



Press Release

Erema, Baerlocher, PreZero & W. Müller take on HDPE recycling challenge live at K Show

Munich, Germany – September 1, 2022 – **Erema**, a leading global supplier of recycling machinery, will host live demonstrations in their Circonomic Centre throughout the K Show. Different case studies will show how various recycling challenges are tackled along the value chain before a product is finally realized. For one case study on reHDPE extrusion blow molded bottles, the international environmental service provider **PreZero** and additive producer **Baerlocher** have joined forces to share their contribution to the circular economy. The team is also supported by extrusion blow molding technology provider **W. Müller**. At the K show, Baerlocher can be found at booth A21 in Hall 5; appointments can be made by e-mail at K2022SPA@baerlocher.com.

More recycled HDPE is finding its way into extrusion blow molded packaging for products like shower gels and household detergents. Therefore, competition is growing for sourcing high-quality waste streams that are suitable in such applications. As a result, the value chain is turning to more sophisticated technologies to use waste streams that tend to generate recyclates that have unwanted odors, poor processing performance, and insufficient mechanical properties.

Joined Forces to Optimize Upcycling

With the live demonstrations Erema, Baerlocher, PreZero and W. Müller want to highlight how a machine manufacturer, an additive supplier, a recycler, and an EBM-equipment provider each play a critical part in enabling lower value consumer waste to be circulated back into packaging applications.

For the demonstration, PreZero will supply the HDPE regrind, which was made from consumer waste using the company's state-of-the-art sorting, washing and grinding processes. The material will then be repelletized on an INTAREMA TVEplus recycling line, where melt filtration and vacuum degassing are performed under the ideal, gentle conditions necessary to avoid degrading the material.

At the show, Erema will further demonstrate how a valuable add-on equipment, a KOCH-Technik Feeder, can expand the number of commercial opportunities the machinery can take on. This feeder is used to introduce a performance enhancing One-Pack additive of Baerlocher's **BAEROPOL® T-Blend** family of products into the process. Additional value is added to the material as Erema has coupled their

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recycling line with a deodorizing ReFresher-module as installed at PreZero, which effectively eliminates unpleasant smells from the material.

Validation of the resulting product has been conducted by W.Müller, who shared extensive expertise on extrusion blow molding of reHDPE and provided access to their fully equipped technical center.

“We are proud to demonstrate the unique value of our additive in this collaboration between these esteemed brands,” said Andreas Holzner, head of the Special Additives Business Unit at Baerlocher. “Beyond its safeguarding of processing performance and its enhancement of mechanical properties, the dust free pastille form of our Baeropol T-blend provides yet another critical benefit. Since it can be easily fed directly into the **INTAREMA® TVEplus®**, every user of such equipment has the opportunity to use our additive to improve the PCR quality.”

By combining the best in terms of processing equipment with a unique additive package, PreZero has been able to maximize the added value they bring into their product, now commercial under the **SKYTENE® HD** brand, which can be used in demanding applications like consumer packaging.

The demonstration will take place in the Erema Circonomic Centre, Outdoor area FG CE03, on the following dates and times:

- Wednesday, October 19, from 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- Monday, October 24, from 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

The bottles produced during this project will be exhibited in Erema’s Circonomic Centre together with many other products made of recyclate.

About Baerlocher:

The Baerlocher Group is a leading manufacturer of additives for the plastics industry. Its portfolio includes a broad range of stabilizers and other additives suitable for a variety of polymer and non-polymer applications.

Baerlocher has a strong focus on customer and employee needs and is highly committed to innovation and sustainability. Its pioneering and proactive role is underlined by the support provided to the PVC industry during the transition from lead- to calcium-based stabilizers and by its innovative lubricant systems for wood plastic composites.

Baerlocher embraces the principles of responsible care. It operates an ISO 9001 certified quality management system and an environmental management system compliant with ISO 14001. Baerlocher plays a positive role in both the business community and society as a whole. This includes work within industry associations, and the provision of training opportunities in a variety of disciplines.

The Baerlocher Group has production plants around the globe and operates a sales network serving all major countries.

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