

DISCOVERING OPPORTUNITIES:

# Present and Future

of Rotomoulding was Discussed in Russia

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St. Petersburg, Russia – on April 12, 2019, HEMIX (Russia), supported by Plast Engineering KSC (Kazakhstan) and the Association of Rotational Molders Russia and CIS, arranged the 2nd International Rotomolding Conference in St. Petersburg. The event brought together 135 participants from Australia, England, Belgium, Germany, Egypt, Italy, Kazakhstan, Canada, China, Russia, the USA, and Finland, eager to discuss development prospects of the rotomolding sector.

In Russia, about 60 plants apply the method of rotational molding to make finished products. However, there is neither a common knowledge base regarding rotomolding processes in Russia, nor standards for finished products, nor support from the State.

The conference was arranged to fill in the gaps, to set up cooperation with agents from other countries, as well as for top world experts to present their expertise and experience in the sphere of rotomolding, equipment upgrade, technological processes enhancement, and new opportunities to Russian specialists.

During the event, the delegates shared their experience on polymer processing, discussed matters of safe production and cost reduction, assessed opportunities for the rotational molding section in industrial and common needs, as well as how to produce products of beauty and function.

**Paul Nugent** (USA), independent international expert, told the audience how foamed polyethylene is used to make rotomolding materials, as well as about the ways of cutting costs and work quality enhancement, from choosing materials to designing pressmolds, from machine sizes to training programs. The speaker disposed by lottery a copy of his famous book,

*Rotational Molding: A Practical Guide*. The book was obtained by Andrey Topunov, representative of Prichal Ural, Russian manufacturer of piers and pontoons.

**David Stoopman**, member of the Association of Rotational Molders Australasia, Director of Roto Industries Pty Ltd, shared his experience in solving typical challenges encountered by rotomolders, as well as cost reduction and prices of high-quality work.

**Katia Zoppetti**, Chairperson of the Board of the Affiliation of Rotational Molding Organizations (ARMO), showcased pieces of the best European rotomolding designs to her colleagues. She demonstrated goods popular among demanding customers and showing the conference audience the potential of Rotomoulding as art work.

**Oliver Wandres**, Managing Director at MAUS GmbH (Germany) and Head of Association of Rotational Molders Central Europe (ARM-CE) presented advanced technologies for pressmolds enhancement and new methods of elements treatment, including a state-of-the-art process for aluminum welding, as well as making of aluminum pressmolds and pressmolds with direct electric heating.

**Leisa Donlan**, CEO at Association of Rotational Molders Australasia (ARMA) & Rotoconnect presented a review on the global rotomolding experience.

**Bill Spenceley**, CEO at Flexahopper Plastics (Canada), representative of the Association of Rotational Molding (ARM) told the audience about production safety.

**Eric Maziers**, from Total (Belgium), spoke on rotomolding opportunities in vehicle production within the next decade

**Martin Coles** from Matrix Polymers (England) made a report



Speakers of the 2nd Rotomoulding Conference





Top: Martin Coles, Matrix Polymers, presents



Bottom Left: Paul Nugent and Andrey Topunov, Prichal Ural



Bottom Right: Katia Zoppetti, Dram srl, and Pavel Gerasimov, GKA

on rotomolding compounds and insisted that top quality of finished products can only be ensured through the use of such compounds.

**Olga Zauzelkova**, CEO of Hemix (Russia) and **Alexey Scherbinin**, Managing Director of Plast Engineering KSC (Kazakhstan), founders of the Association of Rotational Molders Russia and CIS, told the audience about the opportunities of the rotomolding community associated with solution of industry-specific and global challenges. The experts highlighted that it is necessary to set up an industrial legal and regulatory framework in Russia, to work on responsible consumption, as well as to expand the system for training, professional advancement, and development.

*“The mission of the International Rotomolding Conference is to transform our relations from competition to collaboration. We hope that our partners will be able to start working in the open. This really helps to develop, both in case of independent entities and the industry in general. Last year, the conference was attended*

*by 80 people, and this year there were 135. Our lists of speakers and topics were extended. New manufacturers appeared in Russia that were set up late in 2018 or early in 2019. They chose this production method, which means they believe it is advanced. We’re happy to know that!”* said Olga Zauzelkova, CEO at Hemix. She believes, rotomolding can be used to make many unique things which can’t be made with any other production means.

*“I hope that in five years there will be over 200 companies in Russia utilizing over 50 000 tons of polymers, all of them making absolutely exceptional things and employing unique and creative people, and having great development prospects,”* the expert said.

For the first time ever, during the 2nd International Rotomolding Conference, an exhibition took place, featuring equipment, raw materials, additives, auxiliary materials and services for the rotomolding industry by its leaders. The exposition venue presented activities of both manufacturers and suppliers and helped the participants to get access to the international supplying chain. The following companies took



Left: HEMIX Booth

Right: Leisa Donlan, ARMA, and Martin Coles, Matrix Polymers

part in the exhibition: HEMIX (Russia), NAWELL (Russia), Wenling Rising Sun Rotomoulding Technology (China), Rotomachinery Group (Italy), Boca S.r.l. (Italy), Matrix Polymers (Great Britain), MAUS (Germany), Dram S.r.l. (Italy), Pallmann Maschinenfabrik GmbH & Co. KG (Germany), Persico (Italy), Rotolink Oy (Finland), and Yekaterinburg Plant of Polyethylene Products (Russia).

**Paul Nugent**, independent international expert shared his impressions about the event, *“The conference was really good. This is fantastic to see Russia developing along with rotomolding. It’s great to be here. Rotational molding is used to make the most diverse products like art pieces, unconventional things, medical*

*devices, furniture, industrial components, and many more. Hemix is opening up the market: they’re strong enough to recognize that if they bring on other material companies to the market to collaborate, they’ll help the market to grow for everyone.”*

*“It’s my second time here in Russia – I was lucky enough to speak at the conference last year, and it’s great to come back and see how much the industry has improved and how willing the industry here is to formalize as a new group in the world. It’s clear to see that the developing Russian industry is open and ready to take the best practice the world has to offer and use it for their customer’s benefit.”* said Leisa Donlan.

The experts recognize that the conference is an important

“ In Russia, about 60 plants apply the method of rotational molding to make finished products.”



Speakers of the conference at the Palace square in St. Petersburg





Caption

“

This is fantastic to see Russia developing along with rotomolding.

— Paul Nugent

professional international event that promotes the rotomolding industry evolution, appearance of new products and markets, enhances openness and visibility of the industry in general.

The conference arranged by HEMIX ([www.hemix.ru](http://www.hemix.ru)) was generally supported by Plast Engineering KSC ([www.rt-plast.ru](http://www.rt-plast.ru)) and the Association of Rotational Molders Russia and CIS. The 3rd International Rotomolding Conference is scheduled for April 2020.

Website of the project: <http://rotorusconference.hemix.ru/> 

