

PRA

ASIA'S LEADING MAGAZINE FOR
THE PLASTICS AND RUBBER INDUSTRY

Route to higher productivity

With an average growth of more than 4% a year and 18% growth in the next three years, the trend in the packaging market is for bottles of sizes between 0.7 to 2.25 l, with half the growth to come from bottles smaller than 0.7 l. Machine makers are, thus, catering to this demand with the appropriate equipment.

Blow moulders for PP and PLA bottles

With the recent hype on the adverse use of PC for baby bottles, especially in the US, as a result of the claimed leaching of the bisphenol A chemical into the bottles, machinery maker *Wei Li* is promoting a new PP processing blow moulder.

The WL-MP02 linear series is tailor-made for multi-cavity medium-speed bottle production. The Foshan-based company, which has an office in Hong Kong, says that the use of clarified PP (CPP) has advantages compared to other materials. These include lower cost

that allows for lighter weight parts to be produced. A company spokesperson also says, "A tricky part is that PP bottle production has a small processing window, which means the temperature of both the reheating and blowing processes need to be handled precisely."

With a market experience of ten years in PET/PP reheat stretch blow moulding technology, *Wei Li* has also sold a machine to an unnamed customer to process PLA material into a 300 ml water bottle. The machinery supplier states that the PLA bottle has a better neck finish, strength and transparency.

The corn-derived PLA is mainly used for thermoformed and injection moulded products like cups, trays and food containers, but the trend for healthier packaging may soon see its use expanded, says the company. Another factor that points to the favourable use of PLA is that its price is competitive with that of PET.



Wei Li has sold a machine for processing PLA bottles

compared to PC, SAN and acrylic; better gloss aesthetics; stiffness, strength and toughness properties and the lower density