

ROWA news

NEWS FROM ROWA GROUP

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**“Out of the box” –
CREATIVE WORK IN THE CCC**

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Kai Müller
Managing Director
ROWA GROUP

Dear Business Associates,
Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

An international presence is nothing new for the companies in the ROWA GROUP – we have long been active on three continents. Notably, we created further opportunities for organic growth, in terms of both space and capacity, through our new production plant that went into operation in the USA two years ago. Consequently, we have not only moved geographically closer to our global customers, as a result of employees “on the ground” we can also offer local competence and literally speak their language.

And as an exhibitor at international trade fairs we continue to set standards with the NPE in the USA in 2018 following the “interplas” in the UK and the “PlastEurasia” in Turkey in 2017. The companies in the ROWA GROUP take every opportunity to present the innovations, synergies and services of our strong network.

As a result, we pursue our goal of dynamic growth in many areas and strengthen our network of powerful companies. The positive development of the overall economic situation, in threshold countries too, obviously helps us with our expansion. For example, we are experiencing growing interest from the automotive sector, interest that we are increasingly being able to convert into promising business relationships.

Thanks to our international sales and manufacturing locations, we continue to free ourselves from the still tense raw materials situation in the plastic processing industry. Our way of countering the progressive rise in prices due to an increasing worldwide shortage is an even tighter networking of our synergies, contacts and production possibilities. We think and plan ahead for our customers, and thanks to our cooperation with new and exclusive suppliers, we are able to close a number of gaps in material availability. In any case, we are largely independent when it comes to sourcing and pursue a global purchasing strategy.

Put us to the test. You will already find some initial information about new developments and innovative applications on the following pages.

I would like to wish you an interesting read accompanied by my best wishes

Your Kai Müller

“Out of the box” – CREATIVE WORK IN THE CCC



This is what flexible work looks like: the ROMIRA team in the CCC office

Apart from the showroom, a new open-plan office has been furnished at ROMIRA as a further important element of the Color Competence Center for the ROWA GROUP. Everything is done to encourage thinking “out of the box” in the stylish surroundings of this important workspace.

None of the employees here has a fixed place. Each and every one of them can switch between standing and sitting for their work, using lecterns, tables and mobile office compartments to suit their needs and wishes, either next to a wall or a window with a view. They can get together with colleagues in various team constellations or sit apart in quieter surroundings if they want to concentrate. This creates an atmosphere that promotes both collaboration and productivity while at the same time increasing creativity, and therefore generates innovative ideas.

This kind of working concept has primarily been put to successful use in the fields of media, IT and agencies up to now and was adapted accordingly for ROMIRA as a manufacturing industrial enterprise. Not only does it encourage communication and an exchange of information between employees, this dynamic way of working also has the big advantage of promoting the health of employees as a result of the regular movement when changing between standing, walking and sitting.

And ROMIRA has also upped the ante optically for its employees: the new team dress for the CCC was not just part of the photo shoot but is also worn during normal everyday work. The look has been very well accepted by the colleagues because not only does it suit them perfectly, it also boosts the feeling of solidarity in the overall department.

WEALTH OF EXPERTISE IN THE ROWA GROUP

An in-house training session was held on the premises of ROMIRA on November 14 and 15, 2017, on the subject of coloring work by the famous plastic center SKZ. SKZ, one of Europe’s leading institutes in this field, sent two experienced speakers, Linda Stegemann and Walter Franz, to Pinneberg from their headquarters in Würzburg. They talked about currently relevant topics from the daily work of the participants, including troubleshooting in injection molding, visual mold validation and color communication in the supply

chain. Thomas Zentgraf also contributed some important content as an expert for injection molding.

The delegation was made up of interested colleagues from the companies ROWASOL, ROWA Masterbatch and ROMIRA. Participants in the training consisted of a mix of both relatively new members of staff in the ROWA GROUP as well as some more experienced colleagues who have been with the group’s companies for many years. It turned out that this seminar – irrespective of the experience and expertise of each individual – provided added value for every single participant. In addition, the participants from the SKZ were very impressed by the new premises of the Color Competence Centers (CCC), once again underlining the expertise and visionary approach of the ROWA GROUP. All of the participants in the workshop agreed that this format was a useful and practical platform for an exchange of knowledge relevant to their day-to-day work. Consequently, this will certainly not be the last event of this kind!



SUCCESSFUL DEBUT: ROWA GROUP'S FIRST APPEARANCE AT THE INTERPLAS



The UK's largest plastics trade show, Interplas, took place during September 2017 at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham. Three members of the ROWA Group, ROMIRA, ROWASOL and ROWA Masterbatch joined forces to exhibit at the event for the first time.

The triennial event was attended by more than 12,000 visitors over a three day period, during which nearly 500 exhibiting companies showcased their latest developments and technologies. In addition to this there were a number of insightful presentations from significant players within the UK plastics sector. These covered wide ranging subjects, tackling current hot topics from the impact of Brexit on the plastics industry, through to the wants and needs of OEMs to facilitate strengthened relationships with their plastics parts suppliers.

This was the first time the ROWA Group had participated at the Interplas exhibition, and this should be taken as a clear demonstration of ROWA Group's ongoing commitment to supporting existing customers within the region, and also for its ambitions to increase its market presence and further develop new opportunities in the area.

The impressively designed stand took on the now familiar ROWA Group colour scheme combined with a selective illumination arrangement to highlight the wide product portfolio, branding, key design features and of course the display case showing a variety of ROWA Group's products from principal application areas. Many visitors dropped by the stand, with a refreshing mix of new faces and old friends, comprising representatives from many industries including automotive OEMs, major tier one moulders, distribution partners, as well as companies involved in the manufacture of components for the industrial and consumer goods sectors.

The Interplas event proved to be an ideal, busy and vibrant environment to meet with both current customers and new potentials alike; to share ideas, concepts and innovative solutions whilst enjoying fresh coffee.

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NPE 2018: ROWA GROUP PRESENTS ITSELF IN THE SUNSHINE STATE

North America's biggest plastics trade fair, the National Plastic Exhibition (NPE), is being held between May 7 and 11, 2018 in Orlando, Florida. The NPE has acted like a magnet for the industry every three years since 1970 and presents innovations, new processes, equipment, materials and research that are decisive in shaping the world of plastics. The NPE was originally held in Chicago, Illinois, before moving to the Sunshine State in 2012.



According to initial expert estimates, the NPE 2018 is expected to be the biggest trade fair in its history with more than 75,000 visitors and over 2,000 exhibitors from 168 countries. This makes it the world's third largest plastic trade fair.

ROWA Inc., who recently expanded their US location in Croydon to satisfy the strong demand for production and support in the USA, will be presenting the latest developments and synergies from the various business units of the ROWA GROUP, with a focus on products from ROMIRA, TRAMACO and ROWA Masterbatch.

Visitors will find ROWA Inc. and its co-exhibitors in the South Hall on booth S18121.

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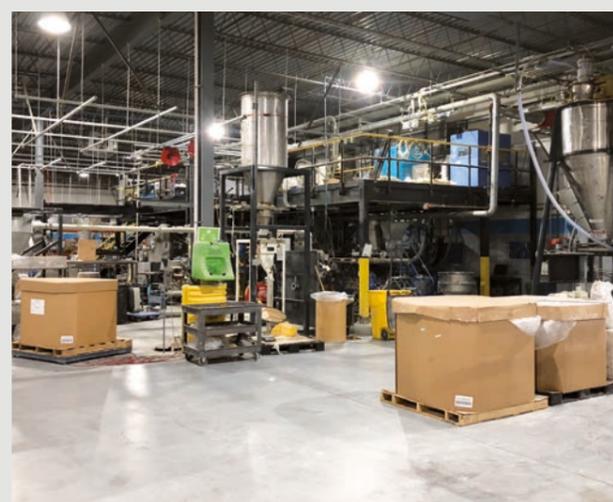
AN AMERICAN SUCCESS STORY CONTINUES

The new production plant of the ROWA GROUP in the USA went into operation last year in Croydon, Pennsylvania. ROWA Inc. manufactures and sells its own developments as well as products from the divisions of TRAMACO, ROMIRA and ROWA Masterbatch in North & Central America. The new plant is approximately 2.800 square meter facility, which offers the opportunity of further expansion thanks to additional unused land on the site.

The strong demand for the extended product lines of chemical foaming agents from TRAMACO, special masterbatches from ROWA Masterbatch and engineering compounds from ROMIRA that were launched in the USA market in 2012 has created the need for the new expanded production plant. The ROWA GROUP acknowledged the success of the US operation and in 2016 decided on a site outside Philadelphia, PA where the new plant with increased production capacity was built.

The Rowa Inc. facility is equipped with an extensive laboratory for polymers that is split into four areas – mechanical tests, analytical analysis, color technology and weathering resistance (QUV and Xenon). New production and laboratory machines were purchased to add needed capacity for the expanded customer base. The new Croydon plant currently has twin-screw laboratory extruders and five twin-screw compounding lines in the production hall.

As a result of this production facility, the installation



of new machines as well as the training of additional employees in key positions, we are able to satisfy the higher requirements of our customers in our familiar quality. Further equipment is scheduled for installation in 2018 and continuous improvements will be carried out so that we can continue to meet customer demand in the best possible way and achieve an even higher level of quality.

"We are delighted by the great support from our customers and are looking forward to continued growth over the coming years," said Dave Baglia, President of Rowa Inc.

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HOOKED ON INNOVATIONS



ROMIRA has been a reliable partner to the medical industry for many years and produces flame-retardant products based on both halogenated and halogen-free systems. The flame resistance is always tested and guaranteed by the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) in accordance with recognized standards. ROMIRA now has its own horizontal/vertical combustion chamber (HVUL2) that has been specially designed for combustibility tests on plastic materials pursuant to the UL specifications. This now enables our laboratory staff to perform standardized flame-resistance tests internally at the Pinneberg site. The stainless steel chamber has a large sliding window offering a good view of the test pieces. Equipped with complete sample support, precision gas burner and a digital timer allows for its safe and simple operation.

The medical equipment industry has many demands for its applications and ROMIRA can now offer further innovative developments in this field of use. When it comes to applications in surgeries, hospitals etc.,

ROMIRA has innovative materials in its portfolio for the use in housings of medical pumps, for example: Romiloy PBT/PC has a number of important properties including very good impact strength, high heat resistance and a very wide processing window. Furthermore, its chemical resistance is significantly higher than that of other more conventional polymers that are used in this application area. One leading OEM is already so convinced by the benefits Romiloy PBT/PC brings that they are now using it in their appliances.

And this is just one further step along the way to becoming an established name in this industry: medical technology is an important and promising sector for ROMIRA, and one which the company wishes to concentrate more on in future.

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E-MOBILITY IS REALITY – ROMIRA IS GOING WITH THE FUTURE

What used to be pipe dreams have now become omnipresent. New technologies are constantly conquering the markets – with alternative sources of energy becoming increasingly important and mobility reaching a whole new dimension. Electrically powered vehicles have become an everyday sight on our roads and will partly or completely replace fuel-powered ones in the foreseeable future. Whether hybrid, battery or fuel cell – new demands are being made on the materials used, particularly in terms of their look, feel and functions. The disappearance of fuel-powered engines will mean that creaking, squeaking and rattling noises inside the vehicle that largely accompany the wear of plastic and adjacent components will become much more noticeable. ROMIRA is ready to face the future with its innovative materials. It offers numerous surface design and functionality solutions for both the exterior and interior of vehicles that require no subsequent painting or surface treatment.

Surface design

Rotec acrylic compounds fascinate with their brilliant depths of color and have been used for unpainted exterior parts in jet-black, attractive design colors and high-gloss finishes in the series production of leading automobile manufacturers for many years. There is currently a big demand for materials with a deep color impression in not just black to design vehicles of future. Whether in red, green, blue or white, the surface of parts made from Rotec acrylic compounds is impressively brilliant. Metal effects in particular can be very easily mapped.

Thanks to the color competence of the ROWA GROUP as expressed in the Color Competence Center, individual color adjustments can be carried out in consideration of the requirements on color stability due to UV radiation and/or weathering. The unique Rotec acrylic compounds from ROMIRA with the type designation Rotec AC-MA 500xx and the newly developed Rotec AC-MA 700xx series with a higher heat deflection temperature also have a high impact strength and very good scratch resistance compared to other uncoated plastics.

The acrylic compounds allow scratches to be removed by polishing, unlike other thermoplastics that are used outdoors, thus restoring a smooth and shiny surface – one advantage that thermoplastics containing PC or ASA, for example, are unable to offer. Compared to similar products on a PMMA basis from other manufacturers, these products offer an up to 30% better process stability and an extended process window in the opinion of professional processors. This means that the component no longer requires painting. It is almost impossible to tell the difference between a painted car component and an assembly part made from an unpainted Rotec AC-MA compound.



Fog light housing – high gloss and matte finish in one part

Functional properties – anti-squeak and with slip agent

The use of tribologically functionalized compounds is a low-cost and permanent solution compared to complicated work with anti-squeak paints or the manual application of anti-squeak tapes at the points of contact or the use of lubricants. ROMIRA has been working successfully on the development of tribological compounds in automobile manufacture for many years and can offer solutions wherever direct contact between components is unavoidable for design and engineering reasons. Specially developed copolymers with the trade name Modiper from the firm of NOF in Japan, distributed by Marubeni in Europe, are used in this case. Modiper generally improves the anti-squeak characteristics, even when added directly to the corresponding plastic during the injection molding process. However, in most cases it lacks the good dispersions and the compatibility that can affect the long-term properties of the parts manufactured from this material. Special attention has to be paid to the recipe formulation depending on the plastic matrix: thus, the innovative



High gloss, unpainted: mirror-like impression can be realized for acrylic compounds in a number of colors

SUCCESSFUL APPEARANCE BY ROMIRA AT THE PLASTEURASIA

The international plastics trade fair PlastEurasia was held for the 27th time between December 6 and 9, 2017 in Istanbul. The exhibitors presented themselves in ten halls of the Tüyap Fair Convention and Congress Center

on an overall floor space of 120,000 square meters – including for the first time ROMIRA.

This trade fair, which was organized by the firm of Tüyap in cooperation with PAGEV (Turkish Plastics Industry Foundation) attracted over 1,000 companies from 43 mainly European and Asian countries, allowing them to present their latest developments and technologies. PlastEurasia Istanbul is seen as the most important and largest exhibition of the plastics industry in Turkey and Eurasia. It plays a major role in encouraging the opening of the industry for international markets.

Most of the total of around 54,000 trade visitors are representatives from the plastics industry, though experts from machinery as well as chemicals and raw materials industries also

attended in Istanbul. Roughly 90% came from within Turkey; further countries with a good participation included Iran, Algeria, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Iraq.

This pattern of visitors was also reflected on the ROMIRA booth, which was able to convince those interested with its stylish and homely appearance, exciting topics and innovative products. The ROMIRA guests were predominantly from sales, the automotive industry as well as the R&D sector. “We more than exceeded our expectations on this trade fair with a number of promising new contacts and potential customers and are already planning our participation in 2018,” explained Taner Kaplan, Key Account Manager Automotive and Area Manager Turkey at the end of the trade fair.



Successful premiere for ROMIRA in Istanbul

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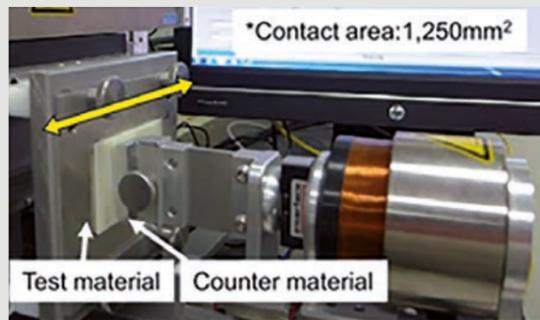
Romily and Rotec compounds, for example on the basis of ABS, PC+ABS, PC+ASA, PA and PBT, have been developed to achieve the tribological effects specifically for applications of plastic parts even after long-term tempering at high temperatures against PA compounds with mineral or glass reinforcement, and also with synthetic leather as a friction partner.

Squeaking and creaking noises are determined on the basis of the so-called stick-slip test pursuant to VDA 230-206. The creaking noises between the friction partners are recorded after defined forces and frictional velocities have been applied and the result is determined as a Risk-Priority-Number (RPN) from 1 to 10 (see Figure 1).

Figures 2 and 3 show the results of friction pairings between leather and Rotec ABS with an anti-creak finish compared to a standard ABS. The reduced frictional resistance with an RPN of 2 for the anti-creak-modified Rotec ABS can be seen very clearly (Fig. 3) compared to an RPN of 9 with the standard ABS (Fig. 2)

Solutions to problems with tribological compounds from ROMIRA GmbH that can be named here from the series of successful applications include folding brackets, armrests, door locks, slide rails, ashtrays as well as sliding roof elements. These compounds also have benefits over material solutions with PTFE-additives, which have a lower surface quality and are subject to higher wear in endurance tests. Parts made of ROMIRA compounds, on the other hand, are characterized by a very good abrasion resistance and long-term properties and require no additional painting.

Stick-slip test (VDA230-206)



RPN	Risk-Priority-Number
1-3	No stick-slip risk
4,5	Medium stick-slip risk
6-10	High stick-slip risk

To evaluate the risk of squeak noise is generated in the 10 stage (1-3: No stick-slip risk)

Test carried out by NOF



Fig. 2: Combination of ABS and synthetic leather materials 40Nx1mm/s (80 °Cx300h)



Fig. 3: Combination of modified Rotec ABS sound-insulating and synthetic leather materials 40Nx1mm/s (80 °Cx300h)

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COOL TOUCH EFFECT: HIGHLY-FILLED POLYAMIDES WITH SPECIAL PROPERTIES

With its process engineering know-how and new technical possibilities, ROMIRA is able to manufacture highly-filled polyamides with some specific properties: the products are characterized by an excellent, homogeneous and fine dispersion of fillers. As a result, products with special properties such as higher notched and un-notched impact strengths, together with better thermal conductivity and exceptionally smooth surfaces can be achieved.



as well as the interface adhesion are key parameters to achieve the desired properties profile of the matrix material. The correct filler selection and appropriate additives lead to special properties that are not innate to metals giving for example, the possibility of thermally conductive plastics

that conduct heat but are still electrically insulating.

Smooth surfaces are necessary, amongst other things, for parts that are to be subsequently electroplated. The better thermal conductivity can be felt; they are cooler

and can thus further enhance the cooling effect of any electroplated layer that is applied.

One good, vivid example of an application area is for the push-buttons in lifts or for light switches. When manufactured from highly-filled polyamides, they offer not only a cool touch effect but also a superior quality look and feel compared to conventional plastic buttons.

The type, structure, quantity and combination of fillers

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ROWASOL

ECONOMICAL COLORING WITH THE ROWASOL COLOR CUBE

It is a well-known fact that ROWASOL liquid colors can be a clever alternative to conventional masterbatches. A more effective color yield thanks to perfect dispersion and a higher quality due to a better distribution of colorants help keep the coloring costs down in many applications. But disposing of the containers and any residual colors causes extra work and additional costs, with negative effects on the life cycle assessment. To combat this, ROWASOL is now offering its self-developed COLOR CUBE multi-use system. This is a roto-molded, sturdy container of HD-PE with a capacity of around 22 liters. It is perfectly matched to the ROWAMETRIC dosing concept, but can also be used with a variety of other pump systems. The special design allows you to stack COLOR CUBEs – enabling space-saving storage and the dispatch of up to 18 containers in a transport box with a pallet format. Just as practical: the COLOR CUBEs 'commute' between ROWASOL and the customer. ROWASOL fills the CUBEs and delivers them free to the customer's door, who then uses the color and sends the CUBEs back to ROWASOL for refilling.



This results in a very sustainable cycle compared to conventional disposable containers. The fact that the CUBEs do not have to be washed out also spares the environment. Due to technical reasons a small amount of color always remains in the bottom of the container and this is homogeneously mixed with the new color during refilling. Only the newly added

the CUBE thanks to the angle of inclination.

The COLOR CUBE can be ordered in a number of standard colors on request.

amount is charged for and so the customer only pays for the quantity of color he actually consumes. This completely does away with any residual amounts and the trouble of disposing of the containers.

The closed system with a quick-lock coupling at the outlet and the diaphragm venting valve guarantee clean and easy work with liquid colors without any risk of contamination.

The figure shows a COLOR CUBE in conjunction with a gravimetric peristaltic pump. This combination allows a very fast change of colors because the hose and COLOR CUBE can be easily exchanged. The specially designed container carrier ensures a good emptying of



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ROWALACK



At the beginning of the year ROWA Lack GmbH installed a new pilot plant rolling mill to manufacture PVC and PMMA pigment preparations. This is now in successful operation and demonstrates a further strategic milestone in the alignment of the ROWALID pigment preparations business unit.

ROWALID PIGMENT PREPARATIONS – LAUNCH OF THE NEW PILOT PLANT ROLLING MILL

This commissioning of the new pilot plant system at the Seevetal site reflects the company's trust in modern standards and once again documents its innovative orientation. The investment increases ROWA Lack's flexibility and extends the range of services and portfolio for specialties. Furthermore, the new system for the first time makes it possible to present a manufacturing process from the laboratory, via the pilot plant right through to commercial production. Thanks to batch sizes from 1 - 50 kg, ROWA Lack can cover the demand for sampling on laboratory and pilot plant scale. At the same time, the company closes the gap for smaller volume productions and cuts the losses caused by small batch sizes that are sometimes required by specific jobs.

ROWA Lack GmbH offers a standard range of color shades with the ROWALID pigment preparations that convince users with their outstanding properties. Together with the customer, and based on individual requirements, ROWA Lack is also happy to develop project-related specialty products utilizing various pigment types and concentrations to meet specific end use needs.

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GREEN LIGHT FOR ROWALID®



Bespoke masterbatches based on polycarbonate have traditionally been very important as a material for optical elements such as lamp covers.

Polycarbonate is very dimensionally stable and displays high rigidity, strength and impact strength. This material

also has good electrical insulation and flame retardant properties. A high temperature resistance, low water absorption as well as a high transparency and strong surface sheen are also characteristic of polycarbonate, which can also be upgraded for long-term outdoor use through the addition of UV-stabilizers.

ROWA Masterbatch supplies a number of customers in this segment, e.g. Diko Plastic Factory, Bulgaria. The ROWALID® PC masterbatches have been specially developed for the requirements of this customer on traffic light covers.

Apart from the aforementioned benefits for this use, the material's low tendency to warp or shrink is particularly favorable for this kind of cover. The light covers made by Diko guarantee the construction's impermeability and reliably prevent the penetration of dust and water. What's more, the ROWALID® PC masterbatch types that are used for outdoor applications are resistant to weathering.

The material is processed by injection molding. Special attention is paid to a high transparency combined with a good light control when designing the parts geometry –

ideal preconditions for glare-free light, optimized for the use of LEDs, which are very economical thanks to their longevity. In addition, they consume much less power than incandescent and discharge lamps, thus making LEDs more climate-friendly than these on account of their lower CO2 emissions.

By using ROWALID® masterbatch PC-22954 UV RED, PC-32058 UV ORANGE and PC-51670 UV GREEN, the customer can perfectly combine the product properties of polycarbonate with the inexpensive and easy handling of a masterbatch.

These product developments – geared to the specific requirements of customers – are a very positive and vivid example of innovative and, depending on the needs, bespoke solutions, and not least a comprehensive advisory service by ROWA Masterbatch.

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ROWA MASTERBATCH SUPPLIES A POWER VERSION OF VIOLET

The color specialists from the American Pantone institute have reached their decision: 2018 will be a dramatic year – at least in terms of color. Every year, the experts who monitor influences and trends in all kinds of design fields, from catwalks to the automotive industry, choose a symbolic color that best reflects the zeitgeist, the needs and desires. Ultra Violet has been chosen as this year's color. According to Pantone, the present day is characterized by ingenuity, originality, creativity and visionary thinking – all of which are perfectly expressed by Ultra Violet. It is a complex and contemplative color that can help one expand one's mental horizon – or at least this is what the experts think.

What is much more apparent, in the truest sense of the word, is that Ultra Violet is a versatile color that creates different impressions depending on the combination and type of material. In combination with metallic or yellow tones, Ultra Violet takes on a luxurious and shimmering look, whereas with green and blue tones or copper it exudes more natural elegance. As a single color too, together with lavender or fuchsia tones as well as many other lilac tones, it has a strong effect on the observer. And it is precisely this multifaceted appeal that makes Ultra Violet so popular with designers, decorators and consumers: decorative elements in the trend color lend a home very different atmospheres depending on the combination, giving living rooms or kitchens an exciting, extravagant flair, for example. And this can also affect our inner soul because according to the chakra teaching, violet stands for the highest energy center in the body and inner balance. This means that anyone who rearranges their own four walls accordingly this year will be brim-full of energy and ideas! And it is not just our spirit that delights in the color Ultra Violet, we can also do our body a lot of good with violet-colored foods. Because their coloring is due to one of the most important



antioxidants – anthocyanin. It is claimed that this improves eyesight, lowers the cholesterol level and blood pressure, protects the heart and has an antiphlogistic effect, amongst other things – more than enough reasons for a delicious egg plant soufflé!

ROWA Masterbatch too has added the color of the year to its portfolio. After all, the company is a specialist when it comes to producing thermoplastic materials in

almost any color, according to individual wishes and color trends. Consequently, customers receive bespoke ROWALID® masterbatches – and as of this year in Ultra Violet too, of course.

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We are delighted to inform you that Mr **Götz-Friedrich Wedde** joined the management of ROWA GROUP HOLDING GmbH on March 1, 2018. Mr Wedde is responsible for the business management as CFO (Chief Financial Officer) together with Mr Kai Müller

(CEO) and is in charge of financial, control, taxes, legal and IT departments. Mr Wedde holds a German business administration degree (Diplom-Kaufmann) and began his professional career in the auditing department of Arthur Andersen (today's Ernst & Young). Mr Wedde went on to gain broad commercial expertise in medium-sized corporate groups at home and abroad, his last post being the CFO of an energy service provider in Hanover.

BIENVENIDO FRANCIS MERINOS



Francis Merinos joined the ROWA GROUP in October 2017 as Commercial Manager, Iberia. The 47-year-old has more than 23 years of experience in the plastics, pigments and coatings industry in an international environment and was delighted by his new field of work: "Many new and exciting challenges await me in this position within the ROWA GROUP, especially for ROMIRA and ROWA paints in Spain and Portugal," says Merinos, who will be based in the Spanish capital Madrid.

The industry expert with roots in Spain and France studied both chemistry and business & administration up to a Master's degree – and can therefore offer the perfect mixture to strengthen the company as well as establish and

maintain regional customer relations. "Francis Merinos is at the customers' side to help them with all aspects of business development," comments the CEO of the ROWA GROUP Kai Müller, to whom the new employee will report directly. Merinos will also maintain close ties with his colleagues in Pinneberg who work in application technology and research and development. "We have common goals: to boost business and promote the innovative development materials that the company can offer the market," says Merinos.



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TRADE FAIRS 2018

The ROWA GROUP at international trade fairs



NPE Orlando
Booth S18121
ROWA USA / ROWA GROUP
Orlando
7-11 May 2018



Automotive Interiors Expo
Booth 7A7329
ROMIRA
Stuttgart
5-7 June 2018



Cinte Techtexil China 2018
Ningbo ROWA Coatings /
ROWA LACK / TRAMACO
Shanghai
4-6 September 2018



FAKUMA
Hall B1, Booth 1212
ROWA GROUP
Friedrichshafen
16-20 Oktober 2018

Why not take these opportunities to meet the ROWA GROUP at trade fairs this year and get the latest news on our products.

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50 YEARS OF DONGJIN

Representatives of TRAMACO recently attended a special anniversary celebration. Dongjin Semichem CO. Ltd. from Seoul, South Korea, celebrated its 50th anniversary in a formal ceremony. Boo-Sup Lee founded the company in 1967 and developed it from an owner-managed manufacturer of the foaming agent azodicarbonamide into a listed global player with 21 locations in Korea, Indonesia, China, Taiwan, Japan and the USA in only fifty years. Apart from chemical foaming agents, Dongjin now also produces a wide range of special chemicals for the semiconductor and flat screen industries.

The visionary company founder, chairman and CEO Boo-Sup Lee welcomed more than 400 invited guests from around the world to celebrate the company's 50-year history with him in style. TRAMACO shareholder Udo Müller played a special role here, because in his many years as Managing Director, he contributed significantly to the joint success story of the 44-year partnership. As the "spokesman" of the international guests, he expressed their best wishes for the anniversary and the future and as a sign of the close relationship he handed over a gift to Boo-Sup Lee.



Tramaco shareholder Udo Müller expresses his congratulations and hands over a gift to the Chairman & CEO B.S. Lee.



Ceremonial "cake cutting" with Tramaco Managing Director Dr. Carsten Mennerich, Dongjin President J.K. Lee (far left); the former South Korean Prime Minister Goh Kun, Tramaco shareholder Udo Müller, Chairman & CEO B.S. Lee (middle of photo from the left).

Boo-Sup Lee thanked the guests for the manifold support that contributed to the unprecedented development. He looked back at the milestones in the company's history and also presented an outlook on its ambitious plans for the future, whose realization he and his team are already working on.

Since 1973 – the year of its foundation – TRAMACO has been working together closely with Dongjin and introduced the foaming agents which were initially only produced in Korea to Europe. The distribution of UNICELL products remains an important part of TRAMACO's business, selling the products throughout Europe, including several countries where it acts as Dongjin's exclusive sales partner. Moreover, the UNICELL foaming agents form the basis of the foaming agent blends, pastes and masterbatches in the TRACEL series, which are developed and produced by TRAMACO nowadays for worldwide sales.



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