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Germany is considered as car land, but not necessarily electric car land. There is little sign, so far, of the seven to ten million electric vehicles that the Federal Government aims to see on German roads by 2030. The German automotive industry, too, has acted more as a brake than a promoter of electromobility. However, things seem to be moving at last. The talk now is of a veritable electric car boom. The background is last year's figures on registration of new vehicles recently published by the Federal Motor Transport Authority. According to these data, almost 200,000 battery-electric vehicles were registered here in Germany in 2020: an increase of over 200 percent compared to the previous year.

Germany – Soon to be Electric Car Land?

The figures are all the more impressive in view of the slump in registrations as a whole of almost 20 percent. The electric vehicles business, unlike cars running on diesel and gasoline, is thus not affected by the Covid 19 pandemic. In addition, German car manufacturers appear to be not so weak as has been assumed. Of the total number of electric vehicles operating in Germany, VW is the leader, the Smart brand, which belongs to Daimler, comes third after Renault, and the ecar king, Tesla, only comes fourth.
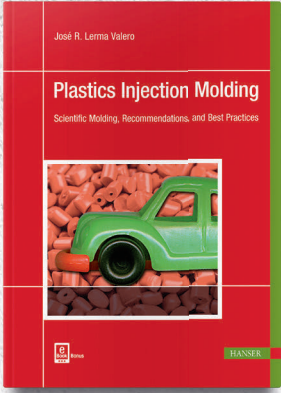
In the face of these trends, we should of course not lose sight of the broad picture. Electric cars still only make up 1.2 percent of all vehicles in Germany. However, the fact that even during the pandemic many buyers are still opting for an electric vehicle shows the growing interest. For the plastics industry, it means it made the right decision in concentrating on developing materials for electromobility in recent years.
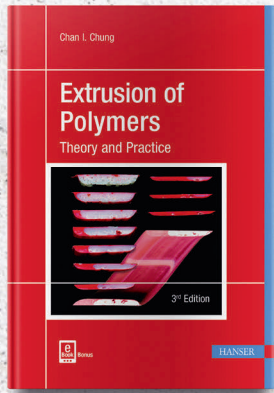
Florian Streifinger

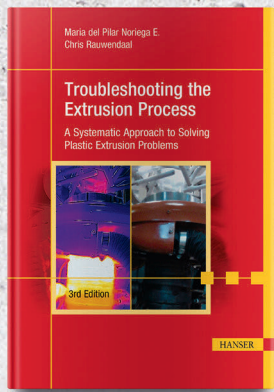Florian Streifinger [florian.streifinger@hanser.de]