

EREMA: ReFresher ensures odourless recyclate in post-consumer recycling

With the presentation of ReFresher at the K 2016 trade fair EREMA achieved a breakthrough in the post-consumer sector: odourless recyclate opens up a multitude of new sales markets for recyclers and producers. Starting immediately, EREMA customers now have access to a mobile ReFresher for test purposes to enable them to carry out on-site trials and evaluate results. The investment is thus designed to meet the exact odour requirements of the desired end application.

Post-consumer material, especially household packaging waste, is considered to be plastic which is difficult to recycle due to impurities and the fluctuating degree of contamination. These contaminants often cause an unpleasant odour in the recyclates which severely limits the scope of use with the end products. "We recognised the potential of continuously increasing packaging waste early on and worked intensively on finding a technical solution for the odour issue. With the ReFresher we offer recyclers and producers the edge in terms of quality to establish themselves in the marketplace with odourless recyclates from household waste," says a confident Manfred Hackl, EREMA CEO. The ReFresher eliminates odours caused by migrated substances, i.e. residues left on the plastic materials. These include, for example, food contamination, cleaner/detergent residues and cosmetics. The ReFresher is downstream of the extrusion process and keeps the recyclates at the required temperature at which volatile materials can be discharged. The ReFresher is available in various expansion stages depending on the end application. Starting immediately, EREMA now offers a mobile ReFresher as an additional service for on-site trials directly at the customer's location to adapt the solution precisely to the requirements of the end product.

The ReFresher is based on the proven TVEplus technology and now offers filtrated, degassed and odourless recyclates for the first time in post-consumer recycling – even in the case of severely contaminated packaging waste. The INTAREMA TVEplus prevents unpleasant odours from developing in the course of the extrusion process. In conventional processes these develop for example through cellulose contamination such as wood or paper which burn during extrusion and transfer the smell to the plastic. The interplay of preconditioning unit, Airflush technology, low melt temperature, efficient filtration and several degassing steps ensures that the cellulose particles are separated from the plastic. "At the end of the extrusion process what we have in our hands is high-quality recyclate which is already suitable for many applications. And here I am referring to extrusion products such as pipes or film in the waste management or construction industry. The odour caused by migrated substances, however, is more stubborn. End products such as plastic parts in cars or in the home call for an additional recycling step to neutralise the odour. And this is exactly what we developed the ReFresher for," explains Clemens Kitzberger, Post Consumer Business Development Manager at EREMA. TVEplus technology has a market share of around 85 per cent in the post-consumer sector in Europe alone. "I am sure that the ReFresher will be another boost for the use of recyclates from post-consumer material. Whether it is in supermarkets or homes – I assume that we will come into contact with this type of odour-treated recyclate more and more in the future," says Clemens Kitzberger.

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Picture 1: The new ReFresher eliminates odours caused by migrated substances.
Photocredit: EREMA



Picture 2: The combination of ReFresher and the proven TVEplus technology now offers odourless recyclates for the first time even in the case of severely contaminated packaging waste.
Photocredit: EREMA

EREMA Group

The EREMA Group comprises EREMA, 3S, PURE LOOP (January 2015) and UMAC (beginning of 2016). With companies in the USA, China and Russia plus around 50 local representatives in all five continents, the EREMA Group has a reliable network to realise customised recycling solutions for international customers. Around 480 people around the world now work for the Austrian company group which is headquartered in Ansfelden near Linz.

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