

## PLAST 2018: GROWING NUMBERS



By the second deadline for stand assignment, more than 800 companies have confirmed their participation in PLAST 2018 – International Exhibition for the Plastics and Rubber Industries scheduled in Milan from 29 May to 1 June 2018.

The organizers have thus recorded a 6% increase in the assigned area with respect to the same deadline for PLAST 2015.

There has also been a significant increase in the number of new exhibitors setting up stands at PLAST for the first time or else returning after being absent for some time: +10%.

These heartening statistics seem to affirm the success of the industry strategy known as The Innovation Alliance, initiated by the organizer of PLAST 2018, PROMAPLAST srl, together with those of IPACK-IMA, MEAT-TECH, PRINT4ALL and

INTRALOGISTICA ITALIA. This Alliance will stage an exhibition that occupies all the halls of the FieraMilano fairgrounds.

The upcoming edition of PLAST will also feature three satellite fairs dedicated to three industries of excellence in the sector: RUBBER, 3D PLAST (3D printing and related technologies) and PLAST-MAT (innovative plastics).

The excellent trend in registration for PLAST 2018 reflects an equally positive economic situation in the sector, as highlighted by the survey conducted in March by ASSOCOMAPLAST – the Italian Plastics and Rubber Processing Machinery and Moulds Manufacturers' Association. Indeed, 44% of respondents indicated an increase in orders with respect to both February 2017 and March 2016. This trend may be attributed to the recovery in domestic demand and to ongoing improvement in sales abroad. In 2016, exports increased by 1.7% to approach the 3 billion euro mark, establishing a new all-time record.

"While erring on the side of caution," states Assocomaplast president, Alessandro Grassi, "Italian manufacturers of plastics and rubber processing machinery appear optimistic again in 2017, expecting to see further gains in production and exports in the neighbourhood of two percentage points."

Companies have until 30 June 2017 to sign up for PLAST 2018 and be included in the first group of stand assignments, thus ensuring themselves a place in the hall representing their particular industry or segment. After that date exhibitors will only be admitted if there are any remaining unreserved spaces.

In the meantime, the PLAST organizational office is continuing its promotional programme. After taking part in CHINAPLAS (Guangzhou, 16-19 May), PLASTPOL (Kielce, 23-26 May), and FIP (Lyon, 13-16 June) activities will intensify in the autumn with a presence at major tradeshow around the world, from Thailand to Iran, from Spain to Mexico, and from Turkey to Indonesia. In parallel, an advertising campaign will begin in the major national and international technical media addressed particularly to potential visitors.

The list of participants is available on the website [www.plastonline.org](http://www.plastonline.org)

## FULLY SERVOASSISTED SILK-SCREEN PRINTER TESTED AT AN ITALIAN CUSTOMER'S FACTORY



The MHM is a fully servo assisted silkscreen printer suitable for continuous decoration on round, elliptical and flat objects.

It is equipped with "motion control" functions, which allow the equipment to achieve 360° nonstop decorations on round and suitable elliptical profiles. The MHM is also suitable to print flat objects. The silk-screen printing heads of the MHM are fully driven by remote controlled brushless motors. The electric synchronization between mandrels and printing heads enables to achieve very quick changeovers without gear replacement, as instead occurs on traditional silk-screen printers when container's diameter changes. The customized configuration of this MHM consists of four silk-screen printing heads and a 16-position programmable indexing turret.

Print positioning and registration is made by high-speed camera. Ink drying is carried out by air-cooled UV-LED units with low heat technology. Additionally, webcams placed above all printing units allow a centralized video monitoring.

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The MHM, thanks to the advanced electronic processing, enables energy recovery while normal production. This, together with the use of UV-LED ink dryers, allows significant savings on energy consumption.

The newly installed MHM is configured to decorate personal care and pharmaceutical plastic packaging, such as round and elliptical bottles, round jars and flat lids produced by a leading Italian company, owner of two MOSS screen printers MS 1030.

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## THE EVOLUTION OF COOLING



The AXevo series of chillers by Eurochiller is the result of a development process that, combining refined aesthetics with rational design, has resulted in the creation of a platform for versatile and reliable industrial chillers that make it possible to tackle, in a cost-effective fashion, a number of different applications, drawing from a wide range of products that also include special equipment.

The series includes both air- and water-cooled chillers in standard or adiabatic versions, with or without integrated free cooling, and it covers a power range of between 28 and 224 kW. The particular features of these machines include: maximum accessibility for regular maintenance and condenser cleaning, the possibility of installing install semi-rigid power cables, and the presence of lifting eyebolts to

ensure safe handling of the units. The AXevo series incorporates the best available technologies in industrial refrigeration, including:

- a microprocessor control system with 7-inch touchscreen panel (available as a standard feature only with the FC version with integrated free cooling)
- variable speed EC brushless fans
- a remote service and monitoring facility
- microchannel MX condensers
- new-generation Scroll R407C compressors.

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## ALLOCATING THE RESIN THROUGH A PLUNGER MOVEMENT



An exclusive automatic manifold plate for resin-machine allocation in plastics centralized feeding systems, Dolphin by Moretto is based on a plunger movement of mechanical arms managed by a pneumatic cylinder, thus ensuring a very efficient and easy to control automation system with a reaction time of only one second. Starting from the Dolphin basic structure, it is possible to configure from 2 to 36 inlet and outlet positions in a modular and expandable fashion. This allows the user to expand the unit in time without expensive investments.

Thanks to seal rings, Dolphin ensures a tight coupling of the arms eliminating the risk of material contamination. In addition to this, its stainless steel construction makes it particularly fit for medical applications. Each arm has its own drive, and in case of malfunction it is possible to

repair the single arm without affecting the functions of the entire department.

Thanks to its simple construction, the connection section is only 100 mm long, ensuring contaminant-free conveyance. Dolphin does not need any maintenance or lubrication and, according to the manufacturer, its lifecycle is four times longer than any other manifold unit.

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