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Another three years have gone by. K is not only the world's leading trade fair for plastics and rubber, but also a good indicator of how fast time passes. At the last event in 2019, I wandered as a newcomer in the *Kunststoffe* team through the exhibition halls in Düsseldorf, Germany. A fantastic initiation. It's not often that you find so much concentrated plastics knowledge in one place. That is why I'm so pleased that it is kicking off again.

Circular economy, digitalization and climate protection top the agenda at this year's show. So at first sight, it seems as though time has stood still since 2019. Even at that time, these themes were at the heart of K. But quite a lot has changed since the last show. The discussions about and implementations of the circular economy have be-

Is K Standing Still?

come more concrete. Announcements and plans from those days can now be viewed as market-ready products and processes. And now the much-cited necessary cooperation between companies along the value chain is taking place more intensively. This is shown by successful projects between waste recyclers, plastics manufacturers, processors and OEMs. Chemical recycling has also made advances. Skepticism about the processes is decreasing, more plants are being built and many material manufacturers offer the relevant products, even if in small quantities so far. So time has by no means stood still since the last K.

This is particularly well demonstrated in our extensive "Plastics World Market" Special from page 12 in this edition. This gives an overview of the market situation and the most important trends in the individual plastics classes. And it shows that there has been a lot of progress with the circular economy for all polymers since 2019. I can therefore only recommend taking a closer look at it. What applies to K, also applies – in a more monothematic form, of course – to our "World Market": it's rare to find so much concentrated plastics knowledge in one place anywhere else.

Wishing you many new insights also in Düsseldorf

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Pay us a visit at K 2022: **North Entrance, upper floor, booth 01**

Discover Tederic NEO series at 2022 K SHOW

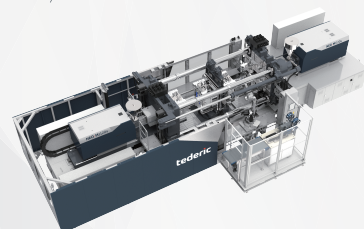
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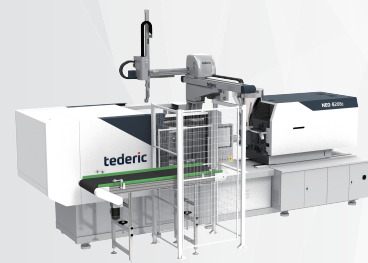
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