

## **REPORT ON ARM INTL SARD KOLKATA MEET**

<b>VENUE</b>	: Jogajog, Peerless Inn, Kolkata
<b>DATE/TIME</b>	: Aug 25, 2007, 4.30 P.M (Registration)
<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	: 36 Participants
<b>JOINT SPONSORS</b>	: M Plast, Noida & Raunaq Plastics Kolkata
<b>REPORT PREPARED BY</b>	: S.B.Zaman, Manager South Asia Region Division (SARD)

**SARD Chair, Ashish Baheti** welcomed participants of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Meet to be held in Kolkata in as many years, but termed this one very special because of the presence of Ravi Mehra past President of 'ARM International, and more importantly current SARD Representative on ARM Intl Board .

With the round of self introductions over, business for the evening was quickly underway with **Deepak Himmatramka, Raunaq Plastics** presenting the ' Regional Moulders Viewpoint 'the customary opener in all our Meets. He termed the recent international tie-up of an Indian company to manufacture Cast Aluminium Moulds as a significant development for all regions of the Division. The biggest challenge faced by the regions' moulders who are predominantly into water tanks manufacturing is the tough competition from the unorganized sector. It is here that emphasis on good quality and good practices if followed in the organized sector can make it that much more difficult for the unorganized sector to find a place in the market. He commended ARMI- SARD for having succeeded in bringing roto industry stake holders to a common platform, but he felt that it will remain an unfinished task unless more moulders were brought into the fold.

**V.B.Lall, SCJ Plastics** presented next on the topic **Importance of Masterbatches**, a cogent presentation that covered the definition of masterbatches, types of masterbatches, manufacturing of masterbatches, importance of feedback, and trouble shooting. Explaining colour masterbatches it was said that these are loaded with organic and inorganic pigments when added in small percentages to the polymers. They impart colour to the processed products. When it came to checking colour identity there was nothing better than an eye-match. Production methods in practice are Kneader mixing and High Speed mixing. Feedback is as important as doctor's diagnosis because of the need to develop properties in masterbatches that are specific to particular applications. Dry blending was discussed interactively with interjections from the audience. Ravi Mehra cited the use of natural powder in high speed blenders as the preferred practice in advanced countries . In the context of additive masterbatches it was stated that with the growth in packaging and automotive components the demand for specific properties has gained tremendous importance.

A small event to signify a landmark development for SARD was centrestage next. **The Ad-hoc Committee for Tanks standards** spearheaded by **SARD Chairman A.Baheti** undertook the first major project work which was to bring out updated Tanks standards that matched international norms and practices in some of the most advanced countries. **Ravi Mehra** the driving force behind the SARD success story fittingly released the ARMI- SARD Tanks standards which because of the wide consultation process undertaken through painstaking efforts of over a year and half should help maintain good quality standards for rotomoulded tanks and further growth in the industry.

The presentations resumed with **R.P.Shukla, MPlast** on the topic **What's New in Venting**. Samples of the Supavent which his company is marketing were passed around in the audience for a better understanding of the presentation. The presentation set out to answer the most common questions

that come to mind when the topic is venting : why Pressure ? where is the pressure ? why do we vent ? how do we benefit from pressurisation ?

In a perfectly sealed mould there is nowhere to expand and so the pressure increases and follows the temperature of the gas. In an imperfectly sealed mould warming air escapes from the flanges until it becomes blocked with plastic and cause bubbles in the parting line. Pressure will build up which will reduce during cooling. In a properly vented mould the gas inside the mould is free to come and go as required.

**Baishali Kanjilal, Haldia Petrochemicals** made the next presentation on **Polyolefin Resin Design for Rotomoulding**. The most important requisites for such resin is a balance of Stiffness, Impact and Toughness along with high ESCR. In what was revealed as a literature research project study still in progress, critical quality parameters can be achieved by using innovative combination of traditional polymer matrices and property enhancing components. For optimum product performance there has to be a combination of resin properties and good processing practices. When it comes to a property like Toughness and Impact there has to be a balance between molecular weight and density. Stiffness is primarily a function of density, While ESCR is a balance of molecular weight distribution (MWD) and density. Given that most rotomoulded products are exposed to outdoor environment, weatherability depends primarily on additivition package. The presentation explained with appropriate graphs and charts : the effect of melt flow index on properties ; the effect of density on properties ; and the effect of MWD & comonomer an properties.

**To obtain a quantum enhancement in properties it advocated : cross linking, higher alpha olefin comonomers, advanced catalyst systems , and nucleation.**

Speaking next on the topic **“Useful tips for successful rotomoulding”**, **Swetang Dave Promens – Saeplast India**, sharing his experiences pointed out that for him listening to various presentations in the ARMI – SARD Conferences and Meets has been a great learning experience. You apply and you experiment from the new knowledge gained and that is what makes you process better. Referring to the presentation on Venting he said it was important to know from where warping comes and how we could not cool enough. Practical solutions had to be found to differential warpage. When it comes to additives there have to be simple ways of dry blending. To know the importance of pigments you have to know the difference between organic and inorganic pigments. It is important that what Haldia does to design better resin is actually made available in the real market. He strongly advised against neglecting cooling which is very common in our region. A parting advice was to balance temperature because of climatic factors, along with venting.

**Ravi Mehra, Norstar International** was on next for a **special presentation to analyse and address the issues that had been raised in the course of the evening by the presenters, including Questions & Answers**. Glimpses of this had been seen as the various presentations were being made as he provided an interactive dimension to them while each one them was being concluded. He observed that while the presentation standards were good, the importance of first hand knowledge could not be emphasized more – the example had to be drawn from the presentation on Venting, for while science behind the Plastecnica design needed to be understood, equally important was the first hand experience of K K Nag. When it came to the ‘Life of a mould’ it depended on how it is handled, used and taken care of. One thing that should not be unnecessarily brought down is the price of your product. He strongly urged industry members “don’t short change yourself by unnecessary price cutting at the cost of product quality and proficiency”. When there is quality it shows on every front - he gave the example of the Saeplast plant he had visited which stood out for its high standard of upkeep. Talking of the age old debate over Open flame Vs Closed oven he

pointed out that certain things were obvious, as in Open flame there is no control over temperature and it is very dangerous for cross linked PE. Developments keep happening and it is always important to examine everything in the latest current context. It was difficult to understand why rotomoulders were themselves getting involved in grinding and compounding when good quality material should be taken from reputed suppliers.

With underground applications coming up fast, the advantages of PP are becoming more apparent because of strength.

To all those who attend conferences, he revealed that listening to and learning from presentations is only half the story. The more important half is the talking and exchange of ideas you do with other participants before and after the sessions.

The concluding **ARMI-SARD presentation** by **S.B.Zaman, SARD Manager** exhorted member companies to provide their valuable feedback through the Questionnaires sent out on **'Rototalk'** and **'Membership Benefits'**. When it comes to planning for Rotoplas in 2008 in Chicago, or the much more closer IV Annual SARD Conference in Goa in Jan-Feb- 2008 acting early brings all the advantages for successful participation.

He specially thanked Joint Sponsors **MPlast & Raunaq Plastics** for all their help and support Cocktails & Dinner followed.

A promise made at the Kochi Meet earlier in the year was kept. CDs of the products gallery compiled by RIL from their collection of samples acquired from the advanced roto markets of North America were handed over to all attendees who returned duly filled Feedback sheets. The Feedback summary is attached.



**Bhaisali Kanjilal's Presentation in progress**



**Value addition by Ravi Mehra during R.P.Shukla's presentation**



**A Section of attendees**



**Speaker S.Dave**