



There was an outstanding mood at K. Not only because the international plastics world was meeting up in person once again. Many conversations centered on the question of why so many are in such a good mood despite the current crisis atmosphere. My personal impression was that it was due to the innovations on show in Düsseldorf, Germany. Starting with the plastics processors who were honored with the TecPart Innovation

Award on the first day of the trade show – and impressively demonstrated the important contribution that our industry makes to the most urgent future topics.

During the last days of the show, I met with some industry heads for a closing statement. The common tenor was that recycling has now arrived in practice. Where, at K 2019, we took the first steps toward the circular economy, this year, the exhibitors presented concrete solutions and technologies.

The Encouragement Trade Show

The holistic approach takes priority; it is no longer just a matter of faster and more cost-effective production. After all, the circular economy only works if everyone along the value chain plays their part.

At the same time, the recycling trend also has an effect on the product range. For one manufacturer, demand for recyclate extruders is for the first time exceeding that for virgin material, which is interpreted as a turning point. In film production, monomaterial solutions are becoming established – and, in injection molding, rPET can be processed into thin-walled packaging for the first time in a single step.

The industry representatives describe the outlook for the new year as fair to middling, as can be read in the article “Motivated to the Hilt” (from p. 16). We wish you fun exploring.

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