

ROTOTALK

Quarterly Newsletter of Society of Asian Rotomoulders

2020 CONFERENCE COVERAGE

Editorial Note

Undoubted success of StAR 2020 annual conference did not lie in its numbers which were good, but in the quality & stature of the participants. A closer look at who were there made for a very special kind of success. Top of the line Global & Indian players among moulders; suppliers of raw materials, machines & moulds, compounders, masterbatch companies & those engaged in secondary processes; as well as shining examples of international & Indian roto academia were all represented.

The roto show exhibitors came from the cream of supplier companies, and adding glory to the conference were some of the best recognized speakers, Indian speakers included. Selection of topics for seminars & presentations wove together a programme full of valuable takeaways for every genre of participants. Rotation at Goa was every bit about Passion & Profit.....thematically speaking.

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Dear Reader,

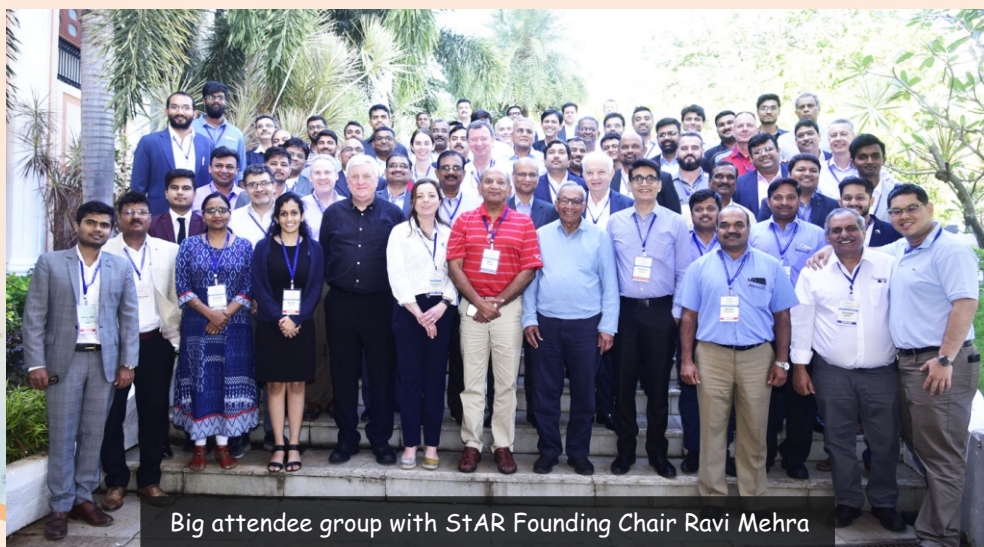
Unusual success of its 2020 conference has inspired StAR Board & others in its think tank to brain storm out of the box for current year StAR activities and benefits for its members. Also for all those who associate with it in various participant & supporter roles. To be rolled out soon is the Annual Partnership scheme offering partner / sponsor companies the unique opportunity to associate on annual basis with key StAR events during the year. Some provisions will be in-built to involve the partner companies in StAR membership development as part of their benefit packages. The annual 2021 StAR conference will undergo a grand expansion to take the name of ROTO INDIA 21 with the ROTO SHOW alongside planned to be the biggest ever. Creative thinking and efficient implementation are the new watch words and they are sure to considerably influence life at StAR.

S B Zaman
StAR Exec Director

U Savadekar
StAR President

QUALITY AND VALUE STAND OUT AT StAR 2020 CONFERENCE AT GOA SIXTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Recently held StAR 2020 annual rotational moulding conference in Goa was a huge success as gauged from the attendee enthusiasm, appreciations and feedback comments, testimonials. Interesting schedule of events provided for education, roto show, networking and the gala entertainment which was first rate and much enjoyed by all. Engaging programme, presentations and seminars received the most



Big attendee group with StAR Founding Chair Ravi Mehra

appreciation from all attendees. There were 4 half day seminars [attend any two] and 23 presentations made by 23 speakers; 14 by international speakers and 9 by domestic speakers, the most ever and all were of very good quality! One measure of a successful and appreciated conference is when the attendees are not leaving until the last speaker has finished!

The presentations programme covered a variety of topics; there were things of interest for all attendees. For the first time prime attention was given to TANKS; this included a half day seminar and four presentations, all except one presentation was made by highly experienced tanks people from the Indian industry.

Other segments covered were: Design-new products & markets; Processing-Tools & Production; Materials & testing; New & future technology; and first time a seminar on Marketing- strategic branding.

There was a RMCER Day [Rotational Moulding Center for Education & Research] on Jan 21 at the BITS Pilani-Goa campus; the core committee meeting included international advisors and PPRC [Polymer Processing Research Center] participants from Queens University, Belfast, N. Ireland. Lots of interest & enthusiasm created with faculty, students and attendees from the industry. We enjoyed a number of students and faculty attendees at both days of the conference too.

The programme allowed for an AGM [annual general meeting] where president Umakant and Zaman gave reports. Ashish Baheti reported on RMCER; and Swetang Dave spoke on the Underground Tank Standards, it's status & next steps. Much thanks & appreciation is due to all who worked for weeks & months to make this happen; and to attendees who graced the occasion. THANK YOU!

RAVI MEHRA
StAR FOUNDING CHAIRMAN

TECHNICAL APPRECIATION OF THE CONFERENCE

2020 StAR Conference had most relevant and practical presentation topics. The Programme was highly appreciated by Indian as well as international attendees. For the three days of seminars and conference presentations the attendees were fully focussed and involved.

The programme started with one half day seminar focusing on rotomolded water storage tanks by industry veterans Sunil Raithatha & Prashant Trivedi, supported by Umakant Savadekar. It covered all aspects of machines, materials and process excellence. Parallel session was conducted by Martin Spencer about opening new markets through product design.

In the second half customer centric branding strategy was one seminar topic by Prismic Reflections; first time a non technical topic but very useful for all

businesses. The 4th seminar on Processing Parameters was by Dr Mark McCourt, QUB.

Two days of conference presentations consisted of different subjects like on raw materials by Martin Coles and Process control by Aldo Quaratino of Matrix polymers. Product case studies and possibilities by Prof Marek Szostak And Ravikumar of Roots multiclean. This year's presentations by Angelique Brocatus on Improving products with rotomolding. Celal Beysel shared the scientific process behind use of heat pipe in rotational molding products. He also shared his personal experience in the presentation How to learn from our mistakes.

Sunil Raithatha emphasised on need of creating eco system to attract young talents to rotational moulding industry. Family businesses as well as others have found it very relevant to the present scenario. Keeping focus on the local industry strength of this year's presentation subjects related to local issues which was very practical. Overall there were five of these presentations –

Selling rotomoulded products

By : Blaise Costabir

Multilayer tanks -Trends and possibilities

By : Umakant savadekar

Hygiene a concern for water storage tanks

By: Prashant Trivedi

Water tanks perspective - present and future

By: Ashish baheti

Innovative tanks around the world

By: Alongkorn

Technology presentations are always a big advantage for attendees. This year too there were a few - Konstantia of Lysis presented on permanent coatings and graphics; Advances in tooling and automatition by Gaetano of Persico; Novel pathogen free recycled water treatment tank by

Belfast & BITS Goa attended. Dr Sachin Waigaonkar presented about new method of studying creep properties by using DMA. Dr Mark court talked about industry 4.0 related reasearch and development going on at Queens university.

Dr Peter Martin has given overview of on going work on development of post consumer waste polymers. Jitendra talked about simulation study done on rotational moulded products.

Industry and Academia on one platform is definitely very good news for Indian rotomolding industry. Around 10-15 students attended the conference and got opportunity to interact with industry. This collaboration is going to be long as StAR - BITS collaborative project RMCER is now in advancing stages.

Umakant Savadekar
StAR President

WELL ORGANISED CONFERENCE & ROTO SHOW

StAR 2020 rotomoulding conference & roto show at Goa from Jan 22 to 24 generated excitement and lifted the spirits of an industry which had been affected by a slowing economy. Coupled with international class organising standards the conference evoked an enthusiastic response from the participants.

Programme

A smart programme which highlighted segments of the industry which were relevant to the domestic rotomoulding industry and the interests of the attendees set it apart from what had been done in earlier StAR conferences. It was no surprise that attendee ratings for both presentations and conference organisation were quite high. StAR companies which had responded to the lowering of minimum membership dues by coming to the conference as members seemed to be taking great interest in the new accent on topics of local interest as a special segment in the programme.



Attawut of SCG. This was very useful for septic tank manufacturer from India and outside.

Participation from Academia was very significant in this conference. Faculties and students from Queens University of



Martin Coles, Matrix, UK makes opening presentation



Konstantia, Lysis Tech UK

hub right through the conference. Five domestic and three international exhibitors exhibitors were:



Grrenage Industries, Ahmedabad

Lysis Technologies, UK

Apart from the seminars and conference presentations StAR as a highly active trade association of the Indian rotomoulding industry & affiliate of ARMO reported new as well as usual activities & financials of a busy year gone by. This was done through the AGM (Annual General Meeting). Progress report on Rotational Moulding Centre for Education & Research (RM CER) was presented by RM CER Convenor A Baheti. Head of the StAR project on drafting Underground tank standards for the StAR region, S Dave updated progress on the project.



Prof Marek Szostak, Poznan Univ, Poland



Matrix Polymers, UK

M L Industries, India



A Baheti, Vectus Ind



Gaetano Donizetti, Persico Spa, Italy



MPLast, Noida

NA ROTO, Ahmedabad



Angelique Brocatus, LyondellBasell, The Netherlands



Alongkorn Kanokboriboon, SCG Chemicals Co., Thailand

Roto Show

The Roto show in well laid out octanorm booths showcased latest developments of the supplier exhibitors and remained a busy



Phychem Technologies, Nashik

Persico, Italy

Half day Seminars



Celal Beysel, Floteks Turkey



Opening new markets with product design



The evening for networking

The evening for networking in the pleasant ambience of soft background live Indian instrumental music was a soothing experience. With atmosphere, food & drink right for the occasion, much needed relaxation before serious conference work began.

StAR Directors Service Awards

Director's Services Awards were presented by StAR Founding Chairman Ravi Mehra to R P Shukla (M Plast) & J Kirubaharan (Ideal Polytechnologies), Raphy John (Evolve Polymers) and to Satish Gokhale (Design Directions) for their long term services on the StAR Board.



Above ground tanks

Cheers! Amit, Ashish, Ravi & Prashant at Networking Reception

Director Services Award to R P Shukla



Sponsors

Crucial Sponsorship support came from the three Primary Sponsors of the conference – Matrix Polymers, Greenage Industries & NA ROTO. The Networking dinner was sponsored by Alok Industries. StAR is ever so thankful to them.



Branding & Strategies

Generous Conference Sponsors Matrix, NA ROTO & Greenage

Director Services Award to J Kirubaharan

GALA ENTERTAINMENT & NETWORKING – CLASS ACT

The Gala dinner evening brought out the best of the exotic orient – Classical Kathak extravaganza by Anart dance group of Ahmedabad in a surreal setting. The beautifully lit up and artistic décor was perfect stage for scintillating dances & intricate moves. Cocktails & buffet dinner kept spirits high for a very enjoyable evening.



Presenting Sublime & thrilling Kathak at Gala Dinner



THEY CAME, THEY PARTICIPATED.... THEY COMMENTED

Gaetano Donizetti, Persico Spa, Italy

Dear All, Grazie mille for your kind hospitality and for giving me the feeling to stay as at home with a lot of friends. Many thanks again and congratulations for the perfect organisation. All my best to you and your country.

Dhanu Patell, Reinhardt Roto machines, India

It was good to be in Goa. Thank you for the effort in putting it together, Nicely done, educative, and enjoyable with a smooth pace.

Jayant Saraf, Shandilya Techno Plast, India

Very true & well said, training to the down line is also key of success & growth, I can say covering untouched areas becomes interesting & fruitful. Many thanks StAR TEAM - The REALSTARS.

Celal Beysel, Floteks, Turkey

All the presentations were understandable, practical. No gaps in the organisation. Perfect gala dinner with high quality cultural songs, dances, teachings... Thank you the StAR board and professionals.

Martin Spencer, Unique Roto, UK

Now back in the cold and wet UK! After a great week in Goa at the conference. It was great to see a good turnout of Indian moulders including some new members. The rapid increase in technical competence in India is obvious from the great presentations from Indian presenters as well as a good selection of international speakers. Above all the fantastic hospitality always shown by StAR members and organisation to one and all. Thanks for a great event.

Blaise Costabir, GMI, India

One of my best conferences. Every topic was relevant and revived so many friendships. Just hope I can incorporate 20% of the learning into my Company. My sincere appreciation and thanks to the organizers. Have a safe journey home..

Prashant Trivedi, Sangir Plastics India

A quality gathering along with quality presenters along with a great opportunity for connecting nationally and internationally, all in it together a great occasion to cherish for long.

Khushabu Patel, INDIABUNGY, India

Excellent seminar and presentation... I really learnt from above.. Thanks to all organisers.

Saurabh Bansal, Piyush Petrochem, India

"Found content relatable and focus stayed on rotomoulders problems."

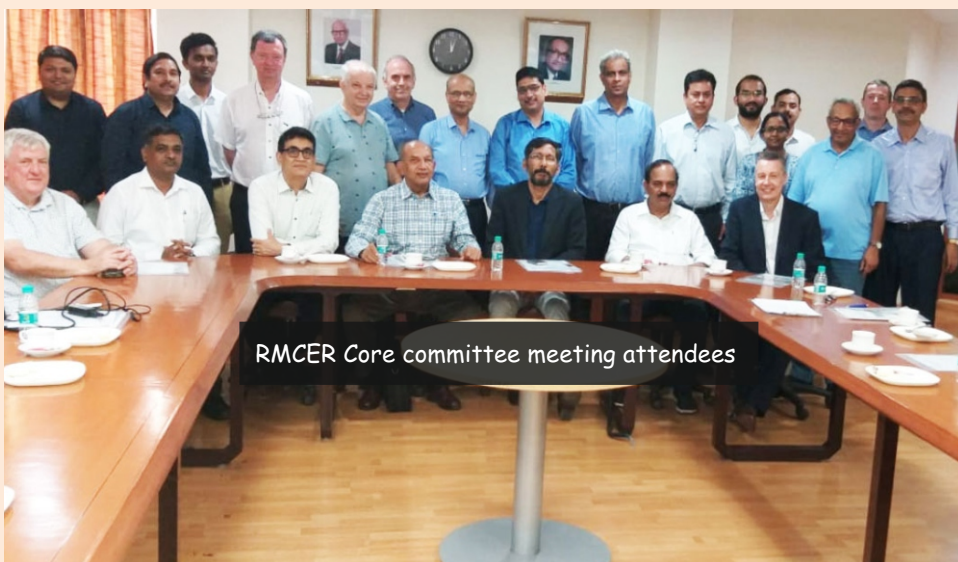
RMCER DAY GENERATES ENTHUSIASM

RMCER Day on 21st Jan 2020. Brought forth good participation and generated great enthusiasm in the events of the day. The first ever RMCER Core Committee meeting was well attended and engaged in meaningful discussions to put the centre on a forward path and keep it on track to realise its goals & objectives.

The presence of a senior team from Queens University Belfast and International Advisors provided useful and practical guidance.. Held in the initial part of the day the tone & tenor of discussions at the meeting jointly chaired by StAR Founding Chair Ravi Mehra & BITS Director G Raghurama was very inspiring and bode well for the future of the centre.

QUB as peers offered ready and useful advice. They promised co – operation which would help RMCER to quickly learn and emulate some of the unique features of their institution.

An audience of around 90 consisting mostly of students at the general session of RMCER Day following the lab tour & lunch was a very encouraging sign. The keenness of students was evident in the questions they asked. BITS faculty and StAR members were equally participative. Presentations made at the session brought clarity of purpose for the goals & objectives of RMCER. Discussions were inspiring and presentations motivating. There could not have been a better prelude to the StAR conference to be held a day later. An agenda for path forward and development of RMCER got charted out in the process.



RMCER Core committee meeting attendees



Large audience of BITS students & faculty

GROWING ROLE OF IT & COMMUNICATIONS AT StAR

StAR Board had inducted the youth brigade while reconstituting itself prior to the 2019 Kochi conference. Primary rationale was to infuse fresh ideas & thinking. Also for them to take initiatives for better & new digital technology driven communication & promotion at StAR. The change did not take long to be seen.

- Successful monthly Webinars became popular StAR activity. Several educative technical topics were featured
- Smart & attractive promo emails became a highly useful communication tool
- Social media platforms were effectively used receiving good & wide response
- For the first time an app became centre of information & communication at recently held StAR 2020 Conference

StAR communication within a short time had assumed a distinct technological edge. Utility and capabilities of such new age communication are now providing a vital lifeline to sustain activities and interact so important for life within an association. With lockdown and social distancing making physical interface and meetings impossible it is webinars and other digital modes of communication which are helping StAR to tide over a very difficult and grave crisis that the world is faced with.

StAR has a selection of very useful topics to hold weekly webinars now onwards. It is bringing out a series of Timely ideas with good scope for rotomoulding, in good digital format. Its quarterly newsletter Rototalk will appear every month now to ensure that there is no gap in communication within StAR

StAR HEARTILY WELCOMES ITS NEW MEMBER

| Company | Category | Primary Contact |
|-----------------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| A1 Industries, Nashik | Moulder | Vikas Khairnar |
| Gardens Need, Ghaziabad | Moulder | Gautam Malhotra |
| Laksh Polymers, Aurangabad | Supplier | Vineet Malani |
| Mahajan Polymer Industries, Jalna | Moulder | Jayant Saraf |
| Maxis RotoPolymers, Aurangabad | Supplier | Priyank Patel |
| Shree Polymers, Kolhapur | Moulder | Prakash Karande |
| Sithara Plastics, Ernakulam | Moulder | Tony Varghese |
| Supergas, Ghaziabad | Supplier | L Mondal |

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