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Recycled plastics: Strategic solution to non-oil feedstock



Italian show to showcase Made-in-Europe machinery

During a press preview organised early this year, officials spoke to journalists about the 20th edition of Plast 2026, scheduled for 9-12 June at Fiera Milano, Italy; with factory visits to machinery companies such as Luigi Bandera, Moretto and BMB.

Plast sees growth with new exhibitors

The Milan-based event, said to be Europe's premier trade fair of the year for the plastics and rubber sector, and the second largest after the mammoth Germany-held K show, has demonstrated its resilience with the participation of around 200 new exhibitors, compared to the previous edition, 30% of whom are international companies, said officials from organiser **Promoplast** speaking at the press preview.

This, the officials added, is a particular significance "in a decidedly complex market context", especially since sectors like automotive are undergoing a phase of transformation and adapting to current global dynamics.

"Hence, the ability to attract new exhibitors in this scenario confirms the solidity and international appeal of Plast and underlines the sector's growing confidence in the Milan event as a reference platform for presenting innovations and developing commercial partnerships," said Mario Maggiani, Managing Director of Promoplast.

Meanwhile, Alessio Fineo, Plast Exhibition Manager, said the exhibition aims to significantly increase the presence of international visitors, with delegations coming from Middle East, Africa and Asia, organised in collaboration with ICE (a government body responsible for promoting Italian companies) and strategic

agreements with trade associations, both within the sector and target markets.

Furthermore, Gabriele Caccia, Vice-President of machinery association **Amaplast**, said the "Made-in-Europe" machinery segment is characterised by a strong export orientation towards emerging markets with growing investment propensity, and maintains a strategic role in the global scenario.

The show will have a participation of more than 1,000 exhibitors and expects visitors from 120 countries.

Bandera to promote new business unit

At Plast, extrusion machinery maker **Luigi Bandera**, located in Busto Arsizio (Varese), will present a new business unit on coating and lamination, the expansion of its service and spare parts program, water-soluble PVOH/PVA film and 100% PA vacuum film. It will also showcase flat-die membranes and geomembranes as well as technical sheets in ABS, PMME and PC.

The new coating and laminating business will highlight Alphacoat, which is targeted at liquid packaging, aseptic packaging, paper disposable products and packaging, aluminium packaging, and film packaging.

Furthermore, the company will introduce its ANY MA Line Supervision, said to be an intelligent and



At the press conference, officials pointed out that Italian machinery exports increased to Asia over the 2024/2025 period



Massimo Santini, Sales/Marketing Director of Bandera, outlined the company's plans for AI with a three-phase programme

modular system for managing the entire machine and peripherals, which is developed in-house by Bandera. It can be updated remotely,

reducing commissioning and troubleshooting times, said Massimo Santini, Sales/Marketing Director.

With EUR20 million invested in R&D over the last five years, the company is also focusing on AI and presented a roadmap, which includes three phases. In the first phase human error is eliminated with AI acting as a quality control guardian. Specialised cameras are strategically positioned at the winder and images are captured and passed to the AI in real-time, detecting anomalies instantly and ensuring no oversight.

In the second phase, the system evolves and will identify exactly why a defect has occurred, correlating the defect with active machine data, and provide specific parameters to operators to adjust plant set-up.

The final step aims to have a self-adjusting machine that closes the loop to ensure zero-waste production without human intervention. The machine will continuously detect any process defect, diagnose underlying causes and autonomously adjust parameters to correct the process.

BMB: focus on technical, high-speed machinery

Brescia-based injection moulding machinery manufacturer **BMB SpA** has a history that dates back almost 60 years ago having been established in 1967 by Egidio Bugatti as a small mechanical workshop, now with his son Marco Bugatti having come into the picture to take it to the international market.



Egidio Bugatti started BMB and his son Marco Bugatti has taken the company to international markets

Ensclosed in the heart of the metalworking district in north Italy, with foundries, die casting and forging available in the area, BMB is able to source castings, metal fabrications, and iron/steel components for its machinery locally, allowing for lead-time management and quality control and cutting on costs of transportation, said Marco.

The family-owned business has chosen to stay mid-sized, with a production of 400 machines/year in the range of 100-4,800 tonnes of hybrid/electric types, and is customer-focused, according to Sales Director Lucio Strappazzon.



Sales Director Lucio Strappazzon says BMB remains focused on customer needs and technical aspects of machines

“We do not want to compete with Asian machinery in terms of pricing or the number of machines produced, but focus more on the technical designs of machines,” he added.

At the Plast show, it will display the eKW45HP/3450WP hybrid model tailored for high-productivity packaging and medical applications, such as a 30 ml cup production. It ensures consistent output, high speed, and operational stability.

It will also display the full electric, cleanroom-ready eKW20Pi/700 machine for food packaging, while for caps/closures, a standard business for BMB, it will display the eKW38Pi/2200 that offers energy savings and optimised cycle times, for high-volume production with reduced operational costs.

The third presentation will be another hybrid machine, eKW28Pi/1300, designed for food packaging and high-speed injection applications.

At the core of the machines is the iQ-pump technology, a hydraulic system that adjusts power output according to cycle requirements, with 15-20% reduction in energy consumption, lowering operational costs while maintaining optimal performance, says BMB.

Meanwhile, the self-lubricating pneumatic guides minimise the need for lubrication, reducing maintenance requirements and allow for a cleaner mould area, while user interaction is optimised through an advanced interface.

The new clamping unit design in the KW series also improves mould parallelism by reducing the distance between the moving plate and mould centre, supporting higher precision and accommodating large multi-cavity moulds.

BMB also offers flexible configurations for the electric and hybrid models for high-speed production.

Moretto on the move with technology

Manufacturer of auxiliary equipment **Moretto SpA**, located in Massanzago (Padua), will have a range of machinery on display at Plast 2026 in the segments of dehumidification, gravimetric dosing and material traceability, based on the factors of high performance requirements and sustainability criteria.

In the area of recycling technology, Moretto will present:

- Hyper Cut, an open-rotor, low-speed grinder for various types of production waste, such as waste, sprues, and blown parts
- MPK crystalliser for amorphous materials, with adjustable blades and openable cone
- DGM Gravix Maxi gravimetric batch blender for rPET bottle flakes



Moretto has remained family-owned over the past 45 years, with Mr and Mrs Moretto staying involved in the business

Meanwhile, in a move towards enhancing quality assurance, Moretto is resorting to in-house production of equipment components, reducing reliance on suppliers and minimising supply chain risks. The company says each component in the factory is traceable through a comprehensive Management Information System (MIS).



At Plast, Moretto will showcase its HyperCut open-rotor, low-speed grinder for various types of production wast

The company, which celebrated its 45 years in business last year, has also invested in around 20 automatic warehouse systems to enhance both storage and component traceability, with plans underway for a new plant spanning 13,000 sq m.

More recently, it has launched the Moretto in Motion 2026 tour, a roadshow that brings machines directly to customers' premises

in Italy and Europe. The machines are located in a converted bus, with live presentations, operational simulations, touch screen totems, and customised advice available on hand.

Speaking to journalists at the press event, Renato Moretto, President/Founder, said that the company is looking at expanding its market reach and last year opened a branch in Mexico, in Querétaro, to be closer to the local market, providing support and service to customers .

It has also set its eyes on the Chinese market, where it has had a sales office in Shanghai since 2017.

"It is lively, huge market that cannot be neglected. We are looking at setting up a spare parts/service centre and have started infrastructure work. But we are not going to produce our equipment in China," he affirmed.

The company has sales offices in Germany, Eastern Europe, Turkey, Brazil, US, Mexico, Russia, India, and China, and a presence in more than 70 countries.



The company has recently set in motion its travelling bus that brings machines directly to customers' premises in Italy and Europe