

Vicenç Mateu / President of the Organizing Committee of EQUIPLAST

Organizing the 15th edition of the International plastic and rubber fair, Vicenç Mateu expresses his huge expectations and firm belief that it will be visited by many professionals. Consequently he tells us about the facilities which will be provided for access to the fair and to the new parking lot.

‘Equiplast offers to the visitor everything necessary to improve the productivity of their company’



How is the new exhibition of Equiplast organized?

The organizing committee prepares this 15th edition of Equiplast with great enthusiasm, making efforts to provide everything necessary in order for to make it more successful in every respect as compared to the one held in 2005. No doubt, Equiplast will offer a perfect opportunity for assisting and encouraging investments in production facilities for different processes, which have to do with plastic processing. The chief aim is to increase the profitability of plastic products and to decrease their energy costs.

Is active participation expected this year?

Having in mind the current international economic situation, the response of the companies to the upcoming event is positive. As of today their number is almost equal to the number of the companies which took part in the exhibition in 2005. We should also mention the positive response the event enjoys internationally - the major exhibiting companies are mostly from Italy, Germany, France and Portugal. Our efforts are directed at attracting even more participants in comparison to the last three editions of the Fair, where there were about 4400 companies present, 900 of which had direct connection to Equiplast, and the total

number of the participants who showed professional interest in the event went over 58000.

Who would I encourage to visit Equiplast?

I sincerely believe that everyone who takes some stand or is professionally involved in the plastic and rubber industry should visit Equiplast, in order to get acquainted with the latest technical achievements in different manufacturing processes, shaping and processing processes of different plastic products. I am convinced that everyone will benefit from their visit to this exhibition. It should also be noted that EQUIPLAST is considered to be among the three most important representatives of this branch in Europe.

What are the innovations as compared to previous editions?

The joint participation of EXPOQUIMIA and EUROSURFAS, for example, is of great advantage to the visitor who can make use of this collaborative exhibition. This is the second edition, where the three Exhibition Rooms will be located within the territory of one exhibition

venue. Apart from this, problems with the region development and its accessibility have been solved with the help of the new transport lines between Plaza de España and Plaza de Europa/Fira. Another 2500 new parking spaces have been built.

How does Equiplast connect to Expoquimia and Eurosurfás?

Equiplast will occupy the new exhibition halls 4 and 6, which are connected to each other and to Expoquimia and Eurosurfás by means of a heaved central platform, a kilometre and a half long, equipped with automatic conveyor belts, which can take the visitor from the central entrance, located a few metres away from Plaza de Europa to Exhibition Hall number 6. These conveyor belts will ensure quick access to the three exhibition areas. Apart from this, there will be direct access to Equiplast from Botànica Str.

What new products can be seen at the exhibition?

All new technological achievements, which have to do with the transformation of different processes, will be displayed. Water-engines will be

exhibited, fully electrized or mixed, as well as different hydraulic systems for closing - with knee caps or with two discs. Of course there will be the micro injection for plastic details with weight less than one tenth of the gram. Apart from this, mechanisms will be shown for injection of multi components and concurrent injection, for wood injection, ceramics and metal powders injection, as well as injection of gas and water. It will be possible to see devices for extrusion with considerably high speed of the screw rotation, as well as mechanisms for concurrent extrusion, which are capable by means of insufflation to produce surfaces with more and more layers.

It sounds interesting...

This is not all. We also possess machines for manufacturing of hollow bodies - technical details, which are produced by the latest 3D insufflation technology. It is fully electrized and enables the production of packages (containers) from several layers and from different plastic materials with specific functions, as well as devices for recycling of all types of thermoplastic waste or waste, designated for producing plastic material, which can be re-processed. These machines are equipped with all the necessary peripheral devices for automation of any plastic manufacturing systems. Available to the visitors will also be

the latest operator and robot models for the IML labeling systems, which have many other applications as well. Of course there will be other innovations, which the machine manufacturers intend to exhibit at Equiplast. Finally, the visitors will be able to find everything necessary for increasing the productivity of their company.

Consider the present situation of the branch within the framework of the considerable changes, which the world economy is undergoing.

At European level, the branch has strengthened its position to such an extent that we cannot expect - either in the short term, or in the middle term, such a considerable growth as the one we witnessed several years ago and which is now taking place in countries such as China and India. The European market, regardless of its stability and technological potential, is more vulnerable at present as far as the impact of global economic factors is concerned. In my opinion, we are obliged to be innovative all the time, in order to reach new level of development and ensure applicability of our products, so that we can compete with these countries, where the social, tax and work expenditure are relatively lower. On the other hand, Europe may, and it is already doing it, incorporate new technologies and manufacture by means of its own mixed enterprises of the type "joint-ventures" in these countries.

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