Dear reader,

As I am writing this note, summer is approaching, and the yearly vacationers’ migration to the beaches has just started. In the past, we could regard this season with aloof detachment, musing philosophically upon the cycles of nature. Or - if you are into single-use and food service deliveries – about this time you'd have been pressed by the need to have picnic cups and plates well stocked & delivered to the shelves for the season.

But today, we can’t help shuddering at the thought of how many vacationers will find plastic littering on our beaches.

None of us makes plastic products with the intention to have them thrown into our seas, or buried in landfills. Yet litterbugs do exist, and so does poor waste collection in many municipalities. And their damage is visible, with its obvious consequence: the mounting wave of “plastic haters” and the demonization of an entire industry.

But maybe, just maybe, things could change. Reports from think-tanks such as the Ellen MacArthur Foundation or the UN Sustainability Programme invariably start with the sentence: “Plastic is an amazing material”. No sensible person thinks we can turn back the clock of history and do without it. All advocate to use it sensibly, refrain from overpackaging, reuse and recycle… looking forward to a future when even plastic will come from resources which can be renewed in a short time.

Meanwhile, petro-chem giants started initiatives to clean the oceans under the umbrella organization of the “Alliance to end plastic waste”. The plastic industry has started to speak up against pollution AND in favor of plastics – yes, no oxymoron there.

Your SPE-European Thermoforming Division intends to follow on these steps and help European professionals, companies and organization give a more concrete picture of what plastic can do for us, and how can we use it sensibly. Last but not least, what does it mean for the environment to do without it: as experts know, life-cycle assessment analysis often shows recycled plastics to be the solution with least environmental impact.

The K’ Show in autumn will be a good moment for our industry to meet and plan our steps. The next European Thermoforming Conference shall be centered around this topic: we’ll be at the K’ Show to inform you of what’s going on and to collect your inputs. Who are the major organizations taking action? How can we design for reuse? What can be recycled and what can’t? How can we use recycled plastics? and much more…

Precious information for a plastic professional to know, when confronted with simplistic “plastic-is-the-devil” accusations.

Even more precious for an organization, to decide on the best way to act and communicate what it does for the environment.

That’s why the topic of our Conference will be “Thermoforming for a Greener Future”. Impossible for a single person to do. But what if we coordinate our actions? Indeed, sustainability may be the best occasion we have to renew our industry.

Antonio Staffoni - Chairman of the SPE ETD Board
Why Attend?

This event is the single most important event in the thermoforming calendar and is where Europe’s leading exponents in thermoforming gravitate to network with their peers. It is an opportunity to learn of the latest technological developments within our industry through technical presentations and evaluating products and services being displayed at the Tabletop exhibitions.

We can be assured that the attendees will consist of a significant cross section of processors, end-users, material suppliers, tool makers, machine and allied equipment suppliers.

Who should attend?

- Thermoformers
- OEM’s
- Machinery & Tooling Producers
- Film and Sheet Suppliers
- Resin Producers
- Recyclers

What makes ETD Conference different to others?

This event is unique because it is run specifically for the thermoforming industry and is organised solely by members of the industry. Its main objective is to create a platform that encourages industry members to share and transfer technical knowledge and expertise. Technical speakers and presentations are carefully selected to provide the maximum value.

Conference Highlights

- Keynote Presentations
- Technical Sessions on Thin & Heavy Gauge
- Workshops
- Exhibition
- Networking Events
- Parts Exhibition

Workshops and Technical Sessions:

Our programme includes technical presentations by recognized industry experts, featuring new developments in our industry. It allows members of our industry to actively participate in those discussions.

Sponsors and Exhibitors:

A prime opportunity to market and sell your product or services to a ‘captive audience’ solely involved in the European Thermoforming Industry. This represents remarkable value on your marketing investment?

Parts Exhibition:

This is an increasingly popular event which allows participants to showcase their thermoformed parts. The winning entries will be judged on their originality, innovation, technical complexity, best use of materials etc. Parts will be on display during the conference and the winners will be announced with awards presented on the final day of the conference.

Call for Papers:

Intention to submit a paper should be communicated to the Conference Secretariat before 10 September 2019.

Authors are invited to provide: Title of paper, Author/Speaker’s name and a general outline of the work (300 words max.) to Yetty Pauwels at spe.etd@skynet.be
European Thermoforming organisations will be invited to participate in the ‘Thermoformed Parts Competition’ which will be staged at the forthcoming ETD Conference to be held in Geneva, Switzerland from 18th to 20th March, 2020.

The aim of this event is to allow an opportunity for thermoforming processors in all the industry sectors to exhibit their parts and to compete in various categories against their peers. It is one of the few opportunities for thermoforming companies to not only promote their technical processing capabilities but also to present other elements of the ‘team’ such as the Tool manufacturer, the Material supplier and of course the thermoforming machinery on which the parts were formed.

Originality, innovation and creativity, mould complexity and technical processing capability will be the judging criteria in an effort to promote advanced design and developments from a structural innovation perspective.

Categories for entry of ‘Thick gauge’ parts will include Vehicle/Automotive, Industrial, Point of Purchase/Displays, Technical Applications and Sanitary sectors.

Categories for entry of ‘Thin gauge’ parts will include Food Applications, Medical Applications, Consumer Electronic Applications and General Packaging sectors.

The aim of the European Thermoforming Parts Competition is to offer an industry Forum where examples of design-orientated applications exhibiting a successful combination of materials technology, technical innovation and creative design are recognised and rewarded. The successful entrants will be presented their awards at the 12th Biennial European Thermoforming Conference in Geneva.

Take the opportunity for your Team to be recognised and rewarded – plan your entry and contact the ETD now.

Information about the Conference, Sponsorship, Tabletop display and the Parts Exhibition may be obtained from Yetty Pauwels at SPE European Thermoforming Division,

Eric Sasselaan 51, B-2020 Antwerpen, Belgium
Tel.: +32 3 541 77 55

E-mail: spe.etd@skynet.be - www.e-t-d.org
K 2019, known as “The World’s No. 1 Trade Fair for Plastics and Rubber” and scheduled to take place in Düsseldorf from 16 to 23 October 2019, is fully booked. Over 3000 exhibitors from more than 60 countries have registered to participate. K will occupy the entire Düsseldorf exhibition grounds with some 175,000 m² of net exhibition space, and more than 200,000 trade visitors from all over the world are expected come to the event.

Four hot topics have been chosen by the academics and experts from the K 2019 Innovation Group: Plastics for Sustainable Development & Circular Economy, Digitisation and the Plastics Industry 4.0, System Integration: Functionality through Material, Process and Design, and Young Talents in the Industry.

These hot topics now have their own dedicated microsite on the K Portal with continuous video interviews, articles and news items based on each topic. A great place for visitors to start planning their visit to the trade fair.

The special exhibition “Plastics Shape the Future” sees itself as a podium for solutions and answers to current social trends and discussions. Crucial topics will be discussed in detail, including packaging waste, marine litter and climate change on the one hand and resource conservation, energy efficiency and recycling on the other. “Plastics Shape the Future” not only will offer an international information and networking platform but will also provide for greater involvement of policymakers and socially relevant groups in the form of keynote speeches and speed talks.

The Science Campus of K 2019 stands for the dialogue between science and industry, with sustainability and recycling management also being examined intensively. Last but not least, the joint appearance of VDMA (German Engineering Federation) and its member companies will also be focused this time on the topic of the circular economy.

Those who want to already now begin preparing for their visit to K 2019 in October can find the exhibitor database at [www.k-online.com/2410](http://www.k-online.com/2410). Further information is available at [www.k-online.de](http://www.k-online.de).

AMUT Group and Natureworks team up for Biopolymers applications

Bioplastics is certainly the main topic discussed by plastics players nowadays. The targets globally pursued include to eliminate unnecessary packaging, move from single use to re-use attitude and promote the utilisation of materials made from renewable resources to be applied in different sectors. Since many governments have expressed the commitment towards an eco-friendly policy to free nature from plastic waste, companies involved in the plastic packaging field have to seek for new materials.

AMUT has started a collaboration with the company NatureWorks for extrusion and thermoforming food contact approved processes. NatureWorks turns greenhouse gases into a portfolio of polylactic acid (PLA) performance materials called Ingeo™. Since 2015, NatureWorks has partnered with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation to support the foundation’s New Plastics Economy initiative, which is a comprehensive strategy for creating a global plastics system based on circular economy principles.

AMUT-COMI tested Ingeo™ PLA on its thermoforming machines using rolls provided by Coexpan company. COEXPAN is the Grupo Lantero division specialized in the manufacture of rigid plastic foils and thermoformed products providing packaging solutions at a global scale. The results were good: serviceware made with Ingeo™ well performs in hot and cold applications.

Other tests scheduled will involve AMUT/EREMA extrusion line now proposed for r-PET foil food contact approved production. AMUT and EREMA are working together to offer a similar technology also for PLA treatment through a direct extrusion process.

Ingeo™ PLA is a thermoplastic material that shows high transparency, glossy and tear strength comparable with other thermoplastic materials such as PS or PP. It is easy to shape and has multiple end-of-life options including composting and recycling. The foils made in PLA assure a high food flavour and aroma preservation.

Therefore, using the PLA material for packaging applications not only boost environment preservation but also ensures the maximum quality and efficiency of the products.
PLASTICS MACHINERY GROUP

PMG has invested about $700,000 to renovate a factory building into a showplace for injection molding presses, extruders, blow molders, thermoforming machines, rotational molding machines and auxiliary equipment such as shredders and grinders, loaders and temperature control units.

PMG President Don Kruschke said the 18,000-square-foot building is big enough to house 30 machines, and the company can run the equipment for prospective customers. Kruschke bought the building and the company that was there, a specialty handrail manufacturer, in June 2018.

About 60 guests attended a four-day open house at the PMG machinery operation May 7-10.

During the open house, PMG ran an injection molding machine, a Sencorp 2500 thermoformer, two grinders and a large Zerma combination shredder/grinder, demonstrating how it can handle large parts such as purgings and pieces of plastic pipe.

PMG also stocks an inventory of Motan vacuum loaders and Shini temperature control units. PMG, which buys and sells plastics equipment, moved its business to Bedford Heights from its longtime home in Solon, Ohio, in 2017 when the company bought Loveman Steel Corp. and its 72,000-square-foot, heavy industrial building. That operation remains in the steel fabrication business-making large components for steel mills and other markets and also houses PMG’s machinery management and employees. The plastics machinery showroom is next door in the separate, newly renovated building.

Kruschke said PMG typically has about 60 machines in inventory, with 30 in the machinery building and others in the Loveman building, where they also can be run under power, and at an outside warehouse. The numbers change as machinery get bought and sold.

PMG has 35 employees for both the machinery and steel fabrication operations. PMG has increased its steel operation workweek from 40 hours to 58 hours, which includes time-and-a-half on weekends.

KIEFEL PACKAGING: NEW PREMIUM STEEL RULE TOOLING FOR MID-SIZED PRODUCTION RUNS

Kiefel Packaging has developed a new standard tooling for thermoformed trays and clamshell packaging, which offers excellent value for money and has short delivery times.

The powerful steel rule tooling is designed for medium sized production runs. This reliable tooling solution is available as a forming/cutting tool (BFS) and as separate forming and cutting tool, including a hole punching tool. This new tooling platform works on the Kiefel KMD series as well as on other European manufacturers’ thermoforming systems. Kiefel Packaging is thereby expanding the product range with a new standard.

Kiefel has a global presence thanks to their own sales and service branches in the USA, France, the Netherlands, Russia, China, Brazil, Indonesia and India, as well as sales partners in more than 60 countries.

Kiefel owns the Dutch thermoform toolmaker Kiefel Packaging B.V., the Austrian company Kiefel Packaging GmbH, a supplier of tools and automation solutions and the automotive specialist KIEFEL Automotive s.r.o. based in the Czech Republic.

Kiefel Packaging will be at K’show Hall 3 Booth E90

Plastics Machinery Group will be at K’show Hall B Booth B91-27
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Augmented Reality Glasses are one tool out of the Industry 4.0 toolbox that support the industry to build smart solutions and fulfill these customer demands at a very cost-effective way. As with all tools (and most other things), you must use them to get their full benefit. In order to have “one system that suits them all” the e-t-d is supporting an initiative of several companies which use the leading system form Essert (www.essert.digital). The benefit of this is, that all members can rely on one system to communicate with their vendors and/or within their own organization.

User Cases:

Next to the typical application of a service call form a customer to receive help from a vendor, the “magics” have been used on many other occasions: Factory Acceptance Tests, product training, R&D Workshops, Sales Force Support, Product Development, …

Benefits:

• “It was very helpful to have the system technicians help to investigate the root cause of the problem within 20 minutes. While sharing videos and pictures has been helpful, it is a much more effective way to directly communicate at the machine with the possibility to use “you see what I see”. The comfort of a noise-cancelling headset system (Bose) lets you speak to your vendor just like he would be standing next to you.” says the Technical Lead of Grupo-Phoenix.

• Needless to say, that next to the good record you gain at your customer, the successful usage does create great savings in down time reduction of production lines and travel time and cost.

• By choosing the market leader all other benefits come with the system. Multi-Member calls (Connect 3 or more locations), Smart Content (include manuals, drawings, training clips) or QR-Functionality are only some of the features. Hubert Kittelmann, board member of the e-t-d states: Looking at today’s solutions we found, that several AR-Glasses have been tested by many of our members. But functionality, compatibility and integration into the organization has been a hurdle and caused the idea to slow down or even die out. So not only the cost of the implementation has been lost, but also, all the potential savings in the future are gone.

• With implementing one system that allows the members to use it towards MANY of their vendors AND within their own organization, we do not only get a very competitive deal on the soft & hardware, we also reduce the internal cost to implement the system to a minimum. But after all, the cost of the system is secondary if we mange to enable our teams and our industry to make use of the system!

• As e-t-d, an organization that supports the industry, we launch & support this initiative at K-show 2019 and encourage you to see where such system can enable you to become better in fulfilling your customers’ demands.

Further information at: www.e-t-d.org/ar

Connect/AR will be at K’show Hall 3 Booth C35
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See us at the Kshow:

Please visit us at:
Hall 1B / B91.27
New anti-fingerprint surface

Senoplast will present the third generation of Senosan's matt anti-fingerprint surfaces.

The senosan AM1800TopMatt AF represents the third generation of matt surfaces from the plastics specialist. An innovative coating technology gives it completely new anti-fingerprint properties. The stain-resistant film has a special velvety feel and even better anti-fingerprint features. The product is available in a thickness of 0.5 mm in all common colours. Special formats can be produced upon request. senosan AM1800TopMatt AF is ideal for a variety of indoor furniture applications in 1D and 2D applications (flat lamination and postforming). Edge-band manufacturers can create same-colour edges.

“The innovative sheets and films will be used primarily in kitchens and living areas, where high-quality optics, trend colours, and high durability are in demand,” says Günter Klepsch, CEO of Senoplast and Senosan GmbH.

Ground breaking in China and Mexico

Senoplast broke ground last May for the new plant in Suzhou, China, near Shanghai. From 2020, plastic sheets for thermoforming applications will be produced at the new location. The investment in the new plant covers 13 million euros. The Salzburg-based company is also continuing to grow in Mexico, investing around 7.7 million euros in production and administration. “China and North America are strategically important markets. It is a decisive competitive advantage to be on site to be able to supply customers even faster and more efficiently,” explains Günter Klepsch, CEO of Senoplast Klepsch & Co. GmbH.

Senoplast delivers its products to almost seventy countries.
So we are „a part of“ in those industries that require plastic parts with special requirements and qualities.

Senoplast delivers its products to almost seventy countries.
So we are „a part of“ in those industries that require plastic parts with special requirements and qualities.

Senoplast Klepsch & C° GmbH will be at K’show Hall 8A Booth F09

K 2019 in Düsseldorf, Germany
October 16th – 23rd, 2019
hall 8a, F09

www.senoplast.com
Toolvision® - the most modern measuring technology adapted to the thermoforming requirements.

One of the problems in the thermoforming industry was, that there was no real chance to study the actual process in real time and therefore has been serious inaccuracies in the production and the quality assurance.

Thanks to Toolvision® measuring technology, all phases of the production processes now can be monitored, documented and illustrated as a graphic.

The Toolvision® sensor package, which is integrated into the respective thermo former and adapted to the tool, provides a graphic visualization of all relevant parameters throughout the entire thermoforming process.

The advantages are clear to see: Unit costs are reduced, rejects are avoided, tools are protected and preserved, and start-up times are faster, all of which saves time and money.

**Optimum quality assurance for food and pharmaceutical industries**

The food and pharmaceutical industries require the completely traceable documentation of quality controls during the entire thermoforming process and packaging of its products. “Up to now the insufficient recording of process data during thermoforming represented a significant problem. Hence the result achieved in the packaging production primarily depended on the machines default settings and the expertise of the factory personnel”, said Peter Schöberl, Managing Director of Toolvision® GmbH. The Toolvision® measurement technology now makes the electronic process controlling and analysis of the thermoforming process possible in real time; fluctuations in quality and process characteristics during the production of packaging is now a thing of the past.

**Three-stage error reporting system guarantees comprehensive controls**

Toolvision® GmbH focuses in a three-stage error reporting system: The software makes it possible to draft a shift report of the ongoing production process, sent by e-mail, if wanted. “Defective products are rejected and removed on time thanks to Toolvision®, which means that damage to tools and machines can be avoided in advance plus service intervals and repair work can be surveyed and calculated better.”, said Schöberl.

The current Toolvision® measurement technology is constantly being expanded with additional features. “Our latest feature is the integrated trend visualization integrated into the system. This allows our customers to monitor their thermoforming processes and improve them on an on-going basis.”

**Ready for Industry 4.0**

The automation technology that is relevant for Industry 4.0 is equipped with intelligent and digitally networked measurement-technology processes, such as Toolvision®. It supports people in their increasingly complex work processes. This involves the machines, plant systems, production, processing, logistics and employees communicating with each other. This interconnection means that not only are individual production steps optimized, but also the entire value-added chain.

---

**To be continued...**
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STEEL RULE DIE  CUP FORMING / TRIM-IN-PLACE  VACUUM FORMING
The Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) Thermforming Division has named Thomas Haglin as its Thermofomer of the Year for 2019.

Tom Haglin is CEO and owner of Baxter, Minn.-based Lindar Corp., a diversified thermoforming company that he founded in 1993. Haglin is also CEO and owner of Avantech, a producer of tooling for rotational molding, acquired in 2012 by Mr. Haglin and relocated to Baxter in 2016.

Lindar employs approximately 175 workers, the company operates nine roll-fed machines, eight sheet-fed formers, six CNC routers, four robotic routers, one label line, and one extrusion line.

“Lindar Corp. has been a pioneer in packaging for individual cupcakes and desserts, tamper-evident two-piece pie and cake containers, bioplastic packaging, and lenticular lenses for 3D-like packaging effects,” SPE said. “In its annual parts competition, the Thermofomer Division of SPE awarded gold medals to Lindar Corp. in 2010 and 2014.”

Tom Haglin began his professional career in 1985 with Larco/Acrometal, where he was promoted to plant manager.

“Tom embodies the true spirit of the American Dream, from growing a small acquisition over 25 years ago into a thriving, diversified processor to his broad community service,” said Eric Short, SPE Thermofomer division chair. “Our industry is fortunate to have Tom Haglin, and we’re honored to have him as this year’s SPE Thermofomer of the Year.”

The award will be presented during SPE’s Thermofomer Awards Dinner, held in conjunction with the 27th SPE Thermofomer Conference. The conference will take place September 9-11, 2019 in Milwaukee, USA at the Wisconsin Center and the Hilton Milwaukee City Center Hotel. The Awards Dinner will be held on Tuesday, September 10.
WM Thermoforming Machines has a vast experience for almost 40 years in developing and building machinery for the packaging industry, mainly for the food packaging.

Thermoforming companies that wanted to emigrate to WM's Thermoforming Machines technology were constrained due to their high investment in existing tooling with different technology. This transition can now be made easier thanks to the new concept of the Flex series giving customers the possibility to use most of their existing molds on the first “Universal Thermoforming machine” saving the trouble and costs when buying new technology.

The first machine of this new series has been purchased by a leading toolmaker, who tested several different molds provided by WM customers and allowing the machine builder to study and finetune the technical aspects which have to guarantee the desired solutions to make the machine suitable for a number of different molds originally designed for another machine.

During the last 2 years WM Thermoforming Machines not only has been developing new technology but also has been upgrading several of their existing machines. With the upgraded TWIST 700, the tilt-bed machine with its MSv7 stacker and without mechanical cams for which the company already has been premiered during the 2016 K-show, got a plug assist force for thicker products, a faster plug speed for improved product transparency resulting in better cycle times. With this, the company is looking to respond to the changing market needs and increase the number of its already 9 units that have been sold and installed worldwide.

During the upcoming K-show 2019 customers will be able to see the new FLEX-series in running mode and discuss the latest developments of the Twist 700 with the WM team.

**WM Thermoforming Machines will be at K'Show Hall A16 Booth 3**
ADVANCE REGISTRATION ENDS AUGUST 9!

Learn more and register online: thermoformingdivision.com/conference

Questions? Contact:
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UPCOMING EVENTS

SPE Thermoforming Conference
09-11 September 2019
www.thermoformingdivision.com/conference

Kunststoffen 2019
25-26 September 2019
Veldhoven, Netherlands
www.kunststoffenbeurs.nl

K’show 2019
16-23 October 2019
Düsseldorf, Germany
www.k-online.de

Euromold 2019
14-16 October 2019
Munich, Germany
www.euromold.com

12th European Thermoforming Conference
18-20 March 2020
Geneva, Switzerland
www.e-t-d.org

Mission Statement

It is the purpose of the European Thermoforming Division to stimulate and diffuse knowledge of all aspects of the
Thermoforming industry.

This will be achieved by providing conferences, training seminars and regular topical news bulletins. It will provide a dynamic
network platform and encourage and promote technical and scientific participation by its members.

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