

# EPDA NEWSLETTER

Winter 1998

A Publication of the European Plastics Distributors Association

## Membership News

Please welcome the following manufacturing company that is a new member of EPDA:

### Zell-Metall GmbH

Schulstrasse 511  
Kaprun, A-5710 Austria  
Tel: + 43 6547 8417 Fax: + 43 6547 8890  
<http://www.zell-metall.com>  
E-mail: [zell-metall@zmk.at](mailto:zell-metall@zmk.at)  
Contact: Nick Kraguljac

## Summary of EPDA/IAPD Meeting

An informal joint meeting of EPDA and IAPD members was held during the recent K '98 Show. Jürgen Krüger welcomed everyone to Düsseldorf, Germany, and thanked them for taking the time to attend the meeting during this busy show.

Jos Vanoirbeek gave a report on the recent IAPD Annual Convention in San Diego, California. He said the event was professionally organised with approximately 700 delegates and 93 exhibitors. In particular, he found the presentation by futurist David Zach to be very interesting.

A short presentation was then given by David A. Ayer, the new president of IAPD. He explained that he has two goals during his term as president: 1) to maintain the current membership level, but to also encourage qualified companies to join who will strengthen and contribute to IAPD, and 2) to offer more programs that benefit the middle managers. Ayer said that IAPD will work on improving its marketing effort and looks forward to strengthening the partnership between EPDA and IAPD.

Vanoirbeek thanked the staff of IAPD for their help in producing the new EPDA membership brochure. He reported that the new EPDA logo sheet was now available through IAPD and encouraged members to use the logo on their stationary. (Please contact the EPDA Secretary if you need more copies.)

An invitation was extended to all EPDA members to attend the IAPD Winter Conference in Lake Tahoe, Nevada, March 17-21, 1999. Plans were also reviewed for the 1999 EPDA Annual Meeting (see page two for a draft programme.)

IAPD Executive Director Deborah Hamlin informed members that IAPD will be conducting market surveys in 1999. Responding to questions, she also reported that EPDA members were now linked on IAPD's web site.

Jürgen Krüger said that the structure of the EPDA has changed considerably over the last few years. He thinks the manufacturers are now the driving force and that the future may well see a manufacturer as chairperson of the association.

In an effort to actively promote the association, the EPDA Board invited potential new members to attend the meeting during the K '98 Show to highlight its benefits and encourage them to join. This meeting was attended by the following:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Name</u>
Tuplen	Poland	Zbigniew Tulwin Renata Tulwin Przemyslaw Frackowiak Marek Halama Maciej Druzd
Gehr	Germany	Helmut Gehr
Rohm	Germany	Klaus Roth
Altmax	Netherlands	Dinie Hazelhurst Cees Jongbloed

Symalit and Barlo Plastics also expressed an interest in becoming members, but unfortunately could not attend the meeting. Vanoirbeek was hopeful that EPDA would gain three or four new members from this meeting.

## European Plastics Market Report

A comprehensive analysis of trends in the European plastics industry, from industry output and material sector development to demand trends in the major customer markets, is now available from Market Tracking International Ltd. This report analyzes the major processing and application markets, compares trends and growth rates across the industry's main sectors and reviews the latest material developments and application trends by polymer. For further details and pricing information, check out its web site at <http://www.marketfile.co.uk>.

## Metric Association Web Page

The U.S. Metric Association has a web page that contains information about the status of metric conversion in the United States as well as metric usage around the world. It also contains useful information about the System of International Units and links to other web pages that may be of interest. (<http://lamar.ColoState.edu/-hillger>)

## Europe's Nylon Output is Poised for a Surge

A trio of nylon resin suppliers plan to boost capacities across Europe in the coming year, according to a report in *Modern Plastics*. Consumption in Europe boomed last year with some estimates putting nylon growth at 15 percent.

Ube Industries, Tokyo, a materials and machinery supply leader, plans to expand nylon 6 capacity in Europe. It already makes caprolactam, a nylon feedstock, in Castillon de la Plana, Spain, and may build a nylon 6 plant at the same location. In addition, Ube is looking at possible nylon 12 production. It currently produces nylon 6 and 12 grades in Asia.

Germany's Bayer, meanwhile, is adding capacity for its Durethan nylon 6 this year at Uerdingen, from 55,000 to 60,000 tonnes/yr. Industry observers say the Leverkusen-based Bayer has an added 30,000 tonnes/yr. expansion in mind, which would bring its nylon 6 capability to 80,000 tonnes/yr. (Bayer declined to confirm that report with *Modern Plastics*.)

Finally, DSM Engineering Plastics, Sittard, the Netherlands, is building an 85,000 tonnes/yr. nylon 6 plant in Emmen by 2000. This would replace a current, smaller facility. DSM forecasts nylon growth of five to seven percent through the rest of the 1990s.

## Information about ISO Standards

ISO 9000 is a Quality Management System specification that is now the worldwide standard for doing business. In order to survive in any business, you must have a good management system. The elements of a good system are known and practiced by successful companies in the Americas, Europe and the Pacific Rim countries.

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies from some 100 countries, one from

each country. The mission of ISO is to promote the development of standardization and related activities in the world with a view to facilitating the international exchange of goods and services, and to developing cooperation in the spheres of intellectual, scientific, technological and economic activity. ISO's work results in international agreements which are published as international standards.

International standardization is now well-established for very many technologies in diverse fields as information processing and communications, plastics, textiles, packaging, distribution of goods, shipbuilding, banking and financial services. It will continue to grow in importance for all sectors of industrial activity for the foreseeable future.

To learn more about international standards, visit ISO's web site as <http://www.isonet.com>.

## 1999 EPDA Annual Meeting

Following is a draft programme for next year's annual conference and exhibition to be held at the Arion Hotel, Astir Palace Resort in Athens.

### Friday, May 7, 1999

- Registration and welcome cocktail reception

### Saturday, May 8, 1999

- Lunch at hotel
- Sheet, Rod and Tube Meeting
- Pipe, Valves and Fittings Meeting
- Optional events include a morning trip to Athens City and the Acropolis, and dinner at the Kioupiia Restaurant overlooking Athens

### Sunday, May 9, 1999

- Morning annual general meeting
- Afternoon table top exhibition and lunch
- Optional event will be a cruise to the Greek Islands and lunch (ladies programme)
- Presentation (speaker to be determined)
- Manufacturers' Committee Meeting
- Membership Committee Meeting
- Annual dinner

### Monday, May 10, 1999

- Farewell breakfast

Complete information and registration forms will be sent out in January 1999. Mark your calendars today!

*The EPDA Newsletter is made possible through joint efforts of the European Plastics Distributors Association and the International Association of Plastics Distributors. Let us know what you would like to see in future issues by calling the EPDA office at 1234 752248 (U.K.) or IAPD at (913) 345-1005 (USA).*