



Market Monitoring Newsletter

THE ESSENTIAL NEWS OF ROTOMOULDING WORLDWIDE

A gusseted roof prototype for converted vans.



The Limouzine Van company has presented an electrically-operated pop-up van roof, which is fitted with a totally waterproof and sturdy PVC protective canvas, just like on a lift table. It's still only a prototype, but this gusseted roof will surely be on the market by early 2024, and available on all converted vans.

Driven by two powerful electric cylinders acting horizontally on a lever arm, this lift-top roof reaches 120 cm above the van, offering greater wind grip than a conventional compass roof, but the height could be scalable. The designer is reassuring, emphasizing the quality of the materials and the sturdiness of the structure. The main advantage is undoubtedly the interior volume and access to the upper bedroom. The installation of the bed base remains to be worked on. There are still a number of areas for improvement before the roof is finally industrialized. The designer intends to reduce the overall weight, currently around 160 kg, by using rotomolded plastic parts and aluminum. Future models will also feature side openings to let light into the upper chamber.

Quebec-based company designs rotomolded outdoor furniture.



Quebec-based Twist Production is the only company in Canada to use rotational molding technology to manufacture outdoor furniture.

Their first product, the cone-shaped Mia Sereta outdoor luminaire, has been joined over time by horticultural pots, stools, small tables and chairs. Each product is designed to withstand intensive use, the coldest winters and hottest summers, to give them the longest possible life.

Francis Ward and Aliaxis design new intermediate bulk container.



Light Duty IBCs have long been a key component of the food industry's storage and shipping process, providing an efficient way to transport both solid and liquid goods. In this development, the client's need for a new IBC solution for the transportation of olives was primarily due to the potential rusting damage caused by brine on the stainless-steel outlet and framework used in IBCs.

This combination of brine and stainless-steel could potentially lead to the contamination of the product and cause a serious health and safety issue. This was a task given to Francis Ward, a specialist manufacturer of rotomoulded, reusable IBCs which requested the technical assistance of Aliaxis, fluid management specialists and experts in developing plastic solutions resistant to corrosive materials.

By working closely together, Francis Ward and Aliaxis were able to design and provide a truly unique solution for the client that not only mitigated contamination risks, but also boasted an FDA and WRAS approved plastic opening valve, a first for the industry. Aliaxis' focus was the aperture, which the valve and the handle had to fit into. In order to make this work, Aliaxis had to re-design the handle and develop new gearing to allow the valve to open with a far shorter handle than normal, which could have wider ramifications for the IBC industry. Aliaxis was able to develop a bespoke fully plastic butterfly valve that met all current FDA and WRAS approval. The Aliaxis butterfly valve became the final piece of the puzzle, complementing Francis Ward's rotomoulded, reusable IBC and allowing the client to utilise a 100% plastic solution that enabled the business to provide better service for its customers, all while reducing food wastage and eradicating the risk of contamination. The client is now in the process of swapping its fleet of light duty IBCs over to Aliaxis' new solution, with Francis Ward also speaking to other food manufacturers so that it can implement this innovative design across the industry.

Pacific Floorcare to Invest \$2.5M in Expansion and Create New Jobs in the City of Muskegon.



Greater Muskegon Economic Development (GMED) announced recently that Pacific Floorcare, a company dedicated to providing quality, innovative floor care equipment to its customers, is expanding its operations in the City of Muskegon.

The new development includes a 36,000 sq. ft. expansion to the west end of the building, which will serve as a customer training center, additional space to accommodate rotational molding equipment, and new product manufacturing lines. Once completed, the new building will provide a total of 72,000 sq. ft. of commercial office and manufacturing space. The project is expected to cost \$2.5 million and will be finalized in the winter of 2024. Furthermore, the expansion will lead to the employment of 17 new staff members over the next two years, after construction is completed. Pacific Floorcare supplies retail, industrial, education, and healthcare facilities with a variety of floor care equipment and solutions. In addition, most of Pacific Floorcare’s materials are sourced in the United States with 50 percent of its suppliers being located in Michigan.

Rotomolded armchairs for Wheelchair Rugby.



The Wheelchair Rugby section of the French club Niort Rugby Club is keen to promote the sport and raise awareness in schools and businesses, and has just received eight demonstration chairs.

With a rotomolded polyethylene body, these lightweight structures, designed by Sébastien Passemaid and Christophe Pradelle of Clermont-Ferrand-based Play Moovin, are particularly attractive and fun to use.

Research & Patents

Method and formulation for rotomoulding recycled polymer and products thereof.



A rotomoulded product and a method of making a rotomoulded product via rotational moulding, the rotomoulded product including at least two layers of material that form a wall of the product, at least one of the layers including post-consumer recycle (PCR), and at least one of the layers including virgin PE. (Patent filed by Pact Group Industries (ANZ) Pty Ltd.)

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Method and fixture for molding a tank with an embedded ring.



A method of and fixture for molding a product with an embedded ring. A system for molding a ring into a product including a rotational molding mold with an opening formed in the rotational molding mold sized to fit a ring. A fixture is removably couplable to the ring, wherein the ring and the fixture when coupled are removably couplable in the opening. The fixture is removed from the ring after the ring is molded into a product. A method of manufacturing a product with an embedded ring includes: coupling a ring to a fixture; clamping the fixture and the ring in an opening in a mold top; clamping the mold top to a mold bottom; rotomolding a product; unclamping the fixture from the mold top; uncoupling the fixture from the ring; unclamping the mold top and the mold bottom; and removing the product from the mold.

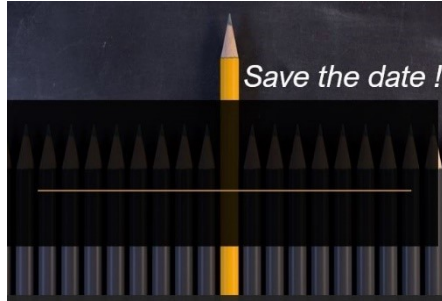
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Method and apparatus for manufacturing rotationally moulded products.



The invention relates to a method for producing rotomolded products. The invention moreover relates to an installation for carrying out such a method, and in particular to an installation for producing rotomolded products, which contains a plurality of spherical receptacle members, each without a dedicated rotary drive, each of which having at least one molding die that is suppliable with raw material. (patent filed by ROTO evolution GmbH)

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