

# Matrix Polymers boosts capacity and headcount

**R**otomoulding materials specialist Matrix Polymers has invested more than £1m in redeveloping a 4,000 square metre facility on the approach road to Liverpool John Lennon Airport in Speke, Merseyside. The move highlights the company's confidence in its future, following an increase of more than 30%

in its European business in 2011.

Martin Coles, the company's founder and managing director, tells *PRW*: "As well as providing some much needed extra floorspace, the new facility gives us access to a lot more power capacity. This will enable us to expand our manufacturing capability and headcount."

The company has



**Martin Coles: Rotomoulding industry must upgrade quality performance and image**

already begun to boost its compounding capacity with the installation of extruders which have come from the group's Australian operation, Vanglobe Matrix. The potential for further investments in twin-screw extruders and cryogenic grinding is being examined.

Coles attributes the company's recent growth in the UK and Europe to the rotational moulding sector



**£1m investment at Speke facility**



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"improving its act and pushing into more specialised and higher-performance areas." He comments: "We have been promoting the message for years that the industry needs to upgrade performance and its image, and that rotational moulders need to embrace new materials and develop new and higher-value applications.

"The process offers immense opportunities to innovative players. We're observing much wider acceptance from designers and end users that rota-

tional moulding now offers high quality, tight tolerances and consistency of parts at a very economical cost."

Matrix Polymers is owned by Revolve Group, which in late 2010 purchased the business and operations of Vanglobe in Australia and New Zealand. Like Matrix Polymers, Vanglobe Matrix specialises in compounding and grinding materials for use in rotomoulding.

Matrix Polymers recently celebrated its 20th anniversary, having been set up by Coles and a former business partner in January 1992.

## Research findings emphasise multi-layer techniques

Hosting a public review of the Rotoflex rotomoulding research project recently, the Centre of Excellence for Rotomoulding at The Queen's University, Belfast, received delegates from Mexico, Turkey, USA and Canada, together with representatives from many European Union states. Delegates attending the event included company owner-managers, production managers, technicians and project engineers.

Apart from outlining the results of the three-year Rotoflex project, equipment designed and built for experiments with an in-oven material feed system was highlighted.

Dr Gareth McDowell, managing director of 493K International, presented at the event. McDowell tells *PRW*: "Several companies expressed an interest in pursuing the project outcomes further. The event has strengthened rotomould-



**McDowell: Rotomoulders must watch US vapour emission regulations**

ing industry relationships, and greater integration in addressing the possibilities of multi-layer moulding has been assured - particularly for producing fuel tanks and foam sandwich applications."

Multi-layer moulding is a hot topic for rotomoulders, since increasingly strict regulations - particularly in the US - are pushing them to consider barrier techniques to reduce vapour emissions from small fuel tanks. This inevitably means moving towards such techniques as Rotoflex's in-oven multi-shot system."