

Microdia: a 'green' focus is a necessity

WJI asked a few suppliers about their "green" experience. Below is the reply from Bernard Dougoud, technical advisor for Swiss-based Microdia SA, whose range of extrusion cross heads includes models specially created to extrude the new ecological compounds.

WJI: What role does "green" have in your company, and do you expect it to continue growing, and if so, why?

Dougoud: Microdia has been involved in green projects for more than five years. Raw material companies have been developing new sustainable plastic products not because it is in vogue to be "green" but because they considerate it to be a necessary long term objective to contribute to the protection of the environment.

New families of phthalate free plasticizers for use in wire and jacketing are made of 100% renewable feedstocks like corn, etc. They have been developed to meet the growing demand for more sustainable options in home electronics, appliances cords, communication and

automotive wiring. New bio thermoplastic polyurethane grades offer wire and cable producers a new value proposition for performance excellence and environmental responsibility.

In response, Microdia developed and has continued to improve its ECOMEX series of crossheads. The new bio-based polymers are, like all HFFR compounds, sensitive to shear and stress when they flow through the complex path of an extrusion cross head. The company's ECOMEX line was designed to meet the demand of large wire and cable manufacturers that need a cross head specially

adapted to sensitive compounds. The line offers: a larger entry channel; low head pressure build up thanks to redesigned extra deep distributors; specially shaped tip and dies; reduced die drool; fast tooling change ability; fast configuration change (skin, stripe, single layer); complete cleaning and dismantling tools; and thermostatic heating/cooling (optional).



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