

Rubber companies make good at the K

With plastics being the main emphasis of the K shows, rubber machinery/materials manufacturers and suppliers tend to get "lost" in the sea of exhibitors. However, at the K2007 show, rubber companies were equally busy closing deals and introducing new equipment.

Desma presses on in Asia

At a K press conference, Martin Schürmann, Managing Director of rubber injection press maker *Klößner Desma Elastomertechnik*, said that the company is expanding its plant in India (where it operates in a joint venture with *Mamata Machinery*). "The factory in Ahmedabad is already too small. It will be replaced with a 6,000 sq m factory, together with a tool shop, by June 2008," he said, adding that the company will also add more staff at its plant in China that was opened in July 2007. He said that the Wuxi facility was set up not to compete with Chinese machinery makers but to provide high end products to the market.



Using an injection nozzle, the *FlowControl* technology makes it possible to variably adjust the nozzle slot with a tolerance of less than 0.1 mm during the injection process. This allows high precision control of the energy input. Unlike conventional pre-chamber systems, there is no risk of premature material vulcanising because the energy input takes place directly at the tip of the nozzle, thus allowing for savings in curing times

As for its turnover, Schürmann said that EUR60 million is expected this year, with a target of EUR80 million by 2011. "The order books are filled and we are now expecting additional growth worldwide." He also explained that new production methods for rubber and silicone products, such as seals, membranes, fixing and connection components, vibration dampers and rubber-to-metal bonded articles, are still mainly being developed at *Desma's* headquarters in Fridingen, South Germany. However, to better meet the demands of the local markets, the company is currently expanding the development side of its facilities in China, India, Slovakia and the US. *Desma*, which celebrated its 40th year in business in 2005, has supplied 6,000 injection machines to the rubber and silicone industry to date. Last year, its monthly output was 300 machines and 200 moulds.

The company displayed its patent pending *FlowControl+* nozzle technology, which reduces curing times depending on the wall thickness of the product by using an actively controlled injection nozzle. The nozzle technology makes it possible to variably adjust the injection gap with a tolerance of less than 0.1 mm during the injection process, thereby saving up to 30% more on curing times.