RUBBER Review

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Van T. Walworth

President of PRDS, Inc. | "The Rubber Whisperer"
Rubber Industry Consultant, USA

Edition # 2 | Hybrid Event

TechnoBiz LATEX WEEK

24-26 SEPT 2025 | CHENNAI, INDIA

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Training Course | Hybrid Event

TechnoBiz

EPDM Seals : Process Troubleshooting

23 September 2025, CHENNAI

GREEN PARK HOTEL | 10am-5pm

This training course on "EPDM Seals: Process Troubleshooting" provides practical knowledge to identify and resolve defects in EPDM seal manufacturing. It covers material basics, compounding, processing methods, and testing, with a strong focus on real-world troubleshooting in extrusion, molding, and assembly. Participants will learn how to improve product quality, reduce defects, and enhance production efficiency.

Course Content

- Introduction to EPDM Seals
- Material & Compound Issues
- Processing Equipment & Operations
- Extrusion-Related Defects
- Sponge & Solid Profile Issues
- Molding & Assembly Defects
- Final Application Failures
- Troubleshooting Strategy

Course Instructor

Mr. Dathathri Dharmarao is a well-experienced rubber technologist with extensive expertise in the processing, compounding, and troubleshooting of EPDM seals. With decades of hands-on experience in the automotive sealing industry, he has led technical teams in solving complex manufacturing challenges related to extrusion, molding, and quality control. His deep understanding of EPDM behavior under various conditions, along with a strong focus on practical problem-solving, makes him a highly respected expert and trainer in the field.

Registration Fee / Person

In-Person Participation

- Indian Delegates: Rs. 15,000
- Overseas Delegates: US$ 300

Online Participation

- Indian Delegates: Rs. 25,000
- Overseas Delegates: US$ 500

Remarks: GST 18% applies on above fees. Discount is Available for Group Registrations. Delegate Registration Fee subjected to increase one week before schedule. Registration fee includes lunch and refreshments.

PKR CONSULTANTS

PKR Consultants is authorized organization to process fee payments for delegate registrations and sponsorships from organizations based in India
GST: 37ALDPC9514F1ZB

Delegate Registration

Venue: Hotel Green Park
N.S.K. Salai, Arcot Rd, Vadapalani,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600026, India
https://hotelgreenpark.com/chennai/

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Quality Assurance

We operate a management system in accordance with the requirement of ISO 9001 : 2015 while compiling with international standards.

ISO 9001 : 2000

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We are a Thailand-based manufacturer of high quality natural rubber and concentrated latex with more than 30 years of experience by the brand of "**NUMATEX**". For the past decades, we have supplied our products to **more than 50 countries** from all continents, particularly among Southeast Asia and European factories. We aim and will continue to be fully committed in leveraging natural rubber industry with new advancements for the best solution offered.

Our Story

Our company was established in 1987. We produce Concentrated Latex and Skim Rubber Block. Since then, our company has been growing significantly both in quantity and quality of our products. In 1987, we started the operation with only 4 centrifuge machines and with storage capacity of only 400 Metric Tons. At present time, we are producing concentrated latex with 33 centrifuge machines with storage capacity of up to 4,000 Metric Tons. Our biggest assets of the company are customer confidence on our product and skilled human resources. With these assets, we have received ISO 9001 : 2000 certification since 2004.

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Our Latex is available in various standardized specifications according to your company's requirement. Our latex is used by wide range of customers such as manufacturers of gloves, condoms, latex threads, rubber foam, adhesives, etc. Since 2021, **Production capacity** was expanded to **3,500 metric tons of concentrated latex per month** with 33 centrifuge machines.

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Skim Block

We produce high quality rubber skim blocks. Our product is light color in natural yellow-brown and fully dried with no odor. Various rubber parts, car tires, and shoes manufacturers are our major customers for Skim Blocks.

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Our plant is operated under environmental-cautious mindset at all time. Sustainability has always been one of our top concern ever since the beginning. Our Solar system has been successfully implemented earlier in 2021 for the first phase.

Our own innovation of the Advanced Wastewater Treatment Systemhas successfully been appreciated by our locals and later it has been set a prototype system for all latex factories in Thailand to follow by Official Environmental-concern Authority and Thai Latex Producers and Exporters Association.

EUDR Latex

Our EUDR-compliant production line has been successfully implemented. Since November 2024, we have begun exporting EUDR latex to global markets, with full reporting in accordance with the EUDR (EU Deforestation Regulation) guidelines. This marks a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to sustainable and responsible sourcing practices.

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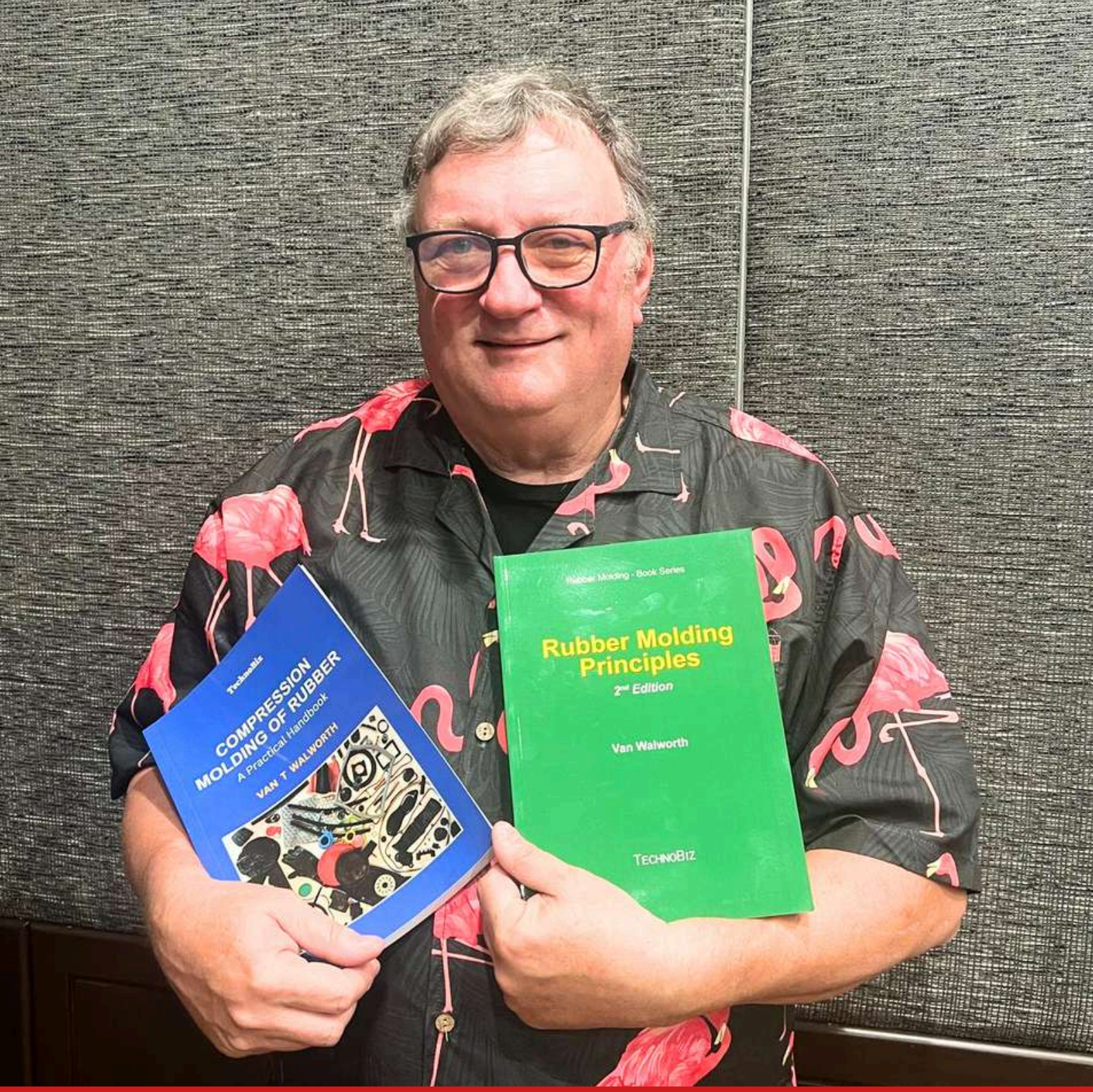


COVER STORY

Conversation with
Van T. Walworth

President of PRDS, Inc. | "The Rubber Whisperer"
Rubber Industry Consultant, USA

For more than 45 years, Van T. Walworth has been a singular force in the world of resilient product design in the rubber industry, renowned not just for his engineering acumen but for his uniquely creative approach to problem-solving. Known widely as the "Rubber Whisperer," Van has served as a consultant, expert witness, global seminar leader, and prolific inventor with more than 90 patents spanning resilient seals, pipe systems, HVAC components, and consumer goods. His seminars have educated engineers globally, and his practical guides to rubber molding have become cornerstones of the field.

In this interview, we explore Van's professional journey, his philosophy of creative engineering, and his vision for the next generation of innovators.

You've built a career around a rare combination of technical rigor and creative expression. What first sparked your interest in engineering and design—especially in the realm of rubber and resilient materials?

As I look back and reflect on my career path from the beginning to the present day, I can readily identify numerous defining moments and periods that shaped my career path and resulted in what I have become and where I am at this point in my life. Even though I was often oblivious to the magnitude of many of these events at the time, I believe each one set in place a foundational moment that has impacted every aspect of my career and character. I further believe they are a continuously active foundation and framework upon which I presently pursue to build upon for the future.

I grew up in a modest household with a Civil Engineer father and a career public school teacher mother. As a result, logical thinking, problem solving, learning new things, independent study, and creative expression were encouraged and fostered at home. I recall my early childhood was filled with building blocks, Erector Sets, various tools, and things I could build and make. Ironically, my early childhood was also filled with playing with and shooting rubber bands. My teenage years were likewise filled with building tree houses, and all kinds of things I could use around the house to improve our various hunting and sports activities. Continuing into college, I cobbled together an unusual 15-speed bicycle out of four or five scrap bicycles and took it to college with me to get around. My first year at the University of Alabama I entered and won a campus distance bicycle race with my cobbled bike. A student who lost to me in the race, offered to buy my bike, I sold it to him. From there, in the mid-1970s, my Slide Rule was my calculator and drafting paraphernalia were my design tools.

The practical foundation of my engineering skills was laid when I got the chance to channel both my father's and my mother's career influences, because I was given the opportunity to be an assistant instructor for the University Engineering Department, teaching Engineering and Architectural Drafting. I was fortunate to hold this position for two years, which helped fund my way through the cost of college. My years in college included an opportunity to play football for the Alabama Crimson Tide, coached by the Legendary Paul "Bear" Bryant. During my football practices, I learned firsthand, the valuable skills of hard work, teamwork, self-discipline, and how to coach and motivate different people in diverse ways. These days were the foundations of my mentoring skills.

My college curriculum started out with a major in Physics, then changed during my Junior year to Engineering Drafting & Design. Along the way, I also focused many courses on metallurgy and even won a scholarship grant from the American Foundry Association for my work in Green Sand Casting. I did not realize it at the time, but working with foundry castings would play a huge role in my future engineering experiences. My foundry coursework was the foundation which my first engineering applications were built upon. I graduated from college in 1978 and was hired a month later by American Cast Iron Pipe Company (ACIPCO) as a Technical Draftsman and Estimator.

Two very defining things occurred during my first two years in the Estimating Department (Besides getting married and having children!). One was that I further developed my rubber band shooting skills and developed a way to shoot a rubber band and make it return to me! At first mention, this developed skill set might seem to only be a clever parlor trick, and not a noteworthy event.

The “Rubber Whisperer” showing rubber conference attendees the technique to shoot a rubber band and make it come back to you.

However, the ability to make a rubber band do something that was very non-obvious to people, particularly rubber industry people, has become one of the things I am somewhat world-renowned for being able to do. Once people have been introduced to the possibility of making a rubber band return to them, their attempts to master the ability themselves prove to be virtually impossible to replicate. This realization is part of the mystique and justification of my notoriety as "The Rubber Whisperer".

The second defining event was that I envisioned and developed a way to load large diameter ductile iron pipe on flatbed trucks so that they could carry twice the pipe. This saved thousands of dollars in freight each year. This idea was not patented and was copied by all our pipe company competitors. This invention was not part of my job or my department. It was an idea that came to me while trying to find a way to get a delivery advantage over our pipe competitors at the time. Since about 1981, this little idea has been used for over forty years and is still being used today by all the pipe manufacturers shipping large diameter pipe to save shipping freight cost.

The most significant thing about inventing the diagonal pipe stacking dunnage is that this event was the catalyst that moved me out of the Estimating Department and into the Product Research & Development Department. I was subsequently in the Product Research & Development Department for the next ten years, developing new pipe joints and new gaskets for pipe joints, which were my first patents. My time in ACIPCO was a very fertile time of creative development for me. I was blessed to have managers who shaped and focused my creative skills, including giving me the freedom to experiment and fail. Learning the value and ability of product and/or process testing and then being able to perform intensive failure analysis established my foundation for troubleshooting, testing, R&D, and the establishment of robust product and process characteristics. Working on new pipe gasket development projects stimulated my love and intense passion for resilient products. As a result, now forty-five years later, I have never turned back or away from that initial interest.

Looking back at your early career with companies like American Cast Iron Pipe or Wynn's Precision, was there a defining moment or influence that catalyzed your transition from engineer to inventor?

Each company I had the opportunity to work for, and each of the job responsibilities I was given, I have been able to learn to be a better manager, mentor, coach, and further develop my technical knowledge and skill sets. It has also been a career passion of mine to help develop technical members of my teams and foster improved skills for them by giving them as much of the helpful opportunities as possible, that were afford me in my early professional career.

As my professional positions moved me upward into higher positions of management and responsibility, my personal activity changed rather dramatically. In my early professional career at ACIPCO, everything that needed to be done on an R&D project, I pretty much had to do and perform myself and/or coordinate the activity. That was a time in my career when I "wore all the hats" and performed every task hands-on. As time progressed through years, I held executive management positions with Thunderline Corporation, Reeves Rubber Company, Ashtabula Rubber Company, Wynn's Precision, and Parker Hannifin. My executive positions virtually excluded me from the opportunity to do much hands-on engineering activity. Therefore, a not so gradual shift had taken place in which more of my time was Project Management and Product Invention. Less of my time was focused on testing and development. I lamented the lack of hands-on activity but never lost the passion or zeal for it.

Van Walworth inspecting the first and original large pipe, diagonal stacking dunnage he invented

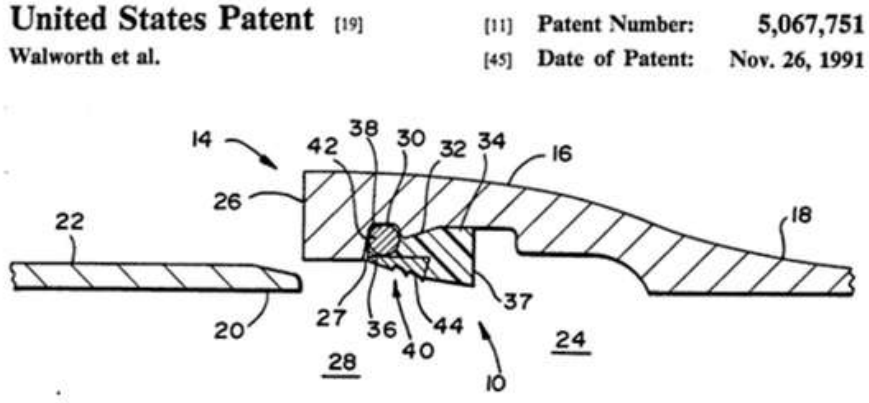
Your motto is "Be Creative"—a guiding principle you apply to both personal and professional life. How has this mindset shaped your problem-solving approach and the types of projects you pursue?

I adopted a personal motto of "Be Creative" while I was in college. For me, this was a deliberate personal characteristic that I wanted my life to reflect in everything I did, as much as possible. To that end, I tried to be creative in my song compositions, guitar playing, teaching, personal performances, sports, and as many aspects of my college life as possible.

After graduation, I was already primed and in an established pattern of "being creative" in most aspects of my activities. I made it a deliberate practice to find ways to improve things around my home and workplace. This characteristic personal aspiration has benefitted me in numerous and invaluable ways over the years. I learned and continue to learn, to this day, current information and expertise about many things in day-to-day life. It has been amazing to me how many times some seemingly insignificant little thing I have deliberately taken the time to improve and/or just question, turns out to eventually provide me with useful insight and/or information about something I need to accomplish engineering or career wise.

Van's favorite hat – describes his technical being!

One example, back in my college days, I researched and learned about the stylus of my vinyl record player. Six or seven years later, I applied the technical principles I learned about why the stylus had to be made from diamond or ceramic material to a rubber gasket pipe seal I was developing. It turned out that this tidbit of information became the spark that launched the successful development of my first rubber gasket seal patent with hardened over-molded gripping teeth. I try to make it a point to recognize and not dismiss the long-term potential value of certain trivial things as I come across them.



Van Walworth's First Rubber Gasket Seal Patent With Over-Molded Bonded Teeth

Van Walworth and Dr. Hans-Joachim Graf, A Well-Known German Expert on Rubber Compounding and Processing, jointly offered various professional trainings globally.

Reverse engineering is both art and science. Can you share a particularly complex or high stakes reverse engineering challenge you've solved, and how your approach led to success?

"Reverse Engineering" is a widely used term these days. Generally, when people speak of reverse engineering, the subject is focused on or related to some kind of "rapid prototyping" or some version of "additive" manufacturing. Particularly in the rubber industry, reverse engineering has become a term almost exclusively associated with the process of testing an existing rubber product to try and break it down into its discrete ingredients to discern a viable formula for replicating the material.

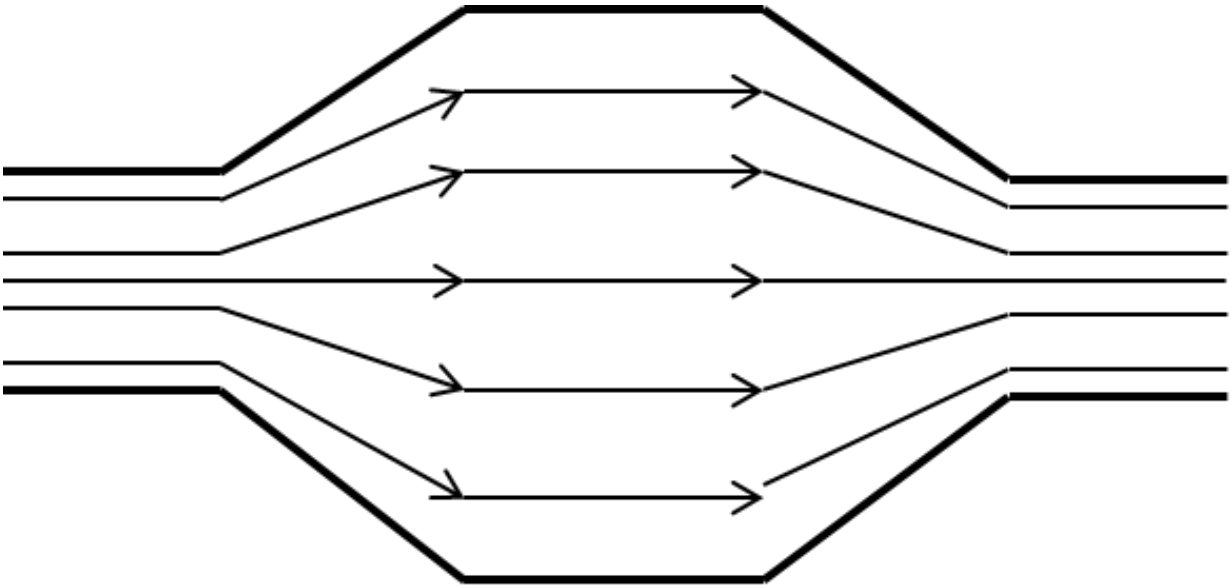
However, back in the day, I was first introduced to the reverse engineering term before any of the rapid prototyping or additive manufacturing technologies existed. Therefore, the foundations of my version of reverse engineering are rooted in an alternative review and/or research effort to question several things about an existing product and/or an existing process required to produce the product. The end result being to try and determine how an existing product is made and develop a better product and/or a better way to manufacture it.

Most engineers know (or should know) that as much as 70% of the cost to produce a product is fixed the moment the inventor/developer finalizes the conceptual design of the product and/or the process to produce the product. This substantial percentage of fixed cost is basically unchangeable unless the conceptual design of the product and/or the process is fundamentally changed. It may sound simplistic, but my thought process and approach to reverse engineering is to challenge the conceptual design of the product functions and/or the process required to produce the product.

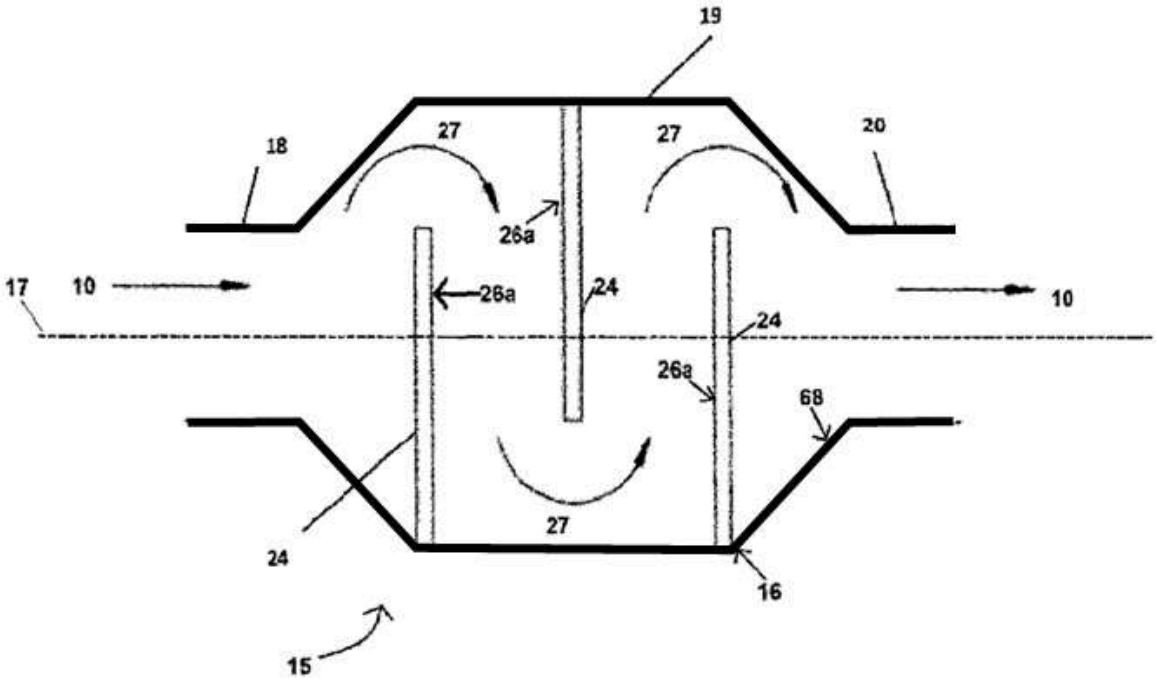
One of the projects I was involved in included analyzing the resilient aspects of wood frame structures and how they fail when subjected to destructive tornadic and/or hurricane forces. The reverse engineering application included researching and discovering the weak points of a wood frame structure and the nature of the forces destructively acting upon them. Then redesign (reverse engineer) appropriate wood frame brackets and structural components as countermeasures to the destructive forces, to prevent the wood frame structure from coming apart. This approach resulted in thirty patents related to preventing and/or minimizing the destructive threat to life and property that tornadoes and hurricanes impose upon people.

In another example, I have innovated a flow control technique for injection mold runner designs. I shamefully call this technique a "Vanturi" and have been teaching and applying the technique in the rubber industry for many years. In 2015, a technical colleague of mine (Terry Chapin) and I applied the Vanturi technique to injection runners as a cavity flow and fill balancing technique.

About the same time, I started working on a long-term project to capture and remove heavy metals and dangerous elements from industrial discharge waste streams of fluid and/or air streams. The spark that kicked off some substantial success with the process development was that I reverse engineered my Vanturi from a rubber injection flow technique and applied it to a novel industrial discharged flow control process. The result of this innovation gave way to about thirty-five more patents, and still counting. These process technologies offer huge benefits to the environment for the capture and control of several hazardous elements. This is an example of one of my favorite altered sayings; "They say you cannot reinvent the wheel". I potentially agree with that statement, but I also respectfully offer an altered sentiment that "Just because you may not be able to reinvent the wheel, does not mean that you can't further innovate the wheel". (Consider the Tweel tire designs flooding the non-pneumatic tire marketplace)



"Vanturi Technique" Invented by Van Walworth and applied to the Rubber Industry by Van Walworth & Terry Chapin for Rubber Injection Mold Runner Flow Balancing ©2015



"Vanturi Technique" Invented by Van Walworth and applied to patents related to the Capture of Hazardous Materials in Air & Fluid Discharge Flow Streams

Patent No.: US 9,675,933 B2
Date of Patent: Jun. 13, 2017

“Just because you may not be able to reinvent the wheel, does not mean that you can’t further innovate the wheel”

You emphasize helping companies "recover wasted dollars" on the factory floor. What patterns or inefficiencies do you most often encounter, and how do you address them creatively?

Many companies become complacent about the potential improvements they can take advantage of in their plant. This is usually the result of becoming used to the way things are or done and/or accepting the way it has always been done without question, and/or sometimes, ignoring potential improvements, resisting potential issues associated with "changes". Often, a fresh set of eyes is required to ferret out potential improvements that have been overlooked or undervalued.

Over the course of my career, I have had the good fortune and benefit to have been in hundreds of rubber molding companies in over forty countries, on five different continents and cultures. I have observed that there are many amazing and talented individuals with fabulous techniques and practices. There are also many common practices and/or issues that many rubber companies share with many other rubber companies. However, most of the rubber companies do not have the perspective of the industry at large that I have, and therefore tend to think they are more unique than they are with their innovations and/or problems.

Therefore, I am often able to bring potential cost-saving improvements to a process, product design, mold design, and/or a workforce technique. I must always be vigilant to guard and protect anything considered as someone's confidential information. Just because I may know about a technology, I am not automatically granted permission to share or disclose it somewhere else. I only get one chance to betray someone else's confidential information. I have been very faithful in considering confidentiality with every client or potential client with whom I engage.

When inventing new tooling or equipment, where do you begin—what are the key inputs that drive your creative process from idea to implementation?

Since I have been able to spend may hours running many types of presses, and molding many types of products myself, using molds that I designed, I have acquired an extensive level of hands-on experience on the shop floor. For many years I also had a personal prototype shop for product development. I own a compression press and an injection press. This equipment, and many additional shop tools enabled me to design and make many different rubber molds with elements of compression, transfer, and injection molding. I was free to try all kinds of novel mold designs as a sidebar to the product that I might have been developing at the same time. As a result, I have been able to glean interesting first-hand knowledge associated with the cause & effects I observed.

Therefore, when I engage in a new product design, a new mold design, or a reverse engineering project, I can visualize the entire macro process from an overall 10,000-foot point of view, and at the same time, simultaneously zoom in close for a magnified micro closeup point of view of each individual step. This developed skill set helps me to draw from and combine my experiences, expertise, research capabilities, and creativity into a meaningful result.

Rubber is one of the most versatile yet misunderstood materials in manufacturing. What keeps you fascinated with its properties, and what possibilities does it continue to unlock in your work?

There is no doubt I discovered a passion for the resilient characteristics of rubber with my first gasket design & development project. I am not sure I can explain why I am fascinated with rubber and other resilient products. Perhaps it the uniqueness and novelty of resilient physical properties, or perhaps the whole resilient characteristic of rubber inspires me to also be resilient in my life and my career? Perhaps all the time I spent playing with rubber bands in my youth planted seeds that eventually bore career fruit. Whatever the answer is, I do know that I aspire to keep learning more about this intriguing material, and I enjoy sharing what I learn with others.

With so many patents in rubber seals, automotive components, various industrial products and processes, and consumer products, how do you balance innovation with practical manufacturability?

For me, it does not seem to be an issue of balance per se, because I consider manufacturability, innovation, invention, and development in concert with each other. I am afflicted with a minor form of dyslexia and tend to naturally look at products and/or processes by envisioning them backward, inside-out, and/or reversed. I have been able to turn this minor disability into a valuable and useful advantage.

In your seminars, you often clarify misconceptions about molding techniques. What are some of the most persistent misunderstandings you encounter among engineers or technicians?

In my opinion and observations, there is a widely held expectation that more technology and better technology is required to make better profits and needed to keep up with and/or get ahead of competitors. The misconception embedded with this premise is that it is not just the technology alone, it is the understanding of how to apply that technology and optimize/maximize it to its fullest benefit.

Another misconception about equipment and processes, which I observe, is that compression molding techniques are “ancient and archaic” and should be replaced with “modern” injection processes. I do not believe or practice that kind of “one size fits all” process comparison. Instead, I believe the application of creative, novel, and/or modern techniques can be made to all rubber molding processes, rubber molds, and material formulations, which can improve them over whatever the traditional and/or perceived status quo may be.

Another misconception I observe is that companies will design and build molds without using better mold design practices and/or avoid using better mold steel, thinking there are no consequences. There is often deliberate disregard for implementing best practices in the mold design to avoid some upfront cost. Down the road the companies suffer with extensive quality costs and mold repairs/rework during production efforts that far exceed the upfront cost they were trying to avoid in the first place. This misconception can be expressed in the saying, “penny wise and dollar foolish”.

I also observe a major misunderstanding with many technical people, in that there seems to be a shortcoming in their realistic understanding of when a molding process has achieved a proper state of cure for the product being molded. I observe an unrealistic acceptance that lab data (such as Rheometer graphs, shrinkage, hardness, comp-set, etc.) mirrors shop floor process settings. The embedded misconception here is that whatever results were obtained in the lab (primarily using compression molding techniques) is “absolutely representative and predictive” of the results that should be achieved on the manufacturing shop floor, regardless of which process is being used. The misunderstanding is that the lab data can be a very good indicator and can be correlated to shop floor state of cure, but the lab data, in and of itself, is not a proof of state of cure for the shop floor parameters and environment.


PLATINUM PARTNER
CEAT
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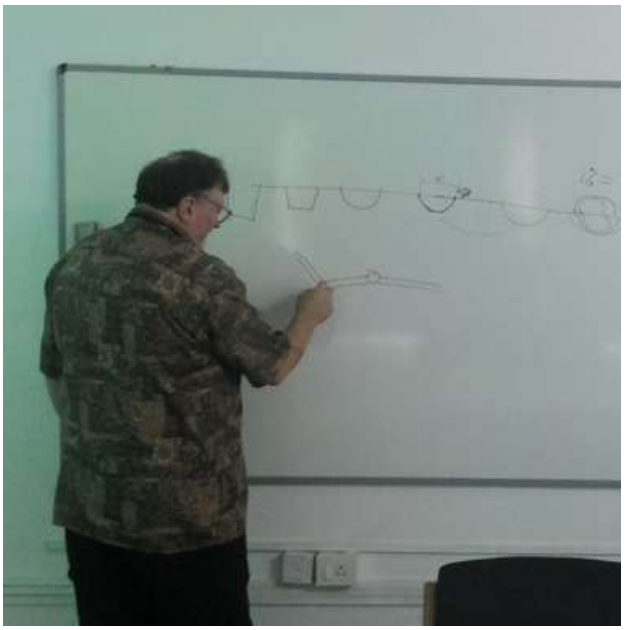
You've taught at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and other organizations and conducted training seminars in over 20 countries. What do you find most rewarding about teaching professionals in the rubber industry?

A teacher or instructor's heart longs for the instant when a student or attendee has one of those "aha" moments when they just got a nugget of understanding or an answer to a question that has been eluding them. In any face-to-face session, whether one-on-one or in a assembly hall with hundreds of attendees, I make it a point to scan the room looking for those inspiring moments when the eyes of an attendee light up, or suddenly they rapidly jot down some notes, or they sit up straight and lean in a little bit as though they are unconsciously trying to get a little closer to the sound of my voice and the things I am speaking about. Those are the fulfilling and rewarding moments for me, as an instructor, when I see that I have helped a novice and/or well learned industry professional, glean a useful nugget of knowledge and/or application from something I shared.

Your seminar topics range from mold design to troubleshooting, to spontaneous creativity. Which subject consistently sparks the most engagement or aha moments among your audiences?

I observe that the more "common and well known" a topic or subject might be in the rubber industry, the more it is considered simplified and/or overlooked, discounted, and of little consequence to worry about. However, when I present my way of looking at things like: Mold Parting Lines, Tear-Trims, Flash-Grooves, Troubleshooting, Registration & Alignment, Basic Mold Construction, Injection Runner Layouts, Anatomy of Sprues, and many more seemingly obvious topics, seasoned rubber industry practitioners find that they can expand their respective knowledge and applications about topics they had not considered as a result of the light I shine on the subjects.

In plant visits and/or virtual technical session, there seem to be aha moments related to troubleshooting my efforts. Over the years, several of my clients have remarked that it seems that I can "whisper" and/or chat with the rubber in their process and decern a problem and/or a solution. As a result, several of my clients have attached the nickname to me of "Rubber Whisperer". I have had no choice but to embrace the name for the past twenty years or so.



What advice would you offer to young engineers who may feel constrained by rigid processes, yet aspire to be both technically proficient and creatively bold?

I have had the opportunity to work for, work alongside, work with, and manage many technical people. I can think of at least ten things that I consider to be critical core competencies that I believe separate great technical people from the rest of their industry peers. (1) Technical people who can "apply" what they have learned and/or observed. This not only includes learning from your own mistakes and experiences, but also especially includes learning from the mistakes and experiences of others. (2) Technical people who are filled with practical common sense. (3) Technical people who are willing to risk making mistakes. (4) Technical people who take personal responsibility for things that are not perfect results. (5) Technical people who can share positive results with team members. (6) Technical people who are not afraid of change or implementing change. (7) Technical people who can search and find true root causes. (8) Technical people who have learned skills and expertise in numerous disciplines. (9) Technical people who are creative in work and creative in life outside of work. (10) Technical people who are willing to teach and mentor others.

Technical people lacking these characteristics may struggle with their job compared to technical people who are flush with these characteristics. Technical people who want to have the best chance of being sought after for their skills, and/or their creativity, and/or to advance in their careers, and/or become promising entrepreneurs, and/or fulfil the desire to make a difference to the people and the world around them, should embrace as many of these core competencies as possible and maximize them as some of their foundational interpersonal characteristics.

Having worked with companies across Europe, Asia, and the Americas, what regional differences stand out in how rubber product development is approached?

The original development of many rubber parts and products traditionally took place in one of the Western and/or European countries. Then these products were strategically transplanted into various Asian manufacturing companies, where additional development has been applied to improve the products. However, over the past decade or so, I have observed an ever-growing number of Asian companies emerging with the ability and opportunity to design and develop their own rubber products and bring them to their respective domestic and/or their respective international markets.

The level of R&D and subsequent testing, validation, and product performance requirements are almost always driven and regulated by the markets the products are being used in, regardless of where the product is developed and/or manufactured. Therefore, I have not observed that much regional difference in how rubber products are developed, but I have observed a huge expansion of rubber product development in the Asian regions now compared to a decade or so ago.

Interested rubber industry professionals can contact Van Walworth at: van@prdsteam.com

From sustainability mandates to automation and workforce training, what are the most pressing challenges you see companies facing today—and how can they navigate them?

Companies in the USA and Europe are struggling to find, hire, and retain trained and capable employees for skilled jobs of all kinds. The rubber industry, for instance, in the USA has a significant labor shortage for employees at entry level positions, skilled trade positions, and management. The generation of so-called "baby boomers" are retiring and leaving the work force in mass. Most companies do not have an effective way for knowledgeable workers to pass on their expertise to the next generation of workers. The labor shortages in the western and European regions have opened a door of opportunity for many Asian manufacturers who have the advantage of large labor pools.

This problem of how to save and pass on worker skill sets, expertise, and experience is not well solved in most industries or companies. As a result, manufacturing consistency and sustainability is and has been at risk for decades. It is no wonder that so many companies have turned to as much automation as possible. Advances in computing and AI have begun to augment more processes to establish better consistency, less variability, and improve quality in manufacturing. Despite the prohibitive cost of automation and the uncertainty of the consequences AI may cause, many western and European companies are investing heavily and taking the risk.

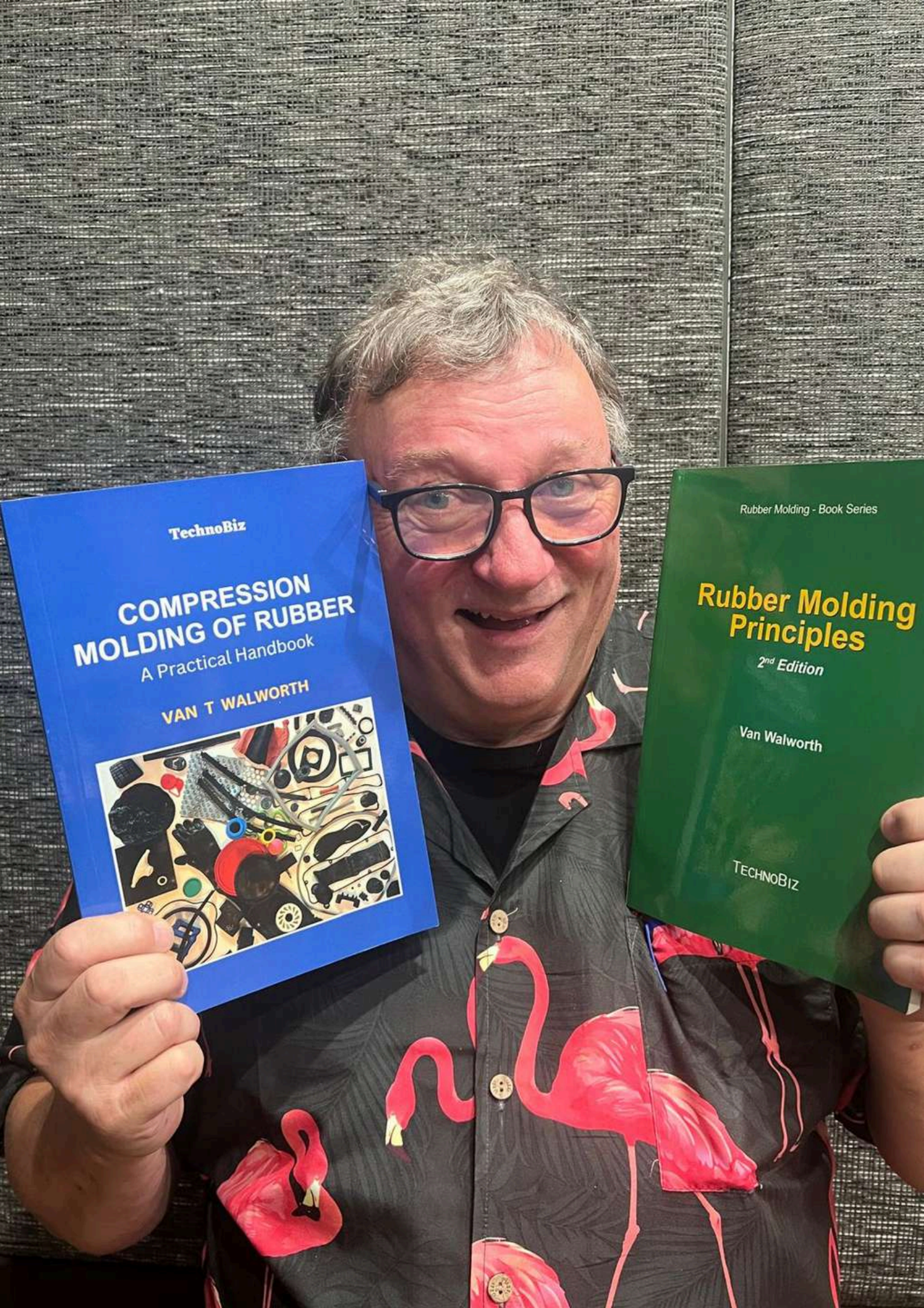
From my point of view, I see that the industries in the Asian regions are cautiously watching what happens to their western and European counterparts. No doubt, many Asian companies have dabbled in the automation and AI technologies to various degrees, with the rubber industry slowly upgrading molding and processing equipment.

Are there emerging technologies—whether in smart materials, AI-driven design, or green manufacturing—that you believe will redefine resilient product development in the rubber industry in the next decade?

I am quite sure that "Additive Manufacturing" will be one of the major disruptive technologies to the rubber industry. I believe that many silicone products will shift from traditional molding to additive manufacturing. There as significant research effort to include other rubber materials in the list of potential additive manufacturing equipment.

I also think another disruptive result of additive manufacturing of various steel components will make further inroads into the rubber mold making industry. I believe additive manufactured cavity inserts for molds, and in many cases, the molds themselves, will become widely accepted. This technology shift is already being experimented with prototype molds. I believe that it is only a matter of time before additive manufacturing of steel molds will eventually be commonplace. The plastic mold industry is already starting to shift toward advancements in additive manufacturing tooling. I do not believe the rubber mold industry will be far behind that technological curve.

I alluded to the "Tweel" earlier in this interview. I believe that eventually a workable non-pneumatic tire will be developed for passenger vehicles. When a viable non-pneumatic passenger vehicle tire comes into existence, it will be a disruptive technology to the tire industry. A great shift in manufacturing of tires will take place because traditional manufacturing methods reserved for pneumatic tires will be replaced with a version of traditional molding methods that have heretofore been relegated to non-pneumatic tire products.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Van Walworth
TECHNOBIZ

I have been aware of an ever-growing effort to recycle rubber. Millions of dollars have been spent, and more investment is being put forth each year with "green" projects. Green projects not only include traditional recycling of previously molded products, it also includes research efforts to economically devulcanize rubber. If/when a viable and economical devulcanization process of rubber becomes a reality, a disruptive shift will take place with the mixing and ingredients for the compounding and processing of rubber. Extensive reclaim procedures on the shop floor related to engineered waste and scrap will evolve. Potentially, a massive worldwide cleanup effort and sub-industry will be created to use the mountains of used tires as devulcanization feed stock.

Beyond your patents and published handbooks, what do you hope your legacy will be within the rubber industry?

I must admit that I have spent zero time or effort planning a "legacy". However, I know that most everyone is known and remembered in several ways. Within the Rubber industry, I hope my books and publications last well beyond my years and continue to be a source of knowledge and inspiration for future generations of aspiring technical people. My training materials, publications, and seminars are my limited contribution and effort to share my knowledge and pass on my expertise and experiences with others in the rubber industry. It would be fair to say that I hope and pray that those who have met me, gotten to know me, heard me teach, and/or read my publications recognize that I have been faithful and true to that sentiment.

What's still on your horizon?

I am still providing technical consulting services for rubber companies in several countries around the world. I am also participating in several conferences and/or teaching venues each year. I do some traveling around the USA and internationally, but travel has been scaled back since the 2020 Covid year. This coming January-February 2026, I am looking forward to my first return to India since Covid-2020.

As a result of Covid in 2020, the world somewhat instantly embraced virtual contacts and communications. Therefore, in addition to selected physical plant visits, I have joined the virtual trend and established what I call "Technical Retainer Agreements" with select rubber companies wherein I provide a certain amount of my time each month for virtual technical training and/or other technical assistance with company team members. My schedule still has a few openings for additional Technical Retainer Agreements with interested rubber companies.

I am writing at least two more technical books. I do not have a projected completion date for either of these books, but they are one of my passions to complete. One book has working title of "Transfer Molding of Rubber – A Practical Handbook" and the other book has a working title of "Injection Molding of Rubber – Myths verses Best Practices".

I am often asked, "When do I plan to retire?" My answer is always the same... "I love what I do, so I will probably retire right before my last breath".

Interested rubber industry professionals can contact Van Walworth at: van@prdsteam.com

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Formulation giving you headaches?

Rheonic is an Italian engineering company founded in 2015 with a clear mission: to provide consulting services and technical partnerships to the rubber industry in the following areas:

It

- Rubber compound formulation
- P rocess optimization through numerical simulation techniques
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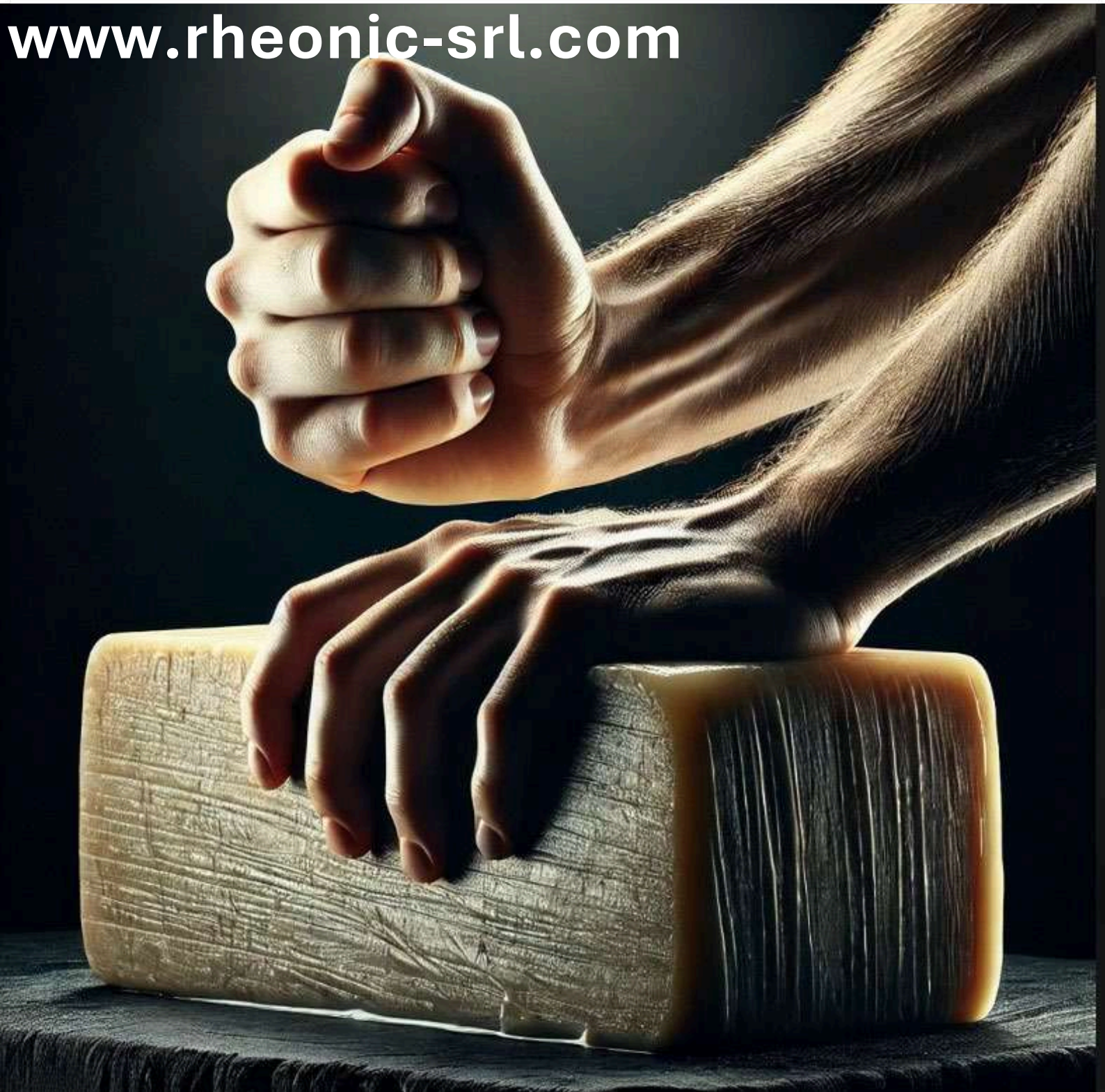

RUBBER Review

Issue 15 | August 19, 2025

IRMRI Spotlight

INDIAN RUBBER MATERIALS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Formerly known as Indian Rubber Manufactures Research Association(IRMRA)
An Autonomous Institute, Under DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India
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Email: info@irmra.org /www.irmri.org/022 6787 3200 (19 Lines)

Indian Rubber Materials Research Institute (IRMRI) formerly known as Indian Rubber Manufacturers Research Association (IRMRA), which was established in 1958 is an internationally well-known Centre of Excellence for providing technological services to both Non-tyre & Tyre sectors.

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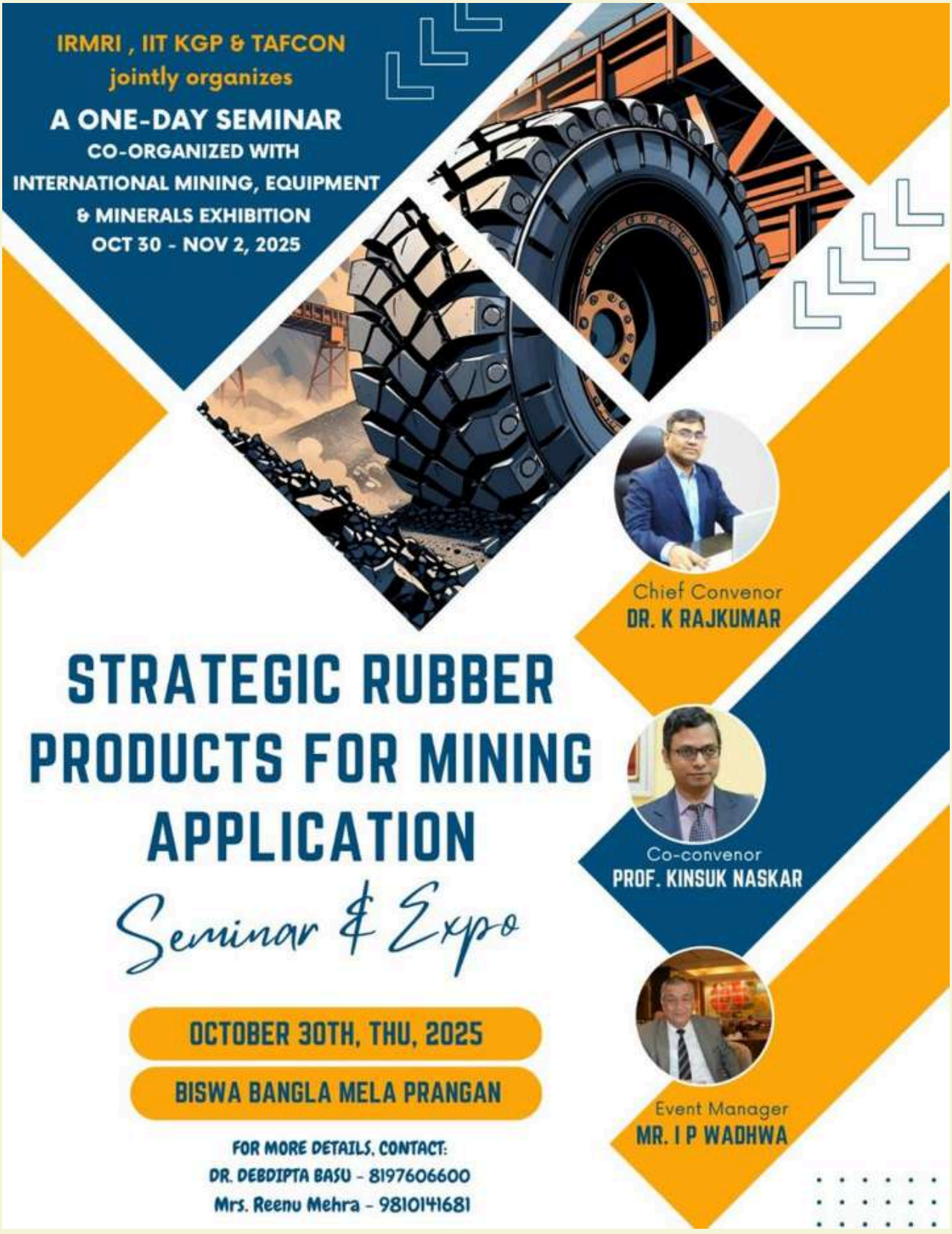
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79th Independence Day Celebration at IRMRI

The Indian Rubber Materials Research Institute (IRMRI) proudly marked the 79th Independence Day at its Head Office, celebrating the spirit of freedom and unity. The event was graced by *Dr. Manoranjan Patri*, Chairman CEPTAM, DRDO, as the Chief Guest, whose presence made the occasion truly memorable. *Dr. Rajkumar Kasilingam*, Director IRMRI, along with the senior management team and staff, joined in the celebration. The program featured flag hoisting, patriotic songs, and a warm gathering of employees and their families. It was an inspiring day to reflect on our nation's progress, strengthen togetherness, and motivate young minds to carry forward the proud legacy of India's freedom.

Weatherometer

Introduction about Weatherometer : A Weatherometer is a sophisticated laboratory instrument designed to simulate long-term environmental exposure in a controlled setting. By replicating conditions such as sunlight, moisture, and temperature fluctuations, it accelerates the aging process, enabling manufacturers to assess material durability and performance under harsh weathering conditions. This ensures products meet stringent quality standards and perform reliably in real-world applications across various industries. In IRMRI, the Q-SUN Xe-3 machine is used.

Standards and Their Purpose

- ASTM D 4587-11: defines UV and condensation testing procedures to assess paint and coating durability under weathering.
- ASTM G 151-10: guides accelerated weathering tests using artificial light for plastics and other materials.
- ISO 4892-2: Outlines xenon-arc exposure methods for plastics and coatings to simulate sunlight and weathering effects.
- ISO 16474-2: Defines xenon-arc testing protocols for paints and varnishes, focusing on UV resistance and color stability.
- ISO 105-B02: Tests color fastness of textiles under artificial light, simulating sunlight exposure.
- ISO 105-B04: Evaluates textile color fastness under artificial weathering, including UV and moisture.
- ASTM 750-12: Standard Practice for Rubber Deterioration using artificial weathering apparatus.

Uses and Benefits: The Q-Sun Xenon Test Model Xe-3 measures color fading, gloss retention, surface degradation, mechanical strength, and flexibility in materials such as rubbers, plastics, coatings, paints, leather, and textiles under UV light, moisture, and temperature cycles, by ASTM and ISO standards. It predicts long-term performance, identifying issues such as cracking or discoloration, thereby benefiting industries like automotive, textiles, coatings, plastics, and leather by ensuring durable, high-quality products.

Sectors Benefits: Rubber, textiles, paints &coatings, plastics, and leather industries.

Contact us: Email: veerappan.karthikeyan@irmra.org / ab@irmra.org
Contact no: 9361324212 / 90220547
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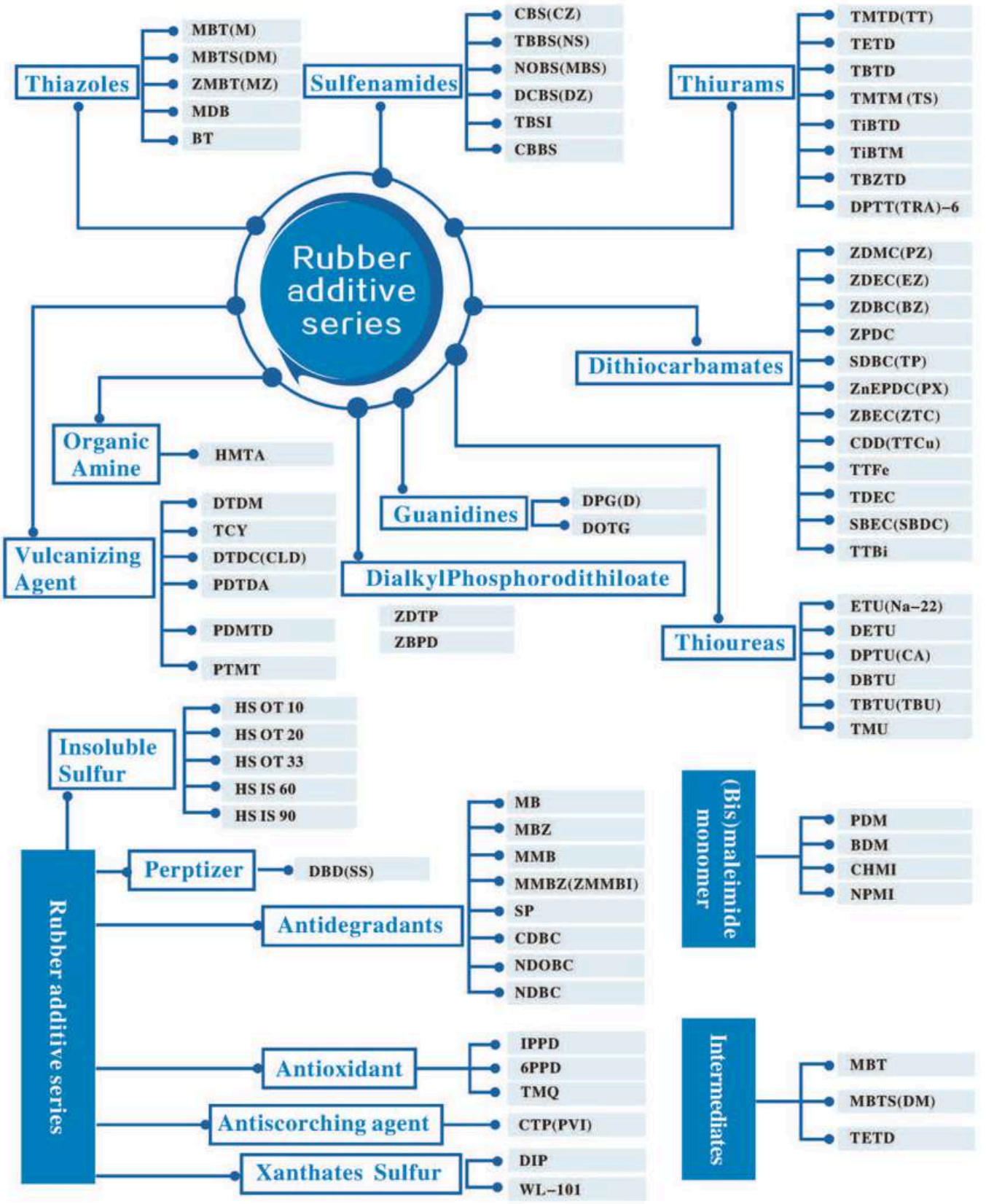

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About Us

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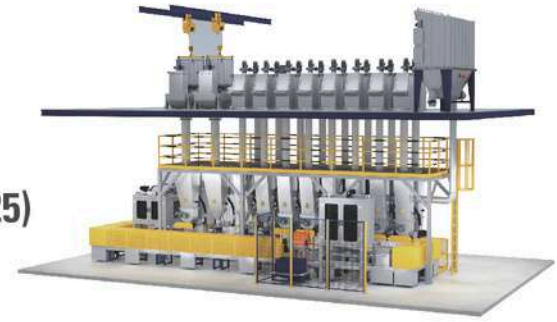

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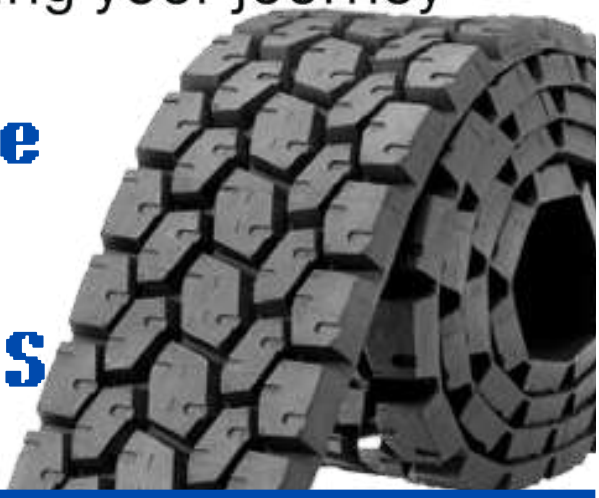

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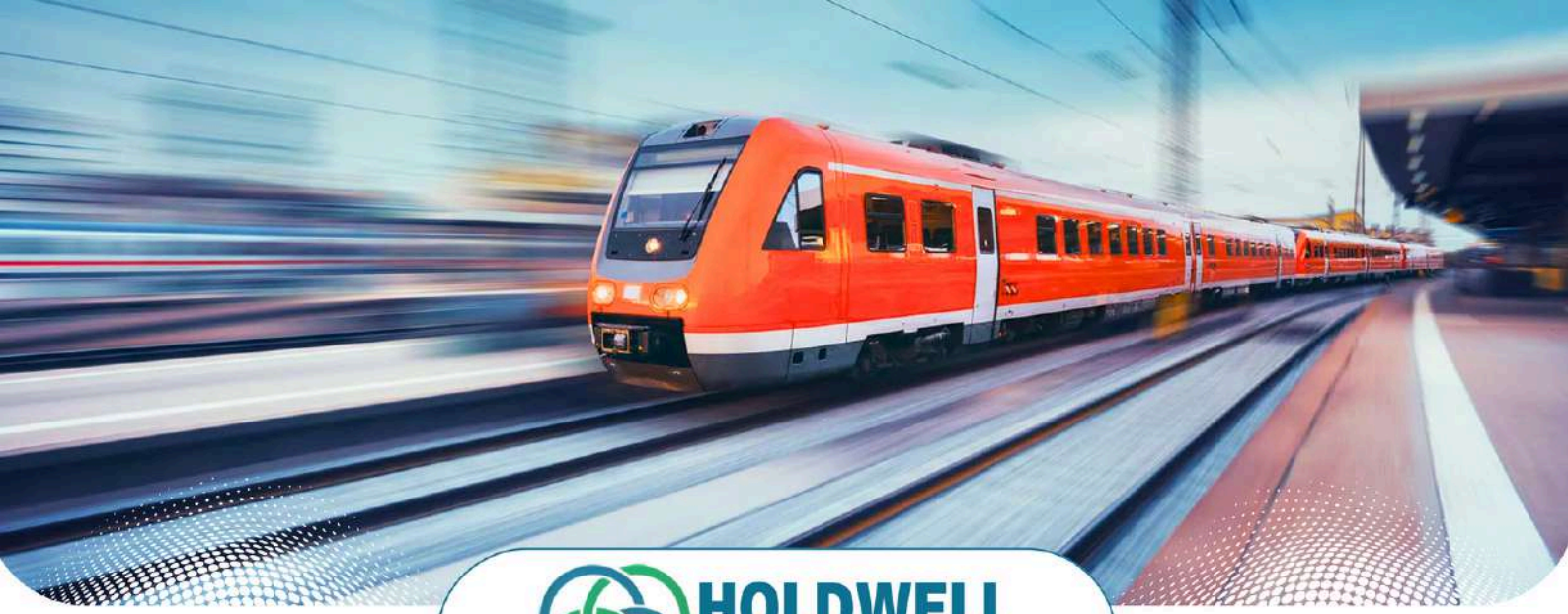

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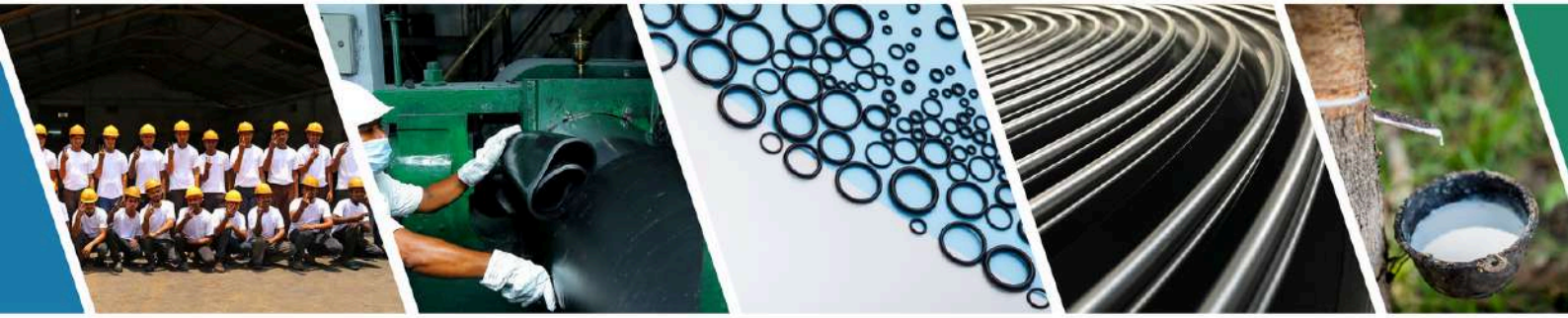

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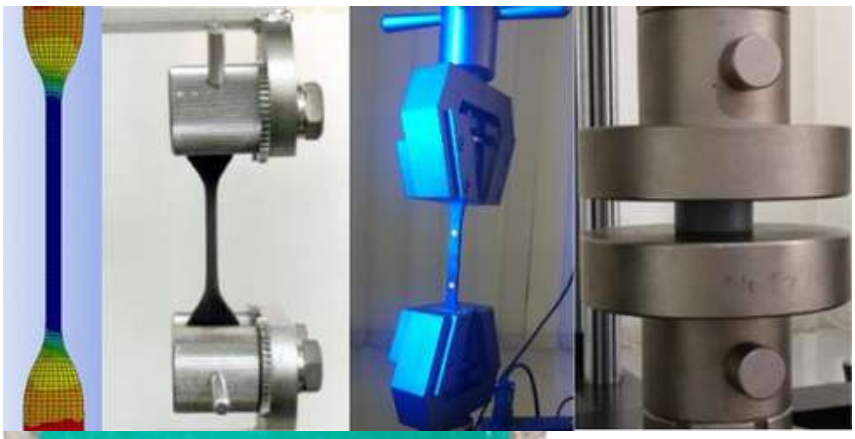

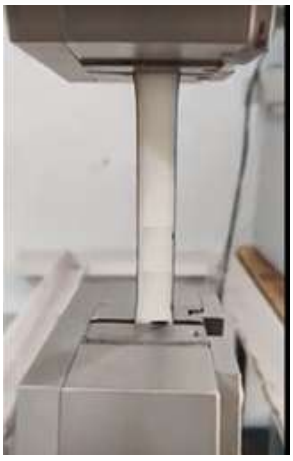

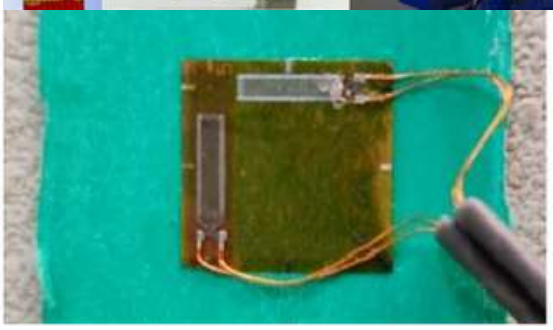

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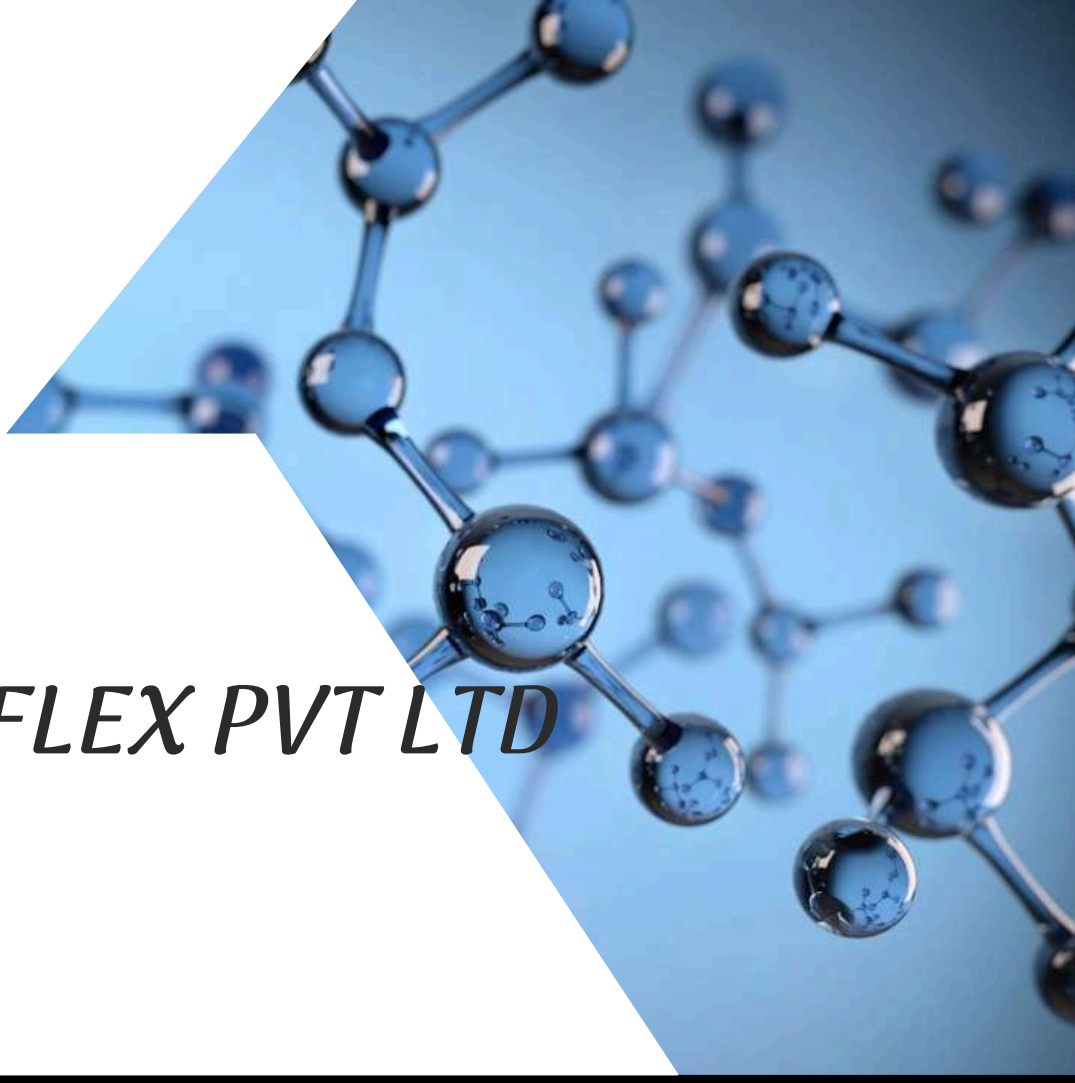

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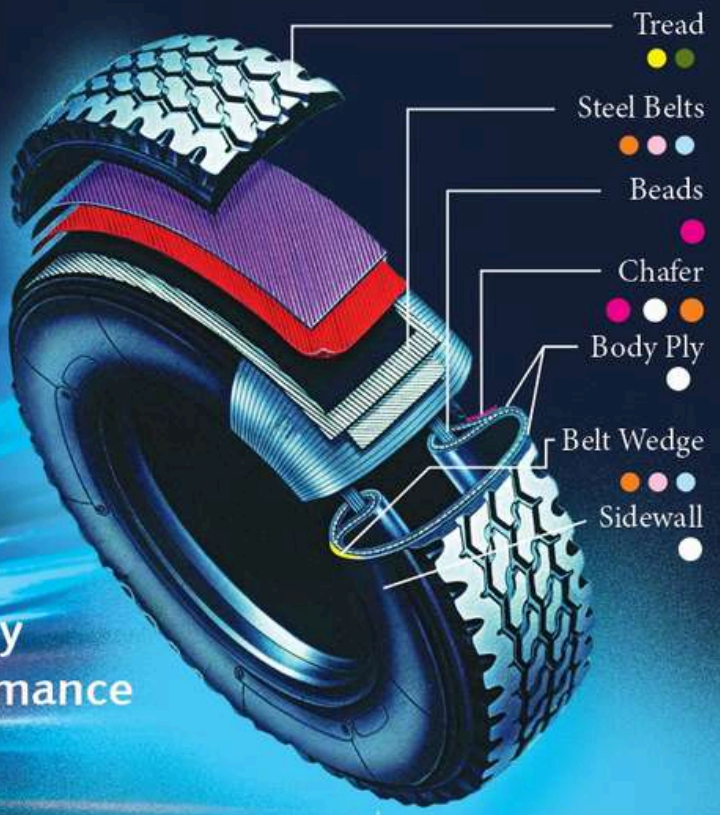

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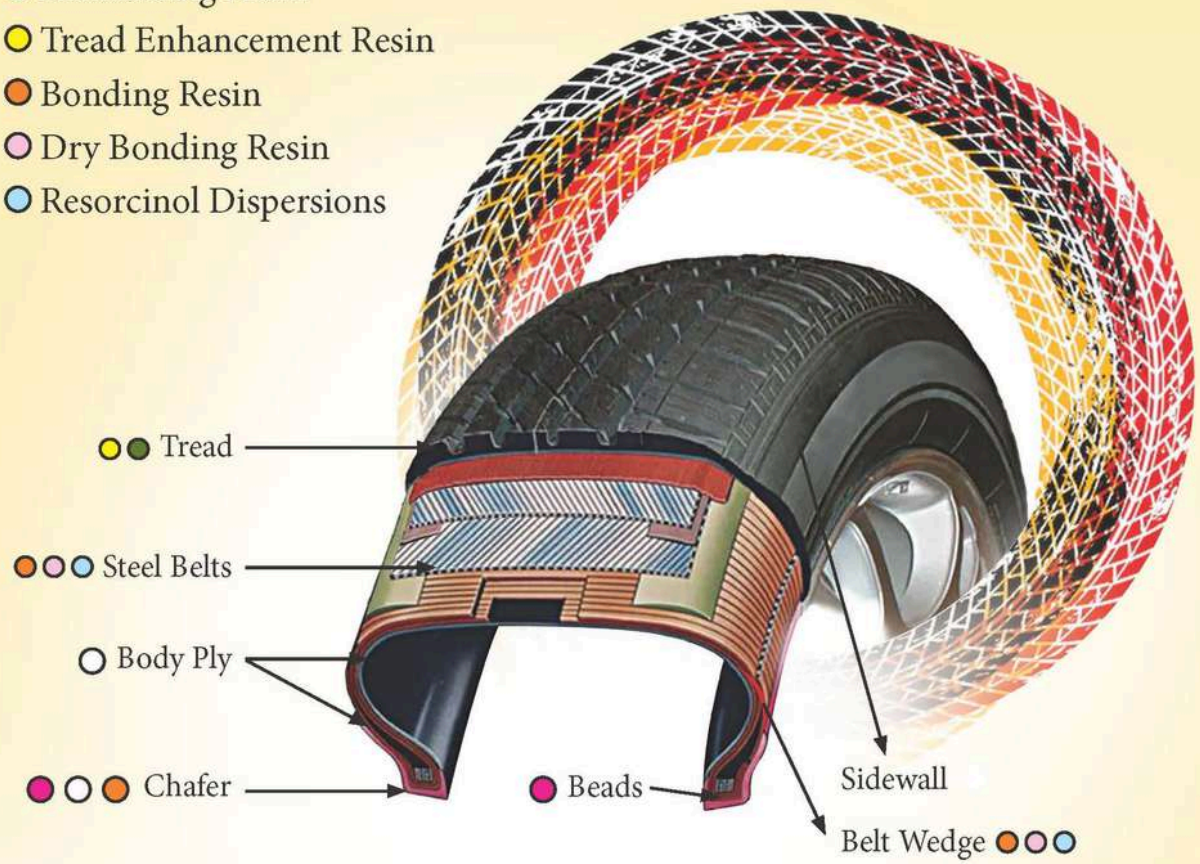

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RUBBER BUSINESS NEWS

RUBBER Review

Micro Seals - Small Scale, Big Impact

Micro Seals are high-precision micro components that are indispensable in vital devices such as anesthesia and respiratory equipment. Thanks to a close collaboration with leading manufacturers and its own comprehensive material expertise, Freudenberg Sealing Technologies meets the stringent requirements for hygiene, safety and reliability in modern medicine.

Hygienic seals for the smallest shafts: These tiny components are primarily used in fluid-handling valves, pumps, mixers and small electric motors. Their dimensions don't exceed around 20 mm, but they prevent leaks and ensure that devices function reliably. Freudenberg has already developed a wide range of customized hygienic, micro sealing components in close cooperation with manufacturers. These include solutions for sealing rotating and moving parts, such as the Micro-Simmerring® and a brake and sealing disc designed specifically for use in dental drills. This disc makes it possible for the dentist to stop the drill within fractions of a second – an instant stop that increases patient safety and comfort during dental treatments. Made from durable elastomers, the brake and sealing disc can withstand extreme stress at high speeds without losing its function or sealing performance. This micro component also prevents the backflow of fluids, which greatly increases hygiene during treatment.

Micro Seals for precise control of fluids and gases: Another key application area for Micro Seals is the control and regulation of fluids and gases in miniature valve and pump systems. Valve armatures, for example, control the flow of anesthetic gases in anesthesia devices and enable precise dosing, which is critical for patient safety during surgery. Made from a combination of metal and FFKM, a high-performance fluorocarbon rubber, a valve armature ensures maximum precision and chemical resistance. This choice of material allows the component to withstand even the most aggressive anesthetic gases, which is crucial for the long-term safety and performance of these devices.

In addition to the anesthesia machines, ventilators play a key role during surgeries. Known for their high media resistance, miniature flipper valve seals are indispensable for the precise control of breathing gases. These smallest seals, made from FKM (fluororubber) and EPDM (ethylene propylene diene rubber), offer a long service life even under extreme conditions and can perform up to 10 million switching cycles without losing their functionality. Micro Seals are also essential in high-precision laboratory analysis devices, pipetting robots and HPLC systems. Specially developed hammer seals, rocker valves and valve seat seals are used in these applications. Rocker valves ensure precise control of fluid dosing during automated pipetting, while the valve seat seals in HPLC devices prevent leaks and provide reliable test results. Preparing drinkable water for dental treatment units is another application of Micro Seals in dentistry. Here, an elastomer composite part – whose shape earned it the nickname “dog bone” – regulates the water supply.

High-quality materials and customized solutions: Freudenberg Sealing Technologies manufactures its Micro Seals from highly resistant elastomers such as FKM, FFKM and EPDM. These materials offer specific advantages depending on their application. FKM excels with strong chemical resistance and temperature stability up to 200 °C, which makes it an especially good choice for environments with aggressive media. FFKM offers extremely high chemical resistance and can reliably withstand temperatures up to 230 °C – an ideal material for the most demanding applications. EPDM, in turn, is particularly resistant to ozone, UV radiation and hot water and is well-suited for environments with high humidity or steam. This variety of materials makes it possible to develop customized sealing elements for a wide range of medical applications where precision and hygiene are crucial. “Our customers demand very small components that are not only extremely precise but also meet the highest standards of durability and hygiene,” explains Tobias Gutsch, Product Manager, Division Special Sealing Industry at Freudenberg Sealing Technologies. “Our Micro Seals meet these requirements thanks to advanced manufacturing technologies and our unique material expertise. The high durability and reliability of our products play a major role in ensuring the smooth operation of devices even in critical applications.” Critical applications are ventilators, anesthesia systems and highly sensitive analysis devices.

Global standards and certifications: Freudenberg Sealing Technologies manufactures its Micro Seals in line with the strictest international standards to meet the high demands for precision, hygiene and durability. They must withstand extreme conditions while performing reliably at all times, especially in critical medical applications. To ensure this, the components meet relevant hygiene standards for medical devices as well as FDA, USP, and NSF compliance. This guarantees that the products deliver precise control and sealing performance in sterile environments, contributing to the safety and functionality of vital systems.

Protection for safety-critical solar components: 2K silicone potting compounds for PV electronics

Ostfildern-Kemnat, Germany. As energy supplies become increasingly decentralised, the individual components in solar photovoltaic systems – especially those critical to safety – have to meet ever more stringent reliability requirements. Live and electronic components for outdoor use, from power electronics to safety switches, junction boxes and connectors, must be permanently protected against heat, moisture, UV radiation and mechanical stress. Tailored two-component silicone potting compounds from WEVO-CHEMIE GmbH serve as a reliable allround solution: RTV silicones are highly adaptable and can therefore be used in the production and long-term operation of demanding PV applications.

PV optimisers, microinverters and safety switches contain compact power electronics and circuit boards that have to run reliably over the long term. The WEVOSIL 2210x series of silicone potting compounds, specially developed by Wevo for modern electronics, combines effective heat dissipation with high insulation properties and heat resistance. Their self-adhesive properties support reliable heat dissipation and reduce thermal stress on sensitive components. This is a significant factor in the cost-effective operation of solar PV systems.

These reactive RTV silicones have an extremely low Shore hardness and viscosity. As a result, they help to reduce tension, preventing crack formation and delamination on housings, circuit boards and solder joints – even when subject to major temperature changes or mechanical stresses such as vibration. Also, the flame retardant silicone potting compounds fulfil fire protection requirements according to UL 94 V-0 and can therefore be used in installations near and on buildings or in largescale industrial systems.

Reliable sealing for junction boxes and connectors

In PV junction boxes, DC and AC connectors as well as cable systems, silicone potting compounds from Wevo ensure reliable sealing against moisture and UV radiation. Integrated bypass diodes – essential for protecting shaded module sections – also benefit from the use of these 2K material systems.

In addition to their hydrophobic properties and high dielectric strength, WEVOSIL products contribute to the longevity of these sensitive components through their ultra-soft, gel-like consistency. Even under extreme temperature changes, harsh weather conditions and high mechanical stresses, they provide reliable protection – including for components with complex geometries.

Low-viscosity, free-flowing two-component silicone potting compounds can be processed efficiently in automated potting processes using standard mixing and dispensing systems. Proven in practical applications, these materials are the ideal choice for series production of demanding components in state-of-the-art PV systems.

Sumitomo Rubber Opens Co-Creation Research Center at Hokkaido University - Accelerating technological innovation using AI and the creation of new value for the future mobility environment

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Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd. (President and CEO: Satoru Yamamoto) is pleased to announce the opening of a new research center, the Sumitomo Rubber Innovation Base Sapporo, within the Data-Driven Interdisciplinary Research Emergence Center (D-RED), a data-driven interdisciplinary research center at Hokkaido University (President and CEO: Kiyohiro Takakin).

Researchers from Sumitomo Rubber and researchers and students from Hokkaido University will collaborate to research and commercialize cutting-edge technologies, such as physical AI , which can make autonomous decisions and operate in the real world, and promote technological innovation that will pave the way for the future of manufacturing.

The center will also strive to create new social value with an eye toward the future environment surrounding mobility. Through these efforts, Sumitomo Rubber aims to further strengthen its competitiveness and create innovation in both technology and society, toward the achievement of its long-term management strategy, RISE 2035.

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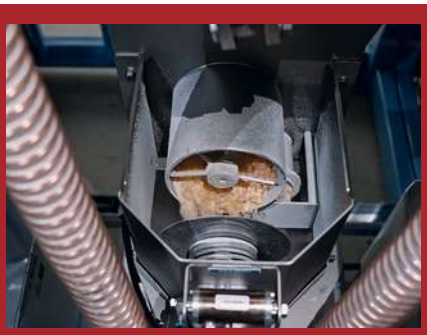

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PROGRAM AGENDA

09:00-09:30	Registration
09:30-09:45	Welcome Remarks & Program Introduction
09:45-10:15	**Processing of EPDM and its Blends** I *Dr. P Thavamani, Managing Director, UMAC Automotive Components Pvt. Ltd.*
10:15-10:45	**EPDM Rubber: Recent Global Research Perspectives** *Prof. Kinsuk Naskar, Chairperson, Rubber Technology Centre, IIT Kharagpur*
10:45-11:15	***Application of EPDM Rubber*** I *Dr. P Thavamani, Managing Director, UMAC Automotive Components Pvt. Ltd.*
11:15-11:45	**Coffee/Tea Networking Break**
11:45-12:15	**Modified EPDM use as Alternative Material for 6PPD in NR and SBR Formulations** I *Dr. Mohammed Saleem, Senior Scientific Officer, Indian Rubber Materials Research Institute (IRMRI)*
12:15-12:45	**Developing Sustainable Materials Roadmap for EPDM** I Dow
12:45-13:15	**Bio-based EPDM: Green Cross-linking Strategy** I *Barkat Aziz, Research Scholar, Rubber Technology Centre, IIT Kharagpur*
13:15-14:00	Lunch Break
14:00-14:30	**Vulcanization of EPDM Rubber: Pros and Cons of Various Vulcanizing Agents I Prof. Kinsuk Naskar, Chairperson, Rubber Technology Centre, IIT Kharagpur**
14:30-15:00	**Curing EPDM with PEROXIDES - a decade of Learnings** *Karthik Raghupathy, Managing Director, Shree Polymer Products*
15:00-15:30	**Sustainability Drive in OEMs and the Initiation in EPDM based Compounds** I *Binu Thankappan*

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15:30-16:00	**Coffee/Tea Networking Break**
16:00-16:30	**EPDM Reclaim: An Innovative Sustainable Solution for Automotive Industry** | *Kalyan Das, Head - Sales & Business Development, GRP Ltd.*
16:30-17:00	***Fire Resistant EPDM Rubber: Compounding, Testing and Applications*** | *Dr. P Thavamani, Managing Director, UMAC Automotive Components*
17:00-17:30	**Engineering and Mechanical Properties of PA80/EPDM Blends** *Dr. Siby Varghese, Joint Director (Retd.), RRII, Rubber Board India*
17:30-18:00	**EPDM Round Table | Open Discussion - All about EPDM**

INVITED SPEAKERS

Dr. P. Thavamani

Binu Thankappan

Prof. Kinsuk Naskar

Karthik Raghupathy

Kalyan Das

Dr. Mohammed Saleem

Barkat Aziz

Dr. Siby Varghese

TechnoBiz reserves the right to adjust program agenda without prior notification due to unavoidable circumstances

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EPDM Seals : Process Troubleshooting

23 September 2025, CHENNAI

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This training course on "EPDM Seals: Process Troubleshooting" provides practical knowledge to identify and resolve defects in EPDM seal manufacturing. It covers material basics, compounding, processing methods, and testing, with a strong focus on real-world troubleshooting in extrusion, molding, and assembly. Participants will learn how to improve product quality, reduce defects, and enhance production efficiency.

Course Content

- Introduction to EPDM Seals
- Material & Compound Issues
- Processing Equipment & Operations
- Extrusion-Related Defects
- Sponge & Solid Profile Issues
- Molding & Assembly Defects
- Final Application Failures
- Troubleshooting Strategy

Course Instructor

Mr. Dathathri Dharmarao is a well-experienced rubber technologist with extensive expertise in the processing, compounding, and troubleshooting of EPDM seals. With decades of hands-on experience in the automotive sealing industry, he has led technical teams in solving complex manufacturing challenges related to extrusion, molding, and quality control. His deep understanding of EPDM behavior under various conditions, along with a strong focus on practical problem-solving, makes him a highly respected expert and trainer in the field.

Registration Fee / Person

In-Person Participation

- Indian Delegates: Rs. 15,000
- Overseas Delegates: US$ 300

Online Participation

- Indian Delegates: Rs. 25,000
- Overseas Delegates: US$ 500

Remarks: GST 18% applies on above fees. Discount is Available for Group and Early-Bird Registrations. Delegate Registration Fee subjected to increase one week before schedule. Registration fee includes lunch and refreshments.

PKR CONSULTANTS

PKR Consultants is authorized organization to process fee payments for delegate registrations and sponsorships from organizations based in India
GST: 37ALDPC9514F1ZB

Delegate Registration

Venue: Hotel Green Park
N.S.K. Salai, Arcot Rd, Vadapalani,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600026, India
https://hotelgreenpark.com/chennai/

Contact Information
Peram Prasada Rao, TechnoBiz
Email : peram.technobiz@gmail.com
WhatsApp: +66-89 489 0525 /+91-6300 544 718
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TUESDAY - THURSDAY

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Organised by: IRC International Rubber Conference Organisation

Co-organiser: MTEC NSTDA, FTI Rubber Industry Club

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Date: 1-3 December 2025

Venue: Bangkok International Trade & Exhibition Centre (BITEC), Bangkok, Thailand

Website: https://www.irc2025.com

Edition # 2 | Hybrid Event

TechnoBiz LATEX WEEK

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24-26 SEPT 2025

CHENNAI, INDIA

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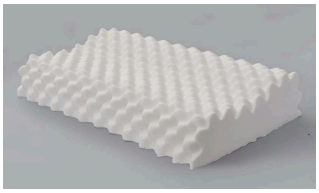

TechnoBiz invites all latex industry professionals to join the 2nd Edition of Latex Week 2025, happening on 24–26 September 2025 at Hotel Green Park, Chennai, India. This hybrid event will bring together experts, innovators, and industry leaders to share the latest ideas, technologies, and market trends in the latex sector. The program includes two days of presentations, a CEO Forum, and practical training courses on latex chemistry, processing, compounding, and testing. A special "Latex Doctor" session will also be held, where participants can openly discuss problems and challenges faced in the industry. Latex Week 2025 is a great chance to learn, network, and explore the future of latex.

Event Schedule

- Conference : 24-25 Sept 2025 (9am-5pm)
- Training Courses : 26 Sept 2025 (9am-5pm)
- CEO Forum : 24 Sept 2025 (7pm-10pm)

Event Venue : Green Park Hotel, Chennai

TechnoBiz LATEX WEEK

24-26 SEPT 2025
CHENNAI, INDIA
HOTEL GREEN PARK CHENNAI

https://conference.technobiz.org

Conference Program | 24-25 Sept 2025 | 9.30am-5.30pm

- ***Keynote Speech*** : **A Cleaner Future: Restoring the Environment with Ammonia-Free Natural Rubber Latex** | *Prof. Tim Osswald – University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA & CEO, AFLATEX Technologies, Portugal*
- ***Keynote Speech***: **Innovations in Natural Rubber Latex – Applications & Market Potential** *Dr. R.K. Matthan – Director, Polymer Consultancy Services Pvt. Ltd., India*
- **Latest Developments in Examination and Surgical Gloves Manufacturing Process for Better Quality** | *Gandhi Sivam – R&D Manager, Sri Anusham Rubber Industries Pvt. Ltd., India*
- **Enhancing Glove Performance with Smart Additives: A Cost-Effective Approach** | *Diluk Senanyake – General Manager, MRC Industries Sdn Bhd., Malaysia*
- **Cost-Effective Fillers for Latex Foam Products** | *Dr. Siby Varghese – Joint Director (Retd.), RRII, Rubber Board India*
- **Efficiencies in NR Latex Centrifuging Process** | *P.H. Sarath Kumara – Consultant (Latex & Gloves), Lalan Rubbers (Pvt) Ltd., Sri Lanka*
- **Beyond Specifications: Selecting the Right Quality Concentrated Natural Rubber Latex** | *Anil Skariah – General Manager, Thaimed Babyproducts Co. Ltd., Thailand*
- ***Natural Latex Foam: Materials Science, Manufacturing Engineering, and Global Industry Dynamics |*** *Jay Soorya | Supply Chain Manager, Foam India Bed Products*
- **Latex Doctor** | *Bring your challenges, Get Expert Solutions!*
- **Advanced Latex Compounding Solutions: Tailored Formulations for Business Growth** | *Hemant Thakkar, Director, Rachana Rubber, India*
- **Indian Latex Foam Industry: Snapshot & Way Forward |** *Vinod Simon – Executive Director, Simmco Foam, India*
- **Next-Gen Latex: Global Shifts, Untapped Potential & the China Factor |** *Rejin Ravi – Head of Technology, Rasmi Group of Industries, India*
- **Next-Gen Sustainable Phenolic Antioxidant for Latex Applications – Meeting Regulatory and Performance Needs** | *Dr. Nibedita Kasyapi – Technical Service Manager, SI Group Inc., India*
- **Recent Advances in Emulsion Technology for Improved Performance** | *Dr. Deepak Mishra – Senior Manager (R&D), Grasim Industries Ltd, Aditya Birla – Advanced Materials, India*
- **Speciality Carboxylated Nitrile Latex for Supported Gloves** | *Dr. Subhra Mohanty – Chief Technology Officer, Apcotex Industries Ltd., India*
- **Enhancing Natural Rubber Latex Properties with Filler Nanomatrix Structures** | Dr. Asangi Gannoruwa – Head, Department of Materials & Mechanical Technology, Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka
- **Cost-Effective and Reliable Method for Latex Testing** | Mridul Mathur – Regional Sales Manager, Foss India Pvt. Ltd.

TechnoBiz
LATEX WEEK

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CHENNAI, INDIA
HOTEL GREEN PARK CHENNAI

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Training Courses | 26 Sept 2025 | 9.30am-5.30pm

Training Course 1
Latex Compounding : Applied Chemistry & Troubleshooting
Speakers: Anil Skariah & Dr. RK Matthan
(Schedule: 9:30am-1pm)

- Latex Compounding: Selecting Raw Materials, GMP, Formulation Basics, Pre-*vs*. Post-Vulcanized Latex
- Conversion Methods: Dipping, Casting, Extrusion, Foaming – Choosing the Right Process
- Troubleshooting: Gelation, Poor Dispersion, Bubbles, Curing Issues & Corrective Actions
- Process Standardization: SOPs, Audits, Quality Control & Consistency Benefits
- Good Practices: Clean Operations, Material Traceability, Safe handling
- Continuous Improvements: Ongoing Optimization & Performance Enhancement

Training Course 2
Synthetic Latex: Chemistry, Processing, and Applications
Speaker: Dr. Subhra Mohanty
(Schedule: 9:30am-1pm)

- Types of Synthetic Latex and Key Applications
- Basics of Emulsion Polymerization & Stabilization
- Properties & Testing: Viscosity, Stability, Film Strength
- Formulation for Gloves, Adhesives, Foams & Coatings
- Processing: Dipping, Coating, Foaming, Binders
- Troubleshooting & Performance Improvement
- Sustainability: Bio-based & Low-VOC systems
- Case Studies & Industry Best Practices

Training Course 3
Specialty Latex, Prevulcanisation and Application
Speakers: *Joseph John & Dr. RK Matthan*
(Schedule: 2pm-5:30pm)

- Basics of Latex Production & Global Requirements
- Preservation, Preprocessing & Centrifuging
- Prevulcanisation Methods: Cold & Semi-Hot
- Applications in Industry: Condoms, Gloves, Catheters, Balloons, Thread & Tape, Foam, Medical devices, Fabric Coatings

Training Course 4
Rheological Principles for Polymers and Latex
Speaker: Prof. Tim Osswald
(Schedule: 2pm-5:30pm)

- Viscosity & Modulus – Flow resistance and stiffness; latexes are viscoelastic.
- Deformation Behavior – Controlled by chain entanglement, crosslinking, and particle coalescence.
- Generalized Newtonian Fluids – Viscosity changes with shear rate; often shear-thinning.
- Rheometry – Measures flow and deformation for design and QC.
- Viscoelasticity – Materials both store and dissipate energy; key parameters: storage modulus, loss modulus, tan δ.

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Anil Skariah


Jospeh john


Prof. Tim Osswald


Dr. Subra Mohanty


Diluk Senanyake


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P.H. Sarath Kumara


Vinod Simon


Rejin Ravi


Dr. Nibedita Kasyapi


Dr. Deepak Mishra


Gandhi Sivam


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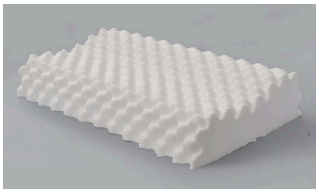

Delegate Registration Fee

In-Person Participation	Indian Delegates	Overseas Delegates
Conference (24-25 Sept)	17,000 INR/Person	300 US$/Person
Training (26 Sept)	15,000 INR/Person	250 US$/Person
3-Day Event (24-26 Sept)	25,000 INR/Person	450 US$/Person
CEO Forum (24 Sept)	10,000 INR/Person	200 US$/Person

Online Participation	Indian Delegates	Overseas Delegates
Conference (24-25 Sept)	30,000 INR/Person	600 US$/Person
Training (26 Sept)	25,000 INR/Person	500 US$/Person
3-Day Event (24-26 Sept)	50,000 INR/Person	900 US$/Person

Remarks : Govt Tax applies on registration Fees. Fee includes refreshments and lunch. *The registration fee is subjected to change one week before schedule.*

Group Registration: 10% discount applies for group of 3 or more delegates from the same organization registers at the same time.

CEO Forum Registration is by Invitation only. 3-Day Event registration doesnot include CEO forum. A separate registration is required. This session is open for top management only. CEO Forum registration includes dinner.

Sponsorship

Main Sponsor : 300,000 INR | 5,000 US$

- Recognition as a Sponsor in all signage / promotional materials
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- Full Page Advert in the “Rubber Review” E-Magazine for 12 Months
- Social Media Promotion of Company Advert & Videos
- 30% OFF on the Registration Fee for Additional Delegates

Corporate Sponsor: 200,000 INR | 5,000 US$

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- Display of Company Brochures at Display Zone
- 3 Delegate Passes - Complimentary
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- Display of Company Brochures at Display Zone
- 3 Delegate Passes - Complimentary
- Social Media Promotion of Company Advert & Videos

Remarks : Govt Tax applies on registration Fees.

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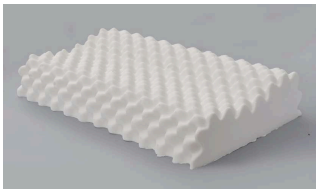

How to Register?

Delegate Registration

Sponsorship Registration

Speaker Registration

Event Venue

Hotel Green Park
N.S.K. Salai, Arcot Rd,
Vadapalani, Chennai
Tamil Nadu 600026, India
Web: https://hotelgreenpark.com/chennai/

Contact Person : Peram Prasada Rao, Project Manager
TechnoBiz Latex Week 2025 | 24-26 Sept 2025, Chennai
Mobile / WhatsApp: +66-89-489 0525 , +91-6300 544 718
Email: peram.technobiz@gmail.com | Line: @technobiz
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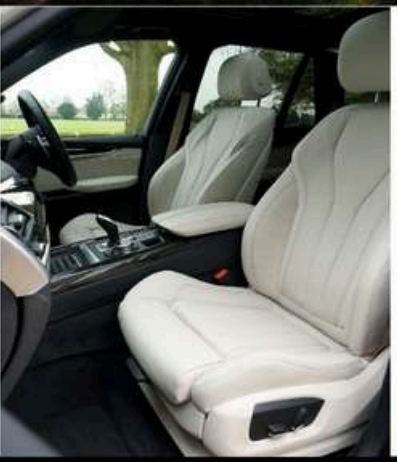

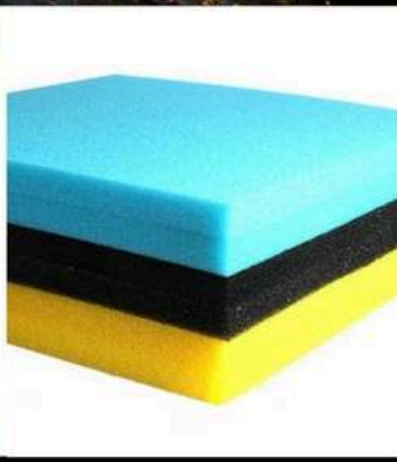

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Edition #3 | Hybrid Event

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Dr. Tri Utomo Wiganarto

Dr. Kannika Sahakaro

Dr. Nadras Othman

Dr. Dody Andi Winarto

Dr. Lydia Anggraini

Dr. Laksmi Dewi Kasmiarno

Ismail Saleh

Dr. Ahmad Basshofi Habieb

Ahmad Hidayat

Mardani Nugraha

Dr. Mochamad Chalid

Dr. Mili Purbaya

Baharuddin Salim

Contact Information: *Dr. Irfan Fathurrohman* (Email: irfanirri@gmail.com | Tel: +62-812 1702 527)
Peram Prasada Rao (Email: peram.technobiz@gmail.com | Tel: +66-89 489 0525)

Edition #3 | Hybrid Event

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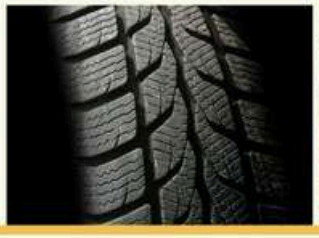

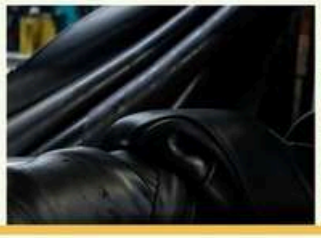


Training Course

Rubber Reinforcement with Silica

Schedule: 1 Sept 2025 (9am-5pm)

Venue: Swiss-BelHotel, Bogor, Indonesia

Trainer: Dr. Kannika Sahakaro**,** Associate Professor, Prince of Songkla University, Thailand

Program Content

- Introduction to Rubber Reinforcement
- Mixing of Silica and Silane Coupling Agent into Rubber
- Compound Formulation Design for Silica-Reinforced Rubber
- Advancements in Silica–Silane Technology for Rubber Applications

Who Should Attend?

Rubber & Tyre Technologists, Chemists, Compounding Team, Technical Management Team





To Register, Please Contact

Dr. Irfan Fathurrohman (Email: irfanirri@gmail.com | Tel: +62-812 1702 527)
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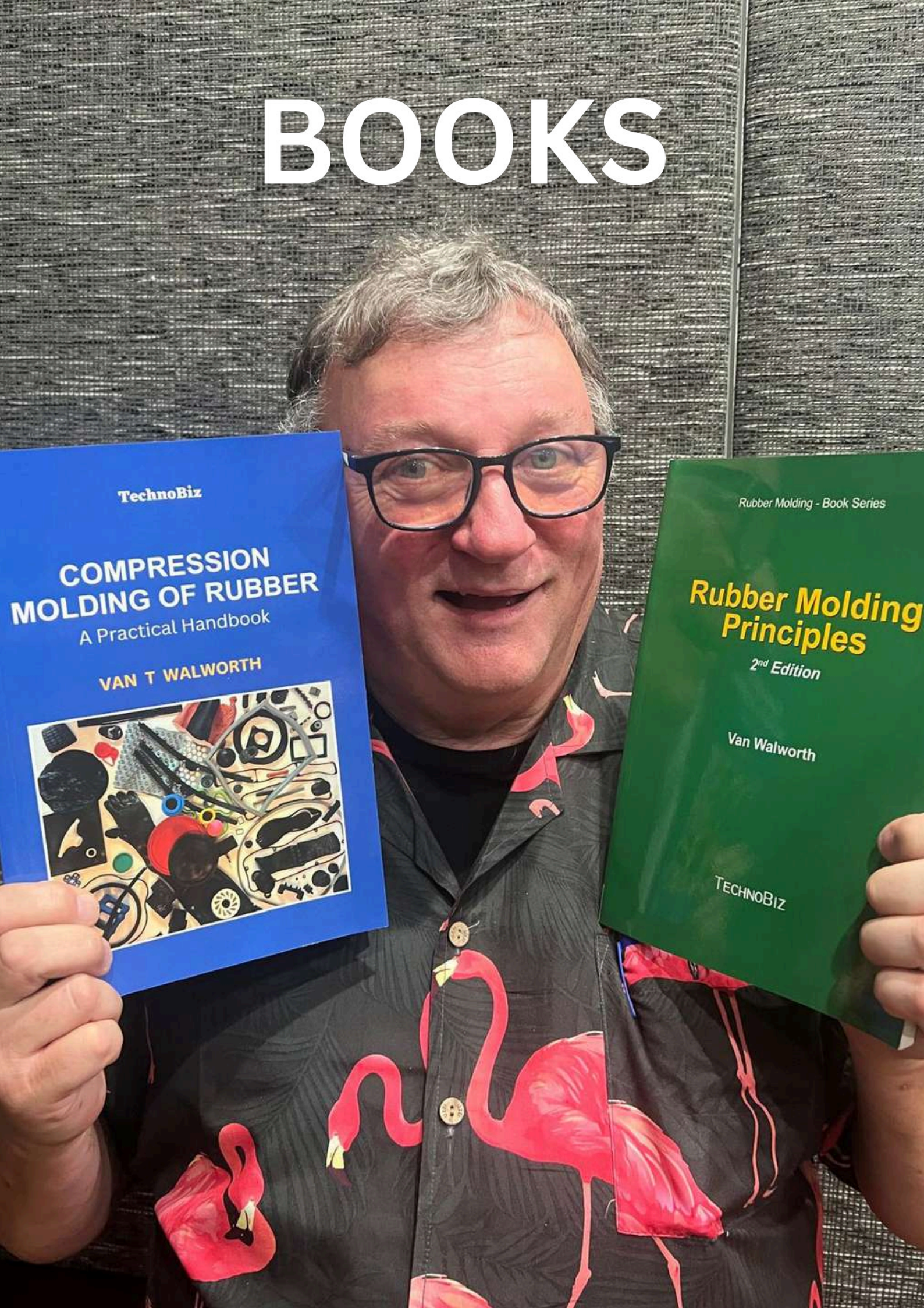
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COMPRESSION MOLDING OF RUBBER
A Practical Handbook
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Rubber Molding - Book Series
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2nd Edition
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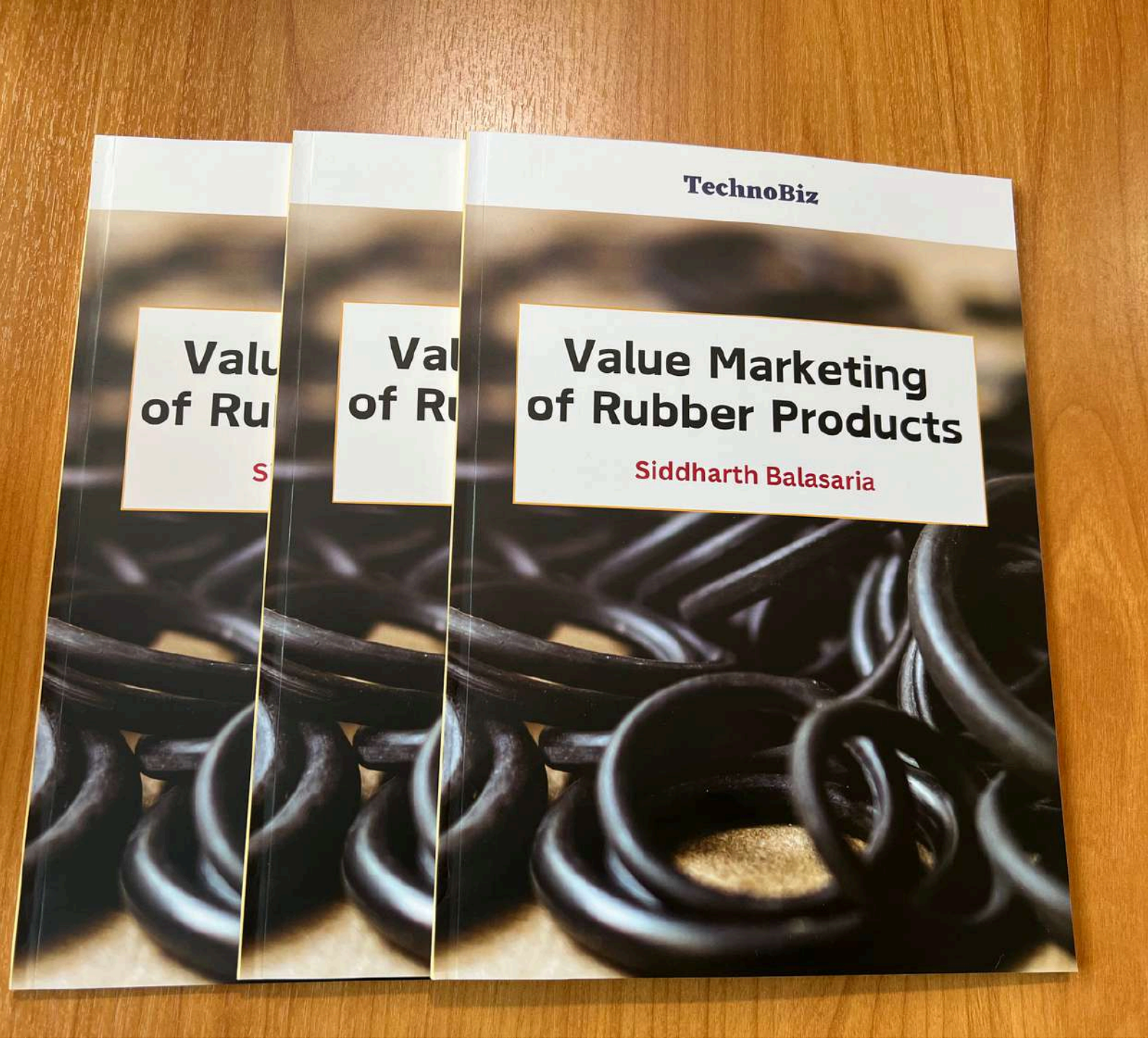

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Compression Molding of Rubber
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Author : Van Walworth | **Pages** : 180 | Soft Bound
ISBN : 978-616-92264-44 | **Publisher** : TechnoBiz | Year : 2024
Book Price : 159 US$ + Shipping

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Book Contents

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RubberWorld

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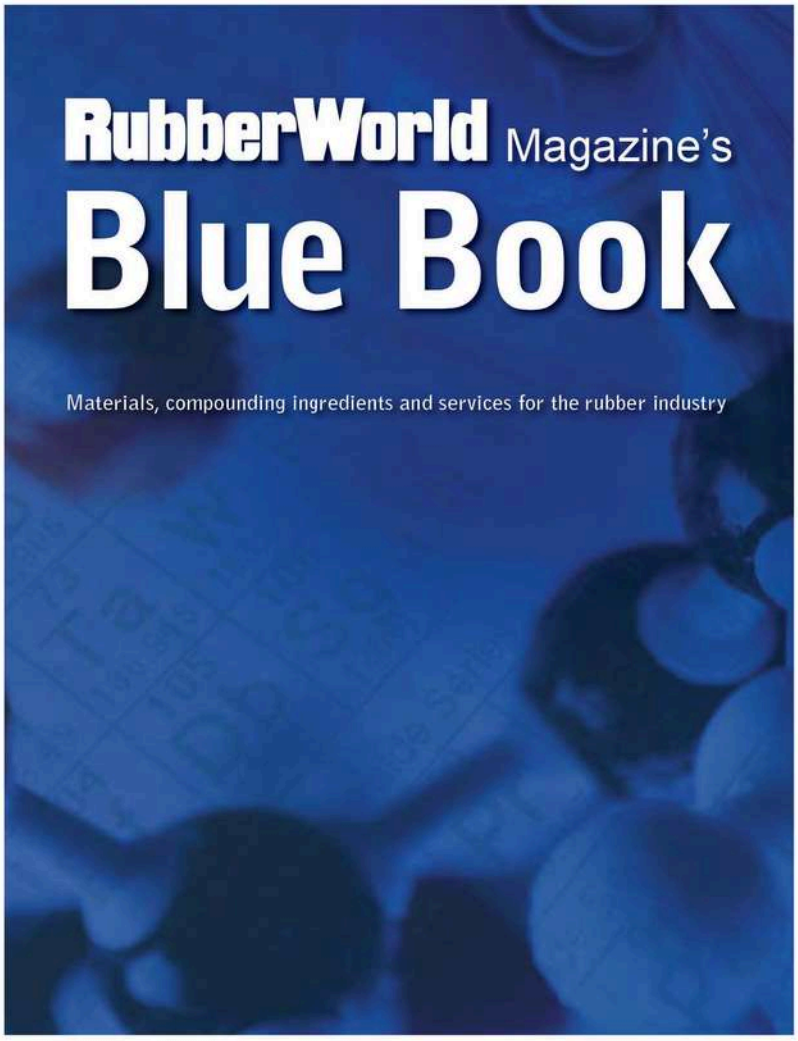

The latest, most current information on more than 10,000 materials and ingredients is listed. And, to help you locate the best materials at the lowest possible cost, more ingredients are listed by chemical name as well as trade name.

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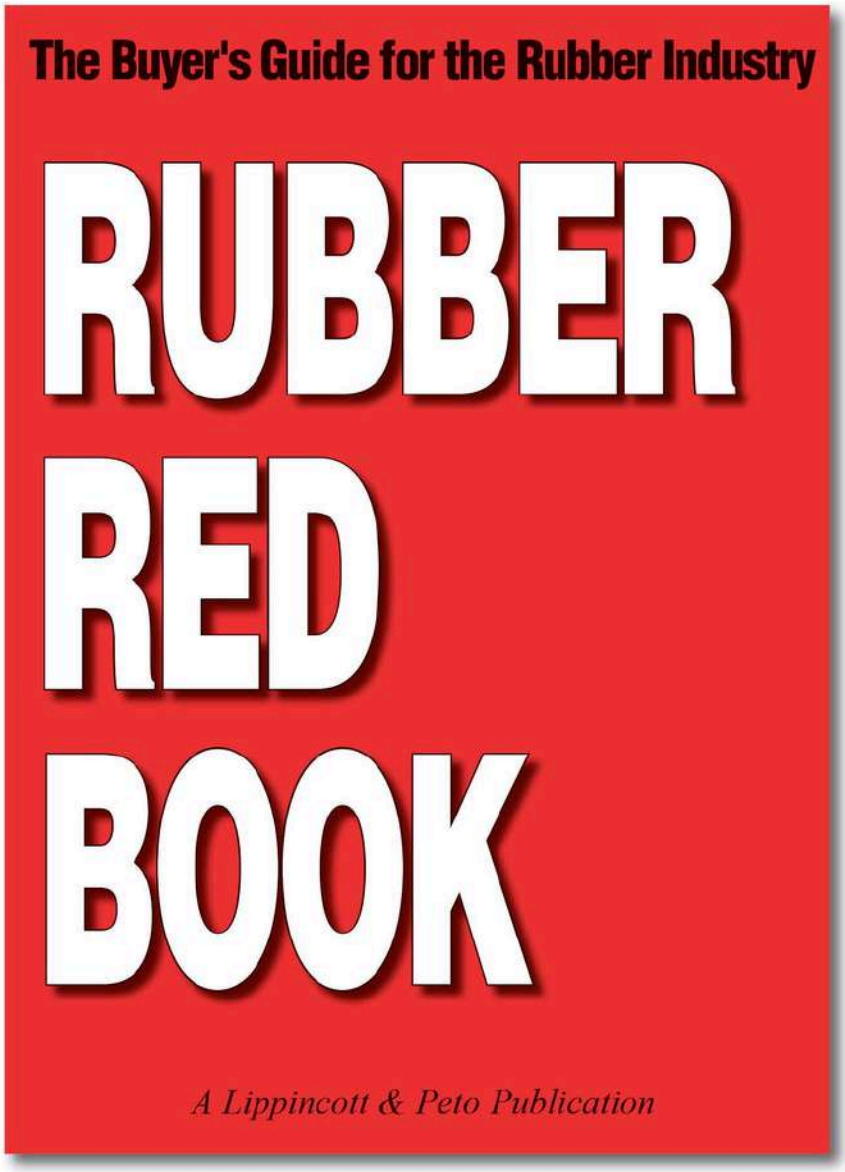
- Rubber Chemicals & Compounding Materials
- Synthetic Rubber
- Fabrics and Textiles
- Latex and Related Materials
- Educational Courses in Rubber Chemistry and Technology
- Technical and Trade Journals

RUBBER RED BOOK listings for more than 1,200 rubber product manufacturers grouped by location and products.



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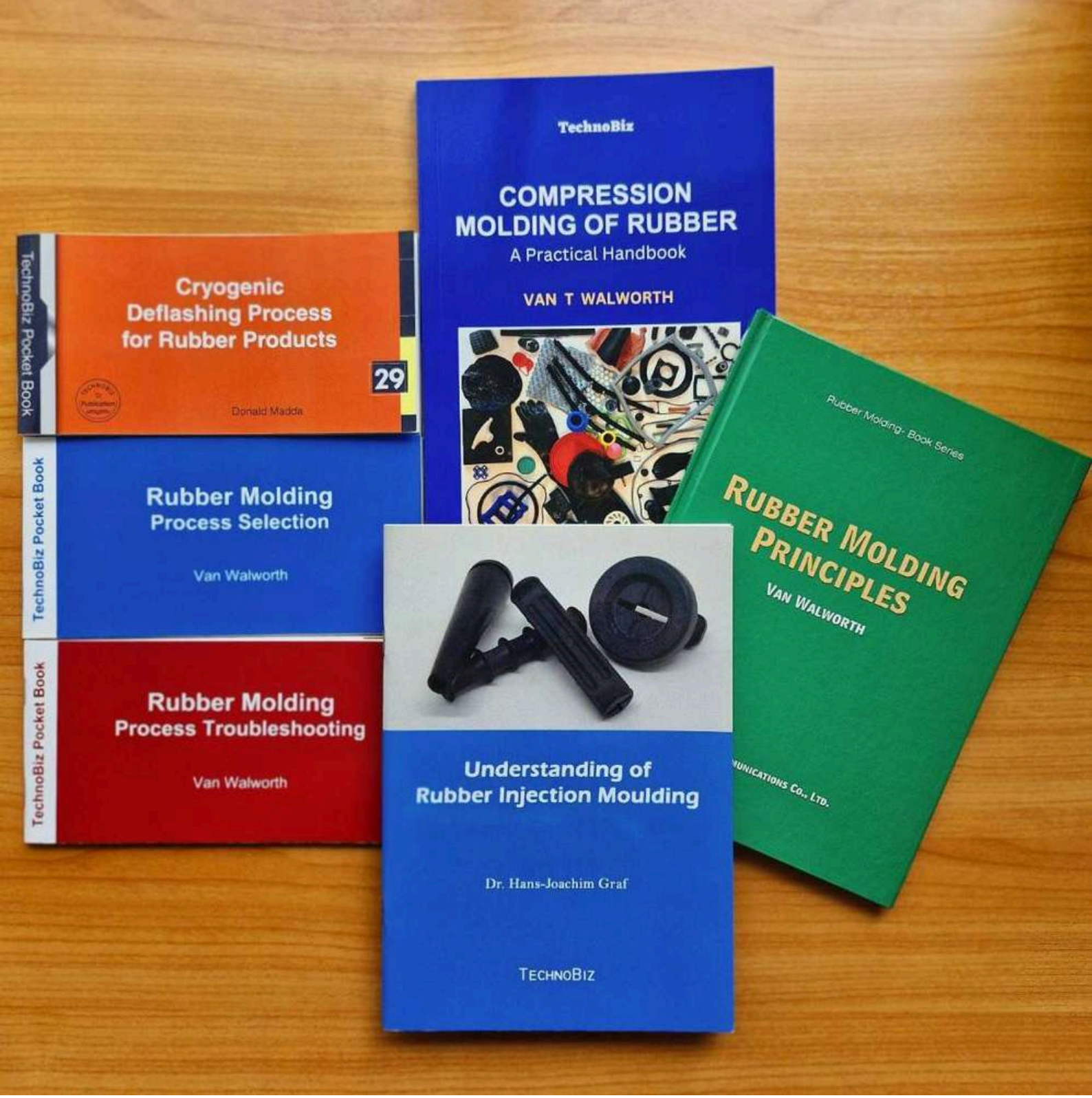

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UNIBOND

Unibond

- BUTAZATE® : Zinc Dibutyl Dithiocarbamate. (ZDBC)
- ETHAZATE® : Zinc Diethyl Dithiocarbamate. (ZDEC)
- OXAF® : Zinc-2- Mercaptobenzothiazole. (ZMBT)
- TUEX® : Tetramethyl Thiuram Disulfide. (TMTD)
- DPG® : Diphenyl Guanidine. (DPG)
- BENTAZATE® : Zinc Dibenzyl Dithiocarbamate. (ZBEC)

CLARIANT

Clariant

- EMULSOGEN LAT : Surfactant for rubber latex. Good wetting properties & less foaming performance

DAP : Diammoniumphosphate

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