

## PLAST 2018 PASSES THE THOUSAND MARK!



As of 30 June 2017, more than 1,000 companies have confirmed their participation in PLAST 2018, the International Exhibition for the Plastics and Rubber Industries that will take place in Milan from 29 May to 1 June 2018.

"With just under a year to go, nearly 90% of the available space has been reserved," comments the satisfied President of Promoplast srl, the organizer of the event, Alessandro Grassi, "with a significant increase in the space requested by foreign participants (+34% with respect to three years ago), confirming the international stature of the fair. So we have high expectations for the final results of PLAST 2018." The overall number of direct exhibitors has also increased, with particular reference to those coming from abroad (+15%).

The increase in reservations is spread across all geographical quadrants. And the trend is also analogously positive for all goods categories represented at the fair: machinery, equipment, and moulds for the various manufacturing processes (injection moulding, extrusion, etc.), raw materials (plastics and rubber), additives, etc. The organization office has started the assignment phase – dividing the halls by category – and will communicate the assignment to exhibitors by the end of August.

Of course it is still possible to sign up for PLAST 2018 as long as spaces are available. In this first phase of assignments, those who act quickly can still be guaranteed a place within the hall dedicated to their specific goods category. After this phase, interested companies may participate only if there are residual spaces and will have to wait until all stand assignments have been settled for previously registered exhibitors.

PLAST 2018 exhibitors will be offered a series of updated services, including the web portals Expopage and Smart Catalog of FieraMilano, free WiFi at the fairgrounds, one free automobile parking place for each exhibitor, carpeting in the aisles, etc.

PLAST 2018 is a member of "The Innovation Alliance", bringing five international fairs together for the first time (IPACK-IMA, MEAT-TECH, PLAST, PRINT4ALL and INTRALOGISTICA ITALIA), accessible with a single admission ticket. In a logic of unified supply chain and sectorial affinity, these events will showcase the technological excellence of the different industries: from plastics and rubber processing to industrial moulding, from manufacturing to packaging, from custom graphics for packaging and labels to goods handling and storage. The event will occupy all the halls at the FieraMilano fairgrounds.

To round out the technology and materials on display for the plastics and rubber sector, PLAST 2018 will also feature three satellite fairs: RUBBER 2018 (in collaboration with ASSOGOMMA), 3D PLAST (3D printing and associated technologies), and PLAST-MAT (innovative materials).

"PLAST will thus represent the most important European date in 2018 for the plastics and rubber industry," adds Grassi, "with the hope that it will still benefit from a favourable economic context like the one that currently characterizes the Italian plastics and rubber processing machinery industry, which, in the first quarter of 2017, recorded double-digit growth in both exports and imports."

More info and the exhibitors' list at [plastonline.org](http://plastonline.org)

## FIRST QUARTER: FULL SPEED AHEAD!

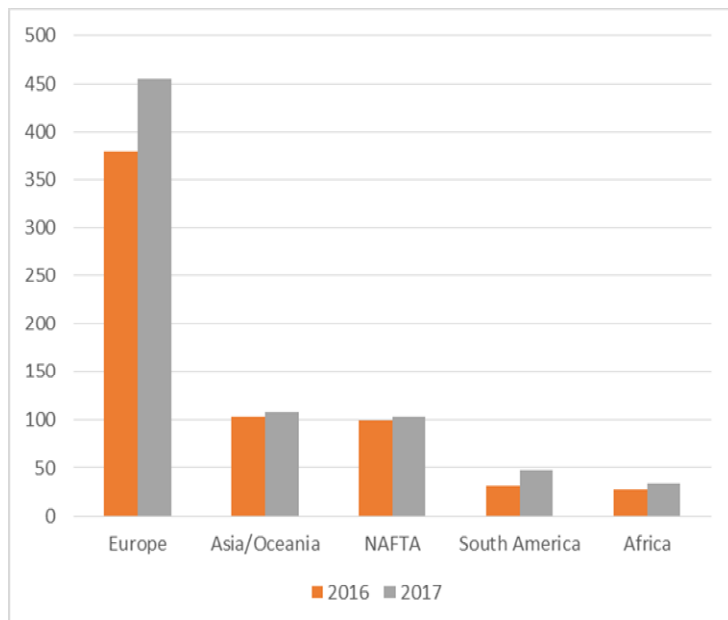
The Amaplast (the Italian trade association of 160 manufacturers of plastics and rubber processing machinery and moulds, previously known as Assocomaplast) Study Centre has analysed foreign trade data published by ISTAT regarding the first quarter of the current year.

Compared to the same period in 2016, imports have increased by 15.3% and exports by 16.3%.

The clear upward trend in exports continues that recorded in 2016, and the double-digit performance is a particularly good sign for Italian manufacturers, who sell 70% or more of their products – valued at over 4.2 billion euros in 2016, returning to pre-recession levels – to buyers in other countries.

Exports increased significantly for almost all machinery categories – with the exception of tyre presses and foam plants – ranging from +8% for presses to +70% for thermoforming machines.

Taking a look at geography, overall exports show robust growth (near 20%) to Europe (primary market) with a value increasing from 380 to 455 million euros.



Germany, Spain, and Romania have recorded the most impressive increases (and we should note that Russia is finally showing positive signs of recovery). Sales to Central and South America shot upwards by 53% to 47 million euros, with significant growth in exports to Brazil and notable opening of the Cuban market. Exports to Africa increased by 21% to reach a value of 33 million euros, with Algeria, Nigeria, and South Africa leading the way. The upward trend in sales to Asia and North America, on the order of +4%, was somewhat less pronounced. However, these zones absorb a considerable share of Italian exports in the sector: in January-March 2017, Middle and Far Eastern markets (including the marginal region of Oceania) and the NAFTA countries each represented 14% of the total. Focusing on India, it is worth underlining that Italian sales in this first quarter reached 14.921 million euro (+31,57% compared to 2016).

The survey conducted among Amaplast members at the end of May, comparing the

current half-year to the same period in 2016, highlights a positive trend both in revenues – with 39% reporting growth and 49% reporting stability – and in orders – with 42% reporting increases and 52% reporting stability.

“We do not expect exports to maintain double-digit growth all the way to the end of the year,” states the president of AMAPLAST, Alessandro Grassi, “but nevertheless, this is certainly a very important signal confirming ongoing growth in the sector, supported also by the positive trend in the domestic market as recorded in previous months.”

[www.amaplast.org](http://www.amaplast.org)



## HIGH-EFFICIENCY HORIZONTAL COOLER

The XC high efficiency horizontal coolers from Promixon are designed to give the best performance in cooling the hot dry-blend coming from the XM turbomixer, offered by the manufacturer for all the applications requiring the dispersion of powders with powders, granules or the addition of liquids.

Thanks to the wide heat exchange area (vessel, sides and lid) and the action of the agitator, that ensures an intense contact of the dry-blend with the exchange surface, the XC coolers guarantee the lowest final cooling temperatures, so as to be able to store the dry-blend into intermediate storage silos, thus avoiding the formation of lumps due to thermal inertia of the dry-blend itself.

The main features of this device include:

- stainless steel inner wall with mirror-polished surfaces, agitator designed to ensure the maximum contact of the powder with the entire cooling surface, self-cleaning to minimize build-ups of material on the cooling surface;
- new vessel geometry and newly designed water cooling circuit, for increased performance and efficiency;
- remote service management, eliminating the risk of downtimes.

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## ELECTRIC MACHINE WITH FMC TECHNOLOGY FOR PING PONG BATS



The undisputed star of the FIP exhibition (Lyon, 13-16 June) was the recently launched Ele all-electric 180-630 machine which, with a clamping force of 180 tonnes, produced ping pong bats utilising the FMC (Foam Microcellular Moulding) process.

To this end, the main injection unit injected a PBT material to produce the body of the bat, while a vertical electric injection unit fed a soft TPU handle. Both of the bat faces were coated with LSR (Liquid Silicone Rubber): foamed LSR on the 'spongier' and lighter side of the bat, and standard LSR on its firmer side. The LSR was fed directly into the mould from an "EasyBalance LSR" injection system supplied by Guzzini Engineering. The mouldings, produced in a mould manufactured by Esistampi, were handled by a 6-axis robot supplied by Sytrama, belonging to the Negri

Bossi Group. The exhibition presented by the manufacturer based in Cologno Monzese (near Milan) was rounded off by a 250 tonne Cambio ST servo hydraulic machine, moulding a PP lid in a 6.7 second cycle time using an 8-cavity mould.

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