# WeRoll

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Exploring the qualities of rotational moulding

Special Issue



*in this issue:*

## Materials


*Francois Pascal:* ***Efficiency Through Materials***

*Beologic:* ***From Fishing Net to New Polymer***

*Mark Kearns:* ***The Evolution of Polymers***

*Poliplast:* ***High-Performance Polyamide***

*Matrix Polymers:* ***Beyond PE Foam***

*Polymer Link:* ***From Recycling to Reinvention***

*Simoulding:* ***Science vs. Empiricism***


*and much more...*

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# Editorial

## Efficiency Through Materials

**by** Francois Pascal - Material Connexion



*The evolution of polymers in rotational moulding reflects a broader transformation in materials science, where performance, sustainability and process efficiency have progressively converged. Over the past decades, the sector has moved from a narrow palette of basic polyolefins to a far more sophisticated landscape in which polymers are engineered, adapted and refined to meet increasingly demanding industrial expectations. This progression has reshaped both the technical possibilities of rotomoulding and the strategic choices available to manufacturers.*

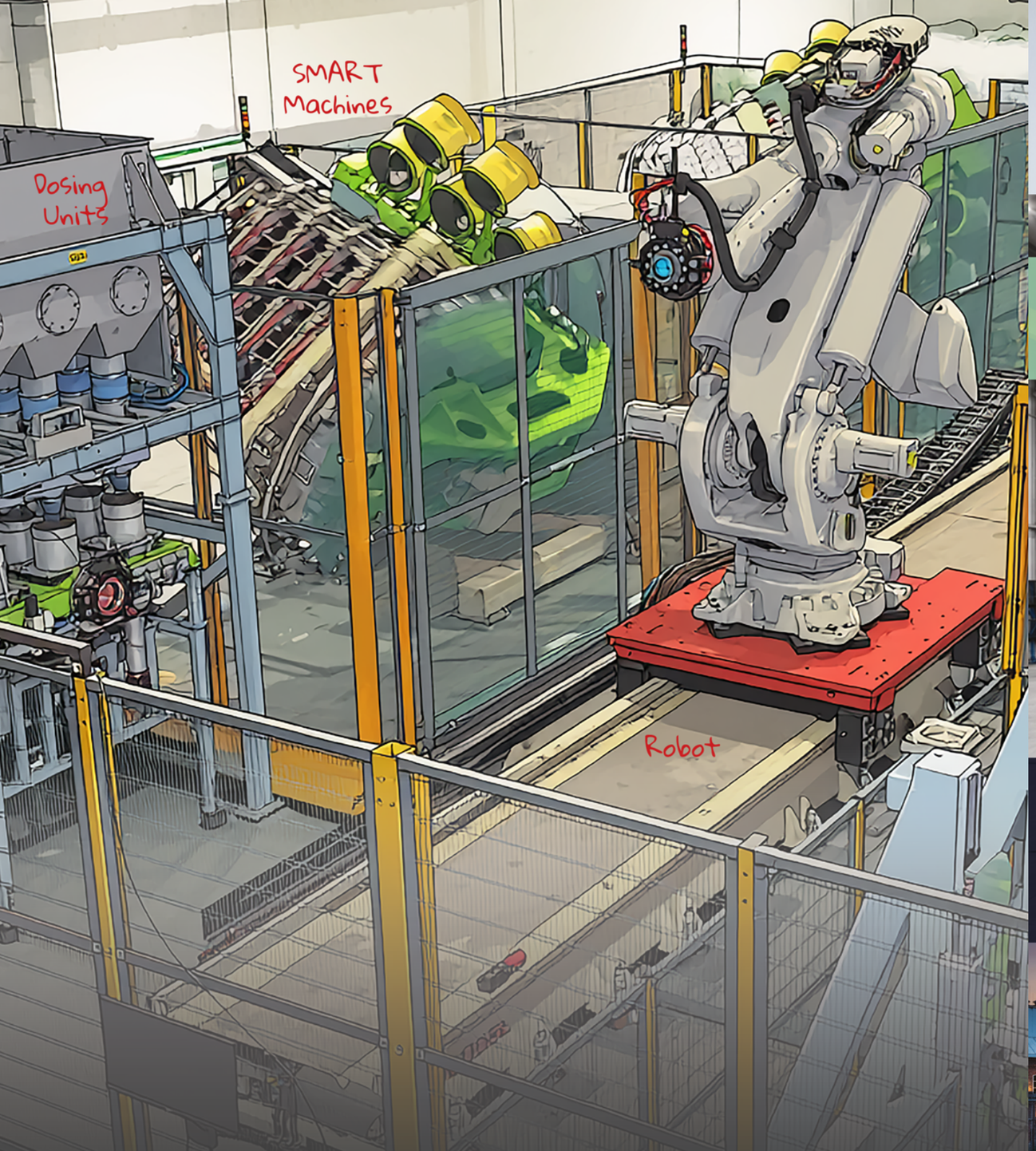
*In its early stages, rotational moulding relied almost exclusively on polyethylene, valued for its ease of processing, stability during heating cycles and predictable behaviour in biaxial rotation. As applications expanded, however, the limitations of traditional grades became more evident. Industries seeking higher mechanical strength, improved thermal resistance or enhanced durability began to push for materials capable of supporting more complex geometries and more challenging operating environments.*
*This pressure stimulated the development of specialised polyethylenes with controlled particle size distribution, optimised melt flow and tailored additive packages, allowing moulders to achieve better surface quality, reduced cycle times and more consistent structural performance.*



*Alongside performance-driven innovation, sustainability has become a defining force in the evolution of polymers for rotomoulding. The industry has increasingly embraced recycled materials, not merely as an environmental gesture but as a strategic response to regulatory pressure and market expectations. Advances in sorting, cleaning and reprocessing technologies have made it possible to obtain recycled polymers with stable melt behaviour and controlled particle morphology, suitable for demanding moulding cycles. These materials allow manufacturers to reduce the environmental footprint of their products while maintaining the mechanical integrity required for industrial use. Their integration into production workflows has also encouraged a more circular approach to design, where end-of-life recovery and re-milling become part of a continuous material loop.*

*The evolution of polymers has also been shaped by the growing need for supply-chain resilience. As global markets fluctuate, manufacturers increasingly rely on materials that offer predictable availability and consistent quality. This has driven closer collaboration between polymer producers, compounders and moulders, fostering a shared understanding of how formulation choices influence processing behaviour and final performance. The result is a more integrated ecosystem in which materials are developed with specific applications in mind, reducing variability and enhancing repeatability across production cycles.*

*Enjoy reading!*




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| BPF ROTATIONAL MOULDING SEMINAR | MASTER CLASS 2026 | ARM ANNUAL MEETING |
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## 1. Recycled Materials

# Beologic

*Sint-Denijs, Belgium*

# From Fishing Net to New Polymer



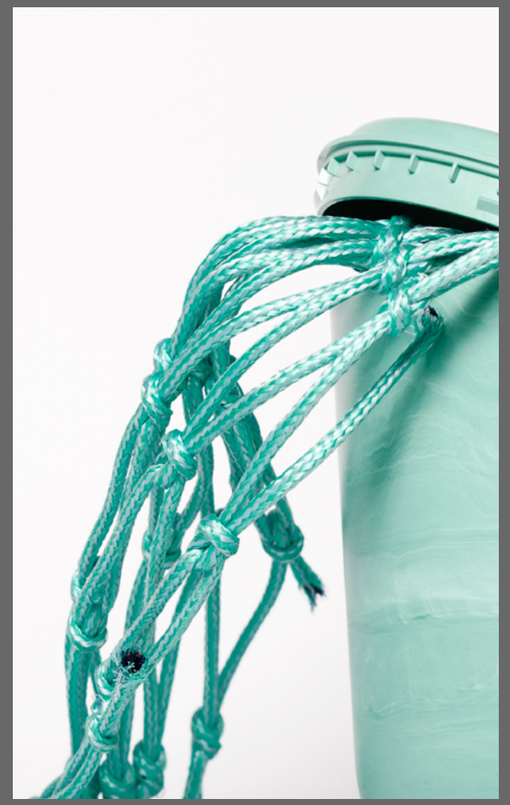
Text by Roberto Gonne

*Beologic conveys the image of a company shaped by a deep and enduring commitment to sustainability, a principle that has guided its development since its establishment in 2000. From the very beginning, environmental responsibility has been placed at the heart of its activities, driving the creation of compounds designed to preserve natural resources and support meaningful climate action. Its philosophy is anchored in measurable progress, with a clear focus on reducing waste, optimising resource efficiency and lowering greenhouse gas emissions through carbon-neutral operations and products.*

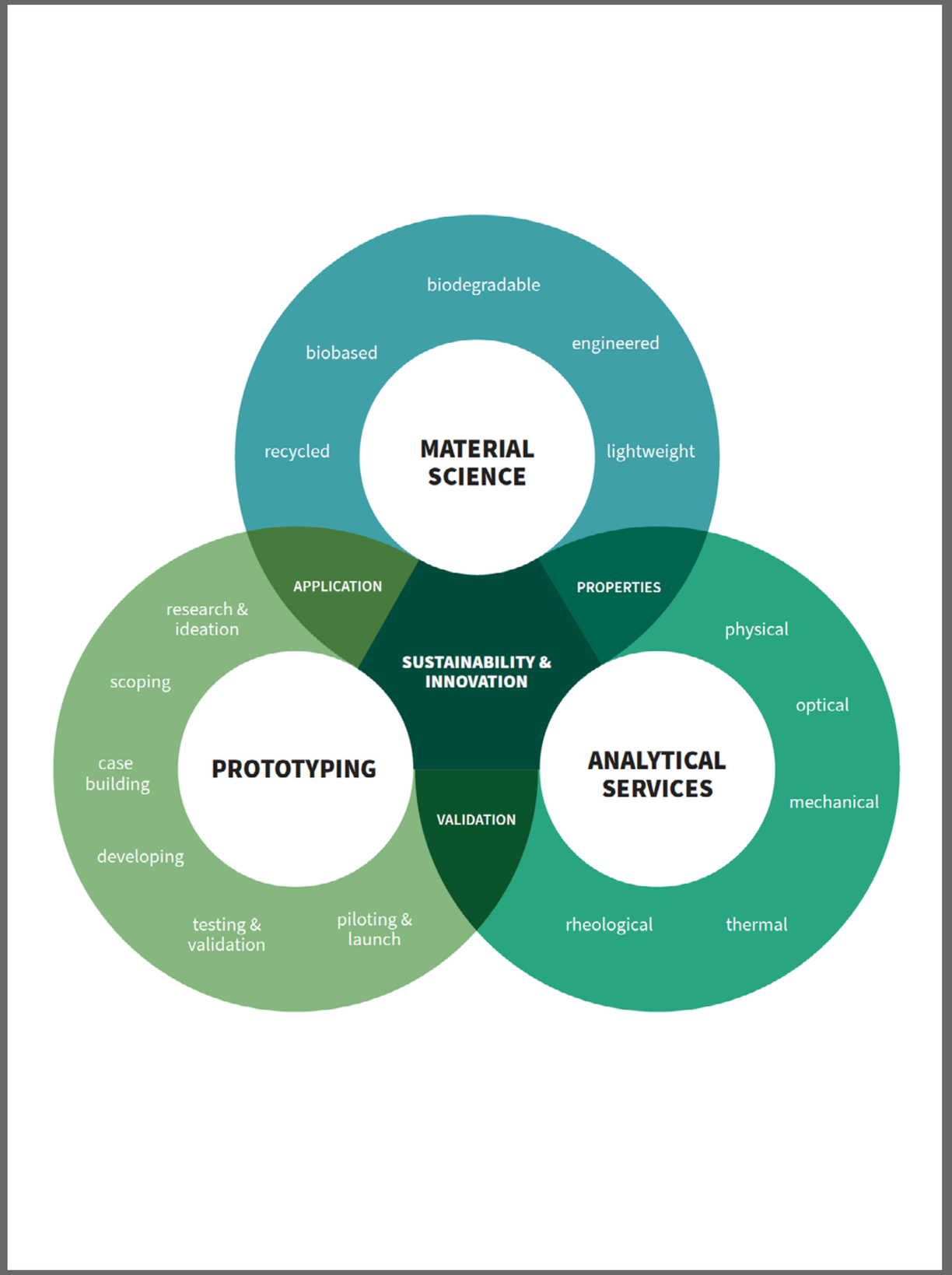
### A Vision Aligned with Global Sustainability

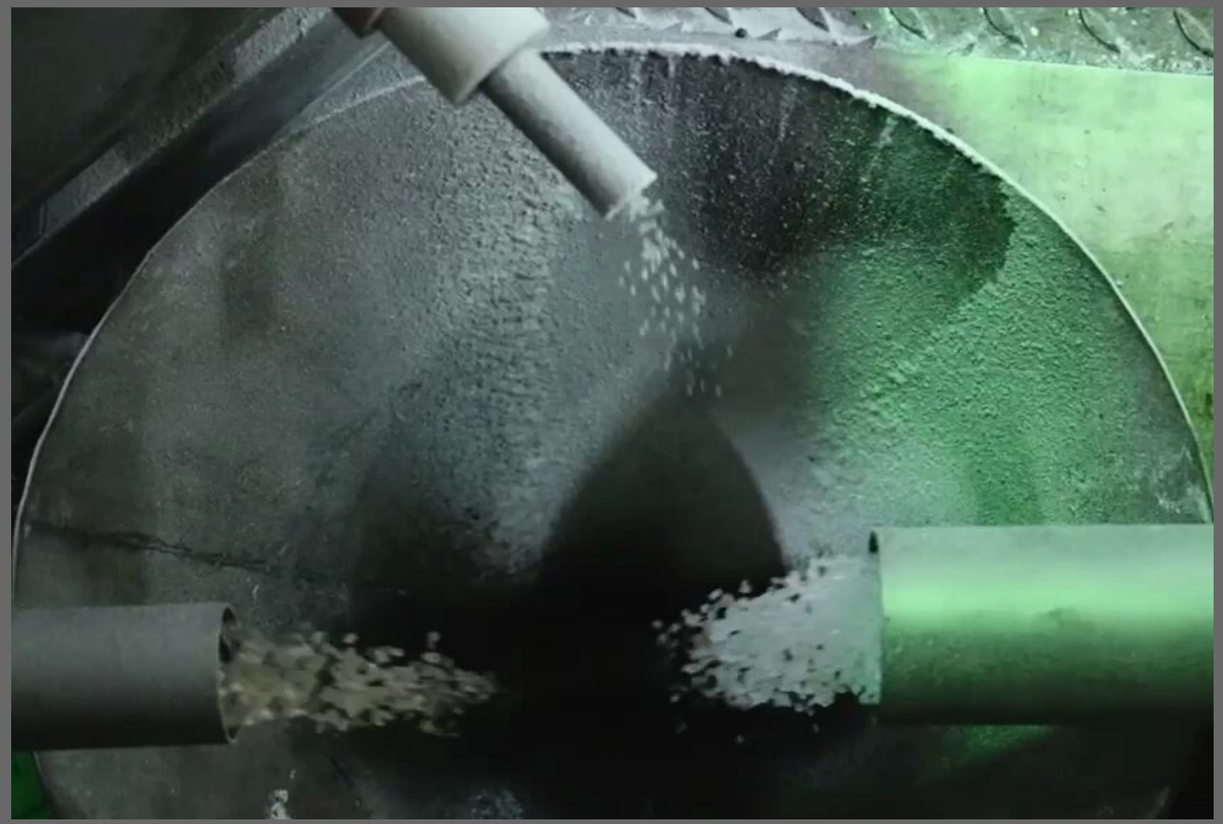
*The company's vision is shaped by a systems-thinking approach to sustainability, recognising that meaningful environmental progress requires consideration of the entire value chain, from raw materials and product design to material processing, manufacturing, use and end-of-life management. Beologic balances environmental responsibility with technical performance, efficient manufacturing and customer support, viewing each as an integral part of a more sustainable plastics value chain. Beologic views this transition as a gradual but determined journey, advancing step by step in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals. Beologic has become recognised as a leading expert solution provider for thermoplastic compounds that have a positive impact on the environment. Its extensive product portfolio allows it to respond effectively to both current and emerging needs, supported by decades of accumulated expertise and analytical insight. The company develops sustainable compounds for rotational moulding offering a standard range of products as well as tailored formulations that respond to the specific requirements of more complex applications.*

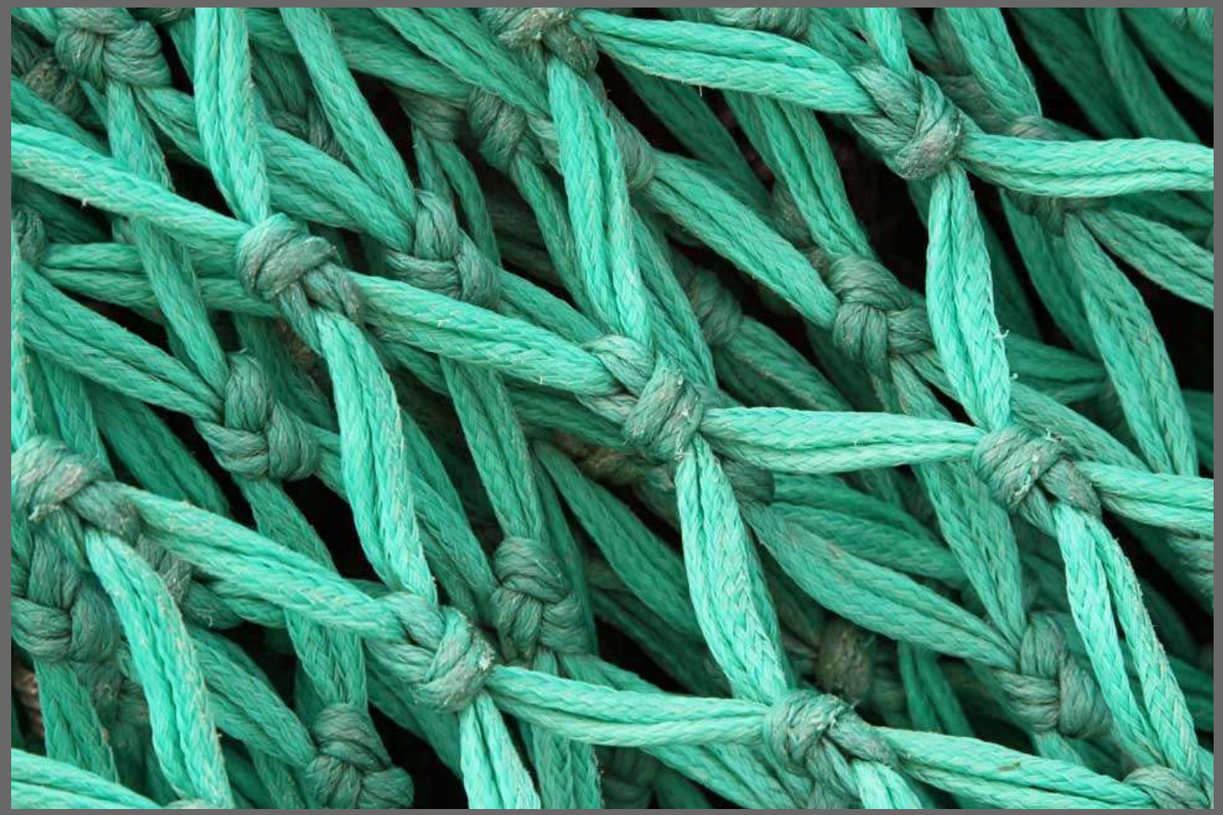




Its origin gives Beocycle a distinctive value: every batch embodies a tangible contribution to the reduction of ocean waste and the promotion of circularity within the plastics industry.









## From Fishing Nets to High-Value Polymers

*Beocycle represents a new generation of sustainable polymers, born from the recovery and transformation of discarded fishing nets. Through an advanced recycling process, these nets—once a source of marine pollution—are converted into a high-quality material suitable for rotational moulding. The polymer retains the mechanical strength and durability required for demanding applications, while offering a significantly reduced environmental footprint compared with conventional plastics.*

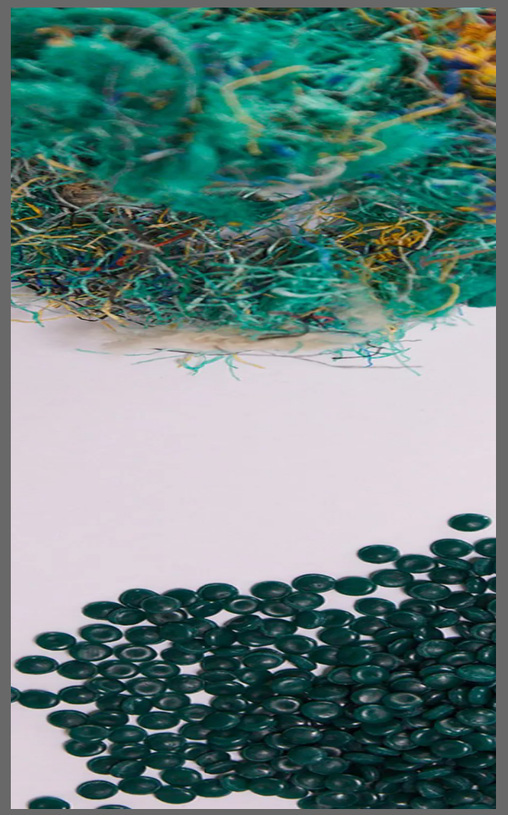
## When Recycled Materials Drive Innovation

*Its origin gives Beocycle a distinctive value: every batch embodies a tangible contribution to the reduction of ocean waste and the promotion of circularity within the plastics industry. The material is engineered to deliver consistent performance, ensuring reliable processing behaviour, stable moulding cycles and robust end-use properties. This combination of technical capability and environmental responsibility makes Beocycle an appealing choice for manufacturers seeking to integrate recycled content without compromising product quality.*

## Circular Innovation for Rotational Moulding

*By transforming an environmental burden into a valuable resource, Beocycle illustrates how progress in material science can simultaneously enhance industrial performance and strengthen ecological responsibility. Its development shows that recycled polymers, when carefully engineered, can deliver the consistency, durability and processing reliability required by modern manufacturers. In rotational moulding, Beocycle serves as a convincing demonstration of how secondary raw materials can be integrated into established production processes without compromising technical standards.*
*The material offers designers and moulders a credible sustainable alternative, one that reflects the growing*





**Beocycle embodies a shift in mindset, proving that recycled content can support long-term value creation while aligning with contemporary expectations of responsibility, innovation and circularity.**








*demand for solutions combining high performance with reduced environmental impact. Beocycle embodies a shift in mindset, proving that recycled content can support long-term value creation while aligning with contemporary expectations of responsibility, innovation and circularity. Through its use, the industry gains a practical example of how environmental challenges can be reinterpreted as opportunities for technological advancement and more conscious manufacturing.*

**Sustainability Refined into Everyday Objects**

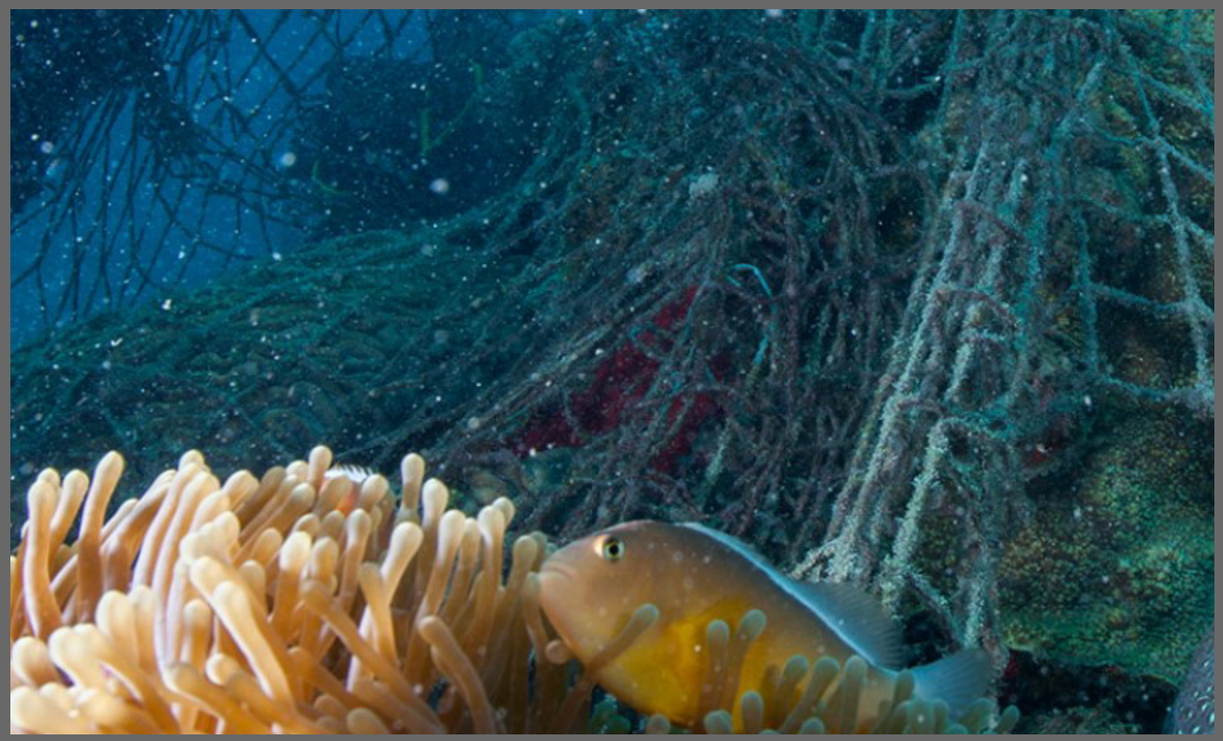
*The Scoop Ocean vase collection by the Danish brand Manga Street is produced through rotational moulding and incorporates fifty per cent recycled Beocycle polymer. This material originates from worn-out fishing nets retrieved from European seas, and its use reflects the company's conviction that preventing plastic from entering marine environments is a fundamental responsibility. Manga Street, designed by Julie Storm Christensen, places considerable value on the transformation of obsolete nets into refined, durable design objects, demonstrating how discarded materials can be elevated through thoughtful engineering and aesthetic intent.*

*Each flowerpot /pouf expresses this commitment in tangible form: half of its fifteen-kilogram weight consists of recycled fishing nets, amounting to 7.5 kilograms or more than a kilometre and a half of four-millimetre fishing line. The recycled polymer is treated with the same UV protection applied to the company's other plastic products, ensuring long-lasting resistance to sunlight and weathering and making the collection suitable for extended outdoor use. Through this combination of technical reliability and environmental purpose, Scoop Ocean embodies a design philosophy that unites contemporary aesthetics with responsible material sourcing, offering a compelling example of how recycled ocean plastic can be integrated into high-quality rotationally moulded products.*









The recovery and recycling of fishing nets contributes significantly to maintaining a clean marine ecosystem.

*Once transformed, Beocycle maintains good performance properties for the production of many rotomolded products.*







Through its network of suppliers, Beologic helps recover over 200,000 kg of marine waste each year.

Compounds based on end-of-life fishing gear have a dark green color that can vary from batch to batch.



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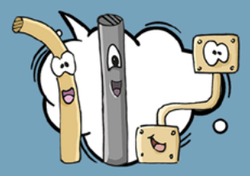
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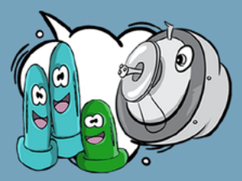

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## 2. Explore The Materials

## Mark Kearns

*Senior Technical Lead (Polymer Processing) at the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre, Queen's University, Belfast*

# The Evolution of Polymers



Text by Roberto Gonne

**How do you see the general evolution of materials related to rotational moulding?**

*The evolution of materials for the rotational moulding process has been relatively 'conservative' when compared with processes such as injection moulding or extrusion, largely because polyethylene has such a dominant position in the rotomoulding market. However, there has been considerable development within polyethylene itself, particularly in terms of modifications to molecular architecture, impact performance, stiffness, environmental stress crack resistance, UV resistance and processability.*
*Historically, the emphasis was very much on developing materials that could be processed reliably and economically. More recently, the focus has broadened towards higher performance materials, longer product lifetimes, improved recyclability and the incorporation of recycled or bio-derived content.*
*We are also seeing greater interest in materials that were previously considered niche for rotational moulding, such as polyamides, polypropylene, thermoplastic elastomers and high temperature engineering polymers. The challenge is that each material brings different processing requirements, particularly around melt viscosity, thermal stability, shrinkage, warpage and the ability to withstand the rotational moulding thermal cycle.*
*So, I would describe the evolution as moving from simply asking 'Can this polymer be rotomoulded?' towards 'Can we engineer a material specifically for rotational moulding that delivers the required performance, sustainability and economics?'*



**Rotational moulding is closely linked to polyethylene. What other polymers have the greatest potential for development through rotational moulding?**



“I also see considerable potential in polymer blends, multi-layer recyclable applications and filled or reinforced systems. Rather than simply replacing polyethylene, the future may be about developing materials with a specific property profile tailored to the application and the rotational moulding process.”







*Polyethylene will remain dominant for many rotomoulding applications because it provides an exceptional combination of cost, processability, impact resistance, chemical resistance and durability. However, I think there is significant potential for other polymer families.*

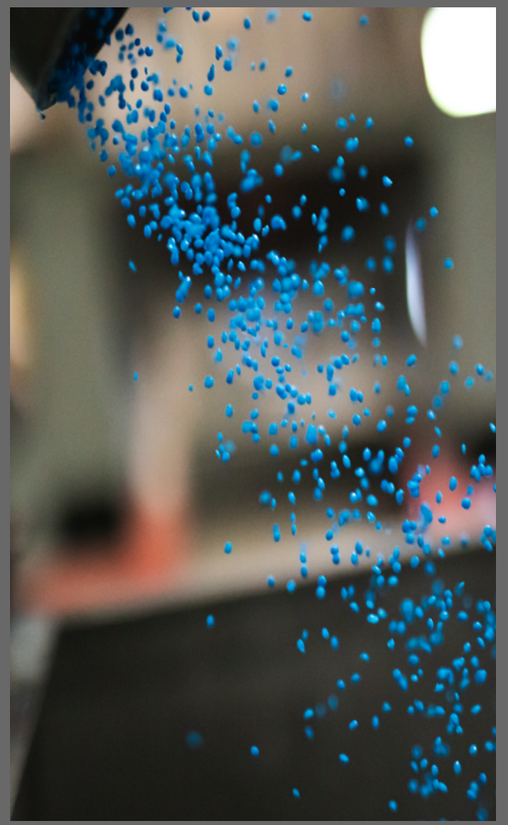
*Polypropylene is particularly interesting where higher stiffness and higher temperature resistance are required. There are also opportunities for polyamide materials, particularly where enhanced mechanical, temperature or chemical performance is required, although moisture sensitivity and processing considerations need to be carefully managed.*

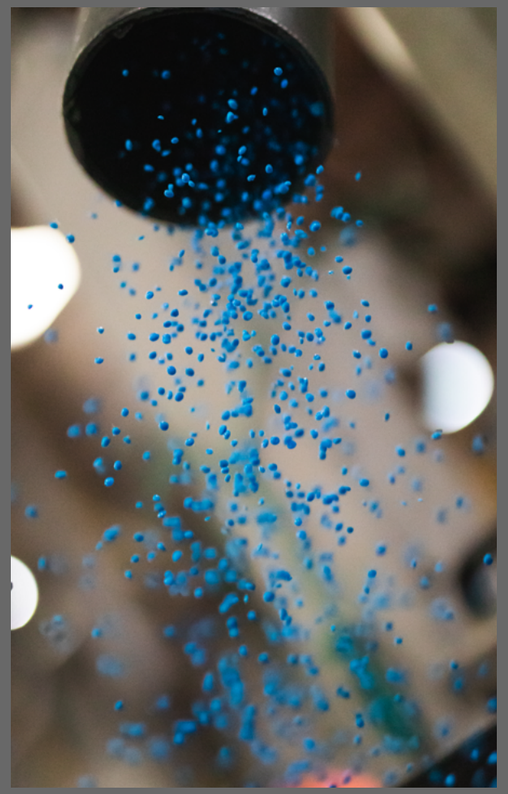
*Thermoplastic Elastomers offer opportunities for flexible, high abrasion resistance and soft-touch products, while materials such as TPU's could potentially address applications where conventional polyethylene cannot provide the required combination of flexibility and durability. At the higher performance end, there is also potential for engineering polymers such as PEEK and other high-temperature materials, but these are currently constrained by processing requirements and material cost.*

*I also see considerable potential in polymer blends, multi-layer recyclable applications and filled or reinforced systems. Rather than simply replacing polyethylene, the future may be about developing materials with a specific property profile tailored to the application and the rotational moulding process.*

**How is the industry addressing the growing customer demand for sustainable and eco-friendly polymer options?**

*There isn't a single solution to sustainability but the industry is responding in several ways. The most immediate opportunity is increasing the use of recycled polymer content, particularly recycled polyethylene.*







“Importantly, I think the industry needs to progress from simply asking whether a polymer is ‘green’. We need to consider the whole life cycle of the product - where the raw material comes from, how much energy is required to manufacture it, how long the product lasts, its performance during use and what happens to it at end of life.”





*Rotational moulding is potentially well suited to this because the process can accommodate certain recycled materials without requiring the same level of melt-flow control needed by some other processes. However, recycled content introduces challenges around material consistency, contamination, colour, odour, moisture and mechanical performance. These issues become particularly important for safety critical or highly engineered products.*

*There is also increased interest in bio-based (or bio-sourced) polymers, renewable feedstocks, improved product durability and designing products so that they can ultimately be recycled.*

*We are also seeing non-recyclable multi-layer rotomoulded polymer structures being replaced by higher performance single layer, recyclable options. Importantly, I think the industry needs to progress from simply asking whether a polymer is 'green'. We need to consider the whole life cycle of the product - where the raw material comes from, how much energy is required to manufacture it, how long the product lasts, its performance during use and what happens to it at end of life. For a durable rotationally moulded product, extending service life can itself be a significant sustainability benefit.*

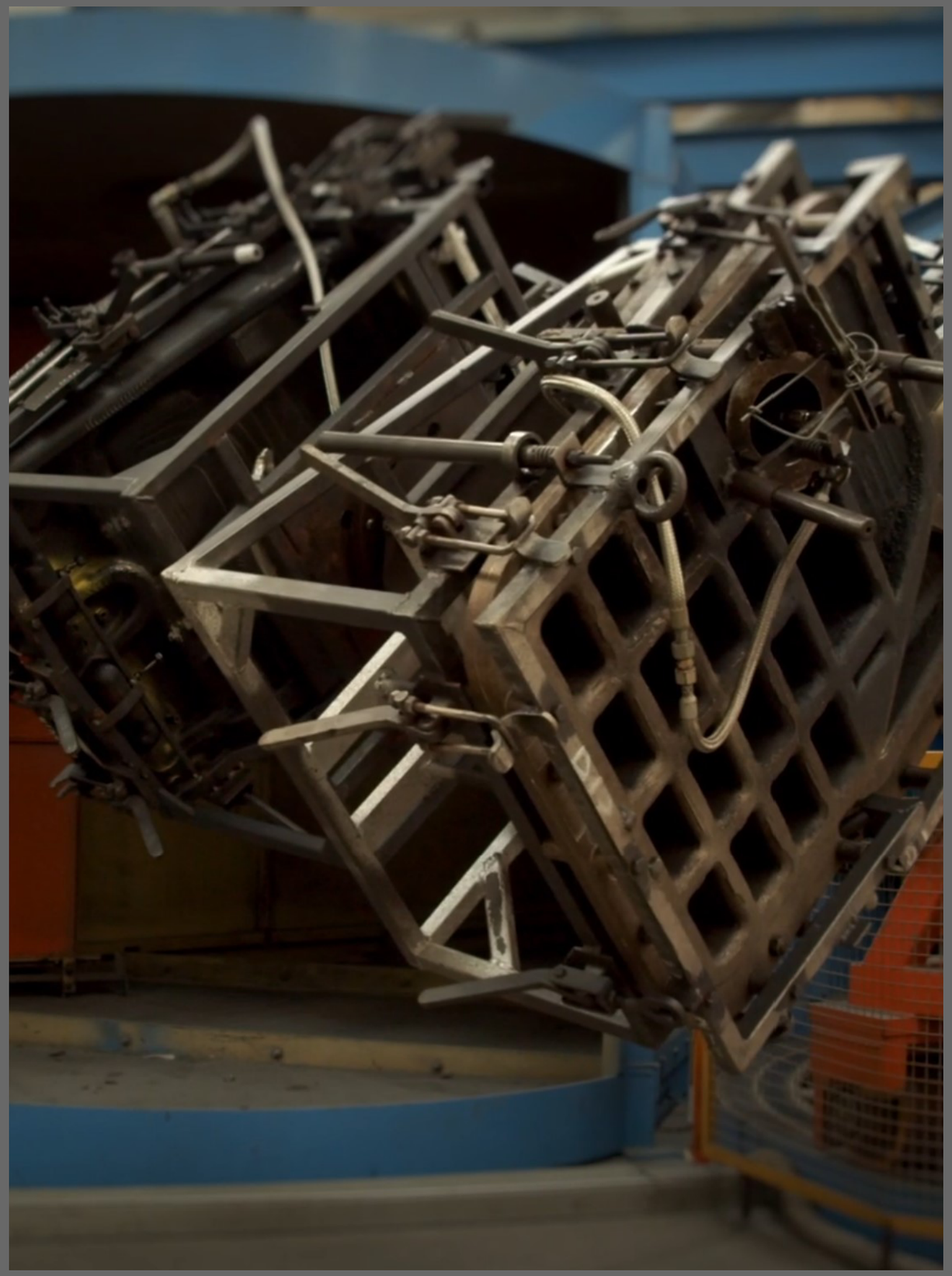
**Do you believe new bio-based polymers have the potential to establish themselves as reliable alternatives to virgin polymers?**

*Yes, a bio-based (or bio-sourced) polymer can be chemically identical to a conventional polymer but manufactured using renewable feedstocks. For example, bio-derived polyethylene can offer a route to reducing reliance on fossil resources while retaining many of the processing characteristics of conventional polyethylene. The challenge is demonstrating that these materials can provide consistent quality,*





“Environmental regulation is increasingly influencing material selection, particularly through requirements around recycled content, product durability, waste reduction, recyclability and carbon emissions. Manufacturers can no longer consider material selection purely in terms of price and technical performance.”

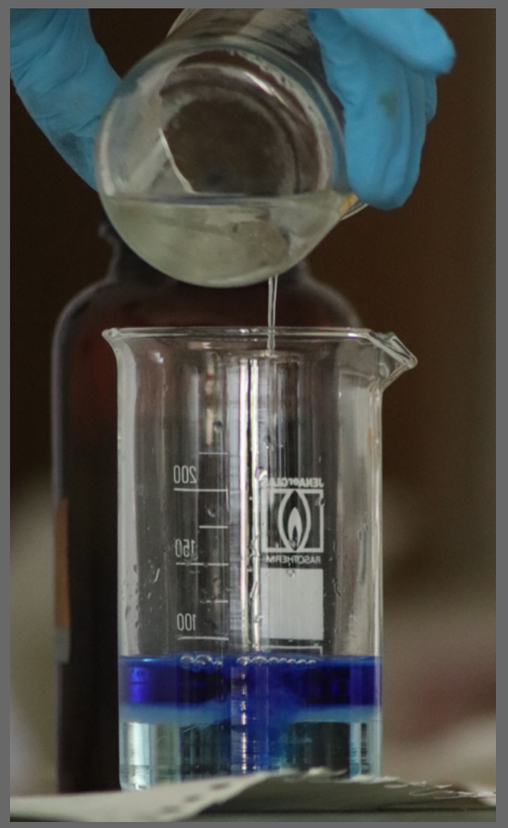




*long-term durability and predictable processing behaviour at a commercially competitive cost.*
*For rotational moulding, we need to understand how new materials behave throughout the complete thermal cycle, including melting, sintering, densification, cooling and crystallisation. Long-term properties such as UV resistance, environmental stress cracking and impact performance are also critical.*
*I therefore see bio-based polymers becoming an increasingly important part of the material portfolio, but I don't expect them simply to replace virgin polymers across the board. Instead, we are likely to see a portfolio approach, combining virgin, recycled, bio-based and potentially chemically recycled feedstocks depending on the application.*

**In what ways are environmental regulations shaping the choice of polymers available to manufacturers today?**

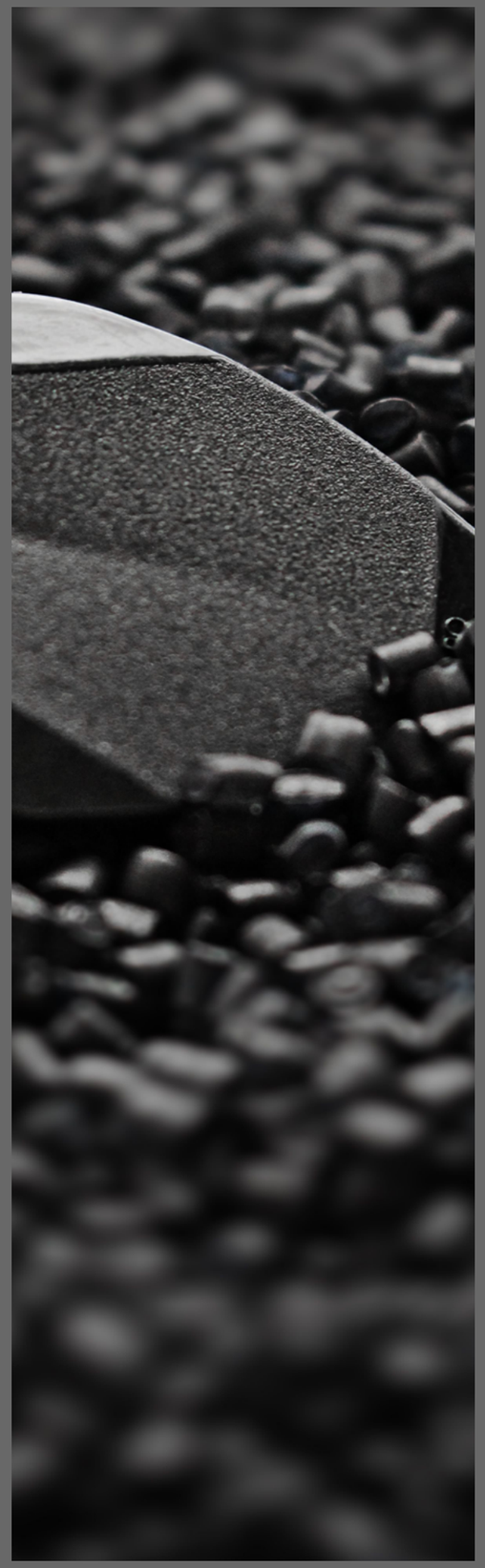
*Environmental regulation is increasingly influencing material selection, particularly through requirements around recycled content, product durability, waste reduction, recyclability and carbon emissions.*
*Manufacturers can no longer consider material selection purely in terms of price and technical performance. They increasingly must consider the polymer's environmental footprint, provenance and end-of-life pathway. This is particularly relevant as legislation and customer requirements increasingly push manufacturers towards demonstrating the sustainability credentials of their products rather than simply making environmental claims.*
*For rotational moulding, this creates both challenges and opportunities. We need materials that contain recycled or renewable content but still meet demanding mechanical and durability requirements. We also need better systems for sorting, characterising and processing recycled polymer streams.*
*Ultimately, regulation is likely to accelerate innovation*







“Another important driver is the need to replace  traditional materials. Rotational moulding can potentially compete with metal, concrete, fibreglass and other materials where manufacturers can exploit the advantages of polymers, including corrosion resistance, design freedom, integrated features and reduced assembly.”



*in material formulation, recycling and product design. It will also increase the importance of being able to substantiate environmental claims with reliable data.*

**What are the main market drivers pushing the industry to develop higher-performing materials?**

*There are several…. Firstly, customers increasingly want products that are lighter, stronger and longer-lasting. If we can reduce wall thickness or component weight while maintaining performance, we can reduce both material consumption and manufacturing costs.*
*Secondly, products are being exposed to more demanding environments e.g. higher temperatures, UV exposure, flame resistance, chemicals, impact and cyclic loading. This is driving demand for improved impact strength, stiffness, flame retardant properties, fatigue resistance, environmental stress-crack resistance and temperature performance.*
*There is also a strong drive towards weight reduction. This is particularly important in sectors such as transportation, where reducing component weight can deliver downstream energy savings.*
*Another important driver is the need to replace traditional materials.*
*Rotational moulding can potentially compete with metal, concrete, fibreglass and other materials where manufacturers can exploit the advantages of polymers, including corrosion resistance, design freedom, integrated features and reduced assembly.*
*Finally, sustainability is becoming a performance requirement in its own right. Manufacturers increasingly want materials that provide high performance with lower environmental impact.*

**How does the quality of the polymer powder affect the final appearance of a rotationally moulded product?**

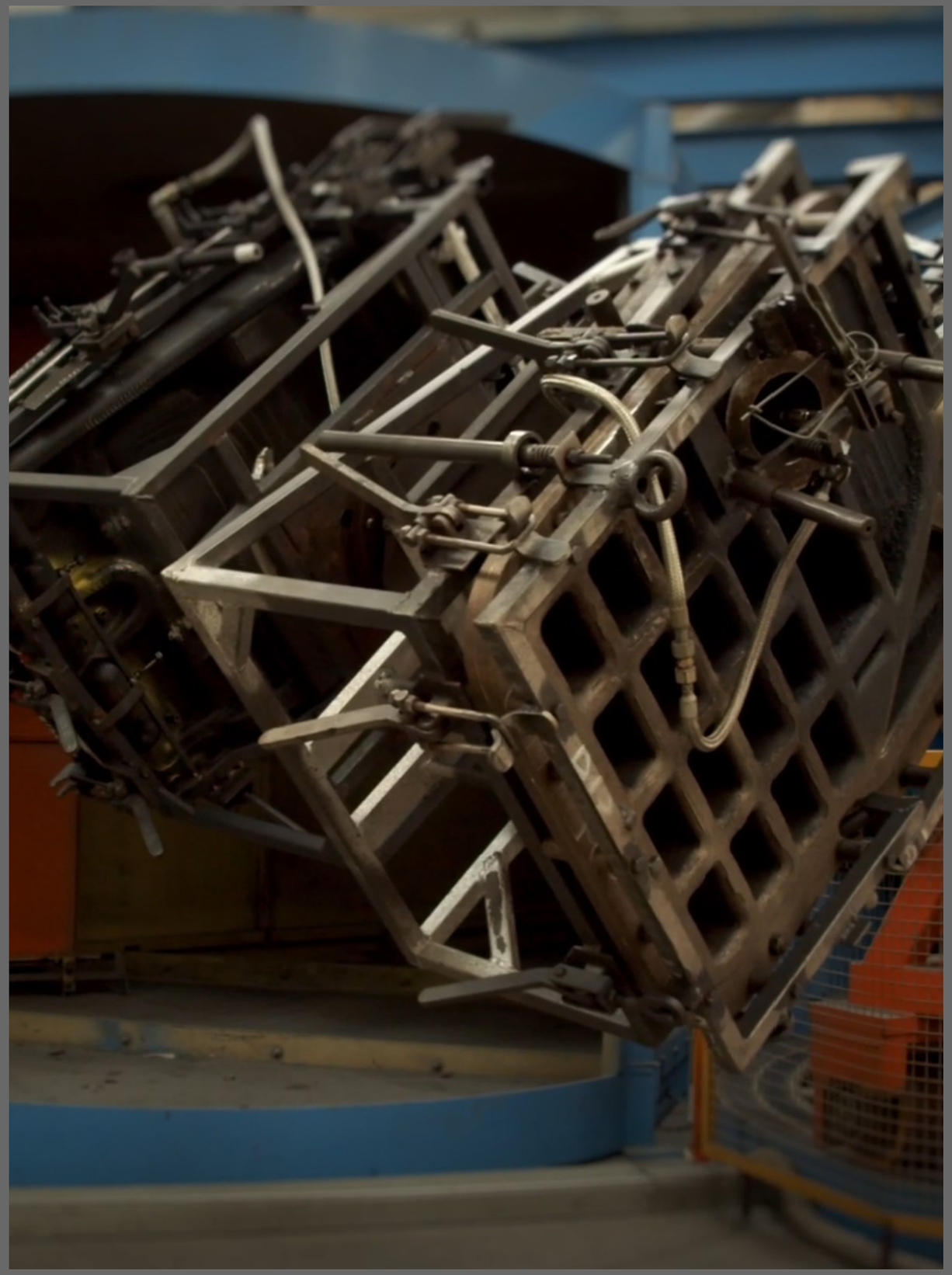
*It has a fundamental influence. Unlike injection moulding, where the polymer enters the mould as a melt, most rotational moulding starts with a dry polymer powder. That powder has to melt, flow, sinter and densify against the mould surface to create the final component.*
*Particle size distribution, particle morphology, bulk density, dry flow, moisture content, contamination, pigment, pigment addition process, release agent, additives and thermal characteristics can all affect the outcome.*
*If the powder is too coarse, for example, it may not sinter effectively, potentially producing a rougher surface, excessive bubbles or incomplete fusion. Excessively fine material can also create processing problems, including dust generation and altered flow behaviour.*
*The particle size distribution needs to be matched to the material and moulding process. The powder must also be clean and consistent from batch to batch.*
*Appearance defects such as pinholes, bubbles, poor surface replication, voids or inconsistent colour can sometimes be traced back to material characteristics rather than simply mould or machine parameters.*
*This is why powder quality control is so important. In rotational moulding, the quality of the powder ultimately becomes the quality of the surface.*

**What role does material cost play when deciding to switch from standard grades to advanced polymer formulations?**

*Material cost is always important because polymer can represent a significant proportion of the overall product cost. However, I think manufacturers increasingly need to look beyond the price per kg.*
*An advanced material may be more expensive but allow a manufacturer to reduce wall thickness, reduce component weight, reduce a multi-layer structure to mono-layer, improve product life, reduce scrap or eliminate a secondary operation. In those circumstances, the higher material price may actually reduce the total cost of ownership.*



“I think the biggest trend will be the development of more sustainable, higher performance materials without compromising the fundamental advantages of rotational moulding. I expect much greater use of recycled and bio-based polymers, resulting in more sophisticated material formulations.”

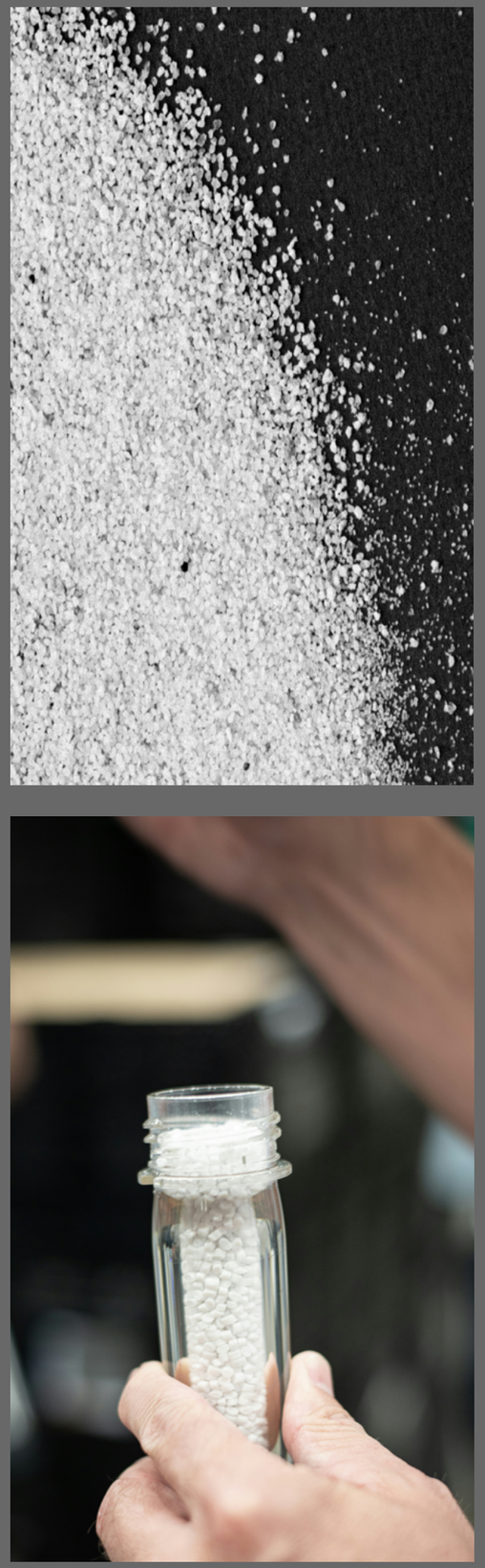





*There is also the issue of risk. If a higher performance polymer significantly reduces the likelihood of field failures or extends product life, that can have considerable economic value.*
*The same is true for sustainable materials, which may currently be more expensive in some applications, but this must be weighed against requirements, regulations, and potential future costs of carbon emissions or waste. So the decision should really be based on value rather than simply material price. The question should be: 'What does the additional material cost deliver in terms of performance, manufacturing efficiency, sustainability and product value?'*

**What do you think will be the biggest material trend in rotational moulding over the next decade?**

*I think the biggest trend will be the development of more sustainable, higher performance materials without compromising the fundamental advantages of rotational moulding. I expect much greater use of recycled and bio-based polymers, resulting in more sophisticated material formulations.*
*Direct electrically heated rotomoulding machines have the potential to process much more challenging, higher temperature engineering polymers than traditional 'gas ovens', opening up new advanced specialist manufacturing markets like Aerospace and Defence.*
*Another major development will be designing materials and products together. Rather than selecting an existing polymer and designing a product around it, we will increasingly see application specific formulations engineered to deliver a particular combination of mechanical performance, processing behaviour and environmental credentials.*
*Ultimately, I think the next decade will see rotational moulding become less about 'What can we make from polyethylene?' and more about 'What material and process combination gives us the most sustainable and technically appropriate solution for this product?'*
*That shift could open up some very interesting new markets for the technology.*









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## 3. Advanced Performance

# Poliplast

*Casnigo, Italy*

# High-Performance Polyamide



Text by Elena Chechet

*Polyamide has become one of the most significant high-performance materials available to the rotational moulding industry, offering a combination of mechanical strength, thermal stability and chemical resistance that exceeds the capabilities of more common polyolefins.*
*Its behaviour during processing and in service makes it a preferred choice for technical components that must endure demanding conditions, from elevated temperatures to exposure to oils, fuels and mechanical stress. Within the rotomoulding sector, polyamide is valued not only for its robustness but also for the design freedom it supports, enabling the creation of seamless, lightweight structures with engineering-grade performance.*
*Polyamide brings a distinctive molecular architecture to the moulding process. The strong hydrogen bonding within the polymer chain contributes to its stiffness, toughness and resistance to wear, while its high melting point allows the production of parts that retain their integrity under thermal load. Rotational moulding takes advantage of these characteristics by transforming polyamide powder into monolithic forms with excellent structural cohesion. When processed correctly, the material flows evenly across the mould, consolidating into a dense, uniform wall that withstands impact and abrasion far better than many alternative plastics. This makes it particularly suitable for products such as hydraulic oil tanks, pressurised reservoirs and protective housings, where reliability is paramount.*





### Formulations Designed for Strength, Durability and Processability

*Poliplast has established itself as a reference point in the European market for polyamide powders dedicated to rotational moulding, combining material expertise with a manufacturing approach shaped by decades of thermoplastic innovation. Its work in this sector reflects a*



**Polyamide for rotational moulding requires a precise control of particle size distribution, thermal stability and flow behaviour.**





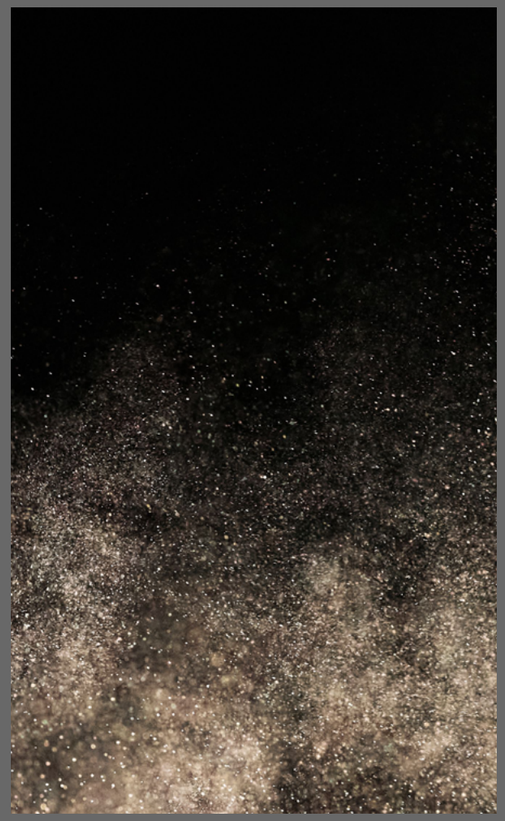
*clear understanding of how polyamide behaves under the specific thermal and mechanical conditions of rotomoulding, and how the material can be engineered to deliver reliable performance in demanding applications. The company's production focuses on formulations that balance strength, durability and processability, ensuring that moulded parts achieve the structural integrity and surface quality expected in advanced industrial contexts.*

**Fully Comprehensive Solutions**

*Poliplast's polyamide series is called PLASTILON for rotational moulding requires a precise control of particle size distribution, thermal stability and flow behaviour. Poliplast's powders are developed to melt uniformly, allowing the material to coat the mould evenly and consolidate into a seamless, stress-resistant structure. This consistency is essential for components exposed to mechanical loads, abrasion or fluctuating temperatures, where nylon's inherent toughness and resilience become decisive advantages. The company's experience in polymer compounding supports the creation of grades that maintain these properties while offering predictable processing cycles, an important factor for manufacturers seeking efficiency and repeatability.*

**Fully Comprehensive Solutions**

*The production of nylon powders also reflects Poliplast's broader commitment to materials research. The company invests in refining the characteristics that determine the final performance of rotationally moulded products—ranging from impact resistance to dimensional stability and long-term durability. Manufacturers must implement appropriate production measures to properly manage material moisture, given that the material is a hygroscopic polymer.*
*In sectors such as technical equipment, specialized containers, protective housings, and structural components, the material's strength-to-weight ratio*

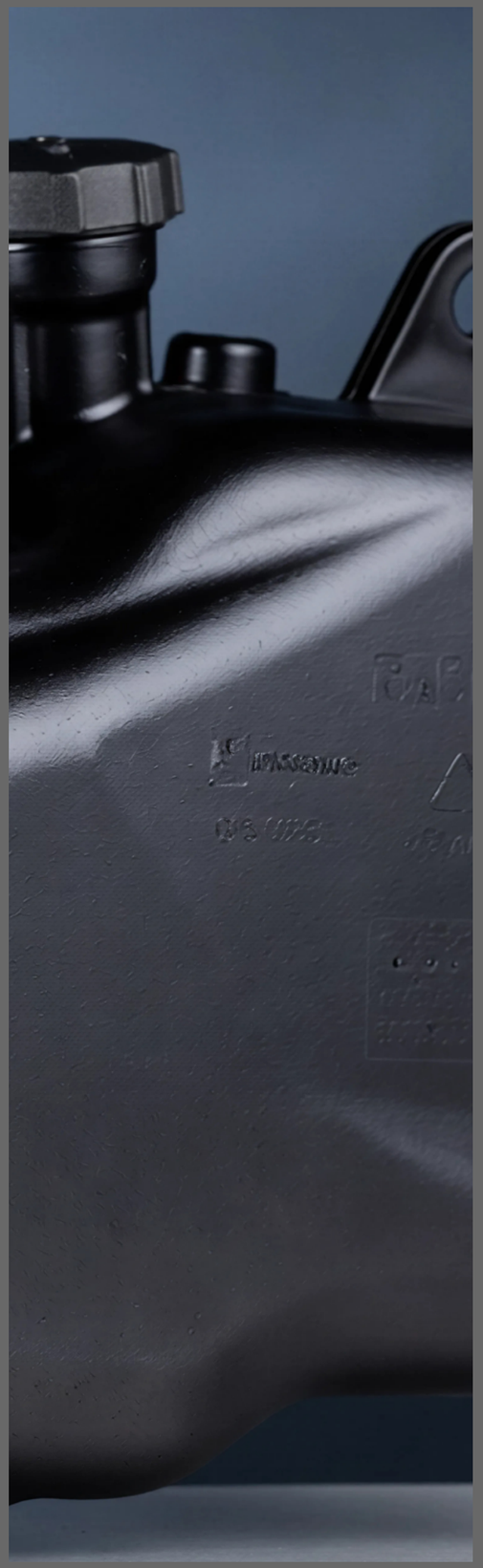




**Through controlled production processes and a deep understanding of polymer behaviour, the company enables the creation of parts that combine engineering precision with the versatility of a moulding technique known for its freedom of form.**







*and wear resistance open up new possibilities, aligning with modern expectations for reliability and longevity.*

### Precision in Polyamide Powder Control

*Poliplast's role in the rotational moulding supply chain is therefore not limited to providing raw materials. It contributes to the evolution of the sector by supporting the development of products that require higher performance and more refined aesthetics, demonstrating how polyamide can elevate the capabilities of rotomoulded manufacturing. Through controlled production processes and a deep understanding of polymer behaviour, the company enables the creation of parts that combine engineering precision with the versatility of a moulding technique known for its freedom of form.*

### Refining Performance for High-End Products

*The processing of polyamide in rotational moulding demands precision. Higher oven temperatures, controlled cooling and careful management of moisture content are essential to achieving optimal results. PA6 often requires an inert atmosphere to prevent degradation, whereas PA12 is more forgiving but still benefit from tightly regulated conditions. When these parameters are respected, polyamide delivers exceptional consistency, enabling the production of parts with thin walls, complex geometries and long service life.*

*In contemporary industrial design, polyamide's role in rotomoulding continues to expand. Its strength-to-weight ratio opens opportunities to replace metal components with lighter polymer structures, reducing energy consumption and improving handling. As manufacturers seek materials that combine performance with versatility, polyamide stands out as a polymer capable of elevating the technical and functional potential of rotational moulding.*

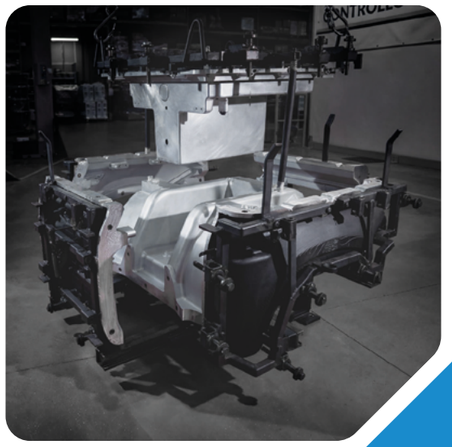






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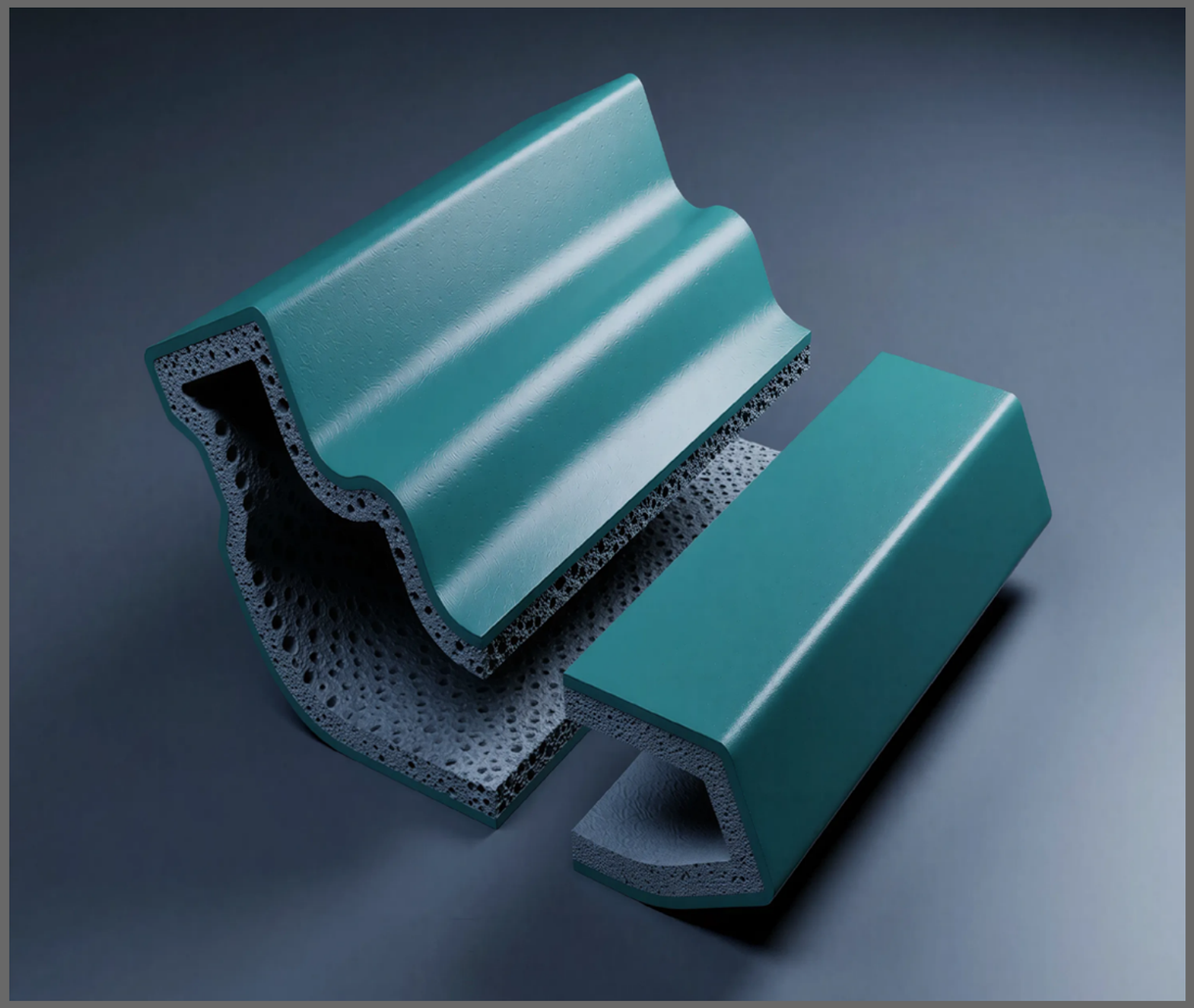
Phone +32 475 286 682
Mail Laurens.Potargent@amsrobotics.com
Mail Johan.Potargent@amsrobotics.com

## Matrix Polymers

*Liverpool, UK*

# Beyond PE Foam

## Expanding the Possibilities of Rotational Moulding with PP



Text by Aldo Quaratino

**How polypropylene foam technology could unlock greater stiffness, process consistency and new opportunities for rotational moulders**

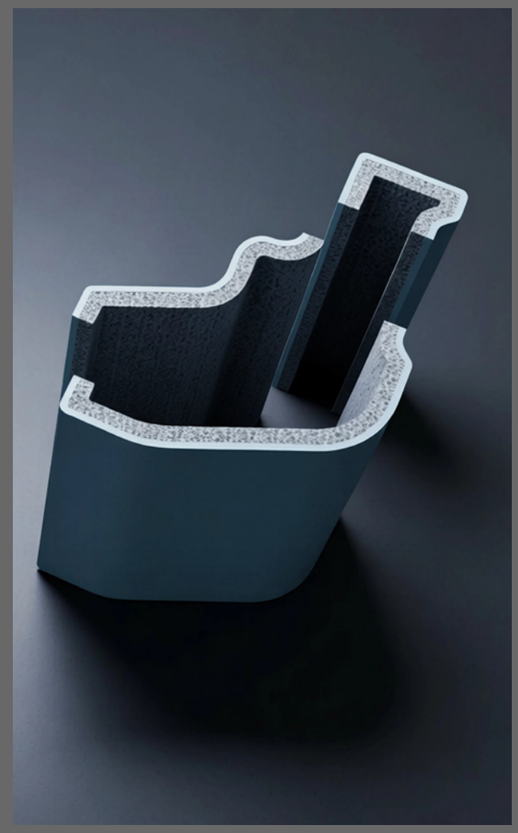
*Polyethylene foam has played an important role in extending the capabilities of rotational moulding. Used particularly in multi-layer applications, PE foam enables manufacturers to create lighter structures while maintaining rigidity and stiffness. This combination has made the technology particularly successful within the leisure marine industry, where it is widely used in products such as kayaks, canoes and sailing boats up to approximately six or seven metres in length.*

*But as rotational moulders look to enter more technically demanding markets, the performance requirements placed on materials are increasing.*

*The question is no longer simply how to make a rotomoulded component lighter.*

*It is how to achieve lower weight, greater structural performance and more predictable processing at the same time. This is where polypropylene foam presents an interesting new opportunity.*



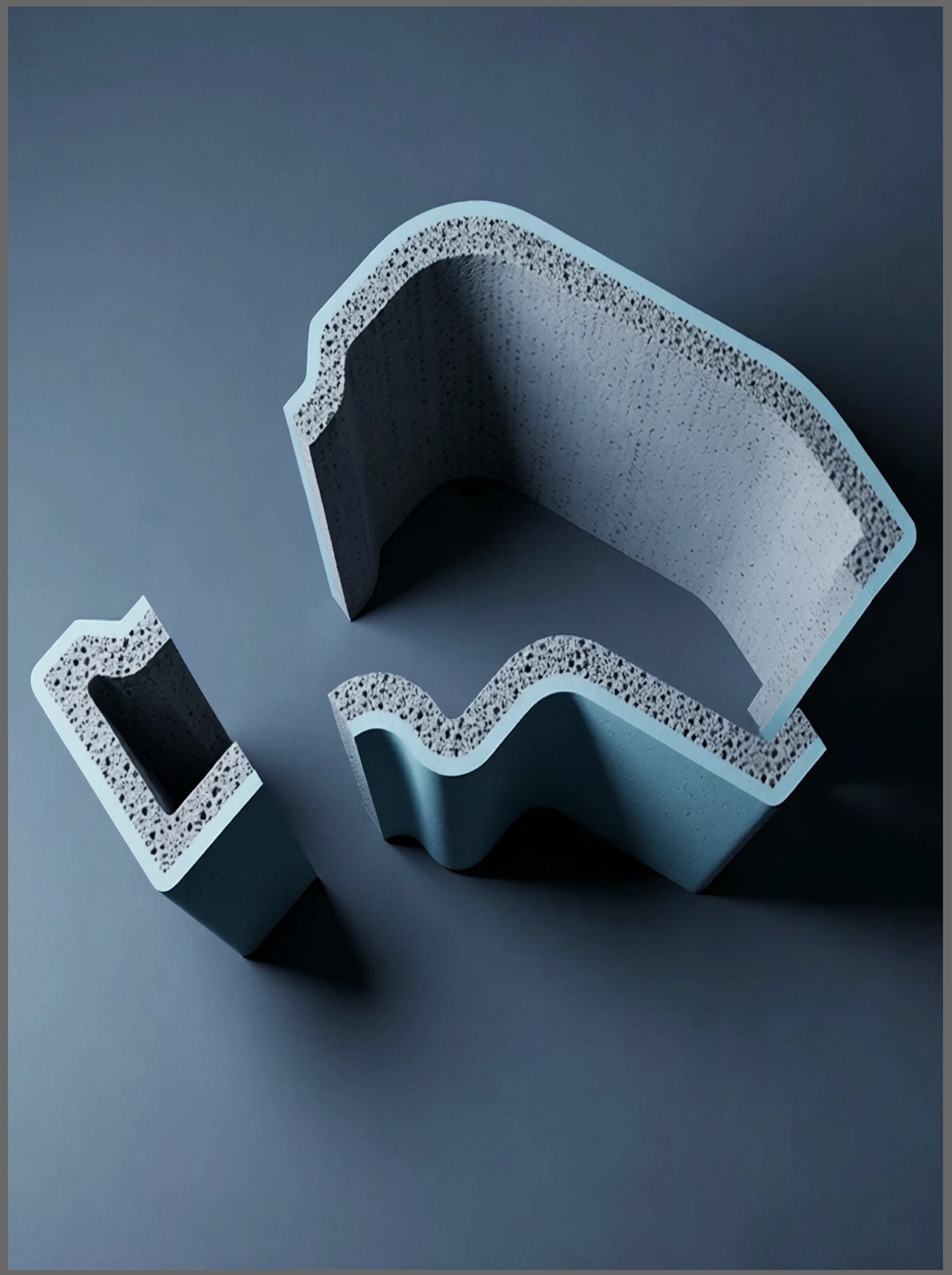


### Where PE Foam Reaches Its Limits

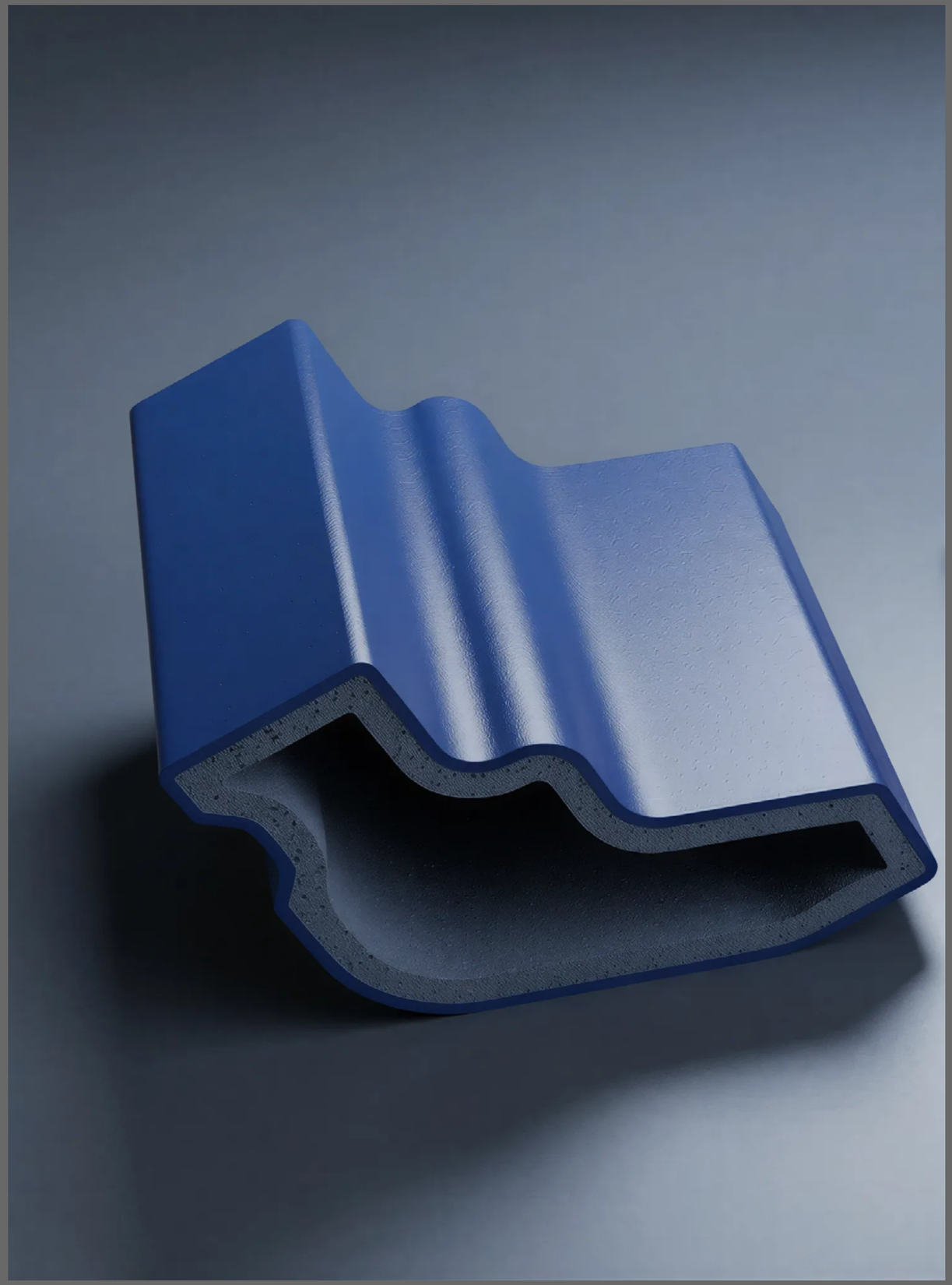
*PE foam technology has demonstrated what lightweight, multi-layer rotational moulding can achieve. However, the level of stiffness that can be delivered by polyethylene ultimately places limits on the applications that can be targeted.*

*For many leisure marine products, its performance is well suited to the application. Move beyond these established markets, however, and manufacturers can encounter applications requiring significantly greater structural performance, impact resistance and toughness.*

*There is also another challenge: process consistency. The activation behaviour of conventional PE foam can be influenced by moulding parameters and environmental*



**“The resulting PP foam demonstrates performance characteristics that exceed those typically associated with PE foam grades.”**



*conditions, including humidity and ambient temperature. This can make foam development within the mould less predictable from one production environment to another. For moulders, variability creates a practical manufacturing challenge. Inconsistent foam development can affect product quality and potentially contribute to rejects, defects and additional processing adjustments. What if the material itself could make the process more predictable?*

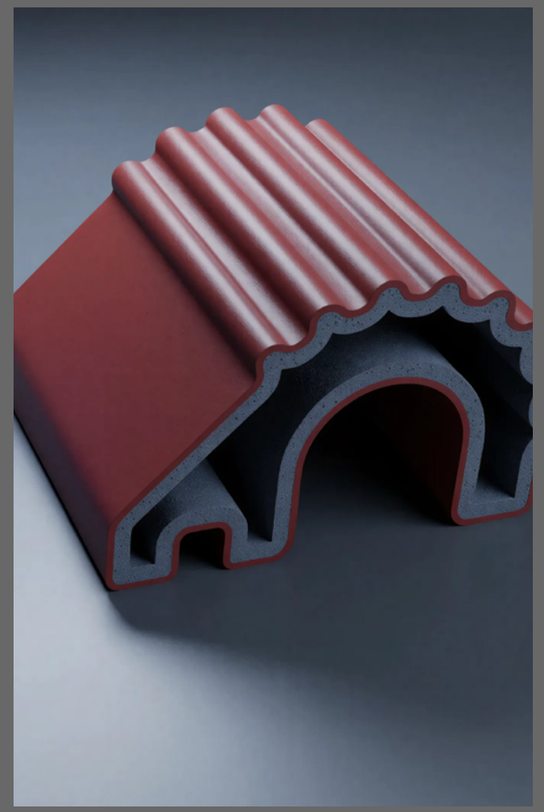
### Moving from PE to PP

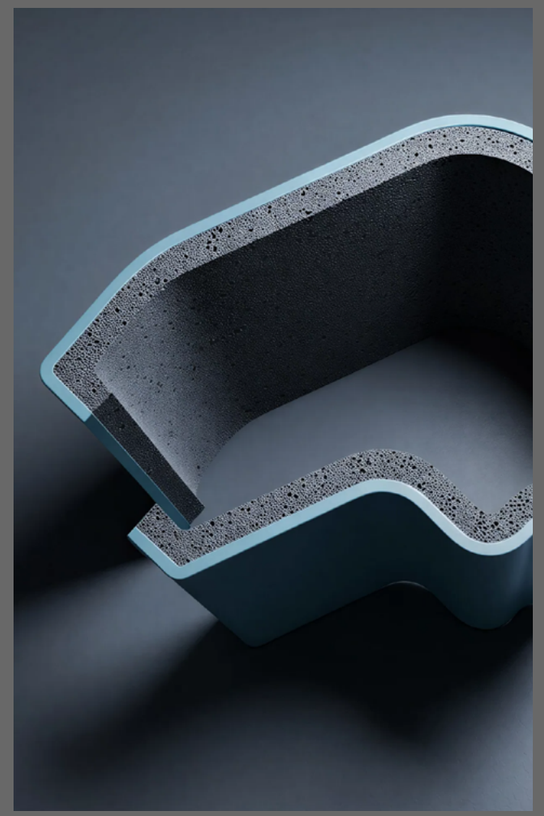
*This was the challenge Matrix Polymers R&D set out to address. Rather than simply refining existing PE foam technology, the objective was to investigate whether polypropylene could provide a fundamentally different performance platform. The attraction of PP was clear: its inherent material behaviour offered the potential to deliver a significantly higher level of stiffness, creating opportunities for lightweight structures capable of meeting more demanding performance requirements.*

*Combined with Matrix Polymers extrusion and powder manufacturing capabilities, the development of a PP-based foam also provided an opportunity to address one of the practical limitations associated with conventional PE foam: predictability during processing. The result is a technology designed not simply around the final properties of the component, but around the realities of the rotational moulding process itself.*

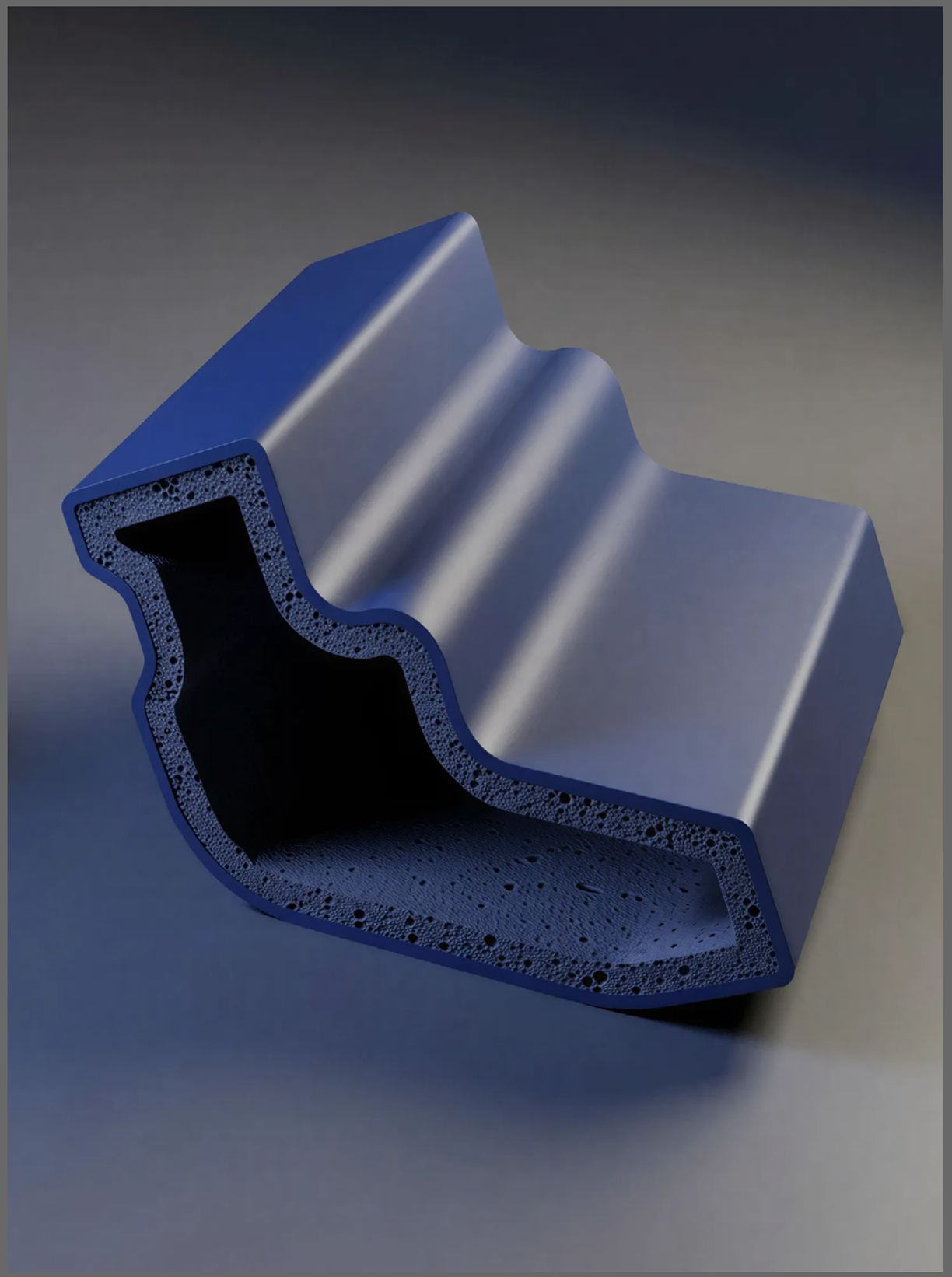
### Greater Predictability in the Mould

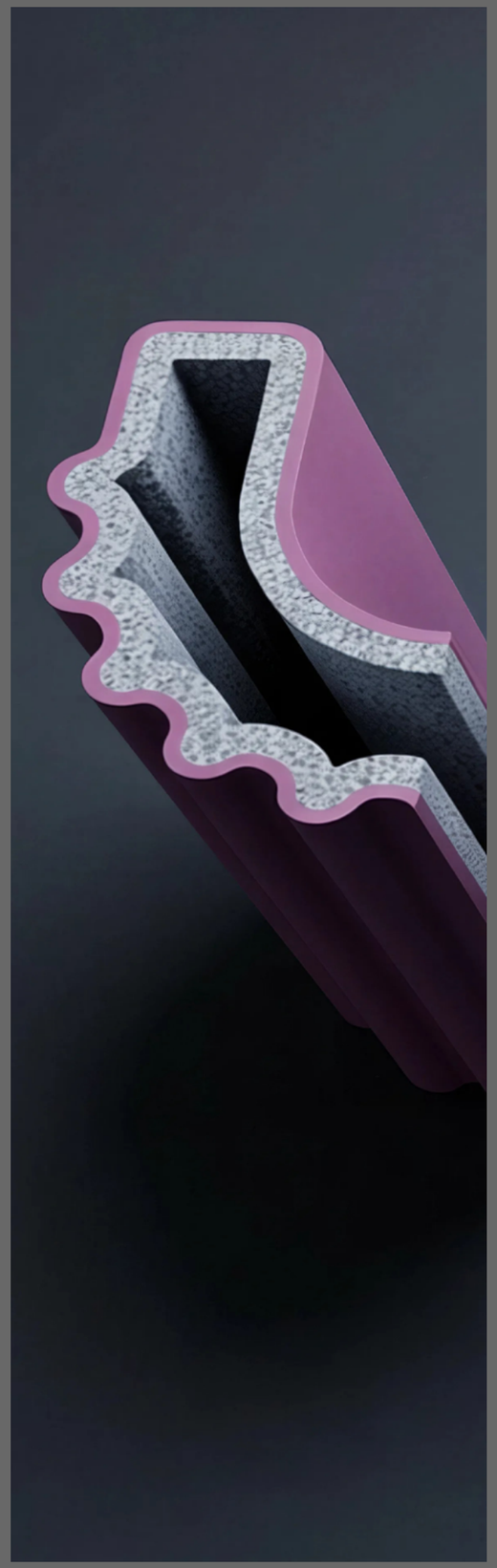
*For any new material technology to succeed in rotational moulding, performance cannot be considered independently of processability. A material may offer impressive mechanical properties, but if achieving those properties consistently requires an extremely narrow processing window, adoption becomes considerably more difficult. PP foam has been developed to provide more predictable behaviour during the rotational moulding cycle.*





“PP foam isn’t simply an evolution of PE foam. It is an enabling technology that could fundamentally expand what rotational moulding can achieve, creating new possibilities for designers, moulders, end users and the industry as a whole.”





*Greater consistency in how the foam develops can give moulders better control over the finished component, helping improve repeatability and product quality while reducing the potential for defects and rejected parts. This is important commercially as well as technically. For moulders, improved consistency can mean less time spent adjusting processing conditions and greater confidence when moving a technology from development into repeat production.*

### More Than Stiffness

*Stiffness was an important driver behind the development of PP foam, but it is not the only potential advantage. Other material properties can also contribute to improved component performance, including increased impact resistance and toughness. This combination becomes particularly interesting when considered alongside the design freedom already associated with rotational moulding.*
*Rotomoulders can manufacture large, hollow and geometrically complex components without many of the constraints associated with alternative manufacturing processes. Introducing a lightweight foam technology with a higher level of structural performance potentially extends that design freedom considerably further.*

### Opening the Door to New Applications

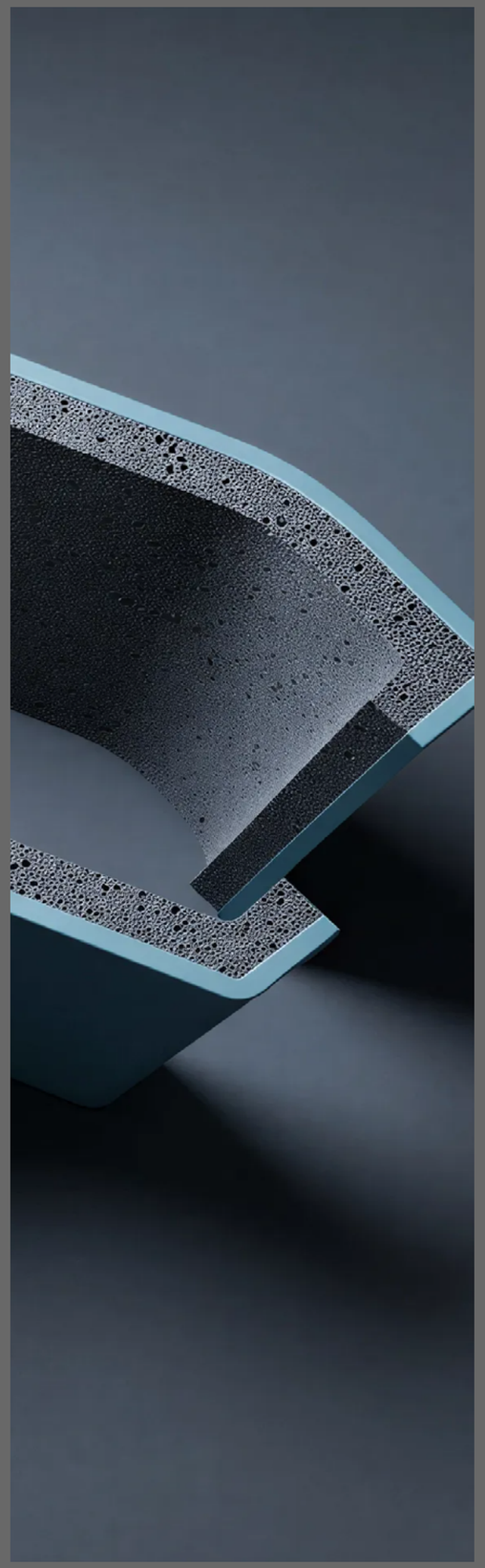
*The significance of PP foam therefore goes beyond improving an existing material. It has the potential to change the types of applications rotational moulders can realistically consider. Where the structural limitations of PE foam may previously have restricted lightweight foam structures largely to established markets such as leisure marine, increased stiffness and toughness create the possibility of exploring applications with more demanding mechanical requirements. That means giving designers greater freedom to reconsider component geometry, wall construction and weight while allowing moulders to approach markets that may previously have been difficult to access using conventional rmaterials. The opportunity is to enable products that may not previously have been considered possible through rotational moulding.*

### Material Innovation Driving Process Innovation

*This distinction is important. PP foam should not be viewed simply as an incremental material enhancement compared with PE foam.*
*It represents an opportunity to combine higher structural performance, improved processing predictability and greater design freedom within a single rotational moulding technology.*
*Realising that potential will require collaboration. Material suppliers need to work alongside moulders to understand processing requirements. Moulders need to work with designers to explore what greater structural performance allows them to achieve. Designers and end users need to identify applications where lightweighting, stiffness, toughness and manufacturing flexibility can deliver genuine value. It is through this interaction between materials, processing, design and application development that new markets can emerge.*

### Expanding What Rotomoulding Can Achieve

*Polyethylene foam has successfully demonstrated the benefits that lightweight multi-layer construction can bring to rotational moulding. PP foam takes that concept further. By elevating stiffness and mechanical performance while delivering more predictable behaviour during processing, the technology has the potential to remove some of the limitations that have historically restricted foam applications. PP foam isn't simply an evolution of PE foam.*
*It is an enabling technology that could fundamentally expand what rotational moulding can achieve, creating new possibilities for designers, moulders, end users and the industry as a whole.*



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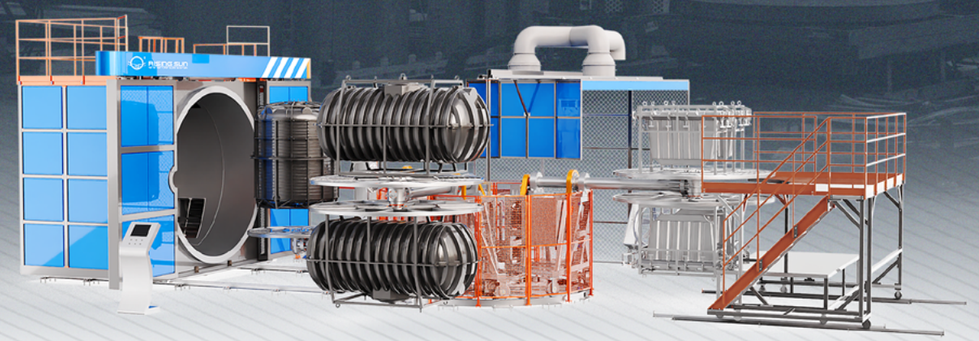


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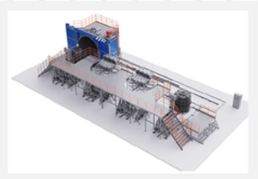
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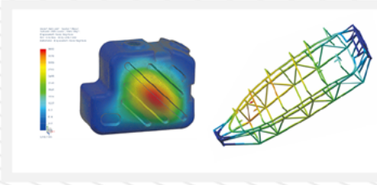
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## 5. Produce Efficiency

## Polymer Link

*Mumbai, India*

# From Recycling to Reinvention

## The Next Chapter of Rotational Moulding





Text by Venkit Mahadevan

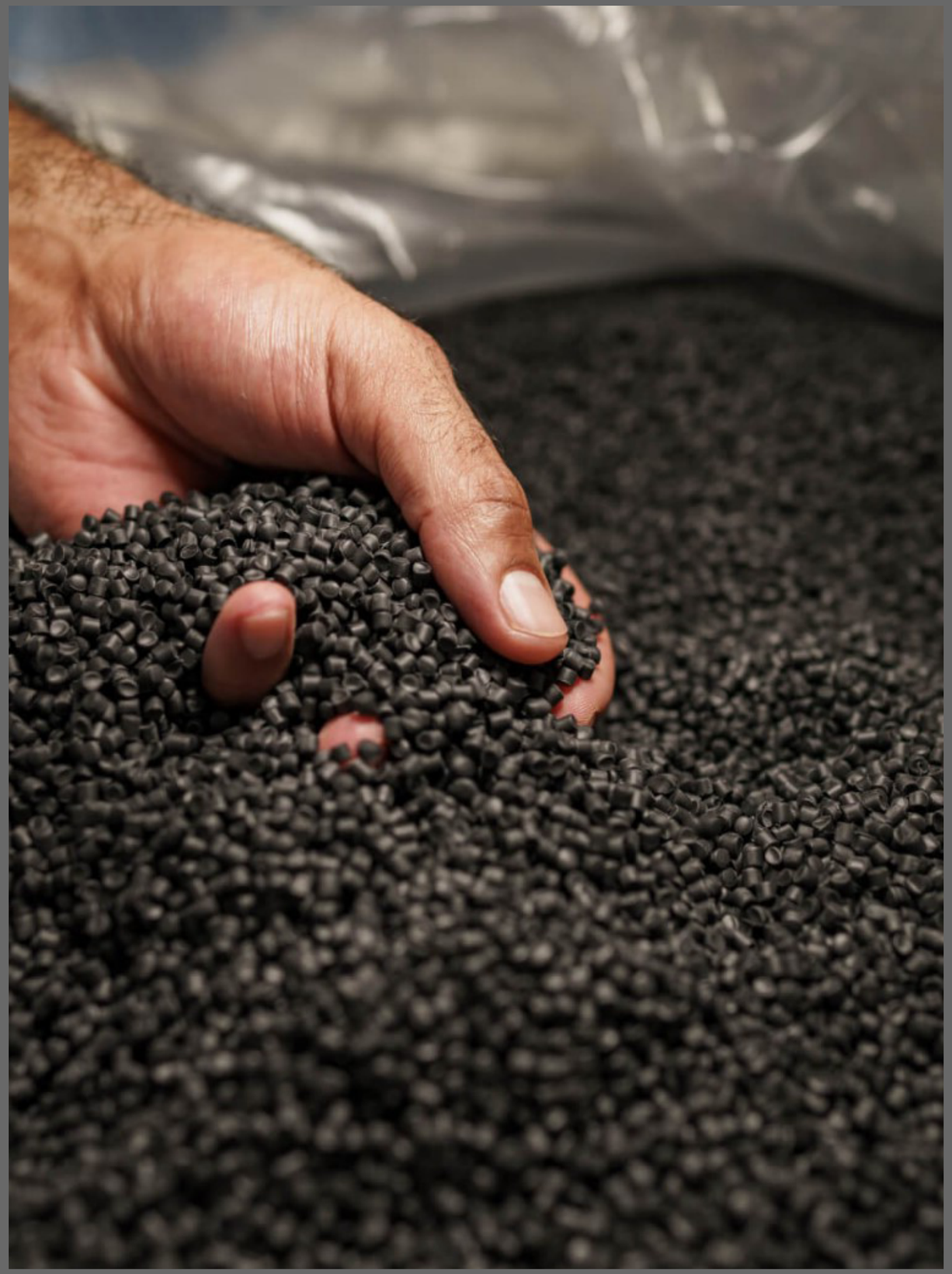
*After about 20 years in the rotational moulding industry, I have seen our business evolve from being primarily focused on producing large hollow plastic products to becoming an increasingly sophisticated technology-driven industry. Today, the conversation is changing again. It is no longer simply about producing a better polymer. It is about asking how we can make materials perform better, use resources more intelligently and think about what happens to them at the end of their useful life. I believe sustainability is now one of the industry's most important opportunities for innovation.*

### The XLPE Challenge

*Crosslinked polyethylene, or XLPE, illustrates this perfectly. Crosslinking gives polyethylene exceptional performance characteristics, making it valuable in demanding applications such as automotive fuel tanks and fluid containment. Our POLYLINK XL-828 combines high strength, low-temperature impact resistance and chemical resistance with a wider processing window, reduced tendency for pock marking, easier part extraction and low odour. It is also validated by TÜV for fuel-tank applications under European regulations. But XLPE presents an important sustainability challenge. The same crosslinking that gives the material its performance also makes conventional remelting and reprocessing difficult. For us, that challenge became an opportunity. Our R&D work has led to a technology that allows us to recover and reuse our own crosslinked material from manufacturing rejects. Following extensive testing and validation, we are now able to reintroduce this recovered material into XLPE or combine it with conventional LLDPE to develop high-performance non-XLPE grades. We are currently working towards scaling this process commercially. This is an important step for us because it moves the conversation from simply asking whether XLPE*







“We have to be realistic about sustainability. A material is not sustainable simply because it contains recycled content. It also has to deliver consistent processing, reliable performance and commercial viability.“



*can be recycled to asking how we can create practical circular pathways for high-performance materials.*

### Sustainability Must Also Mean Performance

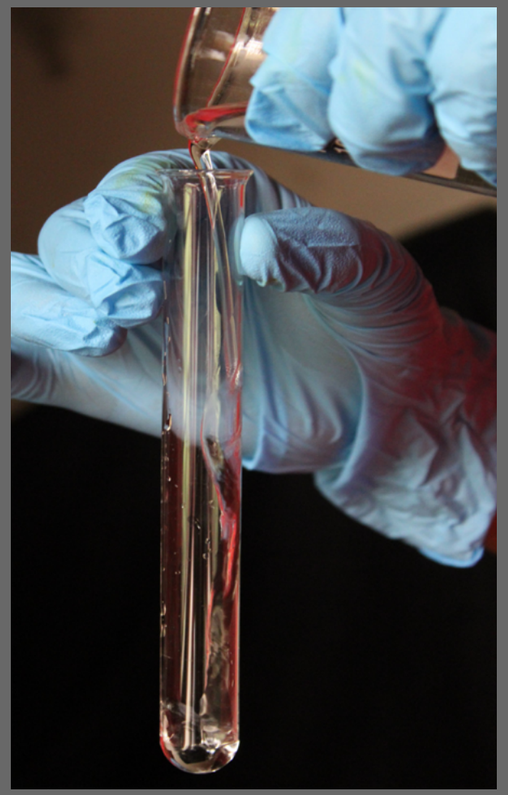
*We have to be realistic about sustainability. A material is not sustainable simply because it contains recycled content. It also has to deliver consistent processing, reliable performance and commercial viability. Across PolymerLink, we are developing this thinking through solutions such as EcoFlex, based on post-industrial recycled LLDPE, PolyCirculo, incorporating post-consumer recycled LLDPE, and BioThene, which introduces renewable content through select natural resource powders, including coconut shell powder, combined with LLDPE. The objective is not to replace performance with sustainability. The objective is to achieve both. That, in my view, is where the next generation of polymer innovation will be won.*

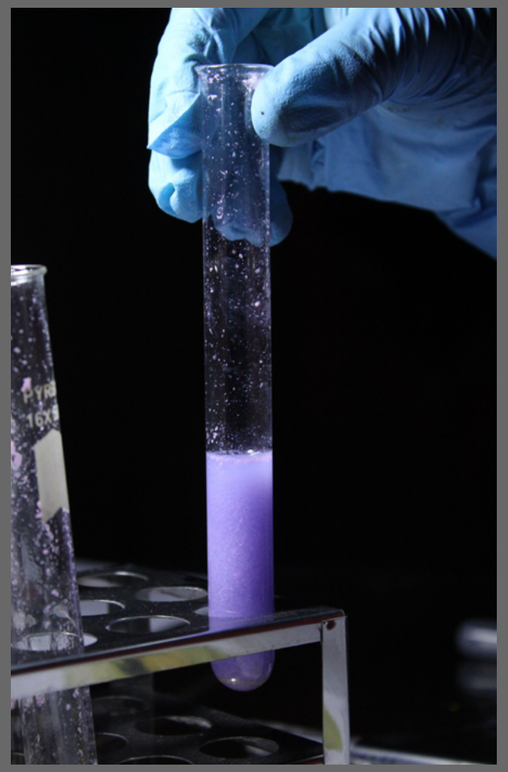
### Beyond Conventional Materials

*Another change I see coming is the move towards materials designed around specific applications rather than the assumption that one material should solve every problem. Products such as PolyFoam and PolyStik are good examples of this shift. PolyFoam introduces controlled foam structures into rotational moulding, creating opportunities to reduce weight while adding cushioning, insulation and new structural possibilities. Depending on the grade, controlled expansion can create significantly different material densities and design options.*

*PolyStik takes polymer technology in another direction, into rotolining, where chemically modified polyethylene can provide tough, durable and chemically resistant linings for pipes, tanks and vessels. I believe these technologies represent something bigger than individual products. They demonstrate how polymer innovation can enable applications that were traditionally addressed through metals, rubber or other manufacturing technologies.*

*The future of rotational moulding will not simply be about making more products. It will be about making products that were previously difficult, inefficient or impossible to manufacture.*





“I don’t see sustainability as a constraint on our industry. I see it as an opportunity to rethink how we formulate materials, design products, manage waste and create value from resources that were previously considered finished.”






## A Global Industry Entering A New Phase

*The rotational moulding industry today is increasingly global, specialised and technically demanding. Automotive, chemical containment, infrastructure, energy and engineered applications are pushing material requirements further than ever before. At the same time, customers are demanding greater consistency, shorter development cycles, better economics and increasingly credible sustainability credentials. This means material suppliers have a different responsibility. We cannot simply supply a polymer and leave the rest to the moulder.*

*We need to understand the application, the process and the challenges on the shop floor. We need to work alongside customers to develop materials that perform consistently in the real world. That is where I believe companies like PolymerLink can make a meaningful difference.*

## The Opportunity Ahead

*I don't see sustainability as a constraint on our industry. I see it as an opportunity to rethink how we formulate materials, design products, manage waste and create value from resources that were previously considered finished. Over the next decade, I expect to see more recycled and renewable content, more specialised formulations, greater use of foam technologies and polymer solutions entering applications traditionally dominated by other materials.*

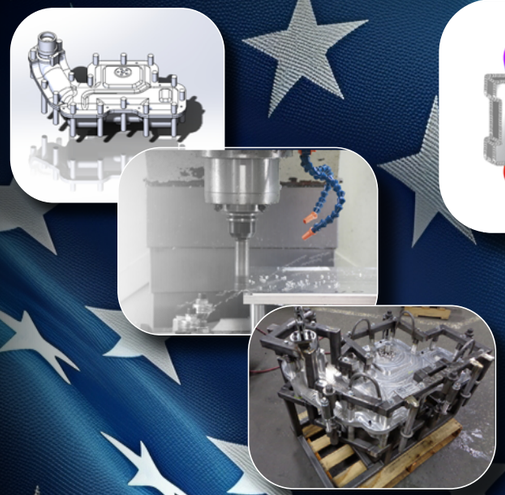
*But perhaps the biggest change will be philosophical. We will increasingly have to think about the whole life of a polymer, not just the first product it creates.*

*After more than two decades in this industry, that is one lesson I would leave with our industry:*

*The future of polymers will not be defined simply by what we can make. It will be defined by how intelligently we make it, how long it performs, and what we can do with it when its first life is over. That is the next chapter of rotational moulding.*



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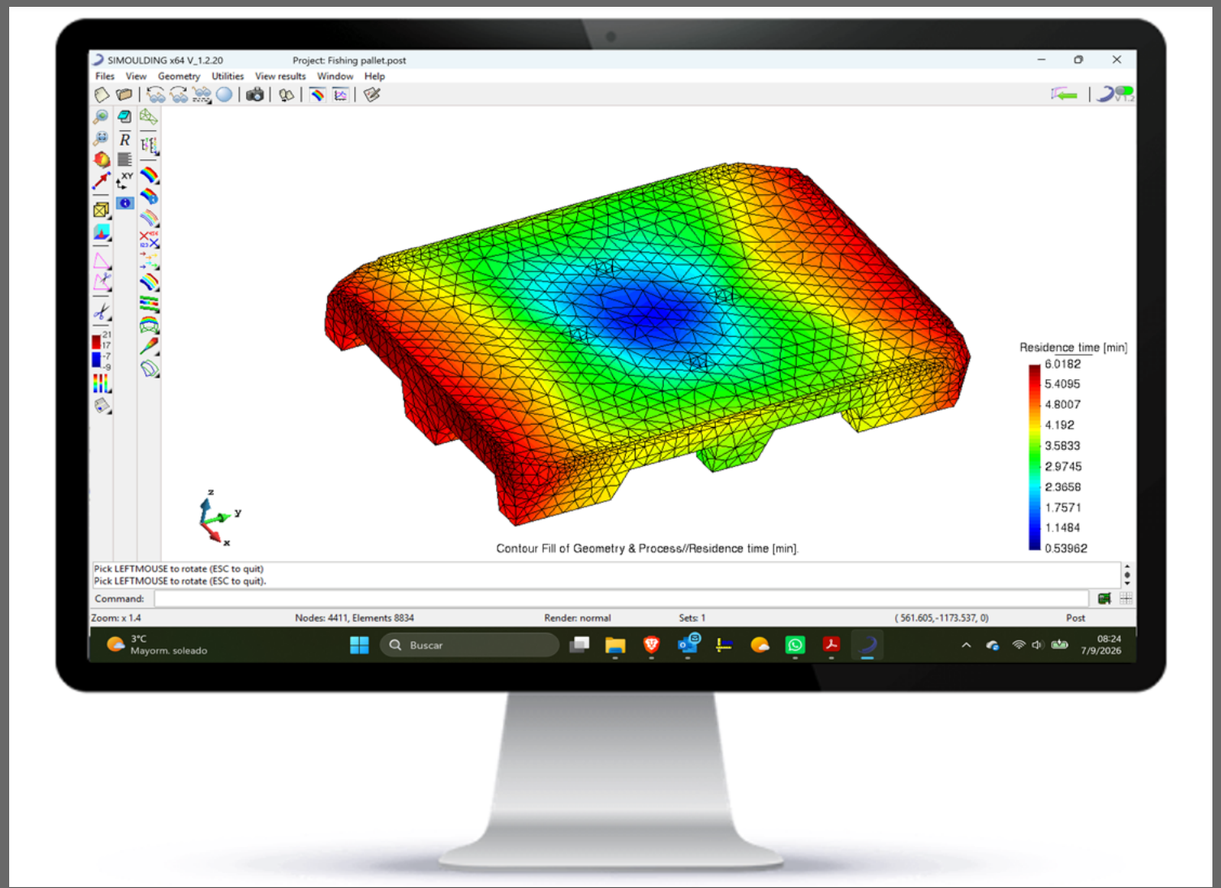
## 6. Constant Innovation

# Simoulding

*Mar del Plata, Argentina*

# Science vs. Empiricism

## The Digital Revolution of Rotomoulding



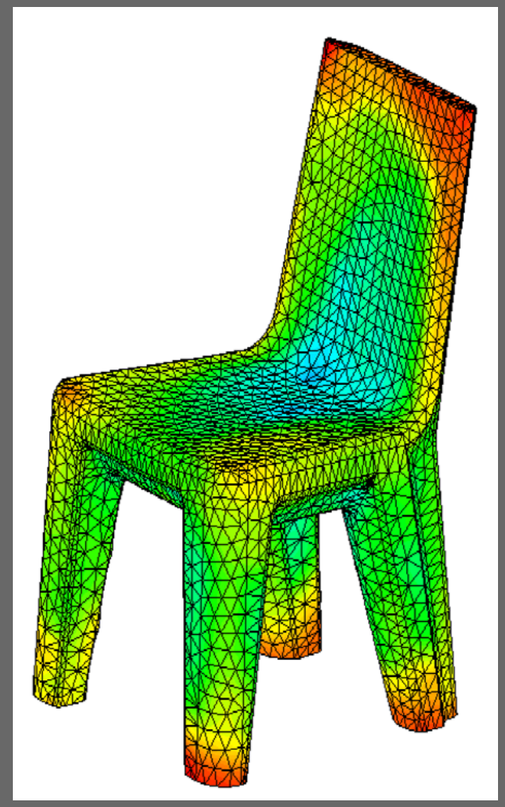



Text by Gareth McDowell and Diego D'Amico

### The New Paradigm of Rotomoulding

*For decades, the rotational moulding industry has carried the stigma of being a predominantly empirical process. While mature processing methods like injection or blow moulding adopted Computer-Aided Engineering (CAE) tools to guarantee manufacturability from the conceptual stage, rotomoulding has not. The absence of external hydrodynamic pressure, combined with the complex interaction of highly transient thermal cycles and the three-dimensional flow of granular media, turned this technology into a "dark art".*

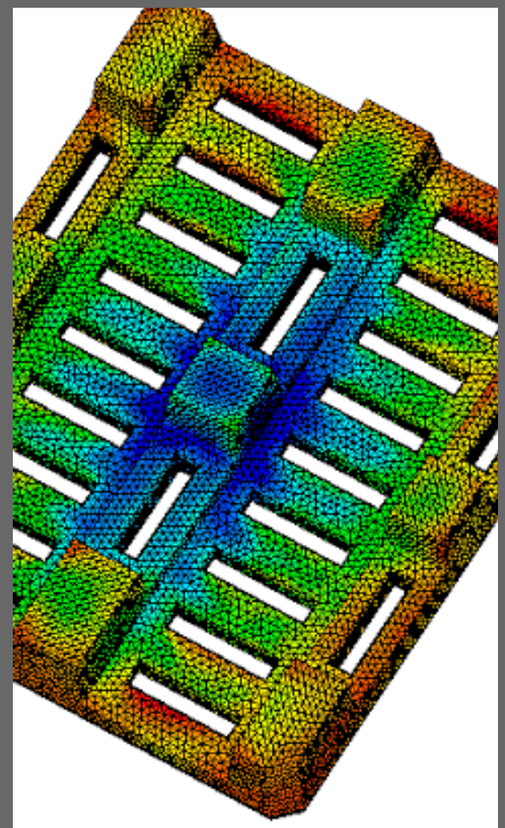
*Traditionally, developing a complex part has required a costly and time consuming path: designing the geometry, building the mould, mounting it on the machine, and running 10s of physical shop-floor trials. Each test involves hours of machine downtime, massive gas and electricity consumption, polymer resin waste, and, in the worst cases, mechanical—and sometimes artisanal—modifications to the tool. If the geometry exhibited thin corners, unwanted material accumulation, or adhesion issues in deep ribs, the only solution was adjusting parameters through trial and error. Simoulding enters the global market to eradicate this intuitive approach and replace it with predictive profitability based on first principles of thermodynamics, granular kinematics, and melt rheology. What previously required weeks of development, multiple mould modifications, and expensive shop-floor trials can now be evaluated and optimised in a matter of minutes on a PC.*

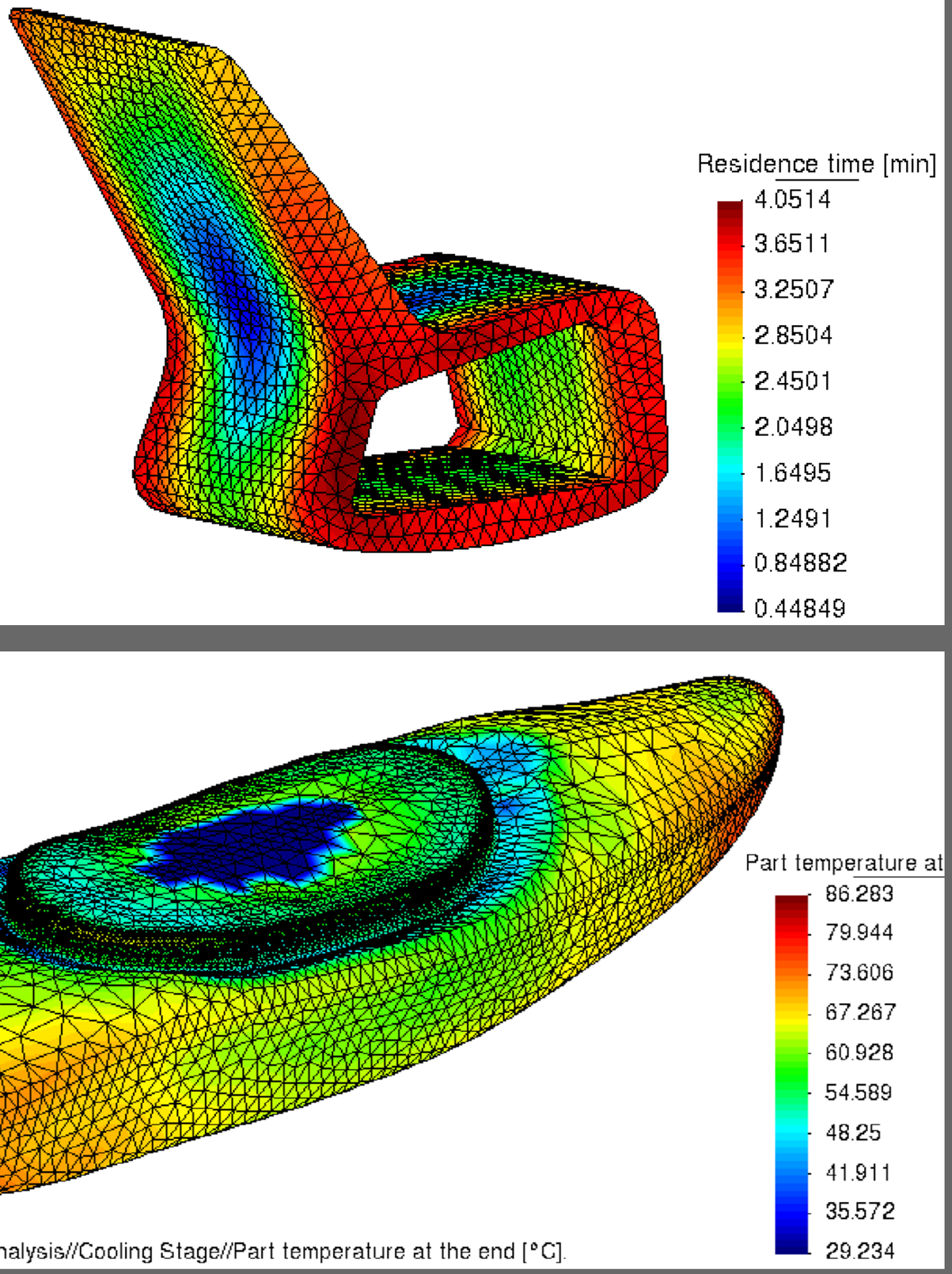


### A Direct Impact on the Value Chain

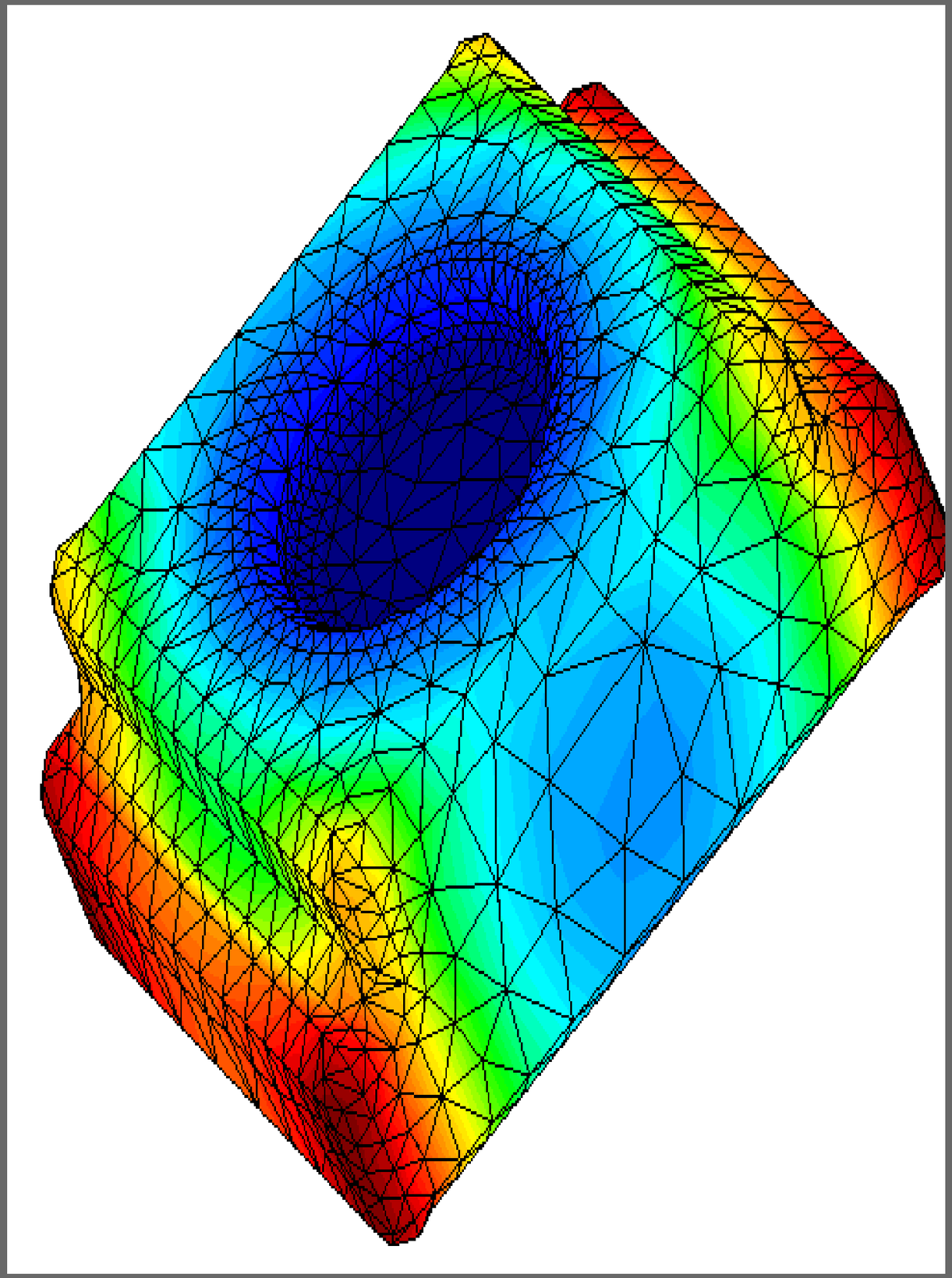
*The true value of Simoulding extends far beyond generating a visually appealing thickness plot: it directly and immediately impacts the profitability of moulders, development engineers, mouldmakers, and resin suppliers. The core sales message is not merely thickness prediction, but transforming the operational workflow by replacing weeks of shop-floor trials with a few hours of virtual simulation. This strategic advantage delivers tangible benefits across the entire industry.*

- *Elimination of shop-floor trials: Avoids running*






**The accuracy of Simoulding lies in its transient multiphysics architecture, which simultaneously couples mass flow and heat transfer without relying on abstract simplifications.**



*between 10s of moulding test cycles on the machine to calibrate a new development.*

*• Drastic reduction in polymer waste: Eliminates resin scrap from failed calibration runs.*

*• Reduced machine downtime: Keeps production lines operational, generating billable parts instead of evaluating prototypes.*

*• Fewer mould modifications: Identifies and corrects geometrical issues before machining or casting the tooling.*

*• Faster time-to-market: Reduces months of development to a few days, launching products in record time.*

*• Confidence in complex geometries: Enables moulders to take on designs with deep ribs, tight angles, or inserts with complete manufacturability confidence.*

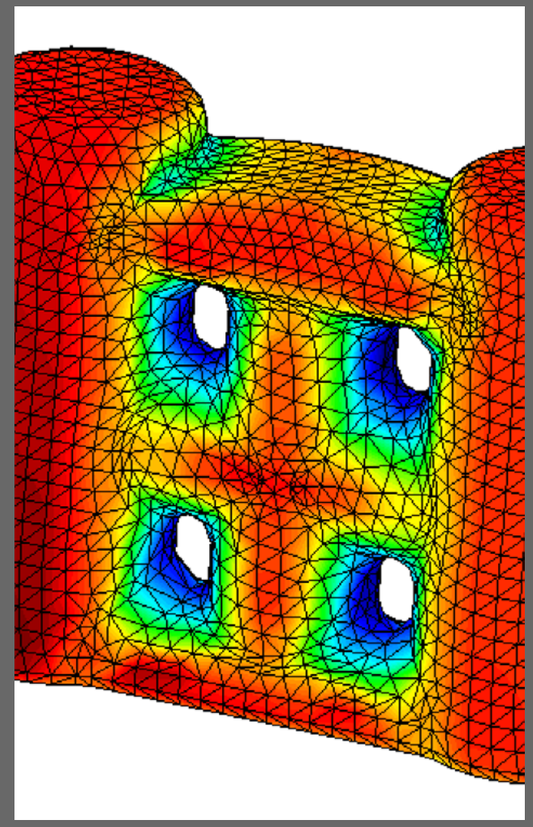
*• Optimised energy consumption: Reduces wasted gas and electricity during experimental heating cycles.*

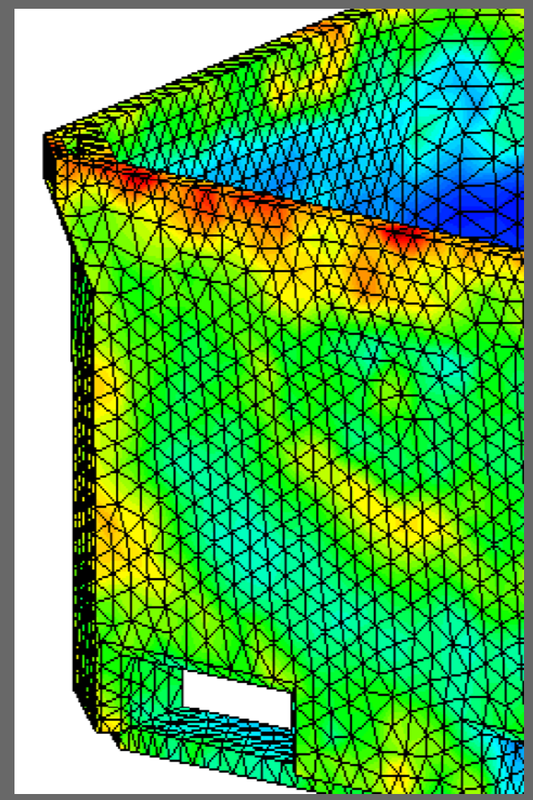
*• Part validation at the CAD stage: Allows designers and engineers to adjust the product when modification costs are practically zero.*

*• Right-first-time tooling: Guarantees mouldmakers deliver fully functional mould tools from their very first physical trial.*

*• Advanced technical support for resins: Enables raw material suppliers to demonstrate the processability of new grades and define ideal processing windows without risking their customers' production lines.*

*• Optimised shot weight: Determines the exact powder charge needed to meet structural part requirements without unnecessary extra weight.*



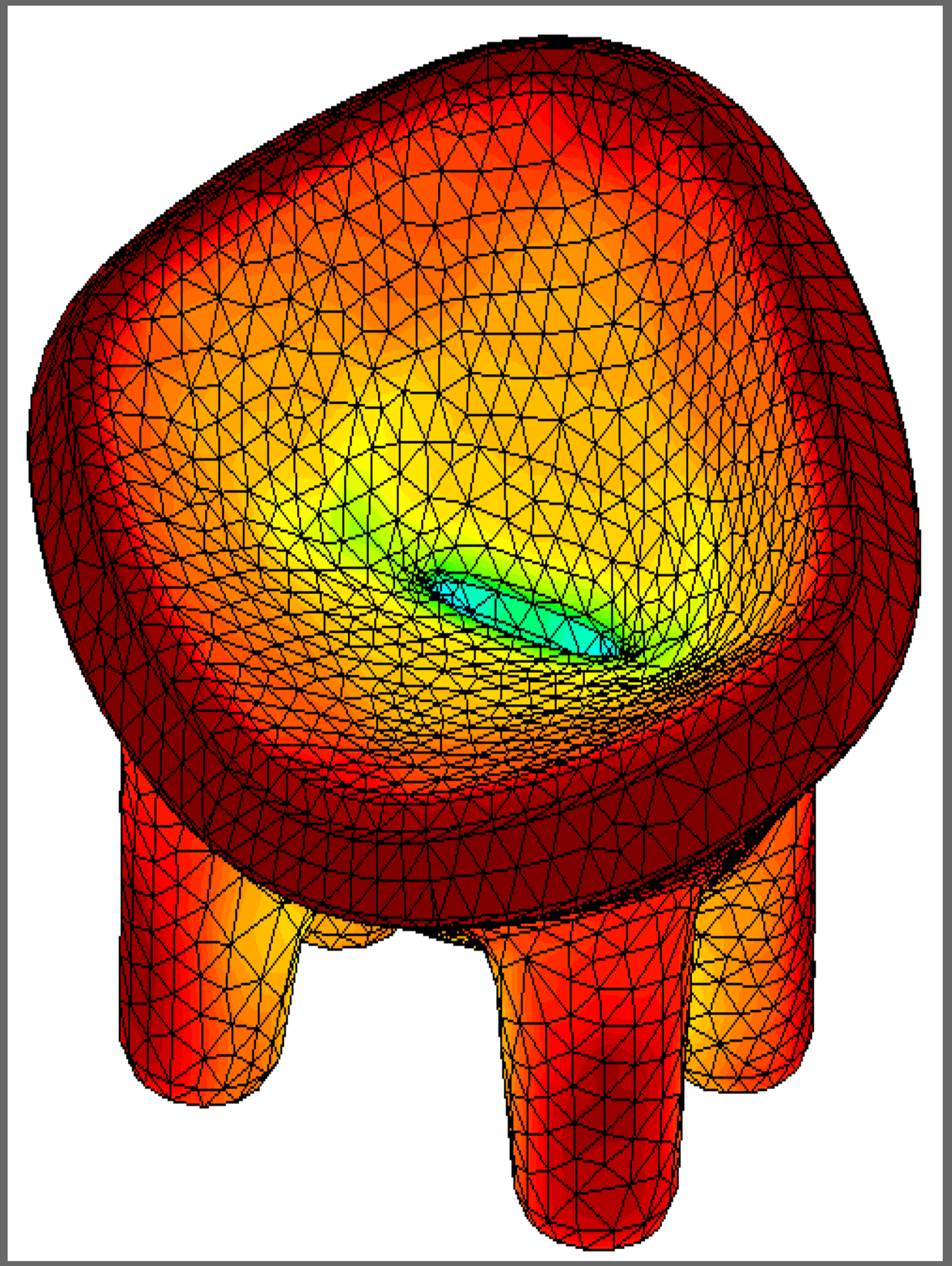


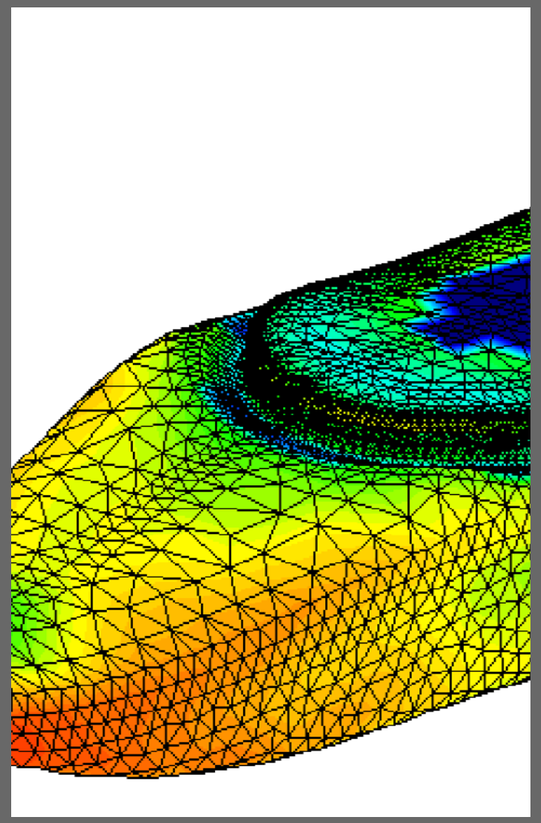
### The Physics Behind the Code: Polymer Rheology and Thermodynamics

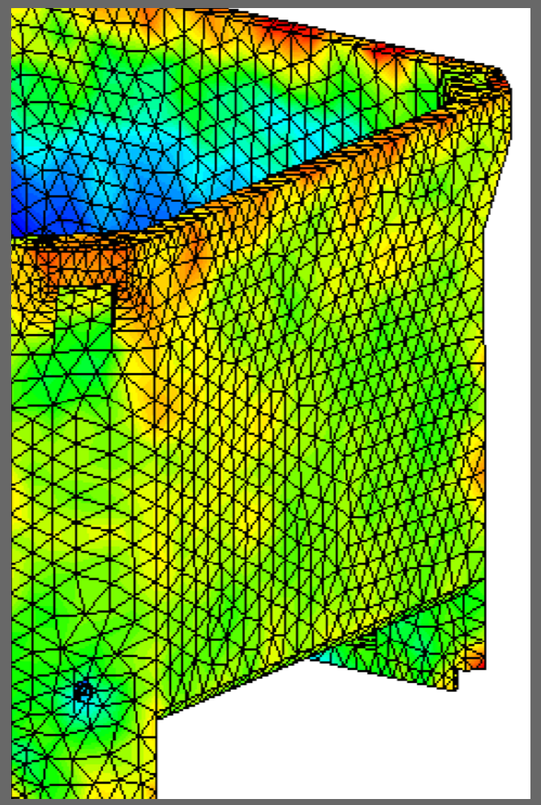
*The accuracy of Simoulding lies in its transient multiphysics architecture, which simultaneously couples mass flow and heat transfer without relying on abstract simplifications. To predict shop-floor reality with scientific fidelity, the calculation engine integrates the fundamental properties of the material and process:*

*• Melt viscosity and layer-by-layer adhesion: Evaluates the progressive accumulation of the polymer, taking into*

Just as no one would consider taking the risk of flying an aircraft without first analysing its design in a flight simulator, an increasing number of plastic product developers, designers, development engineers, mouldmakers, and moulders are turning to modeling and simulation to determine final part characteristics directly from processing conditions.







*account the thermal inertia of the mould, the powder bed, and the melt fluidity based on its Melt Index to determine effective material capture.*

*• Phase transitions and latent heat: Models energy absorption during resin melting, accurately reproducing the thermal sink effect and the characteristic temperature lag observed in the process.*

*• Crystallisation kinetics: Captures heat release during solidification upon cooling, recording the thermal plateau that determines the true cycle time.*

*• Gap formation and thermal resistance: Simulates polymer shrinkage and the formation of the interfacial air cushion, recalculating conductive and radiative heat transfer to prevent numerical subcooling errors.*

### Powder Kinematics and Advanced Thermal Control

*The software models the powder as a free-flowing granular continuous medium, calculating its spatial trajectory in real time under any combination of major axis, minor axis, or Rock-and-Roll kinematics.*

*Furthermore, Slimoulding incorporates a comprehensive suite of technical variables to virtually fine-tune both the mould tool and the process:*

*• Customisable tooling: Allows users to configure different materials (cast aluminium, fabricated steel, sheet metal) and assign varying wall thicknesses across a single mould tool.*

*• Vent pipe modelling: Simulates vent tube geometry to calculate internal air pressure and prevent overpressure or vacuum conditions.*

*• Thermal insulation and shading: Enables the application of insulating masks or shields to restrict heat transfer in areas prone to excessive mass build-up.*

*• Pre-heating zones: Models the thermal impact of pre-heating critical areas of the mould before starting the heating cycle.*

*• Venturi systems: Evaluates the use of air amplifiers to accelerate heating via forced convection in deep cavities or restrictive ribs.*



### Ultra-Fast Simulation and Data Versatility

*One of the major barriers to industrial simulation has been operational complexity and long computation times. Slimoulding was conceived from its core architecture as an agile tool for daily engineering work:*

*• Direct CAD import: Accepts standard formats (.STEP, .IGES, .SAT) and meshes (.STL, surface, and volumetric meshes) without complex conversions.*

*• 100% editable polymer database: Includes 10 pre-loaded materials (MDPE, LDPE, LLDPE, HDPE, XLPE, PP, NY12, EVA, PC) and the User Material module to input custom data sheets for any resin on the market.*

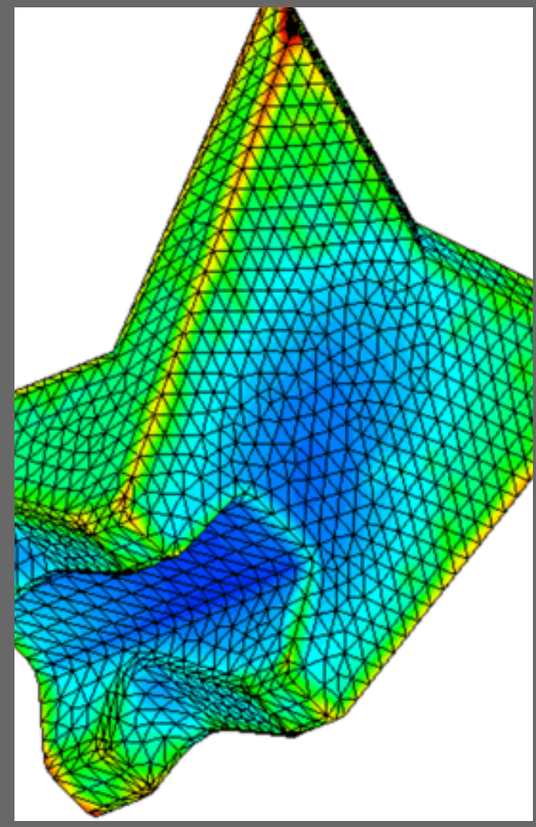
*• Record computation times: Resolves high-precision simulations in just 10 minutes on a standard desktop or laptop PC with Windows 10 or higher.*

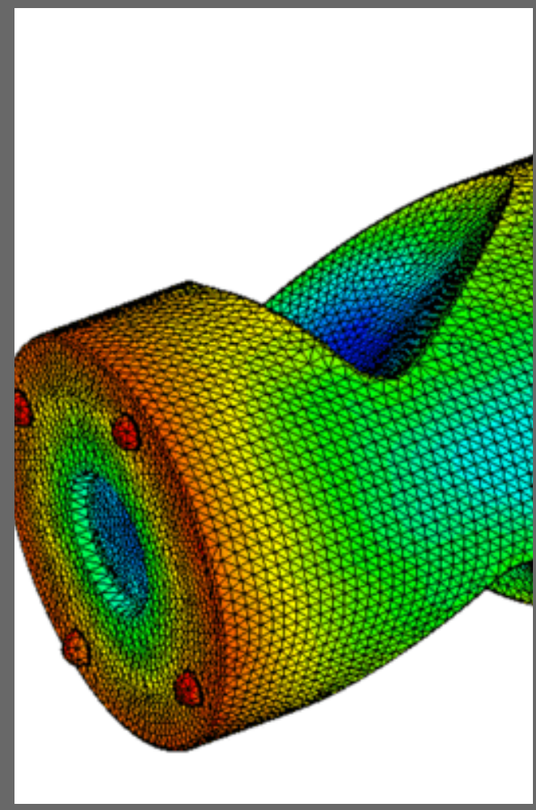
### Structural Validation with FEA

*Assuming a uniform wall thickness in the structural design of rotomoulded parts is one of the most common errors in conventional engineering. In practice, process kinematics and thermal variations generate thickness deviations of up to 25% relative to the nominal design value.*
*Running a Finite Element Analysis (FEA) on a constant-thickness CAD model creates a false sense of security. This idealized approach overlooks critical stress concentrations in areas that actually turn out thinner during manufacturing, increasing the risk of in-service failure.*

### The Standard of Digital Engineering in Rotomoulding

*Just as no one would consider taking the risk of flying an aircraft without first analysing its design in a flight simulator, an increasing number of plastic product developers, designers, development engineers, mouldmakers, and moulders are turning to modeling and simulation to determine final part characteristics directly from processing conditions. This significantly reduces risk during the new product development lifecycle—lowering costs, drastically cutting energy consumption, and delivering a far faster, more efficient process. New technologies are well within the industry's reach: there are no longer any excuses for relying on trial and error.*





# 7. News

## ARMO

*Affiliation of Rotational Moulding Organisations*

## From the Rotational World



*www.armo-global.org*



### Rotoplas 2026 Preview
### A Review of Graphene Enhanced Rotational Moulding Materials

*During Rotoplas 2026, Mark Willey of Asbury Advanced Materials will host a workshop showcasing the potential of graphene in rotational molding. his workshop will examine the effects of incorporating Asbury Advanced Materials' (AAM) edge functionalized graphene (EFG) into rotational molding resins to enhance a broad range of material properties. Experimental data will be presented demonstrating the influence of EFG on common polymers such as linear low density polyethylene (LLDPE) and high density polyethylene (HDPE).*
*www.rotoplas.org*



### Rotoplas 2026 Preview
### New high-performance resins for rotomoulding

*ExxonMobil Technology and Engineering's Xiaodan Zhang will introduce a new high-performance rotational molding resin.*
*ExxonMobil Exceed™ 4536.UV12 is a newly developed commercial rotational moulding grade that offers a broader processing window and enables curing at lower temperatures compared with conventional C6LL resins. This study presents a comprehensive evaluation of ExxonMobil Exceed™ 4536.UV12, including performance comparisons against existing solutions, improvements in processing efficiency, and overall end-use performance.*
*www.rotoplas.org*



# 8. International Events

## ARMO

*Affiliation of Rotational Moulding Organisations*

# Calendar



*www.armo-global.org*



### RotoTour 2026 Canada

**November 3 - 19, 2026**

*Since 2005, ARMA's Rototour has provided exclusive behind-the-scenes access to the global rotational molding industry, bringing together manufacturers, suppliers, and industry leaders from around the world for a truly unique experience. In 2026, Rototour heads to Canada for what promises to be one of the most exciting Rototours ever.*
*www.rotationalmoulding.com*




### Rotoplas 2026

**New Orleans, LA, USA , November 17-19, 2026**

*Rotoplas is the largest exposition for the rotational molding industry, offering the latest in advanced technology, products, services and innovative parts made specifically for the rotomolding process. Rotoplas brings together manufacturers, suppliers, designers, engineers, and researchers to exchange innovative ideas in all aspects of rotational molding.*
*www.rotoplas.org*




### ARMO General Conference

**Baveno, Italy  Sep 26 - Sep 28, 2027**

*ARMO is pleased to announce that its next general conference will be held in Baveno, northern Italy, from September 26 to 28, 2027.*
*"Supply. Demand. Adaptation. Repetition." will be the central theme of the next conference, a unique opportunity to meet colleagues, share experiences, and develop an adaptation plan.*
*www.armo2027.com*



# 9. Affiliates

AFR - Association Francophone du Rotomoulage www.rotomoulage.org

ARM - Association of Rotational Molders www. rotomolding.org

ARMA - Association of Rotational Moulders Australasia www.rotationalmoulding.com

ANIPAC - The Mexican Plastic Association www.anipac.org.mx

ARMSA - Association of Rotational Moulders Southern Africa www.armsa.co.za

ARM-CE - Association of Rotational Moulders Central Europe www.rotational-moulding.de

StAR - Society of Asian Rotomoulders www.starasia.org

Nordic ARM - Nordic Association of Rotational Moulders www.nordicarm.org

BPF - Rotational Moulders Group www.bpf.co.uk

IT-RO - Italia Rotazionale www.it-ro.it

RPC-CPPIA www.crotomolding.com

Rotopol Association www.rotopol.pl

ARMO

*www.armo-global.org*



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