

1st Quarter

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Society of Plastics Engineers
Division of Rotational Molding
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Rotational Molding Newsletter



NEW!

Marine Grade Rotational Molding Compounds Formulated by Chroma

Story on page 3



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Chairman's Message

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Special Offer Classified Ads!

Chairman's Message



Hank White

Greetings,

I see much encouragement for increased business for the coming year. Equipment manufacturers seem to be busy filling new orders. SPI projects that plastics industry equipment shipments will be up 49% over last year which is still below the 2008 level, but shows promises that the recovery has begun across the plastics industry. I trust your prospects are looking better for 2011 barring further disasters around the world.

Although the US economy is looking better, we are not creating the new industries essential for real job growth. I believe the unemployment rate will stay stubbornly high in the range of 8-9% for this year. Many companies are involved in expanding business, but all want to become leaner.

The economy is also going to have to kick its addiction to government stimulus spending, which has accounted for much of the actual growth we have seen last year.

Here in the Rotomolding Division (RMD) of SPE, our membership has gone against the overall trend of SPE membership beginning 2009. We are happy to report that RMD membership actually increased in late 2009 and has stayed relatively flat but steady in 2010/11. In RMD, we have 154 active primary members including five student members (two from Ireland, two from the US, and one from Columbia). We have 82 affiliate members according to our membership committee.

To meet our primary objectives of technology education and industry advancement, the Rotomolding Division has taken on several related programs. These included a regional conference in Cleveland held last April, participation in the Annual Technical Conference (ANTEC) in Orlando in May, and again this year in Boston an improved website with a recently added technical webinar with more to come, a new interactive site on LinkedIn, and an enhanced educational committee. We also have engaged in intersociety activities aimed at building a relationship with ARM and RCCPPIA in China. Our goal is to make an active contribution to the health and advancement of the rotomolding industry.

The Plastics Manufacturing Center at Pennsylvania College of Technology held a Hands-on Rotational Molding Workshop on March 8 & 9 which was supported by SPE Rotational Molding Division. Twenty two attendees came from 15 companies (10 states and China). The workshop, featuring Paul Nugent, received excellent reviews.

As we approach our rotational molding industry this year, one thing that stands out as a must for manufacturers is innovation. As we take on challenges of increased materials cost and global competition, inventive concepts in product manufacturing and design starts with you. Be active in your industry and embrace new technology and product innovation for a successful future.

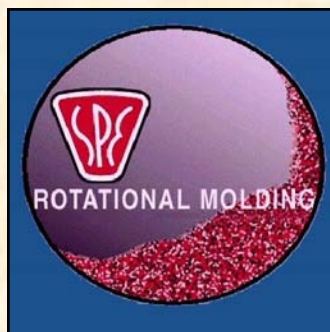
I will leave you with this thought: If you could fit the entire population of the world into a village consisting of 100 people, maintaining the proportions of all the people living on earth, that village would consist of:

- 57 Asians
- 21 Europeans
- 14 Americans (North, Central, and South)
- 8 Africans

Six people would possess 59% of the wealth and they would all come from the USA. Eighty would live in poverty, 70 would be illiterate, and 50 would suffer from malnutrition. So, if you have a full fridge, clothes on your back, roof over your head, and a place to sleep; you are wealthier than 75% of the world's population.

As usual, I welcome your comments.

C. Hank White
SPE RMD Chairman
cwhite@pct.edu



Marine Grade Rotational Molding Compounds Formulated by Chroma

McHenry, IL- Chroma Corporation is pleased to announce that Hammacher Schlemmer will be featuring The English Channel Pedal Boat in its catalog later this year. The boat is molded from a "marine-grade" Rotational Molding Compound formulated by Chroma. This is the watercraft that set a Guinness World Record for the fastest pedal-powered crossing of the English Channel.

Possessing superior nautical qualities that enabled navigation through the Channel's notoriously inhospitable waters, its ballasted keel provides superior stability in windy conditions for up to three passengers (for a total of 525 pounds). It's self-righting, durable rotomolded polyethylene hull cuts through chop for a smooth ride. A protective windshield and high free-board guard against wind, waves, and water sprays, and the form-fitting recumbent seat is adjustable and fully padded for extra comfort. A transom platform built into the stern allows for easy re-entry after swimming. It has a built-in manual bilge pump and collapsible, marine-grade woven acrylic bimini top. 12'2"Lx54 3/4"H. (325 lbs.)



For additional information on marine-grade roto compounds, contact Stuart Swain (815-759-2110 or sswain@chromacolors.com); for additional information on The English Channel Pedal Boat visit www.hammacher.com and click on item#18747.

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Newsletter Comments/Questions?

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People in the News

Bob Bunday Promoted to Laboratory Manager at Chroma Corporation



We are proud to announce the promotion of Bob Bunday to the position of Laboratory Manager in our Laboratory effective February 1, 2011. Bob will assist Chroma's Director of

Color Technology and Quality, Mir Ali and oversee all Laboratory functions

Bob has been with Chroma for over 20 years. In addition to his rotomolding experience, Bob has a tremendous amount of production, lab (both quality control and color matching) and supervisory experience. We wish him the best of luck in his new position.



Submit your news story or technical article to the RMD Newsletter!
The submission deadline for the next edition is June 1st.

Plastics Research & Education Center

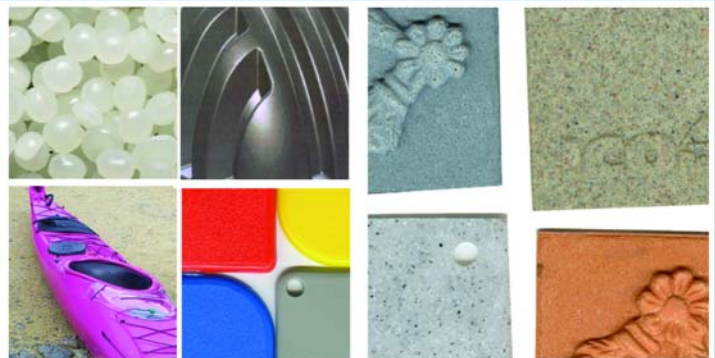
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Plastics Manufacturing Center Offers Rotational Molding Workshop



Industry employees converged at Pennsylvania College of Technology's Plastics Manufacturing

Center March 8-9 as the center's Rotational Molding Center of Excellence held its third annual Hands-On Rotational Molding Workshop.

In attendance were 22 registrants representing 15 companies from 10 states (California, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Virginia), as well as China.

The workshop featured Paul Nugent, an international consultant specializing for the past 20 years in the field of rotational molding, assisted by Jerry Ramsey, principal owner of Akro Plastics, Kent, Ohio.

Gary McQuay, PMC project manager, organized the workshop. Instruction and labs were provided in the Breuder Advanced Technology and Health Sciences Center at Penn College.

A renowned technical resource, the workshop blended classroom training with practical experience on top-level machinery. The workshop was designed to give participants practical experience in combination with classroom training on higher-level technology in rotational molding.

With the help of PMC personnel and equipment in the college's plastics and polymer laboratories, supervisory employees – as well as lead operators, technicians and engineers – focused on the connections among material preparation, molding and final-part quality. Attendees networked and shared experiences with those facing similar day-to-day issues.

In addition, the class attended an afternoon session at New Berlin Plastics – half in lecture and half in a production-environment workshop.

The workshop received an evaluation summary of 4.9 out of 5 from participants and included the following testimonials:

"Every aspect of this seminar gave me something to take back to my plant." -**Dan Goodlin, El Monte Plastics, Ohio City, Ohio**

"It helped me see with my own eyes how things are done. When you do hands-on training, it helps to retain the information learned."-**Chris Joannou, Formed Plastics, Carl Place, N.Y.**

"For someone who is new to rotomolding, it was great to have the opportunity to learn from so many people with years of experience in the field."-**Kip Powers, Iowa RotoCast Plastics, Decorah Iowa**



Continued on next page

Rotational Molding Workshop (continued)

The PMC partnered with the Association of Rotational Molders and the Society of Plastics Engineers Rotational Molding Division to sponsor the workshop.

The Rotational Molding Center of Excellence is a technical resource offering independent, hands-on applied research and development since 2001 to the North American rotomolding community. It continues to develop its rotational molding program with this hands-on seminar.

The PMC is one of the top plastics technology centers in the nation for research, development and education related to injection molding, extrusion, blow molding, rotational molding and thermoforming.

Partnering with the PMC gives plastics manufacturers the opportunity to increase productivity while decreasing capital expenditures and operating and development costs.

Services offered to plastics manufacturers include:

- New product development
- Material selection
- Testing and analysis
- Custom compounding
- Process technology
- Education and training for workforce development

As a special mission affiliate of The Pennsylvania State University, committed to applied technology education, Penn College offers PMC clients access to:

- Industrial-scale process equipment and extensive material-testing laboratories, valued at \$2 million
- World-class training programs including customized, on-site training programs, workshops, online courses and national seminars
- Expert consulting staff including members of the Penn College faculty
- Student interns and graduates (A.A.S. and B.S. degrees) who bring education and experience to the workplace

Penn College is one of only five colleges nationwide offering degree programs accredited by the Technology Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. The accredited programs are: A.A.S., plastics and polymer technology; and B.S., plastics and polymer engineering technology.

Penn College graduates are in high demand for positions in manufacturing operations, process technology, supervision, research and development, product and machine design, and more. Companies employing Penn College alumni include Honda, Toyota, General Electric, DuPont, Tyco, General Motors, Graham Packaging, Arkema, Truck-Lite, The Tech Group and Alcan Cable.

To find out more about how you can develop a path for success in the plastics industry, visit www.pct.edu/pmc, email pmc@pct.edu, call 570-321-5533, fax 570-320-5248 or write to Pennsylvania College of Technology, Plastics Manufacturing Center, DIF #26, One College Avenue, Williamsport, PA 17701.



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INDUSTRY HEADLINES

Rotational molders seeing opportunities in fast-growing India market

By Steve Toloken

March 8, 2011

PLASTICS NEWS STAFF



MUMBAI, INDIA (March 8, 10:35 a.m. ET) — Growing domestic demand in India's rotomolding market and opportunities to convert traditional products to plastic is prompting the country's processors to invest in capacity upgrades and seek out foreign partnerships, industry officials said at a recent conference in Mumbai.

India's rotomolding market is growing 15-20 percent a year, from its current demand of 120,000 metric tons (264.5 million pounds), according to estimates from the Society of Asian Rotomoulders, a New Delhi-based group that organized the conference.

Representatives of several Indian firms interviewed at Star Rotomoulding Conference, held Jan. 24-25 in Mumbai, said they are expanding factories, including one of the country's largest domestic rotomolders, Sintex Industries Ltd. Sintex is opening a plant to make tanks.



Ravi Mehra

But while there is growing demand in Indian markets like agriculture, automotive, toys and furniture, one leader with the Society of Asian Rotomoulders said the country's mainly smaller rotomolding firms need help in upgrading, particularly in design, material selection and marketing.

Ravi Mehra, founding chairman of the group, said there are opportunities for foreign firms to enter India's market in partnership with local firms.

Given the opportunities from the fast-developing market, "Indian firms don't want to waste two to three years in failures," said Mehra, who is also managing director of Norstar International LLC, a Cedarburg, Wis.-based maker of rotomolding tools. "The challenges and opportunities are exploding now."

Indian firms appear to be boosting their capital spending.

A German-Dutch-Indian joint venture making rotomolding machines, Reinhardt Roto-Machines, for example, said the country's processors are buying more-expensive equipment, as they search for ways to boost productivity.

India's rotomolding industry for a long time focused on low-cost machines priced at around \$50,000, but in the last two years firms have become willing to spend more like \$350,000, said Reinhardt executive Shivinder Singh Chawla: "All of the sudden the big guys are buying better machines."

Reinhardt, based in Vadodara, India, is doubling the size of its factory and expanding capacity fivefold to manufacture about 30 machines a year, he said.

One U.S. firm attending the conference, Dutchland Plastics Corp. in Oostburg, Wis., said the Indian rotomolding industry is similar to the North American industry 30 years ago, with many opportunities to convert products to rotomolded plastic. "I've been to a lot of countries and I think India has the most potential of any I've seen," said Dutchland President Carl Claerbout. "One thing that is so obviously clear is how large the market is here. In the U.S., the market is not growing as fast as it did 20 or 30 years ago."

He declined to say if his company is looking at any Indian ventures. This trip was his first to India, he said.

Back in the 1980s, industrial designers would come to Dutchland's Wisconsin headquarters and be surprised at what products could be manufactured in plastics, and use that knowledge to help expand markets. In a presentation at the conference, another Dutchland executive said the company, with factories in Wisconsin and New York state, wants to grow from \$30 million in sales in 2010 to \$50 million by 2014, and said that could include international growth.

An executive with the Indian rotomolding factory of plastics manufacturer Promens hf of Kópavogur, Iceland — one of the world's largest rotomolding firms — said more foreign investment in India's industry could speed up new product development.

"You see a lot of interest from companies all over the world to find business partners [in India]," said Swetang Dave, managing director of Ahmedabad-based Promens (India) Pvt. Ltd. "Once these alliances start happening, you will see more new products."

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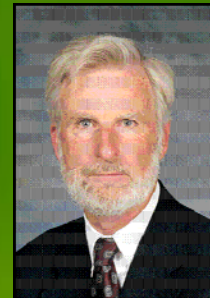
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This directory provides invaluable data and insights for companies across the regional rotational molding business – rotomolders, material and machinery suppliers, roto mold-makers, rotomolding market research analysts and consultants, financial analysts, plastic part design engineers, and OEMs exploring the rotomolding option and seeking information on rotomolders in their area with expertise in specific markets and applications.

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INDUSTRY HEADLINES

Rotomolder Elkhart Plastics back under ownership of Jack Welter

By **Bill Bregar**

March 1, 2011

PLASTICS NEWS STAFF

SOUTH BEND, IND. (March 1, 3:35 p.m. ET) -- The Elkhart Plastics name is back, as a management group led by former Elkhart owner Jack Welter has purchased five custom rotational molding plants from private equity firm Olympus Partners.

In news announced Feb. 25, the ownership group bought three rotomolding plants in northern Indiana -- in Elkhart, Middlebury and South Bend -- plus factories in Littleton, Colo., and Ridgefield, Wash.

The three Indiana plants will operate the name of Elkhart Plastics. The Littleton plant will be operated as Littleton Plastics, and the Ridgefield operation will be named Portland Plastics.

The overall company is called Indiana Rotomolding Inc., which is based in South Bend. "We bought all the custom business," Welter said.

Welter is the majority owner. Other people in the group are managers of the rotomolding operation, he said. He declined to provide terms of the deal or say how many people are in the management group that bought the business. The sale of the custom molding business comes just four months after Olympus Partners, based in Stamford, Conn., bought the six U.S. rotomolding plants of Promens hf, based in Iceland, in a deal announced in mid-October. Promens had built up a North American presence by purchasing Bonar Plastics Inc. in 2005 and, the following year, Elkhart Plastics.

Welter remained with the company as the vice president of rotomolding for Promens North America, which was the seventh-largest North American rotomolder, according to last year's *Plastics News* ranking.

"We want to stress that this is a positive development for our company. The former owner of Elkhart Plastics has acquired the custom rotomolding business, known as Indiana Rotomolding Inc., from Olympus," Welter said.

The five-plant company will have annual sales of about \$60 million and about 500 employees, he said.

"We certainly plan to aggressively grow our custom business and we hope to expand our footprint," Welter said.

Markets include agricultural, commercial vehicles, consumer products, lawn and garden, electrical/electronic, automotive, recreational and sporting goods, waste management, medical furniture, highway safety products and water management.

A rotomolding plant in West Chicago, Ill., that makes material handling products, is not part of the sale and remains under Olympus ownership.

Olympus Partners burst onto the rotomolding scene in 2008 when Olympus bought two giant rotomolders of tanks, Snyder Industries Inc. and Norwesco Inc. Olympus continues to own the tank businesses. Olympus set up a holding company to sell the custom rotomolding business. Olympus Partners would have no comment, said Mike Horgan, a principal at the private equity firm.

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Industry Honors

PAST PRESIDENTS LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION AWARD

Linda Xu has been working in the plastics industry since 1984. She has been associated with quality companies such as Little Tikes. She continued her education and received a Masters Degree in Injection Molding In 1989. Linda then studied at The Queen's University of Belfast and received her PH.D in Rotational Molding in 1994.

Linda Xu was one of the founding members of SPE's Rotational Molding Division while with Little Tikes. She has served as a Board Director for RMD for many years only stepping down in 2010. Linda chaired the RMD's Web Page Committee starting in 1997 and helped to develop and maintain the first-ever website for the division.

That website served as inspiration for the latest website that serves the needs of the divisions members. Linda has written numerous publications and given many presentations on rotomolding in her years in the industry.

Linda started her own company, LiDa Corporation, that specialize in trading, distributing, recycling, compounding, buying and selling many kinds of plastics and rubber materials. They also provide rotomolding grade compounded materials for various applications. The current capacity is 1,000,000 millions lbs..

This year's award winner is a champion of SPE's primary goal of "promoting the scientific & engineering knowledge related to plastics" because of her lifetime of promoting the industry and educating people both here and in China. Linda Xu, along with Jon Ratzlaff, was responsible for the successful Hollow Plastics Conference for SPE and the Rotational Moulding Committee of China in 2008 in China. The conference was an exchange of ideas and trends in China's plastic industry with many of China's prominent and successful companies participating.

During their May 2006 meeting the Past Presidents of the RMD Board of Directors addressed a growing concern. Some of the original members of the Division were leaving the industry, retiring, or moving on to other activities. Some of those members had made significant contributions to the creating and ongoing wellbeing of the Division. In many instances their efforts have not been acknowledged.

It was to address this issue that the Past Presidents created the Division's "Past Presidents' Award for Lifetime Contributions" to the Division. The RMD Past Presidents were pleased to present their 2007 award to Dr. James Throne. The 2008 award was presented to Jon Ratzlaff. The 2009 award went to Robert Swain. The 2010 award went to Michael Paloian.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Anyone who has been a Member of SPE for ten years or more and has served on the RMD Board of Directors is eligible for the Past Presidents "Lifetime Contribution" award.
2. Contribution to the RMD must be for time, energy, dedication, funds, and/or company contributions.
3. Recipient is chosen based on outstanding work during multiple past years of service to the RMD. Anyone who qualifies can be nominated by contacting any member of the RMD Board of Directors.

Submitted by
Greg Stout



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		Materials: (choose all that apply) <input type="radio"/> Composites <input type="radio"/> Polyolefins <input type="radio"/> Film <input type="radio"/> Polystyrene <input type="radio"/> General Interests <input type="radio"/> TPEs <input type="radio"/> Nylon <input type="radio"/> Thermoset <input type="radio"/> PET <input type="radio"/> Vinyls <input type="radio"/> Foam/Thermoplastics <input type="radio"/> No Interests	
		Process: (choose all that apply) <input type="radio"/> Blow Molding <input type="radio"/> Injection Molding <input type="radio"/> Compression <input type="radio"/> Mold Making <input type="radio"/> Compounding <input type="radio"/> Product Design <input type="radio"/> Engineering Properties <input type="radio"/> Rotational Molding <input type="radio"/> Extrusion <input type="radio"/> Thermoforming <input type="radio"/> Fabrication <input type="radio"/> General Interest <input type="radio"/> Foam <input type="radio"/> No Interest	
The SPE Online Membership Directory is included with your membership. Your information will automatically be included. <input type="radio"/> Exclude my email from Online Membership Directory <input type="radio"/> Exclude all my information from the Online Membership Directory <input type="radio"/> Exclude my address from all 3rd party mailings			

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My Primary Division is (Division names are below): RMD (D42)			Membership Amount _____									
Additional Divisions are available for a fee. Check below to select additional Divisions. <input type="radio"/> Additives & Color Europe (D45) <input type="radio"/> Medical Plastics (D36) <input type="radio"/> Automotive (D31) <input type="radio"/> Mold Making & Mold Design (D35) <input type="radio"/> Blow Molding (D30) <input type="radio"/> Plastics Environmental (D40) <input type="radio"/> Color & Appearance (D21) <input type="radio"/> Polymer Analysis (D33) <input type="radio"/> Composites (D39) <input type="radio"/> Polymer Modifiers & Additives (D38) <input type="radio"/> Decorating & Assembly (D34) <input type="radio"/> Product Design & Development (D41) <input type="radio"/> Electrical & Electronic (D24) <input type="radio"/> Rotational Molding (D42) <input type="radio"/> Engineering Properties & Structure (D26) <input type="radio"/> Thermoforming (D25) <input type="radio"/> Extrusion (D22) <input type="radio"/> Thermoforming, European (D43) <input type="radio"/> Flexible Packaging (D44) <input type="radio"/> Thermoplastic Materials & Foams (D29) <input type="radio"/> Injection Molding (D23) <input type="radio"/> Thermoset (D28) <input type="radio"/> Marketing and Management (D37) <input type="radio"/> Vinyl Plastics (D28)			Primary Division <u>FREE</u> Additional Division(s) Costs for each Additional Division <table> <tr> <td></td> <td><u>1 year</u></td> <td><u>2 years</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>US</td> <td>\$10.00</td> <td>\$20.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Euros</td> <td>€8.00</td> <td>€15.00</td> </tr> </table> TOTAL _____		<u>1 year</u>	<u>2 years</u>	US	\$10.00	\$20.00	Euros	€8.00	€15.00
	<u>1 year</u>	<u>2 years</u>										
US	\$10.00	\$20.00										
Euros	€8.00	€15.00										
<input type="radio"/> CHECK <input type="radio"/> VISA <input type="radio"/> AMEX <input type="radio"/> MASTERCARD Card number _____ Expiration date (mm/dd/yyyy) _____ Checks must be drawn on US or Canadian banks in US or Canadian Funds. Dues include a 1-year subscription to <i>Plastics Engineering</i> magazine—\$38.00 value (non-deductible). SPE membership is valid for twelve months from the month your application is processed. *extra savings. **European membership dues include a program fee to support SPE's activities in Europe.			By signing below I agree to be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Society and to promote the objectives of the Society I certify that the statements made in the application are correct and I authorize SPE and its affiliates to use my phone, fax, address and e-mail to contact me. Signature _____ Date _____ Recommended by member (optional) ID # _____									

RMD Interim Financial Report

SPE's Rotational Molding Division Interim Financial Report 2010-2011 July 1, 2010 to Nov 1, 2010		
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Cash Balance: Beginning of Period	\$43, 908.65	
Cash Receipts in Period:		
SPE Rebate	\$217.23	\$0.00
Interest	\$6.17	\$0.00
Newsletter Ads/Sponsorships	\$0.00	\$0.00
Scholarships/Grants Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00
TopCon	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Income in Period	\$223.40	\$0.00
Total Cash to be accounted for	\$44, 132.05	
Cash Disbursements in Period:		
Board Meetings (teleconference)	\$0.00	\$0.00
TopCon	\$0.00	\$0.00
e-Newsletter Printing/Mailing	\$0.00	\$0.00
Awards (Student Papers)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Scholarships/Grants	\$0.00	\$0.00
ANTEC Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
BOD & ANTEC Speakers Awards	\$385.97	\$0.00
President and Past Presidents Awards	\$0.00	\$0.00
Membership Brochure/Mailing/Dues	\$0.00	\$0.00
Website Hosting	\$0.00	\$0.00
Election, Ballot, Postage	\$0.00	\$0.00
SPE Product Design Comp.	\$0.00	\$0.00
Website Domain name (2004-2013)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Webinar	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Disbursements in Period	\$385.97	\$0.00
Cash Balance End of Period	\$43, 746.08	

The Cash Balance is made up as follows:

Scholarships/Grants (savings acc.)	\$2, 020.93
Checking Account	\$287.14
Savings Account	\$41, 438.01
Total Cash Balance	\$43, 746.08

Respectfully submitted
By
Rex Kanu
Treasurer RMD

SPE's Digitized Presentations are multimedia recordings of past e-Live™ Presentations.



Available for purchase on CD-ROM, they include presentations on more than 15 different plastics processes. Past e-Live™ Presentations are archived weekly. Go <http://www.4spe.org/elearning/> for more information.

Interested in sponsoring the RMD Newsletter? Please contact : **Bruce Muller at plasticsc@aol.com or call at (772) 781-6699**



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