



Croatian Wings Newsletter

"Don't be pushed around by the fears in your mind. Be led by the dreams in your heart."

— Roy T. Bennett, The Light in the Heart

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EcoCortec® Celebrates 15 Years Anniversary!



This year our plant celebrates 15 years of successful business. Launched in 2005 as First Croatian Bioplastics Plant it has grown into one of the most successful green corrosion protection film manufacturing plants in Europe. During these 15 years, EcoCortec has gone through many phases, faced numerous changes and challenges and managed to come out stronger with growing sales every year. Lastly our Croatian plant showed incredible resilience and ability to adapt to new circumstances during the current COVID 19 crises that has shaken the world and global economies. In fact the plant has recorded record-high sales during the pandemic! To this day we hired 20% more new employees and our team made of scientists, engineers, logistics staff, our

valuable production workers and marketing specialists is steadily growing. In 2018 EcoCortec has launched its second production plant. Partly-funded by the Croatian ministry of economy, the expansion doubled production capacity at EcoCortec. Latest EcoCortec's addition "Cortec Polymer Processing Center" is planned to be launched in 2021 and will be located in the EcoCortec's complex in Beli Manastir, Croatia. EcoCortec is not only part of large European-funded projects but also an initiator. These past 15 years have truly flired and we believe the next 15 will be even more successful!



We cherish many memories and had amazing time during the past 15 years. Not only have we worked hard to bring our plant to the highest level but we had loads of fun, formed valuable friendships and truly learned the meaning of great team work.



New EcoCortec® Polymer Processing Plant!

During the final stages of 3 phase expansion project, EcoCortec's team is once again expanding its services by building new Polymer Processing Plant! EcoCortec is staying faithful to its mission of implementing environmentally safe manufacturing policies and strong promotion of sustainable green technologies. Now more than ever our team is eager to continue its path of developing environmentally friendly corrosion protection films by utilizing green manufacturing techniques. This is why building new polymer processing plant is logical step for our team and our customers.



First phase of this new exciting project includes building of a new plant with VpCI® masterbatch production and state of the art reprocessing equipment that will recycle and convert our waste into new materials. This will result in minimizing the disposal of potentially useful materials and reduce

the consumption of fresh raw materials as well as reduce energy usage and minimize air and water pollution. New 2000 m2 Polymer processing plant will be built right near the EcoCortec. New facility will be partially funded by European Funds. It will be divided in to two productions with warehouses of raw material and finished goods:

1. Compounding, Additive Masterbatch production – with the state of the art, high performance compounding extruder. This will enable

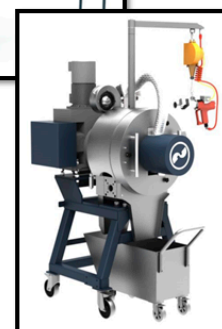
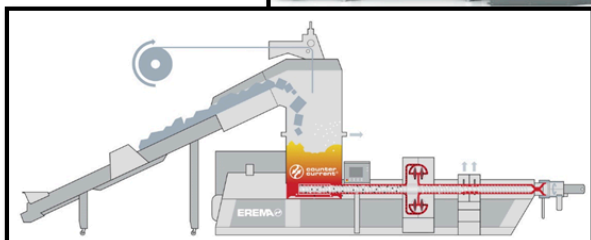
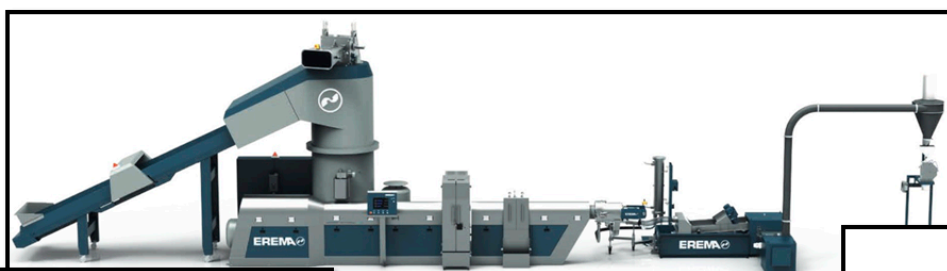


EcoCortec's sustainability higher throughput and economic production with capacity of 100-300 kg/h depending on the recipe and process task. It will also enable faster distribution and availability of masterbatch for licensees in Europe, Russia and Asia.

2. Regranulation facility with the patented extruder system that will sets new standards in recycling of materials that are difficult to process such as heavily printed films and/or very moist material with capacity of 700-850 kg/h used material. EcoCortec will be able to offer post-consumer recycling.



New Reprocessing Plant



During the past 15 years we have come a long way in becoming the most advanced bioplastics and corrosion protection film manufacturer in Europe. Our mission however is to improve ourselves and our services daily and advance by learning and implementing new knowledges and technologies in our processes. We are very excited for this new chapter for our EcoCortec family.



Successfully Navigating the COVID-19 Crises!



EcoCortec has been navigating the COVID 19 crisis pretty successfully so far. During this pandemic we are learning quickly how to alter our services to the specific markets needs and adapt as much as possible to the circumstances. After constant expansion that took place in several phases, EcoCortec faced a small decline in production during the lockdown phase in April this year. The plant's team has come together immediately to build a strategy on how to navigate these turbulent times, followed by the unknown or unexpected. The plant has seen a shift in the type of corrosion inhibiting products people are interested in, for example inquiries about layup and preservation are growing. Situation globally is signaling our team to follow market trends carefully

and turn to new markets as well. EcoCortec anti-corrosion films are used in the preservation system of large oil plants so oil and gas market is definitely a big focus for the company. Our team has also used this chapter to organize better our internal processes and set some new priorities. We are especially proud that there have been no salary cuts or benefits cuts since March 2020. Our highest priorities are certainly our employees and the quality of our products, and we are convinced that we will come out stronger from this ungrateful period and furtherly expand our position as a leader in environmentally safe corrosion control technologies market.

We have continued to have employees come to our manufacturing plants, but have made adjustments to help mitigate risk. EcoCortec management ensures that production workers keep their distance and wear protection equipment. All safety measures are still being implemented such as mandatory disinfection as well as control and restrictions of entering the facility. Our sales team has also been affected by the restriction of physical movement, but has quickly shifted to remote work via online conferencing and communication tools like Zoom and Microsoft Teams. So far we are happy that EcoCortec business model has proven to be fairly resultant to the crisis and this gives us huge motivation to continue our work in good spirits.





Specialty Packaging Material from EcoCortec®: Combine Multimetal Corrosion Protection and Packaging into One Step with CorrTube®!

EcoCortec® has expanded its selection of anti-corrosion packaging for industrial and military uses with CorrTube®, a premium corrosion inhibiting packaging and shipping tube in the industry. CorrTube® provides superior corrosion protection for both ferrous and non-ferrous metals. This environmentally safe product

is fully recyclable/repulpable and can be recycled into other types of paper products such as boxes, cardboard, and other corrugated materials. CorrTube® is environmentally friendly, biodegradable, and doesn't contain any nitrites, phosphates, silicates, or other hazardous compounds. The tubes are very easy to use: simply match the appropriate diameter of the tube to the size of your part. The VpCI® coating on the inside of the tube vaporizes, reaching all metal surfaces to provide complete corrosion protection.

Inhibiting action of VpCI® forms a thin effective protective layer that does not alter the appearance of products or require removal before further finishing or use. CorrTube® protects dry or oiled metals during storage, transit, and overseas shipment. It is effective against aggressive environments including humidity, SO₂, H₂S, and galvanic corrosion from dissimilar metals. The protective layer does not need to be removed prior to further surface finishing or coating application.





Circular Economy Project- Pilot Trial of Eco-Corr Film® for ŠKODA AUTO!

ŠKODA



ŠKODA AUTO decided to test Cortec's Eco-Corr Film® as part of their new "green" logistics project aimed at decreasing plastic consumption. ŠKODA looked for a biodegradable packaging substitute to reduce the amount of conventional plastic packaging. Eco-Corr Film® was used

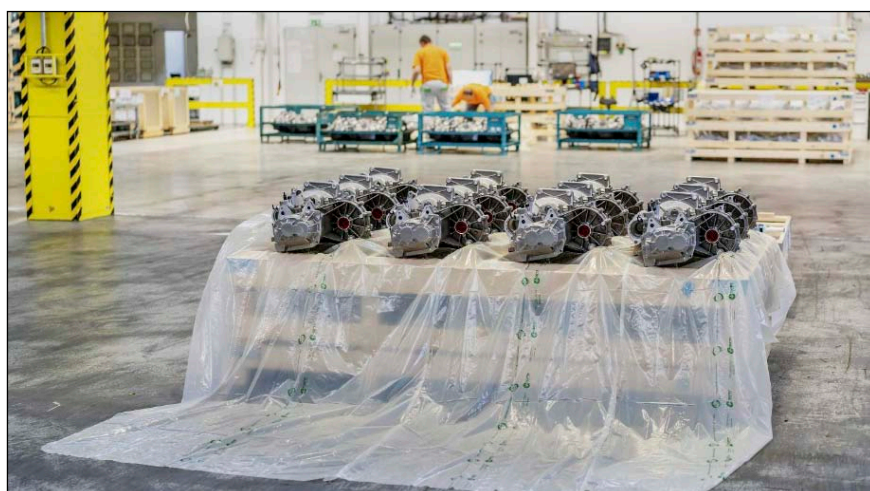
for transport of automotive engines from their manufacturing facilities in the Czech Republic to India where the film is then composted. Eco-Corr Film®, a biodegradable corrosion inhibiting film that contains Cortec's proprietary VpCI® Technology and provides excellent contact, barrier, and vapor-phase corrosion protection for ferrous and non-ferrous metals. It will disintegrate within months in a commercial composting environment. The exact time for films to biodegrade is dependent upon the conditions and activity of the disposal environment (temperature, soil quality, activity of microorganisms). The film is shelf stable and will not break down prematurely until disposed of in a proper composting environment. It is compostable and compliant to ASTM D6400. ŠKODA



tested Eco-Corr Films® while packaging car parts for shipment to their plant in Pune, India. Several tests were conducted for compliance with strict conditions for transport in sea containers.

Quality control did not show any damage or traces of corrosion of the components being wrapped in Eco-Corr Film® upon arrival in India. In order to test if the film were able to be composted according to plan, the staff built compost bins near the plant. After six months, the foils had largely biodegraded in the compost bins, helping them to eliminate plastic waste. Eco-Corr Film® successfully replaces conventional

plastic films previously used by this car manufacturer and provides the same effective corrosion protection. Organic packaging material is composted at a plant in Pune, India, and used as a soil improver in a logistics park. The successful trial opens the door for the customer to cut their amount of conventional plastic packaging in half for shipments to Pune, thus eliminating a significant amount of plastic waste (as much as 500 kg [1102 lbs] per month).





Tihana Vidovic – New Vice President of Sales, East Europe

We are happy to announce that Tihana Vidovic will be taking over a new sales position as a Vice President Sales, East Europe. Tihana has been with the company for 5 years, working as a Customer Service Manager, a job that she has handled excellently and always managed to juggle successfully numerous inquiries and shipments. She definitely thrived in hectic environment so working in sales will be an interesting change. Tihana will be selling VpCI and Bionetix lines of products, acquiring new customers and visiting exiting customers in that region. "I am very excited to take on this new role. This will certainly be a change after working in customer service for so many years but I believe a positive one. New challenges are always welcome and I can't wait to bring Cortec's technology to as many customers possible!" says Tihana. Customer's service department will be taken over by Martina Cakarević and Anita Bajic,



new addition to our enthusiastic team who is already in training and ready to take off!

Water-Soluble, Biodegradable PVOH Film- EcoSol to be produced in Croatia

EcoSol® water soluble pouches will finally be available from EcoCortec plant. This will enable prompt delivery of custom made pouches to our European and Asian customers. Water-soluble PVOH bags, sachets, and pouches created from this film provide a convenient, safe, and economical delivery system for a range of products, including detergents and cleaners, degreasers, concrete additives, pigments, biocides, water-treatment products, and agricultural products. The EcoSol film's organic solvent resistance allows pouches and bags to be used for liquid products as well as dry powders. The film's mechanical properties — tensile and tear strength and puncture resistance — enable its use in a variety of rigorous applications.

Products packaged in EcoSol can be thrown into a treatment area without removing the film.

