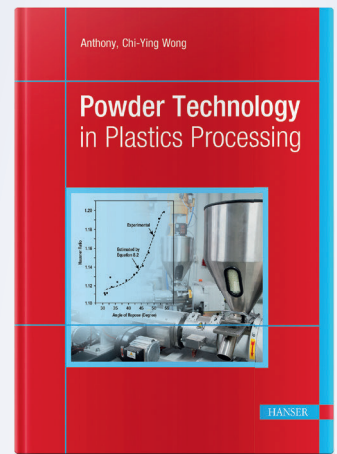
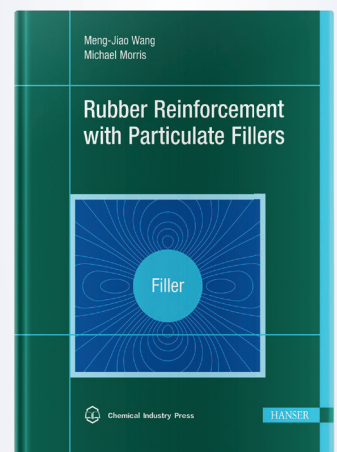


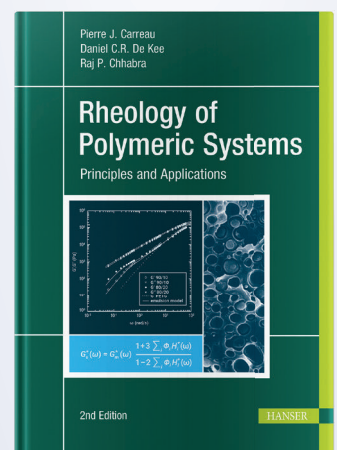
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“Without additives, there’s no circular economy” – thus Dr. Oliver Reich of BASF recently put it in a nutshell at the “Forum Plastic Recyclates” conference. Ensuring that treated plastic wastes are of an adequate and uniform quality urgently requires additives. They compensate for damage to the polymers arising during processing, service life as well as the recycling process itself. Otherwise, after a few recycling processes, or even just one, the plastics would in many cases no longer be useful for high-quality products.

No Circularity without Suitable Product Design

However, the same can be said about other technologies, for example accurate sorting into different polymers and gentle and efficient extrusion. Without them, a circular economy would also not be conceivable. The fact that several technologies and products are essential for implementation does not diminish the contribution of each one of them. Rather, it shows how many components have to intermesh in order to manage the change to a circular economic model. “We need the entire plastics family in order to implement the necessary recycling,” explained another delegate at the conference.

Advancing the circular economy requires many different technologies. But one thing must not be forgotten: the products. Brand manufacturers, too, must invest more strongly in the recyclability of their products. Ton Emans, president of Plastic Recyclers Europe, summed it up neatly at the conference: “The biggest advances in recycling come not from innovations in recycling technologies but from innovations in product design.”

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