



Konstantin Humm (left) and Andreas Bastian (right) founded the start-up four years ago and now serve over 800 customers. © Plastship



New Plastic Heroes: Plastship

„We Want to Simplify the Use of Recyclates“

You're spoiled for choice. This also applies when you're seeking out a suitable recyclate. As a start-up, Plastship supports companies in this venture, aided by digitalization along the way. The pillar of this business idea is the namesake platform via which regranulates are bought and sold.

Climate protection and sustainability are also the topics of the day in the plastics industry – a development of which ever-growing start-up companies are aware, as well as more established companies. As well as new ideas, they also breathe new life into the industry. Plastship is one such start-up. In our new start-up series, "New Plastic Heroes", we showcase the company and its two founders, Konstantin Humm and Andreas Bastian.

Kunststoffe: *What were your first contacts with the topic of recycling or recyclates?*

Andreas Bastian: During our studies, both of us already worked in the recyc-

ling area at RIGK GmbH and got to know all recycling phases there. So you could describe us as people of conviction who are passionate when it comes to the topic of recycling plastics.

Info

Digital Version

A PDF file of the article can be found at www.kunststoffe-international.com/archive

German Version

Read the German version of the article in our magazine *Kunststoffe* or at www.kunststoffe.de

Kunststoffe: *Is that where you got the idea for Plastship?*

Bastian: Our collaboration on a project at RIGK's subsidiary in Romania brought home to us just how difficult it is for many companies to identify the appropriate recyclates, mainly due to the lack of relevant market information. Keen to devise a solution, we came up with the idea of Plastship to conserve resources and keep more materials in circulation. With our »

platform, we have developed a digital tool that paves the way for simpler collaboration between the various value chain players and provides information transparently.

Kunststoffe: Which plastic recyclates do the companies receive from you?

Konstantin Humm: That is the advantage of having a platform – basically all polymers available in recycling can be sourced. Thanks to our wide network, we can access available service providers across the board and thus always find a suitable supplier. If no suitable material is listed, we are more than happy to provide a support service to help you find one.

Kunststoffe: And how do you support plastics processors when it comes to selecting the right recycle?

Bastian: We work proactively with our customers to create a requirements profile tailored to their needs, which we then use to provide materials in a targeted manner.

Kunststoffe: Your company is already four years old. What has been your greatest success so far?

Humm: When we started out four years ago, people were still very wary about platforms like ours. Since then though, we've achieved more than 900 registrations, more than 1500 individual material data sets and more than 1000 material requests.

Facts on the Start-up

- Name: Plastship GmbH
- Founded: 2018 in Waldems, Germany
- Total customers: > 800
- Number of employees: > 5
- Homepage: www.plastship.com

Kunststoffe: We met at IFAT, where the EU Packaging Directive also came up for discussion. What impact does this have on Plastship?

Bastian: The EU Packaging Directive establishes a regulatory framework, which mainly aims to minimize waste and mitigate the environmental harm caused as far as possible, i.e. retaining as many of the materials used in a cycle as possible. Undeniably, this brings us great opportunities. RecyClass and our trading center represent an unbeatable combination that make it easier for companies to use recyclates or make it possible in the first place. ■

Melanie Ehrhardt, editor

Material Solutions

Asahi Kasei to Present New Concept Car at K 2022



Asahi Kasei will present its newest concept car AKXY2 for the first time in Europe at the K 2022. © Asahi Kasei

The Japanese technology company Asahi Kasei will present its newest concept car AKXY2 for the first time in Europe at the K 2022. Utilizing a broad variety of materials and technologies, the vehicle showcases the company's cross-divisional expertise throughout the entire value chain.

Virtually everything that can be seen, touched or felt in the vehicle is either manufactured or co-developed by Asahi Kasei. The car features technology that touches the senses, improves safety and ensures the highest functionality

while proposing solutions to reduce the environmental impact of automobiles.

All windows are made of outsourced hard-coated polycarbonate through a manufacturing method developed by Asahi Kasei in 2002 that uses CO₂ as a raw material for its production. Today, 15 % of the global polycarbonate production uses this production technology. To enable polycarbonate for applications in automotive windshields, Asahi Kasei is currently developing a hard-coating technology that equips polycarbonate with a UN ECE R43 compliant resistance to abrasion and weatherability (UN ECE R43 stipulates regulations around uniform provisions concerning the approval of safety glazing materials and their installation on vehicles by the United Nations). Replacing glass with this polycarbonate will significantly reduce vehicle weight and extend EV driving range.

The interior surfaces are covered by Dinamica – a premium microfiber resembling suede partially made of recycled polyester – manufactured by Miko, an Italian subsidiary of Asahi Kasei Group company Sage Automotive Interiors.

Sage can also provide other more sustainable fabrics utilizing raw materials that range from recycled PET, bio-based PET, natural blends, and ocean waste. An improved lifetime of materials is another way to achieve a greener mobility. All fabrics can be made anti-viral and anti-bacterial, as well as fluid-repellent and stain-resistant.

AZP, a transparent optical polymer on the interior display, features an ultra-low birefringence and ensures a perfect screen visibility without rainbow effects. Birefringence refers to the double refraction of light that distorts projected images and becomes more noticeable when plastic bends. Plastics with low birefringence yield less distortion of the projected images, making them particularly attractive for heads up displays on windshields and dashboard navigation systems.

The interior is also featuring light technology, using semi-transparent and backlit fabrics made of PET, but also ultra-thin plastic-optical fibers woven into different surfaces.

www.asahi-kasei.eu