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# Are performance additives the answer to the rPET growth trend?



After extrusion has started, Repi's online Colour Management System detects even the smallest shade deviation, and then automatically adjusts this dosage of colour masterbatch or performance additive.

**ACCORDING** to various forecasts, the global plastic additives market is expected to reach \$50 to \$57-billion by 2020. Demand is being driven by additives strongly related to recycling needs as well as shiny, bright and seasonal shades for limited edition projects, especially in the packaging industry.

As a global producer of liquid colourants and additives, Repi is continuously reviewing the most significant additive technology trends. Marketing manager, Lucia Buffoni, explains that customers are

increasingly requesting the development and supply of products that can help recycled PET (rPET) regain similar aesthetics and mechanical properties to virgin material.

'The more PET is recycled, the more converters face quality issues in terms of inconsistencies of supply and big differences from batch to batch. Repi's Anti Yellow range offers different grades which can correct L, A and B values,' she adds.

Lucia explains that the additive acting on "L" values prevents rPET from losing brightness; the one acting on "A" improves the greenish shade; while the one acting on "B" reduces the yellowness.

This additive range can be used at different stages of the production chain: either in the PET recycling plant or during the injection moulding of preforms and extrusion of rPET sheets.

'Additionally, Repi's IVE additive is a valid aid for enhancing intrinsic viscosity of rPET, allowing it to reach the same levels as standard virgin PET,' she adds.

Lucia comments that the rapid urbanisation process is eroding traditionally rural areas, developing cities and spreading the consumer economy. As a result, the use of plastics is growing alongside the themes of sustainability and raw material shortages. 'The possibility of giving plastics a second life is, therefore, a key topic. And, converters and plastics processors in general, are looking for reliable partners for each production stage,' she adds.

Within this context, Lucia reports, that Repi has developed an online Colour Management System (CMS) for the extrusion industry. The CMS enables the Repi colour/additive dosing unit to communicate with a spectrophotometer and automatically adjust the dosage online, when it detects even the smallest shade deviation, during film or sheet production. 'In this way, 100% colour proofing is ensured and waste is greatly reduced,' she concludes.

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