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Plast progress: Italian show reaches 20th edition

The Plast 2026 show in Milan in June will offer opportunity amid market challenges, the exhibition organisers said at an event for media in Italy recently. By David Eldridge

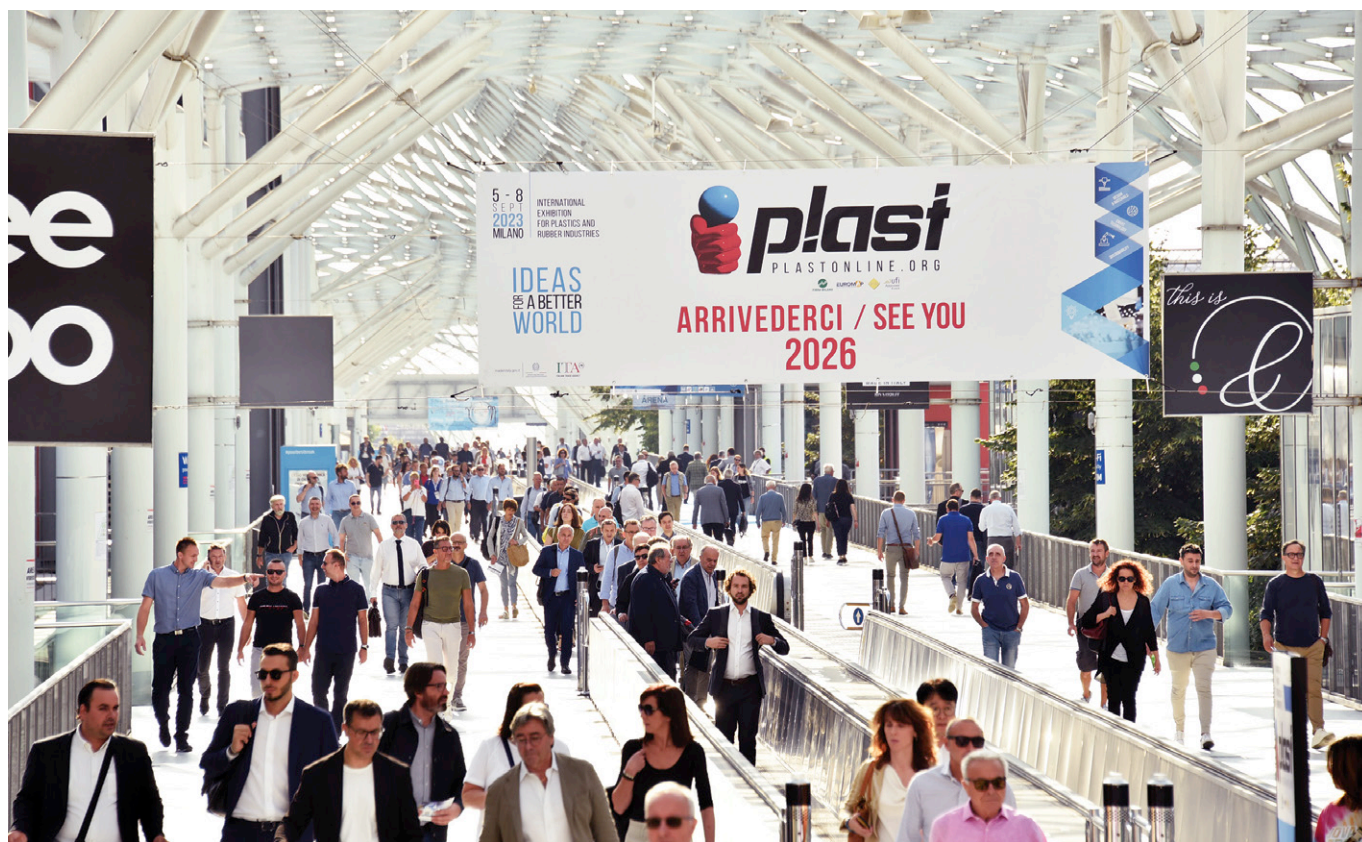


IMAGE: PROMOPLAST

Main image: Plast last took place in 2023 and is expected to attract visitors from around the world in 2026

The Plast exhibition returns on 9 to 12 June at Fiera Milano, Rho, to once again become the showcase to the world for Italy's plastics and rubber industry. This is the 20th edition of Plast, indicating the ability of the long-established event to promote the Italian industry as a destination for foreign investment and as a leading exporter of machinery and materials.

Plast editions have mostly taken place in a three-year cycle, apart for occasional unavoidable interruptions, for example during the Covid pandemic. The event has continued to adapt and evolve, thanks to the efforts of the organiser Promaplast to maintain interest by introducing new features for visitors to the show, and create new events in the cycle, such as GreenPlast in 2025.

As in 2023, Plast will take place this year with three satellite shows – Rubber, 3D Plast (3D printing and additive technologies) and PlastMat (focusing on materials innovation) – altogether occupying six halls of eight at MaTec. The MaTec project brings together Plast with two other manufacturing shows: Composites Future and Xylexpo (wood and furniture technologies).

International profile

At the first of a series of press events in Italy in February, a group of international journalists heard comments from the Plast team led by Mario Maggiani, CEO of Promaplast, which is owned by Amaplast, the Italian Plastics and Rubber Processing Machinery and Mould Manufacturers Association.

Gabriele Caccia, Vice-President of Amaplast, spoke of the international profile of the Plast event, claiming it to be the second most important plastics trade fair in Europe after the K Show. Plast 2026 is taking place against a background of market challenges and geopolitical uncertainty which has made companies reluctant to invest in new technologies, he said. "We consider Plast 2026 to be a unique opportunity to give new life to markets that have been decreasing," he said.

Research by Amaplas on Italian exports of plastics and rubber machinery in 2025 showed a mixed picture. There were reductions in exports to nearly all geographical regions, with the exception of Asia/Oceania, where exports were 8.7% higher, driven primarily by China and India.

In the face of the headwinds affecting the global plastics market, Promaplast is nonetheless hopeful about Plast 2026. Alessio Fineo, Plast Exhibition Manager, said 800 exhibitors had registered by 31 January, a figure which is expected to exceed 1,000 when all companies represented by these exhibitors are added into the total. This is a similar number as at Plast 2023, he said, adding that although the 2026 show has lost a few exhibitors, there are approximately 160 companies that are new Plast exhibitors. Exhibitors from China have increased by about 10%.

Visitor expectations

Promaplast is expecting Plast 2026 to receive visitors from 120 countries. It has been promoting the event around the world and has the Italian Trade Agency as its partner seeking buyer delegations. Fineo said that this is expected to lead to attendance by "high quality visitors", meaning those who have plans to buy. Mario Maggiani made the observation that the K2025 show did not experience an increase in total visitors but there was a belief in the high quality of visitors that did attend.

Packaging is a plastics market that is doing quite well in Italy, said Maggiani. Suppliers that are showing resilience include mould manufacturers (although not those serving the pressurised automotive sector) and ancillary equipment companies, he said.

The press tour that followed the event in February covered a couple of key Italian machinery manufacturers, including ancillaries group **Moretto**. A highlight of the visit to Moretto's headquarters in Massanzago, Padua was an expanded production area which recently finished construction. The expanded hall has a total area of 13,000 m², functionally integrated with the other existing facilities, optimising industrial planning and



improving the ability to respond to customer requests, says the company.

Stationed in the hall was a specially-adapted truck being used in the Moretto in Motion 2026 tour, a roadshow that brings the company's advanced technologies for the plastics processing industry directly to customers' premises. This tour began with a series of events in Italy, plus several cities in other European countries also on the itinerary.

At the Massanzago facility, customers can see Moretto's large portfolio of equipment, from dryers, to blenders to granulators, at the company's Multifunctional Showroom. Journalists were shown round the showroom by Renato Moretto, Chairman and Founder, and Mirco Panizzon, Head of Sales.

Ancillary interest

Among the products Moretto will exhibit at Plast 2026 is the X Comb series of mini dryers which has been expanded with the new XC19 model, suitable for production rates up to 60 kg/h. Panizzon described it as "compact but packed with technology". The XC19 - which has a footprint of 0.56 m² - features Honeycomb technology in 100% Zeolite with superior absorbent capacity, the OTX hopper and the Hyper Flow turbo compressors with variable flow, which lead to a consistent process and high energy efficiency.

Panizzon also highlighted Moretto's Hyper Cut high productivity grinder, with capacity up to 1,200 kg/h. This is a versatile granulator that can be used in injection moulding, extrusion, blow moulding and thermoforming. The flexible rotor design allows the cutting elements to be set to process any type of waste pieces, which Moretto says ensures high performance in all conditions, with benefits in terms of productivity, regrind quality, reduced noise impact and absence of dust.

At Plast 2026, Moretto will demonstrate ancillary

Above: Mirco Panizzon, Head of Sales at Moretto presenting the Hyper Cut granulator. Behind him is Renato Moretto, Chairman

equipment with injection moulding machines, for live working with customers, said Panizzon. Included in this will be One Wire X Plus, an “intelligent” conveying system which implements the exclusive Krono technology. One Wire X Plus is equipped with artificial intelligence and doesn’t need to be programmed as it is adaptive. KruseiKontrol is integrated as standard, completing the conveying system with a dynamic granule speed control tool.

DGM Gravix Maxi is the Moretto gravimetric batch blender for rPET bottle flakes. The company says recycling plays a fundamental role in the future of the plastics industry.

Answering questions after the factory tour, Renato Moretto highlighted the company’s expansive strategy. In 2025, it opened a Mexico branch in Querétaro, adding to its presence in over 70 countries around the world. The importance of the Mexican market is such that the company is “not excluding” the possibility of establishing production there, he said. Another important plastics market is China, and he said the company is keeping an eye on market developments there too.

At Plast 2026, extrusion machinery group **Bandera** will exhibit its technology for film produc-

tion and recycling. Demonstrations will include its High Vented Twin Screw Extruder technology, said Massimo Santini, Sales Director, during the press visit to the group’s headquarters in Busto Arsizio. A new Coating and Laminating business unit will be presented at the expo. The company said a major focus at Plast will be its developments in service and spare parts.

Digital advances

Bandera will present its Digital Evolution 2026 program, which includes an enhanced spares parts element in which customers will find it easier to identify parts more accurately for ordering, said Santini. The Any MA modular system has benefits including: designing the interface to give the operator all the functions he needs with an extremely fast learning time; speed in commissioning new lines and remote assistance service; release of updates on lines with standard functionality; the possibility of revamping extrusion lines from any manufacturer (after assessing existing hardware).

Riccardo Bandera, CEO of the Any MA subsidiary, said the group has a roadmap for its AI technology roll-out, which it has developed to help customers with the challenges of modern manufacturing, for example, by moving away from reliance on random sampling. The AI roadmap has three stages: Phase 1 is called Infallible Inspector, which aims to eliminate human error; Phase 2 is called Intelligent Assistant; and Phase 3, called Autonomous Perfection, is scheduled to appear in 2027.

- > <https://plastonline.org>
- > www.moretto.com
- > www.luigibandera.com

Plast 2026 key facts

Tuesday 9 June to Friday 12 June 2026

Opening hours: 9:30 am to 6:00 pm

Fiera Milano, Rho, Milan, Italy

Entrances: East Gate, South TIM Gate and West TIM Gate

Online registration:

<https://plastonline.org/en/visitors/preregistration-visitors>

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