

## Press release

### Cooperation of two recycling machine pioneers

## **EREMA Group acquires stake in start-up company plasticpreneur®**

**As of 30 May 2022, EREMA Group GmbH acquired 19.8 percent of plasticpreneur® gmbh. plasticpreneur® is an Austrian start-up company founded two years ago that manufactures at its production site in Klagenfurt recycling solutions for plastic waste that are mobile and can be operated without prior knowledge. The machine portfolio covers the recycling process and the production of new end-products. Due to its wide range of applications, it is in demand both in the Global South and in industrialised countries.**

Ansfelden, 22 June 2022 - In the two years since the company was founded, plasticpreneur® has already sold 330 machines to customers in over 70 countries on all continents. In addition, they have made over 750 application-specific moulds, many of them custom-built to comply with individual customer specifications. An achievement that impressed Manfred Hackl, CEO EREMA Group, from the moment he first met them: "The young founders and their dedicated team exude pioneering spirit, want to shape the future with their work and put their heart and soul into the circular economy and plastics recycling. Just like we do in the EREMA Group!"

While plastics recycling has gained enormous momentum in the industrialised countries, more remote and poorer regions of the world have hardly benefited from high-tech solutions for industrial recycling processes so far. They are held back by a lack of infrastructure and know-how. That is why waste is often incinerated or disposed of in landfills, rivers and the surrounding environment. "Our mission - Another life for plastic, because we care - is also aimed at supporting these regions with solutions for plastic recycling, and with plasticpreneur® we have found the ideal partner for this," says Hackl.

The start-up company's machines can process HDPE, PP, PS, LDPE, PLA, AB and TPU separately. Their product range includes a shredder, injection moulding unit, extruder unit for the production of end products, air filters as well as custom-built moulds. "For our machines to be used in regions with little infrastructure, they must be easy to operate without prior knowledge. The fact that we also develop end-product solutions needed locally makes our range of services particularly attractive here," explains Sören Lex, CEO and co-founder of plasticpreneur®. As soon as recycling

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also becomes a source of income for the operators, they become entrepreneurs. That explains the name of the start-up, a word created from "plastic" and "entrepreneur". plasticpreneur® customers in these countries include e.g. social enterprises and operators of refugee camps, where everyday consumer goods - from clothes pegs and school supplies to toys and fence posts - are produced and sold using plastic waste. This means that the added value stays local.

The demand for plasticpreneur® machines is also increasing in industrialised countries. On the one hand by educational institutions and organisations that use them to raise awareness of the need for a circular economy in workshops and to give pupils as well as adults a better understanding of plastic recycling. On the other hand by customers who are developing new end-products for plastic waste together with plasticpreneur®. Because the machines are so easy to operate they enable a low-threshold use of recycled plastics in product development processes, starting from generating prototypes to launch in small series production. Small companies, product designers and developers therefore are another steadily growing customer segment.

Manfred Hackl and Sören Lex explain why they are convinced that the EREMA Group and plasticpreneur® can benefit from each other: "We are united in developing circular economy solutions for plastic waste. We want to create both awareness of the importance of plastic and of the central role of the circular economy in climate protection, and we want plastic recycling to generate social benefits as well."



*Shredder, injection moulding unit and extruder. (Photo: plasticpreneur®)*

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*Two examples of applications for plasticpreneur® machines: from plastic recycling to the new end product in Uganda (left) and demonstrating the process in a workshop (photos: plasticpreneur®)*



*From the left: Florian Mikl, CTO, Raphaela Egger, Design Lead, Boris Rauter, R&D Machines and Moulds, Sören Lex, CEO (foto: plasticpreneur®)*

### **EREMA Group** **Another life for plastic. Because we care.**

Based in Ansfelden near Linz in Austria, EREMA Group is the world's leading manufacturer of plastics recycling solutions. The EREMA Group stands for a plastics industry that takes responsibility for resources. The Circular Economy is the declared objective within the plastics industry, and to implement it across the board the group of companies now has six subsidiaries: EREMA, 3S, PURE LOOP, UMAC, PLASMAC and KEYCYCLE. They cover the entire spectrum of mechanical plastics recycling - from planning and engineering through to developing and manufacturing recycling technologies as well as producing system components and trading previously owned systems. Supported by subsidiaries in the USA and China, and a worldwide network of representatives, recycling solutions are currently in operation in 108 countries worldwide and recycle around 18.5 million tonnes of plastic every year.

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