



## Market Monitoring Newsletter

ARMO'S ROTATIONAL MOLDING NEWSLETTER

jeudi 8 juillet 2021

### Events

#### **Annual General Meeting of the AFR**



On 2 July 2021, the AFR's annual General Meeting was held, at which the actions carried out during the year were presented, followed by the vote on the resolutions. This edition was also the occasion for the partial renewal of the Board of Directors. The General Assembly was followed by an online session of the Master Class 2021 on the maintenance of tools by cryogenics, presented by Stéphane LAFONTAINE (BSI). (Translated from French)

Click here to read more : [www.rotomoulage.org](http://www.rotomoulage.org)

### Research & Patents

#### **Valorization of Invasive Plants from Macaronesia as Filler Materials in the Production of Natural Fiber Composites by Rotational Molding**



This paper compares the mechanical properties of different natural fiber composites produced by rotational molding as a way of waste valorization from campaigns to control invasive plant species in Macaronesia. Rotomolded parts produced with polymeric matrices (polyethylene) and filled with up to 20% by weight of cellulosic fibers obtained from *Arundo donax* L., *Pennisetum setaceum*, and *Ricinus communis* plants were characterized in terms of tensile, flexural, and impact strength. It was found that the sieving of natural fibers allowed for their introduction in higher

loadings, from 10 (for un-sieved material) to 20%; fiber size greatly affected the mechanical properties of the final parts, although some combinations were proven not to reduce the mechanical properties of the neat resin. This study is a first approach to the valorization of residues obtained from periodic campaigns of the control of invasive species performed by public authorities, usually at the local level. It is important to highlight that the main objective of this research did not focus on economically profitable activity; instead, it was focused on the reduction of wastes to be disposed from ecosystem maintenance actions and the investment of potential income into preservation policies.

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## Rotomolding Market News - Europe

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### **A Basque consortium to make compostable ducks for the popular Estropatada in Bilbao**

18/06/2021



The ninth edition of The Walk On Project's (WOP) popular Estropatada has been reinvented once again. And, this year, the rubber duckies that have always characterised it are back. For this reason, the 2021 race, scheduled for Sunday 3 October from the Euskalduna Bridge, will be very special. Not only because it means the return of this event, after its cancellation last year due to the pandemic, but also because in this new edition the rubber ducks will be made of durable and compostable materials, they will be processed with specific moulds and with the minimum possible thickness, that is to say, biodegradable. Already the first edition of the Estropatada in 2013 was the result of an R&D project. After several complaints about the toxicity of these elements in the estuary and although WOP collected all the ducks at each launch, these ducks had been replaced in 2019 with biodegradable pine cones. This year the recovery of these animals is once again possible thanks to international research by several Basque organisations with a long history of R&D in alternative materials to traditional plastics: the Basque companies Urlaplast and Rotobasque, experts in the transformation of plastic materials by injection moulding and rotational moulding, and the GAIKER Technology Centre, a member of the Basque Research & Technology Alliance (BRTA). In 2018, this consortium began working on the Susgear project. The aim of this research was to develop new products and processes for the fishing sector using innovative bio-based and/or biodegradable materials, and it was successfully achieved. The materials were to be processed primarily by injection moulding and rotational moulding. These new ducks will be manufactured with materials that allow for durability and are certified as compostable. Likewise, the ducks will be processed in specific moulds, designed solely for the event, and will be developed with the minimum possible thickness, which will

make them more sustainable due to the lower consumption of material in their manufacture, while at the same time maximising the speed of their future disintegration. (Translated from Spanish)

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### **France : a new owner for Kerpont Plastique**

05/07/2021



The French rotational moulding company Kerpont Plastique has just been bought by Romain Boutron, who was the president of the Côtes d'Armor departmental council until the last elections, end of June. Accompanied in this acquisition by Acticam (Crédit Agricole), he follows Patrick Bidaut who is retiring. Romain Boutron takes over a company that employs around twenty people. The company has a factory with a surface area of 1,500 m<sup>2</sup> supplemented by a vast storage area, spread over a 4 hectare site. In addition to rotational moulding, Kerpont Plastique is involved in machining, boiler making and plastic shaping. It has 9 rotational moulding machines and a numerically controlled machining centre. The company's customers are in the shipbuilding, sanitation, energy and agriculture sectors. It manufactures large technical parts. Romain Boutron acquired the company through its holding company RVM Artemis. (Translated from French)

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## **Rotomolding Market News - North America**

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### **South Central Inc. Acquires Fibertech Inc. | Newswire**



South Central, Inc. - a 75-year-old, family-owned company based in Evansville, Indiana - announced that it entered into an agreement to acquire Fibertech, Inc., a leading manufacturer of high-quality, custom-engineered, rotational-molded plastic products including bulk containers, plastic pallets, plastic lockers, and more for a variety of industries including agriculture, health care, hospitality, manufacturing, maritime, recreation, and recycling. The sale allows Bill Scott, the Founder of Fibertech, to retire and provides growth opportunities and stability for the business and its employees. This acquisition will further expand and diversify South Central's portfolio of investments across multiple industries including real estate, addiction treatment, and private debt. Since its inception in Elberfeld, Indiana in 1999, Fibertech has become one of the industry's preeminent plastics solution companies with a highly-skilled team that not only produces the most cost-effective and durable, 100% virgin polyethylene plastic material handling equipment, but is also committed to fostering customer relationships and continually evolving to meet their needs.

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