

Conference Report

Name of Research Engineer: James Champion

Sponsoring company: DuPont Teijin Films

Conference attended: TAPPI PLACE Europe Conference; 6th – 8th May 2013

Location: Dresden, Germany

Conference proceedings: <http://www.tappi.org/Hide/Events/13EUROPLACE.aspx>

In early May 2013 I attended and presented a paper at the TAPPI PLACE Europe Conference in Dresden. TAPPI is a global company who focus on paper and pulp conversion. PLACE is a subdivision of TAPPI and this acronym stands for Polymers Laminates Adhesives Coatings and Extrusions. This event was particularly aimed at novel processing methods for extrusion coating applications. Although not exactly tailored to my project there were many talks that were definitely relevant to my work and DuPont Teijin Films as a whole. The main speaker sessions were split into sub-categories such Extrusion Coatings, Novelty Extrusion Processes, Sustainability, Simulation & Modelling and Die Technology. Conference attendees ranged from large polymer processing companies to universities with an interest in polymer engineering.

My talk, within the Simulation & Modelling session, was on May 7th and showed how I have utilised STAR-CCM+ CFD software in my project work to date based on polymer coextrusion. I felt the talk went well and audience seemed engaged. It was certainly the least nervous I have been during a conference presentation. My talk followed another talk on polymer coextrusion so it was good to be able to link in our different work together. A number of people spoke to me afterwards on a one to one basis and I received some good advice on relevant polymer coextrusion literature and where else the project could look at. Some of the recommended literature has since been printed and read. In particular a certain polymer die manufacturer took an interest in the large melt viscosity ratios that certain DuPont Teijin Films dies could handle.

The conference as a whole was excellent; it was very smoothly run and there were lots of networking opportunities from people with a vast experience in polymer processing and engineering. In general the talks were of a high standard and it was interesting to see a wide range of polymer processing applications. Of particular relevance to my work was a talk on die technology by Olivier Catherine, where numerical techniques were used to model polymer flows through dies. There were also a number of polymer coextrusion talks and posters, where different polymer melt flows were theoretically matched based on their viscosity-shear rate dependence. Novel, high speed extrusion methods formed a large part of the conference and this is certainly of relevance to DuPont Teijin Films. Innovative, environmentally friendly coatings were also discussed in depth during the conference and these talks were again very interesting. A feature of the conference I liked was the ability to mark other speaker's talks and to provide feedback this way. Full conference proceedings are shown as a hyperlink above.

During lunch and coffee breaks there were networking opportunities. Also some of the major manufacturers in polymer processing had stalls where they advertised their

products and novel processing methods. There were also a number of posters within the poster session that were well presented and very interesting. The evening's entertainment was excellent on the final night and we ate in a local brewery that has been converted into a ballroom. The whole experience was excellent and I felt I learnt a lot during the event. I also had time to visit Dresden and a few other parts of Germany and was very impressed with German life and culture as a whole.