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# PLEXCONNECT®

Edition 41, November 2022



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**Editor:** Sribash Dasmohapatra,
Executive Director, Plexconcil

**Associate Editor:** Sangita Iyengar

Send in your feedback, comments, suggestions to **editor@plexconcil.org**

THE PLASTICS EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

**Head Office (Head Office)**
B-Wing, Dynasty Business Park, Unit No. 2, Ground Floor, Andheri-Kurla Road, Chakala, Andheri East, Mumbai – 400059, Maharashtra
Tel: 022 – 40170000

**Delhi - Northern Regional (Regional Office)**
319, 3rd Floor, Block - E, International Trade Tower 99, Nehru Place
New Delhi - 110019
Tel: 91-11-26478817 / 26478819
Fax: 91-11-26478821
Email: plexnr@plexconcil.org
ashutosh.kumar@plexconcil.org

**Chennai - Southern (Regional Office)**
No: 5 | Ground Floor | Vivekananda Road
|Off Spur Tank Road
Chetpet | Chennai 600 031 | Tamil Nadu | INDIA
Tel : +91 44 2829 2620 | 2829 2625 (D)
M: +91 98400 53930
Email : ruban.hobday@plexconcil.org

**Kolkata - Eastern Regional (Regional Office)**
Vanijya Bhavan, 1/1 Wood Street
Kolkata - 700016
Tel: 91-33-22834497 / 22834498
Fax: 91-33-22834289
Email: nilotpal@plexconcil.org

**Ahmedabad – Gujarat Region (Regional Office)**
A-1001, Titanium Heights,
Nr. Vodafone House,
Corporate Road,
Prahladnagar, Makarba,
Ahmedabad- 380015 (Gujarat)
Tel: 079-48010103
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It's been a month of festivities and hope you all had a very Happy and safe Diwali celebrations!

Recently, a news report in a leading daily stated that the Ministry of Commerce, GOI aims to raise the share of India's exports in global trade to 3% by 2027 and 10% by 2047 from the current 2.1%, promoting hundred Indian brands as global champions. The report stated that a Customs 'ONE' will be set up to provide import-export clearance within one hour of arrival at entry points and customs ports to facilitate trade. This is among the ministry's several India's hundredth year of independence year goals under the India@2047 umbrella. The plan is to increase the share of exports in the gross domestic product to 25%.

Aligning our goals to the GOI's vision, Plexconcil in the past month has also been actively organizing its Capacity Building and Export Awareness programmes across various cities in India in association with the DGFT. The programmes covered topics such as export awareness and its benefits, ZED, MSME Schemes for Exporters, amongst others. The programmes were held at Mumbai, Chennai and Raipur with plans to hold many such roadshows in the coming months. The Council also held several Webinars on the subject in addition to an important Webinar that took a deep dive into CBAM under EU Legislation, process, exploring the key features of the legislation, including how economic operators will comply with the detailed reporting obligations that apply as soon as 1 January 2023 as well as Strategic considerations for Plastic Exporters with respect to compliance with CBAM.

During September 2022, India exported plastics worth USD 945 million, lower by 10.5% from USD 1,056 million in September 2021. Cumulative value of plastics export during April 2022 – September 2022 was USD 6,380 million as against USD 6,687 million during the same period last year, registering a decline of 4.6%. Affected by the global environment, the plastics industry too has been impacted by fluctuating demand, sharp fluctuations in polymer costs, repeated bullish and bearish news, and higher uncertainty in the supply chain. On the other hand, the rupee reached an all-time low of 83 vs US dollar in October. While this is good news for Indian exporters, it is deeply impacting our country through increased cost of imports, particularly petroleum products. As an exporter I urge the members to appropriately hedge their foreign exchange exposure to minimize the impact of unpredictable fluctuations in exchange rates. The GOI has designed many incentives and schemes for the benefit of export promotion and in this issue, we bring you an insight into the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme, which we hope you will find beneficial. We also talked to Raju Desai, Director, Jyoti Plastic, a leading injection molding supplier in India who spoke about various aspects of the business and stressed on the significance of being proactive, focused on design & value addition to manufacturing, amongst other ways in which the manufacturing segment can keep pace in a dynamic business segment.

The Product of the Month is Plastic Furniture. Over the years, Furniture of plastics has gained immense popularity due to its easy stack ability, high load bearing capacity, light weight, durability, portability, attractive pricing, and convenience of use in both indoor and outdoor settings. In this feature, we not only look at India's export potential in the segment, but also Recycled Furniture trends taking place globally as end consumers gear towards recycled plastic furniture in line with eco-awareness. All this in addition to more insights, news and trends.

On a last note, the Council is actively gearing towards Plexconnect 2023, India's first ever export focused exhibition for plastic exports. We have been in talks with several associations, both domestically and internationally as well as members of the trade and are confident of an excellent event in the coming year. Keep looking out for more news on this event.

**Until then,**
**Warm regards,**

**Hemant Minocha**
**Chairman**

**India Pavilion at International Exhibition: Expo Plast Peru 2022 | 24.08.2022 to 27.08.2022**

India and Peru enjoy cordial trade relations. In 2021, India and Peru engaged in bilateral trade worth USD 3.53 billion. Within plastics, India's exports to Peru are valued at USD 38.4 million. India's plastics exports to Peru primarily comprise of Plastic raw materials (50%), Plastic films & sheets & (24%), and medical disposables (6%). However, Peru's annual plastics imports are valued at USD 3.8 billion approx. and India's share in its exports is quite low. Despite the geographical distance, India's value-added plastics exports to Peru have the potential to grow by USD 1.6 billion.


We have pleasure in informing you that INDIA PAVILION at Expo Plast Peru 2022 was organized by The Plastics Export Promotion Council (Plexconcil) and supported by Embassy of India, Lima. The exhibition was held in Villa Ciudad Ferial, Lima, Peru from August 24th to 27th, 2022.

Expo Plast Peru 2022 is the gateway to the plastics Industry and related sector in Peru. Expo Plast Peru 2022 is the Largest Exhibition in Peru for Plastics Industry and is the gateway for the MSME to explore business opportunities for the local plastics Industry and related sector in Peru and other neighbouring countries.

India Pavilion during this Exhibition was inaugurated by H. E. Shri M Subbarayudu, Ambassador of India, Peru and Bolivia. President of APIPLAST (Peruvian Association of the Plastic Industry) also joined the inaugural ceremony. During the Inauguration ceremony Ambassador of India deliberated with participants on boosting exports from India to Peru and assured of support as and when required by Indian Plastic Industry.

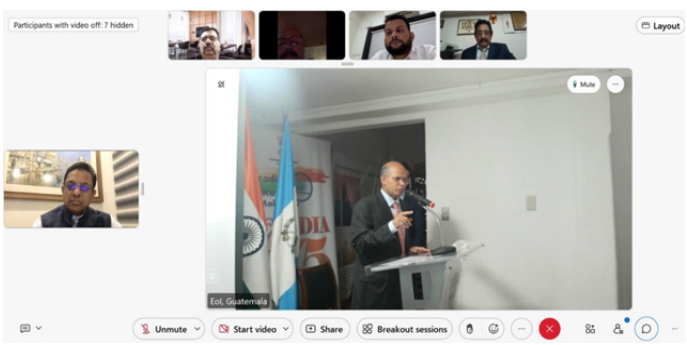
Following Indian Companies Participated in the Exhibition:


Aumento Polymer Tekniks Pvt Ltd, Bubna Polysack Industries, Kuber Polyplast, N.A.Roto Machines & Moulds India, Mrinmoyee Supply Pvt Ltd, Jay Elastomers Private Limited, Sai Machine Tools Pvt. Ltd. and Plastene India Limited

During 4 days at the fair, Exhibitors interacted with prospective buyers, distributors, agents and other relevant business associates. Several meetings were also held of Embassy of India and Plexconcil with Chamber of Commerce and important associations regarding boosting bilateral trade and fulfilling Peruvian requirement of Machinery, Raw Material, semi-finished, finished Plastic products through Indian suppliers.

**India-Guatemala Virtual Meet/BSM for the Plastics Sector – 7th September 2022**

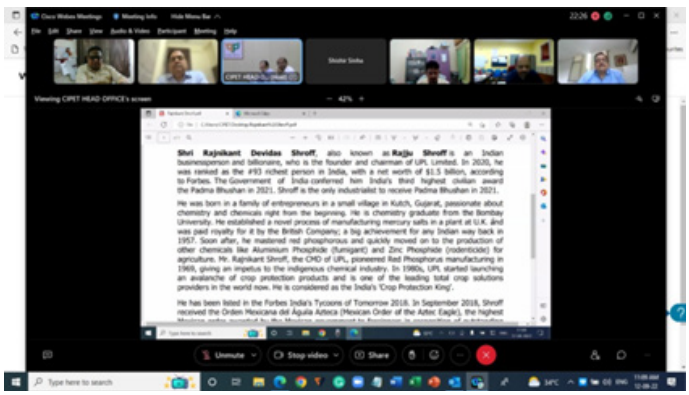

Embassy of India, Guatemala jointly with PLEXCONCIL organized India-Guatemala Virtual Meet/BSM for the Plastic sector, 7th September, 2022. In the beginning of the program H.E. Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, Ambassador of India to Guatemala addressed the gathering. Mr Arvind Goenka, Chairman, PLEXCONCIL welcomed the participants and also made a presentation on India's strength and potential of Plastic sectors for trade and business with Guatemala. There was an address by Coordinator of The Plastics Commission, AGEXPORT-Ms.Mellany Diaz. During the program, Indian companies made a very brief presentation about their product and services. Vote of Thanks proposed by Mr Suraj Ananta Jadhav, HOC, Embassy of India, Guatemala.




**Training Workshop for Registration on Centralised Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) Portal for Plastic Packaging" on September 9, 2022, Kolkata**

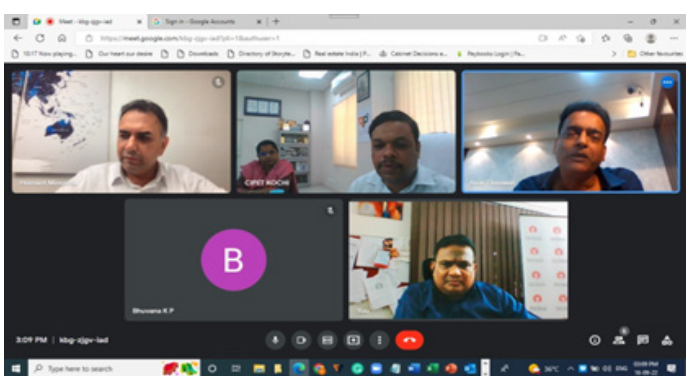
Above program organized by The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) along with FICCI, GIZ and UNEP in Kolkata on 9th September 2022. Prime objective of the program was to inform how the EPR (Extended Producers Responsibility) registration needs to be done for Plastic Producers, Importers and Brand Owners (PIBOs), and Plastic Waste Processors (PWPs) / Recyclers. As requested by FICCI, the Council invited ER based Members of the above program. Mr Nilotpal Biswas, RD, PLEXCONCIL represented the Council at this meeting.

**National Petrochemical Awards (CIPET) - Virtual meeting -11th NPA on 12th September 2022 | Southern Region:**



With reference to the above subject, a virtual meeting was held on 12th September, 2022 (Monday) to have a discussion on Special Award for Life Time Achievement in Petrochemicals (Upstream/Downstream) for 11th National Petrochemical Awards, for which the Award ceremony will be organized shortly. The Council was represented by Mr. Ruban Hobday, Regional Director-SR.

**Meeting with CIPET H.O. Chennai & CIPET Kochi-Request for inclusion of Masterbatch (HS codes 32041790, 32041990, 32049000, 32061190, 32061900, 32064990) under Plexconcil – 14th & 16th September 2022 | Southern Region:**




The Regional Director-SR had a meeting Mr. Krishnan, Director-Technical on 14th September 2022 and on 16th September 2022 Mr. K.A. Rajesh, Joint Director-Head, CIPET-IPT Kochi had meeting with Plexconcil's Raw Materials-Panel Members to discuss and requesting a recommendation certificate which will help the Plexconcil to represent with the Ministry/Departments to bring these HS codes into the preview of Plexconcil and also to boost the Plastics Exports through accounting the exports of these products under the Plexconcil.

**Stake Holders Meeting of Human Hair Exporters at Kolkata on 15th September 2022 | East & South Regions:**


The Regional Office – Kolkata of Plexconcil hosted a meeting with the Exporters of Human Hair from West Bengal on 15th September 2022 to address their challenges and grievances with the Human Hair Panel Chairman - Plexconcil and Sr Officials of Plexconcil. Kolkatta Port being the 3rd largest port to export human hair exports from India had a lot of unorganized companies in the business of human hair exports.


Mr. Benjamin Cherian, Panel Chairman, and Mr. Sribash Dasmahaptra, Executive Director – Plexconcil along with Mr. Ruban Hobday – Regional Director & Coordinator for Human Hair Panel, and Mr. Nilotpal Biswas, Regional Director – East represented the Plexconcil during this exporters meet interaction which was organized at the EPC's Conference Hall at Kolkata.

The meeting was attended by more than 70 large, medium, and small companies in and around West Bengal, especially from Beldanga, Murshidabad District, Malda, and Purba Medinipur.

Mr. Cherian, Panel Chairman, Plexconcil, and President, Human Hair & Human Hair Products Association thanked the participants for joining the exporter meet which was organized for the first time in the history of Plexconcil at Kolkatta. He briefly explained the efforts taken by the Council and the Association to bring about the change in bringing the "Choti & Goli" under prohibited item. He said this helped the country to fetch more foreign exchange as the exporters were able to invoice the correct rate for the product curbing the practice of "under invoicing". He said this effort saw a 100% jump in exports value-wise in 2020-21.

**Stakeholder consultation with Shri Santosh Kumar Sarangi, IAS, Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) at DGFT RA, Ahmedabad - 19th September 2022 | Western Region**

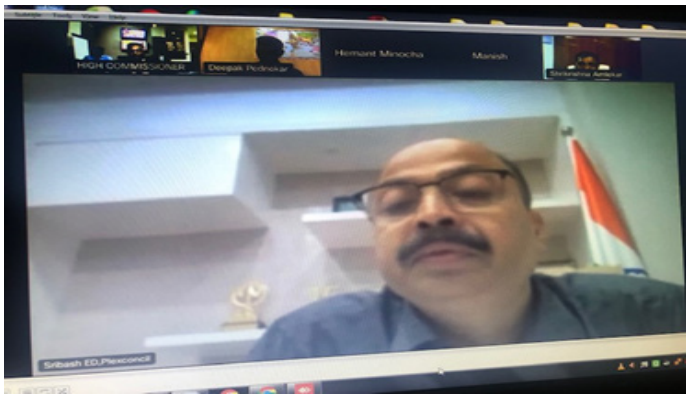
Plexconcil participated in a stakeholder consultation with Shri Santosh Kumar Sarangi, IAS, Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) organized by DGFT RA Ahmedabad on 19th September, 2022. Deliberation was made on several suggestions regarding the new proposed FTP.

**Capacity building and awareness Program on Export Promotion & ZED Certification Schemes for Plastic Industry at Mumbai – 21st September 2022 | Western Region**

Plexconcil jointly with Ministry of MSME-DFO, Mumbai along with Trade Promotion Wing of DGFT organized a Capacity building and awareness Program on Export Promotion & ZED Certification Schemes for Plastic Industry in association with District Industries Centre (DIC) - Mumbai, Department of Industries - on 21st September 2022 (Wednesday) at Mumbai.


**Virtual Business Meeting to discuss on the India's Export performance on Plastics to Nigeria 22.9.2022**

As advised by the High Commission of India, Abuja, Nigeria, the Council organized the above meeting. Objective of the meeting was to discuss primarily on the India's export performance of Plastics to Nigeria. Mr. Hemant Minocha, Vice Chairman, PLEXCONCIL delivered the welcome address. Key Note Address delievered by H.E. Shri G. Balasubramanian , High Commissioner of India to Nigeria. Shri Sribash Dasmohapatra, Executive Director, PLEXCONCIL made a Presentation on India's strength and potential Plastic sectors for trade and business in Nigeria. Participated Panel Chairmen & Members Exporters also shared their issues & concerns in order to increase our export to Nigeria. Mr Nilotpal Biswas, RD proposed formal vote of thanks.





**Export outreach / Capacity building program for the Plastic industry at Daman – 23rd September 2022 | Western Region**



Plexconcil jointly with the Trade Promotion Wing of DGFT organized an Export outreach / Capacity building program for Plastic Industry in association with District Industries Centre (DIC)-Department of Industries-Daman and Daman Industries Association (DIA) on 23 September 2022 (Friday) at Daman.

**Export outreach / Capacity building program for the Plastic industry at Raipur – 27th September 2022 | Western Region**


Plexconcil organized an Export outreach / Capacity building program for Plastic Industry in association with Chhattisgarh Plastic Nirmata Sangh, Raipur on 27th September, 2022. This program provided a unique platform to share knowledge, exchange new ideas and helped Plastic Industry on guidance for export activity.

**Review VC meeting on the export target achievement of NEA held on 28th September, 2022 | Southern Region**

The VC review meeting on the Export target achievement of NEA was held on September 28, 2022 to discuss on the trade balance pertaining to NEA Countries. The meeting was attended by Mr. Ruban Hobday, Regional Director.


**Capacity Building Program on "Opportunities for Exports - MSME Sector | International Trade in Indian Rupee" held on 28th September 2022 (Wednesday) at FTCCI, Red Hills, Hyderabad | Southern Region:**

Plexconcil jointly with TAAPMA (Telangana & Andhra Pradesh Plastic Manufacturers Association) organized a Capacity Building Program on "Opportunities for Exports - MSME Sector | International Trade in Indian Rupee" in association with Additional DGFT, MSME DI, District Industries Centre (DIC)- Ranga Reddy DT, ECGC and ICICI Bank on 28th September 2022 at Conference Hall, FTCCI, Red Hills, Hyderabad, Telangana.


Shri. Shailesh Lahoti, Youth Committee Member, Plexconcil, welcomed the participants and Shri. Vimalesh Gupta, President – TAAPMA started off with Theme address, while Shri. Er. J. Rajeshwar Reddy, Joint Director & GM – Ranga Reddy Region addressed the gathering informing about the initiatives of District Industries Centre, Govt. of Telegana and Shri. T. Sudhin Paul, Dy. Director – C& EP Dept. Govt. of Telagana acknowledged the Council for organising this Capacity Building Program and outlined the Industrial Policies which are beneficial to the MSME Industry and also informed the gathering on the upcoming Toy Park in the State of Telangana.


हिन्दी मिलाप

तापमा का प्लास्टिक निर्यात के अवसर पर कार्यक्रम आयोजित

Shri. Suresh Kumar Singhal, Vice President – FTCCI highlighted the supporting role rendered by the Chamber towards the MSME industry and Shri. B. Punnam Kumar, ITS, Dy.DGFT briefed the participants on the Foreign Trade Policy and Free Trade Agreements and Shri. M. V. Sudhir Kumar, Asst. Director, MSME DI, Hyderabad in his presentation gave brief outline of the activities undertaken by the MSME DI for the benefit of MSME entrepreneurs. Shri. N. Kameswara Rao, Senior

Manager, ECGC – Hyderabad informed the participants on the risk cover assured by the ECGC and Shri. Anirudh Doma, Regional Head of ICICI Bank explained on the banking support towards their trade finance needs and to be competitive in the export market. Shri. Ruban Hobday, Regional Director – Plexconcil informed the participants on the "Opportunities for Exports" with a detailed presentation on International Market demographics.

Finally the session concluded with Vote of Thanks by Shri. Arun Lahoti, Hon. Secretary of TAAPMA. The main purpose of the program is to enlighten the participants on the procedures of starting a successful export business and to highlight the export competitiveness of Ranga Reddy Dt., region in the global market and also enlighten the new entrants from the MSME sector on opportunities for export during these tough times to explore and take advantage of the international markets.

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# Raju Desai

**Director, Jyoti Plastic**

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Injection molding has been a key contributor to the growth of many industries, especially in India. With the phenomenal growth of especially the automotive, electrical, white goods, furniture, FMCG, etc. industries, injection molding manufacturers have witnessed stupendous demand. Companies regularly use plastic injection molding to mass-produce products, employing the mold to easily replicate an item thousands of times. The injection molding process comes with several advantages, like efficiency, speed, customizability and affordability, separating it from other molding and casting methods.

In this issue of Plexconnect, we spoke to Jyoti Plastics, a leading name in injection molding and engineering plastics that has been pioneering innovative solutions and dynamic entrepreneurship since 1959. Plexconnect in conversation with Raju Desai, Director, Jyoti Plastics.

*(Interview excerpts)*

**Engineering Plastics exports are significant to India carving its niche in the international marketplace. What sets your company apart from the rest?**

We are a one stop shop for engineering with plastic. We specialize in metal & import substitution. At Jyoti Plastic, we have a legacy of 63 years and have successfully infused dynamic entrepreneurship with experience and technology. We have our finger on the pulse of business and this leads us to ensure that everything, from concept to finishing, we adhere to the highest quality standards, while we continue to find ways to improve and stay ahead of the competition. Our excellence in injection has earned us recognition from the Indian Govt and we have been awarded the prestigious "Export House" Certification by GOI.

Jyoti
PLASTICS AND BEYOND

Our passion is engineering with plastics, and we are proud to say that very few understand the domain the way we do. Today, we are leading suppliers to client around the world. India is a leading hub for the engineering plastics segment, and we apply world class manufacturing and business practices at our state-of the-art facilities. From Engineering design to molding, assembly tooling to polymer compounding, we provide comprehensive services to our clients. Engineered Plastics, Experience & Integrity are the pillars of our organization.

**In today's world, what are the factors affecting the injection molding process?**

The global economic climate has a big impact on manufacturing and plastics, which of late is also tied into supply chain issues. These geopolitical upheavals have not only severely impacted dependable raw material availability, but also the polymer pricing. India continues to rely on imports for specialty polymers and hence this is a huge factor affecting our industry.

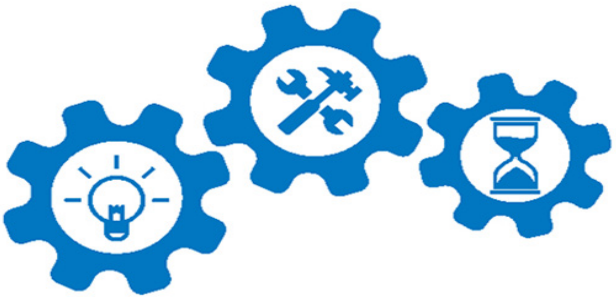
On the other hand, while our country has come a long way in terms of infrastructure, namely electricity, water, roads, etc., there is still lack of consistent power supply in many industrial belts. Manufacturers today have increasingly adopted renewable energy such as solar power; however, we still have a long way to go on that front. Stability in power supply is key to ensuring manufacturing operations run smoothly as these impacts both quality and speed.

Since the supply chain disruption began with the onset of the pandemic, shipping costs, availability of containers, port congestions, etc. have become commonplace for export shipments. In India, in addition to the shipping logistics, inland transportation is an additional factor of concern. Reliable logistic cost is still wanting in many parts of the country and manufacturing hubs that are away from ports continue to be daunted by logistical challenges.

Needless to say, it is important to be proactive, not reactive when it comes to planning for the future. As we have seen during the pandemic, businesses that survived and those that are able to overcome the vagaries of geopolitical and shifting economic conditions are those that PLAN, even if plans may have to change quickly and often.

**What should be key considerations when one selects an injection molding supplier?**

When you need thousands of parts produced on-time and under budget, having the peace of mind that your injection molder will truly be a partner. The right partner will keep your needs in mind, can make all the difference in the world when it comes to getting your product to market faster. Many important decisions that occur throughout each project process depend on information that is shared very early on. When expectations are presented at the onset of the project, there is less likely to be a communication breakdown down the road.



Hence, it is paramount that one ensures that your partner has the production capabilities and Technology, ability to provide comprehensive & expanded services, is up to date on quality standards, has the right team to communicate and manage client expectations and orders and very importantly, has the right technology, raw material and experience. Demonstrated performance in export is very important too while quality & on time delivery is non-negotiable. Understanding & deploying world class business practice is a must.

**Innovation, Product Design & Prototyping are integral to manufacturing across every segment. Tell us about your approach to this process.**

We have an in-house facility for design & engineering on plastic products. Our facility includes software for product design, simulation software for mold flow analysis, product performance analysis, methodology for polymer selection, 3D printing & making test molds. This allows us to reduce time to market. Our experience coupled with in depth knowledge of polymer & processing helps us to optimize value addition for our customers. As stated earlier too, we are ideally placed to provide comprehensive solutions under one roof.

We describe ourselves as industry agnostic or versatile and continue to provide solutions to diverse industry segments including Fluid engineering, Automotive, Industrial, Medical, Electronics & Electrical, White goods, Defense, Water treatment, amongst others.

Our mantra – follow the process and quality will follow.

**Tell us about your approach to ensuring security of your customer IP.**

Overseas customers are always concerned about IP issues. Today, with increasing competition, it is not uncommon to see many copycat products in the market, which makes the question of IP even more serious. Hence numerous technologies are being available for guarding data along with traceability of the person accessing data. As one of the leading injection molding suppliers and considering our wide customer base, we take IP protection very seriously. We use cloud-based solutions to ensure customer data security. In addition, we have also developed our portfolio of products which all hold their own IPR.

**Tell us about the Quality standards followed by your company.**

We believe that success in many small things done well and together. Our company is ISO certified, and our facilities are also EcoVadis certified. We engineer & develop product specific testing facilities in line with the product end application.


Additionally, we follow SAP based operations, QFD friendly infrastructure, use of FEA support for tryouts, amongst numerous other measures that are undertaken and in process towards Industry 4.0.

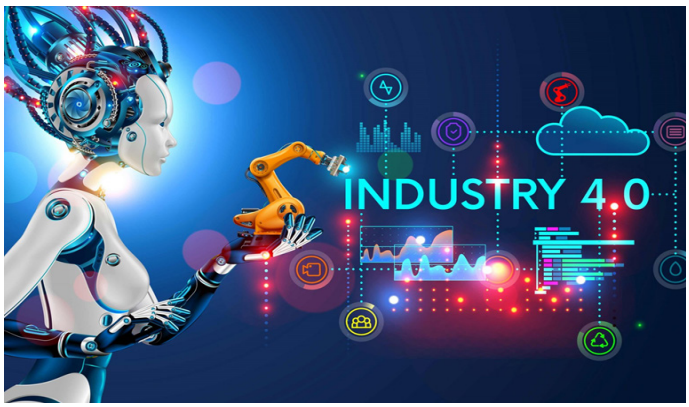
With our QMS System backed by inhouse inspection & testing assurance systems, we are closer to achieving Statistical Process Control and moving with Six Sigma levels.

**What are the types of services you provide?**

As of now our in-house facility includes design & engineering for plastic product development, injection molding & assembly, extrusion (Mono, twin & tri), composite molding, tooling & die making, compounding of engineering plastic.

**How can injection molding suppliers add value to the business objectives of especially the MSME sector?**

Injection molding is a process. One can add a variety of value additions such as assembling, surface finishing - (painting/printing/plating), machining, welding & fabrication etc. Value addition will depend upon end application or segment molder is servicing. MSME companies can look at adding design depth too with in-house design capabilities that is foundational to production of parts and products.




Automation has become a necessity today. Optimizing time, resources, increased efficiency, on-time delivery, etc. are significant to the economic growth and success of a business. For example, during COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the demand for medical devices and manufacturers turned to plastic injection molding to meet the demand for durable, lightweight, and malleable material.

For some industries, certifications are a legal or contractual requirement. Hence by approaching injection molding companies who are certified, clients can ensure their customers in turn consistently receive high-quality products and services.

**What are the latest developments in the segment today?**

Some of the emerging technologies which we have at Jyoti Plastics today and are trending globally include 2K molding, IML molding, thick wall moulding, foam molding, micro molding. Besides this 3D printing, MIM-metal injection molding, and bio polymer processing are some of the emerging trends that are fast gaining recognition and adoption across industries.

**What are your expectations from the K Fair? In your opinion, why should members attend such shows?**

Besides servicing our European customers, we use K for technology benchmarking & networking with emerging trend setters. We get information on polymers, processes & products which can be used for value addition in our business. It is the place to be if you truly wish to gain international perspectives into new developments, innovation, products etc.

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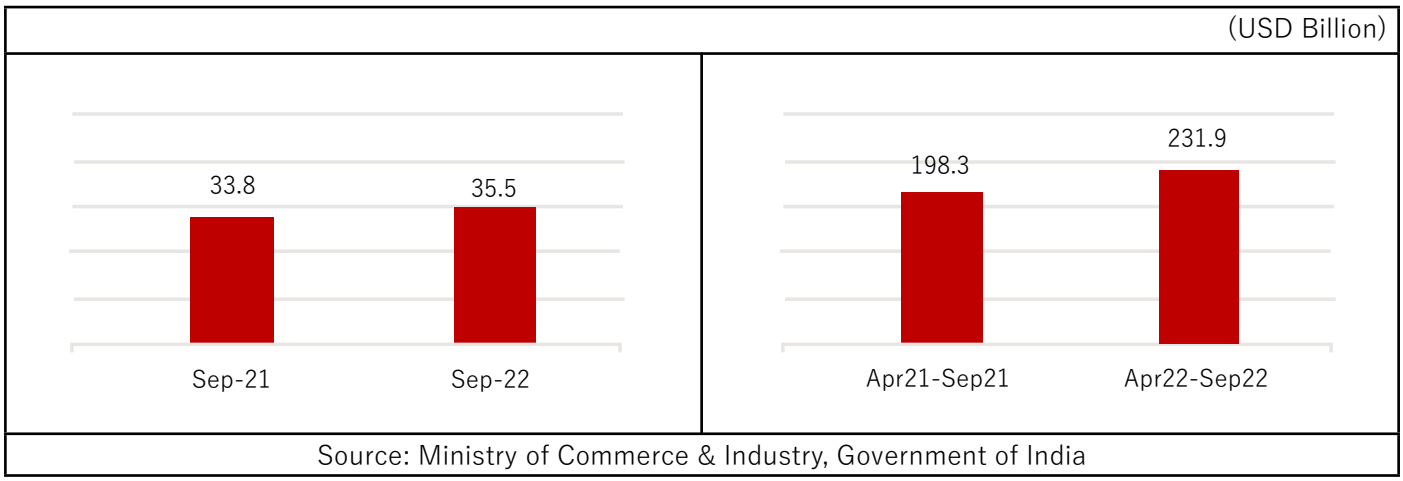
# Export Performance – September 2022

## TREND IN OVERALL EXPORTS

India reported merchandise exports of USD 35.5 billion in September 2022, up 4.8% from USD 33.8 billion in September 2021. Cumulative value of merchandise exports during April 2022 – September 2022 was USD 231.9 billion as against USD 198.3 billion during the same period last year, reflecting a growth of 17.0%.

**Exhibit 1: Trend in overall merchandise exports from India**

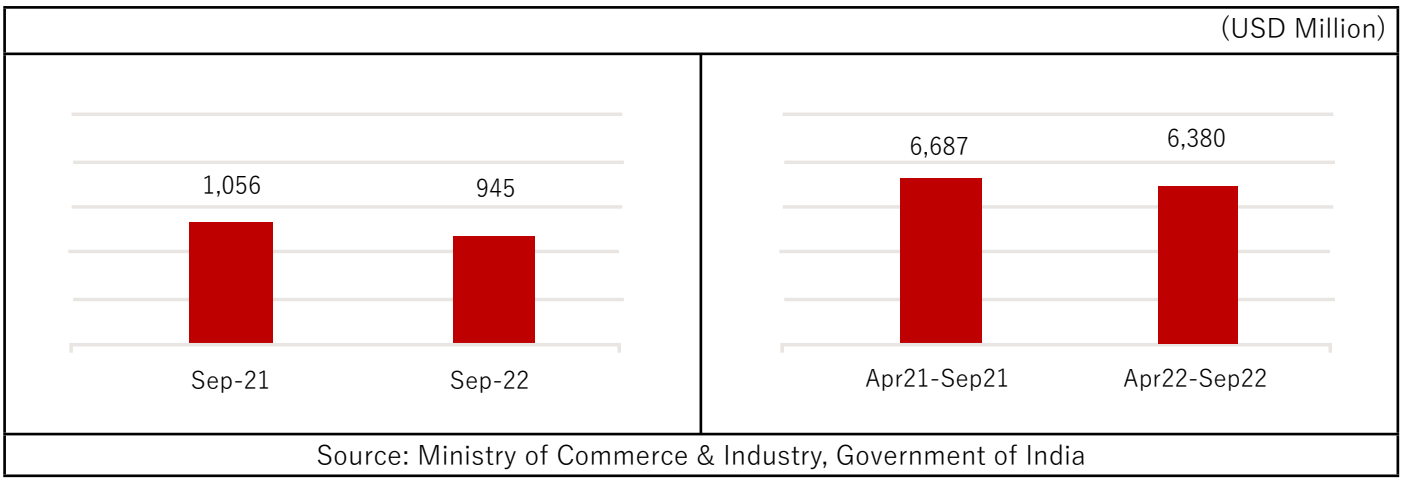



Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

## TREND IN PLASTICS EXPORT

During September 2022, India exported plastics worth USD 945 million, lower by 10.5% from USD 1,056 million in September 2021. Cumulative value of plastics export during April 2022 – September 2022 was USD 6,380 million as against USD 6,687 million during the same period last year, registering a decline of 4.6%.

**Exhibit 2: Trend in plastics export by India**




Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

## PLASTICS EXPORT, BY PANEL

In September 2022, certain product panels, namely Medical items of plastics; Packaging items - flexible, rigid; Plastic pipes & fittings; Writing instruments & stationery; and Miscellaneous products reported positive growth in exports. However, product panels like Plastic raw materials; FIBC, woven sacks, woven fabrics, & tarpaulin; Floorcoverings, leathercloth & laminates; Consumer & houseware products; FRP & Composites; Plastic films & sheets; Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments; and Human hair & related products reported a decline in exports.

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

| Panel | Sep-21 | Sep-22 | Growth | Apr 21-Sep 21 | Apr 22-Sep 22 | Growth |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | (USD Mn) | (USD Mn) | (%) | (USD Mn) | (USD Mn) | (%) |
| Consumer & houseware products | 68.3 | 61.0 | -10.7% | 390.9 | 374.8 | -4.1% |
| Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments | 23.8 | 23.3 | -2.3% | 125.3 | 140.1 | +11.8% |
| FIBC, woven sacks, woven fabrics, & tarpaulin | 147.0 | 117.0 | -20.5% | 846.9 | 787.2 | -7.0% |
| Floorcoverings, leathercloth & laminates | 53.5 | 44.7 | -16.4% | 319.9 | 298.4 | -6.7% |
| FRP & Composites | 42.4 | 35.3 | -16.7% | 218.3 | 226.7 | +3.9% |
| Human hair & related products | 71.5 | 42.9 | -40.0% | 455.1 | 332.9 | -26.9% |
| Medical items of plastics | 34.8 | 41.8 | +20.0% | 198.6 | 247.8 | +24.8% |
| Miscellaneous products & items nes | 77.8 | 79.6 | +2.2% | 408.2 | 498.4 | +22.1% |
| Packaging items - flexible, rigid | 50.7 | 54.7 | +7.9% | 297.8 | 336.4 | +13.0% |
| Plastic films & sheets | 151.9 | 144.9 | -4.6% | 987.1 | 998.8 | +1.2% |
| Plastic pipes & fittings | 21.5 | 24.0 | +11.8% | 130.5 | 153.8 | +17.9% |
| Plastic raw materials | 294.5 | 255.2 | -13.3% | 2,206.0 | 1,848.7 | -16.2% |
| Writing instruments & stationery | 18.4 | 20.8 | +13.2% | 102.6 | 135.7 | +32.3% |
| | 1,056.1 | 945.1 | -10.5% | 6,687.2 | 6,379.7 | -4.6% |

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India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Export of **Consumer & houseware products** declined by 10.7% in September 2022 on account of lower sales of Household articles and toilet articles of plastics (HS code 39249010) to North America, and Other switches of plastic (HS code 85365020) particularly to countries in CIS and Europe region. Exports of Toys of plastics (HS code 95030030) has also been showing a significant decline since May 2022 due to change in the HS code of Toys of plastics resulting in failure to capture the correct value of its exports from India.

**Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments** exports were lower by 2.3% in September 2022 due to slowing sales of monofilaments (HS code 3916). Europe and North America are the two major destinations for export of monofilaments from India.

In case of **FIBC, woven sacks, woven fabrics, & tarpaulin,** exports in September 2022 fell by 20.5% as Indian exporters reported a decline in sales of Sacks and bags of plastics (HS code 39232990) and Flexible intermediate bulk containers (HS code 630532). Exports of Flexible intermediate bulk containers from India have hit their lowest monthly level this year in September 2022.

Export of **Floor coverings, leather cloth & laminates** declined by 16.4% during September 2022 on account of lower sales of PVC floor coverings (HS code 391810) and Textile fabrics impregnated or coated or covered or laminated with plastics other than PVC and PU (HS code 590390) to North America.

Export of **FRP & Composites** was down by 16.7% due to lower sales of Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s (HS code 39269099).

Export of **Human hair & related products** fell by 40% due to a decline in sales of Human hair, unworked (HS code 050100) and Human hair, dressed, thinned, bleached or otherwise worked (HS code 67030010). India's major export destination for Human hair is China.

Export of **Medical items of plastics** witnessed an increase of 20% in September 2022 due to higher sales of Spectacle lenses of polymers (HS code 900150); Catheters and cannula (HS code 901839) from India.

Export of **Miscellaneous products & items nes** increased by 2.2% in September 2022 due to higher sales of Optical fibres, optical fibres bundles and cables (HS code 90011000).

**Packaging items - flexible, rigid** export increased by 7.9% on higher sales of Boxes, crates and similar articles of plastics (HS code 392310) to countries in WANA region; Carboys, bottles, flasks and similar articles (HS code 392330) to countries in North America and South Asia; and Other articles for conveyance or packing of goods (HS code 39239090).

**Plastic films & sheets** export were lower by 4.6% in September 2022 due to a slide in sales of Self-adhesive sheets and films of plastics (HS code 3919); Flexible sheets of polymers of propylene (HS code 39202020); and Rigid and flexible sheets of polyethylene terephthalate (HS code 392062).

Export of **Plastic pipes & fittings** witnessed a growth of 11.8% due to improved sales of Rigid tubes of polyethylene (HS code 39172110); Tubes and pipes of other plastics (HS code 391729); and Other tubes and pipes n.e.s (HS code 391739) to countries in North America, WANA and South Asia.

**Plastics raw materials** export was lower by 13.3% in September 2022 due to a decline in sales of Polyethylene with a specific gravity of 0.94 or more (HS code 390120); Linear low-density polyethylene (HS code 390140); Polypropylene (HS code 390210); and Polyethylene terephthalate (HS code 390761 and 390769) from India.

Export of **Writing instruments & stationery** witnessed an increase of 13.2% in September 2022 due to higher sales of Office and school supplies of plastics (HS code 392610); and Ball point pens of plastics (HS code 960810).

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

| HS Code | Description | Apr 21 – Sep 21 | Apr 22 – Sep 22 | Growth |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | (USD Mn) | (USD Mn) | (%) |
| 63053200 | Flexible intermediate bulk containers | 491.8 | 479.0 | -2.6% |
| 39076190 | Polyethylene terephthalate: Other primary form | 418.9 | 375.6 | -10.3% |
| 39021000 | Polypropylene, in primary forms | 338.1 | 194.0 | -42.6% |
| 67030010 | Human hair, dressed, thinned, bleached or otherwise worked | 348.0 | 247.9 | -28.8% |
| 39232990 | Other sacks and bags, incl. cones, of plastics | 251.4 | 231.7 | -7.9% |
| 90011000 | Optical fibres, optical fibre bundles and cables | 207.5 | 318.6 | +53.5% |
| 39269099 | Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s: Other | 215.1 | 222.5 | +3.5% |
| 39202020 | Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of ethylene: Flexible, plain | 164.2 | 155.2 | -5.5% |
| 39076990 | Polyethylene terephthalate: Other primary form | 146.4 | 143.2 | -2.2% |
| 39269080 | Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s: Polypropylene articles, not elsewhere | 142.2 | 121.4 | -14.6% |
| 48239019 | Decorative laminates | 133.7 | 145.1 | +8.6% |
| 39069090 | Acrylic polymers, in primary forms (excl. polymethyl methacrylate): Other | 162.7 | 105.5 | -35.2% |
| 39014010 | Linear low-density polyethylene (LLDPE), in which ethylene monomer unit contributes less than 95 % by weight of the total polymer content | 139.4 | 38.5 | -72.4% |
| 39206220 | Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyethylene terephthalate: Flexible, plain | 125.8 | 111.4 | -11.5% |
| 39232100 | Sacks and bags, incl. cones, of polymers of ethylene | 105.9 | 115.5 | +9.1% |
| 39012000 | Polyethylene with a specific gravity of >= 0,94, in primary forms | 120.5 | 23.8 | -80.2% |
| 59039090 | Textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics other than polyvinyl chloride or polyurethane: Other | 108.3 | 63.4 | -41.5% |
| 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: Other | 93.4 | 89.4 | -4.3% |
| 39239090 | Articles for the conveyance or packaging of goods, of plastics: Other | 84.4 | 96.7 | +14.5% |
| 39046100 | Polytetrafluoroethylene, in primary forms | 81.4 | 78.8 | -3.1% |
| 05010010 | Human hair, unworked; whether or not washed or scoured | 94.7 | 76.1 | -19.7% |
| 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 | 68.7 | 58.1 | -15.4% |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 56074900 | Twine, cordage, ropes and cables of polyethylene or polypropylene | 57.1 | 64.0 | +12.1% |
| 90015000 | Spectacle lenses of materials other than glass | 64.9 | 71.3 | +9.9% |
| 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: Other | 57.8 | 58.7 | +1.5% |
| 39073010 | Epoxide resins, in primary forms: Epoxy resins | 54.5 | 54.1 | -0.6% |
| 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: Other | 62.7 | 45.6 | -27.3% |
| 90183930 | Cannulae | 46.4 | 69.3 | +49.3% |
| 96081019 | Ball-point pens | 48.3 | 69.9 | +44.6% |
| 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: Flexible, metallised | 45.9 | 57.6 | +25.4% |
| 39199090 | Self-adhesive plates, sheets, film, foil, tape, strip and other flat shapes, of plastics, whether or not in rolls > 20 cm wide: Other | 44.7 | 48.4 | +8.2% |
| 95030030 | Toys of plastics | 56.8 | 10.7 | -81.1% |
| 39241090 | Tableware and kitchenware, of plastics: Other | 50.5 | 46.9 | -7.1% |
| 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: Other | 45.2 | 50.3 | +11.2% |
| 96032100 | Tooth brushes | 44.2 | 48.7 | +10.2% |
| 39011090 | Polyethylene with a specific gravity of < 0,94, in primary forms: Other | 39.3 | 63.7 | +62.0% |
| 39011010 | Linear low-density polyethylene (LLDPE), in which ethylene monomer unit contributes 95% or more by weight of the total polymer content | 47.9 | 23.3 | -51.5% |
| 39219096 | Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Flexible, laminated | 45.8 | 46.1 | +0.6% |
| 39095000 | Polyurethanes, in primary forms | 35.7 | 46.1 | +29.4% |
| 39119090 | Polysulphides, polysulphones and other polymers and prepolymers produced by chemical synthesis, n.e.s., in primary forms: Other | 32.3 | 38.5 | +19.2% |
| 39140020 | Ion-exchangers based on polymers of heading 3901 to 3913, in primary forms | 37.2 | 43.6 | +17.3% |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 39129090 | Cellulose and chemical derivatives thereof, n.e.s., in primary forms: Other | 34.0 | 45.5 | +33.9% |
| 39241010 | Insulated tableware and kitchenware of plastics | 34.2 | 26.8 | -21.7% |
| 39204900 | Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of vinyl chloride, containing by weight < 6% of plasticisers | 33.0 | 41.9 | +27.0% |
| 59031090 | Textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with polyvinyl chloride: Other | 35.7 | 37.8 | +5.9% |
| 39181090 | Floor coverings, whether or not self-adhesive, in rolls or in the form of tiles, and wall or ceiling coverings in rolls with a width of >= 45 cm, consisting of a layer of plastic fixed permanently on a backing of any material other than paper, the face side of which is grained, embossed, coloured, design-printed or otherwise decorated, of polymers of vinyl chloride: Other | 30.7 | 34.6 | +12.7% |
| 39206929 | 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: Other | 35.8 | 36.2 | +1.1% |
| 39235010 | Stoppers, lids, caps and other closures, of plastics | 34.0 | 36.7 | +7.8% |
| 39191000 | Self-adhesive plates, sheets, film, foil, tape, strip and other flat shapes, of plastics, in rolls <= 20 cm wide | 28.1 | 34.6 | +22.8% |
| 39201019 | Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular plastics, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles: Other | 30.5 | 32.1 | +5.2% |

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

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# Furniture of Plastics

Furniture is made from a vast multitude of materials, including wood, metal, and plastic. It is used at homes, offices as well as commercial establishments like restaurants, hospitals, schools, shops, public places etc. Over the years, Furniture of plastics has gained immense popularity due to its easy stack ability, high load bearing capacity, light weight, durability, portability, attractive pricing, and convenience of use in both indoor and outdoor settings. The product is classified under Subheading 940370 of the Harmonized System (HS) of Coding. World-wide import of Furniture of plastics is valued at USD 3.4 billion per year approximately.

- In 2021, top-5 exporting countries of Furniture of plastics were: China (46.8%), Italy (8.5%), United States of America (4.5%), Canada (3.8%), and Viet Nam (3.1%).
- Likewise, top-5 importing countries of Furniture of plastics were: United States of America (28.8%), Uniteqd Kingdom (7.5%), France (5.8%), Germany (5.5%), and Canada (5%).

In 2021-22, India exported 4317 tonnes of Furniture of plastics valued at USD 9.33 million to the world. United States of America was the top export destination in terms of value while Nicaragua was the top export destination in terms of volume.

| Destination Country | Value (USD Mn) | Destination Country | Qty. (Tonnes) |
|---|---|---|---|
| United States of America | 1.53 | Nicaragua | 747 |
| Nicaragua | 1.52 | United States of America | 497 |
| United Arab Emirates | 0.71 | Gambia | 410 |
| Nepal | 0.49 | United Arab Emirates | 309 |
| Gambia | 0.33 | Panama Republic | 193 |
| Panama Republic | 0.32 | Qatar | 126 |
| Canada | 0.29 | Mauritius | 125 |
| Qatar | 0.29 | Papua New Guinea | 114 |
| Bhutan | 0.22 | Nepal | 113 |
| Papua New Guinea | 0.21 | Haiti | 86 |

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

In 2021-22, India imported 4568 tonnes of Furniture of plastics valued at USD 11.0 million from the world. China and Bangladesh were the major suppliers to India.

| Source Country | Value (USD Mn) | Source Country | Qty. (Tonnes) |
|---|---|---|---|
| China | 5.47 | China | 2,429 |
| Bangladesh | 3.82 | Bangladesh | 1,867 |
| Italy | 0.93 | Italy | 147 |
| United Arab Emirates | 0.22 | Turkey | 39 |
| Turkey | 0.12 | Malaysia | 33 |
| United States of America | 0.10 | United States of America | 15 |
| Malaysia | 0.06 | Viet Nam | 5.3 |
| Germany | 0.06 | Hong Kong | 4.7 |
| Hong Kong | 0.04 | Germany | 4.6 |
| United Kingdom | 0.04 | United Arab Emirates | 4.4 |

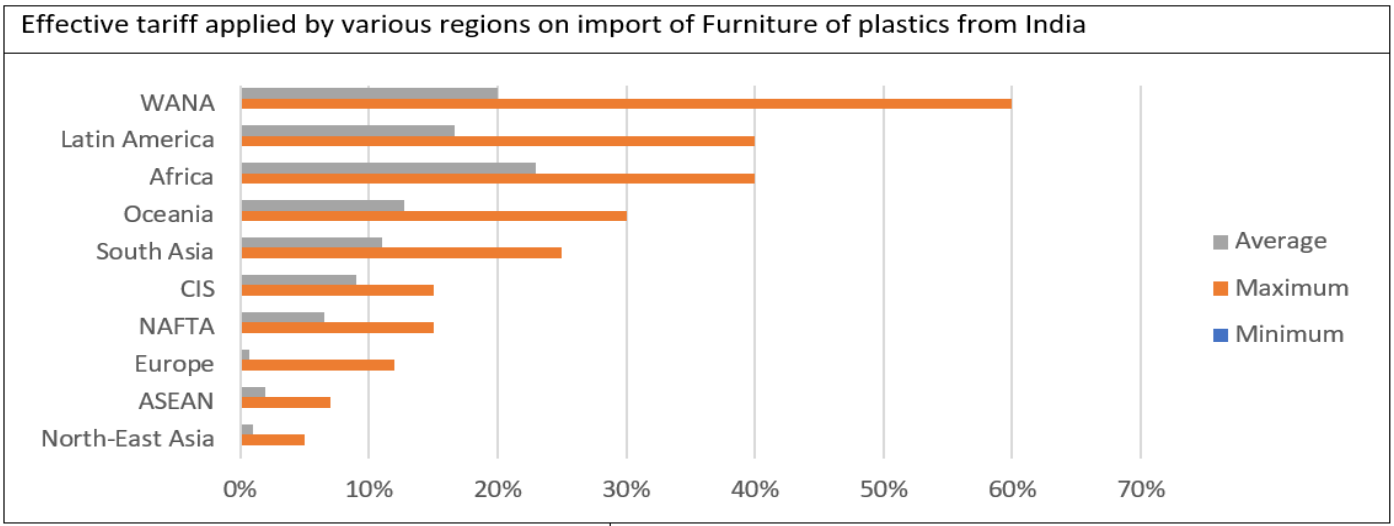
Source: Department of Commerce, Govt. of India, Plexconcil Research

Indian firms dealing in Furniture of plastics have immense potential to export to destinations like Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

Import of Furniture of plastics is eligible for zero customs duty in the EU-27, United States of America, Singapore, Republic of Korea, Japan and the United Kingdom. There is zero duty applicable on import of Furniture of plastics from India in the United Arab Emirates under the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. Several of the ASEAN countries like Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines also allow zero duty imports of Furniture of plastics under the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement.

Unfortunately, several countries in WANA, Latin America, Africa, and South Asia do not accord any preferential treatment to Furniture of plastics exported from India due to which the average customs duty faced on this product is high.

Effective tariff applied by various regions on import of Furniture of plastics from India




Source: Market Access Map, Plexconcil Research

# Industry Speak

**V. Senthil Murugan, Managing Director, Shree Vari Multiplast India (P) Ltd.**

**From functionality & cost efficiency to high end designer range – how has the plastics furniture evolved over the years?**

In earlier times plastic chairs were not affordable because the weight of the chair was more than the needed. Nowadays the chair moulds are designed in such the way that weight of the chair does not exceed the needed load bearing capacity. In addition to light weighting, today, design development in the plastic furniture segment has taken a giant leap and contemporary designs have evolved to fulfil the requirement of the common public (cost & functionality) as well as aesthetics (as seen in numerous high end furniture brands). In the case of plastic chairs are very economical, easy to buy and versatile in use.

**The segment globally has witnessed a growing use of recycled plastics with numerous designer brands creating pathbreaking aesthetic designs. What is the potential for Indian manufacturers in this segment?**

We have a very good potential globally, if we make sure the quality of our product competes with other global exporters. Furthermore, if we can strike the right balance in terms of quality and costs, then our exporters have immense opportunities to export.

**What have been the key drivers for growth of this segment, in terms of exports and domestically?**

We should maintain the Quality, Attractive Rates, On time delivery, Upgrading or introducing new models and designs are the key drivers for growth in this segment in terms of export and domestic market.

**What are emerging opportunities for exports? Which countries demonstrate good growth prospects?**

In my opinion, Middle Eastern and European countries have good opportunities for exporting plastic chairs

**What are the challenges faced by exporters?**

All exporters are expecting the duty drawbacks and other schemes should be considered and has to be increased for the benefit of exporters. Our government is also encouraging new exporters and developing good relationship with other countries which we believe will attract new business opportunities for our country. Renegotiating FTAs and pursuing new FTAs is a good step in the right direction and we hope that plastics exporters can benefit from these too.

New technologies should be adopted to increase the production, to reduce the cost of production and to maintain quality of the product. Upgrading advanced technologies is very essential to sustain in the competitive market.

*Shree Vari Multiplast India (P) Limited is a world class manufacturer and supplier of plastic moulded furniture in the global market. Established since 1999, the company is ISO 9001:2015 certified company with adequate infrastructure facilities for manufacturing and testing the quality of the products. Our brand V V National reflects quality, style and functionality which made us a leader at home and winner at overseas.*

**How the Furniture Industry Embraced Recycled Plastic Materials**

Furniture companies are trying to meet sustainability goals by turning to recycled materials to make their products more recyclable. While upcycling and using vintage pieces have always been a huge part of sustainability, recycling takes it to a new level. Companies have adopted the mindset that materials are abundant for making furniture, eliminating the need to create more.

Multiple factors have increased the demand for recycled plastic furniture. From rising investments by governing agencies, increasing number of nuclear families, to growing consumer need for high-end luxury furniture, a notable reason end consumers are gearing towards plastic furniture is the popularity of eco-awareness.

The new generation of consumers that is Millennials and Gen Z, are showing an interesting and welcome trend. Their purchase is now influenced by sustainability and the product's impact on the environment, from production to use. Eco-awareness is no longer a fad but a movement taken seriously by these consumers to reduce their carbon footprint and preserve the environment.

This means that these consumers focus on products with a low environmental impact. Similarly, they are purchasing from companies making notable changes to be more environmentally friendly in production or manufacture. So, companies are tailoring their processes to favor the needs of these consumers. Part of that means turning to recycled raw materials to make products. Thus, the increase in demand for recycled plastic furniture.

## Easy Pieces: Recycled Plastic Furniture

These recycled furniture designs are from Antwerp-based Eco Birdy. Made of recycled plastic toys, a dense type of plastic not easily broken down.

The Blu Dot Decade Chair shown in Putty is made of 100 percent recycled polypropylene and glass fiber for strength.

In a Paris apartment designed by Merci, a desk made of steel clamp legs is paired with a recycled plastic table top from SAS Minimum, a group of designers devoted to making use of plastic waste. Their signature speckled slab material, Le Pavé, is made of recycled plastic.

Designed by Mexican firm Paola Calzada for Luken, a line of plastic furniture includes the Mesa Table seen here. To make their flat pack furniture, HDPE plastic is cleaned, shredded, and separated by color, then melted into 12mm-thick panels. Each piece recycles 600 bottles of polyethylene.

An early adopter of the recycled plastic movement, Loll Designs makes a wide range of furniture for outdoor and even indoor use. The Slider Credenza in Charcoal Grey shown here, is one of the many pieces made from recycled milk jugs (the lack of pigment in milk jug plastic makes it possible for Loll to color their pieces in vibrants shades).

From Norwegian Trash, the Resurface 01 Table is made of waste plastic and in spite of its material, the table is designed to be heavy to resemble stone more than lightweight plastic; 12,500 kr at Norwegian Trash.

Designed in collaboration with Jasper Morrison for Emeco, the Stacking Chair, shown here in Light Grey, is made of 88 percent waste polypropylene.

The Thing Thing Side Table from Floyd is made using 100 percent post industrial plastic sourced from the Detroit area automotive and toy factories.

From London- and Milan-based Supernovas, the Afterlife Odd Matter Bench in Milk, is made from two streams of recycled plastic (PE and PET) from bottles, packaging, squeeze bottles, toys, gas and water pipes.

# POLYMER PRICE TRACKER (DOMESTIC MARKET) SEPTEMBER 2022

| | |
|---|---|
| **High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)**<br>↓ ↓ ↑<br>Jul-22 Aug-22 Sep-22 | • HDPE prices moved up by Rs 2000 per MT in September 2022 after a decline of Rs 6000 per MT in August 2022 and Rs 7500 per MT in July 2022.<br>• In September 2022, HDPE prices were increased by Rs 1000 per MT in the first week and Rs 1000 per MT around the mid-month. |
| **Linear Low-Density Polyethylene (LLDPE)**<br>↓ ↓ ↑<br>Jul-22 Aug-22 Sep-22 | • LLDPE prices inched up by Rs 3500 per MT in September 2022 after a decline of Rs 8000 per MT in August 2022 and Rs 10000 per MT in July 2022.<br>• In September 2022, LLDPE prices were increased by Rs 1500 per MT in the first week and Rs 2000 per MT around the mid-month. |
| **Low Density Polyethylene(LDPE)**<br>↓ ↓ ↓<br>Jul-22 Aug-22 Sep-22 | • LDPE prices lowered by Rs 1000 per MT in September 2022 after a decline of Rs 14000 per MT in August 2022 and Rs 4500 per MT in July 2022.<br>• In September 2022, LDPE prices were reduced by Rs 3000 per MT in the first week but later increased by Rs 2000 per MT around the mid-month. |
| **Polypropylene (PP)**<br>↓ ↓ ↑<br>Jul-22 Aug-22 Sep-22 | • PP prices increased by Rs 3000 per MT in September 2022 after a decline of Rs 7000 per MT in August 2022 and Rs 7500 per MT in July 2022.<br>• In September 2022, PP prices were increased by Rs 3000 per MT in the middle of the month. Thereafter no changes were announced. |
| **Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)**<br>↓ ↓ ↓<br>Jul-22 Aug-22 Sep-22 | • PVC prices lowered by Rs 4000 per MT in September 2022 after a decline of Rs 4000 per MT in August 2022 and Rs 20000 per MT in July 2022.<br>• In September 2022, PVC prices were reduced by Rs 4000 per MT in the middle of the month. Thereafter no changes were announced. |

Source: Industry, Plexconcil Research

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# EXPORT PROMOTION CAPITAL GOODS (EPCG) SCHEME

Exports play a major role in the economic development of any country. A developed economy is the one, which exports more than it imports. Higher exports draw more foreign remittances, create more jobs and lower the current account deficit; hence, improve the overall economic growth of the country.

In India, government provides export incentives and has designed schemes to not only motivate exporters—who bring in foreign exchange—but also to compensate them for costs incurred while exporting. These incentives and schemes are in line with the government's 'Aatmanirbhar' and 'Make in India' initiatives to attain self-sufficiency and ensure higher reach of local products. India's Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20 advocates various export incentives that are offered by the government through the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

**What is EPCG Scheme?**

EPCG is a Scheme that enables an importer (being an export-oriented business) to import capital goods at zero rates of customs duty. However, the scheme is subject to an export value equivalent to 6 times of duty saved on the importation of such capital goods within 6 years from the date of issuance of the authorization.

The objective of the EPCG Scheme is to facilitate import of capital goods for producing quality goods and services and enhance India's manufacturing competitiveness.

**What are Capital Goods?**

Capital Goods means any plant, machinery, equipment or accessories required for manufacture or production, either directly or indirectly, of goods or for rendering services, including those required for replacement, modernisation, technological up-gradation or expansion

Capital goods may be for use in manufacturing, mining, agriculture, aquaculture, animal husbandry, floriculture, horticulture, pisciculture, poultry, sericulture and viticulture as well as for use in services sector.

**Benefit from EPCG Scheme**

EPCG is intended for promoting exports and the Indian Government, with the help of this scheme offers incentives and financial support to the exporters. Heavy exporters could benefit from this provision. However, it is not advisable to go ahead with this scheme for those who don't expect to manufacture in quantity or expect to sell the produce entirely within the country, as it could become almost impossible to fulfil the obligations set under this scheme.

**Export obligation under the EPCG scheme**

The Importation of capital goods under the scheme of EPCG is subject to an export obligation which is equal to six times of duty saved, to be satisfied within 6 years from the date of issue of EPCG authorisation. If a holder of the EPCG authorisation is unable to meet the stipulated export obligation, the importer of the capital goods is required to pay customs duties along with interest on it as prescribed.


**Points to Remember**

1. EPCG Scheme allows import of capital goods (except those specified in negative list in Appendix 5 F) for pre-production, production and post production at zero customs duty. The Authorisation holder may also procure Capital Goods from indigenous sources in accordance with provisions of paragraph 5.07 of FTP.

2. Capital goods for the purpose of the EPCG scheme shall include:
   - Capital Goods as defined in Chapter 9 including in CKD/SKD condition thereof;
   - Computer systems and software which are a part of the Capital Goods being imported;
   - Spares, moulds, dies, jigs, fixtures, tools & refractories; and
   - Catalysts for initial charge plus one subsequent charge.

3. Import under EPCG Scheme shall be subject to an **export obligation** equivalent to 6 times of duties, taxes and cess saved on capital goods, to be fulfilled in 6 years reckoned from date of issue of Authorisation.

4. Authorisation shall be valid for import for 18 months from the date of issue of Authorisation

5. EPCG scheme covers manufacturer exporters with or without supporting manufacturer(s), merchant exporters tied to supporting manufacturer(s) and service providers. Name of supporting manufacturer(s) shall be endorsed on the EPCG Authorisation before installation of the capital goods in the factory / premises of the supporting manufacturer (s).

6. Imported capital goods shall be subject to Actual User condition till export obligation is completed and EODC is granted.

7. Authorization holder shall produce, within six months from date of completion of import, to the concerned RA, a certificate from the jurisdictional Customs authority or an independent Chartered Engineer, at the option of the authorisation holder, confirming installation of capital goods at factory / premises of authorization holder or his supporting manufacturer(s). The RA may allow one time extension of the said period for producing the certificate by a maximum period of 12 months with a composition fee of Rs.5000/-. Where the authorisation holder opts for independent Chartered Engineer's certificate, he shall send a copy of the certificate to the jurisdictional Customs Authority for intimation/ record.

8. EO shall be fulfilled by the authorisation holder through export of goods which are manufactured by him or his supporting manufacturer / services rendered by him, for which the EPCG authorisation has been granted.

9. EO under the scheme shall be, over and above, the average level of exports achieved by the applicant in the preceding three licensing years for the same and similar products within the overall EO period including extended period, if any; except for categories mentioned in paragraph 5.13(a) of HBP. Such average would be the arithmetic mean of export Performance in the preceding three licensing years for same and similar products.

10. In case of indigenous sourcing of Capital Goods, specific EO shall be 25% less than the EO stipulated in Para5.01

11. Shipments under Advance Authorisation, DFIA, Drawback scheme or reward schemes under Chapter 3 of FTP; would also count for fulfillment of EO under EPCG Scheme & Export shall be physical export.

12. Royalty payments received by the Authorisation holder in freely convertible currency and foreign exchange received for R&D services shall also be counted for discharge under EPCG.

13. A person holding an EPCG authorisation may source capital goods from a domestic manufacturer. Such domestic manufacturer shall be eligible for deemed export benefits under paragraph 7.03 of FTP and as may be provided under GST Rules under the category of deemed exports.

14. Calculation of Export Obligation: In case of direct imports, EO shall be reckoned with reference to actual duty saved amount. In case of domestic sourcing, EO shall be reckoned with reference to notional Customs duties saved on FOR value

15. Incentive for early EO fulfilment: With a view to accelerating exports, in cases where Authorisation holder has fulfilled 75% or more of specific export obligation and 100% of Average Export Obligation till date, if any, in half or less than half the original export obligation period specified, remaining export obligation shall be condoned and the Authorisation redeemed by RA concerned.

16. For units located in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Jammu & Kashmir, specific EO shall be 25% of the EO, as stipulated in Para 5.01. There shall be no change in average EO imposed, if any, as stipulated in Para 5.04.

17. Post Export EPCG Duty Credit Scrip(s) shall be available to exporters who intend to import capital goods on full payment of applicable duties, taxes and cess in cash and choose to opt for this scheme. Basic Customs duty paid on Capital Goods shall be remitted in the form of freely transferable duty credit scrip(s) similar to those issued under Chapter 3 of FTP. Specific EO shall be 85% of the applicable specific EO under the EPCG Scheme. However, average EO shall remain unchanged.

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# Driving Efficiency in Aerospace

As new types of high-strength, high-quality plastics and polymers are developed, the use of plastic parts in aerospace applications continues to rise. While metal materials are still required in many situations, plastics are often used to make aircraft more lightweight while allowing for significant cost savings. A range of plastics is available for use in various aerospace applications, offering unique properties and benefits for this demanding sector.

Known for its higher impact resistance, unique processing possibilities, lightweight properties, strength and environmental advantages, thermoplastic composites are increasingly being used in the aerospace industry to replace various metallic and thermoset composite parts. And as fuel efficiency is a key driver to reducing the operational cost of an aircraft, the aerospace industry is looking to manufacturers for lighter weight products. With thermoplastic composites, we can potentially reduce the weight of aircraft structures by 20 to 50% compared to thermoset solutions and metallic solutions respectively.

In recent years, plastic parts have replaced both metal and glass in many aerospace applications. Some of these applications include:

## Aftermarket Components

Using plastic enables aerospace manufacturers to complete large, cost-effective production runs of replacement parts. Maintenance personnel can easily access a wide range of standardized aftermarket components from approved distributors. These plastic aerospace parts are fabricated from CAD designs, which can be easily shared by OEMs.

## Aircraft Interiors

Plastics have replaced aluminum as a more affordable, more lightweight material option, useful for both the interior design and functionality of airplane cabins. Plastic can be used for everything from overhead luggage storage compartments to ductwork and to ventilation fan rotors. This can allow for a significant reduction in aircraft weight, improving fuel efficiency and creating additional cargo capacity.

Airplane panels and luggage compartments are often made of Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene, or ABS plastic. This plastic is highly suitable for vacuum forming, so it can be manipulated into a wide variety of shapes. Its heavy-duty strength and lightweight density makes it the perfect application for airplane interior parts.

## Thermoplastics

Aircraft bodies traditionally contain thousands of metal-based structural components that can add significant weight and expense to the final aircraft. As aerospace manufacturers continue to modernize existing aircraft and development new, more efficient designs, thermoplastics are increasingly being used to replace metal brackets and other components in airframes. Boeing's 787 Dreamliner, for instance, incorporates a range of thermoplastic composite components in place of traditional metal parts.

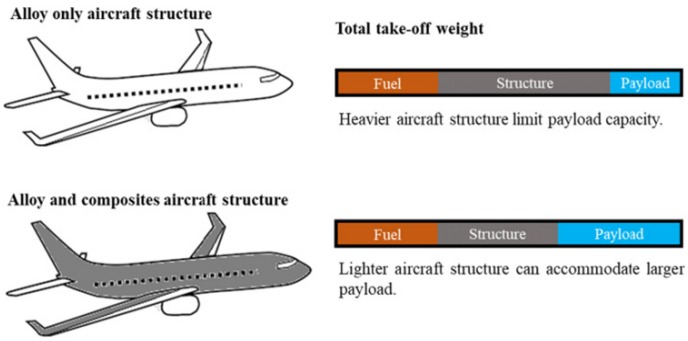

**Figure 5: Hybrid Composite Used in Aerospace application**

## Ventilation Ducting And Seals

A benefit of many acrylic and polycarbonate plastics is their resistance to thermal expansion. Given that aircraft are often subjected to extreme temperatures, it's important that all of the plane's parts stay secured. Choosing plane plastics with a high degree of thermal stability will give an aircraft added durability without weighing it down.

## Aircraft Doors And Fuselages

Even aircraft exteriors are being constructed with plastic. On top of greatly reducing the weight of the plane, which makes it more economical, airplane plastics are resistant to several kinds of corrosion. They can withstand hydrolysis, or high levels of pressurized water and steam, and radiation on top of their resistance to high and low temperatures.




## Technical Components

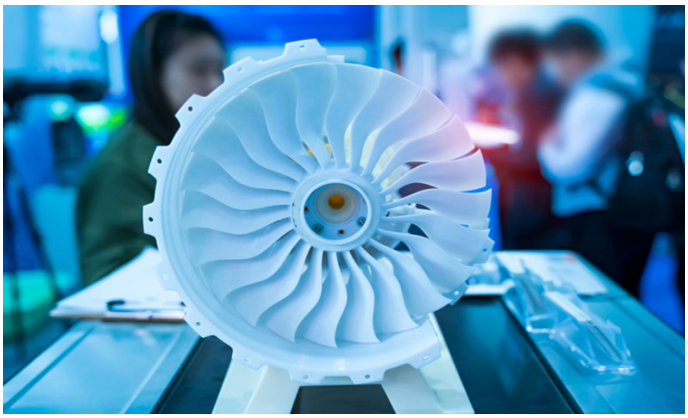
From wiring conduits to bushings and bearings, aircraft plastics can be found down to a plane's smallest components. The ability to use lightweight materials for as many parts of a plane as possible contributes greatly to aircraft becoming a more economical form of travel. Burning less fuel not only means cheaper airfare, but also less impact on the environment from engine fumes.

## Innovative Designs

Aircraft interior plastic is allowing engineers to design revolutionary airplane layouts that are not only more ergonomic, but more aesthetically pleasing as well. Plastic is much easier to mold and shape than more traditional aircraft materials, like rubber and aluminum, while being much lighter and just as safe, if not safer. This freedom of design will help future generations of aircraft be the safest, most affordable and comfortable yet.

## 3D Printing

As additive manufacturing technology continues to evolve, its uses in aerospace expand as well. Advances in 3D printing enable aerospace stakeholders to print parts on-demand from trusted, tested materials. Plus, additive manufacturing allows aerospace manufacturers to quickly develop and adapt light plastic prototypes.



Plastic parts offer significant benefits for the aerospace sector, namely cost efficiencies and speed of production. Plastic can also be more easily molded, allowing for the creation of larger single parts, rather than multiple components that must be welded or connected in some way. And compared to heavier metals such as titanium or steel, the lighter weight is a major advantage.

## Limitations of Plastics in Aerospace Applications

Although the use of plastic in aerospace applications has increased fourfold since the 1970s, the material still has certain limitations. One of the most notable problems is the low conductivity of plastic. Aircraft are at risk of lightning strikes and must be able to absorb strikes without risk of critical failure. Plastic fuselages cannot offer this benefit unless they are supplemented with aluminum or copper coverings.

Plus, the longevity of plastics is still being explored in many aerospace applications, as some types of plastic are subject to deformation or may become brittle throughout extended service life. Therefore, it's crucial for aerospace manufacturers and MRO departments to understand the fatigue limits of the materials they choose.

## The Future of Aerospace

Despite these limitations, there is little doubt that plastic use will continue to see steady growth in the aerospace sector. While aluminum alloys can often be created to achieve certain properties, plastic can do so much more cost-effectively.

When it comes to manufacturing more complex parts, thermoplastics outshine the competition. Parts can be manufactured in minutes instead of hours, and in fact, customers can benefit by as much as an 80% reduction in manufacturing cycle time for the same part that's even lighter.

Using a combination of materials, manufacturing processes and unmatched expertise, integrated thermoplastic composites—like access doors, engine nacelles, flight control surfaces and interiors—are lighter in weight and affordable due to their unique welding capabilities, which minimizes and even eliminates the need for fasteners. And, these aerospace composite structures can be manufactured and installed on aircraft where traditional thermosets cannot be present, due to the higher-temperature properties and durability that are characteristic of thermoplastics.

The flexibility and customizable nature of plastics make them especially useful for demanding applications in the aerospace sector. Plastics can even be developed with specific properties in mind, such as thermal resistance, shock resistance, chemical resistance, high strength-to-weight ratio, flame retardancy, and low smoke and toxicity.

# European plastics industry braces for increased instability, higher prices, and lower growth

The European plastics industry is tackling challenges on multiple fronts. In packaging, by far its biggest market, it has become a victim of its own success, particularly as the ideal material for single-use applications and people on the move. In building and construction, some infrastructure projects may go on hold as governments divert some funds away from infrastructure projects to defence, although business is being boosted as consumers get help to improve energy efficiency in their houses. In automotive, component suppliers are suffering because car makers have been cutting production – not as a reaction to reduced demand, but because they cannot obtain the chips they need for their electronics. Since early 2019, COVID-19 has had major effects on production, occasionally positive but mostly negative. And now, just as Europe and the rest of the world was recovering from the devastating two years of the pandemic, we have the tragedy of the Ukraine conflict.

Discussing the situation in late March, Martin Wiesweg, Executive Director Polymers EMEA at consultant IHS Markit, said that, quite apart from causing a humanitarian disaster, the crisis is weighing heavy on the plastics business, in terms of cost inflation, the worsening of supply chain bottlenecks, including energy supply, while also raising the spectre of demand shock amid the fear of global stagflation.

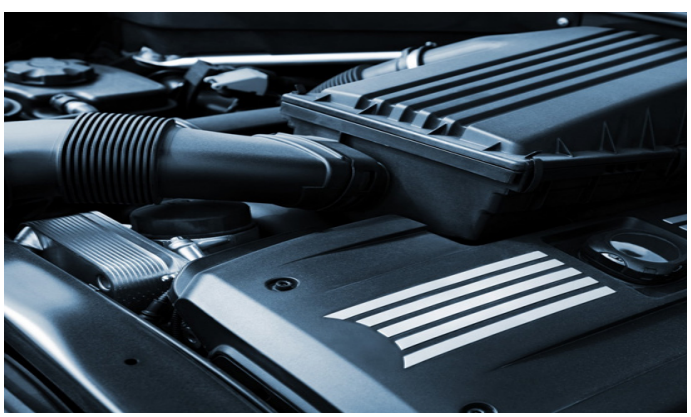
Inflation across the EU hit an all-time high of 7.5% in March. S&P Global Economics said on March 30 that it expects eurozone growth to be 3.3% this year, compared to 4.4% in a previous forecast, and inflation to reach 5% this year and stay above 2% in 2023.

“In the past, high crude oil prices weighed negatively on European plastic demand,” says Wiesweg. Prices soaring further could see consumer disposable income slumping, impacting retail sales. Sectors driven by consumer discretionary income like white goods, consumer products, and automotive would fare poorly as buyers try to conserve cash. “In the short to medium term, Europe could potentially see a demand contraction across polymers.”

**Plastics processing is on course for the circular economy**

Germany remains the powerhouse of the European plastics industry, with its multiple strengths in materials, equipment, and processing capability. But some sectors are hurting all the same. According to German plastics processing industry umbrella organisation GKV, industry sales increased by 12.6% to €69.4 billion in 2021, but member companies remain under a lot of pressure to produce good results. It cites "exorbitant cost explosions" for raw materials and energy, as well as the many delivery delays and resulting order suspensions, particularly in automotive supplies.

The automotive sector has provided a unique set of problems. Several European car makers have temporarily shut down production in recent months, with important negative effects in the supply chain, including the permanent closure at some processors. Passenger car registrations fell by 2.4% in 2021 to just below 10m units across the 27-country EU, according to the European Automobile Manufacturers Association, ACEA. Jincy Varghese, demand analyst at ICIS, forecasts EU automotive output to grow 17% in 2022, although it will still be down 26% from 2019 levels. A healthy recovery is only likely in the second half, she said in February.

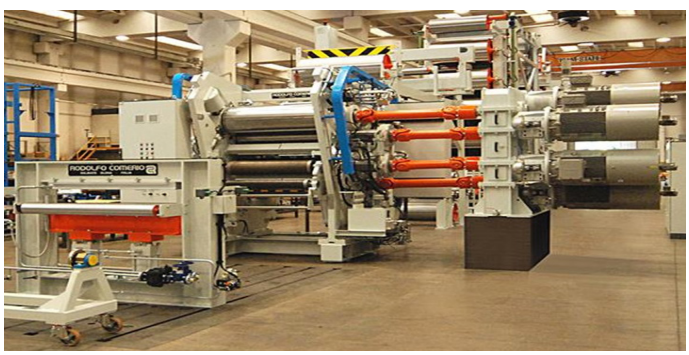


The overall economic outlook for 2022 remains very mixed, said GKV president Roland Roth at the association's annual results conference in early March. Roth called for a reduction in government surcharges on energy prices. As for material prices, he said recent increases have been "almost insane." On average, prices for plastics in Europe increased by more than 50% year-on-year in the first half of 2021 and have stayed high.

Alarm bells have been ringing over energy prices at Unionplast, which represents Italian plastics processing companies. "The crisis in energy prices is seriously affecting a sector that has over 5,000 companies, and more than 100,000 employees," says Marco Bergaglio, President of the association. "The uncontrolled increase in energy costs and the growing difficulty in finding raw materials is a deadly mix for our sector and creates the real risk of not being able to meet the demands of our customers. This situation has inevitable consequences also on the prices of our products."

**European machinery makers in good shape**

The picture is brighter with European plastics equipment suppliers. Thorsten Kühmann, Secretary General of EUROMAP, Europe's Association for plastics and rubber machinery manufacturers, said in March that member companies' order books were "filled to the brim. The current year will therefore be another very good year. We expect sales to increase by 5 to 10%." However, here too, rising prices and now the war in Ukraine are increasing uncertainty.



Ulrich Reifenhäuser, CSO of Reifenhäuser Group and also chair of the K exhibitor advisory board, says the company has "an extraordinarily positive" order backlog for the current year. "A major factor here was the extremely high demand for our melt-blown nonwovens lines, which have made a decisive contribution worldwide to being able to produce sufficient medical protective masks to combat the pandemic - especially in Europe with local production capacities."

Gerd Liebig, CEO of another injection technology major, Sumitomo (SHI) Demag, says that overall, consumption figures are good. "Nevertheless, the coronavirus situation clearly had an impact on demand. But we are anticipating a fast recovery due to our strength in business strategy." Sales of machines are on track to surpass pre-pandemic levels at this company too.

"Demand continues to increase for all-electric models, and we anticipate this ratio will continue to increase," says Liebig. "We're forecasting further increases in 2022 in the automotive and consumer sectors. A decade ago, 20% of our machines were fully electric; now it is more than 80%."

**Packaging challenges**

High and escalating resin prices globally means the packaging market is under continuing pressure, says Liebig. "Given that recyclable granular is now at the same price as virgin polymer was 12 months ago, the impetus to lightweight now stretches across all packaging material substrates, not just virgin polymers. We continue to focus on reducing material usage by improving the process and enabling our customers to produce ever thinner-walled parts."

The move towards tethered caps (mandatory from 2024 under Single-Use Plastics Directive, or SUPD) and extensions of Extended Producer Responsibility (effective 2023) will inevitably have a strong influence, as does the new EU Packaging Levy on non-recycled packaging waste, Liebig says. (Since Jan 1, 2021, the EU charges member states €0.80/kg of plastics packaging waste that is not recycled. States are free to choose how to finance the levy.)

The European plastics industry is in fact having to contend with various pieces of legislation relating to plastics waste. For example, there is now a mandate that 55% of all plastic packaging in the EU be recyclable by 2030, as well as the levy on non-recycled plastic packaging waste. Some countries are also introducing local legislation (Spain and France for example), making the playing field not as level as it should be.

Industry is already having to face up to some consequences of the SUPD, some elements of which came into force on 3 July 2021 in most EU countries – although the roll-out of the legislation has not been entirely smooth. In Italy, for example, it only became law in January, with a delay on final implementation; it is also more flexible in its definitions of plastics products than Brussels originally intended, and whereas the SUP Directive does not exempt certain biodegradable plastics, the Italian legislation does.

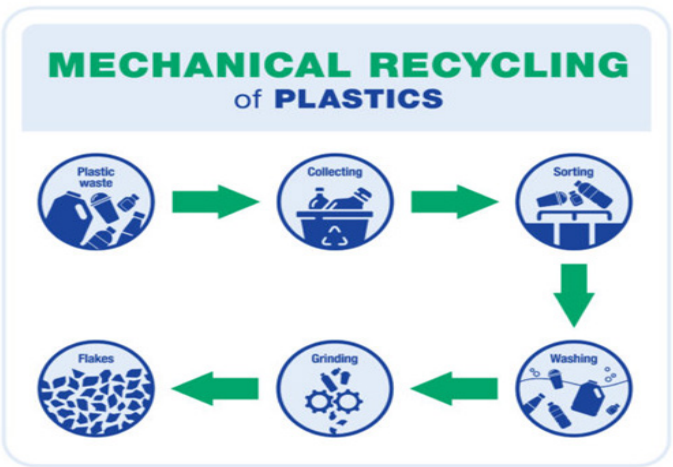
On the subject of bioplastics, the European Bioplastics trade association says: "Unfortunately, in Europe, bioplastics still don't obtain the same degree of support that other innovative industries receive from EU political decision makers. The EU Commission has sometimes contradictory positions on bioplastics. Member State positions on bioplastics also vary a lot, the regulatory environment is anything but harmonized." This discourages investment in R&D and in production capacities, it says.

Despite these challenges, development in European bioplastics is "very positive. Global production capacities still represent less than 1% of the more than 367 million tonnes of all plastics, but by 2026, bioplastics production will pass the 2% mark for the first time." Production capacities for bioplastics in Europe were close to 600,000 tonnes in 2021 and can be expected to increase to around 1,000,000 tonnes within the next five years.

In the UK, now outside the EU, a new tax on plastic packaging came into force on April 1 of this year. The tax will apply to plastic packaging components that do not contain at least 30% recycled plastic and that are either manufactured in the UK or imported into the UK (again, there are exemptions). The tax will be levied at a rate of £200/tonne (approx. €235/tonne).

**Recycling on the rise**

"New legislation and targets for the recycling of plastics and the use of recyclate are changing the way the whole plastics industry must operate," says Elizabeth Carroll, Consultant, Recycling and Sustainability, at AMI Consulting in Bristol, UK, which has a new report out on mechanical recycling in Europe. "The mechanical plastics recycling industry, therefore, has become the focal point for investments, acquisition, and expansion," she says.




Plastics recyclate production in Europe was 8.2 million tonnes in 2021 and is forecast to grow at a rate of 5.6%/year to 2030. That compares with the 35.6 million tonnes of commodity plastics that entered the waste stream in 2021. "This implies that Europe achieved an overall plastic recycling rate of 23.1%," says Carroll. That figure is most likely to rise as the plastics industry makes major investments in recycling technologies of diverse types.

The picture of how to convert recycled plastics into high-value products is brightening. Says Engel's Engleder: "Thanks to horizontal networking along the value chain, we will no longer have to downcycle materials in the future, but can actually re- or even upcycle them. If we exchange information and data across companies, we will be able to recycle plastic waste and produce high-quality plastic products from it again. Digital transformation is the prerequisite for rapidly advancing the issues of sustainability."

And at compounding equipment company Coperion, Marina Matta, Team Leader Process Technology Engineering Plastics, says: "We are observing many ground-breaking developments that significantly improve the sorting and washing quality of waste. The pyrolysis process has also recently been significantly enhanced so that this recycling process can be carried out in a much more energy-efficient way."

**Polymer suppliers going green**

European polymer producers are making major efforts to improve the sustainability of their products. At polyolefins and compounds major LyondellBasell, Richard Roudeix, Senior Vice President - Olefins & Polyolefins Europe, Middle East, Africa and India, says: "Becoming climate neutral by 2050 requires the industry to go through a deep transformation in a relatively short time frame, especially considering that some technologies to completely decarbonise our processes are still in early phases of development. Currently, high costs for energy are compressing industry profits at the exact moment the industry needs additional funds to make decarbonization investments. Polymer suppliers have not been entirely eye to eye with European policy makers on how to move to a green economy, but opinions are converging.

LyondellBasell aims to produce and market two million metric tonnes of recycled and renewable-based polymers annually by 2030. It has already launched plastics made from mechanically and chemically recycled plastic waste, as well as bio-based feedstocks.

Similar comments come from SABIC. In 2019, it launched certified circular polymers produced by upcycling used plastics. "However, the reality is that there is currently greater demand for recycled plastics than the supply available," says a representative. "Manufacturers need to find a way to scale up in order to instigate real change." Greater regulatory support from governments is required to help industry players scale new techniques such as chemical recycling, says SABIC.

At BASF, which like SABIC has a broad pallet of plastics aimed at multiple markets, a representative says: “We expect that plastics will play a vital role in achieving the EU´s net zero emissions goals by helping to deliver emission savings for key sectors like construction, automotive, or food packaging. We are striving worldwide to achieve net zero CO2 emissions by 2050. In addition, we want to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions worldwide by 25% by 2030 compared with 2018.”

Polycarbonate and polyurethanes major Covestro has one of the boldest strategies among polymer suppliers. Its target is to have net zero emissions for scope 1 and 2 (related to its own production and external energy sources) by 2035.

Plastics Europe Managing Director Virginia Janssens, Managing Director, Plastics Europe, says its members support the 30% EU mandatory target for recycled content in plastics packaging by 2030 and have recently announced 7.2 billion euros of planned investments in chemical recycling by 2030 in Europe.

Throughout and beyond what hopefully will be the temporary crises of COVID and Ukraine, “the world remains firmly focused on circularity, plastic pollution, and environmental leakage,” says Wiesweg at IHS Markit. “The circularity drive will spur innovation in chemical recycling, helping achieve world scale commercial viability which along with mechanical recycling will steadily displace virgin plastic resin.”

Original article published on http://www.k-online.com/

# International News

**Grohe and American Standard to Recycle Plastic Waste into Sidewalks**

Lixil Corp., a maker of toilets sold under brand names including Grohe and American Standard, wants to tackle a different kind of waste: The millions of tons of plastic dumped into landfills or oceans. The Japanese company has developed a new material that's made from recycled plastic and wood chips and can be used as a substitute for concrete or wood in anything from sidewalks to furniture. Called Revia, it will be introduced at an event in Tokyo on Tuesday.

Lixil, which sells building materials alongside plumbing supplies, says Revia addresses one of the challenges that have made it impractical or overly expensive to recycle more. Usually, different kinds of plastic, from PVC used in pipes and window frames to PET in water bottles, need to be sorted and segregated before they can be transformed into new products. Especially with ocean plastic that breaks down into little bits, that can be difficult without testing.

To make Revia, all sorts of plastic can be lumped together. The company then shreds it and uses a proprietary binding agent to combine it with waste wood, producing a material that can be colored to resemble concrete, bricks or other building products.

Lixil says Revia could be 3-D printed to make furniture but expects the biggest implementation to be for sidewalks and urban plazas. In the unlikely event that the material was used for all of Japan's paving needs, the company estimates that it could recycle about half of the plastic the country's households throw away.

Revia costs about twice as much as concrete, according to Lixil Chief Executive Officer Kinya Seto. But the price of the conventional building material has been rising amid a global shortage of a key ingredient, sand, and because of demand from China and industries such as fracking.

Revia can help "decrease consumption of concrete at the same time as decreasing plastic waste," Seto said in an interview.

The company says in its most recent sustainability report that it aims to reach net zero CO2 emissions by 2050 "by offering eco-conscious products and services." The new material can itself be recycled, Lixil says.

Lixil, which has revenue of about 1.4 trillion yen ($9.7 billion) hasn't disclosed sales estimates for Revia. It plans to start selling the material next year and says it could ramp up output to make enough to pave 130,000 square meters with 30 millimeter-thick blocks when it starts commercial production at a site in western Japan the following year.

Source: bloomberg.com

**Dow Accelerates Goals for Circular Plastics**

Dow will accelerate the sustainability targets it set in 2020 by expanding its Stop the Waste target to a Transform the Waste target. By 2030, Dow will transform plastic waste and other forms of alternative feedstock to commercialize 3 million metric tons of circular and renewable solutions annually. To do this, Dow will expand its efforts to stop the waste by building industrial eco-

systems to collect, reuse or recycle waste and expand its portfolio to meet rapidly growing demand.

"We are expanding our commitments to address plastic waste and meet customers' increasing demands for more sustainable and circular products," says Jim Fitterling, Dow's chairman and chief executive officer. "Through investments in key technologies, infrastructure and strategic collaborations, we are expanding our Stop the Waste goal to reflect the transformation of Dow's plastic franchise and leadership to enable a circular economy. We will increase the value of waste and enable a new industrial ecosystem to grow, which in turn will allow Dow to scale our ability to produce circular and low-carbon emission solutions."

It is expected that the waste required to produce 3 million metric tons of circular and renewable solutions per year by 2030 will surpass and replace Dow's original 1 million metric ton goal.

"Our expanded sustainability target reflects our commitment to raise the bar for ourselves and the broader industrial ecosystem as we leverage our materials science expertise, commitment to circular innovation and productive collaboration with our partners," says André Argenton, Dow's chief sustainability officer and vice president of Environment, Health & Safety.

Progress made through agreements, collaboration, and investment.

Several recently announced circular and mechanical offtake agreements and projects will help contribute to achieving the target including an MoU with Lucro Plastecycle to develop and launch polyethylene (PE) film solutions using PCR plastics in India.

To support Dow's expanded target and to support accelerated success through stronger focus, increased accountability and robust decision-making, Dow has also recently formed a new business platform, Circular & Renewable Solutions, aligned within the Packaging & Specialty Plastics operating segment. Daniella Souza Miranda leads this new business platform as its global business director.

"Today's announcement demonstrates our strong commitment to increase our use of feedstocks from recycled and renewable sources," says Diego Donoso, president of Dow Packaging & Specialty Plastics. "The creation of the Circular & Renewable Solutions business platform will accelerate our ability to deliver on these enhanced commitments and advance our circular plastics business model."

Source: Plastics Today

**Braskem and SML Collaborate on PCR Stretch Film**

Petrochemical company Braskem and plastics-processing machinery manufacturer SML are advancing the circular economy for plastic films with a jointly developed stretch film made from resin that incorporates post-consumer recycled (PCR) content. Made from Braskem's Wenew DL085C PCR resin, which is 30% PCR, the new stretch film can be used to unitize loads and protect them during shipping. Applications for the film include beverage pallet wrapping. In cooperation with SML, Braskem is demonstrating the performance of the new solution at the K show. Production will be on the largest machine at the entire show.

The PCR resin provides the film transparency required by industrial users and meets mechanical strength and elongation requirements for automatic film application in the beverage industry — the incorporation of recycled material does not compromise the film's performance.

"The stretch film developed together with SML shows how far Braskem has already increased PCR quality and what is already feasible today," said Carlos André Silva, Braskem subject matter expert, in a prepared statement.

"We can achieve a film with extremely high quality and thus [help] to open completely new perspectives for the use of recycled materials in a wide range of applications," Silva added.

In recent years, Braskem and SML have partnered to develop high-quality stretch films. They initially found it challenging to produce market-conforming stretch films containing the PCR content required by brand owners and potentially dictated by minimum-recycled-content regulations.

The new stretch film made from Wenew PCR resin hits that mark. “At first it seemed nigh on impossible to find a sustainable and economical solution, especially when it comes to down-gauged products,” said Thomas Rauscher, product manager-stretch film at SML.

“Finally, after two years of very close collaboration, development work, and countless trials together with Braskem, we are now in a position to offer the market a solution to the PCR demand in stretch film production,” he said.

The company reports that it has more than 40 grades of PCR resins in its global portfolio and about 42 grades in development. Its circular products include those produced from mechanical recycling and advanced recycling, plus chemicals such as solvents that are produced using Braskem’s traditional processes.
Source: Plastics Today

**Siegwerk and Henkel Join Forces to Create a New Solution for Recyclable Flexible Packaging**

Collaborating to develop an oxygen barrier coating for food packaging that has been recognized by leading institute for its compatibility with recycling


Siegwerk and Henkel are both market leaders for sustainable solutions. At two trade events in October, the companies will tell the story of how they joined forces to co-develop an innovative oxygen barrier coating. The new solution provides outstanding performance and also enables mono-material flexible packaging that is easier to recycle – opening up exciting potential to accelerate the transition to a circular economy.

Henkel and Siegwerk are both leaders in sustainable and innovative packaging solutions. The two companies share a pioneering spirit and a long track record of efficiency and food safe packaging. They also share a belief that the transition to a circular economy will require new technologies – and new forms of collaboration, too.

Representatives from Siegwerk and Henkel met at K-Fair in 2019 and agreed to co-develop an oxygen barrier coating for more recyclable food packaging.

Working in close partnership, Henkel and Siegwerk shared knowledge and explored ideas for how to create a barrier solution for flexible packaging without compromising shelf-life. The result? An industrially validated oxygen barrier coating that enables mono-material flexible packaging for dry food products, setting recyclers free from the headache of mixed materials. Recently, the product has been recognized by APR (Association of Plastics Recyclers) Critical Guidance to be compatible with recycling.

In October 2022, experts from both companies will stand side-by-side to present their sustainable innovation. Visitors at K-Fair and Pack Expo will get the chance to learn more about this oxygen barrier coating.

Source: Packaging 360

**Coperion to supply chemical recycling plant for PMMA**

Coperion has announced a contract signed at K 2022, which will see the machinery firm supply a complete system for the chemical recycling of PMMA (polymethyl methacrylate) to Renov8, a subsidiary of just right based in JAFZA, Dubai.

Nilesh Jain, founder of Renov8, Fatima Al Hammadi, Chief Commercial Officer, KEZAD Group and representatives of Coperion, Renov8 and KEZAD Group signed the contracts for the new PMMA recycling system at Coperion’s K show booth in Hall 14/B19. (f.l.t.r.: Jochen Schofer, Coperion; Simon Bier, Coperion; Jay Jain, Renov8; Marouane Mansour, Coperion; Massimo Serapioni, Coperion; Nilesh Jain, Renov8; Markus Parzer, Coperion; Khalid Al Marzooqi, KEZAD Group; Fatima Al Hammadi, KEZAD Group; Khalfan Al Muhairi, KEZAD Group; Cem Kurkcuoglu, KEZAD Group)

The Coperion system for the chemical recycling of PMMA will be installed at the KEZAD Polymers Park in Abu Dhabi. The system will thermally convert PMMA into liquid rMMA in a continuous process. The system includes material handling, two ARW discharge agitators with discharge screws and two Smart Weigh Belt (SWB) feeders, as well as a ZSK 92 Mc18 twin screw extruder with 92 mm screw diameter, a vacuum system and a condenser. Key components of the system are produced in-house by Coperion.

Nilesh Jain, founder of Renov8, visited Coperion at its stand in hall 14 at K 2022 to sign the contract. Prior to the signing, extensive tests on the chemical recycling of PMMA at Coperion's test center have taken place.

Coperion's process solution allows for the thermal recycling of PMMA to rMMA in an economical, continuous process. The PMMA recyclate is conveyed via a discharge agitator ARW and a discharge screw to a Smart Weigh Belt (SWB) feeder. This low-headroom gravimetric feeder weighs large quantities of bulk material with high accuracy and feeds it into a ZSK twin screw extruder.

In the Coperion ZSK Mc18 twin screw extruder a great deal of mechanical energy is introduced into the PMMA via the co-rotating twin screws due to the high torque of 18 Nm/cm³. The temperature of the melt rises quickly and efficiently, allowing the material to depolymerise. Gaseous MMA is produced, which is extracted via the degassing domes of a vacuum system and then converted into liquid rMMA in a condenser. Coperion claims that its solution for chemical recycling benefits from "significantly lower" energy consumption than pyrolysis processes without extruders, or compared to recycling with single screw extruders.

The chemical recycling system for Renov8 will allow the processing of two separate product streams. Due to its self-cleaning properties, PMMA with different light transmittances can be recycled on the same ZSK 92 Mc18 twin screw extruder in a short time without any loss of quality, according to Coperion.

Renov8 specialises in the recycling of polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA), polystyrene (PS), acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS), polycarbonate (PC), polypropylene (PP) and polyethylene (PE). Located in KEZAD Polymers Park Abu Dhabi, the firm operates from a 30,000 m² site.

Source: Interplas Insights

**Design 2.0: Unlocking pet food bag recyclability with polyethylene**

Dow Packaging & Specialty Plastics, a business unit of Dow (NYSE: DOW), and leading machine manufacturers W&H and B&B, announce today the launch of their joint innovation in recyclable plastic packaging at the K 2022 fair, the world's leading trade fair for plastics processing in Düsseldorf, Germany.

Through new technology, resin and machinery innovation the collaboration successfully led to the development of this recyclable wide-format MDO-PE bag. Using only polyethylene (PE) and a minimal layer of EVOH2 ensures recyclability while delivering the same performance and properties of multi-material packages combined with outstanding gloss, transparency and haptics.


Reshaping the future of pet food packaging

For years, the focus of the packaging industry has been on efficiently producing packaging materials that enhance consumer experience and reduce waste. The challenge for recyclable pet food packaging in particular, has been finding technologies that maintain the efficiency of the packaging's production and its final qualities while relying only on one material, so as to enable recycling in the polyethylene stream.

"Unlocking packaging recyclability is a challenge that no one company can do alone," said Romain Cazenave, Packaging EMEA Marketing Director, Dow Packaging & Specialty Plastics. "Using Dow's ELITE™, INNATE™ and AFFINITY™ high-performance resins and sealants in combination with our partners' state-of-the-art machinery technologies and know-how, has enabled us to realize the next generation of recyclable packaging to foster higher recycling rates and enable the circular economy of plastics."

The large pet food bags are made with MDO-PE film using only polyethylene in each structural layer with the exception of a thin layer of EVOH for the barrier, in line with recycling guidelines. Using high-quality resin and the latest extrusion technology of the W&H VAREX II machine with inline MDO, the film has a final web width of 2x1260 mm and is optimized to reduce material wastage during production.

“On our wider VAREX II extrusion line with inline MDO, we produce MDO-PE film optimised for the following production processes. Thanks to perfect flatness and excellent film quality even with this wide film format, our HELIOSTAR II rotogravure press prints at very high speeds of 400 m/min. To put it in a nutshell: Two-ups for doubled efficiency.” said Dr. Lennart Ederleh, Technical Sales Director at W&H.

Through Dow’s Pack Studios, lamination was enabled at industrial scale before sending the films to bagmaking at the exceptionally smooth pouch-making process with B&B’s side gusseted bag machine SFB, producing 80 bags per minute, which is comparable to multi-material PET/PE structures.

Source: marketscreener.com

**TotalEnergies announces ‘low-carbon’ recycled polymer range intended to improve energy efficiency of plastics**

TotalEnergies has launched RE:clic, a new range of low-carbon recycled polymers aiming to reduce the carbon footprint of end-use applications by improving their energy efficiency.

The portfolio is claimed to be based on polymers from recycled material or bio-feedstock, with the company intending to provide customers with the means to achieve their sustainability goals without sacrificing the performance or processability of their current plastic packaging. The polymers are thought to be lighter, and therefore more energy efficient, than other alternatives.

The collection currently consists of three types of polymer, the first being the RE:use range. These are said to contain mechanically recycled plastic originating from post-consumer and post-consumer plastic waste.

Meanwhile, the RE:build polymers claim to be produced through chemical recycling, tracked throughout the process via ISCC PLUS certification. Due to the nature of this process, which is believed to produce recycled plastic of virgin quality, TotalEnergies is marketing these polymers for high-end and contact-sensitive applications.

The third range, the RE:newable polymers, are reportedly derived from bio-based products. Like the RE:build range, they are certified under ISCC PLUS, and are intended to reduce customers’ carbon footprints while maintaining virgin-like qualities.

“This announcement marks yet another step forward in TotalEnergies’ development of a circular economy for plastics and is fully aligned with the Company’s ambition”, said Nathalie Brunelle, vice president of Polymers at TotalEnergies. “The products associated with these new ranges are concrete solutions to help us reach our ambition of commercializing 30% circular polymers by 2030.”

INEOS Olefins & Polymers Europe recently revealed that Recycl-IN, its range of recycled polymer grades, would be used by Coveris for a new stretch-hood packaging film containing a minimum of 30% recycled material.

Meanwhile, Borealis is aiming for circularity by designing a commercial-scale advanced recycling plant to convert polyolefin-based post-consumer waste into high-performance polymers.

Earlier this year, Nextek CEO Ed Kosior spoke to us about the importance of mono-polymer designs in fully optimising their circular potential, especially in widely used yet less recycled flexible films.
Source: packagingeurope.com

# India News

**Castrol India Introduces 100 Percent Recycled Bottle For Its Premium Engine Oil Brand**

Castrol is introducing new, more sustainable packaging for its premium engine oil brand, Castrol POWER1 ULTIMATE. The brand is now being packed in a 100 percent Post-Consumer Recycled (PCR) bottle, made from reprocessed plastic waste instead of virgin plastic. The use of PCR plastic decreases plastic waste, reduces carbon emissions, and supports a more circular economy.
Castrol's new packaging is a part of its global PATH360 aim to reduce its plastic footprint by half by 2030. Castrol's PATH360 focuses on three areas of saving waste, reducing carbon, and improving people's lives, with an overall aim of helping Castrol become net zero by 2050 or sooner.

"Plastic waste management is an important aspect of Castrol's sustainability roadmap for India. In 2021, we introduced new light-weight bottle designs for our medium packs (3 to 5 litres) that reduced our plastic use on average by 20% per bottle[1]. These new Castrol POWER1 ULTIMATE bottles are our next step on Castrol India's journey to reduce the use of virgin plastic, we believe that they are the first 100% PCR plastic lubricant bottles in India" said Sandeep Sangwan, Managing Director, Castrol India Limited.

Adding further, Sandeep Sangwan shared, "As part of our Extended Producer Responsibility, we are also working with key stakeholders with the aim of collecting, reusing, and recycling all the plastic we place on the market. As the technology and supply chains for recycled packaging evolve, we plan to continue exploring innovations in more sustainable packaging for more Castrol products."

The new packs are being used for the Castrol POWER1 ULTIMATE product range and will start to appear on the shelf soon. Consumers will not incur any incremental cost arising from the transition to the new, more sustainable packaging.

Source: Packaging 360

**LyondellBasell and Shakti Plastic Industries Sign Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to Advance Mechanical Recycling in India**

LyondellBasell and Shakti Plastic Industries, India's largest plastic scrap recycler and waste collection company, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to form a joint venture to build and operate a fully-automated, mechanical recycling plant in India. The plant is intended to process rigid packaging post-consumer waste and produce 50.000 tonnes of recycled polyethylene (PE) and polypropylene (PP) per year, equivalent to the single-use plastic waste produced by 12.5 million citizens. It is envisaged that the new facility will become the largest mechanical recycling plant in India and is estimated to start at the end of 2024. LyondellBasell will market the recycled products produced by this joint venture adding volume to its Circulen Recover range of existing PE and PP materials to help meet increasing demand by converters and brand owners in India for recycled polymer materials.

"The proposed joint venture will allow us to address the issue of plastic waste in the second most populated country in the world and expand our circular polymer product offering to India," says Yvonne van der Laan, LyondellBasell Executive Vice President, Circular and Low Carbon Solutions. "Combining our respective expertise with Shakti Plastic Industries will create an innovative system that can be scaled as the circular economy grows."

Once established, the joint venture will leverage each partner's strengths. With the development of a recycling infrastructure in India, Shakti Plastic Industries will provide structure and formality to the waste collection process to secure materials to be used at the new venture. LyondellBasell will apply its long-standing leadership in innovative plastic production technology, vast experience in product development and strong knowledge of the polymer markets in India.

"The circular economy will increasingly develop into a critical part of the plastic value chain in India, requiring solutions across the value chain to develop a sustainable world of plastic recycling." says Rahul V. Podaar, Managing Director of Shakti Plastic Industries. "As we move towards becoming a value player in the circular economy, we will continue to seek opportunities for future growth. Together with LyondellBasell, we will be on the forefront in India taking significant steps to recycle rigid plastic waste which supports the government initiative to reuse recycled plastic in packaging applications."

Source: Packaging 360

**Raj Petro launches its global brand platform 'Everyday Forward'**

Raj Petro Specialities Pvt Ltd, a Brenntag Group company, has launched 'Everyday Forward', its global brand platform. It focuses on the value created in the company's 80 years' journey and its global impact on millions of lives across more than 100 countries. Raj Petro has built a successful sustainable business and launched trustworthy brands that deliver high-quality products and services that are creating value for key high-growth industries.

Everyday Forward is the company's belief system and a brand platform, articulating the brand's meaning and purpose. It declares the intent, how the company thinks, how it conducts business, the value it delivers to stakeholders, and its collective ambition to be a globally admired petrochemical brand.

RAJ PETRO
A BRENNTAG GROUP COMPANY

Everyday Forward stands on four strong pillars – Future Forward, Innovate Every Day, People Focused, and Sustainable Core. These four pillars are interlinked. The company is working towards a future that's positive for both the business and society at large. Raj Petro is committed to creating innovative products that help enterprises move forward and internally work with a safety-focused and equitable high-growth work culture. The company is conscious of environmental changes, and is adapting and adopting clean and green practices in all its manufacturing facilities.

Addressing stakeholders at the launch, Mehul Nanavati, Managing Director, Raj Petro Specialties Pvt. Ltd said, "We are delighted to announce this new brand platform. It is a step in the right direction in alignment with our goal. With our 'better-than-yesterday' approach, we will take well-reasoned steps to challenge the status quo and keep delivering value to our customers and stakeholders. Raj Petro is committed to moving forward with every industry, and we will keep delivering excellence despite any challenges, without compromising on our core values and beliefs. I believe 'Everyday Forward' defines the greater purpose we aspire for and helps us align our priorities so we can achieve all our goals".
With 'Everyday Forward', the company reinforces its brand positioning and builds awareness about how they do business and the value they create for all stakeholders.

Source: globalprimenews.com

**Plastic report says consumption will reach 22 million MT in 2022-23**

The Plastindia Foundation unveiled its ninth edition of the plastics industry report for 2021-2022. In addition to tracing the growth trajectory, the report highlights how the plastics industry is committed to sustainable development. 90% rigid plastics, including PET bottle waste and 60% of flexible waste is being recycled. 6.4 million MT is estimated to be recycled in 2021-22 which is 60% of plastic waste stream.

*Consumption of plastics in India has grown by 23%*

The Plastindia Foundation's Plastics Industry Status Report is very bullish about the growth of plastics and related materials. The 9th edition of the report highlights the significant role that plastics can play in further accelerating economic growth. Among the top 10 items to be exported, India exported USD 10.00 billion worth of plastics in 2019-20, which is expected to reach USD 25.00 Billion by 2025.

Jigish Doshi, president, Plastindia Foundation said, "The report aims to catalysis growth by empowering each stakeholder with facts and figures. I am confident that this report will act as a beacon for change by helping create more employment, fostering innovation, and driving investments that will help the industry work towards sustainable development models."

According to the report, the production and consumption of plastics in India has increased immensely in the past three decades. For instance, in 2021-2022, the consumption of plastics was approximately 22 million MT as compared to 0.9 million MT in 1990. The report reveals that consumption of plastics in India has grown by 23% and is estimated to reach 22 million MT in 2022-2023. The industry gives jobs to over four million people and comprises over 35,000 processing units, 80% of which are small and medium-sized enterprises. This sector is predicted to achieve 9.1 lakh crores by 2025.
Ajay Shah, chairman, National Executive Council of PlastIndia 2023 said "The report includes various new sections and provides more in-depth data on various sectors of the industry, including a brief history of polymers and the benefits that plastics provide to society. " he added, "The report enumerates the strengths of India and the various government initiatives and programs that would drive the polymer industry in the future while showcasing the country to the world as a land of potential opportunities. The data provided in the report will surely be useful for the entire value chain of the plastic industry - from raw material and additive producers, processors, machinery manufacturers, recyclers, and consumers, guiding them in their growth plans."

Meanwhile the Plastindia Foundation is organising the 11th edition of the PlastIndia show from 1 to 5 February in 2023 at the Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

Source: Printweek.in

**Sustainability is Cosmo's top priority, says Pankaj Poddar**

During the 9th edition of Sustainability Films & Flexible Packaging summit, Pankaj Poddar, the group CEO, Cosmo Films shared his thoughts about oriented films moving towards sustainability.


Cosmo Films is a pioneer of BOPP films in India and perhaps the world's largest producer of thermal lamination films and the second largest in specialty label films. Recently the group diversified their business into speciality chemicals and Petcare (Zigly).

Pankaj Poddar spoke about how the barrier properties are being enhanced with the films. He mentioned Cosmo has state of the art R&D centres in Aurangabad which has ensured the spoilage of packaged food being reduced and the shelf-life being increased with the BOPP films. Today, BOPP film is produced from polypropylene which is a crude oil derivative. As per industry reports, the global BOPP demand is 8.5 million MT pa. Of which the BOPP demand in India is 600K MT pa India.

He crunched key numbers about the 'current global plastic scenario'. "The global plastic production is 370 million MT/year out of which 50% is single-use and the global plastic waste generation is 350 MT/year. Poddar pointed out that India generates 26,000 tonnes plastic waste daily. He said that producing one tonne plastic requires 23000 kwh energy and recycling one tonne plastic saves 6000 kwh energy. "Making new products with recycled plastic requires 66% less energy than using raw plastic materials," he added.

Poddar's message was, "Promote all PP structures for snacks and confectionery and move towards standardization." Today, there are several types of films like CPP, BOPP and BOPET. Poddar spoke about the advantages of BOPP films. The first one being; BOPP consumes less energy at film production, printing and sealing. Furthermore, the moisture barrier of BOPP makes it the most preferred substrate for packaging of food. And finally, BOPP provides appearance properties such as white opaque cavitated, silky matte and pearlised.

Poddar spoke about how flexible packaging can be made more sustainable. He said that global initiatives by brands and converters can be a driving force. "Along with it, there are factors such as; plastic recyclability - challenges and solutions; use of BOPP based Heat Resistant and barrier films; PE structures with BOPE; compostable and bio-plastics and synthetic paper as a replacement of normal paper."

Cosmo's speciality films sales have grown 18% in the last three years. Some of the key products in the Cosmo speciality film portfolio are: Cosmo synthetic paper, direct thermal printable (DTP), sustainable PVC-free solutions for signages.

Later, Poddar shared examples of sustainable films developed like white BOPP film which is specially engineered to withstand envelope sealing - typical of a soap wrapping application; recyclable OPP laminate for noodles packaging and HR BOPP films for tea and coffee packaging.

### Sustainable innovations - under development

Cosmo Films is working towards offering a variety of sustainable films. The first one being; the BOPE film for monolayer laminate applications that provides easy recyclable options; a sustainable solution of PCR based BOPP and CPP films; mono-layer packaging films; heat resistant films and barrier films without EVOH and to increase the usage of plastic recycled content into rigid and flexible packaging.

Source: Printweek.in

**Western Railway to introduce AC local train with fibre-reinforced polymer seats by end of October**

The newly inducted air-conditioned (AC) local train on Western Railway's Mumbai Division has comfortable modular fibre-reinforced polymer (FRP) seats, unlike the existing stainless steel seats, informed the Western Railway recently.


The under-slung air-conditioned EMU with a three-phase propulsion system on the Mumbai suburban network of Western Railway is the first rake having one coach equipped with flexi-solar panels that are light in weight and capable of generating 3.6 kilowatt of electricity. These panels will power the fans and lights of the coach.

This rake has a maximum speed of 110 Km per hour. It comprises four types of coaches and has a combined carrying capacity of 1,118 passengers.

According to a railway official, the rake will be introduced into service by the end of this month. Around 10 additional AC local train services will also be introduced on the Western Railway.

Source: Business Standard

**Govt may raise interest rate subsidy for small exporters**

The government is considering raising the interest equalization or subsidy benefit extended to small and medium exporters to help relieve some of the burden on them due to rising interest rates.

The move to provide credit at interest rates that are lower than the market rate comes at a time when Indian exporters are facing a serious challenge on account of slowing demand in key markets amid record inflation and the threat of a global recession.


The government is looking to increase the interest subsidy from 3% to 5% for micro, small and medium manufacturers, and from 2% to 3% for manufacturer-exporters and merchant-exporters exporting under 410 tariff lines.

The department of commerce, which is calculating the cost of the exercise, will formally move the proposal to the ministry of finance. The scheme helps exporters get access to capital at a reduced cost. Exporters have been pressing the government to restore the interest equalization benefits amid a series of interest rate hikes by the central bank.

"We are considering the demand to restore the interest equalization rates of 5% for MSME exporters and 3% for those dealing in 410 specified tariff lines...we are calculating the additional cost burden for the exchequer. We will then move a proposal to the ministry of finance to consider it," said a senior government official.

"Exporters are facing the burden of high interest rates and slowing international demand, and therefore, we are considering the proposal of hiking the interest subsidy rates," he added.

The government had reduced the interest equalization benefit to 3% from 5% for MSME manufacturers over the last two years, as overall interest rates had come down and MSMEs were getting loans at 7-7.5% interest. However, exporters argue, now MSMEs are being charged nearly 10% interest for loans, which is higher than the pre-covid level, and that the interest burden is only expected to rise.

Source: livemint.com

**Govt now mulls single-window clearance system for exports**

In line with the existing clearance system for imports, the government is now planning to introduce a single window clearance system for exports. A system is in the works where web-based registration of goods, including from special economic zones, would be allowed to facilitate integration of Customs systems with other regulatory agencies to ensure faster clearances for consignments, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) Chairman Vivek Johri said on Thursday.

"Currently, we still have physical process for registration on exports side···but we are actually working on a system where web-based registration of goods is possible which would mean that there's no need for any broker or exporter to actually travel to a port to submit their documents to customs for initiating processes"

"You are familiar with the single window on the import side. We are trying to introduce something similar on the export side. There are export consignments that require regulatory intervention from control agencies,say drug controller, other agencies. We are trying to integrate Customs ICEGATE with these agencies. This will further compress time taken to release export consignments," Johri said at CII National Exports Summit. Indian Customs Electronic Gateway (ICEGATE) is the national Customs portal of CBIC that provides e-filing services including electronic filing of the Bill of Entry (import goods declaration), Shipping Bills (export goods declaration), e-payment of Customs Duty, Common Signer utility for signing all the Customs Documents, to trade, cargo carriers and other trading partners electronically. At present, about 43,542 users are registered with ICEGATE who are serving over 12.5 lakh importers/exporters. Customs is also trying to integrate SEZs to the ICES portal.

Johri also said that the average release time, which is measured by the time of arrival of goods to the port and their actual departure, of export cargo has been halved. The Trade Facilitation Action Plan, which ends in 2023, has set a target of average release time of 24 hours and 12 hours for exports through sea port and airport, respectively. "There is a need for further compression in release time taken by regulatory agencies··· The target is quite steep··· We are very consciously working on reducing the average release time," Johri said. He also said that 80-85 per cent of the average release time of export cargo is on account of the time taken after Customs clears the consignments.

Source: Indian Express

# 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
- Basic Website Development Assistance *

*Nominal Charges Applicable

# New Members

**The Plastics Export Promotion Council added the following companies/firms as new members during September 2022. We would like to welcome them aboard!**

| Sr. No | Name Of The Company | Address | City | Pin | State | Director Name | Email |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Arun Exports | 1018/1, Gali Kharasian Katra Baghian Contact No: 918054328003 | Amritsar | 143001 | Punjab | Arun Sharma | arunsharma1818@gmail.com |
| 2 | Bhagwati Opticals & Trading | 1st Floor Opp Shree Shankar Vijay Saw Mill Compound ,B/H Canara Bank Saijpur Bogha; | Ahmedabad | 382345 | Gujarat | Hardikkumar Nebhwani | bhagwatioptical-sandtrading@gmail.com |
| 3 | Chhadwa Plastic Corporation Llp | Survey No 28/1/2, 21/1/2, 21/1/1/1, Udhwa Road, Village Karajgam Silvassa, Dadra & Nagar Haveli | Silvassa | 396230 | Dadra & Nagar Haveli And Daman & Diu | Yash N Shah | info@cpcllp.in |
| 4 | Conarch Associates Private Limited | 3rd C - 97 Nehru Nagar Ghaziabad, | Ghaziabad | 201001 | Uttar Pradesh | Kopal Goel | kopalgoel@conarchassociates.com |
| 5 | Dac Automotive Private Limited | No.B-41, 2nd Cross, IV Main Road,,SIPCOT Industrial Park, Irrungattukottai,Sriperumbudur,Tamilnadu,Kanchipuram-602117 | Sriperumbudur | 602117 | Tamil Nadu | Sooyong Park | dacfinance123@gmail.com |
| 6 | Dr. A.R. Medical Devices Private Limited | A-105, 1st Floor, Ganpati Plaza Phoolbagh Chowk Bhiwadi, | Alwar | 301019 | Rajasthan | Mr. Arif Khan | info@drarmedicaldevices.com |
| 7 | Florim Decoratives Global Private Limited | Survey No.92/P5-P1,93-P1/P2/P4/P5; Beside Sahkar Cotton,Tankara Latipar Highway, Illage-Haripar,Taluka-Tankara | Tankara | 363650 | Gujarat | Ashok Mansukh Bhoraniya | Neil@qsectiles.com |
| 8 | Gaurav Industries | 000-308-Gidc Estate Road No-10,,Halol, | Panch Mahals | 389350 | Gujarat | Jain Samtaben Dhaneshbhai | kesaria-group125@gmail.com |
| 9 | Guru Poly Products | No.549/1, Kothagondapalli Village, Hosur Taluk,,Hosur,-Tamil Nadu,Krishnagiri, | Hosur | 635109 | Tamil Nadu | R Natarajan | akhussain@gurupolyproducts.com |
| 10 | J I Polymer Industries | Plot No. A-12, Old Midc; | Satara | 415004 | Maharashtra | Shakir Ibrahim Bagwan | jipoly12@gmail.com |
| 11 | Karmasheel | A/102, Saroj Apartment, Mahakali Caves Rd; | Mumbai | 400093 | Maharashtra | Jay B Bhatt | karmasheel@yahoo.com |
| 12 | Keo Global Industries Llp | Sr. No. 398/1, 399/2, 399/3, 8-A National Highway, Nava Sadulka | Morbi | 363641 | Gujarat | Bhavik Dhirajlal Ubhadia | keoglobalind@gmail.com |
| 13 | Nanda Polymers | E-621, Phase-Vii Focal Point , Near H.B Crane, | Ludhiana, | 141010 | Punjab | Aneesh Aggarwal | aggarwal_aneesh@hotmail.com |
| 14 | Nnb Paper Products Private Limited | 458, 460, 461/2 Udvariya, Bhimana, Pindwara, | Sirohi | 307023 | Rajasthan | Nitin Bansal | agarwal.bspl@gmail.com |
| 15 | Perfetto Packaging Private Limited | Bunglow No - B/33, Nr, Gh - 0 Circle, Infocity Township | Gandhinagar | 382010 | Gujarat | Vishal Barot | accounts@perfettopackaging.com |
| 16 | Proffer Information Systems India Private Limited | Ff-38. House No.425, , Pvt Shop No.1, Near Tikona Park, Laxmi Nagar, | Delhi | 110092 | Delhi | Peter | pisindialimited@gmail.com |
| 17 | Sanvi Polyfab Llp | Sr. No. 318 P2 P3, Plot No. 1 & 2, Tal. : Tankara, Dist. : Morbi, Neknam | Rajkot | 363650 | Gujarat | Jotaniya Keval | sanvipolyfab@gmail.com |

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| 18 | Sk Bablu | Vill-Uttar Bishnupur, P.O. & P.S- Bhagwanpur, Medinipur | Bhagwan-pur | 721601 | West Bengal | Sk Bablu | babluhair1@gmail.com |
| 19 | Sknc Enterprise | Benudia,Bhagwanpur,Purba Midnapore East | Purba Me-dinipur | 721601 | West Bengal | Sk Azizul Haque | skncazizul@gmail.com |
| 20 | Sundaram Auto Components Limited | Plastics Division,,Ho-sur-Thally Road, Belagonda-palli,,Hosur,Tamil Nadu,Kris-hnagiri,, | Krishnagiri | 635114 | Tamil Nadu | Seeplaputhur Ganapathi-ramaswamy Murali | a.selvakumar@sacl.co.in |
| 21 | Supervac Industries Llp | B-21,Flatted Factory Complex, Jhandewalan, New Delhi, Central, | Delhi | 110055 | Delhi | Archishman Punj | punj@super-vacoils.com |
| 22 | Tex Year Techno-logies India Private Limited | 704, 7th Floor, D Square Premises Cooperative Hsg Society, Opp Cnms School,-Dadabhai Road, Vile Parle West, | Mumbai | 400056 | Maharashtra | Pranav Mehta | pranav@tyiapl.com |
| 23 | Thangam 5g Exim Private Limited | C1 Unit, The Salem Industri-al Co Op Estate Limited,,U-dayapatty,,Salem,Tamil Nadu,Salem, | Salem | 636140 | Tamil Nadu | Chandraseka-ran Venkkete-shwaran | thangam-5gexim@gmail.com |
| 24 | Tpac Custom Solutions Private Limited | 405 Acme Industrial Park; Off I B Patel Road , Gore-gaon East, Mumbai | Mumbai | 400063 | Maharashtra | Shrinath Ramachandra Kasi | pragatim2013@gmail.com |
| 25 | Trust Trade Corpo-ration | Tower No. 7 Flat No. 1103 Rangoli Greens,Kanakpura Gandhi Path Road, | Jaipur | 302034 | Rajasthan | Anjul Mahes-hwari | ttcorp007@gmail.com |
| 26 | Vishakha Renewab-les Private Limited | Pl.No.Ind-15,, Mstpl,-Sec-01,South Of Apl/Cgpl Power Plant, Nr. Emc Brid-ge,Village Tunda | Mundra | 370421 | Gujarat | Bharat Patel | bharat.patel@vishakhapolyfab.com |
| 27 | Zotasoft Exports & Imports Private Limited | House No. 2-105/111/540, 3rd Phase Journalists Colony,Gopanapalli, Serlingampalle, Ranga-reddy,Rangareddy,TELAN-GANA,RANGAREDDY | RANGA-REDDY | 500032 | Telengana | Manoj Kumar Reddy Indu-puru | trade.zotasoft@gmail.com |

Source: Plexconcil