



NEWS ALERT

EcoCortec, Croatia's first bioplastics plant

Beli Manastir, December 1st, 2010.

EcoCortec is proud to be included in the special edition "Croatian Top 100 Companies" of the #1 Croatian newspaper, Vecernji list.

Please find below translation of the published article.

The future is in the use of biodegradable bags and films

Ecology and conservation of the planet where we live is an imperative of our time. Large amounts of plastic waste pose a major threat to the environment. Each year, 90 billion tons of plastic waste is generated worldwide. Therefore, the importance and value of biodegradable plastic is obvious. Biodegradable films and bags are increasingly used in everyday life. Australia is currently considering a law on the mandatory use of biodegradable bags and films, while the United States are in preparation of rules on labeling of packaging that is biodegradable, and compostable. European countries have also launched a similar initiative that will result in replacement of conventional polyethylene film and bags with biodegradable and compostable materials. Croatia's first bioplastic plant, EcoCortec, owned by Boris Miksic, has been in operation since 2007. EcoCortec is a greenfield investment of over 10 million Euros. The 2000 m² production facility is located on

10,000 m² of the industrial zone in the city of Beli Manastir.

EcoCortec offers two main product lines-- biodegradable films and films for corrosion protection--with the ability to customize production to meet customer design and performance specifications.

Inventions and patents

EcoCortec Ltd. is a sister company of Cortec Corporation, headquartered in St.Paul, MN, USA. With over 30 years of research, development and production expertise, Cortec Corporation has created an efficient network of distributors in Europe and Asia. With global recession fears easing, EcoCortec has experienced market growth and increasing demand prompting new investments in equipment and



NEWS ALERT



machinery. With this new investment of two million kunas EcoCortec will double its capacity to 10,000 tons per year.

EcoCortec is also investing in laboratory equipment including an ESD chamber for static decay and surface resistivity testing of their specially designed films. In addition to increasing the capacity of the extrusion line this new investment will provide for in-house recycling, reprocessing, printing and converting capabilities for biodegradable films.

The continuous reinvestment in equipment and production capabilities continues as market demand increases for products that meet internationally recognized quality certifications. These recent investments and the resultant production increase will also require an increase in employment once equipment is brought on line.

Biodegradable bags for island of Losinj

An interesting ongoing project to mention is the use of biodegradable plastic film on the island of Losinj in collaboration with EcoCortec. As tourism is one of the most important sectors of our economy, and concern for the environment and responsible management of resources are our duty, the island of Losinj has chosen EcoCortec's biodegradable bags for daily use in retail chains, souvenir shops and hotels.

By developing their own proprietary biodegradable films under the trade names EcoFilm® and EcoWorks®, EcoWrap® (biodegradable stretch film), EcoCorr® (multi-metal protective) and EcoCorr® ESD (static protective), EcoCortec covers consumer goods market as well as specialized industrial markets with high standards in environmental protection.

In addition to biodegradable films, EcoCortec also produces special polyethylene films, under trade name VpCl® 126. VpCl® 126 films combine the latest film technology with the most effective corrosion protection for all of your metal products. You get complete product protection during storage as well as during domestic and overseas shipments, virtually eliminating any rust claims.

Boris Miksic, owner of EcoCortec, is a successful businessman on two continents, with over 40 years of experience. He is a person with vision and constant desire for the creation and improvement of existing achievements. Confirmation of his personal aspirations for continuous improvement is preparation of doctoral dissertation on the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Construction at University of Zagreb. Even with the successful career, this dissertation represents a completion of a longtime scientific work with a number of his own patents on the corrosion protection and development of biodegradable films.



EcoCortec – prva tvornica bioplastike

Budućnost je u korištenju biorazgradivih vrećica i folija

U mnogim zemljama sve se više koriste vrećice i folije od biorazgradive plastike koje ne zagađuju okoliš, a neke od njih dolaze i iz hrvatske tvornice

Ekologija i očuvanje planeta na kojem živimo imperativ je našeg vremena. Okoliš osobito ugrožava teško razgradivi plastični otpad, a svake se godine u svijetu stvori novih 90 milijardi tona plastičnog otpada. Ne treba stoga isticati koliko je izum biorazgradive plastike vrijedan i poželjan. Biorazgradive folije i vrećice sve se više koriste u svakodnevnom životu. Australija trenutno razmatra zakon o obveznom korištenju biorazgradivih vrećica i folija, dok je u SAD-u u pripremi pravilnik o označavanju ambalaže koja je biorazgradiva, tj. pogodna za kompostiranje. Europske zemlje također su pokrenule sličnu inicijativu koja će rezultirati zamjenom klasičnih polietilenskih folija i vrećica s biorazgradivim i kompostabilnim materijalima. I u Hrvatskoj već tri godine radi prva i jedina tvornica bioplastike – EcoCortec d.o.o. u vlasništvu Borisa Mikšića. Riječ je o greenfield investiciji u koju je uloženo više od 10 milijuna eura vlastitih sredstava. Proizvodna hala od 2000 četvornih metara smještena je na 10.000 četvornih metara unutar industrijske zone grada Belog Manastira. Proizvodni program EcoCorteca čine dvije osnovne linije proizvoda: biorazgradive folije i folije za multimetalnu zaštitu od korozije s mogućnošću kompletne dorade te tisak i konfekcija tih folija u traženi oblik i dimenziju.

Vlastiti izumi i patenti

EcoCortec d.o.o. sestrinska je tvrtka Cortec korporacije iz SAD-a, koja je svojim 30-godišnjim radom i razvijanjem patentiranih tehnologija stvorila organiziranu mrežu distributera u Europi i Aziji. Godina krize je iza EcoCorteca, a jačanje tržišta te sve veća potražnja potaknuli su i nova konkretna ulaganja u opremu i strojeve. Dosadašnji će se kapacitet od 5000 tona proizvoda godišnje udvostručiti novom investicijom od dva milijuna kuna. EcoCortec je investirao i u svoj laboratorij te ga opremio novom ESD komorom za testiranje antistatičkih svojstava folija za zaštitu od korozije. Osim povećanja kapaciteta u ekstruziji, nova investicija obuhvaća i postrojenje za reciklažu, tisak i konfekciju

bioplastike. Kontinuirani tempo opremanja i jačanja proizvodnje nastavlja se u skladu sa sve većim zahtjevima tržišta za provjereno kvalitetnim proizvodima koje prate međunarodno priznati certifikati kvalitete. Cijela investicija i povećanje kapaciteta proizvodnje istodobno osigurava i nova zapošljavanja nakon instalacije i testiranja opreme u proizvodnom pogonu u Belom Manastiru.

Biorazgradive vrećice na Lošinju

Na otoku Lošinju u tijeku je veliki ogledni projekt početka uporabe biorazgradivih folija u suradnji s EcoCortecom. Lošinj je odabrao upravo EcoCortecove biorazgradive vrećice te ih odlučio uvesti u dnevnu upotrebu – od maloprodajnih lanaca, do suvenirnica, hotela... Razvojem vlastitih patentiranih biorazgradivih folija pod trgovačkim nazivom EcoFilm® i EcoWorks®, industrijskih biorazgradivih folija za namatanje EcoWrap® te folija za multimetalnu zaštitu EcoCort® i EcoCort ESD® koje su antikoroziivno-antistatičke folije, obuhvaćeno je tržište široke potrošnje kao i specijalizirano zahtjevno tržište industrije s visokim standardima u zaštiti okoliša. Osim biorazgradivih folija, EcoCortec proizvodi i specijalne polietilenske folije, trgovačkog naziva VpCI®-126®, prema Cortecovoj patentiranoj tehnologiji hlapljivih inhibitora korozije (Vapor phase Corrosion Inhibitor - VpCI). Tehnologijom ugradnje VpCI®-a u biorazgradive i polietilenske folije postiže se potpuna zaštita proizvoda tijekom skladištenja i transporta. Vlasnik EcoCorteca Boris Mikšić uspješan je biznismen, s više od 40 godina radnog iskustva na dva kontinenta, osoba s vizijom i neprekidnom željom za stvaranjem i poboljšanjem postojećih dostignuća. Potvrda osobne težnje za neprekidnim usavršavanjem jest i predobrana naslova buduće doktorske disertacije, prve u Hrvatskoj o temi bioplastike pri matičnom Fakultetu strojarstva i brodogradnje Sveučilišta u Zagrebu. Osim uspješne poslovne karijere, time je zaokružen i njegov dugogodišnji znanstveni rad s nizom vlastitih patenata o temi zaštite od korozije i biorazgradivih folija.



Prva hrvatska tvornica bioplastike u Belom Manastiru



Investicijom će se udvostručiti sadašnji kapacitet tvornice od 5000 t godišnje