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Muhammad Eizaaz
Chief Executive Officer
Malaysian Rubber Council (MRC)

International Rubber Conference 2026

IRC2026

AICHI, JAPAN

“Future **Rubber** Technology
toward **Sustainability**”

**Rubber & Elastomer
Technical Exhibition**

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November 3 (Tue) ▶ 6 (Fri), 2026

**Aichi International Exhibition Center
(Aichi Sky Expo)**

<https://www.irc2026.com/>

Host

The Society of Rubber Science and Technology, Japan
Tobu Building, 1F, 1-5-26 Motoakasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-0051, JAPAN

Inquiries/Registration

Secretariat of IRC2026 AICHI
c/o Convention Linkage, Inc.

2 Sanbancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0075, JAPAN

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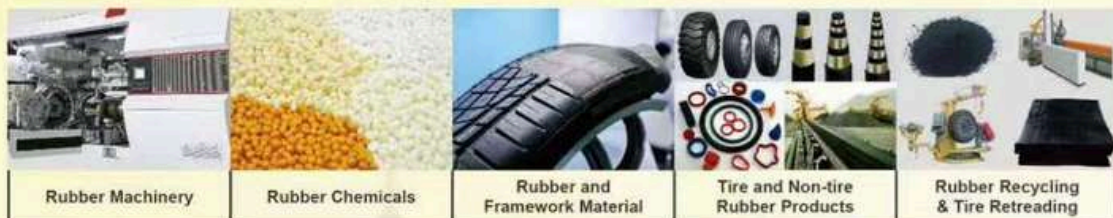


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More Information

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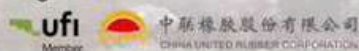
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Conversation with
Muhammad Eizaaz
Chief Executive Officer
Malaysian Rubber Council (MRC)

*The global rubber industry is undergoing a profound transformation—driven by sustainability pressures, evolving global trade dynamics, and the need for higher-value innovation. At the center of Malaysia’s response to these changes is **Malaysian Rubber Council (MRC)**, led by its Chief Executive Officer, **Mr. Muhammad Eizaaz Bin Muhammad Redzuan**. Under his leadership, MRC has moved beyond its traditional role of export promotion into becoming a strategic enabler of industry transformation, focusing on sustainability, innovation, and global market expansion. Recent initiatives—including ESG frameworks, low-carbon transition roadmaps, and SME-focused sustainability funds—demonstrate a clear shift toward future-ready industry positioning.*

Eizaaz brings a forward-looking vision that recognizes both the strengths and challenges of Malaysia’s rubber sector. While the country has successfully transitioned from a raw rubber supplier to a major exporter of high-value rubber products, the industry now faces pressures such as rising costs, global competition, labour shortages, and tightening regulatory requirements.

What stands out is his pragmatic approach—balancing policy alignment, industry engagement, and global competitiveness. His emphasis on automation, digitalisation, and sustainability reflects a leadership style grounded in realism, yet driven by ambition. At the same time, MRC’s expanding global outreach and support for SMEs highlight a commitment to inclusive growth. In this exclusive cover interview, Eizaaz shares his perspectives on the evolving global rubber landscape, MRC’s strategic priorities, and how Malaysia can strengthen its position as a leader in sustainable and high-value rubber manufacturing.

Leadership & Strategic Vision

How would you define your vision for the Malaysian rubber industry over the next 5–10 years?

Over the next five to ten years, our vision is to position Malaysia as a globally respected, resilient, and future-ready rubber industry, one that continues to be a strong contributor to the national economy while meeting the highest international standards of quality and sustainability. This vision goes beyond maintaining our current position. It is about strengthening Malaysia's role as a producer of high-value, differentiated rubber products that command trust and premium recognition in global markets. At the same time, we want Malaysian rubber products to be synonymous not only with quality and reliability, but also with responsible and sustainable production practices. Sustainability will no longer be optional, it will be a baseline expectation. As such, industry must evolve to meet global environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards, ensuring long-term relevance and competitiveness. Ultimately, our goal is clear: for Malaysia to not just participate in the global rubber industry, but to lead it with credibility, innovation, and integrity.

What strategic priorities have you set for Malaysian Rubber Council under your leadership?

MRC's strategic priorities are focused on strengthening Malaysia's global positioning while ensuring the industry remains competitive and future ready. A key priority is embedding sustainability across the entire value chain, not merely as a compliance requirement, but as a strategic advantage. We are repositioning sustainability as part of Malaysia's value proposition, where Malaysian rubber products are recognized as ethically sourced, responsibly manufactured, and aligned with global expectations. At the same time, we are intensifying efforts to enhance Malaysia's global brand presence. This includes moving beyond traditional promotion towards more targeted and strategic engagement with international markets, ensuring that Malaysian rubber products are clearly differentiated in terms of quality, reliability, and innovation. *Equally important* is ensuring industry readiness. MRC is focused on equipping companies with the right knowledge, market intelligence, and capabilities to anticipate and respond to evolving global trends. This is complemented by stronger collaboration with stakeholders—across government, industry, and international partners—to ensure a more coordinated and impactful approach to industry development. Ultimately, *our priority* is to ensure Malaysian rubber products are not only competitive but clearly recognized and valued in the global marketplace.

“Malaysia’s rubber industry must move beyond participation to leadership—driven by sustainability, differentiated value, and global trust.”



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IRICE 2025

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CONVENTION AND EXPO 2025

KUALA LUMPUR
CONVENTION CENTRE

How is MRC evolving from a traditional export promotion agency to a broader industry development enabler?

MRC has evolved significantly from a traditional export promotion agency into a strategic enabler of industry development. While facilitating market access remains important, our role today extends much further. We are now focused on driving value beyond product functionality. Competitiveness is no longer defined solely by price and performance, but also by factors such as sustainability, traceability, and responsible sourcing. As such, we are guiding the industry towards value enrichment where Malaysian rubber products are evaluated holistically. At the same time, MRC is actively strengthening industry capabilities through capacity-building programmes, ESG advisory, and strategic guidance. We are also playing a key role in connecting industry players with research institutions, global partners, and funding opportunities, creating a more integrated and responsive ecosystem. *Talent development* is another critical component of this evolution. Through various scholarship and training programmes, we are building a pipeline of skilled professionals to support long-term industry growth. In essence, MRC has transitioned from being a promoter of rubber products to a strategic partner, supporting the industry's transformation, resilience, and global positioning.

Industry Positioning & Competitiveness

Malaysia has successfully moved toward value-added rubber products—what is the next phase of this transformation?

Malaysia's transition into value-added rubber products has been a significant milestone. The next phase, however, is about moving towards value-driven growth where innovation, sustainability, and differentiation define competitiveness. This includes advancing into specialized and high-performance segments such as healthcare, engineered industrial components, and emerging applications that require advanced material capabilities. At the same time, the adoption of digitalization and smart manufacturing will be critical in improving productivity, consistency, and cost efficiency. Equally important is embedding sustainability into production processes. Increasingly, global buyers are evaluating not just the product itself, but how it is produced. By integrating low-carbon practices, traceability, and responsible sourcing, Malaysian manufacturers can strengthen their positioning in premium markets. Ultimately, the industry must evolve from competing on cost to competing on value—where innovation and sustainability become key differentiators.

“The future of Malaysia’s rubber industry lies in competing on value, not cost—through innovation, sustainability, and smart manufacturing.”

What are the most pressing challenges currently faced by Malaysian rubber product manufacturers?

One of the key challenges is *volatility in raw material supply and pricing*, particularly for synthetic rubber such as nitrile butadiene rubber (NBR), which is heavily influenced by global geopolitical developments. This creates uncertainty in production planning and cost management. At the same time, intensifying global competition, especially from countries with larger production capacities and aggressive pricing strategies, has increased pressure on margins. This makes it increasingly difficult to compete purely on cost. *Labor constraints* also remain a concern. The industry continues to rely on manual processes in certain segments, while facing shortages of skilled local talent. Transitioning towards automation requires both investment and time. In addition, *tightening global regulatory requirements*, particularly in areas related to sustainability, traceability, and compliance, are raising the bar for market access. For many companies, especially SMEs, adapting to these requirements can be challenging. Taken together, these factors highlight the need for the industry to strengthen resilience, enhance efficiency, and move up the value chain.

How can Malaysia strengthen its competitiveness against other major rubber-producing nations?

Malaysia's competitiveness is anchored in its long-standing reputation for quality, reliability, and compliance with international standards. This foundation remains a strong advantage, particularly in markets that prioritize product consistency and trust. Moving forward, the focus must be on building on this strength through innovation and differentiation. This includes developing higher-value and specialized products that reduce reliance on price-based competition. At the same time, strengthening supply chain resilience is critical. Reducing dependency on single-source imports and improving integration within the ecosystem will help the industry better manage external disruptions. Equally important is enhancing global brand positioning. Malaysia must communicate its strengths more effectively, particularly in areas such as quality, sustainability, and compliance to ensure stronger brand recognition in international markets. Ultimately, competitiveness will depend on Malaysia's ability to combine technical capability with clear positioning, innovation, and a forward-looking approach.

“To stay competitive, Malaysia must combine technical excellence with innovation, strong branding, and a resilient supply chain.”



Global Market Strategy

Which international markets offer the strongest growth opportunities for Malaysian rubber products?

While traditional markets such as the United States, Europe, and Japan remain important, new growth opportunities are emerging across several regions. The United States continues to offer strong potential, particularly in the glove segment, driven by supply chain diversification and regulatory preferences for established, compliant suppliers. At the same time, emerging regions such as Latin America and North Africa present significant long-term opportunities. With rapid population growth and expanding healthcare infrastructure, demand for rubber-based medical products is expected to increase substantially. Eastern Europe and Türkiye also offer strong potential, particularly in industrial rubber applications, supported by growing manufacturing activity and integration into broader supply chains. These markets collectively highlight the importance of diversification in ensuring Malaysian exporters are not overly reliant on traditional destinations while capturing new growth opportunities.

How is MRC supporting companies in diversifying beyond traditional export markets?

MRC plays an active role in supporting companies to diversify beyond traditional markets through a combination of strategic initiatives. This includes organizing specialized trade exhibitions, marketing missions and visits, as well as business matching programmes that connect Malaysian exporters directly with international buyers. We have also introduced specific incentives to encourage entry into non-traditional markets such as Latin America, Eastern Europe, and Africa. These initiatives are designed to reduce dependency on traditional markets and support companies in navigating new market environments. Beyond market access, MRC also supports companies through R&D funding, early market development initiatives, and strategic partnerships, assuring that expansion efforts are both sustainable and commercially viable.

How do you see global trade dynamics and regulatory pressures shaping export strategies?

Global trade dynamics and regulatory pressures are fundamentally reshaping export strategies. On one hand, geopolitical developments are creating new opportunities, particularly through shifts in global supply chains. On the other hand, they also introduce uncertainty in terms of tariffs, policies, and market access conditions. At the same time, regulatory requirements, particularly in developed markets, are becoming more stringent, especially in areas related to ESG, sustainability, and traceability. Compliance is no longer optional, but a key determinant of competitiveness. In this environment, Malaysian exporters must adopt a more strategic approach focusing on diversification, strengthening compliance capabilities, and positioning themselves as reliable and responsible partners in the global supply chain.



Sustainability & ESG

Sustainability is becoming central to the rubber industry—what is driving MRC’s strong focus on ESG initiatives?

Sustainability has become a central priority for the global rubber industry, driven by increasing regulatory requirements, investor expectations, and customer demand for responsible sourcing and transparency. For MRC, this shift is not just about compliance, it is about ensuring long-term competitiveness. Sustainability is now closely linked to market access, supply chain resilience, and brand reputation. Our approach has been shaped by continuous engagement with industry stakeholders, allowing us to understand the practical challenges faced by companies. Based on these insights, we have introduced key initiatives such as ESG Guidelines, the Low Carbon Transition Roadmap, and the STRIDE Fund to support companies in navigating this transition in a structured and practical way.

How will ESG compliance and carbon reduction requirements impact Malaysian rubber manufacturers?

ESG compliance and carbon reduction requirements will have a transformative impact on manufacturers. Companies will need to reassess their operations particularly in areas such as energy use, emissions management, and resource efficiency. While this transition may involve upfront investment, it also creates opportunities for improved efficiency, cost savings, and stronger market positioning. Increasingly, buyers are prioritizing suppliers with strong ESG credentials, making sustainability a key factor in securing business. At the same time, companies will need to strengthen their capabilities in data collection, reporting, and transparency to meet evolving disclosure requirements. *In this context, ESG is not just a compliance issue; it is a strategic imperative for long-term growth and competitiveness.*

Can you elaborate on MRC’s roadmap for supporting a low-carbon and sustainable rubber industry?

MRC’s Low Carbon Transition Roadmap provides a structured pathway for manufacturers to transition towards low-carbon operations. Developed in alignment with national policies, it outlines clear steps, timelines, and solutions tailored to the industry. The roadmap adopts a practical approach, recognizing that companies are at different stages of readiness while ensuring alignment with Malaysia’s broader net-zero ambitions. It also highlights key challenges and provides actionable guidance, supported by case studies and best practices, to help companies implement meaningful changes.

“ESG is no longer a compliance requirement—it is a strategic driver of competitiveness, market access, and long-term industry resilience.”

Grants, Funding & Industry Support

What types of grants and financial support programs are currently available through MRC for industry players?

MRC offers a comprehensive suite of funding programmes designed to support industry players across the entire value chain, from early-stage innovation to commercial scale-up and operational modernization. At the core are our R&D and commercialization funds, namely the Industry Linkage Fund 2.0 (ILF 2.0) and the MRC Commercialization Fund (MCF). ILF 2.0 supports new product development and pre-commercialization activities, while MCF focuses on scaling up innovations to commercial production. In parallel, MRC also provides the Fund for Automation and Green Technology (FAGT), which supports companies in adopting automation, digitalization, and environmentally sustainable technologies. This is particularly important in helping manufacturers improve efficiency, reduce dependency on manual labor, and align with sustainability expectations.

Aside from grants, MRC also offers 20 incentive packages to support the industry in implementing marketing and capacity-building activities, including initiatives related to market exploration, branding, compliance, and talent development. Beyond internal funding, MRC also plays a facilitative role to assist companies in identifying and securing external funding opportunities from other ministries and agencies, ensuring that industry players have access to the most relevant financial support based on their needs.

How effective have these funding initiatives been in improving competitiveness and sustainability?

MRC's funding initiatives have demonstrated a strong impact in enhancing both competitiveness and sustainability within the industry, particularly among SMEs. Our incentives are structured across multiple focus areas, including market exploration, brand development, talent enrichment, capacity building, and sustainability. This holistic approach ensures that companies are supported not only in expanding their market reach but also in strengthening internal capabilities. In practice, these initiatives have enabled companies to develop new products, adopt advanced technologies, and improve operational efficiency. For example, funding under ILF 2.0 and MCF has supported innovation and commercialization efforts, while FAGT has helped companies transition towards more automated and efficient production processes.

We have also observed improvements in profit margins, reduced reliance on low-skilled labor, and increased adoption of sustainable practices, including waste-to-wealth initiatives. Overall, these programmes have played a significant role in helping companies move up the value chain and remain competitive in a challenging global environment.



What are the key criteria for companies—especially SMEs—to successfully access these grants?

MRC's funding programmes are designed to be inclusive, with a strong emphasis on supporting Malaysian rubber product exporters, particularly SMEs. In general, eligibility is open to Malaysian-registered companies involved in the export of rubber products. For certain programmes, especially those funded through cess collections, priority is given to companies that contribute to the rubber export cess. Beyond eligibility, companies are assessed based on the viability and potential impact of their proposals. This includes factors such as innovation value, commercial potential, alignment with industry needs, and contribution to export growth.

To further support SMEs, MRC has introduced the MRC Pathfinder Programme, which provides structured and tailored assistance to help companies prepare for export markets. This includes support for innovation, human capital development, quality standards, and branding. Importantly, MRC also adopts a facilitative approach in guiding companies through the application process and helping them identify the most suitable funding avenues to support their growth.

How does MRC ensure that grant funding leads to measurable and long-term industry impact?

Each funded project is subject to structured monitoring and evaluation, typically over a period of two to five years following project completion. This allows MRC to track progress against predefined objectives, including commercial outcomes, productivity improvements, and market expansion. Through this process, we can assess not only immediate outputs but also the sustainability of results over time. Companies are required to demonstrate how the funding has contributed to tangible improvements, whether in terms of innovation, operational efficiency, or market performance. This continuous monitoring approach ensures that funding is not merely disbursed but translated into meaningful and measurable outcomes that contribute to the overall development of the industry.

Are there new or upcoming funding programs focused on innovation, sustainability, or digital transformation?

MRC's funding programmes are continuously reviewed and refined to ensure they remain aligned with evolving industry needs and global developments. While we already offer strong support in areas such as innovation, sustainability, and digital transformation through programmes like ILF 2.0, MCF, and FAGT, these initiatives are regularly enhanced based on industry feedback and changing economic environment. For example, in response to past challenges, MRC introduced targeted support packages such as the COVID-19 Stimulus Package and post-pandemic recovery initiatives to help companies sustain their operations and market presence. More recently, we have expanded our sustainability-related incentives to support companies in meeting ESG and low-carbon requirements. Moving forward, the focus will remain on ensuring that our funding programmes are relevant, responsive, and able to support the industry in navigating future challenges particularly in areas related to sustainability, innovation, and digital transformation.



Technology & Commercialization of Innovations

How is MRC supporting the commercialization of research and innovations within the rubber sector?

MRC plays a proactive role in supporting the commercialization of research and innovation by bridging the gap between technology development and market adoption. We have developed platforms such as the Commercialization Facilitation Booklet and Online Matching Platform, which provide industry players with access to a comprehensive database of available technologies, intellectual property, research expertise, and facilities across Malaysia. In addition, MRC actively facilitates connections between companies and research institutions, ensuring that innovations are aligned with industry needs and have clear commercial pathways. This is complemented by internal funding programmes such as ILF 2.0 and MCF, as well as support in securing external funding. We also support early market development through trade exhibitions, business matching, and promotional initiatives assuring that new innovations are not only developed but successfully introduced into the market.

What are the major challenges in scaling innovations from laboratory to industrial production?

One of the key challenges in scaling innovation is the gap between research outputs and market requirements. In many cases, technologies developed in laboratories may not fully align with industry needs or commercial viability. There is also a relatively low rate of technological adoption among industry players, often due to limited awareness, perceived risks, or lack of alignment with existing operations. To address this, MRC places strong emphasis on facilitating early engagement between researchers and industry players. By involving industry at the early stages of development, we can ensure that innovations are more demand-driven and better positioned for commercial success. Ultimately, improving the alignment between innovation and market needs is critical to increasing the success rate of commercialization.

How does MRC bridge the gap between academia, research institutions, and industry?

MRC bridges the gap between academia and industry by creating platforms and opportunities for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and practical engagement. One of our key approaches is increasing the visibility of available technologies and research capabilities through curated databases and publications, ensuring that industry players are aware of what is available within the local ecosystem. We also actively encourage joint collaboration between companies and research institutions, particularly for projects supported by MRC funding. This helps ensure that research is aligned with real industry challenges and has clear pathways to commercialization. By fostering stronger linkages across the ecosystem, MRC aims to create a more integrated environment where innovation can move more efficiently from research to real-world application.

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Can you share examples of successful commercialization of Malaysian rubber technologies?

We have seen encouraging success stories that demonstrate the potential of innovation when supported by the right ecosystem.

- One example is *Geomax Rubber Innovative Products Sdn Bhd*, which has successfully commercialized eco-advanced materials derived from nitrile glove waste and industrial by-products. Through its patented zero-waste recycling technology, the company produces environmental-friendly products such as safety shoes, sandals, and rubber components, without generating water or air pollution. With MRC's facilitation, Geomax secured funding under the Cradle Sprint Fund and has since expanded from a single facility to multiple production sites. The company continues to benefit from MRC's support in early market development through trade shows and business matching, enabling it to scale both locally and internationally.
- Another example is *Heveatex (M) Sdn Bhd*, which successfully commercialized technologies developed by the Malaysian Rubber Board, including RRIMPaint and RRIMColor. With MRC's assistance in securing multiple funding sources, the company has grown from a small enterprise into a more established entity with expanded production capabilities and international market presence. MRC continues to support Heveatex through market access initiatives and promotional platforms, facilitating its ongoing growth and expansion.

These examples highlight how targeted support in combining funding, technical facilitation, and market access can enable companies to successfully commercialize innovation and scale their operations.

What role do international collaborations play in accelerating innovation and market adoption?

International collaborations play an important role in accelerating both innovation and market adoption, particularly in an industry that is increasingly shaped by global demand, evolving standards, and fast-changing market expectations. For Malaysian rubber products industry, such collaborations create opportunities to better understand market needs, emerging technologies, and international buyer requirements. This is important because innovation today cannot happen in isolation, it must be closely aligned with real commercial demand and global trends. By working with international partners, Malaysian companies are better positioned to develop solutions that are relevant, market-driven, and more readily accepted in the global marketplace.

These collaborations also help to shorten the pathway from product development to commercialization. Through exposure to international networks, market platforms, and strategic partnerships, companies can gain earlier access to buyers, technology partners, and potential investors. This not only supports faster market entry but also improves the chances of successful adoption on a large scale.

SOLARVEST



From MRC's perspective, international collaboration is also a way to strengthen industry confidence and visibility. It enables Malaysian companies to benchmark themselves against global standards, build stronger business linkages, and identify new pathways for innovation and growth. In that sense, collaboration is not only about opening doors to new markets, but it is also about ensuring that innovation is shaped by market pull, and that Malaysian rubber products remain competitive, relevant, and well-positioned internationally.

Innovation, Digitalisation & Future Technologies

How important are automation and digitalisation for the future competitiveness of the rubber industry?

Automation and digitalization are critical enabling competitiveness, particularly in improving productivity, consistency, and efficiency. They also enhance supply chain transparency and support sustainability efforts through better monitoring of resources and emissions. For Malaysia, adopting these technologies is essential to move towards higher-value manufacturing and reduce reliance on labour-intensive processes. MRC supports this transition through targeted incentives and programmes that help companies modernize in a practical and cost-effective manner.

What opportunities do you see in high-value segments such as medical rubber, specialty elastomers, and sustainable materials?

High-value segments such as medical rubber, specialty elastomers, and sustainable materials present significant opportunities for Malaysia. As global demand shifts towards environmentally responsible products, natural rubber, being renewable and biodegradable, offers a strong advantage. By combining advanced material innovation with sustainability credentials, Malaysian products can achieve stronger positioning in premium markets. This convergence of performance and sustainability will define the next phase of industry growth.

Future Outlook

What message would you like to share with global stakeholders about the future of Malaysia's rubber industry?

Malaysia's rubber industry is entering a new phase of growth, one that is more focused, more strategic, and increasingly aligned with global expectations. We remain committed to being a reliable and trusted partner, backed by decades of expertise in quality manufacturing. At the same time, we are actively transforming and strengthening our capabilities in innovation, sustainability, and value creation. Our approach is collaborative. We believe that long-term success will be built through strong partnerships across the global value chain. The message is clear: Malaysia is ready to evolve, compete, and grow alongside global stakeholders in a more dynamic and sustainability-driven future.

IRMRI

Spotlight





INDIAN RUBBER MATERIALS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Formerly known as Indian Rubber Manufacturers Research Association (IRMRA)

An Autonomous Institute, Under DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India

254/1B Road No 16V, Wagle Industrial Estate, Thane West, Maharashtra 400604.

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.

It is an autonomous institute under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India.

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irmra.nc1@irmra.org
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IRMRI Organizes Health Checkup Drive to Promote Employee Well-being

IRMRI recently conducted a Health Checkup Drive at its Head Office, reinforcing its commitment to employee wellness and preventive healthcare. The initiative featured comprehensive health screenings along with expert medical guidance, encouraging employees to take a proactive approach to their health. The session witnessed enthusiastic participation, reflecting a strong culture of well-being within the organization. IRMRI extends its appreciation to all participants and medical professionals for their valuable contribution in making the initiative a success.





INDIAN RUBBER MATERIALS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Formerly Known as INDIAN RUBBER MANUFACTURERS RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (IRMRA)
An Autonomous Institute under DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

IRMRI ANNOUNCES A TWO DAY INDUSTRY TRAINING PROGRAMME

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14th- 15th May 2026, 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.

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Upgrade Your Skills in Rubber Technology INDIAN RUBBER MATERIALS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

ABOUT IRMRI

The Indian Rubber Materials Research Institute (IRMRI), formerly known as Indian Rubber Manufacturers Research Association (IRMRA), was established in 1958 in Thane, Maharashtra. IRMRI is a globally recognized Centre of Excellence serving the tyre and non-tyre rubber industries.

Operating under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, IRMRI provides specialized services in testing, research, product development, training, and technical consultancy for the rubber and allied sectors.

With its Headquarters in Thane and regional centres including South Centre (Sri City), East Centre, and North Centre (New Delhi), IRMRI supports industries across India by offering advanced laboratory facilities, expert technical guidance, and industry-focused training programmes.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Quality Control Managers & Engineers
- Rubber Technologists & Process Engineers
- Production Supervisors and Shop-floor Professionals
- Chemists and R&D Personnel
- Entrepreneurs & Start-ups in Rubber Products
- Automotive Industry Professionals
- Students & Faculty in Polymer / Rubber Technology

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9361324212, veerappan.karthikeyan@irmra.org

Mr. Amol Tambe (Training Coordinators)
99691 67262, trg@irmra.org / infotrg@irmra.org

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Introduction to Rubber Technology and Industrial Applications
- ✓ Understanding General Purpose and Specialty Rubber Compounds
- ✓ Role of Ingredients in Rubber Compounding (Fillers, Additives, Accelerators, etc.)
- ✓ Formulation Design Principles for Rubber Products
- ✓ Overview of Mixing, Processing, and Compounding Techniques
- ✓ Physical Testing Methods for Rubber Products
- ✓ Chemical Testing and Quality Evaluation
- ✓ Importance of Quality Control in Rubber Manufacturing
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Disclaimer : Please note, that the date and venue for the training program are subject to change. In the event of any changes, we will notify you at least 7 working days prior to the scheduled date.

IRMRI Welcomes Postgraduate Interns from University of Mumbai

The Indian Rubber Materials Research Institute (IRMRI), Thane, Maharashtra, has welcomed three postgraduate students from the Department of Chemistry, University of Mumbai, for a two-month internship program. The initiative is designed to provide valuable industry exposure, hands-on laboratory experience, and practical insights into rubber technology and material science. During the program, the students will gain experience in advanced testing techniques, research methodologies, and real-time industrial applications, helping bridge the gap between academic learning and industry expectations. IRMRI remains committed to nurturing young talent and strengthening industry-academia collaboration, and looks forward to supporting these students in their professional journey.



IRMRI Welcomes Jai Hind College Students for Internship Programme

The Indian Rubber Materials Research Institute (IRMRI), Thane, Maharashtra, has welcomed six undergraduate and postgraduate students from the Department of Chemistry, Jai Hind College, Mumbai, for a two-month internship programme. The initiative is designed to provide valuable industry exposure, hands-on laboratory experience, and practical insights into rubber technology and material science. During their tenure, the students will engage with advanced testing techniques, research methodologies, and real-time industrial applications, helping them bridge the gap between academic learning and industry requirements.





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Internship Duration
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Take the next step in your career with IRMRI and gain valuable industry insights!

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- * Exposure to real-time industrial projects
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- * Practical learning in advanced laboratory & testing facilities
- * Opportunity to build strong professional networks

Join Us!



More Information +91 936 132 4212
veerappan.karthikeyan@irmra.org



www.irmri.org



IRMRI Strengthens Industry Engagement at India Rubber Expo 2026

The Indian Rubber Materials Research Institute (IRMRI) reported strong engagement at the India Rubber Expo 2026, organized by the All India Rubber Industries Association at Bharat Mandapam. The event attracted significant footfall from both domestic and international participants, highlighting the growing global interest in India's rubber industry. IRMRI's stall received an encouraging response, with active participation from industry stakeholders seeking insights into research, testing, training, and capacity-building initiatives. The IRMRI team—including Mr. Paul Vannan (Senior Deputy Director & Additional Charge of Director), Dr. Bharat Kapgate (Deputy Director), Dr. Debdipta Basu (Deputy Director, East Centre), Mr. V. Karthikeyan (Business Development Manager), Dr. Santosh Jagadale (Senior Scientific Officer), Dr. Amrita Roy (Senior Scientific Officer), Mr. Anil Bhujbal (Junior Officer – Customer Service), Mr. Rajeev Pandey (Office Manager, Delhi Office), and Ms. N. Sneha (Office cum Administrative Assistant, Delhi Office)—actively engaged with visitors, addressed queries, and facilitated meaningful discussions, further strengthening industry connections.









GLOBAL RUBBER DIRECTORY



A TechnoBiz Business Directory

Vol. 4 | April 2026





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WORLD CLASS ONE STOP SERVICE
SOLUTIONS FOR RUBBER INDUSTRY

AUTOMATION
SOLUTION

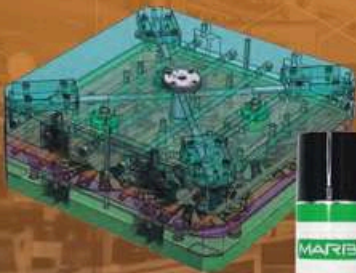
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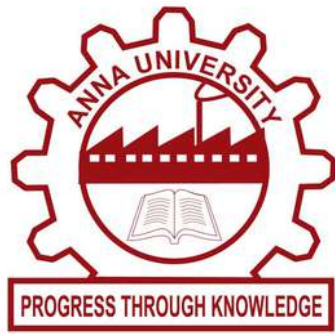
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Built on  standards

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BASE Automation was instrumental in enabling one of our tire customers to achieve recognition as a **World Economic Forum (WEF) Lighthouse**. Through the successful implementation of over **200 Smart Factory Use Cases**, we delivered cutting-edge **digital transformation solutions**. This accomplishment highlights BASE's deep expertise in Industry 4.0, adherence to ISA 95 standards, and capability in delivering **end-to-end automation**.

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UNIVERSAL TESTING MACHINE

AI-7000-MU

This machine are used to test tension, compression, bend, shearing force, adhesion, peeling force, tear strength, etc. of specimen, semi-product and finished product.



MOVING DIE RHEOMETER

M-6000AU

The moving die rheometer is an ideal instrument for determining the curing characteristics of rubber compounds including scorch time, cure time, cure rate, maximum torque, minimum torque and other vulcanization characteristics for quality control, research and development.

The Mooney Viscometer measures the viscosity, scorch and stress relaxation of raw rubber or compounded rubber.

It is used for determining the quality of rubber processing characteristics.

Standard : GB/T 16584-1996,ISO 6502-3-2018, ASTM D5289-2017



FLEXOMETER

RHU-2000N

The machine is used to determine the rubber subjected to the constant compression load under certain amplitude and frequency to assess its rising speed of temperature, dynamic permanent deformation but it's available for testing the rubber with the hardness from 30 to 85 IRHD.

Standard : ASTM D1646-2017, GB/T 1233-2008, GB/T 12321-2016, ISO 289-2-2016, ISO 289-1-2015



TIRE TESTING MACHINE

LT-5500AS

LT-5500AS designed in accordance with international standards, is suitable for tire testing including plunger energy test, bead unseating test, vertical stiffness test, lateral stiffness test and pressure distribution test.

Standard : GB/T 23663, ASTM F414-15, ASTM F870-94(2016), GB/T 4502-2016, CNS1431:2017



Ozone Tester

OZ-0500AC

The OZ-0500AC is designed to assess the resistance of vulcanized and thermoplastic rubber to cracking under static or dynamic strain when exposed to an ozone environment.

This ozone tester offers controllable ozone concentration and temperature conditions and allows operators to assess the resistance of rubber materials to ozone exposure efficiently for product performance evaluation.

Standard : GB/T 7762-2014, GB/T 13642-2015, ASTM D 1149-18,ISO 1431-1:2012



DIN ABRASION RESISTANCE TESTER

GT-7012-D

This machine is designed for determining the resistance of polyester soles, outsoles and polymer sheet materials to abrasion. The abrasive resistance is assessed by measuring the abrasion loss after the specimen is rubbed against sandpaper.

Standard : BS-903, GB/T 9867, ISO 4649, JIS-K6264, SATRA TM174, ASTM D5963, QBIT 2884-2007, ISO 20871:2001, BS EN 12770:2000

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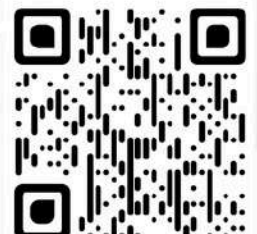
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WE PRODUCE HIGH QUALITY NATURAL RUBBER LATEX



Quality Assurance

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



About Our Company

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.



Concentrated Latex

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.

Available Packing Options: Steel Drum, Flexibag, IBC, Tank Container



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.

Corporate Sustainability



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 System has 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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Our core products are primarily divided into **acrylic rubber (ACM)** and modified acrylic water-based adhesives. ACM products are classified into four major types of rubber products: i. e. active chlorine, carboxyl, double cross-linking and epoxy types, while the and water-based emulsion adhesive types are available in five different categories which are broadly used in industries such as automobile, new energy technology, electric power , and related electronics, and environmental protection.

We are committed to product R&D and continuously manufacturing products which are consistently reliable, stable, and environmentally friendly, to meet our customers' evolving needs. This commitment is reflected in our corporate motto or mission of becoming a:

"Leading innovative material manufacturer and innovation through cutting edge technology, to ensure serving a sustainable development of society."



We pledge to be a model corporate citizen, a trusted partner, and an honest, reliable enterpriser that fosters long-term relationships with our customers worldwide while helping our customers to create value.

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than fifty countries
and regions

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of 20,000MTS
on rubber additives

TYPES
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divided
into
10 categories

SPECIES
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with more
than
100 items

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- 6)Butyl rubber production line;
- 7)Rubber preformer
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BUTYL RUBBER PRODUCTION LINE 丁基胶挤出生产线



14

NBR&PVC FOAM SHEET/ PIPE PRODUCTION LINE 橡塑发泡生产线



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双象集团
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公司介绍 Company introduction

Wuxi Double Elephant Rubber & Plastics Machinery Co., Ltd (DE) affiliated with Jiangsu Double Elephant Group, covering an area of 100, 000 square meters , with over 40 years of history , is a modernized technology enterprise which is engaged in R&D, manufacture and sales and after-sales service in the field of Rubber & Plastics Machinery .

We are specialized in the production of rubber and plastics machinery equipment: calender and auxiliary machine series, open mill series, mixing kneader series, rubber extruder series, rotary curing series, wide rubber sheet extrude calendering line, rubber conveyor belt calendering line, tire inner liner calendering line, PVC artificial leather/ film/rigid sheet calendering line, PVC flooring calendering line etc.

Our Products are very popular in China and have been exported all over the world, such as Europe, the United States , Japan, Southeast Asia, India, Turkey, South America, etc. In rubber machinery field, DE has established a good partnerships with domestic R&D institute , large scale tire enterprise, rubber product manufacturers such as Beijing R & D Institute of Rubber Industry , Guiling rubber industry R&D institute, Bridgestone (Japan), Toyo Tire (Japan), Yokohama(Japan), Continental Tire (Germany),Michelin (France), Trelleborg (Sweden),Camso(Canada),Kumho Tire (Korea), Apollo(India),MRF (India) ,CST Tire(Taiwan), Kenda Tire(Taiwan),Linglong Tire, Triangle Tire, General Science Technology, Wanli Tire, Boton Technology , etc.

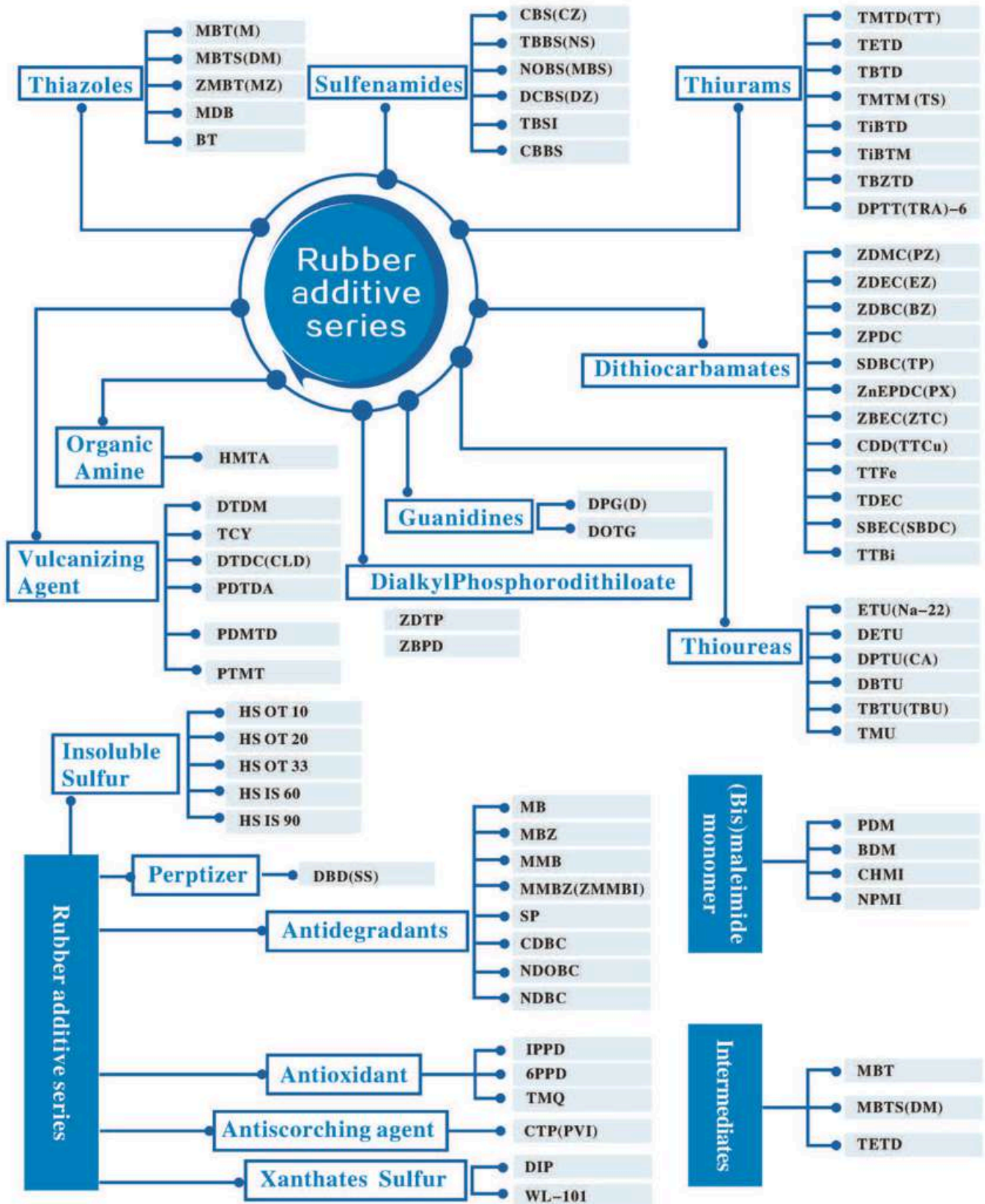
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XIANG RUN HAO

About Us

QingDao Xiang Run Hao Import and Export Co., Ltd (Former name is Qingdao RuiTongFa rubber machinery works, which is founded in 2003) is a professional manufacturer for rubber machinery and rubber moulds such as rubber injection machine, vacuum plate vulcanizing press and automatic plate vulcanizing press, rubber joint machine. We exported rubber machine and rubber moulds to many countries such as India, Chile, Belarus, South America, South Korea, South-East Asia, Japan and Russia etc.

The total export amount is up to more than ten million US dollars.

Through many year's development, constant research and innovation, we became a bigger company with several factories to producing Automatic Vulcanizing Machine, Rubber Injection Molding Machine, Mixing Mill kneader, many kinds of rubber moulds and rubber products. We also supply technology service, rubber compound formula and moulds designing according to customers requirements and production samples. We wish to co-operate with all customers on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.



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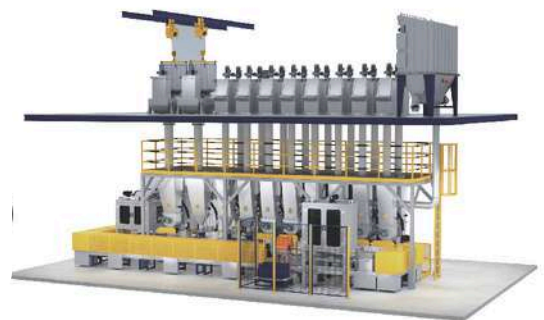
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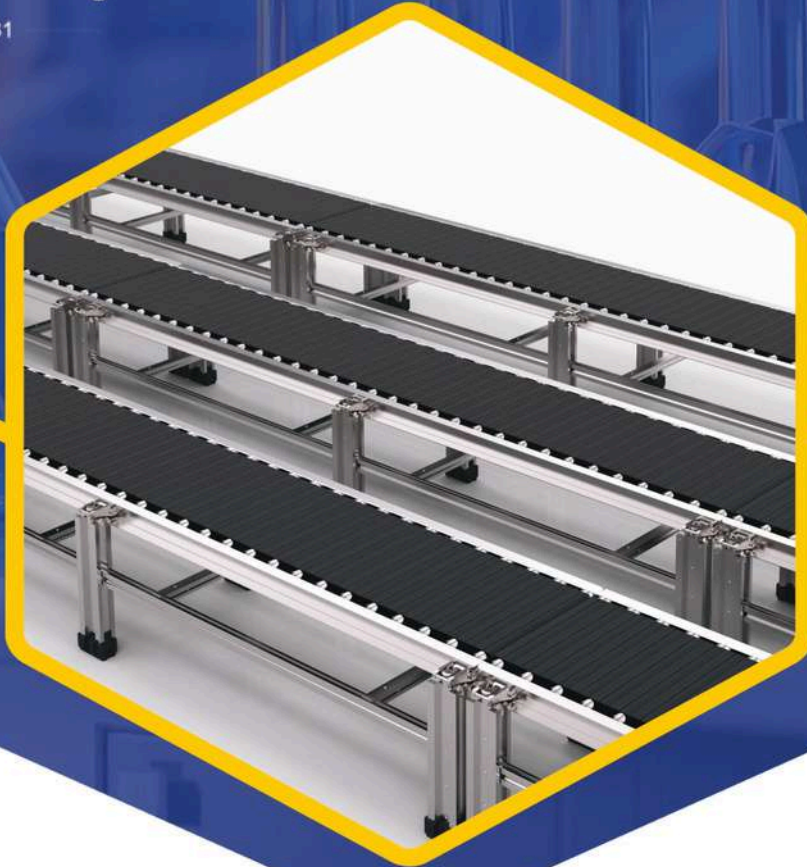
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- Polymer Coatings for Gloves
- Powder Free Coagulant/Anti-tack
- Powder Reducing Agents
- Former Cleaners and Biocides
- Aqueous Colour Pigment Dispersions
- Wax Emulsions
- Specialty Silicone Emulsions and Derivates
- Silicone Oil (Dimethicone)
- Silicone Defoamers
- Chloroprene Latex
- Polyisoprene Latex
- NBR (Nitrile) latex

R **RACHANA**
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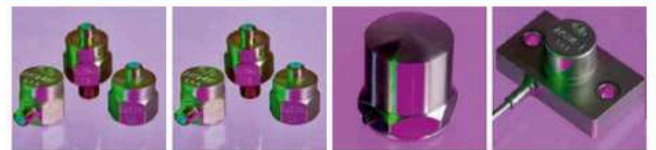
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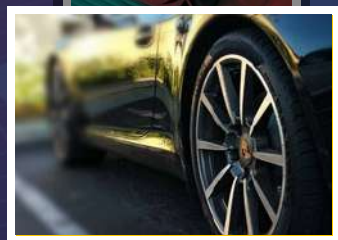
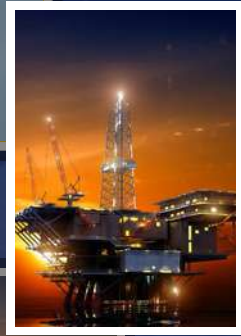
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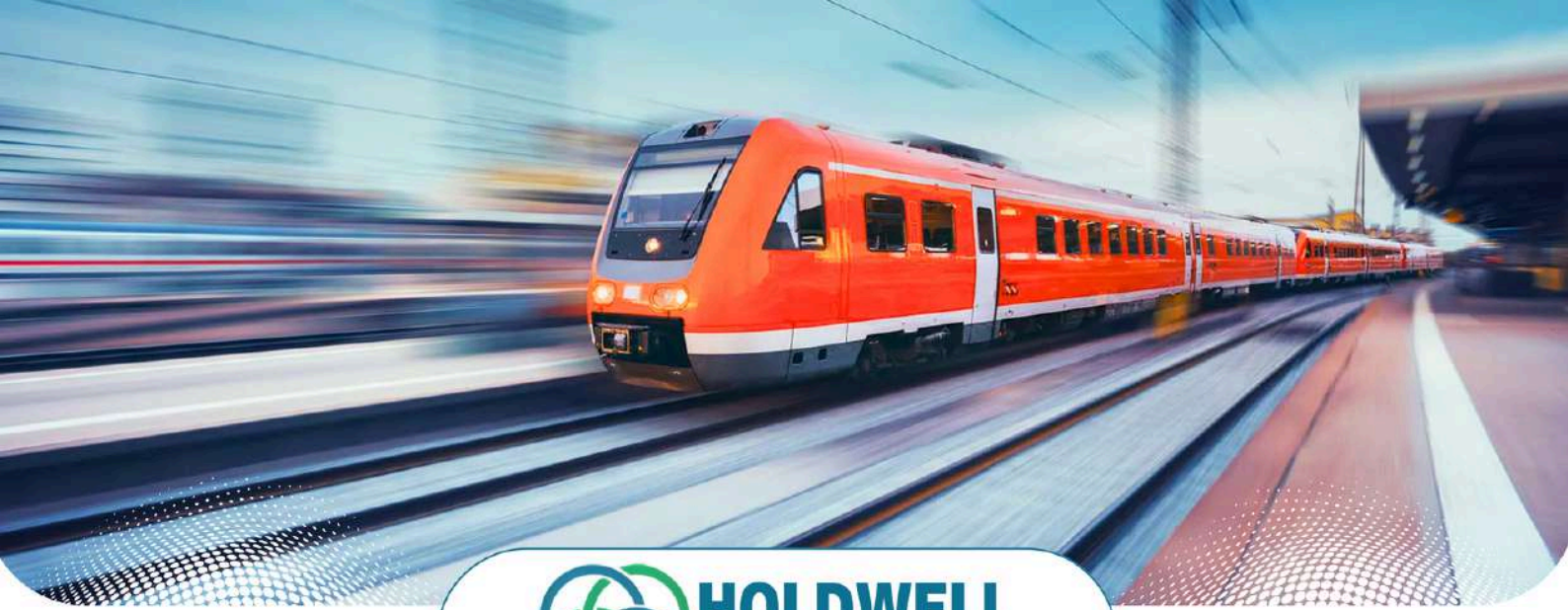
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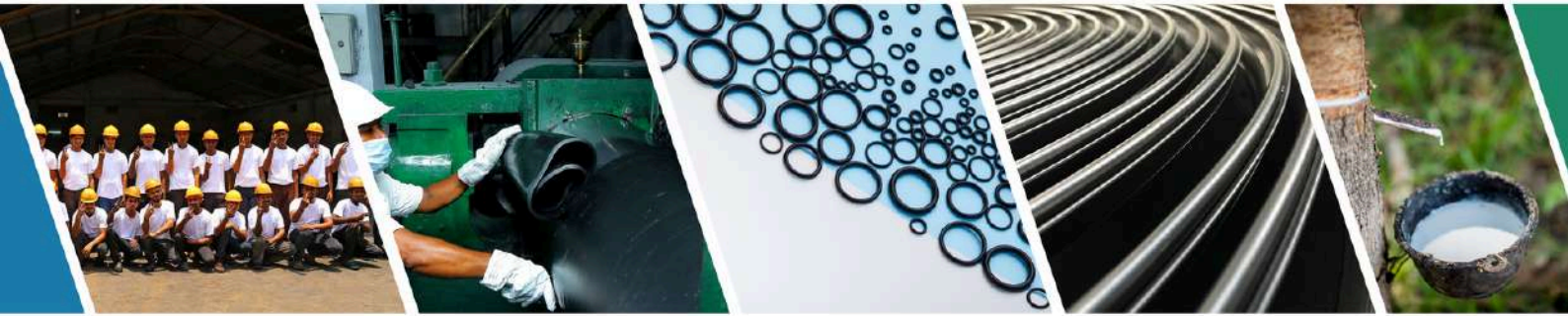


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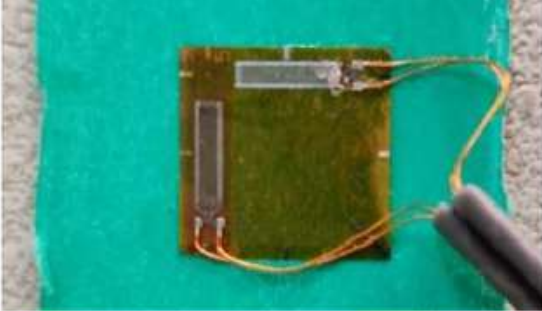
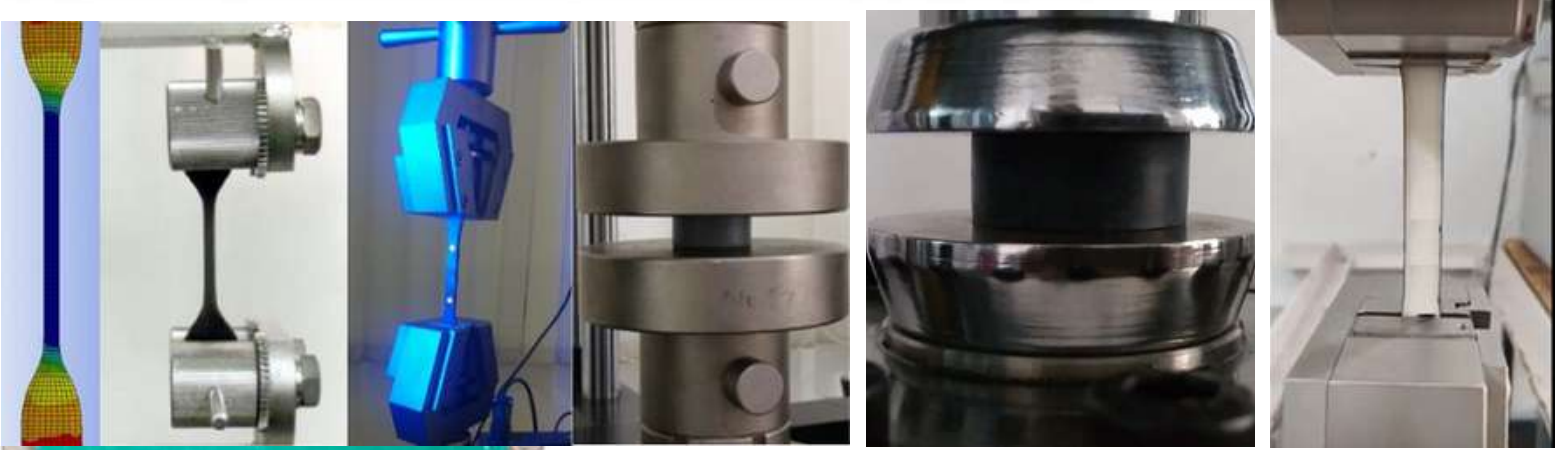
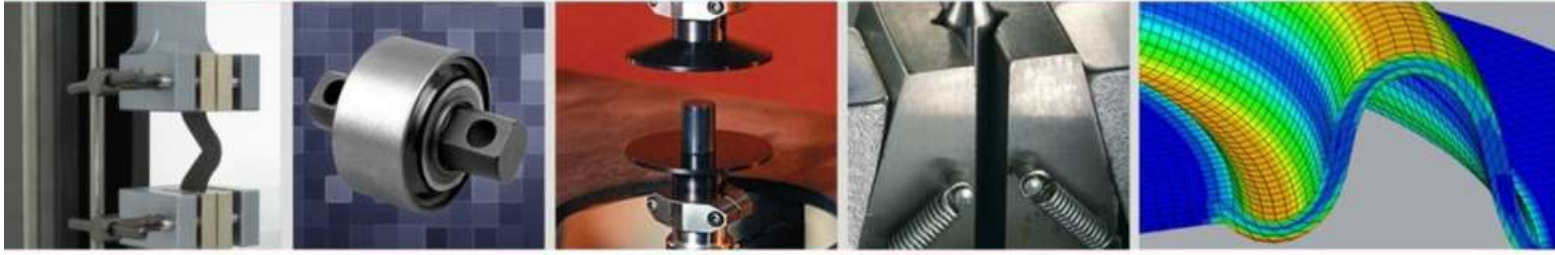
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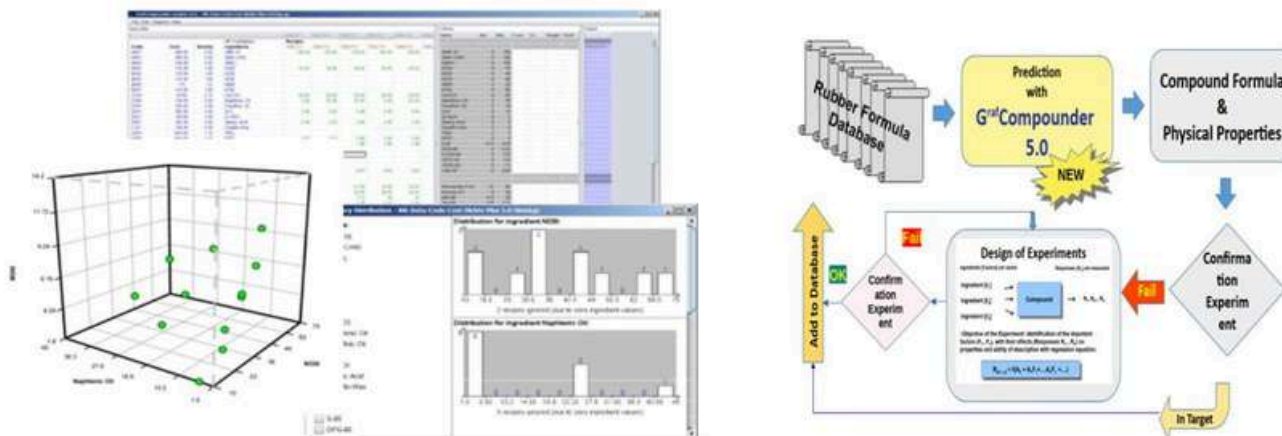
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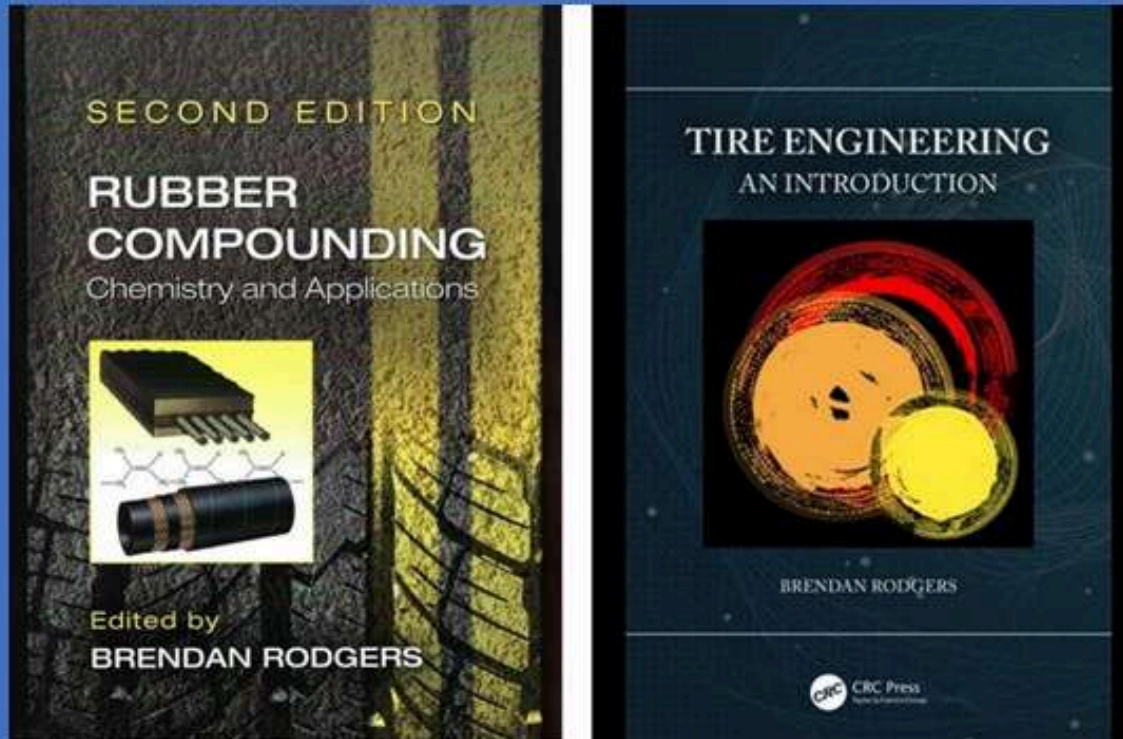
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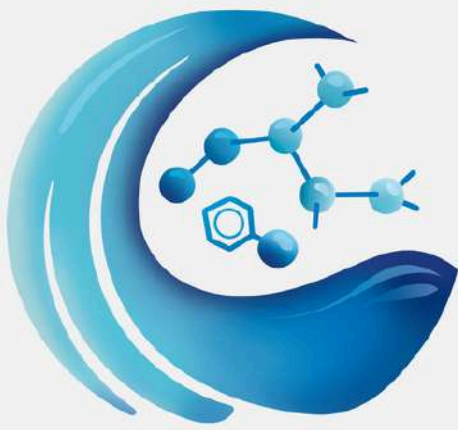


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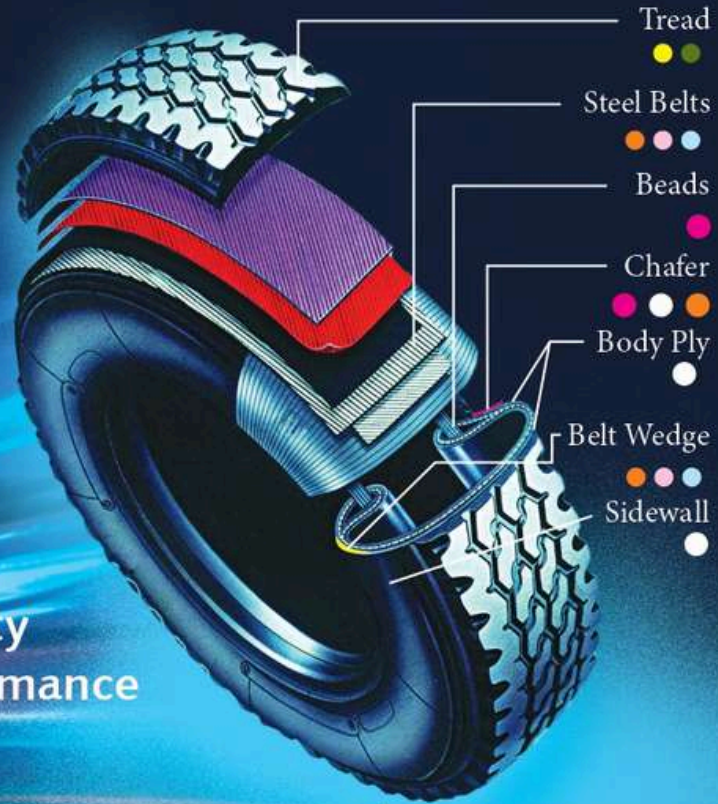
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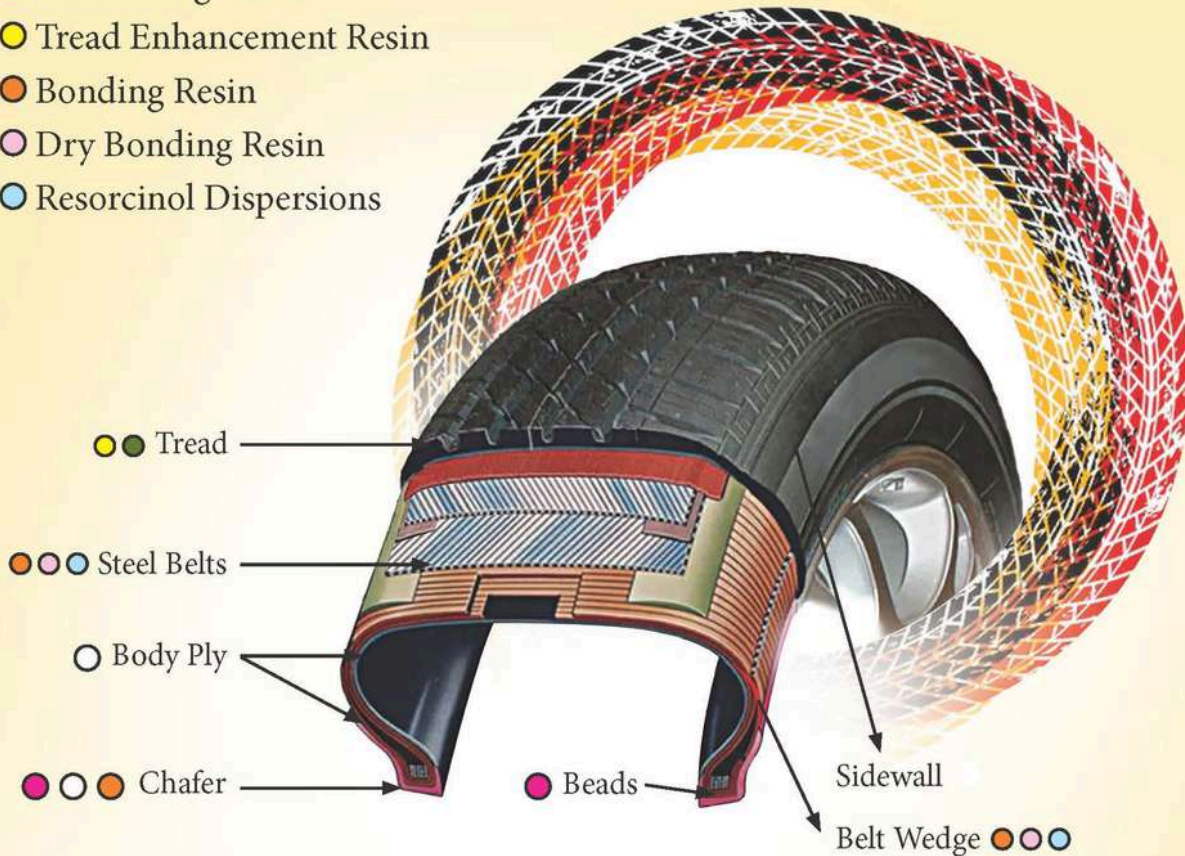
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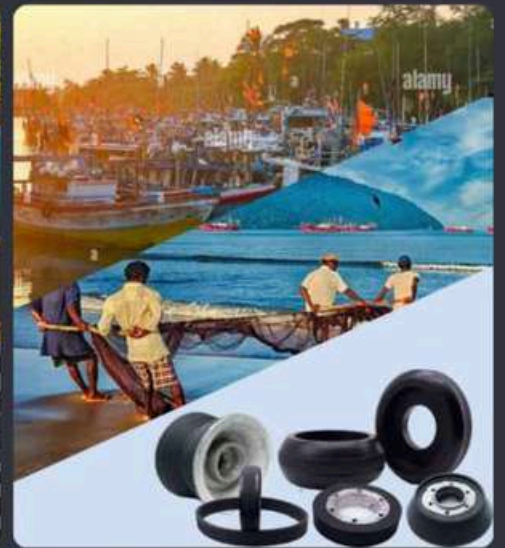
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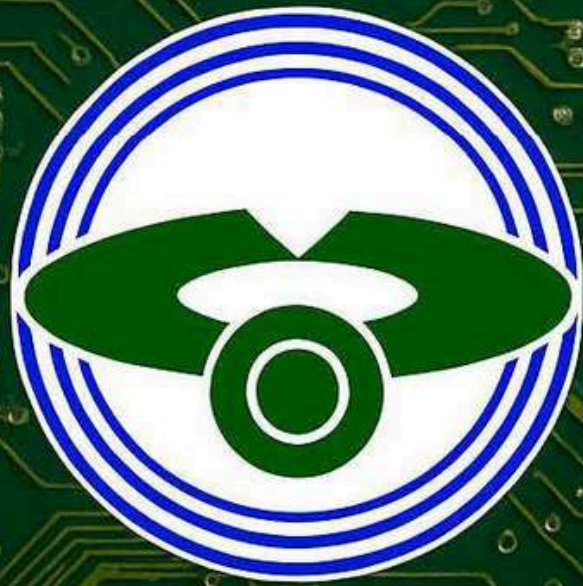
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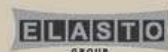
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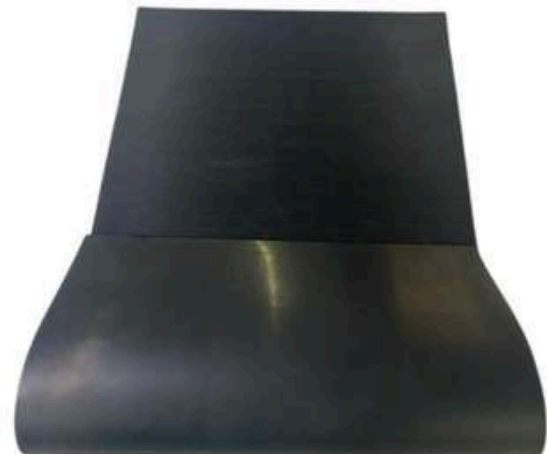
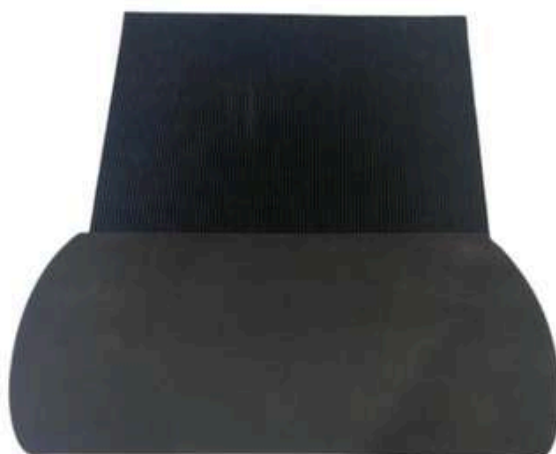
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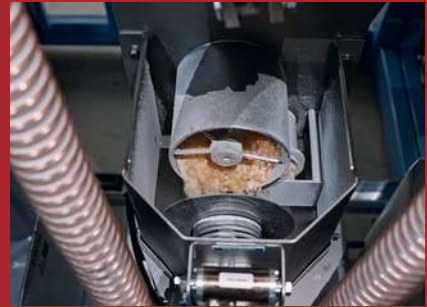
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RUBBER *Review*

ARLANXEO's Orange, Texas site achieves ISCC PLUS certification for Therban® (HNBR) and Buna® (BR)



ARLANXEO announced that its Therban® (HNBR) and Buna® (BR) manufacturing units at the Orange, Texas site have successfully achieved ISCC PLUS certification. This certification enables the site to manufacture and supply products under the ARLANXEO Eco label. The ARLANXEO Eco Line comprises the company's portfolio of ISCC PLUS-certified sustainable elastomers based on the mass balance approach.

This certification enables ARLANXEO to offer customers in North America and global markets verified sustainable solutions that help reduce overall carbon footprints while maintaining the performance and reliability associated with Therban® and Buna® products.

The certification is particularly significant for ARLANXEO's Specialty Elastomers business. As the first Therban® HNBR site to receive ISCC PLUS certification, the Orange location plays a central role in expanding ARLANXEO's offering of sustainable high performance elastomers. Edwin Grootendorst, Global Head of Business Specialty Elastomers, emphasized the milestone: "The Orange site is the first Therban® HNBR production facility to receive ISCC PLUS certification and further strengthens the sustainability mission of ARLANXEO, as well as the Eco portfolio of the Specialty Elastomers cluster."

The inclusion of Buna® BR from the Orange site adds further depth to the company's sustainable product offering. Rohit Prabhune, Global Head of Business Basic Elastomers, highlighted the importance for his segment: *"With Orange joining our existing ISCC PLUS-certified Buna® sites, ARLANXEO now has ISCC+ Certified Basic Elastomers producing sites on 3 continents, with a truly global reach. This reinforces our commitment to providing customers with circular, mass balanced solutions that help reduce environmental impact while maintaining the performance they expect."*

The strengthened product offering is particularly relevant for customers in North America. Jay Capelli, Regional Head of Sales NORAM, added: *"This certification helps solidify ARLANXEO's position in the NORAM region as a premium supplier and partner – and supports the sustainability ambitions of our customers across key industries."*

Strengthening ARLANXEO's global sustainability agenda

ISCC PLUS is a globally recognized certification system designed to ensure traceability, transparency, and responsible sourcing throughout the value chain. By integrating circular and renewable raw materials via the mass balance methodology, ARLANXEO can offer ARLANXEO Eco grades that enable customers to reduce their carbon footprint without compromising technical performance.

The certification of the Orange site is part of ARLANXEO's broader global sustainability agenda and represents another milestone in expanding the ARLANXEO Eco portfolio across multiple sites and product families — supporting customers in their transition toward more sustainable elastomer solutions.

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LANXESS Introduces New High-Performance Additives for the Tire Industry at Tire Technology Expo 2026



At the Tire Technology Expo 2026 in Hannover, Germany, the specialty chemicals company LANXESS presented a range of advanced rubber additives designed to enhance tire performance, production efficiency, and sustainability. These innovations target key challenges faced by tire manufacturers, including durability, environmental compliance, and process optimization.

One of the major highlights from LANXESS was the introduction of Vulkanox 4060, a new antioxidant that could serve as a more environmentally compatible alternative to the widely used 6PPD. Antioxidants play a critical role in protecting rubber from oxidative degradation and aging, which helps extend the service life of tires. The new product reflects the industry's increasing focus on reducing environmental impact while maintaining high-performance standards.

In addition to this development, LANXESS showcased additives that improve silica dispersion in tire compounds, a key factor in producing modern high-performance tires with better rolling resistance, wet grip, and durability. The company also presented solutions that help reduce deposits during manufacturing processes and enhance adhesion between rubber and reinforcing materials such as steel or textile cords, contributing to more stable and efficient tire production.

Through these innovations, LANXESS aims to support tire manufacturers in developing next-generation tires that meet stricter environmental regulations while delivering improved performance and manufacturing efficiency. The company emphasized that advanced additive technologies will play a crucial role in the industry's transition toward more sustainable and high-efficiency tire production.

Continental Phases Out Coal and Heavy Fuel Oil as Energy Sources in Tire Production Worldwide



Continental has reached an important milestone in its global sustainability strategy: Coal and heavy fuel oil have been fully phased out across all tire production sites. Since January 2026, all plants have adopted alternative energy sources to generate the steam required for manufacturing tires and heating. These alternatives include biomass, biogas, electricity from renewable sources, and alternative fuels such as liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and natural gas in order to ensure a constant energy supply.

"For us, coal and heavy fuel oil are a thing of the past. The future increasingly lies in renewable energies," says Dr. Bernhard Trilken, head of Manufacturing and Logistics at Continental Tires. "By relying on a smart mix of energy sources – increasingly renewable and ideally generated directly on site – we are making our manufacturing more independent and therefore more resilient."

Until the early 2020s, seven of Continental's 19 production facilities worldwide relied on coal and heavy fuel oil to generate steam. This approach ensured constant thermal output and high operational reliability even in regions with limited gas or electricity infrastructure. Today, all Continental tire plants draw on a diversified mix of alternative energy sources, enabled by systematic and long-term investments.

In tire manufacturing, a significant share of energy is required for heating processes such as vulcanization, which gives rubber its elastic properties. While this step has long used steam produced directly from fossil-based energy sources, new advanced electric technologies make the process far more flexible and more energy efficient.

In addition, since 2020 Continental has purchased electricity exclusively from renewable sources and is continuing to expand its own renewable energy generation. The company reduced the greenhouse gas intensity of its production by more than ten percent in 2025 compared to the previous year and by around 70 percent compared to 2019. Especially by switching to lower-emission energy sources, Continental has cut around 180,000 metric tons of CO₂ from tire production over the past four years.



Dr. Bernhard Trilken, head of Manufacturing and Logistics at Continental Tires.



Henning Mühlenstedt, head of Future Technologies and Sustainable Infrastructure at Continental Tires.

Milestone achieved: alternative steam generation at all sites

Today, Continental uses a combination of different energy sources to reduce overall CO₂ emissions from tire production, including biomass, biogas, electricity from renewable sources, and alternative fuels such as liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and natural gas. *"We have significantly reduced our production-related CO₂ emissions, thanks to continuous investments in electrification and changing the energy sources used for heat generation at our plants worldwide,"* explains Henning Mühlenstedt, head of Future Technologies and Sustainable Infrastructure at Continental Tires.

The energy mix at Continental's global production sites varies widely, shaped by regional infrastructure, available resources, and local energy markets. Yet one common thread runs through all locations: the company's clear commitment to phasing out coal and transitioning to energy sources with lower CO₂ intensity. At the plant in Gqeberha, South Africa, for example, coal had long been part of the site's steam generation. Today, the plant has switched to biomass, with liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) covering the remaining energy demand. The tire plant in Kalutara, Sri Lanka has undergone a similarly transformative journey.

With the commissioning of a second biomass boiler last year, the site successfully eliminated the use of heavy oil and now generates all of its steam exclusively from renewable biomass. At its Otrokovice site in the Czech Republic, Continental worked closely with its regional energy supplier to align steam generation with the company's climate targets. As part of this collaboration, the local power plant gradually shifted its fuel mix from coal to biomass and natural gas. As a result, Continental's tire plant in Otrokovice can now be supplied with steam generated predominantly from biomass. This switch will also have a positive impact on the surrounding communities, which will now receive district heat from a more environmentally friendly mix.

Transitioning to alternative energy sources is a key part of Continental's sustainability efforts. The company continuously works to improve energy efficiency and increase the use of renewable energy sources in its production processes further. Switching steam generation to alternative energy sources across all production sites is a concrete step – a commitment that is also recognized externally by the independent organization CDP, which awarded Continental an A- rating in 2025 for its climate transparency and CO₂-reduction measures.



All 10 Highest-volume EV Manufacturers in the EMEA Region Choose Continental Tires



Continental has expanded its market position even further in the field of electric mobility. In the Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) region, the company supplied original equipment tires to the 10 highest-volume manufacturers of electric vehicles in 2025. This result underscores Continental Tires' strategic focus on the growing e-mobility market. Worldwide, 17 of the 20 highest-volume electric vehicle manufacturers place their trust in tires from the Hanover-based company. They include both premium and volume manufacturers such as BYD, Volkswagen, Stellantis, BMW, NIO, Hyundai and Renault. In the Americas region, Continental currently supplies 8 of the 10 highest-volume manufacturers. In the most dynamic market region, Asia Pacific (APAC), it supplies 7 of the top 10. The Chinese market is particularly volatile: within one year, new high-volume manufacturers have entered the rankings there.

"The EMEA region confirms the success of our strategy. We began designing our passenger tires for low rolling resistance, quiet rolling noise and high load capacity very early on. These properties are especially important for electric vehicles," says Dennis Bellmund, responsible for the global original equipment business at Continental Tires.

Developing tires with electric vehicles in mind

Electric vehicles place particular demands on tires. Due to the weight of their batteries, they are generally heavier than comparable combustion-engine vehicles. They also deliver instant torque when accelerating. The resulting higher load and greater torque can lead to faster tire wear. Electric vehicles are also quieter than vehicles with combustion engines, which means tire rolling noise is more noticeable.

Continental began early on to optimize its tires for ever-lower rolling resistance, quiet rolling noise and high mileage – regardless of the vehicle's drive system. The tire manufacturer introduced its first tire line specifically designed for energy efficiency back in 1993 – the ContiEcoContact. The seventh EcoContact generation is now available on the market.

The new EcoContact 7 from Continental features optimized aerodynamics for greater energy efficiency. Continental's engineers combined various technologies to achieve this, including the "aerodimple" structure borrowed from golf balls. The dimples in the sidewalls reduce the air turbulence behind the tires, meaning the vehicle requires less energy to keep the tire moving. This makes the EcoContact 7 an ideal tire solution – for electric and combustion-engine vehicles alike.

Electric mobility: the global market continues to grow

Global sales volumes of electric vehicles are growing steadily. Industry experts such as the Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research (ISI) regularly provide forecasts and analyses on the development of the global electric-vehicle market. The ISI projected a 23 percent increase in global sales of battery-powered electric vehicles (BEVs) for 2025: from 10.3 million electric cars sold in 2024 to 12.7 million in 2025. The Asia-Pacific region, especially China, is and remains by far the largest single market for electric cars, with double-digit growth rates. Europe is the second most important sales market worldwide. At 2.5 million, around 26 percent more electric vehicles were registered than in 2024. In North America, new registrations remained at the previous year's level of 1.4 million vehicles, according to ISI.



Since 2023, Continental has added the EV-compatible logo to all its tires that are designed for electric vehicles and which optimize their range.

Covestro and Fraunhofer UMSICHT sign contract for groundbreaking smart pyrolysis recycling pilot plant



Materials manufacturer Covestro and the Fraunhofer Institute for Environmental, Safety and Energy Technology UMSICHT have signed a contract to operate a 2kt per year pilot plant for smart pyrolysis of rigid polyurethane foam waste. The plant will be operational by 2028. The agreement marks a significant milestone in scaling up the technology to convert insulation waste from appliance and construction into high-purity re-aniline for the production of MDI (methylene diphenyl diisocyanate). The resulting MDI meets the same purity standards as conventional MDI with up to 40¹ percent lower carbon footprint compared to conventional fossil-based production routes.

"The contract with Fraunhofer UMSICHT is a decisive step towards industrializing our smart pyrolysis technology," said Dr. Markus Dugal, Head of Process Technology of Covestro. *"This partnership combines our chemical and technology expertise with Fraunhofer's process engineering capabilities and assets to scale a technology that is able to prove chemical recyclability of end-of-life Polyurethane materials and that could fundamentally change how we source raw materials for MDI production. By recovering high-value molecules from waste streams, we're turning the circular economy from vision into reality while significantly reducing the carbon footprint of our products."*

Under the agreement, Fraunhofer UMSICHT will draw on its pyrolysis research expertise and existing chemical recycling infrastructure to implement and scale up Covestro's proprietary smart pyrolysis process. The pilot plant has an annual capacity to recycle 2kt of end-of-life foam per year. The resulting amount of aniline could be used to produce insulation for roughly 200,000 refrigerators². The new plant is scheduled to begin operations in mid-2028 and will process rigid PUR/PIR foam waste primarily from end-of-life insulation PU materials. The technology specifically targets rigid foam because it is notoriously difficult to recycle due to its crosslinked molecular structure.

Moving towards industrial implementation

"This project represents the culmination of several years of intensive joint research," explains Prof. Dr.-Ing. Manfred Renner, Head of Institute Fraunhofer UMSICHT. "It's perfectly in line with Fraunhofer's mission to bridge the gap between research and application: we are not just demonstrating technical feasibility but actively moving towards industrial implementation." Dr. Alexander Hofmann, Head of Thermochemical Conversion Technologies at Fraunhofer UMSICHT adds: "The project is underpinned by our own research and technology developments in chemical recycling and downstream processing. The pilot plant will allow us to optimize process parameters at scale and provide sufficient material for further processing tests and market development."

The smart pyrolysis process yields aniline with approximately 99 percent purity, suitable for producing recycled MDI that meets the same quality standards as conventional MDI.

Rigid foam market in need of closed-loop solutions

This development is particularly important as the MDI market for rigid foam is projected to grow from 1400 kt in 2025 to 1900kt in 2035 in Europe alone, driven by increasing demand for energy-efficient insulation in buildings and refrigeration. EU regulations and market requirements, for example, increasingly request scalable end-of-life solutions for PUR/PIR rigid foam, posing a significant challenge for the industry. The chemical recycling technology developed by Covestro and Fraunhofer UMSICHT offers a viable path forward by breaking molecular bonds to recover valuable raw materials that would otherwise be lost.

The technological development builds on extensive research within CIRCULAR FOAM, an EU-funded flagship project coordinated by Covestro with Fraunhofer UMSICHT and 23 other partners across Europe. After successful laboratory and mini-plant scale demonstrations, the smart pyrolysis pilot plant represents the critical next step toward commercial implementation.

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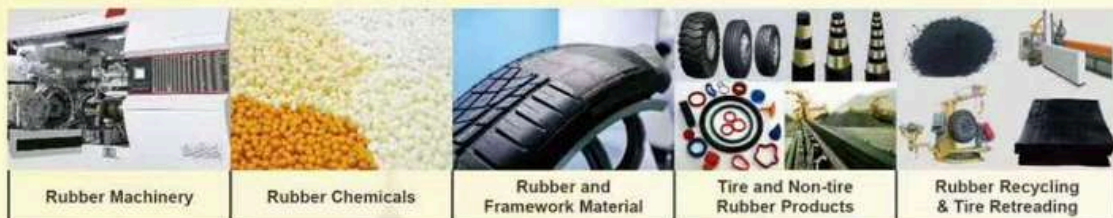


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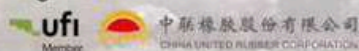
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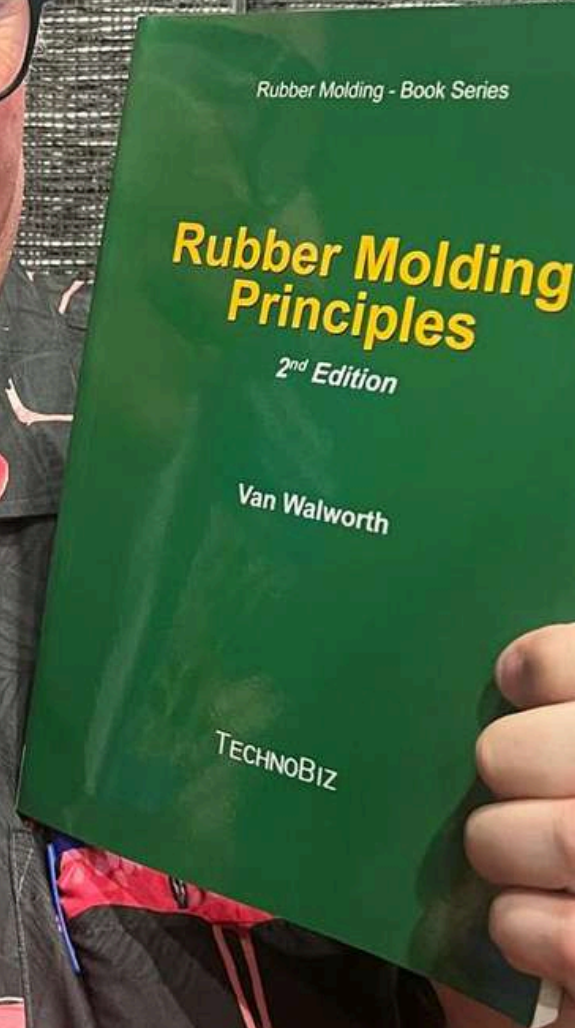
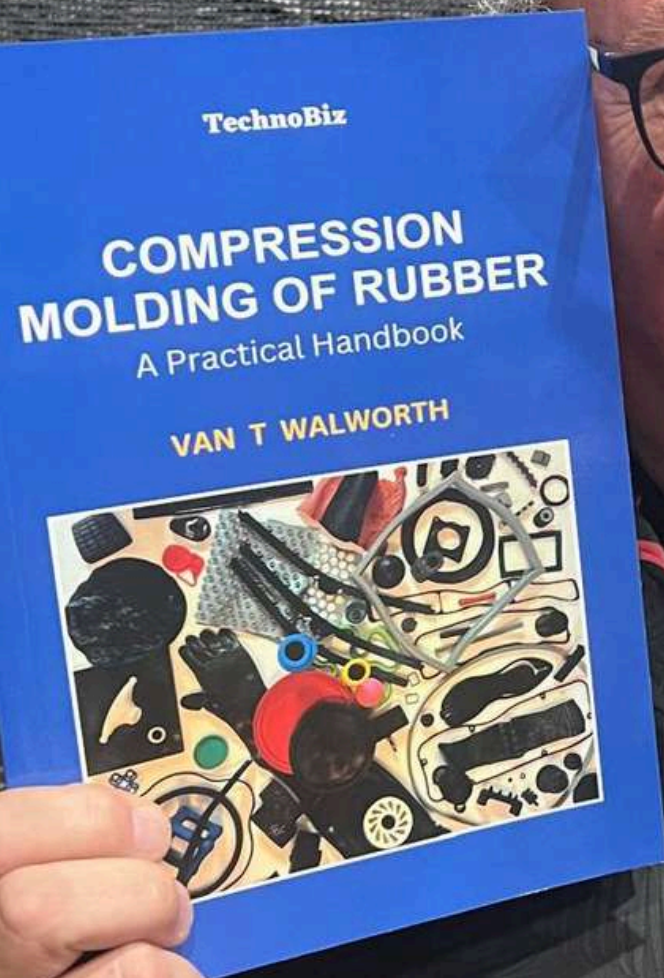
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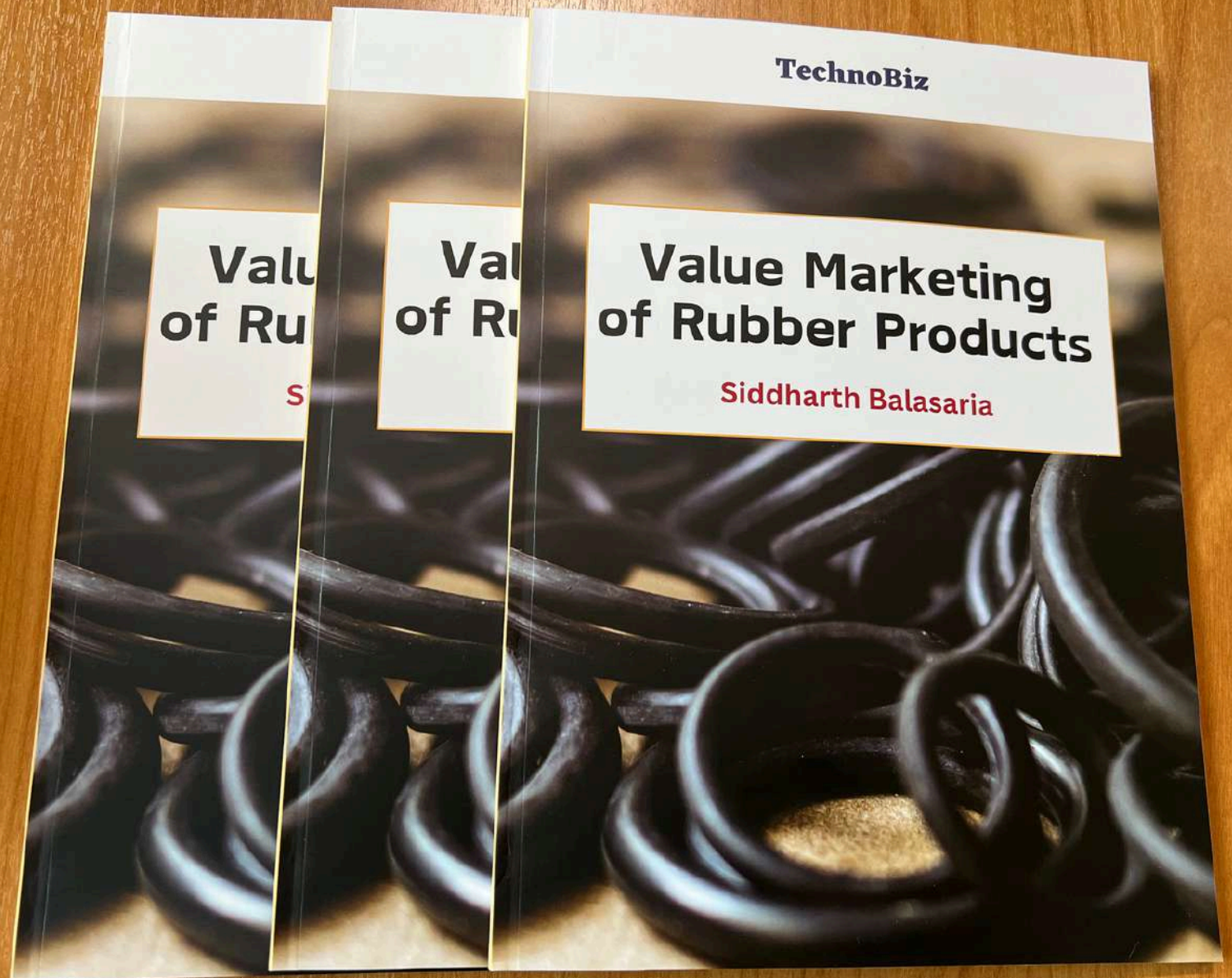
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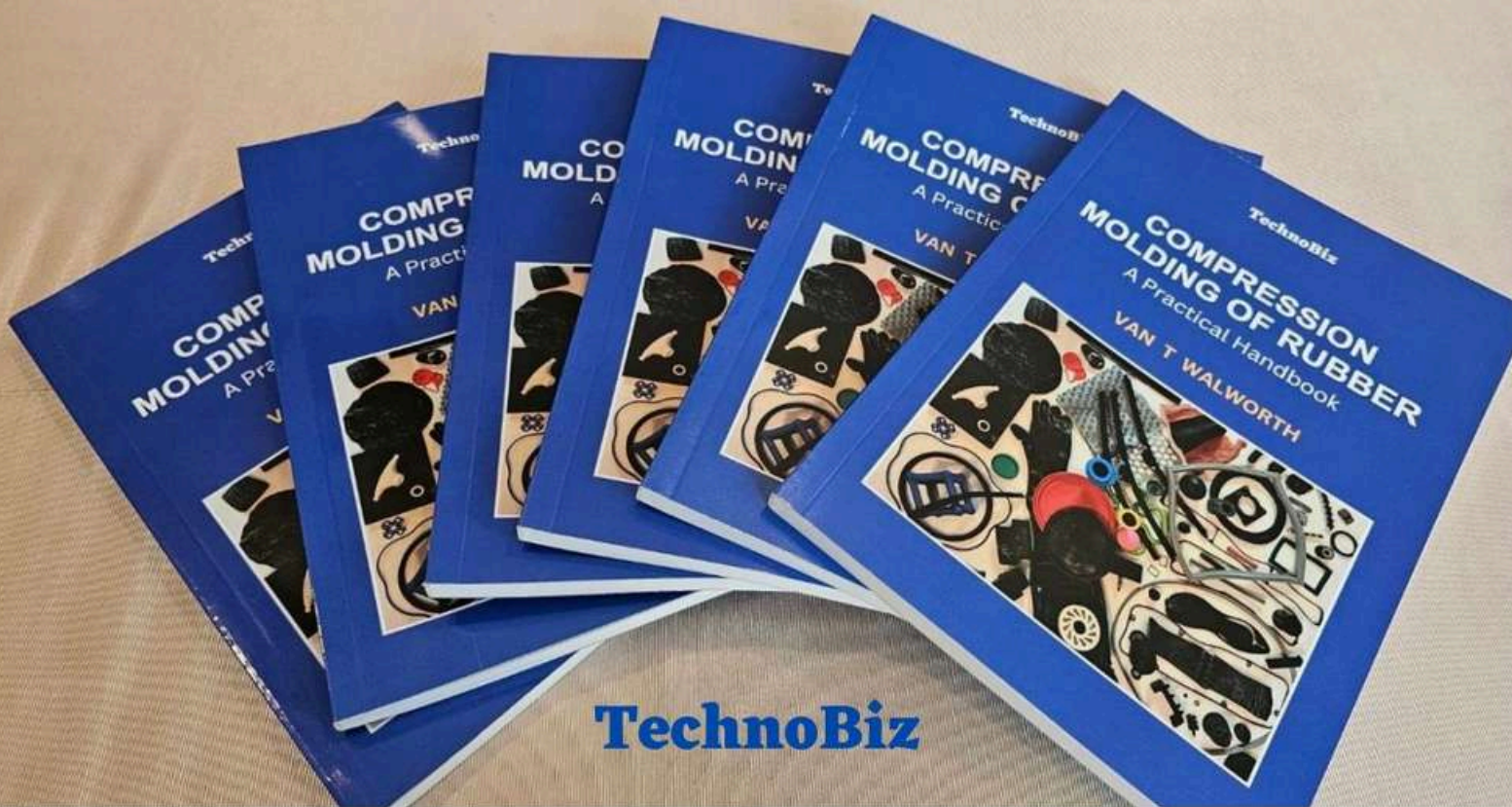




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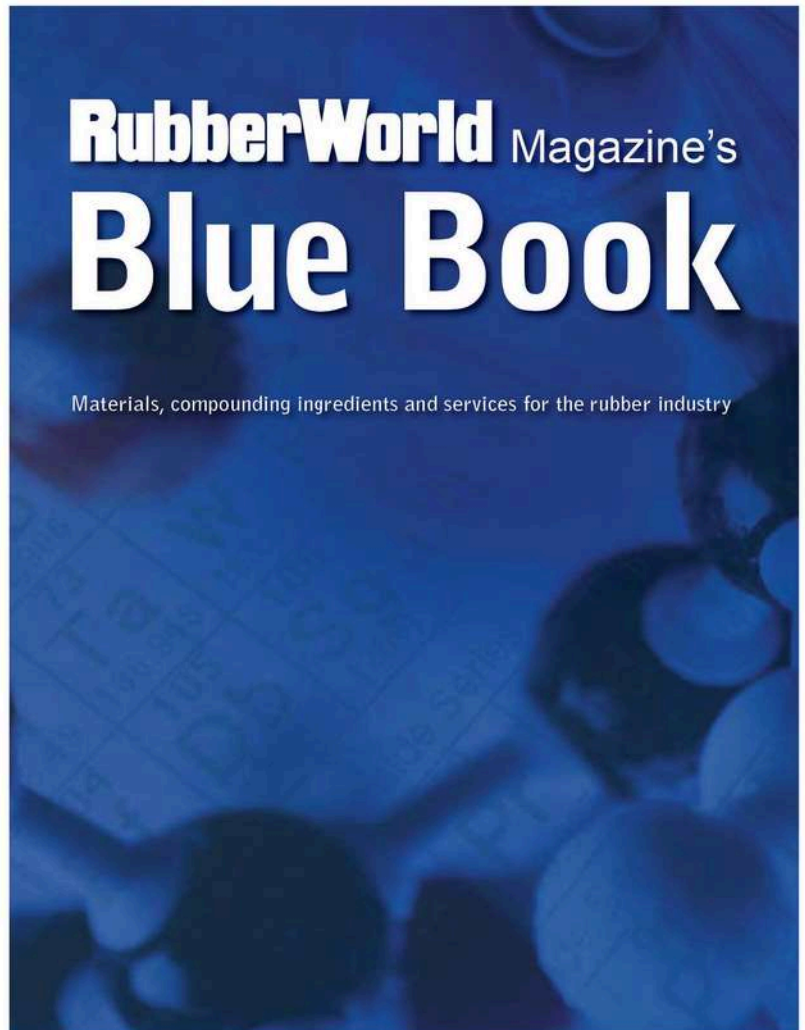
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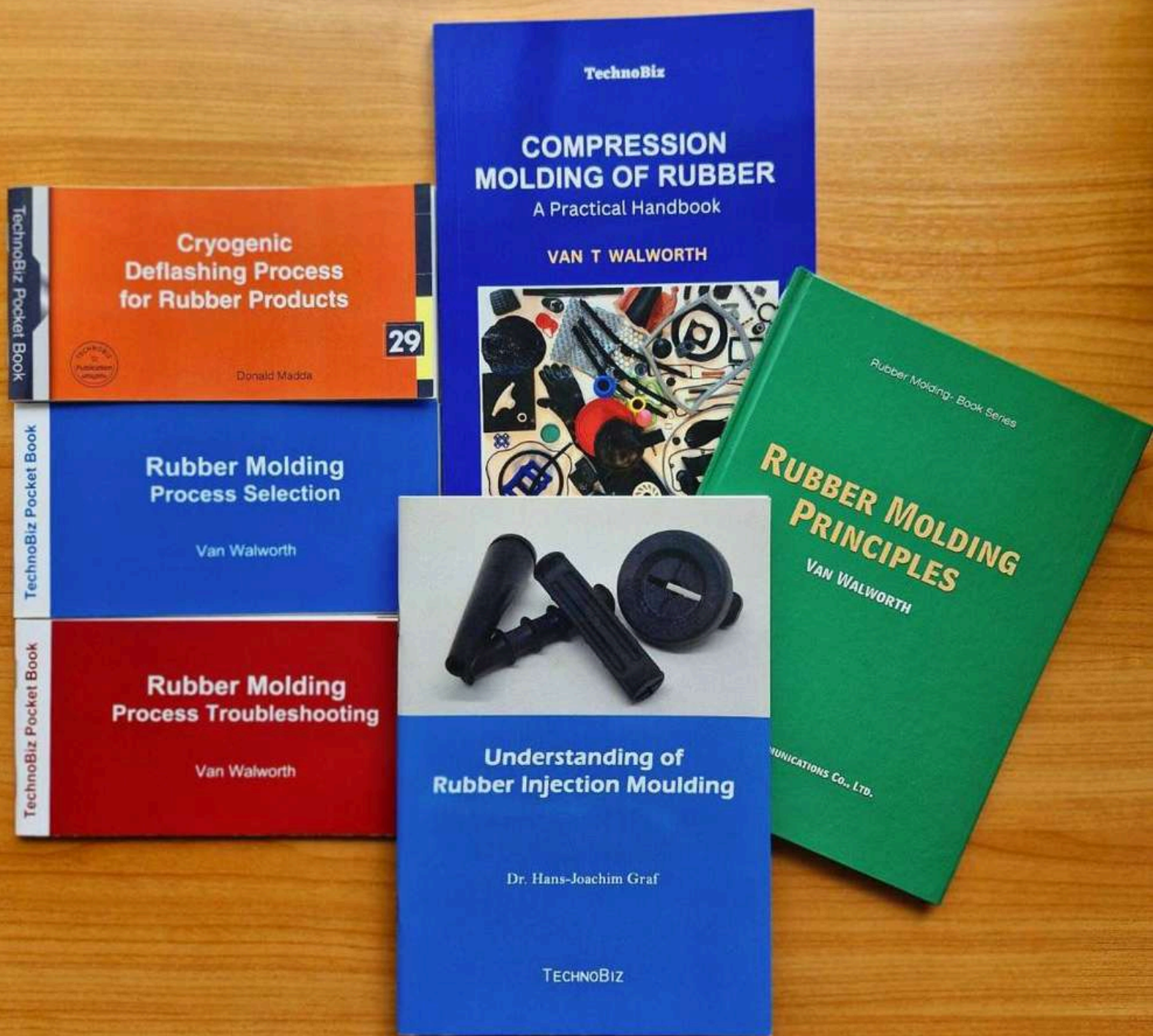
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