

Dr Manica Ulcnik-Krump

Head of Business Unit Recycled-Resource
INTERSEROH Dienstleistungs GmbH

Fakuma

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- Check against delivery -

ALBA Group

Ladies and gentlemen,

You may be familiar with these figures: approximately 26 million tonnes of plastic waste is produced every year in Europe alone. And up until now, less than 30 per cent of it is recycled. A great loss for the economy – and a problem for the environment. To improve this situation and to keep valuable resources in the cycle, we need functioning collection systems. Above all, however, we need modern upcycling processes and powerful, innovative recycling technologies.

Today, I – along with our technology partners from EREMA – am very pleased to present to you a genuine advancement in this area. With the new cascade extrusion system COREMA, it is possible for the first time to produce customised recycling compounds for especially high-quality applications in just one process step. We thus reach **a new stage of development in plastics recycling.**

Allow me to explain briefly what this means in concrete terms:

- **A new level of quality**

At Interseroh, we work very intensively on the development of high-quality recycled plastics for different market requirements. Recompounds, which we produce with our Recycled-Resource process, are already replacing new products in many areas and make a valuable contribution to the sustainable handling of resources. In line with Interseroh's wishes, the new COREMA system has now been adapted in such a way that we can tailor our recipes even better and more flexibly to the requirements of the customers. Instead of in two steps, as before, we can now produce customised recompounds for especially high-quality applications in a one-extrusion process. Depending on requirements, additives, modifiers and inorganic

bulking agents can be added in proportions of 0.25 to 40 per cent in order to control the properties of the end product exactly.

In the process, the quality control of the material rheology and colour stability – and this is also an important innovation – takes place digitally and in real-time by means of a special control module. (Mr Hackl from EREMA will go into more detail on this). We thus always have control over, for example, the colour or the flow speed of the material. And we can counteract any deviations without time delay. The advantages are obvious: with the new system, Interseroh achieves even higher stability and purity of the material – and with absolute flexibility.

- **A new stage of ecological and economic efficiency**

Not only the quality of the recycled materials, but also the environmental performance is improved further with the system. The conversion from the two-stage to the single-stage process saves energy – the raw material must be heated only once. In addition, the logistical workload is reduced, as no intermediate storage of the material is required. Thus, compared to the use of new granulate from crude oil, up to 50 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions can be saved, even in the production of complicated recipes.

To give you a better idea of the degree to which high-quality recycling is actually relevant for climate and resource protection, I would like to quote briefly the resource survey that the Fraunhofer Institute UMSICHT regularly conducts for the ALBA Group. The figures for 2017 have just been published. They reveal that the recycling activities of the ALBA Group – which Interseroh also belongs to, of course – saved a total of 30.2 million tonnes of primary resources and 4.1 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions last year. In order to bind the same amount of

greenhouse gases naturally, a mixed forest the size of the Ruhr region would be required.

- **An important step towards a European circular economy**

Ladies and gentlemen, we are all called upon to assume responsibility and to participate actively in the development of a climate and resource-protecting circular economy in Europe. In its plastics strategy, one of the objectives the EU Commission has formulated is for 10 million tonnes of recycled plastics to be processed into new products annually by 2025. Interseroh makes its contribution to this with highly developed preparation processes, the digitalisation of processes and the use of technical innovations such as the COREMA system. From our perspective, such innovations are exactly the right way to reach the objectives of the EU plastics strategy and to develop the circular economy successfully further in Europe. If we succeed in fulfilling the wishes of the industry customers to the letter, further raising economic efficiency and, at the same time, improving the environmental benefit of recycled plastics at a high level, sustainable progress can really be achieved.

Many thanks for the interest you are showing!

And now I would like to hand over to my colleague Manfred Hackl, CEO of our technology partner EREMA.