

# ROTOTALK

Quarterly Newsletter of Society of Asian Rotomoulders

## Editorial Comment

With technological growth pushing the frontiers to rotomoulding 4.0, robomoulding and better specialty – higher performance raw materials progressing towards predominance in the new scenario, equipping yourself with the latest knowledge is now essential part of preparedness to meet the new challenges and opportunities emerging for the industry. Being at ARMO 2018 unravelled as part of such preparation with three action packed days consisting of three full day Workshops, thirty seven presentations over two days and a bustling trade show showcasing the contemporary and state of the art, in Hamburg from September 16 to 18, 2018. StAR whetted its appetite for getting abreast with the latest by attending the ARMO conference with one of its biggest group for an international rotomoulding conference outside India consisting twenty plus members. Coming so soon after the StAR focus on the hitherto less explored and less developed North East region of our country with respect to rotomoulding through the Guwahati regional meet on September 7 displayed interest to pay attention to the broad canvas of rotomoulding development.

### Dear Reader

StAR has always believed in maintaining a comfortably spaced out, yet busy calendar of events to keep its membership and the local industry moving along an activity schedule which keeps the rotmoulding mind space well occupied.

Recent events have done exactly that as RMCEER activities and the all important 15th Annual Conference & Trade Show of StAR at Kochi from January 23 to 25, 2019 move centre stage.

ROTOTALK is getting all set to bring to you all the developments of this interesting and exciting time at StAR. Look foard to your date with Kochi at the StAR conference & trade show.

Happy Reading!

## ARMO 2018 GLOBAL ROTOMOULDING CONFERENCE IN HAMBURG



Martin coles, Matrix



Mohit shukla, StAR presentation



Dr. Waigaonkar, BITS Pilani, Goa



Held from September 16 to 18, it was truly a global event with a record setting 553 registered attendees from 49 countries, held at the famous University of Hamburg campus. Most popular was the 1100 sq meter tradeshow with 54 exhibitor booths; in addition to a number of very exciting rotomoulded products on display. Mplast & Reinhard from StAR had nice booths and were bronze sponsors of the event. The ratio of molders to suppliers was equal at 50% each. There was a record number of attendees from StAR too, 20+.

Conference offered 37 presentations mostly technical under the theme “Function meets Design”; message from the conference is that automated rotomoulding and robomoulding are actively growing for high volume production of technical and challenging products e.g. for automotive industry. Operational machines were on display at the tradeshow and that was impressive. Artificial intelligence for real time monitoring and self-learning is fast developing.

As StAR’s representative on the ARMO board I and Zaman attended the board meeting on Sep 15th. Katia Zoppetti from IT-RO [Italy] is ARMO’s incoming Chairperson [lady] and Martin Spencer whom we all know well is the outgoing chairman and served us all well. I have invited Katia to attend our next StAR

conference in Kochi, Kerala. Zaman utilized the opportunity effectively to talk with sponsors, exhibitors, speakers and all potential attendees for our annual conference in Kochi Jan 23 to 25, 2019. ARMO 2021 will be held in Poznan, Poland. Next year ARMO 2019 is in South Africa !

You all will soon be receiving a gift, the SHOWCASE - an annual publication by ARMO, displaying choice rotomolded products from all over the world.

SEE YOU ALL IN KOCHI !

By Ravi Mehra, StAR Founding Chairman

### Impressions of some other StAR participants.....

“The ARMO International Conference 2018 held at the historic University of Hamburg was an exceptional experience. Germany has always been a home away from home personally, a learning ground with it’s own niche networking opportunities.

I was honoured to be making a presentation on state of rotational moulding in India on behalf of StAR and the promise India holds. Addressing a gathering of more than 500 people from the industry at the spectacular 'Hauptgebäude' (main building) shall certainly be an experience worth cherishing. The topic 'From Water Tank Moulding to Rotational Moulding' tried to give a glimpse of the progress India has made ever since inception of StAR and why rotational moulding is not just about water tanks in India any more. Besides, as an exhibitor, MPLAST rotational moulding machines and moulds got a lot of attention from international visitors."

.....*Mohit Shukla, MPlast India*

" Good conference, value for money with unique machinery concepts meant for small parts and long runs. The robotic application will hold a niche in the high investment long run small electrical Moulds

Presentations were informative.."  
 .....*Dhanu Patell, Reinhardt Rotomachines*



*R Kadivar, RP Shukla, Mohit, Ravi Mehra*



*Hodiwala, Dutta, Patel, Shukla & Divya at Gala Dinner*



*StAR Group members at Matrix Dinner*



*V Mahadevan, Ravi Mehra, B.Kapadia*

## MY EXPERIENCE OF ROTOTOUR 2018



Rototour 2018 was a knowledge enriching experience. The tour started in Milan with visit to Cracking Arts & Roplast who manufacture huge rotomoulded animal art pieces. We had walking tours in Milan and Bergamo exploring Italian history and culture. Then we visited the most impressive industry of the tour - Pentas, where the next generation has come-in and integrated the conventional working style and equipment with latest technology resulting in efficient production.

Next was a diverse company Speidel who make both roto tanks and steel fabricated tanks for Breweries. Huge automation in sheet-metal forming seen here was novel. Next we visited PP Plastics with enormous capacity



*Rototour group during a walk*



*Divya with Paul Collier, Australia*

of injection moulding (2200 tons) and a range of rotational moulding products. Company HMT had inspirational core values of 100% customer satisfaction by becoming one-point source of all related products and services. They make the reputed TOI-TOI portable toilets, manufacture their own service trucks and have their own service teams as well. Plastec Technology was next where they made extremely intricate rotomoulded products with double shot using drop boxes. Last but not one of the best industrial visits was to Premier Tech who specialise in making Septic tanks with coconut husk filtration systems. They also have a special setup for plastic welding many tanks together to make large septic tanks.

The tour ended with the Hamburg ARMO 2018 Conference where Dr. Gareth in his workshop gave a new perspective to rotational moulding with the experiments using glass mould. All speakers including Prof. Waigaonkar and Mohit Shukla presenting on StAR, gave their insights and perspective very well.

For me the experience is all about two things: the knowledge I gained and the friends I made.

[Divya Raithatha](#)

[Vinodrai Engineers Pvt. Ltd.](#)

## StAR REGIONAL MEET IN GUWAHATI FOCUSES ON ROTOMOULDING IN THE NORTH EAST

There had never been any doubt about the potential lying untapped in the rotomoulding industry in India's North East region and plans had been afoot for quite some time to hold a StAR Regional Meet in that region.

With the major Indian resin companies involved the StAR Regional Seminar & Meet was held at Guwahati on September 7, 2018.

The seminar on Process Development & Trouble shooting conducted jointly by S Dave – Consta Cool, U Savadekar – Phychem & Manoj Patria – Reliance explained process details and trouble shooting for solutions to a variety of problems in a very engaging format. The liberal use of Hindi facilitated a series of interactions between the speakers and attendees ensuring a high level of clarity in the proceedings.

With the North East moulders getting their rare opportunity for networking lunch break was busy time as well.

After lunch, it was time for presentations and leading the pack substantially in fluent Hindi was Harsh Agarwal of Param Polymers. Topics & Speakers that comprised the full afternoon programme were:

- How your rotomoulding decisions affect your bottomline: by Harsh Agarwal, Param Polymers - Kolkata
- Challenges for PE Industry with special reference to Rotomoulding: by Nitin Gupta, GAIL – Guwahati
- Select your machine – Why & How?: by Kiran Panchal, NA ROTO – Ahmedabad
- Defining Quality Compounds: by Ravi Kadivar, Greenage Industries – Ahmedabad
- Opportunities in North India: by Manoj Patria, RIL – Mumbai
- Forming & Shaping Plastic: by S Padmanabhan, SS Polyfusion – Durgapur



*Swetang Dave - Consta Cool*



Attendees



Networking at Cocktails & Dinner

> StAR  
 Presentation: by S B Zaman,  
 StAR Exec Director – Delhi & S Dave, Consta Cool  
 With the North East high on the development agenda of the Indian Government, the special schemes relevant to rotomoulders were listed out by Reliance speaker M Patria. Local moulders agreed that the time was now for the local industry to get together and take advantage of the schemes with all the help and guidance being offered by RIL. Cocktails & Dinner was again very useful to attendees to network as special thanks went out to the three sponsors of the event Greenage Industries, GAIL & NA ROTO.

## UMAKANT'S TECHNICAL CORNER

### Product and Process optimisation:-

From last few months, moving around India visiting different customers. I can feel enthusiasm and energy in rotomolding sector. Lots of projects are in the pipeline. Its not only non tank sector but even in water tank industry, after the threat of blow molding disappeared lots of investment is pouring into rotational molding.

Now water tank industry is using new media for advertising and branding, looking for new raw materials and new innovations to add value in their products. In this vibrant industry we have to change our approach to product and process optimisation to use our limited time and money resources efficiently.

My point is, till date because of the cheap sheet metal moulds and cheap (recyclable) raw materials. We are doing developments through trial and error approach. But we cannot afford it any further.

To make changes in any CNC or cast aluminium mould is costlier than putting money in mould designing and FEA analysis prior to mould manufacturing. Its not only cost involved, product development delays can throw you out of competition. Now we have international level designers like Design Directions focusing on rotational molding. We have Institutions Like BITS Pilani which can offer FEA and testing facility on specialised knowledge.

Till date, we have liberty of using recyclable PE. So we are doing lots of trial and error for setting up process. For material like PP and XLPE, we have to use Internal temperature measurement system. Best way to optimise curing cycle is to note Peak internal temperature and then impact testing program by using ARM impact method well explained in material property Guide recently published by StAR. To achieve uniform thickness, ratio and mould mounting has to be optimised. Lots of operators depend a lot on mould shielding to achieve uniform thickness. PI note that shielding is a last option after optimising all other parameters.

Now lets see how we can change our age old methods and adopt new technologies ASAP...

By Umakant Savadekar  
 Phychem Technologies  
 Email: [umakant@phychem.com](mailto:umakant@phychem.com)



  
**2019 ANNUAL ROTOMOULding CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW**  
**KOCHI, KERALA**  
 (Tropical Paradise)  
**23-25 JANUARY 2019**



**VENUE: THE GATEWAY HOTEL MARINE DRIVE ERNAKULAM, KOCHI**

**Contact for Info**

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**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

EVENTS	DATE	VENUE
2018 ARM ANNUAL MEETING	Oct 21 – 24, 2018	Montreal, Quebec, Canada
StAR 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE	Jan 23 - 25, 2019	Kochi, India

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