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How long is a trend actually a trend? More specifically, can the circular economy still be called a trend? After all, the plastics industry has spent years making the circular economy an ongoing issue. For us scribes on the sidelines, it is practically part of our everyday routine, given how much newsworthy information we receive about it. And functional closed-loop systems already exist, at least in some areas. A widely quoted example is PET bottles.

Nevertheless, the term trend still applies. After all, the existing closed-loop systems are still the exception and are only just now being set up for other plastics and products. They are not – yet – the norm. In addition, the circular economy is currently

Still a Trend or Already Routine?

hugely influencing new developments and improvements in the industry. Plastics producers as well as machine manufacturers are working constantly on products and technologies for this. That applies independently of the manufacturing process – be it injection molding, extrusion, blow molding or additive manufacturing.

The circular economy is definitively no longer a new topic, but along with digitization, it is currently the most potent driver of innovation. And, after all, the characteristic of a trend is not that it is new, but that it drives change. In this regard, there is no avoiding the circular economy.

You can find insights into the most important and exciting innovations in the Special in this edition (from page 9). On its 40 pages, we present technology trends in plastics processing – going well beyond the circular economy.

I wish you exciting discoveries,

Florian Streifinger

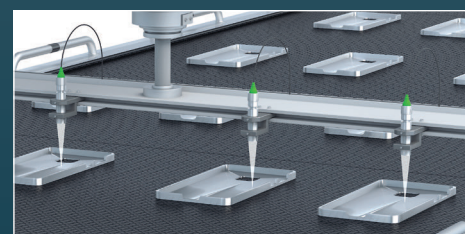
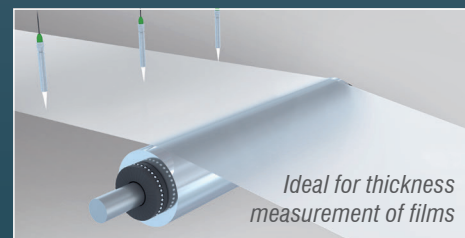
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