

REPORT ON

ARM Int'l SARD Kolkata Meet

Venue: ITC Sonar Bangla
Date/Time: Aug 17, 5 p.m
Participants: Thirtyfive
Sole Sponsor: PATTON

SARD Vice Chair, Ashish Baheti welcomed the attendees and thanked them for keeping up their enthusiasm for SARD activities. He conveyed special thanks on behalf of SARD to Patton for all their support and sole sponsorship of the Meet. The Meet got underway following the customary round of introductions by all participants.

Deepak Himmatramka, Raunaq Plastics was the first presenter of the evening when he launched a new feature for our Regional Meets the **Regional Moulders Viewpoint**. The focus right away was on a problem typical of the eastern region of the division. Compared to other regions rotomoulding activity was at a lower level. This meant that there was less competition and the moulders of the region had to look at the positively as opportunity. There was certainly a confluence of interests with the objectives of ARMI-SARD. And with the accent of the organization clearly on the moulder it was opportune time for moulders of the region to come together and work for growth and progress on this common SARD platform. It was time to think big and think of good products with a regional focus. W.Bengal in particular was in the midst of an economic upsurge and he exhorted moulders to cash in on this climate with the new awareness they were gaining out of their association with ARMI-SARD. It was time for a segmented buyer approach and to strike a note of resonance with social obligations. Health and hygiene were important concerns that justified striving for a qualitative upgrade in the dominant water tank segment.

Ashish Baheti, Pure Ganga who has been spearheading ARM-I SARD's concerted efforts to bring the anachronistic state of standards and norms prevailing in our industry up to levels practiced in advanced countries, was the next presenter. The topic appropriately was **Proposed Changes in Indian Tank Standards**. Having collated indices prevalent within standards of countries like USA, Australia/N.Zealand and South Africa the presentation pointed out how it was important for the tank Standard to cover the contents under atmospheric pressure for food items and chemicals, as also there should be a test to determine the thermal stability of the base resin/compound. Average particle size of carbon black and the reality of Coloured tanks should now be factored. Similarly factored should be light penetration, stress cracking resistance, and design options. An important step forward proposed is to prepare a good quality tank by raw material and to get it tested as per American and Australian Standards in good labs.

With this being the home territory of one of the resin manufacturer major **Haldia Petrochemicals Ltd.** the presentation by their representative **Amartya Maity** was an important part of the programme. Rotomoulding was described as a Material Dependent process where both material and the mould are heated and cooled in each moulding cycle

with no application of pressure. With rotomoulding conversion being just 1 % of total world polymer demand there was plenty of scope for both growth and new application areas. While the resins commonly in use in rotomoulding were listed out, it was thorough assessment of their comparative advantages and disadvantages in common applications that created interest. The criteria for resin selection were seen as Product Design, Product Life, Application, Mouldability, Thermal Stability and Cost among others. For product and application demands the determinants were seen as mechanical properties, production conditions, aesthetics, other design requirements and regulatory requirements. Examining the global and Indian rotomoulding resin consumption perspective the break-up across the rotomoulding application sectors was seen as well. Going into the details of PE requirement like strength and stiffness, ESCR, processability and UV weatherability the presentation concluded that the industry will seek to address new challenges and open new vistas through innovations in catalysts, monomers and comonomers. The major drivers will always remain end-use, environment and economics.

A.K.Choudhary, Patton drew upon the experience of his company to present on **Reflections about Productivity**. It is important not to lose a single man-hour and this is ensured by strong ingredients like Business integrity, Business transparency, Quality consistency and Continuous improvement, which comprise the Corporate Mission. Spelling out the definition and importance of productivity a critical appraisal was made of what affected productivity and how it was possible to improve it. The factors were then analysed and their linkages with productivity explored in detail. Machines/Tools/Moulds, Men/Staff, Methods/Work Planning and the key attribute of Motivation were weighed in all their dimensions in relationship to Productivity. The Presentation examined all the productivity linkages, with incentives like the bonus system across groups and with the common bag. Payment systems and their motivation indices were also examined.

The Growth path for rotomoulders was seen as factored on: sharing best practices, focus on product development, invention of new faster machines, focus on modern mould manufacturing techniques, faster process flow, and control on wastage. The challenges to overcome are: High volume production, Quality consistency, Transportation and Capacity utilization in a uniform manner.

Rahul Mehta, Clariant Chemicals made the next presentation **Masterbatch Overview**. The overview covered definition, selection criteria and types of masterbatches. The selection criteria included: end product application, end product requirement, aesthetics, processing temperature and food contact needs. The key markets were spanned and these included agriculture, appliances, automotives, business machines, housewares and office equipment among several others

The various specification requirements by industry were then discussed, among them RHOS specification, ASTM standards, IS specification and Pantone shade. The entire additives product range consisting of antioxidants, slip agents, antistats, light stabilizers and lubricants among others, was next. Suitability and properties of Chemical Foaming

and Nucleating Agents was detailed and comparison made between endothermic and exothermic CFAs. The choice of the right Chemical Foaming Agent depending on various factors that were elaborated. Case studies were presented for Benefit of blowing agent for sink marks and silver sticks removal, and Benefit of foaming agent in weight reduction. Special additives like antimicrobials were thoroughly assessed in their various aspects.

SARD Manager, S.B.Zaman made the **ARMI-SARD presentation** to conclude proceedings Mentioning the fact that the SARD membership had crossed into the 70s for the first time since inception of the division and that the division was now leaving an indelible impression on the rotomoulding industry of the region he felt that there was greater need than ever before for all to know the organization in its many vicissitudes. He proceeded to do facilitate just that.

Dinner was announced after hearty thanks was given to all the **attendees**, the **speakers** and the **sole sponsor, Patton** for making the Meet such a success

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Regional Moulder Viewpoint by D. Himmatramka



Presentation by A. Baheti



Speaker Appreciation for A. Maity



Speaker Appreciation for A.K. Choudhury



Speaker Appreciation for Rahul Mehta



ARM International Presentation by S.B. Zaman



Some of the Attendees