

Film and Sheet EXTRUSION



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN FOAMED SHEET

STATIC CONTROL ● GRANULATORS/RECYCLING

UPDATE: SCREENCHANGERS & MELT FILTRATION

Plaskolite expands further in sheet extrusion amid takeover

US-based Plaskolite has further expanded its sheet extrusion business with its fourth acquisition of the year – while also changing hands itself.

This month, the company bought the extruded sheet and profile business of ALP Lighting Components, a long-time supplier and partner. Plaskolite has acquired ALP's extruded smooth and patterned lighting sheet – which includes PET, acrylic and polycarbonate products –

and extruded profile lens product lines, as well as related manufacturing equipment.

"This acquisition strengthens our offering and our partnerships and allows us to better meet the demands of LED lighting for our lighting customers," said Mitchell Grindley, president and CEO of Plaskolite.

This is Plaskolite's fourth acquisition of 2018: it earlier acquired Rotuba's lighting profile lighting business, the continuous cast acrylic sheet

business of Lucite International, and Covestro's US polycarbonate sheet manufacturing business.

With the latest acquisition, it will now employ 1,250 people across nine plants in North America.

■ Plaskolite itself is now under new ownership – after PPC Partners bought out the share of the company owned by Charlesbank Capital Partners.

The company is now owned by Charlesbank and other co-investors, the

founding Dunn family, and Plaskolite's management team – which will continue to run the business.

Michael Nelson, an investment partner at PPC Partners, said: "Plaskolite's customised product approach provides a distinct competitive advantage. It has tremendous opportunities for growth, both through organic initiatives and accretive acquisitions."

Charlesbank had owned Plaskolite since 2015.

➤ www.plaskolite.com

EcoCortec adds new plant

EcoCortec, which manufactures anti-corrosion packaging materials, has opened a new plant in Beli Manastir in eastern Croatia.

As well as having new offices, the new 2,000 sq m facility has an 'E5' extrusion line. With this, the plant's production capacity will be increased, says the company.

Features of the new E5 extrusion line include the ability to make 6.2m wide film, bags on a roll and perforated sheets.

Building the new plant has been partly financed by the Croatian Ministry of Economy.

➤ www.cortecvci.com



Recovering plastics from the sea

The Spain-based Repesca-Plas project has collected more than 3,000kg of marine litter from three Spanish ports – around 10 times more than initially projected.

This equated to around 8,000 separate items – far in excess of the 1,500 items

envisaged in the original project proposal. In one port (Gandia), the most common items found were food packages and bags. However, in Marín and Vigo, industrial packages and plastic sheets and bottles were more prevalent.

As well as plastics, the

project also recovered metal objects (such as beverage cans), as well as clothes, fabrics and various types of fishing equipment.

The project was coordinated by the Spanish plastics research organisation Aimplas.

➤ www.aimplas.es