Annexure-E1	General Compliance	Yes	Yes	Yes
6	Annexure-E2	Legal Compliance	Yes	Yes	Yes
7	Annexure-E3	Managing commercial and (where appropriate) transport records	Yes	Yes	Yes
8	Annexure-E4	Financial Solvency	Yes	Yes	Yes
9	Annexure-E5	Safety & Security	Yes	Yes	Yes
10	Annexure-F	Business Partner Detail	No	Yes	No

What is the eligibility criteria for a business entity to apply for Indian AEO status?

The eligibility conditions and criteria for granting AEO Status has been listed in the Section 3 of the AEO Circular No. 33/2016 –Customs dated 22nd July, 2016 as amended by Circular No. 3/2018-Customs dated 17th January, 2018. An entity should fulfil the following criteria:

- Established in India;
- Business should be involved in Customs related activity;
- Should have dealt with minimum 25 Customs documents (either Bill of Entry or Shipping Bill) in the last fiscal year;
- Should have been in business activity for last 3 Financial Years.

The AEO certification has definitely eased issues our export related issues. Earlier, our cargo imports would be frequently examined by customs causing several procedural delays. Now it rarely happens. Additionally, Out of Charge has become simpler even before paying the GST. The procedure involved in getting the certificate is quite tedious requiring quite a large number of documents. It is our opinion that the documentation and time can be reduced, and the procedure simplified. However, considering the advantages offered, we definitely recommend all exporters avail this facility. – Geeta Goradia, Managing Director, Jewel Consumer Care Pvt. Ltd., Vadodara, Gujarat

Who can apply for AEO status?

Any business entity that is part of the international supply chain; involved in the cross- border movement of goods and required to fulfill obligations under the Customs law in India, only can apply for AEO status. These may include exporters, importers, logistic providers (e.g. carriers, airlines, freight forwarders, etc.), Custodians or Terminal Operators, Customs House Agents and Warehouse Owners, Port operators, authorized couriers, Stevedores etc.

Is the AEO programme open to micro, small and medium enterprises?

Yes, the AEO programme includes MSMEs and the eligibility conditions and criteria for granting AEO status are same regardless of size.

Feature – Policy

By getting the AEO certification, our company has definitely benefitted from the reduction in our import clearance costs and clearance time. Getting the certification is based on stringent documentation and while some documents can be a little difficult to obtain, overall, the process is quite simple and easy to follow. Considering the savings, especially in terms of time and logistics cost, exporters definitely stand to gain and we certainly recommend it. – Jayaraman Ramanathan, Director, Chidambaram Fishnets, Chennai

Which jurisdictional Chief Commissioner offices are designated for processing of AEO applications?

As of now, the following Chief Commissioner of Customs offices have been designated for processing of AEO application:

- a) Delhi
- b) Mumbai Zone-I
- c) Mumbai Zone-II
- d) Mumbai Zone-III
- e) Ahmedabad
- f) Vishakhapatnam
- g) Bhubaneswar
- h) Bangalore
- i) Chennai
- j) Hyderabad
- k) Kolkata
- l) Tiruchirappalli
- m) Patna
- n) Pune,
- o) Nagpur
- p) Bhopal

In what cases the AEO application be rejected?

The AEO application can be rejected in following two cases:

- Where the applicant is not eligible for grant of AEO status, or
- Where the deficiency noticed in the application is not remedied.

What are the timelines and procedure for processing AEO applications?

In case of AEO T-1 application, if the eligibility conditions and criteria for grant of certificate, as mentioned in Section 3 of Circular No. 33/2016-Customs, are found to have been met to the satisfaction of AEO programme manager, the AEO T-1 certificate shall be granted within 30 days of submission of information/documents.

How are the legitimate concerns and issues of AEO status holders regarding their benefits and facilitation resolved by Customs?

The Customs Administration is bound to extend all the benefits and facilitation measures to AEO status holders listed in the AEO Circular. There is provision for appointment of Client Relationship Manager (CRM) at the level of AC/DC as a single point of interaction with AEO Status holder at the office of each Chief Commissioner of Customs. The appointment of CRM is notified by way of public notice by all jurisdictional Customs station. The CRM is entrusted with the responsibility to attend to the legitimate concerns and issues of AEO clients. The details of CRMs are also provided online at CBIC website.

Is there an AEO Helpdesk?

The AEO team, headed by nodal officer in respective Chief Commissioner of Customs, acts as help desk for all queries related to filing of AEO applications. The contact details of nodal officers and CRM are available on the CBIC website. For any query regarding online filing of AEO T-1 application, a separate help desk with following details has been created: Ph-011-23310013. E-mail: diccbec.dor@gov.in.

Each one of us in business with customs wants to experience faster and hassle free international trade. Getting an AEO certificate (Authorized Economic Operator Certification) can be of immense help. AEO benefits include safe import and export privileges and can help our business to gain a reputable position in our own spear of business. There is a AEO cell at customs offices and the process for the AEO T1 applicants is online.

A growing number of businesses in India are now getting their business AEO certified. AEO certification is now being viewed as an international standard for doing legitimate trade. The official Indian customs literature defines AEO as “Bringing ease of doing business”.

AEO provides businesses with international recognized security standards and certifies an enterprise “secure” and reliable trade partner. The scheme is based on principle of sharing of role and responsibility of customs with trade and industry and the objective is to delink payment and clearances to accept paperless declaration, increased efficiency, safe certifications, earliest refund and draw back and request based examination and inspection.

There are 3 categories of AEO for business connected with customs for imports and exports. The 3 categories are AEO-T1, AEO-T2, AEO-T3 and AEO-LO for Logistics providers.

Category		Validity	Period for submission for renewal
AEO T1	Granted to an importer or exporter without physical verification of premises.	3 years	30 days prior to expiry
AEO T2	Granted to an importer or exporter only after physical verification of premises	3 years	60 days prior to expiry
AEO T3	Granted to an importer or exporter who has continuously enjoyed the status of AEO T2 for at least 2 years proceeding to the date of approval	3 years	90 days prior to expiry

Small and Medium scale enterprises who has filed 25 documents either in Bill of Entries or Shipping Bills during the last financial year is also entitled for AEO. However, businesses not connected with customs related activities are not eligible for AEO certification. There are many agencies providing consultation for getting the AEO certification. – **Y.V Raman, Executive Director, POCL Enterprises, Chennai**

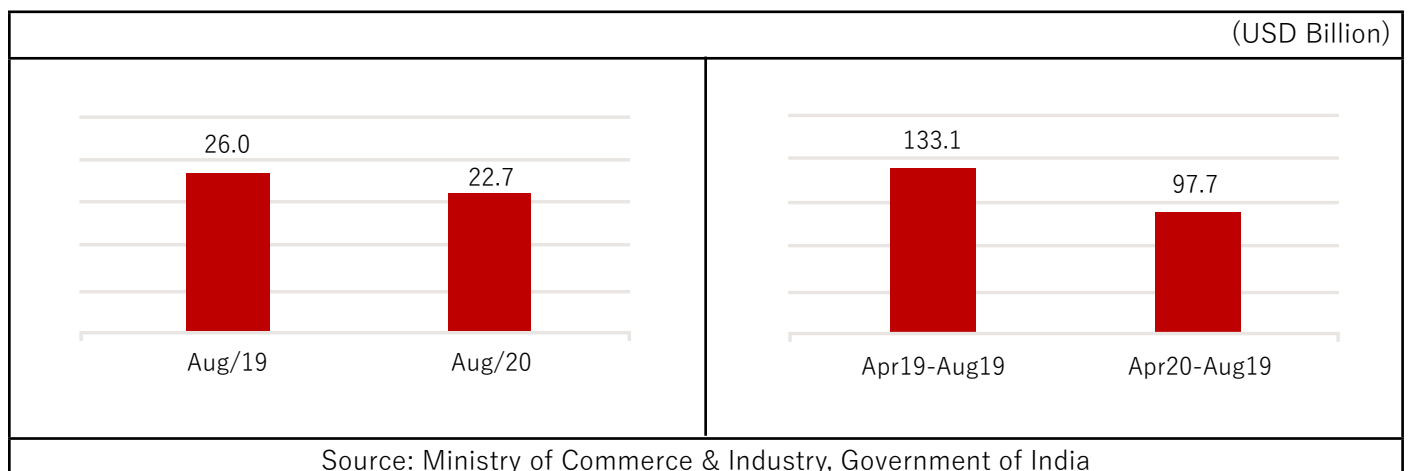


Export Performance August 2020

TREND IN OVERALL EXPORTS

India reported merchandise exports of USD 22.7 billion in August 2020, down 12.7% from USD 26.0 billion in August 2019. Cumulative value of merchandise exports during April 2020 – August 2020 was USD 97.7 billion as against USD 133.1 billion during the same period last year, reflecting a decline of 26.7%.

Exhibit 1: Trend in overall merchandise exports from India

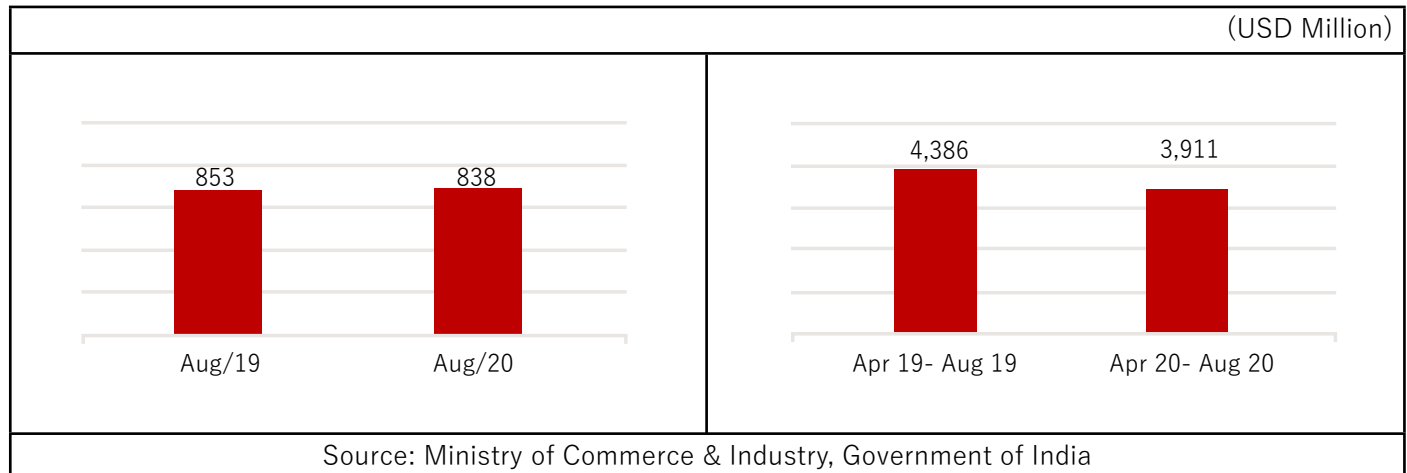


Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

TREND IN PLASTICS EXPORT

During August 2020, India exported plastics worth USD 838 million, down 1.8% from USD 853 million in August 2019. Cumulative value of plastics export during April 2020 – August 2020 was USD 3,911 million as against USD 4,386 million during the same period last year, registering a negative growth of 10.8%.

Exhibit 2: Trend in plastics export by India



PLASTICS EXPORT, BY PANEL

In August 2020, five product panels, namely, Polyester films; Raw materials; Floor coverings, leather cloth & laminates; Pipes & fittings; and Human hair witnessed a positive growth in exports. The remaining panels were unable to surpass their shipments as reported in August 2019.

Exhibit 3: Panel-wise % growth in plastics export by India

Panel	Aug-19	Aug-20	Growth	Apr 19- Aug 19	Apr 20- Aug 20	Growth
	(USD Mn)	(USD Mn)	(%)	(USD Mn)	(USD Mn)	(%)
Consumer & House ware	50.1	45.1	-10.0%	249.3	158.7	-36.3%
Cordage & Fishnets	13.8	13.5	-2.0%	69.3	58.6	-15.5%
Composites / FRP products	27.5	23.8	-13.5%	139.7	95.0	-32.0%
Floor Coverings, Leather cloth & Laminates	31.6	35.9	+13.6%	187.3	145.1	-22.6%
Human Hair & Related Products	17.8	29.4	+65.0%	110.0	103.5	-5.9%
Miscellaneous Products	131.5	122.9	-6.6%	694.9	510.1	-26.6%
Pipes & Fittings	16.6	17.4	+4.9%	80.1	61.7	-22.9%
Polyester Films	124.1	132.4	+6.6%	634.9	658.7	+3.8%
Raw Materials	299.8	309.4	+3.2%	1,567.3	1,678.3	+7.1%
Rigid Packaging & PET Preforms	29.5	25.3	-14.2%	136.8	121.2	-11.4%
Woven Sacks / FIBCs	94.3	68.9	-27.0%	429.8	265.6	-38.2%
Writing Instruments	16.4	14.1	-14.3%	86.8	54.0	-37.9%
	853.1	838.0	-1.8%	4,386.2	3,910.6	-10.8%

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

Export Performance

Export of **Consumer & house ware** products fell by 10.0% in August 2020. Major decline was witnessed in sales of Plastic moulded suit cases (HS code 42021220) to the United States and Belgium, and that of Plastic toothbrushes (HS code 96032100) to Brazil, Germany, United Arab Emirates, and the United States among others.

Cordage & fishnets export witnessed a minor decline of 2.0% in August 2020 on account of lower sales of Twine, cordage, rope and cables (HS code 56079090) to the United States and the United Arab Emirates.

Export of **Composites** fell by 13.5% due to lower sales of Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, nes (HS code 39269099).

In case of **Floor coverings, leather cloth & laminates**, exports in August 2020 were up 13.6% due to increased sales of Textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics other than PVC or PU: Other (HS code 59039090) to the United States.

Export of **Human hair & related products** gained momentum and grew by 65.0% due to strong sales of Human hair, dressed, thinned, bleached or otherwise worked (HS code 67030010) to China.

Miscellaneous products export fell by 6.6% in August 2020 due to decline in sales of Optical fibres, optical fibre bundles and cables (HS code 90011000); Other sacks and bags, of plastics (HS code 39232990); and Safety head-gear (HS code 65061090).

Export of **Pipes & fittings** witnessed a growth of 4.9% due to improved sales of Rigid tubes, pipes and hoses, and fittings thereof, of PVC: Other (HS code 39172390) to Senegal, Egypt and Saudi Arabia; and that of Other rigid tubes, pipes and hoses (HS code 39172990) to Italy in particular.

Polyester films continued its positive streak with exports witnessing a rise of 6.6% in August 2020 on the back of strong growth in shipments of Other self-adhesive plates, sheets, film, foil, tape, strip, of plastics (HS code 39199090); BOPP sheets and films (HS code 39202020); Metallised flexible sheets and films (HS code 39219094); and Flexible, laminated plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastic (HS Code 39219096).

Plastics raw materials also remained in the positive growth territory in August 2020 due to higher export of Polypropylene (HS code 39021000) to China. It may be noted that Polypropylene exports to China during April 2020 – August 2020 stood at USD 217.1 million as against USD 37.3 million during the same period last year, registering a record growth of 482.9%.

Rigid packaging & pet performs export dropped by 14.2% due to lower sales of Other articles for the conveyance or packing of goods, of plastics (HS code 39239090) to Bangladesh, Japan and the United Arab Emirates.

Export of **Woven sacks and FIBCs** fell by 27.0% during August 2020 due to decline in sales of Flexible intermediate bulk containers or FIBCs (HS code 63053200). Indian exporters of this product have been denied MEIS / RoDTEP since August 2019 which is hurting their export competitiveness in the Global market.

Export of **Writing instruments** slipped by 14.3% in August 2020, mainly on account of a decline in sales of Ball-point pens (HS code 96081019) to the United Arab Emirates, Kenya, Thailand, Brazil and Nepal.

Exhibit 4: Details of % change seen in top 50 items of export

HS Code	Description	Apr 19-Aug 19	Apr 20-Aug 20	Growth
		(USD Mn)	(USD Mn)	(%)
39076100	Polyethylene terephthalate: having a viscosity number of 78 ml/g or higher	331.4	-	NM
63053200	Flexible intermediate bulk containers	292.2	217.0	-25.7%
39021000	Polypropylene, in primary forms	198.9	393.1	+97.6%
39012000	Polyethylene with a specific gravity of ≥ 0.94	200.9	181.7	-9.6%
39232990	Sacks and bags, incl. cones, of plastics (excl. those of polymers of ethylene): Other	153.0	123.3	-19.4%
39011010	Linear low density polyethylene (LLDPE)	162.9	66.0	-59.5%
39269099	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s: Other	138.0	93.3	-32.4%
67030010	Human hair, dressed, thinned, bleached or otherwise worked	104.1	99.4	-4.5%
90011000	Optical fibres, optical fibre bundles and cables (excl. made-up of individually sheathed fibres of heading 8544)	115.2	78.4	-32.0%
48239019	Decorative laminates	84.2	66.2	-21.3%
39206220	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyethylene terephthalate, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles (excl. those of polymethyl methacrylate, self-adhesive products, and floor, wall and ceiling coverings of heading 3918): Flexible , plain	89.9	96.6	+7.4%
54072090	Woven fabrics of strip or the like, of synthetic filament, incl. monofilament of ≥ 67 decitex and with a cross sectional dimension of ≤ 1 mm: Other	53.2	33.0	-38.0%
39269080	Polypropylene articles , not elsewhere	71.4	63.4	-11.3%
39232100	Sacks and bags, incl. cones, of polymers of ethylene	66.2	54.9	-17.0%
39076990	Other, polyethylene terephthalate	86.3	64.9	-24.8%
39239090	Articles for the conveyance or packaging of goods, of plastics (excl. boxes, cases, crates and similar articles; sacks and bags, incl. cones; carboys, bottles, flasks and similar articles; spools, spindles, bobbins and similar supports; stoppers, lids, caps and other closures): Other	63.6	55.7	-12.5%
39219099	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles (excl. of cellular plastic; self-adhesive products, floor, wall and ceiling coverings of heading 3918): Other	75.4	44.1	-41.6%

Export Performance

39202020	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of ethylene, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles (excl. self-adhesive products, and floor, wall and ceiling coverings of heading 3918): Flexible , plain	59.9	96.0	+60.4%
39011090	Polyethylene with a specific gravity of < 0.94: Other	62.1	19.3	-68.9%
54072030	Woven fabrics of strip or the like, of synthetic filament, incl. monofilament of ≥ 67 decitex and with a cross sectional dimension of ≤ 1 mm: Dyed	59.5	8.3	-86.1%
90015000	Spectacle lenses of materials other than glass	58.9	41.4	-29.7%
96081019	Ball-point pens	52.8	32.3	-38.8%
39202090	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of ethylene, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles (excl. self-adhesive products, and floor, wall and ceiling coverings of heading 3918): Other	51.5	45.6	-11.5%
39046100	Polytetrafluoroethylene, in primary forms	50.1	39.0	-22.2%
90183930	Cannulae	38.8	36.9	-4.9%
39241090	Tableware and kitchenware, of plastics: Other	40.7	25.3	-37.9%
96032100	Tooth brushes, incl. dental-plate brushes	34.8	23.8	-31.7%
39069090	Acrylic polymers, in primary forms (excl. polymethyl methacrylate): Other	35.4	34.1	-3.6%
39206290	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyethylene terephthalate, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles (excl. those of polymethyl methacrylate, self-adhesive products, and floor, wall and ceiling coverings of heading 3918): Other	34.0	44.7	+31.4%
95030030	Tricycles, scooters, pedal cars and similar wheeled toys; dolls' carriages; dolls; other toys; reduced-size ("scale") models and similar recreational models, working or not; puzzles of all kinds: tricycles, scooters, pedal cars and similar wheeled toys; dolls' carriages; dolls; other toys; reduced-size ("scale") models and similar recreational models, working or not; puzzles of all kinds: of plastics	32.5	26.3	-19.2%
56074900	Twine, cordage, ropes and cables of polyethylene or polypropylene, whether or not plaited or braided and whether or not impregnated, coated, covered or sheathed with rubber or plastics	31.2	27.0	-13.4%
59031090	Textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with polyvinyl chloride (excl. wall coverings of textile materials impregnated or covered with polyvinyl chloride; floor coverings consisting of a textile backing and a top layer or covering of polyvinyl chloride): Other	30.7	17.8	-42.1%

39206919	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyesters, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, not worked or only surface-worked, or only cut to rectangular, incl. square, shapes (excl. polycarbonates, polyethylene terephthalate and other unsaturated polyesters, self-adhesive products, and floor, wall and ceiling coverings in heading 3918): Other	31.8	30.3	-4.7%
59039090	Textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics other than polyvinyl chloride or polyurethane (excl. tyre cord fabric of high tenacity yarn of nylon or other polyamides, polyesters or viscose rayon; wall coverings of textile materials impregnated or covered with plastic; floor coverings consisting of a textile backing and a top layer or covering of plastics): Other	21.4	43.5	+102.8%
39204900	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of vinyl chloride, containing by weight < 6% of plasticisers, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles (excl. self-adhesive products, and floor, wall and ceiling coverings of heading 3918)	34.1	24.0	-29.8%
39140020	Ion-exchangers based on polymers of heading 3901 to 3913, in primary forms: Ion exchangers of polymerisation	30.0	26.9	-10.3%
39219094	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles (excl. of cellular plastic; self-adhesive products, floor, wall and ceiling coverings of heading 3918): Flexible , metallised	27.0	34.6	+28.2%
39219096	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles (excl. of cellular plastic; self-adhesive products, floor, wall and ceiling coverings of heading 3918): Flexible , laminated	25.5	43.0	+68.8%
39199090	Self-adhesive plates, sheets, film, foil, tape, strip and other flat shapes, of plastics, whether or not in rolls > 20 cm wide (excl. floor, wall and ceiling coverings of heading 3918): Other	30.6	36.6	+19.8%
39072090	Polyethers, in primary forms (excl. polyacetals): Other	14.6	36.7	+150.8%
39241010	Insulated ware of plastics	22.0	13.8	-37.4%
39073010	Epoxy resins	28.2	13.6	-51.7%
39259090	Building elements for the manufacture of floors, walls, partition walls, ceilings, roofs, etc., of plastic; gutters and accessories of plastic; railings, fences and similar barriers, of plastic; large shelves, for assembly and permanent installation in shops, workshops, etc., of plastic; architectural ornaments, e.g. friezes, of plastic; fittings and similar products for permanent mounting on buildings, of plastic: Other	40.2	8.8	-78.2%

Export Performance

39095000	Polyurethanes, in primary forms	22.6	22.4	-0.9%
39100090	Silicones in primary forms: Other	25.4	14.3	-43.5%
39235010	Stoppers, lids, caps and other closures, of plastics: Caps and closures for bottles	20.0	18.7	-6.4%
39129090	Cellulose and chemical derivatives thereof, n.e.s., in primary forms (excl. cellulose acetates, cellulose nitrates and cellulose ethers): Other	22.5	22.5	+0.3%
39119090	Polysulphides, polysulphones and other polymers and prepolymers produced by chemical synthesis, n.e.s., in primary forms: Other	22.3	20.4	-8.5%
39031990	Polystyrene, in primary forms (excl. expansible): Other	23.8	15.0	-36.9%
39269069	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s: Other	19.8	10.5	-47.2%

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India



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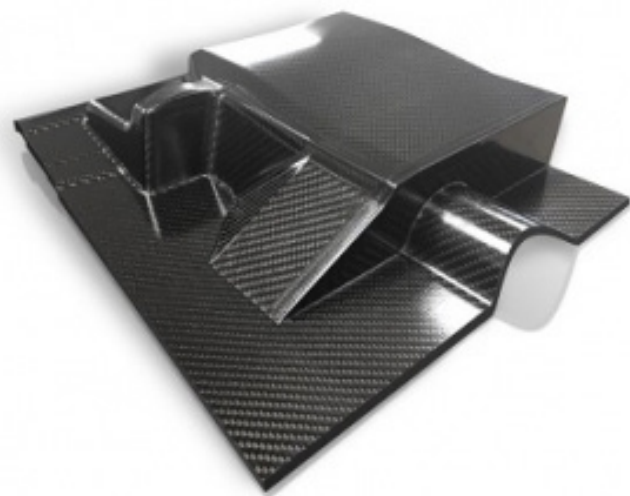
For Membership : Ms. Anagha Barve | +91 22 26833951/52 | anagha@plexconcl.org



International News

Toray develops composite tooling materials distribution center in US

Toray Advanced Composites announces the creation of a US-based distribution center for their proven, high-performance Toray AmberTool HX56 composite tooling prepregs, enhancing the speed of supply and regional availability of leading composite tooling technology. Manufactured at their thermoset center of excellence in the UK, the tooling material will be fully stocked in the central US, allowing for immediate order fulfillment for customers in North America. Real-time delivery of composite tooling is crucial to the motorsports market where rapid design and production cycles also demand rapid support from suppliers.



Toray AmberTool HX56 is a low temperature curing epoxy prepreg that produces an excellent surface for short-cure autoclave processing. This high-performance tooling prepreg has robust handling characteristics that provide excellent drape for complex shapes like those needed in the motorsport market. The pre-

preg has been a key enabler to the high-end motorsport market in Europe for over 20 years. Like all AmberTool products, Toray AmberTool HX56 enables the production of precision composite tools with superior accuracy and surface finish.

Bryan Nortje, Senior Technical Manager at Fibreworks Composites, understands the need for readily available, high-quality products: “Our core philosophy is to ‘out-perform’ our competition on all fronts. The HX56 Tooling system falls perfectly into our needs. It offers us faster turnaround times without compromising quality. Kudos to Toray for supporting us in the USA with this product from Europe.”

“The immediate availability of this high-end tooling prepreg will be a game changer for US racing teams. Our central US stocking facility will ensure a quick supply of materials for faster part development and production, thereby giving US teams more testing time on the track,” says Steve Cease, VP Strategic Initiatives. “We value being a material supply partner to the high-end motorsport market and are excited to offer inventory in the US for their immediate needs.”

Source: Indian Chemical News

thyssenkrupp wins contract to build bioplastics plant in China

thyssenkrupp Industrial Solutions AG recently won another order to build a bioplastics plant based on the patented PLAneo technology. It will be built in South China and will produce 30,000 tons/yr of polylactide (PLA). PLA is a compostable bioplastic made from 100% renewable biomass, making it an eco-friendly, low-CO2 and economic alternative to conventional oil-based plastics.

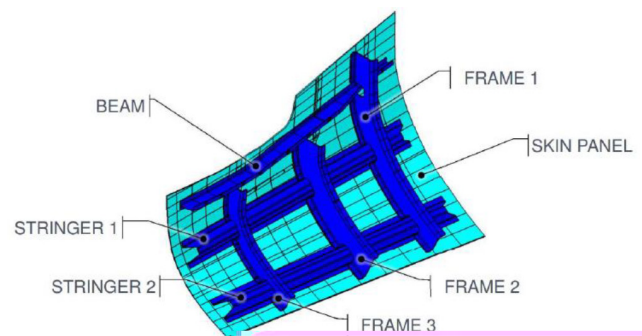


thyssenkrupp built the first commercial plant based on PLAneo technology for China's biggest food and beverage company COFCO. It went into operation in Changchun at the end of 2018.

Source: Indian Chemical News

European consortium to develop aerospace thermo-plastic manufacturing solutions for complex geometries

The fuselage of the next generation of large passenger aircrafts will certainly rely on the benefits of thermo-plastic composites. Greater toughness, recycling potential and faster production cycles enable the capacity to meet future aviation sector challenges.



“In a world where environmental awareness is increasing, the market for bioplastics is growing all the time. Thanks to its versatility, PLA in particular has great potential to bring sustainable change not only in the packaging industry but also in other sectors such as the food, consumer goods and automotive industries. We want to support this development with our PLAneo technology,” says Sami Pelkonen, CEO of the Electrolysis & Polymers Technologies business unit. “At the same time this second order will strengthen our position on the Asian market, which currently represents around half of the world’s bioplastic production capacities.”

The new plant will produce PLA among other things for the manufacture of eco-friendly packaging, fibers, textiles and engineering plastics, and is scheduled to go into operation in fall 2021. thyssenkrupp will design the plant and supply the key components.

Poly lactide is a biodegradable plastic which, thanks to its physical and mechanical properties, can replace many conventional materials such as PET, polypropylene and polystyrene. The feedstock for the PLAneo process is lactic acid, which is obtained from renewable raw materials such as sugar, starch or cellulose. The technology converts lactic acid into PLA in a particularly efficient way that conserves resources. In its development, thyssenkrupp was able to draw on decades of know-how gained in the construction of more than 400 plastics plants worldwide.

“With PLAneo our customers can dispense with fossil resources and significantly reduce CO2 emissions — at production costs that are competitive with those of conventional plastics,” says Udo Mühlbauer, product manager at thyssenkrupp. “The technology is also suitable for large-scale plants with capacities of up to 100,000 tons/yr. In addition, we have reduced energy consumption in the process through the use of an energy recovery system, further reducing costs and making production even more sustainable.”

In fact, even if this kind of materials are being increasingly used in aerospace industry, as they contribute to lighter aircrafts and consequently to fuel consumption reduction, there are still some issues to be overcome until this becomes a reality. The manufacturing of complex forms of aircraft rear end section with continuous fibre-reinforced TP still poses a considerable challenge: high processing temperatures, raw material costs, complex temperature-controlled tooling and evolutive cross sections.

To support a Clean Sky 2 initiative focused on developing concepts and enabling technologies for an optimum rear fuselage and empennage, ESTIA-Compositadour initiated a European consortium with Heraeus Noblelight Ltd. (UK), Xelis (Germany) and Cero (France) into a 2.5 year applied research project FRAMES : Fibre reinforced thermoplastics manufacturing for stiffened, complex, double curved structures.

FRAMES main objective is to validate and assess a manufacturing approach of an integral thermoplastic rear end with critical design features. Key technologies developed within FRAMES will be used into a mid-scale advanced rear end demonstrator manufactured by the Deutsches Zentrum für Luft-und Raumfahrt (DLR), part of a Clean Sky 2 technology platform for large passenger aircrafts.

By combining their forces and knowledge, the consortium is looking to bring reliable and competitive industrial solutions for intelligent heating systems for automated lay up, efficient stiffeners production process and advanced heated tooling. Three work packages will support enabling key technologies:

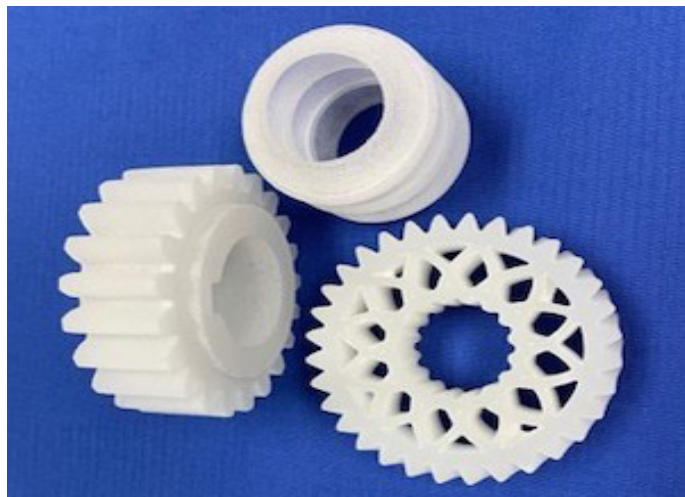
- Heraeus Noblelight will lead the development of a combined optical-thermal simulation model for fibre placement with xenon heating device such as humm3®, enabling fast skin lay up.
- Xelis will undertake the development of robust manufacturing process for complex thermoplastic stiffeners with a proven high production rate capability
- Cero will take charge of delivering a self-heating tooling solution enabling a skin-stiffeners coconsolidation process in one shot
- ESTIA-Compositadour will lead the project, perform fibre placement trials and support DLR during manufacturing and delivery of rear end demonstrator.

Source: jecomposites.com

Polypropylene Powder Sets New Standard for Selective Laser Sintering

A new polypropylene powder for use in selective laser sintering (SLS) has been introduced by Advanced Laser Materials (ALM), part of EOS. PP 400 offers superior mechanical properties compared with other materials available on the market, according to ALM, notably a 50% elongation of break, providing impact resistance in dynamic environments. In addition, no absorbers or other additives are required for use.

The powder is easily recyclable, enabling low cost-per-part manufacturing. PP 400 also features chemical resistance, processing stability, and enhanced performance in products with living hinges. Applications include fluid systems, tanks and containers, piping, interior components on automobiles, and anything that comes in contact with corrosive fluids.



“Developing our own polypropylene was less about just getting to market and more about getting to market with the right product that meets the demands of our customers and partners,” said Cary Baur, Manager, R&D and Applications Development – Polymers for EOS. “We wanted to create the best base material possible that would be successful on its own, but could also serve as a jumping-off point for producing customized composites based on customer applications and needs.”

ALM is the only company in the additive manufacturing industry uniquely equipped to create custom materials for clients and also drive hardware configuration and process coordination for utilizing that material, added Baur. “In the automotive industry, for example, ALM has worked with several different customers to develop custom materials that have a higher impact resistance, higher tensile strength, or meet other very specific application criteria. Similarly, in the aerospace industry, we’ve worked with customers to understand their application criteria and then design a material that may be more flame retardant or one that has electrostatic dissipation properties or performance strength,” Baur told *PlasticsToday*. The approach transcends simply finding the right material, he stressed. “We work closely with customers to help them figure out how to use the material correctly to get the most benefit out of it in its intended application,” said Baur.

Collaboration with Braskem

ALM developed the polypropylene powder in partnership with Braskem, the largest polyolefins producer in the Americas and the leading producer of biopolymers in the world. The collaboration with Braskem allowed both companies to leverage their respective areas of expertise in a complementary fashion, Baur explained. “Braskem has the polypropylene materials knowledge and ALM possesses the specialized SLS material and process knowledge needed to make those materials work for additive manufacturing,” Baur told *PlasticsToday*. Details were ironed out during weekly calls between the two teams. “We discussed what’s working, what’s not, and analyzed the data to determine where changes needed to be made to accomplish the goals we set out to accomplish,” recalled Baur. “The final result is a polypropylene powder that performs better than other leading polypropylenes on the market without requiring the use of additives,” he said.

This is the first commercial product launched under ALM’s partnership with Braskem that began in 2018. The material is now on the market for third-party industrial 3D printers and will soon be available for EOS machines, as well.

Source: *Plastics Today*

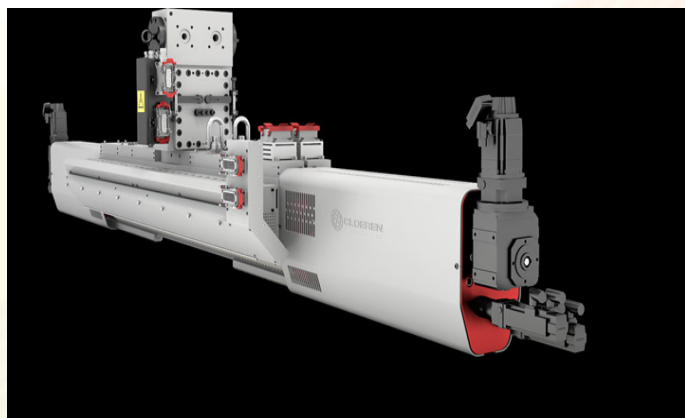
'Game Changing' Flat Die Lives Up to Its Billing

A new flat die and control package billed by its developers as “revolutionary” and “game changing” is proving to be just that. After some three years in development, the Reflex die for cast film and coating/laminating was officially unveiled at last October’s K 2019 show in Düsseldorf by Cloeren Incorporated, which has sold nearly 100 of the dies worldwide, including about 30 units teamed with Windmoeller & Hoelscher’s Die Control Wizard (DCW) operating in what’s called “touchless” mode.

One such die and control package has been in operation since March 2019 at the Searcy, Ark., plant of extrusion laminator Bryce Corporation. The Reflex-DCW combination, retrofitted on an existing line, has thus far resulted in a 50% reduction in total yield loss, 80% reduction in belled/soft edges (Fig. 1), and a more than 50% reduction in setup time (Fig. 2), remarks Andy Pratt, Bryce’s v.p. of operations support. Bryce was so impressed with the new die and control package that it has since ordered two more systems for its Memphis, Tenn., operation.

Bryce is a leading provider of flexible packaging and prepress solutions to leading and well-known global consumer-products companies. It is a primary or secondary supplier to brand owners of all sizes in the snack-food market, a major supplier to the top three brands in confectionary goods, and a leading supplier to the top three brands in pet food. Bryce produces more than 150 million preformed pouches annually across these markets.

Growth strategies for Bryce include applying its technical capabilities for its historic core markets to new and adjacent end-markets. Active customers and new projects include health and beauty, frozen food, dried fruit, condiments, dry foods, bars, soups, sauces and lidding. Bryce laminates a wide range of substrates with various polyolefins as well as barrier materials. The Reflex die in Arkansas has can extrude up to five layers.



Cloeren Reflex coating die in touchless configuration.

The combination of the Reflex-DCW offers processors what Cloeren and W&H call “touchless” technology. Pratt can attest to the veracity of this claim. “This is the biggest advancement in extrusion lamination in 25 years,” he says. “It was installed, we made a few tweaks, and we were quickly making commercial product. In the time since, we have not touched a single die bolt. Not once. That is unheard of. It outperforms anything else we have had and is easier to operate. Training new operators is more efficient because they have an opportunity to learn how to operate the line with the die in automatic mode before being transitioned to another line where they learn how to control the die profile. This system has allowed our operators to focus more on quality rather than continuous manual adjustments on the die back and forth.”

Belled Edges/Footage Produced at Bryce

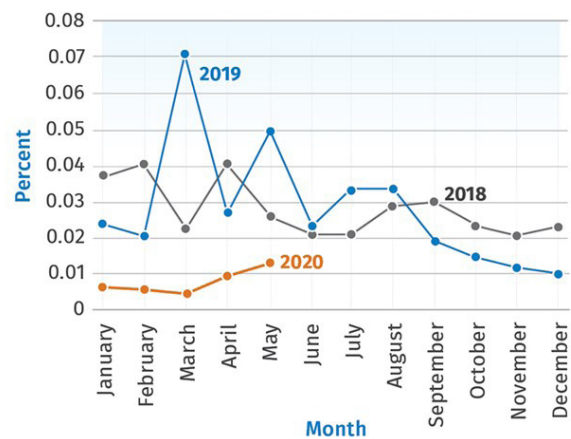


FIG 1 Reducing the time between product changeovers at Bryce, attributed to the Reflex-DCW package also had a significant impact on quality.

While Cloeren designed the die primarily for cast and stretch film, it was also looking for a “launch customer” to bring the die and control system to the extrusion coating market. Cloeren and Bryce—both family-owned companies—have been working together through three generations of ownership.

Pratt elaborates, “In the spring of 2018 I knew that Cloeren was working on a project to build an automatic die for a cast film line in Germany. (Cloeren CEO) Peter Cloeren started talking to me about this, and he knew Bryce was the partner to bring it to the extrusion-lamination market.

We have partnered with Cloeren on several innovations for more than 20 years. Many years ago, we bought their first combination adapter. Cloeren gave us feedback on the production capabilities of the new Reflex die, which was first installed on a cast-film line. We visited their facility and reviewed the design of the new die tailored for

International News

extrusion lamination and decided to partner with them to install and test the die on one of our lines. Because of our position as a leader in extrusion lamination for food packaging, Cloeren wanted to bring the first the first Reflex die and DCW to this market with Bryce.”

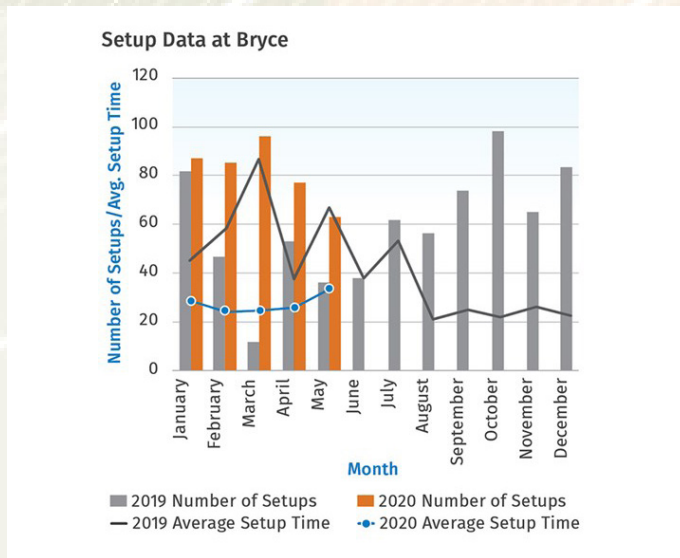


FIG 2 Bryce makes a lot of product changeovers, and the time it takes to execute them has been dramatically reduced since the extrusion laminator retrofitted a Cloeren Reflex die with a W&H Die-Control Wizard in March 2019.

The benefits offered by the new die and control package are particularly critical to Bryce, which runs around the clock and makes as many as 30 job changes/week on the Reflex-DCW line and is always looking for ways to increase efficiency. Said Sean Bowie, president of Bryce’s packaging division, “We are constantly seeking continuous improvement, and partners like Cloeren have helped us push the envelope in the converting industry.”

A Die is Born

The initial push for a truly automatic die emanated from Europe, where cast-film processors routinely push for more automation and less operator involvement in controlling gauge, states Peter Cloeren. “Our OEM customers were telling us, ‘We need a die with more capabilities.’ We would reply, ‘We need a control system with more capabilities.’ W&H responded by developing the DCW. In 2017, Cloeren installed the first Reflex die in the W&H cast-film laboratory line in Lengerich, Germany.



Cloeren Reflex cast film die in touchless configuration.

On the hardware side, Peter Cloeren says the Reflex represents “a complete mechanical and thermal redesign that results in a response that is twice as fast as previous technology. It also provides an adjustment range that is 1.6 times more than existing technology.” Major thickness changes that traditionally took 30 min to execute can now be accomplished in about 3-5 min under control of the DCW.

In addition to automatically adjusting for thickness variations, the die and control package make touchless width changes in as little as 17 min. roll to roll. “Changing widths could take as long as 2 hr in some cases, and that’s all downtime” Cloeren says. “In the Reflex-DCW setup, the thermal bolts on the die lip clamp and seal the deckles. The thermal bolts provide the clamping force at the touch of a button, with no other manual intervention. The software then unclamps the deckles, makes the desired width change, then re-clamps. All of this is done with the line running—at thread speed. When everything is re-clamped, the line ramps up automatically under the control of the DCW. This is a huge milestone.” Daniel Diekbreder, a W&H extrusion process engineer in Lengerich, who was involved in the development of the DCW from the start, notes. “There were several reasons for the development of the Die Control Wizard, but I think one of the most important things was that we wanted to eliminate one of the most complicated and time-consuming things you needed to do in the extrusion business: the alignment of the die-lip gap and moving deckle blades to adjust die width.

“Today’s business is influenced by more and more product changeovers—recipe, resin, film width, thickness, etc.—and all of these changes can require frequent die-gap alignments and die mapping with the gauge head when using a conventional die. Unfortunately, badly aligned die gaps will have a negative influence on film quality and consistency, creating massive amounts of scrap, decreasing your productivity and line efficiency. Combined with the fact that it’s getting more and more difficult to find skilled operators for the workplace, W&H and Cloeren collaboratively searched for a way to develop a system that runs without any manual interaction between the operator and the extrusion die.

W&H Die-Control Wizard, in conjunction with Cloeren die (background) offers processors the ability to dramatically decrease the time it takes to make thickness and width adjustments.



“The idea of a touchless system was already born several years ago, but the first trials using standard dies or other systems equipped with robots were not good enough to fulfill all of our demands to create a fast and reliable system. It took two years of extensive collaboration and development to synchronize the extrusion process with the new hardware and software. But we figured out that all common structures in today’s cast-film business, including stretch, high-barrier and cast PP film can benefit from the touchless operation of the Reflex die and DCW.

“W&H mainly focused on improving its Procontrol line-control software to integrate common situations, like a change of the die width, a resin change with different melt index, and the thickness-gauge mapping procedure, so that finally all of these activities can be done easily using only the touchscreen and without any need to physically touch the die. This should enable all operators with varying experience and skill levels to easily handle these operations consistently and efficiently.”

Cloeren provides the touchless system combining Reflex and the DCW on a turnkey basis for retrofits. The combination is also available on all new W&H cast installations. Cloeren also furnishes the Reflex die on a stand-alone basis. Peter Cloeren says he has yet to test the die on sheet, but believes these processors would receive the same benefits as those in flat film and coating/lamination.

Source: ptonline.com

India News

IGSPMA organizes a webinar on “Defining New Normal in Industrial Cleaning & Hygiene” with Clean India Journal

The banner features a globe background with a play button icon and the text: 'WEBINAR ON Defining New Normal in INDUSTRIAL CLEANING & HYGIENE'. It specifies the date as 'THURSDAY 20 AUGUST 2020' from '4.00pm to 5.30pm IST'. A '1 Day to go' badge is present. A 'LIMITED SEATS REGISTER NOW' button is at the bottom right. Logos for Association Partners (Clean India Journal, IGSPMA), All Cleaning Solutions Partner (SCHEVARAN), FM Partner (FORBES Facility Services), and Cleaning Equipment Partner (KARCHER) are listed at the bottom.

GSPMA organized 2-days webinar for members in co-ordination with Clean India Journal (Virtual Info Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai) during 19-20 August, 2020. Over 100 members/ participants attended the webinar on each of the days. The theme of the webinar was “Defining New Normal in Industrial Cleaning & Hygiene”

Shri Shailesh Patel, President addressed on the first day highlighting the webinar’s central theme in context of post-COVID 19 era. He talked about how industrialists should take safety precautions for their workforce while operating a manufacturing unit.

Shri Milan Patel, Jt. Managing Director, Triokaa Pharma & Chairman, IDMA delivered the key note address on this occasion. Cleaning Industry experts along with technology providers were panelists at the webinar. This included companies such as Forbes Facility Services, Schevaran Labo.Pvt.Ltd., Karcher Cleaning System, Roots Multiclean, Berger Paints, ABB, etc.

On the first day, topics covered were Making manufacturing units safe from infection & contamination, Technology advancements and Safety in Material Movement. On the day two, topics covered included Work safety in New Normal, Right Products & Make Hygiene a habit.

Experts gave very insightful and informative presentations which will help industrialists in operating their units with the utmost safety & hygiene conditions. A Q&A was also held at the end of every session.

IOCL to invest Rs. 17,825 crore on Gujarat petchem expansion project

Indian Oil Corporation said it will invest ₹17,825 crore in raising the capacity of its Gujarat refinery as well as setting up a petrochemical plant at the unit as part of plans for upscaling petchem business to protect margins. The update was shared during IOC’s board meeting held on September 21 stating “board of directors have accorded approval for implementation of petrochemical and lube integration project at Gujarat refinery at an estimated cost of ₹17,825 crore”.

The project envisages raising the capacity of the Vadodara refinery in Gujarat from 13.7 million tonnes per annum to 18 million tonnes and building a 0.5 million tonnes a year polypropylene (PP) plant and a 2,35,000 tonne a year Lube Oil Base Stock (LOBS) unit. The project would be a building block for the production of niche chemicals in future with a potential to increase petrochemical and speciality products integration index on incremental crude oil throughput which would enhance the corporate margins of IOC,” it said.

After the company’s annual general meeting on Monday, IOC Chairman Shrikant Madhav Vaidya said that IOC is planning to raise petrochemical manufacturing capacity and is looking at diversifying into the textile business.

The Gujarat refinery project is part of IOC's plans to boost petrochemical capacity by more than 70 per cent over the next decade, from 3.2 million tonnes a year currently, Vaidya said. "Petrochemical production is a lucrative opportunity for energy companies in India as the per-capita consumption still remains very low," he had said adding that it will raise margins and hedge volatility in the oil market.



IOC is currently implementing an ethylene glycol project at its Paradip refinery in Odisha, as well as a paraxylene/purified terephthalic acid (PX/PTA) plant at the site. An acrylics/oxo-alcohol project at the Gujarat refinery and capacity expansion of the naphtha cracker and PX/PTA plant at its Panipat complex in Haryana are also being implemented. The firm is investing ₹28,869 crore on these projects, he said.

IOC, which owns a third of India's 249.9 million tonnes per annum refining capacity and 29,831 petrol pumps out of 71,046 retail outlets in the country, also plans to leverage its petrochemical operations to expand into textiles as it looks to diversify operations, Vaidya said. The company is already the second-largest player in petrochemicals in the country and in the future, it would focus on entry into new segments like polyester filament yarn, polyester staple fibre, and polybutadiene rubber.

The firm plans to build a ₹1,970-crore textile manufacturing project at Bhadrak in Odisha. The project is expected to have units producing 1,08,000 tonnes a year of polyester staple fibre (PSF), 1,80,000 tonnes of drawn texture yarn (DTY) and 36,000 tonnes of full drawn yarn (FDY).

An 8 lakh tonne a year PX line, a 1.2-million tonne PTA unit and a 3,57,000-tonne mono ethylene glycol (MEG) plant at the Paradip complex would provide a ready source of feedstock for the textile plant.

"As part of expansion across the crude oil-to-chemicals (COTC) value chain, we plan to commission PX-PTA plant at Paradip and capacity expansion of the naphtha cracker and PX-PTA plant at Panipat complex. "The refineries at Panipat and Paradip would achieve a Petrochemical Intensity Index (PII) of 15-20 per cent with the completion of the ongoing projects," he said.

Similarly, the integration of polypropylene and LOBS units will enhance the petrochemical and speciality products integration index of Gujarat refinery to 20.7 per cent on incremental throughput, he said. "As a long-term strategy, we plan to enhance our petrochemicals integration to about 14 to 15% of PII by the year 2030," he said.

Currently, IOC is the second petrochemical maker in the country, with production capabilities in LAB, glycols, butadiene, PX-PTA and a wide range of polymer grades. "For the future, we are focussing on entry into new segments like polyester filament yarn, polyester staple fibre, and polybutadiene rubber along the COTC value-chain," he said.

Source: Indian Chemical News

MRPL to raise Rs. 5000 crore

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL), a leading Indian refining company based in Mangalore, on Friday said it has received shareholders' nod to raise up to Rs 5,000 crore through debentures.

"We inform that the shareholders in the 324 Annual General Meeting held on September 18, 2020 approved to raise funds upto Rs 5,000 crore through issue of unsecured non-convertible debentures (NCDs)/ Bonds, through a special resolution," MRPL said in a regulatory filing.

MRPL recently announced plans to install a second generation (2G) ethanol facility in the State of Karnataka, India. A by-product of the project will be a nutrient rich biochar. This will be used as a sustainable and low carbon source of fertilizer for the local community.

The company posted a loss of Rs 519.86 crore in the first quarter of 2020-21 as against a loss of Rs 500.12 crore in the corresponding period of 2019-20. Low crude throughput due to sluggish demand for petroleum products on account of Covid-19 pandemic was one of the key factors for swinging to loss in the first quarter.

Source: Indian Chemical News

Public procurement contracts for local sellers cross 50k mark post tweak to global tender enquiry rules



Following the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) order in June to enhance participation of local businesses in public procurement under the Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign, 50,346 contracts have been awarded between June 4, 2020, and September 15, 2020, according to the data available on the government e-commerce portal GeM. The contracts awarded to various sellers followed the DPIIT's order on June 4 under Rule 153 (ii) of the General Financial Rules (GFR) 2017 to ensure that local firms are allotted the tender under the campaign. The information was shared by the Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal in the Rajya Sabha recently.

DPIIT in its order had also stated that in the procurement of all goods, services or works, not covered by sub-para 3(a), and with an estimated value of purchase less than Rs 200 crore, in accordance with Rule 161 (iv) of GFR 2017, global tender enquiry shall not be issued except with the approval of competent authority as designated by Department of Expenditure. "Only Class-I local supplier and Class-II local supplier, as defined under the order, shall be eligible to bid in procurements undertaken by procuring entities, except when a global tender enquiry has been issued," the order read.

Source: Financial Express

Toy MSMEs welcome govt's 4-month extension for quality compliance; says enough time to be BIS compliant

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) on Wednesday extended the due date for quality compliance by four months for goods manufactured by domestic businesses in India. DPIIT has now extended the date for implementation of Toys (Quality Control) Order, 2020 from September 1, 2020, to January 1, 2021 "to make necessary arrangements for compliance of standards in view of difficulties arising out of COVID-19 pandemic," the department said in a state-

ment by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.



"This four-month extension should be enough to get us BIS compliant in letter and spirit. It is quite a reasonable time to get the factories BIS audited. So, while we welcome the extension, our demand remains that micro and cottage units should be exempted during the first phase of the implementation of the scheme. We need to create awareness, do capacity building for them and guide them on how to follow the process," Ajay Aggarwal, President, The Toy Association of India told Financial Express Online. The association has 800 micro and small members out of which only around 80 have applied for the BIS certification so far.

Source: Financial Express

Not all imports from China coming down

Consumer electronics, electronic instruments and computer hardware are some of the commodities that showed a decline in imports from China during April-July of 2020-21 when compared to the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.



In a written reply to a question raised by Anand Sharma in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said the Covid-19 pandemic had caused several global and domestic supply side constraints and also led to a dip in global demand. India's imports from China decreased to \$16.60 billion during April-July 2020 from \$23.45 billion in the corresponding period of 2019.

Some of the items exhibiting a decline in imports included electronic components, telecom instruments, computer hardware, industrial machinery for dairy, electric machinery, residual chemical and allied products, consumer electronics, electronic instruments, fertilisers, and iron and steel products, among others.

However, the import of agro chemicals, medical and scientific instruments, other miscellaneous chemicals and petroleum products from China went up during the above-mentioned period.

He said the Government has taken steps to expand domestic capacities to minimise the impact of such disruptions, and has implemented policies to promote domestic manufacturing through ease of doing business and production-linked incentives in select sectors, including mobile phones and electronic components and medical devices and bulk drugs.

The Government has also sensitised stakeholders to source critical imports from diversified sources, with the active support of Indian missions, he added.

Source: thehindubusinessline.com

Indian investments in Africa to increase because of unified market under AfCFTA: Goyal

India will look to work more closely with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which includes 54 African countries merged into a single market, in the near future, Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said.



Speaking at the 15th CII-EXIM Bank Digital Conclave on India Africa Project partnership on Wednesday, the minister talked about India's comprehensive partnership arrangements with countries across the world, including ongoing negotiations with Mauritius and the South Africa Customs Union, and said in the near future it will be happy to work more closely with the AfCFTA also.

Indian investment in Africa is also likely to see an increase because of the AfCFTA and the resulting unified market, the Minister said. "Indian investors can benefit in Africa by accessing the unified market created by AfCFTA and also by creating supply chains between India and Africa. Indian investors in Africa, in particular the 33 LDCs, can benefit by exporting to India at zero duty under India's unilateral tariff preference schemes, which provide preferential market access on over 98 per cent of India's total tariff lines," the Minister said.

The African Union has reportedly announced that the first commercial deal of AfCFTA will take off on January 1, 2021.

On the partnership demonstrated between India and Africa during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, Goyal said India had acted as a trusted partner by supplying essential medicines to African countries and would continue to do so in the future while working together to rebuild economies.

Goyal added that India and Africa could mutually benefit through establishment of India-Africa value chains in several areas such as textiles, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, agro processing and ICT. "This will boost the trade and investment partnership between India and Africa," he said.

India's bilateral trade has seen a -fold increase in the last two decades from \$7 billion to \$66 billion and has tremendous potential for growth in the years to come, the Minister said. India is the fifth largest investor in the African continent with a cumulative investment of \$54 billion in the last few years with sizeable investments in oil and gas, mining, banking and textiles which created jobs for local African citizens, Goyal said.

The country will also continue to support Africa through lines of credit in priority areas such as agriculture, irrigation, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, digital technology, solar electrification, power plants, transmission lines, cement plants and technology parks, he said.

The conclave was attended by a number of Ministers from several African countries

Source: thehindubusinessline.com



EGYPT

Economic overview

Egypt is located in the northeast corner of the African continent sharing land borders with Libya, Sudan, and Israel. It has an area of 1.0 million square kilometres and a population of 99.2 million. Egypt witnessed a turnaround after the implementation of an economic reform program that resulted in introduction of a floating exchange rate, cut in subsidies on fuel and electricity, and the opening up of some of the state-owned companies. Additionally, the country's economy has also been boosted by an upswing in tourism and strong remittances from Egyptians working abroad. In 2019, the tourism industry of Egypt earned USD 13.0 billion in revenue – the highest ever – according to the Central Bank of Egypt.



Message from the Indian Ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt

It gives me immense pleasure that Plexconcil in its 16th edition of Plexconnect magazine is carrying a special feature on Egypt. Egypt is one of India's leading trade partners in Africa. In 2019-20, India's exports to Egypt were valued at US\$ 2.65 billion and India's imports from Egypt stood at US\$ 2 billion. Indian industry has also made substantial investments in Egypt that exceed US\$ 3 billion. Egypt's annual plastic imports are valued at about US\$ 5 billion. There is, thus, substantial scope to enhance exports of plastic products from India to Egypt and particularly so in the light of Egypt's current growth trajectory. In this context, it is heartening that recently Plexconcil organized a virtual Buyer Seller Meet that brought together Indian exporters and Egyptian importers. I am confident that this outreach effort by Plexconcil will promote more intensive engagement in the plastic segment between manufacturers in India and Egyptian industry, and contribute to the further strengthening of trade ties between India and Egypt.

I take this opportunity to convey my best wishes to the members of Plexconcil.

HE Shri Rahul Kulshreshth

Ambassador of India

Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt

As of September 11, 2020, the S&P's rating for Egypt is B (stable); Moody's rating stands at B2 (stable); and Fitch has a reported rating of B+ (stable).

Economic indicators		2017	2018	2019
Nominal GDP	USD Billion	236.5	249.6	302.3
Nominal GDP per capita	USD	2,495	2,573	3,047
Real GDP growth	%	4.1	5.3	5.5
Total population	Million	94.8	97.0	99.2
Average inflation	%	23.5	20.9	13.9
Total merchandise exports	USD Billion	26.4	29.5	30.6
Total merchandise imports	USD Billion	66.8	82.4	78.7

Source: IMF, TradeMap

Egypt has trade agreements with Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Comoros, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanese Republic, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Mauritius, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tanzania, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.



Shashank Agarwal,
Dy. Managing
Director, Kanpur
Plastipack Ltd.

Egypt is a very open and forthcoming market for Indian companies, especially for those who are looking from an investment perspective. On the other hand, the country still has very primitive Industrial Entrepreneurship environment and see themselves more as agro-producers of Cash Crops and Traders. They are yet to venture out into other countries with an Investment strategy. The political situation in the past few years has also had an impact on trade through the country's economy is quite stable. India and Egypt have a bilateral trade agreement and Egyptian Importers have over the years taken advantage of the same as compared to other manufacturing countries. The agreement has also helped Indian Exporters in consistently making inroads into Egypt. It is also a very old textile nation and has the best quality of cotton. Hence, Technical Textiles, Synthetic Textiles and broadly all Fibre and Filaments have a huge potential in Egypt.

As most exporters, I believe that our export potential in the global market is great and it is imperative that as a country we need to look into improving the following:

- Infrastructure challenges including Roads, Railways and port Congestions are huge barriers to Indian businesses or investors looking to set up factories in India as compared to other countries.*
- Higher availability of testing labs, High precision equipment at centralized Plastic Sectors in the country would definitely boost the industry. Providing stimulus to R & D in plastics sector and improving Quality consistency of existing products are equally significant.*
- Bilateral Trade Agreements with countries like Canada, Germany, Russia, Brazil, South Korea, and Japan would give the highest amount of stimulus.*

Plexconcil could play an active role by organizing Buyer-Seller Meets with focussed product categories in India and Egypt. Sharing product-wise information, total imports from other countries vs India's contribution to the same would also add greater perspective to plastic trade with Egypt and help us identifies opportunities in the country.

Trade overview

India and Egypt enjoy cordial trade relations. In fact, Egypt has traditionally been one of the most important trading partners of India in the African continent. Within the African continent, Egypt is the second largest export destination for Indian products and the third largest import partner.

In 2019, India and Egypt engaged in bilateral trade worth USD 4.65 billion. During the year, India's exports to Egypt were valued at USD 2.65 billion in comparison to India's imports worth USD 2.00 billion resulting in a trade surplus of USD 0.65 billion to India. The major items of export from India to Egypt are petroleum products; bovine meat; organic chemicals; cotton yarn; and motor vehicles/cars. Likewise, major items of export from Egypt to India are crude oil; fertilisers; inorganic chemicals; and cotton.

Within plastics, the trade is in favour of India with exports worth USD 122.3 million to Egypt and a trade surplus of USD 84.5 million. India's plastics exports to Egypt primarily comprise of the following:

- Plastic raw materials (53.0%)
- Plastic sheets, films, plates etc (13.2%)
- Decorative laminates (5.1%)
- Other moulded and extruded items (4.8%); and
- Woven sacks/FIBCs (4.3%)

Egypt's annual plastics imports are valued around USD 5.0 billion. Its plastic imports are largely catered to, by Saudi Arabia (20.7%) and China (16.9%). However, despite this, India has a good standing in some of the plastic product imports by Egypt:

- Woven sacks/FIBCs – Market share of 29.6% share (Rank 2)
- Decorative laminates – Market share of 27.2% share (Rank 4)
- Brushes (all kinds) – Market share of 13.7% share (Rank 2)
- Writing instruments – Market share of 10.0% share (Rank 2)
- Master batches – Market share of 7.0% share (Rank 4)
- Plastic sheets, films, plates etc – Market share of 4.7% share (Rank 3)



Vimal Rathod,
Managing
Director, Flair
Pens Ltd.

Egypt was a very good market for Writing Instruments exports from India. However, about six years ago, an Anti dumping duty was imposed on Indian Writing Instruments and at the same time Antidumping duty was removed from Chinese products as a result of which, Indian exports of writing instruments especially took a bid hit and nearly came to a standstill. The first Anti dumping duty was imposed for 5 years and then extended for one more year. If antidumping duty is not further extended, Indian exports will once again gradually pick pace and recover. We have the potential to export the tune of at least 5 Million USD worth of goods every year.



Trade potential

Our internal research indicates that India's export of value-added plastics to Egypt has the potential to grow by USD 1.5 billion. Product categories, within value-added plastics, that have immense export potential for export to Egypt include:

Product Category	Egypt's import from India	Egypt 's import from world	India's export to world	Trade potential for India
	USD Million	USD Million	USD Million	USD Million
Plastic sheets, films, plates etc	16.2	343.3	1,371.0	306.4
Other moulded and extruded items	5.9	287.8	716.7	263.7
Medical disposables	5.6	206.2	660.9	200.5
Master batches	16.3	231.6	1,270.7	103.0
Pipes, tubes, hoses etc.	5.1	171.5	191.5	77.4
Packaging items	1.4	61.9	790.7	60.5
House ware	1.3	38.9	206.7	37.7
Leather cloth	2.2	24.8	145.0	23.4
Stoppers, closures, lids etc	1.9	24.7	78.7	22.8
Decorative laminates	6.7	24.7	322.4	18.0

Source: TradeMap, Plexconcil Research



Harjeet Singh,
Vice President
– International
Business, Vacmet
India Ltd.

Vacmet India Ltd with its two manufacturing locations in India and with an overall capacity of 314700 TPA (across all products), manufacturers and exports a vast range of Bopp and PET films used in food and non-food applications. The organization has a wide customer base pan-India, Europe, USA, MENA and South East Asian countries and exports to 70 countries. Through backward integration with resin and forward integration with coating and metallizing, Vacmet manufactures a wide range of speciality films.

Egypt is good market for flexible packaging products and it in one of the largest export destinations in Africa after Nigeria. However, it may be noted here that while imports from Europe, East Africa and the Middle East do not attract any import duties, Indian exports of BOPP attract a 10% import duty and Polyester films attract 5% duty. Besides, Egypt has a few domestic manufacturers of films and UAE has at least two major ones that cater to Egypt's needs.

All these factors put together make India's exports of packaging films quite difficult to compete with. It is hence imperative that bilateral trade agreements must be looked into so that import duty on Indian exports are removed to level the playing ground and for our products to be given a fair chance to compete with imports from Europe, Middle east or even domestically manufactured products. Having said that, Egypt is a stable market and opportunities for other product segments within plastics could be good.

Our experience with doing business with Egypt has been fairly comfortable even though the Egypt portfolio makes for a small part of our export turnover. As all our business is B2B, language has not been a barrier for us while for many others, especially those who wish to either invest in the country or trade with local partners, it could be a challenge.



Product Of The Month - Polystyrene (PS)

Polystyrene is a thermoplastic polymer that finds use in consumer appliances like refrigerators, air conditioners; disposable medical products; extruded insulation foam; electrical housings; toys; stationery; beads; hangers; and food packaging among others. Products made of Polystyrene can be identified by the triangular recycle symbol with the number “6” resin identification code which is generally mentioned at the bottom of packaging.



Polystyrene is commercially available in two different varieties: General Purpose Polystyrene (GPPS), and High Impact Polystyrene (HIPS). While GPPS is a clear, crystal and a hard transparent polymer with excellent light transmission properties, low haze and moldability, HIPS offers more flexibility, impact strength, gloss and environmental stress crack resistance properties, but with reduced transparency.



The product is classified as 39031910 and 39031990 under Harmonized System (HS) of Coding.

World-wide import of Polystyrene is between USD 5-6 billion.

- In 2019, top-5 exporting countries of Polystyrene were: Taiwan (13.4%), Belgium (10.0%), France (8.0%), Hong Kong (7.3%), and Malaysia (7.2%).
- Likewise, top-5 importing countries of Polystyrene were: China (29.0%), Germany (5.2%), Turkey (5.1%), Italy (4.5%), and Mexico (2.9%).



India is a net exporter of Polystyrene. In 2019, India exported 45,072 tonnes of Polystyrene valued at USD 55.17 million from the world. Bangladesh and Hong Kong were the major destinations for India's exports.

Destination Country	Value (USD Mn)	Destination Country	Qty. (Tonnes)
Bangladesh	15.21	Bangladesh	12,667.59
Hong Kong	6.30	Hong Kong	5,640.00
Egypt	3.68	Egypt	3,166.00
United States	3.41	Italy	2,564.65
Italy	3.19	United States	2,454.01
Sri Lanka	2.84	Sri Lanka	2,347.03
Portugal	1.81	Portugal	1,526.00
Serbia	1.72	Serbia	1,368.00
Qatar	1.66	Qatar	1,339.00
Canada	1.63	Greece	1,248.00

Source: Department of Commerce, Govt. of India, Plexconcil Research

India is also an importer of Polystyrene. In 2019, India imported 32,893 tonnes of Polystyrene valued at USD 40.45 million from the world. Major source for import of Polystyrene for India was the United Arab Emirates

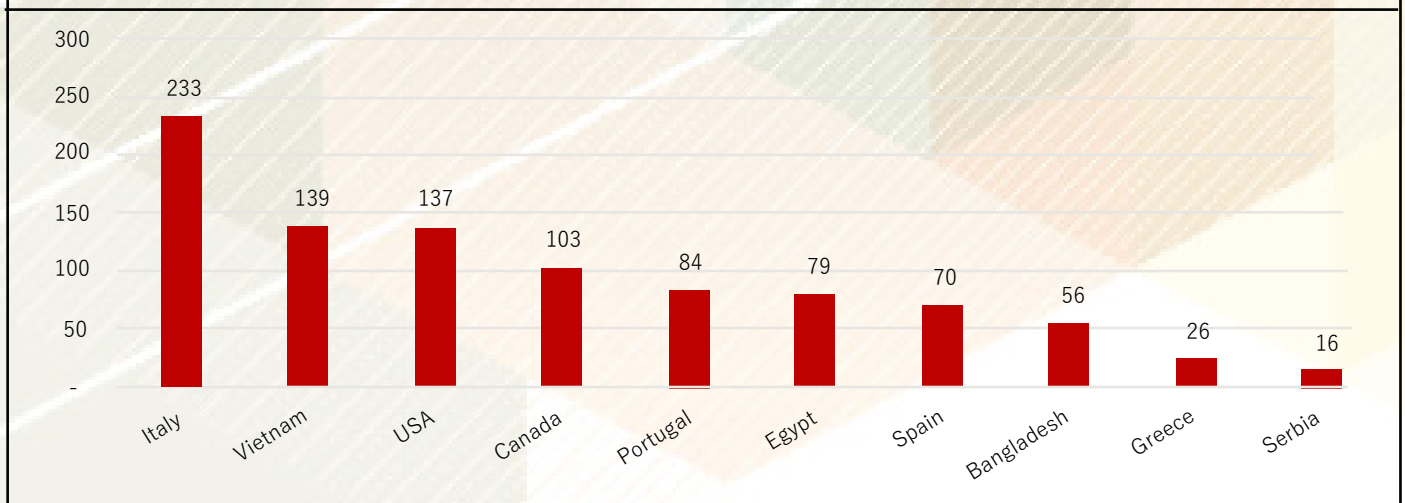
Source Country	Value (USD Mn)	Source Country	Qty. (Tonnes)
United Arab Emirates	23.00	United Arab Emirates	19,870.90
Taiwan	4.87	Taiwan	3,758.02
Singapore	3.32	Singapore	2,453.51
Malaysia	2.79	United States	2,050.78
United States	2.71	Malaysia	2,012.91
China	1.00	China	559.69
South Korea	0.55	Iran	432.05
Iran	0.50	South Korea	393.98
Belgium	0.18	Belgium	193.66
Japan	0.18	Bahamas	159.21

Source: Department of Commerce, Govt. of India, Plexconcil Research

Our internal research indicates that India's Polystyrene producers have immense export potential to destinations like Italy, Vietnam, United States, Canada, Portugal, Egypt, Spain, Bangladesh, Greece, and Serbia.

Product of the month

Import of Polystyrene in USD Million – 2019



Source: Trade Map, Plexconcil Research

Polystyrene producers in India include: M/s INEOS Styrolution India Limited, M/s Supreme Petrochem Limited, and M/s LG Polymers India Private Limited.



IMPORT POLICY FOR CERTAIN PRODUCTS CHANGED FOR ITEMS UNDER CHAPTER 29, 38 AND 39.

Issuing authority: DGFT

Notification No. 26/2015-20 dated 11.08.2020

Link for download: <https://content.dgft.gov.in/Website/dgftprod/eebdf38b-1844-4bc8-85a8-a0f765c-d7ec8/Notification%20No%2026%20dated%2011%2008%202020%20English.pdf>

We wish to inform you that DGFT vide Notification No. 26/2015-20 dated 11.08.2020 amended the Import Policy with respect to various Items under Chapter 29,38 and 39 which now requires Importer to submit copy of Bill of Entry to Ozone Cell, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi.

Certain Items containing Group VI Substances have been “prohibited”. Importers must check the Notification for further details and prior to importing.

REG. IGST REFUND SB005 INVOICE MISMATCH ERROR AND CONCORDANCE TABLE RELATED.

Issuing authority: Jawaharlal Nehru Custom House (JNCH)

Public notice No. 100/2020 dated 14.08.2020

Link for download: <http://jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2020/PN-100-2020.pdf>

The JNCH has issued Public Notice to assist the exporters whose refund is pending due to Invoice No. Mis-Match (SB005 error).

As per CBIC Circular No. 22 Dated 21.04.2020, SB005 error upto S/Bill date 31.12.2019 can be rectified by submission of Concordance Table (Annexure A) to the relevant customs Formation. In this regard, JNCH has issued a PN with list of exporters and the No. of S/Bills which are showing mis-match and can be rectified via this alternative mechanism.

Exporters are requested to check the PN and Annexure and submit the details to rectify the same. The PN, Annexure A and Exporters list is available on JNCH website www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in or above link.

REGARDING AMENDMENT IN EXPORT POLICY OF PERSONAL EQUIPMENT / MASKS & PROCEDURE / CRITERIA FOR SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR EXPORT OF N-95 / FFP2 MASKS.

Issuing authority: DGFT

Notification No. 29/2015-2020 dated 25.08.2020 & Trade Notice No. 25/2020-21 dated 31.08.2020

Link for download: <https://content.dgft.gov.in/Website/dgftprod/044dee49-bea7-4bf0-9cb7-5511f5c-dab52/Noti%20%2029%20Eng.pdf>

<https://content.dgft.gov.in/Website/dgftprod/c0a8170b-af75-49e7-9bba-4f2b131b6019/Trade%20Notice%2025.pdf>

Important Circulars and Notifications

We wish to inform you that O/o. DGFT has made following amendment in the Notification No. 21 dated 28.07.2020 amending the Schedule 2 of the ITC (HS) Export Policy 2018 related to the export of Personal Protection Equipment's / Masks, as under :-

Serial Number	ITC HS Codes	Description	Export Policy	Policy Condition
207 A	901850 901890 9020 392690 621790 630790	Following Personal Protection Equipment's (PPEs) exported either as part of kits or as individual items –		
		1. Medical Coveralls of all Classes/Categories	Free	PPE medical coveralls are freely exportable.
		2. Medical Goggles	Restricted	Monthly export quota of 20 Lakh units of Medical Goggles
		3. N95/FFP2 masks or its equivalent	Restricted	Monthly export quota of 50 Lakh units
		4. All masks (Except N95/FFP2 masks or its equivalent)	Free	All masks (except N95/FFP2 masks or its equivalent) are freely exportable
		5. Nitrile/NBR Gloves	Prohibited	
		6. Face Shields	Free	Face Shields are freely

exportable

Exporters may refer to the notification at the above link.

Notification No. 21 dated 28.07.2020 is amended to the extent that the export policy of 2/3 Ply Surgical masks, medical coveralls of all classes and categories (including medical coveralls for COVID-19) is amended from "Restricted" to "Free" category and these coveralls (including gowns and aprons of all types) are now freely exportable. Medical goggles continue to remain in restricted category with monthly quota of 20 Lakh units and Nitrile/ NBR gloves continue to remain prohibited.

The export policy of N-95/FFP2 masks or its equivalent masks is revised from "Prohibited" to "Restricted" category. A monthly export quota of 50 lakh units has been fixed for N-95/FFP2 masks or its equivalent, for issuing export licenses to eligible applicants as per the criteria mentioned in a Trade Notice No.25 dated 31.08.2020 available at above link.



20 New Sustainable Packaging Innovations

Packaging consultancy shares 20 new sustainable packages and technologies that reflect broader industry trends, including compostability/biodegradability, reusability, and recyclability, among others.

With live events verboten, packaging innovation consultancy ThePackHub took to the (computer) screen in May for a Sustainable Packaging Review webinar that provided “a whistle-stop tour of the latest initiatives.” Hosted by Paul Jenkins, Managing Director of ThePackHub, the webinar covered 20 new innovations in sustainable packaging that represent some of the latest trends. The innovations, in no particular order, included:

1. Rema 1000 Maskinrens own-brand dishwash detergent bottle is now being made from recycled fishing nets from Danish discount retail chain Rema 1000, in cooperation with Plastix.
2. Scientists in Singapore have developed a sustainable way to extract chitin from prawn shells by fermenting it with fruit waste.
3. Gualapack has produced a 100%-recyclable mono-layer pouch for German company Frucht Bar's baby food pouches.
4. Italian brand Alba Cheese has switched to pallet stretch wrap that uses a proprietary organic additive from Biogone Plastics that causes the film to biodegrade 20-times faster than conventional film in a landfill.
5. In Italy, a pouch for Finish Powerball Quantum dishwasher pods from Reckitt Benckiser uses a 100%-recyclable mono-material film supplied by Mondi.
6. John B. Sanfilippo & Son is using a clear, lightweight, 100% recyclable PET canister, the SmartCAN® from Ring Container Technologies, to replace a composite can for its nut products.
7. Since April, European yogurt brands Schäringer, Tirol Milch, and Stainzer have been using a new 95-mm, snap-on plastic yogurt lid from Greiner Packaging that is dishwasher-safe and can be reused.
8. DalterFood Group of Italy is using a compostable and biodegradable film made from the processing residues of agricultural products and other renewable resources for single-dose sachets for grated and cut cheese.



Feature - Packaging



9. The Heart of England Co-operative Society has agreed to a new distribution agreement with LocoSoco, a social enterprise that offers a wide range of refillable household products, that will see 35 Co-op stores fitted out with LocoSoco eco-refill stations.
10. The Ecover refill station system in the U.K. allows consumers to purchase a reusable Ecover bottle—it can be reused up to 50 times—and refill it with laundry, household, and dishwasher cleaners from stations at participating retailers across the country.



11. A new bag-in-box package for Dreft liquid laundry, the Eco-Box, sold via e-commerce from Procter & Gamble contains 60% less plastic than a traditional rigid container.
12. Tchibo, a German coffee retailer known for its rotating range of non-coffee products, has changed

the packaging for its clothing line to reduce the use of plastic. A prefabricated cardboard sleeve is folded around the textiles from below, and a cardboard insert in the form of a hanger serves as a stabilizer. While the suspension that holds the construction together is still made of recycled plastic, Tchibo says it will be replaced with a waste paper solution by the end of the year.

13. A number of “cheap and accurate” food packaging sensors are now being developed that indicate the shelf life of food products in real time. One example: The Imperial College of London is working on a sensor that would be combined with near field communication (NFC) tags that can be read by mobile devices.
14. Compostable and biodegradable netting made from beech tree pulp and supplied by Austrian packaging company VPZ is being used for citrus products.
15. To prevent cross-contamination between fresh produce, researchers at Texas A&M University have created a coating that can be applied to food-contact surfaces like conveyor belts, rollers, and collection buckets. The coating not only acts as a germicidal, but it is also extremely water-repellent.
16. German vegetarian food range Hermann has reduced the plastic in its thermoform packaging by 80% by using Schur Flexibles’ recyclable VACUflex(re) EX-T as bottom film combined with FlexTop(re) transparent and recyclable top film.



17. U.K. meal kit company Gousto is using the Eco Chill box, a plastic-free, recyclable cardboard insulator, to keep its foods fresh during delivery. According to the company, the Eco Chill packaging will also remove 82 tons of plastic from its boxes.
18. IIC Packaging has introduced the lightweight eTray container, designed for meat, sushi, and ready meals, that is made from 6% film, 15% plastic, and 79% cardboard and can be easily separated for recycling.

19. Researchers from the University of Minnesota and Northwestern University have improved the recycling process of polyurethane through the development of a twin-screw extrusion process that improves mixing and air removal in foams.



20. Eurovetrocap has introduced Refill 50, a 50-mL refillable glass jar for cosmetics, with a container and lid that can both be made of post-industrial recycled polypropylene and can be purchased separately. The mono-material container is also 100% recyclable.

Source: packworld.com

Other Packaging Developments

Mondi creates new recyclable plastic packaging

Mondi has partnered with Austrian meat producer Hütthaler to produce a fully recyclable thermoforming film made from a mono-material for their meat and sausage products.

The film is made of a mono-material solution that can be fully recycled and provides a barrier to protect the food and extend its shelf life. The independent cyclo-HTP Institute for Recyclability and Product Responsibility has awarded this film the highest classification “AAA” for recyclability.

Hütthaler’s requirement was to replace the previously used film with a recyclable product. The company was looking for a more sustainable approach that would not compromise on quality or the attractive presentation of the food.

Hütthaler approached Mondi to provide an alternative. Using its customer-centric EcoSolutions approach, Mondi was able to re-invent the packaging for Hütthaler by maintaining optimum functionality while replacing less sustainable packaging, reducing raw material usage and designing packaging that was ready for recycling. Mondi completely manufactured the new packaging. In particular, the bottom film is supplied by Mondi’s Styria plant in Austria, which has also been awarded AA+ for food safety by the British Retail Consortium (BRCGS).

Source: labelandnarrowweb.com

Recycled plastics in food and beverage packaging

An article in Packaging Europe published on August 5, 2020, informed about the new SimpliCycle recyclable valve technology announced by Aptar Food + Beverage. The new valve “offers recyclability while reportedly still maintaining all of the same advantages of Aptar’s standard and Swimming Silicone valves, including high repeatable performance and slit versatility to fit a variety of applications for food, beverage, and other product applications.”



The product is made of thermoplastic elastomer (TPE) material. TPE has a low density and therefore “allows the valve to float, so it can be separated from the PET [(polyethylene terephthalate)] stream, and then ultimately recycled within the PP/PE [(polypropylene/polyethylene)] olefin stream.”



Feature - Packaging

“Danone’s Evian brand has revealed a new [400 ml] bottle for its mineral water that is label-free, made from 100% recycled PET (apart from the cap), and reportedly fully recyclable,” according to an article in Packaging Europe. Evian’s staff said that the new bottle “act[s] as tangible proof of our commitment to becoming a fully circular brand by 2025” and pointed out that “our revolution makes old plastic the ultimate new innovation.” An article by Packaging Europe, published on August 12, 2020, informed that “Unilever’s ice cream brand Magnum has today announced the rollout of more than 7 million recyclable ice cream tubs made with recycled polypropylene (rPP), following a successful pilot launch in Spain, Belgium, and the Netherlands last year.”



The article explains that “traditional mechanical recycling is not suitable for food contact packaging.” Therefore, Unilever collaborated with SABIC to develop an “innovative recycling process” reported to transform “the plastic waste into a resin with the same characteristics as virgin food-grade resin.” Furthermore, this new technology is said to allow Unilever “to recycle low quality, mixed plastic waste that would otherwise most likely be destined for incineration or landfill.”

Source: foodpackagingforum.org

Advances in Chemical Recycling Cut Plastic Waste

There is growing pressure in industry and society to improve the recyclability of plastics and to establish a closed-loop recycling system for this versatile packaging material. Film manufacturer Südpack is increasingly focusing on chemical recycling of plastic waste and developing high-tech packaging films from the recovered raw materials. These raw materials have the same properties as virgin polymers, making them suitable for packaging products with high quality and hygiene requirements, including foodstuffs.

Some 65% of all packaging for food, pet food, and beverages is made from plastic. But currently only about 39% of packaging in Europe is recycled, with an additional 40% used to generate energy. In response, the EU and national governments have set ambitious targets for the volumes and percentages of packaging material that should go into a closed-loop system in the packaging industry. The targets demand a volume of 10 million tons of recycled plastic in new packaging by 2025. By 2030, all plastic packaging on the European market should be reusable or recyclable at low cost. And for composite packaging, the German Packaging Law requires a total recycling quota of 70% by mass beginning in 2022.



Südpack believes chemical recycling of plastic waste is a promising approach to meet these ambitious targets—and a way to develop a closed-loop model that actually works. Food manufacturers and packaging companies will also benefit from using the recycled material and complying with regulations.

Chemical recycling makes it possible to reuse a much larger quantity of plastic. The process can also recover raw material from contaminated, mixed, multilayer, or other plastics that cannot currently be recycled. The recovered material can then go into producing new plastics. Another advantage is that plastic made from chemically recycled material can be chemically recycled again without any loss of quality.



Chemical recycling involves a high-temperature process in which complex waste plastics are converted into raw materials such as pyrolysis oil or synthesis gas. These are ideal substitutes for conventional crude oil at the beginning of the chemical production chain. The share of recycled material in the final products is calculated using a mass-balance method verified by an independent auditor. The materials have the same high quality and performance characteristics as new products.

Chemically recycled materials are also suitable for the production of films that will be applied for packaging-sensitive products such as food. This is an essential aspect for Südpack, a company that prioritizes product safety not only for consumers, but also for the environment, and is committed to sustainability. The use of mechanically recovered recyclates is heavily regulated due to strict hygiene requirements, especially in the post-consumer packaging segment. PET flakes used in the middle layer of packaging films must come from companies certified by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

At present, packaging made of 100% recycled plastic is not viable for sensitive goods such as food and medical products. The necessary legal framework is not in place, and the materials do not provide the special product protection and barrier properties required. “We won’t be able to do without composite films for food packaging in the future, even if we can use more and more recycled materials,” Grimbacher says. “That’s because the ‘enhanced’ recycling required by the German Packaging Law is not yet possible with these packaging materials. So we see chemical recycling as a useful addition to mechanical recycling and as a more sustainable alternative to thermal utilization or landfill.”

Source: packworld.com

Interview with The Organization of Plastic Processors of India (OPPI)



Deepak Lawale, Secretary General, OPPI

Tell us about your association. What is your role and function?

The Organization of Plastics Processors of India (OPPI) was established in 1984 to promote healthy growth of the plastics processing industry in India in the overall interests of the processors, consumers and society at large. As a representative leading body, the Organization of Plastics Processors of India

presents members' views in the proper perspective and creates a platform for interaction with the government for formulation of progressive policies and good manufacturing practices. The organization provides appropriate inputs to the industry to enhance quality, productivity, technology and workforce skills up-gradation.

As Secretary-General, I am the administrative head of OPPI and ensure that all activities in sync with the Mission & Vision of OPPI are carried out.

What are the key objectives of your associations vis-à-vis promoting the plastics processors of India?

- To promote the healthy growth of the Indian Plastics Processing Industry in the overall interests of processors, consumers, society, environment & the nation.
- To effectively represent Plastics Processing Industry at various forums.
- To help the Indian Plastic Processing Industry to be

globally competitive and to adopt world-class sustainable practices.

- To educate the end-users regarding the importance and the benefits of plastics in our daily lives.

India has, perhaps one of the lowest plastic consumption of plastics compared to the global average? What, in your opinion, is the reason for the same?

India has one of the lowest per capita consumption of Plastics compared to the global average because traditionally Indian families prefer fresh items rather than packaged food and beverages. In other countries packaged food and beverages are used in much larger quantity compared to India.

Historically India's plastic processing industry did not grow for various reasons such as:-

1. SSI reservation which prevented strong players with global reach to invest in this sector.
2. SSI reservation for articles of plastic led to fragmented capacity because of revenue incentives to SSI units. This inhibited investment in technology and equipment and achieving economies of scale.
3. Rigid labour policy prevents formation of large capacity for export.
4. Scattered facilities which made it difficult for small processors of plastics to seek global markets.
5. Small size of units restricted investment in technology up-gradation and improving competitiveness.
6. Thus, most of the processing units were designed to cater to domestic market and were set up quite far from Sea ports to cater to global market.

Which product segments in plastics, do you believe have great potential for growth in coming times?

Plastics in Packaging, Pharma, Agriculture & Mobility segments have great potential for growth in future.

There is widespread import of cheap plastic products, especially from China, that has been flooding our markets for a long time now. How can domestic processors counter this practice and promote Indian made products?

We have given the details of the Plastic Products imported from China during the last 3 years to the PMO, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Finance Ministry and also Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals. We have requested all the concerned ministries to make BIS mandatory on the Plastic Products imported from China and other Countries. It appears that the Ministry of Commerce & Industry is in sync with our suggestion.

The plastic processing industry is a huge employment generator and has immense scope for entrepreneurship. What measures are being taken or required to highlight the same?

The Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modiji while addressing the Finale of Smart India Hackathon had said- "The New National Education Policy announced by the Government emphasizes on making "Job Creators" instead of Job Seekers". CIPET has been conducting Short Term and Modular Training Programmes for the Students wanting to make career in the Plastic Industry.

To implement the aforesaid statement of Hon'ble Prime Minister, it is necessary for CIPET to start short-term Courses for Entrepreneurs who want to set up Plastic Processing Units and do not have previous experience in the Plastic Industry. In this Course for Entrepreneurs, besides the lectures and practicals conducted by CIPET Faculty, the Professionals working in Plant Management, Plant Engineering, Plant Maintenance, Finance and Accounts in Plastic Companies should be invited as visiting lecturers. CIPET should also create Project Reports on various Plastic Products in demand. These Project Reports can be prepared keeping in view MSMEs. This Course for Entrepreneurs should be for around 8 weeks.

India is seeing increased investments in infrastructure development, agriculture, irrigation, transport, power and technology. How can the processing industry benefit from these new opportunities?

SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE WITH PLASTICS

Plastics have permeated every facet of human life viz. agriculture and water consumption, building construction, communication, small and bulk packaging, education, medicine, transportation, defense, consumer durable to name a few. One of the reasons for the great popularity of plastics is due to tremendous range of properties exhibited by them because of their ease of processing. Hence, the demand for plastics has been increasing in infrastructure.

Plastics in Construction

Plastics are widely used in construction, building and infrastructure. Construction and utility parts in buildings are often partly or completely polymeric. This can be as wall panels, roofing materials, piping systems, seals, coatings and a large number of other products.



To conserve wood, the Govt. of India in 1988 had issued a directive to promote wood substitutes, including plastics in all Government and institutional purchases for furniture, Door & Window frame and Shutters.

Plastics in Transportation

Owing to their light weight, plastics reduce transportation costs and, therefore, atmospheric carbon dioxide emissions. Public and private transportation vehicles can now contain up to 23 per cent plastics typically as parcel shelves, door liners, steering wheels, electrics and electronics, and recent aircraft such as the Boeing Dreamliner is designed from up to 50 per cent plastics.

Plastic Tracks



Trains are vital to economies around the world. Rail Pads made of plastics and track systems withstand heavy loads and harsh conditions longer. The reliability of a rail system is only as good as the reliability of its tracks. Plastic sleepers are more durable and efficient when compared to the traditionally used sleepers made from wood and concrete.

Besides the rail pads and sleepers, many other plastic items like safety rail, ladder, advanced composite toilet module are used in Railways. Similarly, many FRP products are also used in Railway coaches.

Plastics in the areas of Information, Communications and Education

Plastics play significant role in the areas of Information, Communications and Education (ICE). Mobile communications are areas of exponential growth. Plastics including optic fibers play an important role in telecommunications.

Recreational Activities

Plastics also save energy in a variety of other applications and enhance the quality of many recreational activities, World Cup standard footballs and other equipment such as tennis, squash racquets and golf clubs use nylons, polyether ether ketones, PP and polymeric rubber

Energy Savings

Plastics due to their unique properties of being lightweight, durable and malleable have enabled manufacturers and users to conserve energy in the production of various products like packaging films, automobiles etc.

Plastics have been helping in the more efficient use of energy in applications in buildings, electric appliances, vehicles, and production processes. From production, through use and by waste management, plastics help conserve energy resources.

Geo Textiles

Polymers are used in Geo Synthetics through Geo Textiles - Woven and Non-Woven, Geo Grids, Gabions, Geonet, Geo-composites etc. Geo Textiles find applications in Roads, Railways, Waterways, Airports, Building and Constructions and for River Bank protection.

Solar Energy

Tapping the sun for energy (photovoltaic energy) is



bringing clean and efficient energy to millions of people worldwide. Photovoltaic cells, which help convert the sun's energy to usable domestic power, are made from plastics. The plastics used as components in solar installations include poly methyl methacrylate (PMMA),

polycarbonate (PC), glass fiber-reinforced polyester (GRP), poly(vinyl fluoride) (PVF), fluorinated ethylene-propylene (FEP) copolymer, poly(ethylene terephthalate) (PET) and various foamed plastics.

Healthcare



Healthcare providers are always looking for new and innovative ways to enhance the quality of care patients receive while cutting costs. Re-usable and antimicrobial plastic components are helping medical practitioners overcome adaptive challenges in the healthcare industry. These plastics are advantageous for a variety of reasons, including the benefits listed below:

- Fewer Infections
- New Medical Devices
- Cost Savings
- Environmental Protection
- Increased Comfort & Safety
- Better Containers

Agriculture & Plastics



Plastics find applications in Agriculture / Horticulture as stated below:-

- Drip Irrigation
- Plastics Lining of Water Storage Pond
- Prevention of Soil Erosion
- Plastic Film for Mulching

- Water Lifting
- Water Conveyance and Distribution
- Plastics As An Aid To Improve Cultural Practices of Crops
- Plantation/ Nursery Bags
- Seed Bed Cover
- Soil Sterilization
- Improvement in Ground Nut Crop Through Mulching

Agriculture and infrastructure to drive demand for plastic pipes in India

The PVC plastic pipes market is likely to experience the highest growth, supported by growing demand from sectors such as water supply, agriculture.

Potable water supply, wastewater treatment, agriculture and chemical sectors are expected to propel the demand for plastic pipes in India by manifold.

The Indian plastic pipe market is forecast to grow at a CAGR of 10.4 percent till 2021. The major growth drivers for this market are the growth of government infrastructural spending, increasing residential and commercial construction, industrial production, irrigation sector, and replacement of aging pipelines.

Polyvinyl chloride (PVC), polyethylene (PE) and polypropylene (PP) are the major raw materials used to manufacture pipe.

Within the Indian plastic pipe market, agriculture sector is expected to remain the largest application. The growth of residential and commercial construction and the growth in infrastructure development especially in the agriculture sector in the country are expected to spur growth for this segment over the coming years.

According to the report, emerging trends, which have a direct impact on the dynamics of the market, are the usage of anti-microbial plastic pipes to improve hygiene, consumption of CPVC (chlorinated polyvinyl chloride) piping system in various applications of plastic pipes, and increasing consumption of multilayer plastic pipe in gas distribution in the Indian plastic pipe market.

Can Plastic Pave The Way to Greener Global Infrastructure?

The Dutch city of Rotterdam announced that it was considering a proposal to replace a stretch of its roads with what may become the world's first all-plastic avenue. Proposed by KWS Infra, a subdivision of the Dutch firm VolkerWessels, the project, simply dubbed "Plastic Road," will use entirely recycled materials reclaimed from ocean dumps and incineration plants. The raw materials will then be used to create Lego-like building blocks, which the company claims may prove cheaper, easier to work with, and more durable than the asphalt used in existing boulevards.

Small, interlocking, and fully recycled plastic blocks have been on the mass construction market since the early 2000s, allowing almost anyone to incorporate such materials into their projects.



Multiple companies had developed several variations on plastic bricks--some of which poured like concrete and others that stacked like it--often for use in low-cost and emergency housing. In China, Malaysia, and Taiwan, experimentation with these bricks proved that they cost up to 30 percent less than traditional construction materials, providing greater insulation, resiliency in the face of disasters, and reusability if a building was torn down.

Recently Welsh company Affresol launched a line of affordable homes and modular buildings that utilized recycled plastic as raw material.

Yet while people have long made things like manhole covers out of recycled plastics, it appears that no one had made a wholly plastic road. Many companies, especially out of India, had started adding shredded plastic to asphalt to help local roads withstand the wear and tear of erosion in the early 2000s. But even partially plastic asphalt only recently became cost-effective, possibly helping to limit experimentation in plastic road technologies versus other construction uses.

Recycled plastic materials have proven up to three times more durable than asphalt. They should be able to withstand temperatures from -40 to 176 degrees Fahrenheit without cracking, preventing erosion. Instead--as the roads will be hollow--they will provide space for safe water retention. All told, this should allow a plastic road to last three times as long as a normal road (surviving 50 years at least rather than at the outside). Since the roads will be constructed out of pre-existing plastics, their construction will put far less carbon into the air than asphalt and require less polluting maintenance in the long run. As they can be recycled again into a new road when they break down, the environmental cost of replacing them will be minimal.

To conclude, Plastics enable Sustainable Infrastructure.

The aforesaid facts demonstrate that Plastic Processors have huge opportunities in the Infrastructure Sector and we constantly remind the Plastic Processors to seize these opportunities.

The Technological Upgradation Fund, as seen in the new Gujarat Industrial Policy is being extended to plastics industry as well? What is the current status of the same and how can it help boost the processing industry?

A detailed report on Technological Upgradation Fund (TUF) scheme for Plastic Industry has been submitted to the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals on 12th February 2020. The report was submitted jointly by OPPI, PMMAI, Plexconcil and AIPMA.

We understand that this report has been submitted by the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals to the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Commerce and Industry. However, till date we have not received any final decision from the Government on Technological Upgradation Fund.

It is believed that our domestic industry, in terms of capacities and quality has yet to reach global standards. What are the barriers to production?

It is incorrect to say that the Indian Plastics Processing Industry has not yet reached global standards in terms of capacity and quality. We have members who have more than 300 Injection Moulding Machines. The Indian Plastic Processors have sufficient capacities to produce the Plastic Products of good quality. There are no barriers to production. Thus, there is no issue regarding capacity and quality.

What are the measures being taken or are needed for upskilling, reskilling and skill development in the industry considering the widespread integration of newer technologies in manufacturing?

The Coordination Committee constituted by the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Govt. of India had carried-out the study and submitted its report in February 2015 indicating the skill manpower requirement for the next ten years i.e., additional requirement of 11.60 lakh manpower by 2023-24.

Further, the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Govt. of India had requested to update the skill gap requirement in plastic sector for the next ten years i.e. by 2027-28 in the changed scenario.

Capacity utilization currently (2017-18) is 50% which is expected to improve to 60% by 2027-28. In 2017-18 the direct technical manpower in the plastic processing industry is estimated at 1.574 Million (15.74 Lakh). Additional manpower required to the Plastic Industries in next 10 years (2018-19 to 2027-28) is estimated to be 1.335 Million (13.35 Lakh). The manpower in the Mould making industry during the year 2017-18 is 69,540 and additional manpower requirement in the next 10 years (2018-19 to 2027-28) is estimated 27,331. Technical Manpower currently is 3.49 per 100 Ton of installed Capacity. It would be 3.36 per 100 Ton by 2027-28 due to improvement in capacity utilization.

Many OPPI Members have started dual Education programme in partnership with the state Governments and other Chambers of Commerce and Industry to meet this upcoming rising demand.

Instability in virgin plastic prices, import of specialized raw material, etc are some of the most common problems faced by processors. What are the measures needed to counter such situation?

The issues pertaining to Plastic Polymers were brought to the attention of Secretary (Chemicals & Petrochemicals) and other relevant ministries through our Representation.

Our representation also brought out the following issues:-

- China has been the large importer of Polypropylene and Polyethylene from India. Their strategy is to add value and export finished goods to India. India exported 27 times more Polyethylene than import from China, some may be specialty grades. India exported 11 times more Polypropylene than import from China, some may be specialty grades. Market share on

China in Indian PP & PE import is about 1%. Please note that Indian polymer producers are exporting polymers at rates lower than being offered to Indian Processors and thereby creating a surge in import of finished goods from China. This amounts to exporting jobs and hurting Make in India initiative of Government of India. It is also raising our current account deficit.

- Export of polymers should be banned and 100% Indian polymer should be processed in India, by utilizing installed plastic processing capacity. It will generate more jobs and higher forex for India.
- Domestic polymer producers manufacture only 53% of PVC demand. 47% of country's PVC consumption is met through imports. Similarly, India does not make Bio based polymers, medical grade specific polymers, engineering plastic in primary form, certain grades of PE for 200 liters and above drum, pharma grade PE & specialty grade polymers. Approx. 400 KTONs of Mettallocene is imported from ExxonMobil, Borouge, Dow for milk and dairy products.

The plastic industry has been facing an immense crisis considering the impact of SUP on the environment. This has impacted several plastic processors. What are the measures needed or being taken to ensure responsible production, including recycling, use of bio-degradable plastics, production innovation, etc. to mitigate environmental damage and highlight the benefits of plastics?

Single Use Plastic, often also referred to as disposable plastics (use-and-throw items), are commonly used for plastic packaging and include items intended to be used only once before they are thrown away or recycled. These include, among other items, carry bags, food packaging, bottles, straws, containers, cups and cutlery”.

Steps have been initiated by Government of India and Central Pollution Control Board to reduce pollution due to SUPs including detailed regulatory actions taken by state.

The following SUPs are banned :-

- Thin Carry Bags (Less than 50 Microns)
- Non-woven carry bags
- Small wrapping / packing films
- Straws / Stirrers
- Cutlery: Foamed Cups, Bowls, Plates
- Cutlery: Laminated Bowls and Plates (non-foamed)
- Cutlery: Small plastic Cups / Containers (less than 150 ml and 5 gms)
- Plastic sticks for Ear buds, Balloons, Flags and Candies

- Cigarette Butts
- Expanded Polystyrene (Thermocol)
- Small Plastic Bottles for beverages (less than 200 ml)
- Roadside banners (less than 100 Microns)

Alliances and Groups of Corporates have started working all over the World to address the issues including Plastic Waste Management, Circular Economy, Recycling and Upcycling of Plastics, Marine litter, Bio-Plastics, Reduction of Carbon Foot-print, Reduction in emission of Greenhouse gases etc.

In order to sensitize the school students, OPPI has been conducting School Awareness Programmes on “Plastics and the Environment”. From 2006 to February 2020 OPPI conducted School Awareness Programmes in 465 schools covering 1,77,517 students.

The Organization of Plastics Processors of India is a member of GLOBAL ACTION TEAM MARINE LITTER.

With better technologies today, many brands globally are increasingly using recycled plastic that boast of qualities as close as possible to virgin material. Where does our industry stand in terms of adopting the same practice in their manufacturing?

The focus of all OPPI Members is the recycling of Plastics Waste. Some of our Members are signatories to the Ellen McArthur Foundation and therefore committed to move to 100% recyclable materials by 2025 as also 25% recycled / Post Consumer recycled in their products. Thus, many OPPI Members are working proactively with their clients to introduce Post Consumer Recycle in the packaging requirements, keeping functional requirements and aesthetics in mind.

What is your opinion on Extended Producers' Responsibility and the role that the industry can play in the country's bid towards creating a circular economy?

Government's resolve to regulate plastic pollution and creation of Circular Economy is evident by various actions/notifications over the years:-

- SWM-2016
- PWM 2016
- PWM Amendment in 2018
- SUP ban in 2019
- Various state level bans and now the Draft Guideline EPR Framework document in 2020.

The basic requirement of a Circular Economy is Robust Monitoring system to monitor the responsibility of Local Bodies, Gram Panchayats, Waste Generators, Retailers and Street Vendors to manage Plastic Waste.

We give below our observations and suggestions on the “Guideline document on

Uniform Framework for Extended Producers Responsibility (Under Plastic Waste

Management Rules, 2016)” issued by the Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change on 23 rd June 2020.

1. Plastic waste management cannot be seen in isolation because it is an integral part of overall dry and solid waste management. Hence, waste management of all packaging materials (paper, cardboard, metal etc.) ought to be looked at together.
 2. Guidelines / Directions should be issued to producers, converter and brand owners to avoid and reduced use of multi material plastic. Using multi material plastic is the single biggest challenge in getting qualitative plastic granules out of the waste stream.
 3. Responsibility of Producers, Importers and Brand Owners is mentioned in the guidelines but manufacturers of plastic polymers in India are left out of the scope. We suggest that as largest and critical stakeholder in the plastic value chain, manufacturers of plastic polymers in India should be a part of EPR and be assigned responsibility under EPR. Nearly 59% polymers are used for manufacturing packaging and nearly 50% of polymers are made by PSUs. They should willingly lead the change and contribute to government initiative for Clean India.
- Polymer manufacturers need to come out with a scheme where EPR is prepaid, producer or brand using the polymer, should be free of responsibility. Brands can specify in their PO that EPR prepaid polymer to be used.
 - EPR responsibility on a product should not be at multiple levels, it should happen only at one stage, in the value chain. Duplicity of EPR should be strictly avoided. The Principle to be followed - One Product-One EPR.
 - In order to simplify collection of EPR funds, which is also aligned with the “ease of doing business” initiative widely promoted by the Government of India, we urge the ministry that a pre-defined EPR amount (Rs/Kg) be charged at Plastic Polymers manufacturing point (like excise) and the manufacturers of polymers could add this cost as a separate line item in their supply invoice, thereby enabling a single point application of this cost and enabling easy accounting as well as collection of EPR funds. The EPR charge should not be a flow through to the consumer and the accumulated EPR funds collected at

the Brand Owner level, be deposited with the government, by the manufacturers of polymers.

- Organization of Plastics Processors of India is willing to be part of an industry-government jointly led team to assess the appropriate value of the EPR amount.

What are the kinds of measures/ policies from the Government that you believe are needed to ease or improve growth of the industry?

The following support if given to plastic processing industry can help it to grow to meet

domestic demand and be globally competitive for exports:-

a) Dedicated plastic processing industrial parks in proximity to sea port with all infrastructure.

Creation of large plastic processing industrial parks near seaports and polymer suppliers with developed infrastructure is the need for promotion of exports. Facilities such as, logistic hub, effluent treatment plant, solid waste management, central tool room/ workshop, product testing and quality certification centre, container loading/ unloading and warehousing facility will help not only local processors to set up units there for export markets but also attract global plastic processors to set up facilities in these parks. Industrial parks like this will help in opening the world market for Indian plastic products.

b) Labour policy

Sustained export growth requires an ecosystem in which medium and large companies can flourish. This requires change in the labour policies to make them flexible.

Export firms should be allowed to have fixed term contracts which allows them to let workers go on the expiry of contract. This will help units meet their increased labour requirement to fulfill export orders and let them go on completion of orders. Also, flexibility in working hours must be provided. This would help units become flexible, more competitive, and dynamic to meet export orders when received.

c) Interest rates.

At present most of the medium scale units are charged interest @ 12-14% by banks for Term Loans. This makes the export units uncompetitive in global market. Interest rates on terms loans and working capital requirements for units mainly engaged in exports or setup in exclusive plastic processing parks should be subsidized to be in line with rates prevailing in East Asian nations to make them competitive in the global markets.

GOI through a financial intermediary like a PSU bank may create a foreign currency fund which can be used to lend to such plastic processing units in Indian Rupees at fixed interest rates comparable to interest rates in economies like China, Thailand, S. Korea and Taiwan.

Also streamlining the process of export and import would bring down transactional and compliance cost. Delays at ports, high transportation cost, delays in refund of GST adds to the cost of exports. These impediments need to be removed to push exports from India.

d) Power Supply

Quality of power and price of power are extremely important. Continuous high-quality power is the foundation-head quality product manufacturing. Cost of power should be around Rs.4/4.5 per unit against general cost currently which at most parts of the country ranges between Rs. 7 to Rs. 8 per unit.

e) Incentives.

- Industry should be suitably incentivized to promote exports by providing such incentives which do not run afoul of WTO rules and this can best be achieved by focusing on subsidies which benefits all produced in a cluster or region.
- A zero GST rate for all exports to be implemented.
- Suppliers of machines to units in dedicated plastic processing parks also be entitled to incentives and zero GST rate. This will help reduce capital cost of processing units and in turn make them more competitive in exports markets.

f) Product development & Testing facilities.

Innovation and design reaches its culmination when it has achieved proven standards of utility, commercial value, and overall customer quality requirements. The industry needs adequately equipped research infrastructure, laboratories/ testing facilities for validations relevant to global standards. Technical Institutes need to be incentivized to participate with industry and product innovators.

g) Others.

- All articles of plastics to be excluded from any tariff reduction under FTAs to limit the damage to the local industry by preferential imports.
- In collaboration with processors, conduct sector specific road shows and other promotional measures to help open export to prospective buyers.
- Technological upgradation fund scheme for plastic processing industry similar to one provided to textile industry. This would help small and medium units to overcome technological obsolescence and create economies of scale.
- Support for R & D especially to smaller exporters who do not have easy access to knowhow.
- Skill Gap to be closed. There cannot be any disconnect between skill, supply and what the industry needs. Skilling and capability building are key challenges. While the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has been working towards skill training in specific fields but focus on new skills for export-oriented processing industry is needed.

How can Plexconcil support your association in achieving your association's goals and objectives?

The members of Organization of Plastics Processors of India process almost 45% of the total Plastics Processed in India. Most of the large exporters of Plastic Products are Members of OPPI.

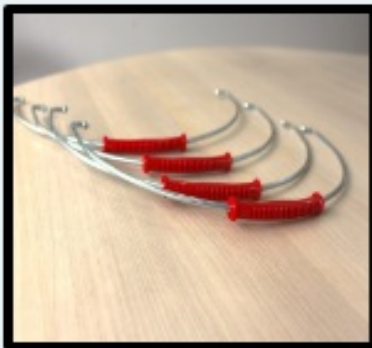
In view of the above it is suggested that OPPI and Plexconcil should jointly carry out B2B Meetings between the Manufacturer Exporters of Indian Plastics Products and the importers in different countries. Similarly, OPPI and Plexconcil should hold virtual EXPOs wherein most of the Exhibitors are the end users of Plastic Products in different countries.



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HOW IT'S MADE

Electric bike wheel hub using recycled composites

To reduce the footprint of daily mobility, Cogit Composites conducted a project that focused on the use of composite production waste to develop a new electric bike wheel hub with a specific design.

Thermoplastic polymers are increasingly used as matrix materials in long-fibre composite materials. This implies dealing with more production scrap in the short term and more end-of-life parts in the long term.

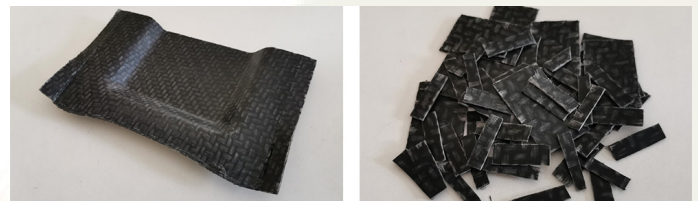
There is currently no easy way to separate carbon fibre from the matrix in unused composite materials, so that composite waste is buried or burnt, generating toxic fumes, greenhouse gases or water and soil pollution. To comply with the latest EU regulations, such as the Waste Framework Directive and the Directive on End of Life Vehicles, recycling and re-use have to be integrated into development plans.

Christophe ROUA, Owner and CEO, Cogit Composites says, "Twelve years ago, whereas I intended to JEC Show in Paris, I became aware of the potential of thermoplastic composite materials in advanced applications and also in medium and large market. I firstly take into account the ability of short cycle process (such as plastic injection) and the opportunities of functionalizing (overmolding and welding). Although it wasn't developed enough by this time, the recycling was also an advantage. In 2012, a French collaboration between Plasticompo platform, Orleans University and COGIT Composites was engaged to better understand how to recycle and/or reuse thermoplastic composite. Here, you could read a few results of our previews works.

Since, COGIT has fully integrated engineering, prototyping and manufacturing of thermoplastic composites including eco-design and life cycle."

How it's made? Recycling method

The recycling method commonly used in the plastics industry involves a shredding step followed by a grinding step, resulting in a finer material that can be used as a reinforcement in thermoplastic injection processes. Unfortunately, this leads to low reinforcement levels compared to the initial part. An alternative solution is to chop the composite parts or production scrap (Figure 1) into not-so-small compounds (Figure 2), usually 25-50 mm long and 2-6 mm wide, and to use them as a primary material in compression moulding processes.



An alternative solution is to chop the composite parts or production scrap (Left) into not-so-small compounds: 25-50 mm long and 2-6 mm wide (Right)

For 15 years, thermoplastic composite materials and processes have been at the core of Cogit Composites' strategy. Working on compression moulding, stamping and over-injection/moulding, especially for aeronautic applications, the company rapidly thought it could use its advanced skills to produce parts requiring the same level of quality but in totally different fields such as medical, luxury or sports products. The aim was not to manufacture just simple products but to be eco-friendly. So the decision was taken to use production waste to reduce the footprint of daily mobility. This is how a new electric bike wheel hub was developed.

Feature - Product

Technical feasibility

A specific design was created to replace the existing aluminium part with a lighter wheel hub while ensuring complex shape forming, structural and kinematic functions and a high-end perception by the final customer.

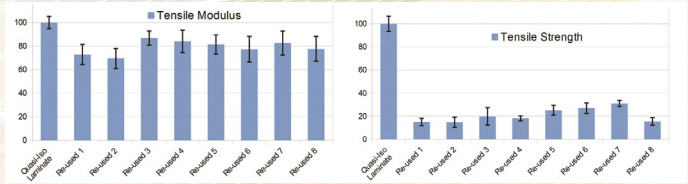


Main body of reused composites Wheel Hub which include a specific design

The team first applied compression moulding design rules to evaluate the technical feasibility and properly integrate original functions. Parallel to this engineering stage, a collaborative R&T project called RTL3 (2012-2015) was conducted with the University of Orleans and the Plasticompo platform in the centre of France. The goal was specifically to define the best compound size comparing mechanical strength and processability. The investigated parameters included grain or pellet sizes and their distribution in the mould at the beginning and the end of the compression process. The experiment design, mechanical characterization and tomography inspections followed a scientific approach to gain a better knowledge of random material properties in a complex part.



R&T project called RTL3 defined the best compound size comparing mechanical strength and processability. Parameters like best grain or pellet sizes and their distribution in the mould at the beginning and the end of the compression process was studied. In picture a typical fracture between aggregated grains

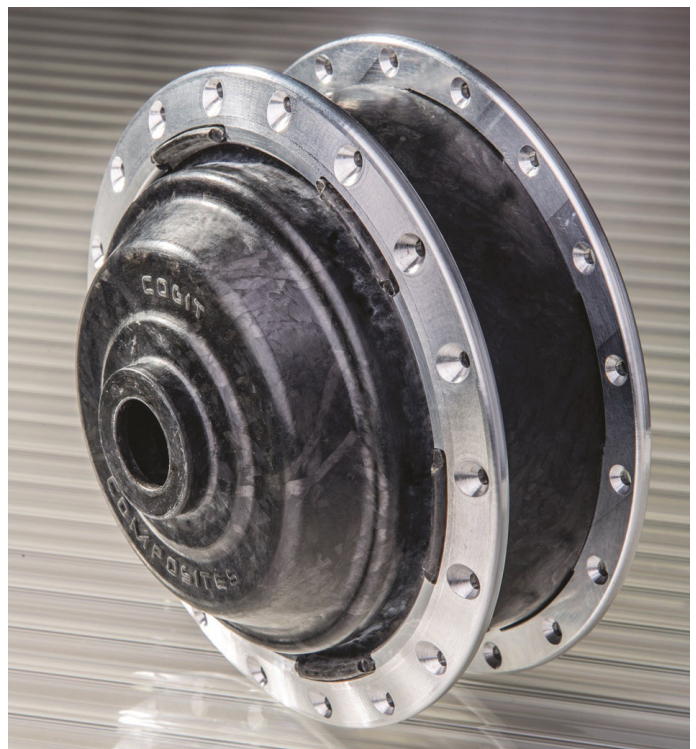


Mechanical characterization hereupper described the tensile properties relative to quasi isotropic reference

Following this experience, Cogit Composites kept on studying other raw materials such as carbon/PA and carbon/PEEK. This research provided a more detailed overview of processing parameters and mechanical properties depending on the matrix.

A promising way forward was also identified by looking at other sources of recycled material such as production waste of AFP UD tapes used for airplane wings and airframe layouts. Conditioned as 10mm to 25mm long chopped tapes, this waste showed a good ability to be re-used by compression moulding, especially into complex shapes. A study was conducted at the coupon scale to define mechanical engineering allowable values. The results matched those of commercial chopped UD tapes.

The key benefits of this wheel hub are the re-use of production waste, the valuable perception of high-performance materials and the short-cycle recycling required by green mobility. The eco-design shouldered by scientific and experimental support becomes a real advantage to customers. Indeed, the finish provided by forged carbon adds value to the final electric bike.



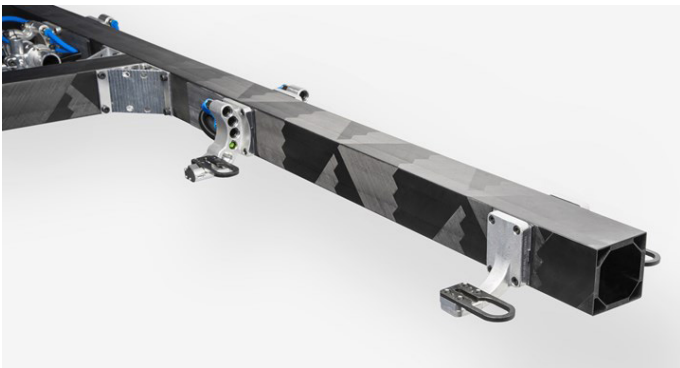
Repairing fiberglass components is easily done at the depot. All this contributes to reduce the operational-maintenance and life-cycle costs.

The final part made by compression moulding processes:

Source: jecomposites.com

CompoTech launches standard range for carbon fiber epoxy beams

CompoTech (Sušice, Czech Republic) has recently launched a new standard range of lightweight carbon fiber (CF) epoxy composite beams in round tubes and square-shaped options and sizes, which can be specified instead of steel.

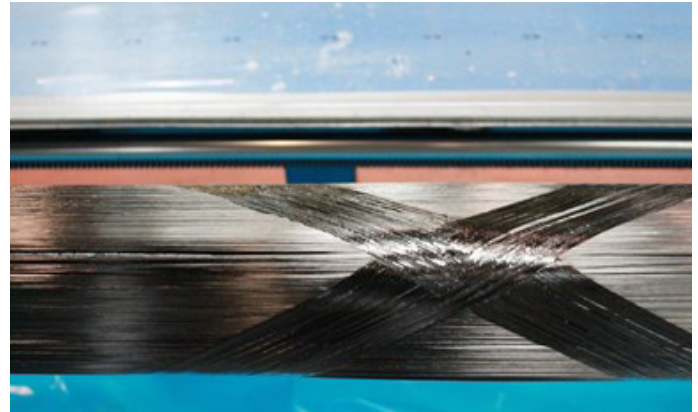


CompoTech says the standard square beams are produced from graphite and PAN carbon fibers using its automated robot-assisted filament placement technique, which places continuous fibers axially along the beam length. The result is a high-strength carbon epoxy composite beam with 10-15% higher stiffness in the axial direction and up to 50% greater bending strength compared to a conventional filament wound beam with the same dimensions.

All CompoTech beams are produced with automated filament placement (AFP) and precision press molded using a wet, two-part epoxy resin system. Curing is a two-stage process, first at room temperature to remove any residual stresses during molding that can cause deformation over time, then post mold curing in an oven. Compared with pultrusion, CompoTech says, its pressing technique provides a precision CF epoxy beam with very high dimensional accuracy and a close tolerance surface finish, which typically does not require costly CNC finish machining.

According to CompoTech, its carbon composite beams have enabled modular industrial tooling system producers, such as Bilsing Automation GmbH (Attendorf,

Germany), to replace much heavier steel and aluminum beams, providing significant production benefits such as faster operating speeds and higher productivity; less vibration and more rapid damping; heavier load handling capabilities on the same line; lower energy consumption and lifetime operating costs; and easy assembly for structures needing bolted connections.



CompoTech winding of a graphite and PAN carbon fibre epoxy square beam.

Successful applications in the aerospace, agricultural, automotive, metrology, marine and sports equipment market sectors for CompoTech products include industrial machine tool beams; drive shafts; automated automotive press line T-booms, structural frames and cross-bars; crop sprayer booms; aerospace structures; yacht masts and spars; and composite bike frames.

The choice of standard square beam options includes hollow cornered 'bolt together' connector beams to extend length, and beams designed with reinforced corners for added stiffness, damping and load bearing performance.

Standard square beams are available in sizes from 60 x 60 x 5mm wall thickness, weighing 1.7 kg/m, with an E (elasticity) Modulus in the axial direction of 196 GPa, up to the largest beam 200 x 200 x 8mm, weighing 4.19kg/m, with E Modulus of 210 GPa, matching tool steel. The stiffest design achieves an E Modulus of 327 GPa, which is said to be 69% stiffer than stainless steel (193 GPa) and 56% stiffer than tool steel (210 GPa). Square beam lengths vary from between 2.3-5.0m depending on the size.

Standard CF epoxy round tubes, which have an E Modulus of 90 GPa, are manufactured using PAN carbon fibers. Tubes are available in sizes from a 428mm inside diameter x 4mm wall thickness, weighing 6.92 kg/m down to 10mm inside diameter x 2mm wall thickness, weighing only 0.11 kg/m. Standard tubes lengths are between 3.6-7.8m, depending on the diameter.

Both standard tubes and square beams are available in quantities from one-off to multiple batch orders. On request, CompoTech says it will look to add additional sizes to the standard round and square beam ranges, as well as continuing to offer its bespoke design and manufacturing service for industrial beams and other CF composite components to meet specific customer requirements.

Source: www.wwcomposites.com

Introducing the 3M VHB Tape LSE Series: A New Solution for Difficult-to-Bond Materials

Bonding low surface energy (LSE) plastics can be a sticky challenge. Why? Because the plastic-to-plastic bond needed isn't sticky enough without encountering costly, time-consuming priming or adhesion promoters, unpleasant odors, and countless other process steps. These challenges can inhibit the bonding of composites and LSE plastics and ultimately alter the creative design process. Until now.

3M announces the introduction of the 3M VHB Tape LSE Series, a fast, easy and reliable bonding solution for LSE substrates like Polypropylene (PP), Thermoplastic Olefins (TPO), and Thermoplastic Elastomers (TPE), as well as composite materials like glass reinforced plastic (GRP) or fiber reinforced plastic (FRP). Made of double-sided acrylic foam, it creates a long-lasting, high-strength bond, and performs well across a wide temperature range – providing a durable alternative to ultrasonic welding and other adhesion methods.

“Plastics and composites have opened up the door for our customers to revolutionize the materials they use and are propelling broad changes in modern design. How-

ever, these materials' low surface energies make them hard to bond quickly and durably,” said Kevin Schwab, 3M marketing manager. “The 3M VHB Tape LSE Series is a versatile solution for these difficult-to-bond substrates, further enhancing the breadth of the 3M VHB Tape product portfolio.”

Other capabilities and advantages

The 3M VHB Tape LSE series can:

- Bond without primer to difficult-to-bond-to substrates
- Increase speed and productivity
- Reduce the use of chemicals, like primers, which can contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) or chemicals of concern
- Offer long-term durability outdoors
- Provide greater design flexibility
- Lower manufacturing costs

The 3M VHB Tape LSE Series also offers high initial tack at low temperatures, so manufacturers can benefit from faster and more reliable bonds in cold environments, such as outdoor applications or unheated factory floors. This low temperature capability allows for immediate handling strength in a wide variety of environments, eliminating time spent waiting for your assembly to continue through your production process.

Like all 3M VHB Tapes, the LSE Series is engineered with a full acrylic construction which means it resists cycling temperatures, exposure to UV light, moisture and solvents. Its holding power under a wide temperature range makes it a durable alternative to rivets, ultrasonic welds, and liquid adhesives.

While designed specifically to meet the needs of low-surface-energies, the LSE Series also has superior bonding performance on medium surface energy plastics, metals and more. It can be applied by hand, with semi-automatic equipment or robotics. The new tape is available in 0.6 mm, 1.1 mm, and 1.6 mm thicknesses.

Source: yahoo.com



IEMs signed in the Plastics segment from April 2020 – August 2020.

IEM No.	Company Name	State / UT	Item of manufacture
537	Injectoplast Private Limited	Uttar Pradesh	Face shield
557	Schutz India Private Limited	Gujarat	Plastic packaging products
564	Admire Fiber Tex India Private Limited	Gujarat	PP non-woven
573	Shiva Textfabs Limited	Punjab	PPE kits
582	Ultimate Flexipack Limited	Uttar Pradesh	Polyester sheets and film
589	Veekesy Elastomers Private Limited	Kerala	Plastic footwear
599	TPI Composites India Private Limited	Tamil Nadu	Composites for aircraft
603	Veekesy Elastomers Private Limited	Kerala	Plastic footwear
604	Ludhiana Beverages Private Limited	Punjab	Plastic bottles
607	Florence Shoe Company Private Limited	Tamil Nadu	Plastic footwear
617	Sanko Gosei Technology India Private Limited	Delhi	Plastic tableware and kitchenware
632	Veekesy Footcare India Private Limited	Tamil Nadu	Plastic footwear
674	Patanjali Flexipack Limited	Uttarakhand	Plastic bags and containers
685	Runaya Private Limited	Maharashtra	Other articles of plastics
696	Fidelis International Private Limited	Gujarat	Plastic bags and containers
748	Pypman Advanced Plastic Technique Private Limited	Gujarat	Plastic water tanks
776	Rainbow Packaging Private Limited	Gujarat	Plastic water tanks
783	SBP Food & Hygiene Private Limited	Haryana	Plastic packaging products
792	MTL New Initiatives Private Limited	Karnataka	Plastic packaging products
820	Anand Synthetics	Gujarat	Other articles of plastics
831	OSRM Tech Pack Private Limited	Madhya Pradesh	Polyester sheets and films
834	Surya Global Flexifilms Private Limited	Delhi	Polyester sheets and films
838	HIL Limited	Telangana	Plastic water tanks
849	Shiva Textfabs Limited	Punjab	PPE kits
857	TVS Upasana Limited	Tamil Nadu	Other plastic products
912	Topsack Exports Private Limited	Karnataka	FIBC
927	Creative Propack Limited	Uttarakhand	Plastic caps and closures
990	Paharpur 3P Private Limited	Uttar Pradesh	Plastic packaging products
1035	Epack Durables Solutions Private Limited	Uttarakhand	Plastic injection moulding products
1041	Shree Rama Multi Tech Limited	Gujarat	Other plastic products
1054	Blend Additives & Compounds Private Limited	Telangana	Master batches

Why become a Plexconcil Member?

Established since 1955, the Plastics Export Promotion Council, PLEXCONCIL, is sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Commerce, Government of India. PLEXCONCIL is a non-profit organization representing exporters from the Indian plastics industry and is engaged in promoting the industry exports.

The Council is focused on achieving excellence in exports by undertaking various activities and initiatives to promote the industry. The Council undertakes activities such as participation at international trade fairs, sponsoring delegations to target markets, inviting foreign business delegations to India, organising buyer-seller meets both in India and the overseas etc.,

The Council also routinely undertakes research and surveys, organizes the Annual Awards to recognize top performing exporters, monitors the development of new technology and shares the same with members, facilitates joint ventures and collaboration with foreign companies and trade associations as well as represents the issues and concerns to the relevant Government bodies.

The Council represents a wide variety of plastics products including – Plastics Raw Materials, Packaging Materials, Films, Consumer Goods, Writing Instruments, Travel ware, Plastic Sheets, Leather Cloth, Vinyl Floor Coverings, Pipes and Fittings, Water Storage Tanks, Custom made plastic Items from a range of plastic materials including Engineered Plastics, Electrical Accessories, FRP/GRP Products, Sanitary Fittings, Tarpaulins, Laminates, Fishing Lines/Fishnets, Cordage/Ropes/Twines, Laboratory Ware; Eye Ware, Surgical/Medical Disposables.

Membership Benefits

- Discounted fees at International Trade Fairs and Exhibitions
- Financial benefits to exporters, as available through Government of India
- Disseminating trade enquiries/trade leads
- Instituting Export Awards in recognition of outstanding export performance
- Assistance on export financing with various institutions and banks
- Networking opportunities within the plastics industry
- Listing in PLEXCONCIL member's directory

THE PLASTICS EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL ADDED THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES/FIRMS AS NEW MEMBERS DURING AUGUST 2020. WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME THEM ABOARD!

Sr. No.	Company Name	Communication Address	Director	Email
1	SHIVANA POLYMERS LLP	SURVEY NO 281P1, BILIYA ROAD, BILIYA, MORBI 363641.	BHUMIT B DEPANI	info@shivanapolymers.com
2	VHS ENTERPRISES LLP	Office No. 103, 1st Floor, Ganesh Smruti, GAOTHAN, Virar West 401 303.	DURGESH A RAUT	enterprisesvhs@gmail.com
3	LHP INTERNATIONAL PVT LTD	SARASWATI INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX, J.L. NO.32, BHANDARDAHA, DOMJUR AJC BOSE ROAD , HOWRAH 711411	MADHUMITA GHOSH	lhpinternationalpltd@gmail.com
4	ARASAN IMPEX	66 AR Arunachalam road Near baby match, Sivakasi 626123.	S Prabahar	arasanimpexsivakasi@gmail.com
5	AVRA MEDITECH	First Floor, No 1, United Colony, Kolathur , CHENNAI 600099.	RAJENDRAN AVINAS	avrameditech@gmail.com
6	SKYLINE ENTERPRISE	1 VISHWAS BUILDING OPP AM-ARDEEP, MAHADEV NAGAR, MAJURAGATE, SURAT 395002.	SHAIENDRA M CHAMPANERIA HUF	schampan@gmail.com
7	TOPLINE COMMODITIES PVT. LTD.	2,BRABOURNE ROAD, 6TH FLOOR, FLAT-9 KOLKATA 700001.	RAJESH PODDAR	rajesh@wondergroup.in
8	NANOVATE	85, Parishram Industrial Hub, Sarkhej-Bavla Highway, Vasna-Chacharavadi, Ahmedabad 382213.	Sukesh M Shah	info.nanovate@gmail.com
9	TIGI INDUSTRIES INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED	AB/5, NANDANVAN INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, OPP. ETERNITY MALL, NEAR TEEN HATH NAKA, THANE 400604.	FAKHRUDDIN J THANAWALA	taher.1thanawala@gmail.com
10	KARNI PACKAGING PRIVATE LIMITED	D No: 8-3-32/4 MAILARDEVPALLY RAJENDRANAGAR MANDAL HYDERABAD 500055.	AMIT SOMANI	karnipackaging@gmail.com
11	AXARDEEP POLYMERS PVT LTD	PLOT NO:39, G.I.D.C - POR RAMANGAMDI IND ESTATE, NH NO:8, POR , VADODARA 391243.	SUBHASHCHANDRA N GHODASARA	axardeep@gmail.com
12	MOKSH INTERNATIONAL	TULSI TOWER A WING FLAT NO 2501 H.N.COMPOUND, M.G.ROAD, GOREGAON WEST, MUMBAI 400063.	GAURAV D AGRAWAL	mokshinternational20@gmail.com
13	ACE PACKAGING	SR NO 206/1, COASTAL HIGHWAY, BHIMPORE, DAMAN 396210.	SAMIR S SAVLA	acepack2011@gmail.com
14	MAHABUB MALLICK	BENUDIA, BHAGABANPUR, PURBA MEDININPUR BHAGABANPUR 721601.	MAHABUB MALLICK	PANDEYRANJAY1@GMAIL.COM
15	MAHANAJ INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE LIMITED	BENUDIA, BHAGABANPUR, PURBA MEDINIPUR BHAGABANPUR 721601.	MAHABUB MALLICK	PANDEYRAJAN11@GMAIL.COM
16	OSHO INDUSTRIES LIMITED	KHASRA NO. 100 RAIPUR INDUSTRIAL AREA BHAGWANPUR, ROORKEE 247661.	PRADEEP GUPTA	ashish@osholtd.com
17	DK IMPORTS AND EXPORTS	B/306, Kalpataru Apartments, Near IDBI Bank, Erandwane, Pune 411004.	Devika K Kanade	kanadedevika@gmail.com
18	AKSHAR POLYPACK LLP	SURVEY NO 213 PAIKI 3 HADMATIYA ROAD NEAR LAJAI CHOKDI, MORBI 363641.	LAKKI M KANSAGRA	aksharpolypackllp@gmail.com
19	SOLIFLEX ACMEBAG PACKAGING LLP	Plot Nos. 13, 14 AND 15 Road No. 2 Antharasanahalli Industrial Area 2nd Phase, Tumkur 572106.	NAVIN AGARWAL	balajikrishnan@indauto-group.com

New Members

20	SHREE SYNTHETIC	78 COTTON STREET. BG123 SALT LAKE CITY, Kolkata 700007	MANOJ BERIWALA	shreesynthetic78@gmail.com
21	CENTURY FIBC	424 GIDC WAGHODIA, VADODARA 391760.	Faisal H Khatri	vinay@centuryfibr.com
22	PRAKASH PIPES LIMITED	DARJIYAN WALI GALI RAYYA TEH -BABA BAKALA AMRITSAR 143112.	KANHA AGARWAL	sandeepk@prakash.com
23	K D INDUSTRIES	PLOT NO PE-39/2 ROAD NO 19, SANAND GIDC PHASE II, SANAND 382170.	TRAMBAK D MAK-WANA	trambak@strapsindia.com
24	ACCORD VENTURES	5 B B GANGULY STREET 2ND FLOOR KOLKATA 700012.	Gopal Kr Bhandari	info@globalpolytex.com

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Address	Fritz-Wendt-Straße 5, 40670, Meerbusch, Germany
Email	info@itemde.de
Phone No.	(+49) 2159968070
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	Jabe Bernhardt + Jahn Bürosysteme Vertriebs GmbH
Address	Breitscheidstraße 40, 01237, Dresden, Germany
Email	jabe-dd@t-online.de
Phone No.	(+49) 351257680
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	Jacob Erichsen GmbH & Co. KG
Address	Lise-Meitner-Straße 26, 24941, Flensburg, Germany
Email	flensburg@buerokompetenz.de
Phone No.	(+49) 461903300
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	Josef Thewes KG
Address	Franz-Vaahsen-Weg 12 - 14, 40489, Düsseldorf, Germany
Email	info@thewes-online.de
Phone No.	(+49) 21025794802
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	Juliane Schulz Ihr Partner für Bürobedarf
Address	Kleine Wollweberstraße 19 - 21, 17033, Neubrandenburg, Germany
Email	jschulz@bbjs.de
Phone No.	(+49) 3955822908
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	Karl Kleinschmidt e.K.
Address	Tillystraße 2, 30459, Hannover, Germany
Email	kontakt@kleinschmidt-info.de
Phone No.	(+49) 5117002340
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Business Inquiries

Company Name	Deutschland GmbH
Address	Rudolf-Diesel-Str. 7, 35440, Linden, Germany
Email	info@kaufhaus.com
Phone No.	(+49) 64036700080
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	KAUT-BULLINGER Bürobedarf GmbH
Address	Karwendelstraße 2, 82024, Taufkirchen/München, Germany
Email	buerobedarf@kautbullinger.de
Phone No.	(+49) 666991200
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	KAUT-BULLINGER Einzelhandel GmbH
Address	Karwendelstr. 2, 82024, Taufkirchen, Germany
Email	rosenstrasse@kaut-bullinger.de
Phone No.	(+49) 8966699251
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	Klaus Becker Kopiersysteme Service GmbH
Address	Reisholzer Str. 39a, 40231, Düsseldorf, Germany
Email	info@bueroit.de
Phone No.	(+49) 2119296840
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	Kliefoth & Siebert Inh. Martin Preuninger e. Kfm.
Address	Brandstwierte 42, 20457, Hamburg, Germany
Email	info@kliefloth-siebert.de
Phone No.	(+49) 407534057
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	Klimpel & Jacobs GmbH
Address	Koloniestraße 88, 47057, Duisburg, Germany
Email	kj@klimpel-jacobs.de
Phone No.	(+49) 203295580
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	Knorr & Partner Büro- und Kopiersysteme GmbH
Address	Wurzener Str. 6/7, 04838, Eilenburg, Germany
Email	info@knorr-buero.de
Phone No.	(+49) 3423603479
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	Korf Bürozentrum GmbH
Address	Liemer Weg 49, 32657, Lemgo, Germany
Email	info@korf.de
Phone No.	(+49) 526125050
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	Kreis Papier & Schreiben e. K.
Address	Krämerstraße 3, 63450, Hanau, Germany
Email	papierkreis@arcor.de
Phone No.	(+49) 618120196
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	KSi International GmbH
Address	Zellescher Weg 3, 01069, Dresden, Germany
Email	info@ksi-werbeartikel.de
Phone No.	(+49) 3518507833317
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	KUHN - ErgonoMIX KG
Address	Karlstraße 35, 71394, Kernen, Germany
Email	mail@kuhn-ergonomix.de
Phone No.	(+49) 7151910120
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	Kühn Büroeinrichtungen GmbH
Address	August-Schanz-Straße 13, 60433, Frankfurt, Germany
Email	info@kuehn-online.com
Phone No.	(+49) 699542100
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Business Inquiries

Company Name	LACO OFFICE PRODUCTS Finke GmbH
Address	Bremer Straße 44, 27367, Sottrum, Germany
Email	info@laco-germany.de
Phone No.	(+49) 426483080
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	Legamaster GmbH
Address	Bookkoppel 7, 22926, Ahrensburg, Germany
Email	info@legamaster.de
Phone No.	(+49) 4102808400
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	LEHR GmbH
Address	Güterstr. 82, 54295, Trier, Germany
Email	info@buero-center-lehr.de
Phone No.	(+49) 65114500
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	Loepke Bürobedarf
Address	Bentheimer Straße 75 - 77, 48529, Nordhorn, Germany
Email	info@loepke.de
Phone No.	(+49) 592180880
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	Ludwig Blankenhorn e. K.
Address	Speyerer Straße 41, 67227, Frankenthal, Germany
Email	fuellhalter@t-online.de
Phone No.	(+49) 6233889088
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	Ludwig Erhardt Nachfolger GmbH & Co. KG
Address	Waldstr. 53, 76133, Karlsruhe, Germany
Email	info@erhardt-buerowelt.de
Phone No.	(+49) 72198780
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	Lutz Bongen GmbH
Address	Am Jostenhof 31, 47441, Moers, Germany
Email	info@lbn-gmbh.de
Phone No.	(+49) 284118040
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	Lutz Stohr SEBWorld
Address	Bonner Str. 40, 53842, Troisdorf, Germany
Email	info@sebworld.de
Phone No.	(+49) 22419326918
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	M & G Badura GmbH
Address	Friederike-Franck-Str. 13, 74369, Löchgau, Germany
Email	info@baduraetiketten.de
Phone No.	(+49) 714350920
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	Maeder u. Deipenau GmbH & Co KG
Address	Porschestraße 16, 31135, Hildesheim, Germany
Email	info@maeder-deipenau.de
Phone No.	(+49) 512176310
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	Manig & Palme GmbH Büroausstattung
Address	Gartenstraße 63, 01445, Radebeul, Germany
Email	info@manig-palme.de
Phone No.	(+49) 351832640
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	Markt Goldbach
Address	Sachsenhausen 19, 63773, Goldbach, Germany
Email	poststelle@markt-goldbach.de
Phone No.	(+49) 602150060
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Business Inquiries

Company Name	MBE Freiburg Parisé Business Services OHC
Address	Engesserstraße 4 A, 79108, Freiburg, Germany
Email	mbe0049@mbe-de.de
Phone No.	(+49) 76121175820
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	Media - Concept Bürobedarf GmbH
Address	Biberger Str. 93, 82008, Unterhaching, Germany
Email	kontakt@tinte24.de
Phone No.	(+49) 892488090
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	METRO Deutschland GmbH
Address	Metro-Straße 8, 40235, Düsseldorf, Germany
Email	kontakt@metro.de
Phone No.	(+49) 2119690
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	MGC Marketing Großhandel Creative Medien GmbH
Address	Robert-Koch-Straße 37, 22851, Norderstedt, Germany
Email	info@mgcgrosshandel.de
Phone No.	(+49) 4052983147
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	Michael Vrecko MEDIA-LAND EDV & Bürobedarf
Address	Johannes-Grüter-Straße 5, 45721, Haltern am See, Germany
Email	info@media-land.net
Phone No.	(+49) 23645060790
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	Mobil für Schule und Kindergarten - Lehr- und Lernmittel-Vertriebs-GmbH
Address	Freiherren-von-Friesen-Straße 2, 04571, Rötha, Germany
Email	llvmobil@t-online.de
Phone No.	(+49) 34206759846
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	Moderne Bürotechnik Fritz Möller GmbH
Address	Friedrich-Kirchhoff-Str. 4, 58640, Iserlohn, Germany
Email	info@moeller-buerotechnik.de
Phone No.	(+49) 237194820
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	MSG medizinische Geräte, Handel und Service GmbH
Address	Konsumstr. 8, 42285, Wuppertal, Germany
Email	handel@msg-praxisbedarf.de
Phone No.	(+49) 20240793
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	Müller & Höhler GmbH & Co.KG
Address	Kapellenstraße 6, 65555, Limburg-Offheim, Germany
Email	info@mueller-hoehler.de
Phone No.	(+49) 643150030
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	Office Depot Deutschland GmbH
Address	Linus-Pauling-Str. 2, 63762, Großostheim, Germany
Email	kunden@officedepot.de
Phone No.	(+49) 602697345550
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	office discount GmbH
Address	Ludwig-Erhard-Straße 12, 85375, Neufahrn, Germany
Email	info@office-discount.de
Phone No.	(+49) 8008884443
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	Office360 GmbH
Address	Gustav-Adolf-Straße 30, 30167, Hannover, Germany
Email	info@office360.de
Phone No.	(+49) 51112470
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Business Inquiries

Company Name	officepartner GmbH
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Email	info@officepartner.de
Phone No.	(+49) 896934990
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	offITs GmbH
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Email	office@offits.net
Phone No.	(+49) 941698790
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	OL Shop AG
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Email	info@formulare.org
Phone No.	(+49) 359167740
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	ORG-Technik Gesellschaft für Büro- und Betriebsorganisation mbH
Address	Augsburger Str. 3, 86609, Donauwörth, Germany
Email	info@orgtechnik.de
Phone No.	(+49) 906706800
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	OTTO Office GmbH & Co KG
Address	Fabriciusstr. 105a, 22177, Hamburg, Germany
Email	service@otto-office.de
Phone No.	(+49) 4036033444
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	Otto Weller e.K.
Address	Ostertorsteinweg 104, 28203, Bremen, Germany
Email	info@ottoweller.de
Phone No.	(+49) 42176155
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	Overtoom International Deutschland GmbH
Address	Basler Str. 115, 79115, Freiburg, Germany
Email	info@overtoom.de
Phone No.	(+49) 71599350
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

Company Name	OYEX-Handels GmbH
Address	Bayerstraße 15, 80335, München, Germany
Email	info@oyex.com
Phone No.	(+49) 89594423
Product Enquiry	Writings instruments
Others	Trade lead received from Embassy of India in Berlin, Germany.

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