Another Record-Breaking Year Ahead!

The world’s leading chemicals and materials suppliers. The world’s tire manufacturing machinery suppliers. 280+ exhibitors, 600+ delegates, 4,500 attendees, 20,000 square metres of exhibits!

The exhibition will be even bigger than in 2017, with 280+ exhibitors presenting the latest technology for tire R&D and manufacturing.

NEW RUBBER ANALYSIS EQUIPMENT
Numerous studies have shown that some laboratory test results do not sufficiently correlate with the behaviour of technical rubber parts in terms of lifetime and wear while they are in service. PRL, the elastomer expert group of Coesfeld, develops measuring methods and suitable instruments with the help of which, the properties of rubber material can be predicted.

The target is the early simulation of real loading conditions of rubber material in laboratory scale. The most important first step to reach the goal is to analyze and describe as exactly as possible how a rubber article is tortured under real service conditions.

On the basis of the analysis, PRL’s research team specifies the technical capabilities as well as evaluation algorithms of suitable test appliances to do a high-grade, correlating prediction.

The latest development is new test equipment to characterize the heat build-up process in situ. It uses unique multifarious measuring capabilities such as dynamic alteration torque and multi-planar bending versus programmable load cycles.

Therefore the appliance controls the user-defined loading conditions in a wide range of combinations. This instrument enables observation of the heat build-up process and measurement of the mechanical properties that are changing at the same time.

Stand: C536

IN-SITU TESTING

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180 SPEAKERS!
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**NEW APPLICATION**

**DEVELOPMENTS IN 3D PRINTING**

For the latest in additive manufacturing technology head to the SLM Solutions stand where experts will be on hand to discuss the company’s metal-based selective laser melting (SLM) machines. Its flagship product, the SLM 500, with up to 4 x 700W fibre lasers, is ideal for mass production of complex build parts. With three times higher gas flow, the robust SLM machine produces parts with extremely high density and surface quality. Soon is removed from the process chamber efficiently and reliably, even for long-duration builds. Furthermore, the SLM 500 offers fully automated powder management. Metal powder is continuously and automatically fed and fed into the build process using the PSV and removal of the build parts is performed efficiently in the PSX. The next build can thus begin immediately using an additional build cylinder reducing turnaround time.

**LIQUID RUBBER BENEFITS**

Kuraray will present its liquid rubber portfolio, consisting of liquid styrene rubber (LSR) and liquid butadiene rubber (LBR). Conference speaker and technical manager Marcel Gründel will have more information about how using liquid rubber can lead to safer and faster tire changes. Liquid rubber acts as a co-valorising plasticiser and provides a rubber modification that extends the pure plasticising effect. His presentation introduces the different liquid diene rubbers. Depending on the backbone or microstructure, liquid rubber can modify tire performances such as abrasion resistance, rolling resistance, and wet grip, as well as snow and ice grip. In particular the latter can be greatly improved by LBR. This will be discussed by way of DMA characterisation and ice grip test results.

**NOVEL MOLD CLEANING TECH**

The Technology Expo 2018 was the second time Rubreco had attended the show. The company’s objective was to increase awareness of its new rubber devulcanisation regeneration technology. Instead, it has led to a completely new application of the technology and a new business relationship with Swiss company Airosys. By utilising the strengths of Rubreco’s devulcanisation technology with Airosys’ engineering and mould micro-machining know-how, the two companies are now joining forces to commercialise a robust and cost-effective cleaning technology that focuses specifically on rubber removal from clogged mould venting systems without requiring any disassembly or part replacement processes. The work so far promises strong cost reductions as well as increased mould life expectancy.

**GREEN TIRE HANDLING**

Beumer Group will showcase its automated tire handling system, which delivers higher productivity and efficiency than conventional systems. By automating the handling of green tires, the company’s Tire Tray System virtually eliminates the risk of the tires being damaged or deformed during the build and finishing processes. The Tire Tray System offers tire manufacturers shorter cycle times and lower energy unloading process for tire presses. These products can go directly from the receiving dock to the tire building machine, enabled by Milliken’s expertise in textile formation and chemistry for automating complex production processes and high-performance machines.

**QUALITY ASSURANCE SOLUTIONS**

BST Elcomat International will present several highlights for quality assurance systems and automation solutions on its stand at Tire Technology Expo 2018. The company has over 20 years of practical expertise in manufacturing quality assurance systems for the web processing industry and in automating complex production processes and high performance machines. Customers and interested visitors can learn more about the CCD CAM 100 high-end Inscan Camera. This camera has a physical resolution of 10,000 pixels and can be used both in web guiding and web width measurement. It is characterised by a speed of up to 10kHz in combination with extremely simple operation and setup.

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NEW CABOT ASIA R&D CENTRE

Show exhibitor Cabot Corporation recently opened its new Asia Technology Centre in Shanghai, China. The 4,500m² facility is co-located with Cabot's regional headquarters and houses advanced analytical and application testing equipment. R&D work there will focus on product lines including rubber and specialty carbon blacks with testing and development capabilities that closely represent customer applications.

Around 30 highly skilled researchers and scientists have been relocated at the lab to improve cross-collaboration. Experts at the facility will leverage diverse technology platforms to create new products and will work closely with Cabot teams from across the world. A unique design also provides an enhanced working environment that will foster greater cooperation with customers and local academia.

Sean Neahorne, president and CEO, says: "Our new technology centre provides an open and inviting environment that supports dynamic discussions and collaboration so that we can work together with our current and prospective customers and partners to help them achieve their goals."

TIRE MEASUREMENT

The Micro-Poise Modular Tire Measurement System (MTMFS FX) combines tire uniformity, dynamic balance measurement and tire geometry inspection into a single process for passenger and light truck tires. The MTMFS provides unsurpassed value in tire testing and measurement. In its most efficient configuration, the total system cycle time is the fastest in the industry, according to the company. In addition, each individual measurement station ensures the best measurement precision and accuracy.

The MTMFS FX system configuration combines proven Micro-Poise machine modules with stations into a single process to efficiently provide customers with the following tire test results and functions:
- Force variation as measured by AISTEC FX tire evaluation center
- Diameter changes are made quickly and easily, manually with a rim lift crane, or with the AISTEC ARC FX (automatic rim change module option)
- Dynamic imbalance, as measured by the AxoDyne FX dynamic balance, an AxoDyne FX (automatic rim change module option)
- Tire geometry as measured by TCS-5L Sheet of Light geometry measurement system
- Tire grade classification for uniformity, balance, geometry and their combination; tire sort classification based on combined tire grade
- Finally, tire marking with multicolour and multishapes, using the Micro-Poise Mark Orient Station and AxoMark Plus hot stamp marker modules

Show visitors can discover how the MTMFS FX can minimise the test cycle time and optimise costs. With this in-line system, floor space is efficiently utilised and downtime is minimised. A modular system means that various configurations are available.

TRUCK TIRE BUILDING TECHNOLOGY

Long-standing exhibitor Safe-Run will highlight the SR-TPU, its light-truck tire building machine, which uses a two-stage process but has a uni-stage design. In the two-stage process, the machine drum is covered in rolling steel rims and then be built again, avoiding too much manual operation and green tire transfer, and improving tire uniformity and dynamic balance. Uni-stage building typically does not allow the manufacturing of high-profile tires. In comparison with a two-stage TBM, the SR-TPU takes less space, and when adjusting specifications requires less changing of tool parts, making it more ergonomically efficient.

STAND: 8000

OILS FOR FINE TUNING RUBBER COMPOUNDS

A state-of-the-art new laboratory will enable show exhibitor Nynas to maintain its position as a technical leader in the supply of tire and rubber process oils. "Our new in-house rubber compounding and test lab will enable us to gain additional hands-on application and formulation knowledge to better evaluate the performance of oils in rubber, to improve sales support and to accelerate the approval process for napthenic process oils," says Dr Mika Laitinen, technical manager, Nynas, Naphthenics.

At the heart of the new laboratory is a 1.5-litre intermeshing rubber mixer together with an open mill. Instruments enable measurements of, for example, general processing behaviour including properties such as viscosity, cure rate and scorch safety, hardness and tensile properties, aging performance, dynamic mechanical behaviour, abrasion resistance, and compression set.

"We are able to support our customers in finding the best oils for their specific applications through demonstrating the technical value of our process oils. This can be done by, for example, both formulating and fine-tuning the rubber compounds, estimating the potential of new materials, identifying optimised processing conditions and in general providing a second opinion on the compounding of rubber," adds Laitinen.

STAND: C520

NEW INTERMESHING CAPABILITIES

ENHANCED IN-HOUSE MIXING

At the Schill + Seilacher ‘Struktol’ rubber application laboratory in Hamburg, a new mixer has been installed. This will enable the company to better develop solutions that meet the latest processability challenges. It is now able to carry out internal mixing using both tangential mixing as well as intermeshing, thanks to the installation of a new system with intermeshing rotors.

The ability to program mixing cycles with complex time, temperature and energy input profiles and accurately record the mixing efficiency achieved is highly developed, using advanced mixer control systems. The company makes use of sophisticated tailored mixing solutions using Struktol additives for its tire customers, enabling them to achieve significant time and therefore cost savings in their production facilities, while maximising compound performance and uniformity.

STAND: C528

NEW CARBON BLACK FACTORY

Exhibitor Birla Carbon recently inaugurated its greenfield facility in Jining, Shandong province, China. This state-of-the-art facility has a capacity of 120,000 metric tons annually. In phases 2 and 3, it is expanded to 150,000 metric tons. The Jining plant will produce traditional ASTM grades of carbon black and specific Birla Carbon grades for customers in China.

Says Kumar Mangalam Birla, chairman of the Aditya Birla Group: "The Jining plant is well ahead of its time, whether it be the manufacturing processes involved or the environmental standards it follows. Everything that we have learned over our 150-plus years of manufacturing carbon black around the world has been poured into this facility. It is, in a manner of speaking, our ‘magnum opus’.

The facility is extremely energy efficient, with a special energy management system. A cogeneration facility will generate high-pressure steam and electricity, which will first cater to captive consumption and have surplus electricity exported to the state grid. The plant’s replacement of state grid electricity will contribute to reducing fossil fuel use and therefore emissions.

It uses state-of-the-art de-SiO₂ and de-NOₓ boilers and has been designed based on Birla Carbon’s sustainable operational excellence approach. Special technology has been applied to ensure that direct CO₂ emission per ton of carbon black produced is much lower than the industry benchmark. From the moment feedstocks enter the plant until the finished carbon black product is delivered to the customer, all material is handled in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.

STAND: C511
COST-EFFECTIVE SCRAP RUBBER REPROCESSING
KraussMaffei Berstorff will showcase the new CompoundRewind System 1000 CRS 1005 on its stand at Tire Technology Expo. This innovative solution is designed for processing scrap material generated during extrusion projects in the rubber processing industry. The CRS 1005 stands out for maximum ease of operation and is suitable for a wide range of different materials.

The CRS 1005 is equipped with two (optionally) heated rolls and a hydraulically adjusted roll gap. It can be fed with residual material of various sizes, up to a width of 3m. The generously dimensioned feeding unit with automatic intake gap is equipped with all required safety features to minimise the risk of injury. A live demonstration will take place on 20 February 2018, at 17:30hrs, when visitors will be given the opportunity to experience the CompoundRewind system 1000 first hand, at the KraussMaffei Berstorff stand. They will be able to witness for themselves just how easy it is to recycle production scrap and convert it into strips.

ZERO PRESSURE HANDLING
The Intermolt Group, a worldwide provider of high-quality key products and services for internal logistics, will display its latest innovations from its broad range of products that span four specific groups: rollers, drives, conveyors and sorters, and pallet and carton flow. The company currently serves around 23,000 customers (system integrators and OEMs) around the world.

Interroll has maintained a genuine interest for the tire and automotive industry for many years. Together with leading system integrators around the world, smart products like the energy-saving 24V RollerDrive, intelligent controls and compact drum motors have been successfully installed and repealed many times at companies such as Goodyear, Continental and Pirelli. The company’s zero-pressure accumulation concept and 24V technology are now being used in tire conveying as a result of the advantages they bring, including no risk of damage to tires, and very low energy consumption.

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PETROCHEMICALS EXPERT
For expertise in materials, you will want to visit Sibur’s stand. Sibur is one of Russia’s largest integrated gas processing and petrochemicals companies. It produces and sells a wide range of products including basic polymers, synthetic rubbers, plastics and organic synthesis products, and intermediates and other chemicals.

Sibur’s production capacity of petrochemicals exceeds 1,000,000 tons of basic polymers, 562,000 tons of synthetic rubbers and 11 million tons of plastics and organic syntheses products per annum. With manufacturing sites in Voronezh, Togliatti and Kransnoyarsk, the company is ranked among the top 10 synthetic rubber producers worldwide. There are also sales offices and customer support facilities in Moscow, Russia, Vienna Austria, Shanghai, China, and Mumbai in India.

Sibur also operates under joint ventures with Reliance – with a new production facility in Jamnagar, India – and Sinopec.

STAND: 9020

MACHINERY AND PLANT ENGINEERING
First-time exhibitor Industrieblöck Schneider will be offering its expertise in mechanical engineering and construction of machinery and plants. This includes systems that feature a modular design, systems with complex unique pieces, and constructions for series production in larger quantities. For more than 20 years Industrieblöck Schneider has been developing and manufacturing a variety of reliable, efficient, and robust plants at its location in Großbothen, Germany. As such, it offers extensive experience and knowledge in both machinery and plant engineering, in particular in the field of steam packages. With an in-house design and documentation department, the company offers support from initial idea through to implementation of the entire plant. Industrieblöck Schneider’s experts will be on hand at the Expo to help you develop innovative customised solutions for your productions plants, workshops and factories.

STAND: 7058

SAMPLE THE VMI EXPERIENCE!
Would you like to discover where technology meets success? If so, stop by VMI’s stand, which is putting the finishing touches to a unique visitor experience designed to show how technology leads to much higher rates of productivity, and greatly improved and more consistent quality. VMI won’t reveal any more details at present about what it plans to showcase, other than adding: “Our customised solutions focus on your specific situation and provide exactly what is needed for your production process.”

So, to find out exactly what’s in store, you will have to stop by its stand to step into the experience – and see its innovative solutions for yourself!

Stand: 9045

CONVEYOR SYSTEM EXPERTISE
Visitors installing new equipment or retrofitting an existing conveyor should stop by Intralox’s stand, to discover its reliable solutions designed with the lowest total cost of ownership in mind. The company aims to create economic value for its global tire customers by optimising conveying systems and investing in layout design services.

Intralox engineers invent technologies such as touchless diverting for green tire sorting and merging, and high-speed touchless accumulation for both green and finished tires. Its global teams tire industry expertise uniquely qualifies it to provide layout optimisation services, as well as comprehensive services, support and guarantees, which ensure total success.

During Tire Technology Expo 2018, Intralox experts will be on hand to discuss the company’s cutting-edge solutions and explain exactly how they can benefit your plant. See the technologies running and learn how they can help you achieve ultimate success in all of your tire-handling projects.

Solutions on show include the Dual-Stacked Angled Roller Belt (DARB) technology, Zero Tangent radius belt, Transverse Roller Top (TRT) belt, and no-touch accumulation solutions – all of which will be running live on display at the Expo.

Stand: 8054

CURING BLADDERs FOR UHP TIRES
Continental will demonstrate how it has recently extended the size range of its bladders designed for UHP tires. Its UHP curing bladder line incorporates the latest technology in bladder contour, compound, and surface treatment to provide a product that is designed specifically to fit the low-profile shape of ultra-high performance tires.

Continental’s curing bladder line is offered in sizes to fit the full spectrum of ultra-high-performance tire sizes, and can be ordered to fit all common press types with bore diameters to meet your clamp design criteria. The latest FEM techniques create a curing bladder profile that is optimised to match the relatively square shoulder of a high-performance tire, or the low-profile shape of a runflat. This minimises the problem of air trapped between the tire and the curing bladder during the initial shaping of the tire in the curing press, and simultaneously, continuous gauge reduction ensures a longer bladder lifetime.

Stand: 4008

TIRE CORD PRODUCTION
Exhibit product know-how and continuous innovation – this is what the PFAFF trademark has stood for since 1862 and what visitors will discover on PFAFF’s stand at Tire Technology Expo 2018. The company produces high-quality solutions for the processing of technical and non-technical textile materials and leather. Together with KSL, a brand of PFAFF Industrial for high-tech engineering, it will be in Hannover to present its latest solutions for the production of tire cord.

“The construction of car tires is highly complicated,” says a company spokesperson. “Each layer and part disappears under a rubber mixture during vulcanisation. The tire cord is one of the most important components and its production holds its form even under enormous pressure. The requirement for the processing of textile materials and the manufacturing machines is equally high. We believe that’s why manufacturers prefer sewing technology from PFAFF Industrial and KSL during their production.”

PFAFF will present its latest machines: the KL 624, KL 220 and PFAFF 4509. The KL 624 is a special machine for sewing light transport belt fabric, as well as tire cord fabric and dipped liner. The KL 220 is a special machine for straight sewing of heavy loading belt fabric, as well as tire cord fabric and dipped liner. The sturdy steel portal allows for the take-up of the cross-sewing head. The single-needle lockstitch zigzag high-speed seamer PFAFF 4509 has a drop feed for sewing heavy loading belt fabric for the tire cord industry and also a powerful and reliable sewing machine head.

Stand: 3141
UPSTREAM INSPECTION

After the introduction years ago of Cybelt, a specialist in x-ray inspection for the tire industry, has added a new function to the equipment: not only can it be used to measure cord spacing and wire angle, and to detect overlaps, missing cord or foreign material, but now it can also measure the width of the product and detect dog ear. Cybelt models can deal with product widths from 400-1,500mm (16-59in). This integrated x-ray inspection system for metallic-corded rubber belt or cut piles can be installed before or after the wire treatment cutter.

MOULD CLEANING PARTNERSHIP

CyPhila and Trenchless will take advantage of the great opportunity Tire Technology Expo represents to introduce their partnership with Bicanet. The tire manufacturer and this pioneer in surface cleaning have paired up to deliver a great innovation in mould maintenance. This new cleaning system combines water pressurised and bicarbonate of soda to produce an excellent cleaning result that also preserves the surface of the mould, increasing performance and reducing waste. The subject machines used are capable, versatile and proven in many other sectors. Roboscan has applied its great experience of the tire world to harness their capabilities. Together the two companies are ready to present their achievements in cleaning to tire manufacturers who are concerned about the ecological impact of their operations.

COMBINED MEASUREMENT UNIT

One of the many technology debuts at the show will be CLM’s cutting-edge new measurement tool, which combines two systems, enabling simultaneous measurements of the outer tire contour and the inside of the tire. A prototype system will be shown for the first time and set up as a demonstration to show how the measurement method works on part of a tire (though the actual system can be used to measure on a whole tire). The Tube Inspector measures the tire’s inner geometry with a small sensor and integrated camera to create a sectional profile of the inner wall. The Contactless measurements result in 2D sectional images and 3D measurements upon rotation of the tire. Within 10 seconds a full 3D measurement is made and is ready for evaluation. The Tubi Inspector is a great tool for fast analysis of inner geometries. The outside of the tire is captured with four sheet-of-light sensors. Two sensors record the tread area and the other two read the sidewalls. The sheet of light outer contour measurement captures the tire profile, deformations, symmetry and reads the sidewalls. The whole geometry of the outer tire is recorded within 10 seconds.

Both measurement units together create a tire system with 0.1mm resolution, which provides the required data for detailed tire analysis.

FUTURE FACTORIES

Experts from Cimcorp will be on hand to discuss how the company can help you achieve greater productivity and efficiency in your plants. Using robotic technology for handling and buffer storage, Cimcorp’s Dream Factory provides an end-to-end solution and increases production capacity through 100% availability of materials at each process step. Intelligent software provides total control, with real-time data for production and inventory management. Crucially the solution is entirely modular and scalable. This means that systems at each manufacturing phase – raw materials warehousing, mixing and compounding, component manufacturing, tire building and cutting, testing and palletising, and finished tire warehousing and shipping – can be installed and commissioned independently.

In brand-new factories, with the first automation module starting production as the next is being installed, output can be achieved – and revenue earned – sooner. For a conventional plant there is usually a wait of around 18 months between groundbreaking and the start of production, but with Dream Factory this time is reduced to half.

TIRE BUILDING MACHINE DEBUT

HF will take the opportunity to debut its new cutting-edge tire building machine, the PL2Z-3D Flex, featuring a flexible drum concept that enables the production of a wide range of highly complex and technological tires. With a simple tool change, it is now possible to build all tire constructions currently available on the market, in the high crown building process – on one machine. Tire constructions, especially in the layer area, can be built ranging from a desirable to ply-down tires, thus enabling advantages in the sidewall area, which is the most critical part for the tire’s performance. Precise positioning of the sidewalls over 220mm in width (particularly for SUV tires), or the installation of special reinforcement strips to achieve run-on flat tire properties, no longer limit the tire construction process. Tire sizes previously required the iso-called two-stage process can be manufactured directly using HF’s PL2Z-3D Flex.

INNOVATIVE HANDLING UNIT

News comes from show exhibitor Europa Systems, which recently undertook the factory acceptance test for a new handling system it installed at a tire plant in Africa. The company is an integrator and supplier of automated conveyor systems and equipped the factory in Algeria with an innovative new solution developed by its Polish engineers. This features a double canting device that positions two tires at the same time in the correct place to be picked up by a robot. It has a load capacity of 30kg/3m, a speed of 60m/min and a maximum capacity of 4,500 tires/day.

NEW SMART SENSORS

LMG will debut two smart sensor models at the show – the Gocator 2430 and 2440 for high-speed, high-sensitivity 3D inspection. Both sensors adopt the latest optical technology.

A new-generation two-megapixel imager delivers high-resolution profiles at 59Hz – making these sensors ideal for high-speed scanning applications of areas such as tread/ sidewall, rubber extrusion and more. Faster scanning allows users to speed up their inline process and achieve the highest resolutions.

The imager in the Gocator 2430 and 2440 is twice as sensitive as in previous 2300 models, which results in cleaner profiles (less noise and outliers) and better results on dark targets as a result. Other notable features of the 2430 and 2440 include a large FOV for wider scanners and a compact new package with both top and side mounted input.

These sensors can be networked to scan more of the target, so the user can accomplish more with fewer sensors while capturing fine surface and edge details. In addition, their measurement range covers larger depth variation and a wider variety of targets.

SURFACE RESEARCH

Make sure you visit the National Tire Research Center (NTRC) stand to learn more about two current topics in surface research. NTRC – the tire characterisation division of the Global Center for Automotive Performance Simulation (GCAPS) – has established itself as one of the leading locations for passenger, light truck and motorsports tire testing and research. The first new area of surface research under way concerns the modelling and replication of real-world surfaces in the lab. Sova Motion will be demonstrating an analytical approach to transforming outdoor surface roughness data into viable surfaces for indoor flat belt testing.

The second area of research looks at surface contribution to tire test data. Typically, indoor tire testing is performed on sandpaper and asphalt tire test data is critical. Experts at the company will compare the results of indoor testing on multiple non-standard flat belt surfaces with the results of outdoor testing in both dry and wet conditions.

FACTORY LOGISTICS

Make sure you drop by Gamma Consulting’s stand, where it will be highlighting a range of auxiliary equipment for the tire industry and for factory logistics. The company’s trolleys and holders, carriages, finished tire racks, flat green tire racks, case tire racks and fully automated conveyor systems are already installed at Cooper Tire and Masterflex plants. Specially designed platforms for BMW machines and platforms in the glass business developed with Black Donuts Engineering, are also installed at factories in Serbia. Gamma Consulting experts are at your disposal for complete installation of the equipment. The company believes that its USP is its ability to supply many types of equipment as well as shapes, materials, dimensions and quantities.

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**SIMULATION CAPABILITIES**

For tire modelling services and know-how, head to Applius IDIADA’s stand. The company’s expert chassis engineers are able to conduct tire performance assessments using advanced tire models while a vehicle is still being designed, without any involvement in FEM.

For this purpose, IDIADA uses two widely known tire models – the MF-Tyre model, which is applied mainly in handling evaluation, and the F Tire model, used for handling and ride comfort simulation, NVH analysis and road load prediction.

Engineers use a number of basic rigs to characterise tires during this modelling phase. First a skid trailer, enabling handling characterisation by controlling the tire’s attitude as it crosses the ground; second a HSC rig, for static stiffness characterisation and footprint measurement; and finally an indoor drum, which is used for tire clack testing, to properly excite the tire modes.

**NEW TIRE FINISHING MACHINES**

Matteuzzi will be welcoming visitors to its stand to learn more about its hyperMill MAXX Machining performance package. Three powerful modules for finishing, roughing and drilling enable a huge improvement in productivity levels, and ultimately economic benefits when working under increasing time and cost pressures. With the five-axis-terrain pipe machining strategy, machining time can be reduced by up to 90%.

Matteuzzi is an innovative CAM solution comprising 2.5D, 3D as well as five-axis milling, milling/turning and machining operations. A special application package is also available for milling tire moulds.

**MORE EFFICIENT MACHINING**

Open Mind Technologies will be welcoming visitors to its stand to learn more about its hyperMill technology. Two in-house rigs are used to characterise tires during this modelling phase, enabling handling characterisation by controlling the tire’s attitude as it crosses the ground. A special application package is also available for milling tire moulds.

**NEW UTH MANUFACTURING FACILITY**

Rubber processing machinery manufacturer Uth has invested a seven-digit euro sum in the construction of an assembly hall at its base in Fulda in the centre of Germany. Many new developments placed increased demands on our operational resources. For example, our newly developed two-roll plasticiser technology, weighing 40 metric tons, for the preparation of rubber compounds, brought us to our capacity limits,” explains MD Peter J Uth. The investment has expanded the production area by around 1,100m², to a total of around 10,000m². Building work began in March and took around five months. The facility has been designed to enable flexible machine manufacturing. High product quality, ergonomics, sustainability and energy efficiency have also been considered in the building’s design. The hall is equipped with underfloor heating, the latest LED lighting technology and daylight-emitting light domes.

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**TIRE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE**

The Tire Technology 2018 Conference is our biggest and most all-embracing ever, with 180+ speakers already announced. New for 2018, the Business Strategy Conference is incorporated within this all-embracing programme, which we believe will make it easier to follow the entire content and enable you to best plan your participation. As always, one-, two- and three-day conference passes are available and there are options to combine these with six specialist courses as well.

Note that the courses all commence on the Monday and the Akron Short Course spans four full days – see the website for details. Speaker additions will be announced on our website as they occur – www.tiretechnology-expo.com.

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TIRE TECHNOLOGY EXPO 2018

AWARDS FOR INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE

On the second evening of the conference and exhibition (21 February 2018) there will be an entertainment-packed evening where we will present the Awards for Innovation and Excellence.

Delegates, exhibitors and their guests will have free access to this event.

2017 Awards winners included:
- Michelin: Manufacturing Innovation of the Year - Bridgestone
- Environmental Achievement of the Year - Versalis / Genomatica
- Tire Technology of the Year - Sumitomo Rubber Industries
- Tire Industry Supplier of the Year - VMI Group
- Tire Manufacturer of the Year - Continental
- Lifetime Achievement Awards - Professor Gert Heinrich
- Young Scientist Prize - Pavel Sarkisov

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