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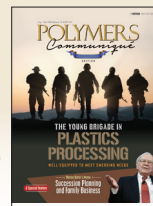
THE YOUNG BRIGADE IN PLASTICS PROCESSING

WELL-EQUIPPED TO MEET EMERGING NEEDS

A Special Feature

—| Warren Buffet's Memo |—
**Succession Planning
and Family Business**





An Edition Beyond Expectations

PLAST 2026, held between 9th and 12th June, 2026 at Fiera Milano, Rho, Italy, concluded successfully, attracting 35,000 visitors from 110 countries and over 1,000 exhibitors.

The event showcased the complete plastics and rubber value chain, reinforced its international standing, and highlighted innovation through specialised exhibitions, startups and a comprehensive conference programme.

The twentieth edition of PLAST, the international exhibition dedicated to the plastics and rubber industry, successfully ended on 12th June, 2026 at Fiera Milano, Rho, Italy. Four intense days of exhibition activity confirmed the event's role as a benchmark for the sector, decisively overcoming the cautious outlook that preceded the exhibition amid a global geopolitical and macroeconomic context marked by severe uncertainties, trade tensions and instability in international markets.

The final figures certify the success of the event: 35,000 attendees - with a significant share of foreign visitors equal to 25%, coming from 110 countries - and over 1,000 exhibiting companies, 44% of which were international. The entire event spanned an exhibition area of 40,000 sqm: an impactful result for a market undergoing a phase of profound transformation.

Among the most encouraging signs, the extremely high professional profile of the visitors stood out. Thanks to the enhancement of the strategic incoming project developed in collaboration with ICE Agency, among the approximately 9,000 international operators visiting, the presence of over 350 selected foreign delegates was particularly noteworthy, confirming the fair's strong attractiveness and commercial centrality of the fair.



A Complete Supply Chain: From Specialised Halls to Startup Innovation

The strength of PLAST 2026 certainly lay in its ability to capture a snapshot of the entire supply chain. Great interest was generated by the satellite shows and thematic areas: RUBBER, the meeting point for the elastomer industry, organised in collaboration with ASSOGOMMA; 3D PLAST LAB, developed with Indexlab - Politecnico di Milano, focusing on the frontiers of additive manufacturing and PLAST MAT, the showcase dedicated to polymeric materials.

A fundamental added value in terms of new content was brought by the innovation ecosystem, thanks to the presence of around twenty Italian

startups that presented cutting-edge solutions ready to be integrated into the manufacturing fabric to visitors.

A Qualified Audience and Internationalisation

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Alessio Fineo
Head of the Exhibition Department,
Promaplast,
Italy

Mario Maggiani
Managing Director,
Promaplast,
Italy



Drawing the balance of this edition, Mario Maggiani, Managing Director, Promaplast noted, "We do not hide that our forecasts on the eve were marked by the utmost prudence. We feared far heavier repercussions of the global geopolitical situation on PLAST, which instead confirmed itself as a European point of reference for the plastics and rubber industry, restoring confidence to many of the exhibitors we met. The reality is that today the exhibition world, more than other sectors, is suffering the backlash of a diversification in ways of doing business, especially in the B2B field; this is why we are diversifying the format of PLAST, not only through the addition of satellite shows but also by providing a conference programme capable of covering all facets of the supply chain and responding to the evolving needs of a rapidly changing sector."

He was echoed by Alessio Fineo, Head of the Exhibition Department, Promaplast, who said, "From the opinions gathered at the fair, many have noted the quality of the visitors and the delegations of foreign companies that showed interest in the products on display. The efforts of the entire team to promote PLAST generated results that went beyond expectations."

A Top-Tier Programme of Conferences and Seminars

Confirming the dynamism of the event was the success of the programme of seminars and institutional conferences, which in some cases registered a full house. The rich educational and debate programme was made possible thanks



to the fundamental synergy with the main stakeholders and industrial partners of the sector.

Meetings saw the close collaboration of leading trade associations and research entities - including Corepla, IPPR Plastica Seconda Vita, PlasticsEurope Italia-Federchimica, Unionplast, The European House Ambrosetti, TMP, Assorimap, Assogomma, Ipack-Ima, Largo Consumo, PVC Forum / VinylPlus Italia and Made Competence Center I4.0 - which chaired the discussion tables, offering concrete answers to the regulatory and technological challenges of the future.

Next Appointment

The next edition of PLAST will take place in 2029, once again in the pavilions of Fiera Milano, Rho, Italy. The dates will be announced in the coming weeks. ■■