

3D Printing Innovation and Sustainable Plastics Highlight at PDM12

May 25th, 2012

The latest in 3D printing technology and lightweight recycled polymers are among the innovations being showcased at the Plastics Design and Moulding Exhibition and Summit (PDM12) at the ExCel Centre in London for 29-30 May.

Tri-Tech3D will be demonstrating the magic of 3D printing performed by the latest Objet 3D printers including both the Objet30 desktop system and the unique multi-material 260Connex system. Visitors looking for plastics design inspiration can even pick up a highly detailed 3D-printed giveaway pen. Other 3D printing specialists exhibiting their latest products include Hewlett Packard, ZSolutions and Bits from Bytes.

From the world of materials innovation, technical plastics recycler Luxus is showcasing a new lightweight polymer made from up to 60% recycled content and with high scratch resistance. The new polymer enables automotive manufacturers to reduce vehicle weight to help meet toughening CO₂ emission targets. The lightweight polymer has been developed to replace standard talc filled grades for car interior components and offers a weight reduction of 10-15% compared to typical 25% talc-filled material.

Visitors can meet representatives from every part of the UK plastics community including leading industry names from injection moulding machinery makers Engel, Sumitomo Demag and Billion. Among other premier exhibitors are polymer producers Bayer MaterialScience, polymer distributors Distrupol, Plastribution and Ultrapolymers and masterbatch and additive suppliers Gabriel-Chemie and Pantone. Rapid prototyping companies like Midas and Ogle have also returned for PDM12.

The free-to-attend PDM12 Summit tackles a host of in-depth topics focusing on the core subject of *Best Practice in Plastics Design*. It will include award-winning design and innovation case studies as well as expert views on emerging market trends and future challenges. Highlight of the first day is keynote speaker Dennis Turner, formerly chief economist for HSBC. He reviews the current state of manufacturing in the UK economy, our close relationship with the critical Eurozone and outlines what we need to do to get back to growth.

Edward Bainbridge director of Visible 24/7 will give delegates an insight into the new possibilities offered by glow in the dark plastics technology. On the second day the British Plastics Federation (BPF) sessions at the Summit will cover rotational moulding, as well as

advances in additives and masterbatch including laser marking and glow in the dark technology.

Back by popular demand at PDM 12 is the free Plastics Surgery – Ask the Consultant offering practical advice on manufacturing a product in plastic. Experts from the Plastics Consultancy Network, specialists in plastics design, manufacturing and materials issues, will be on hand to assist any PDM visitor.

These are just a few examples of the innovations which can be found at PDM12. The exhibition and Summit (sponsored by Distrupol) are free to attend.

Visit <http://www.pdmevent.com> for a list of all exhibitors and travel advice on getting to PDM12 at the ExCel Centre via car or public transport. Registration on arrival is quick and easy. PDM12 is co-located with Product Design + Innovation Conference <http://www.pdesigni.com>

<http://pdmevent.wordpress.com/2012/05/25/3d-printing-innovation-and-sustainable-plastics-highlight-at-pdm12/>