

Triple-win situation for LSR

- SKZ names KraussMaffei technology partner for silicone processing
- Precision component specialist Toolcraft collaborates with SKZ and KraussMaffei for LSR start
- PX 50 (SKZ) and PX 121 (Toolcraft) have gone online
- Collaboration enables use of subsidies

(Munich, February 7, 2022) For many years, processing liquid silicone (LSR) was limited to specialist companies. Despite the material's strong growth, it had been viewed as being difficult to work with. This is currently changing as more and more plastics processing companies are becoming interested in this versatile material. The Plastics Center (SKZ), Toolcraft and KraussMaffei are now taking advantage of a triple-win situation.

To date, SKZ (Würzburg) has been known for its expertise in the field of thermoplastic processing. Going forward, cross-linking plastics such as LSR will play a more prominent role. Prof. Martin Bastian (Head of the Institute) and Georg Schwalme (Head of Injection Molding) recently designated KraussMaffei as their technology partner for silicone processing.

Because Toolcraft (a company based in Georgensgmünd near Nürnberg) wanted to start working with the technology at the same time, KraussMaffei brought all three together at one table. This resulted in a triple-win situation: SKZ and the new network partner, Toolcraft, cooperate in order to together build up the expertise necessary for perfect manufacturing (Toolcraft) and expert advice and vocational training (SKZ). It is even likely that public subsidies will be able to be used for the innovative approaches.

KraussMaffei is providing the all-electric injection molding machines (PX 50 at SKZ and PX 121 for Toolcraft) as well as the technical expertise and consulting for all matters involving the challenge of processing liquid and solid silicones.

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The future timeline was discussed in a three-way meeting in Würzburg, Germany. In the coming months, SKZ and Toolcraft will work on designing, creating and optimizing a new LSR mold. The low viscosity of the material and the fact that the temperature control is the reverse of that used for thermoplastics present some challenges in this regard. The first product has already been defined: a medical application with a part weight of 0.5 grams.

Toolcraft assumes that up to two years will be required to gain comprehensive mastery of the process and the moldmaking. SKZ has the same time frame in view for its efforts to accumulate the knowledge necessary to serve as a bridge between basic research and the shop floor, just as it has for thermoplastic processing.

KraussMaffei will be supporting the project actively and report back after its conclusion.

KM_IMM_2022_02_SKZ Toolcraft Team.jpg

Top team for venturing into the world of LSR: Prof. Martin Bastian (Head of the SKZ Institute), Frank Burkhardt (Local Sales KraussMaffei), Georg Schwalme (Head of Injection Molding Area at SKZ), Markus Scheuerlein (Moldmaking Project Manager at Toolcraft), Thomas Lender (Head of Injection Molding at Toolcraft), Cordula Wieland (Expert Sales TEC at KraussMaffei) and Christian Rössler (Head of Sales - South at KraussMaffei)(from left)

KM_IMM_2022_02_SKZ Prof Bastian und Georg Schwalme.jpg

Prof. Martin Bastian (Head of the SKZ Institute) and Georg Schwalme (Head of Injection Molding Area at SKZ, from left) have designated KraussMaffei as their technology partner for silicone processing.

Photos: KraussMaffei

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(Words: 310 / Characters 2.442)

KraussMaffei – Pioneering Plastics

KraussMaffei is one of the world's leading manufacturers of machinery and systems for producing and processing plastics and rubber. Our brand has been synonymous with cutting-edge technology for over 180 years. Our product range includes all technologies in injection molding, extrusion and reaction process machinery. As a result, KraussMaffei has a unique selling proposition in the industry. By drawing on our proven innovative capacity, we can guarantee our customers sustained additional value over their entire value-adding chain through our standardized and individual product, process, digital and service solutions. The range of our products and services allows us to serve customers in many sectors including the automotive, packaging, medical and construction industries. We also supply manufacturers of electrical and electronic products and household appliances. KraussMaffei employs about 4,700 people worldwide. KraussMaffei is represented internationally in proximity to our customers with more than 30 subsidiaries and over 10 production plants, as well as about 570 commercial and service partners. Headquarters in Munich since 1838.

Since April of 2016, the majority of KraussMaffei's shares has been held by China National Chemical Corp. Ltd. ("ChemChina"), one of the largest chemical companies in China. In late 2018, ChemChina listed the KraussMaffei Group on the Shanghai stock exchange as KraussMaffei Company Ltd. The listing opened the access to the Chinese capital market and Chinese investors.

Further information: www.kraussmaffei.com

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