

## PLAST 2026: Europe's Second-Largest Plastics & Rubber Exhibition at Milano, Italy

A Global Meeting Point for Plastics Innovation where Global Industry Leaders, Advanced Technologies and Sustainability Innovations Set the Stage for Europe's Second-Largest Plastics & Rubber Trade Fair



Press Conference, Milano

*Plast 2026 Media Tour attended by Mr. Ginu Joseph, Editor in Chief of Modern Plastics India and Modern Plastics TV and covered the entire press tour and happy to share the information;*

In June 2026, the global plastics and rubber industry will once again gather in Milan, Italy, for PLAST 2026, one of the most influential



trade fairs in the sector. Widely recognized as Europe's second-largest plastics and rubber industry exhibition after the K-Show in Germany, PLAST continues its long-standing tradition as a hub for innovation, technology exchange, and international business networking.

Organized by Promaplast, a company fully owned by Amaplast, the Italian association of plastics and rubber machinery manufacturers, the exhibition traces its origins back to 1964. Over the decades, it has grown into a strategic platform connecting manufacturers, suppliers, technology developers, and buyers from across the world.

PLAST has evolved into a major global meeting point for manufacturers, technology providers, and buyers across the plastics and rubber value chain. Positioned at the center of Europe, the event attracts participants from Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Latin America, creating a unique bridge between markets and technologies.

Speaking at the official international press presentation, Mr. Mario Maggiani, President of Amaplast, emphasized the global importance of the upcoming event.

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The association currently represents around 170 companies, which collectively play a major role in advancing Italian manufacturing technology globally. Amaplast works closely with the Italian Trade Agency (ITA) to promote Italian innovations through trade fairs, conferences, and global industry events.

Milan's central location in Europe and Italy's strong industrial heritage makes PLAST an ideal platform for showcasing advanced manufacturing solutions, sustainable technologies, and future materials.

### Italian Plastics Machinery Industry: A Dynamic but Challenging Market

During the press conference, Gabriele Caccia,

**"The market today is extremely dynamic. Companies are cautious about investing in new technologies because global economic signals change almost daily."**

- Gabriele Caccia, Vice-President, Amaplast

Despite these challenges, the Italian industry continues to demonstrate remarkable adaptability, responding quickly to changing market conditions and evolving technological demands.

### Export Trends and Global Market Performance

The Italian plastics machinery industry is highly export-driven, with 70–80% of production destined for international markets.

According to preliminary data from the Amaplast Research Centre, exports from January to September 2025 declined by approximately 6%, with a projected 5% decline for the full year. This decrease follows

a particularly strong export performance in 2024, which had set a high benchmark for the sector.

### Export Distribution by Region (Jan–Sept 2025)

- Europe: 52.4% share (–7%)
- North America: 16.2% share (–13%)
- Asia & Oceania: 19.6% share (+6.7%)
- Central & South America: 6.1% share (–12%)
- Africa: 5.7% share (–20.5%)

While many regions experienced declines, Asia has emerged as one of the strongest growth markets for European machinery manufacturers.



Mario Maggiani

**"PLAST has always been a bridge between markets and cultures. From Europe to Asia, from Africa to the Americas, the exhibition connects the world of plastics processing technologies."**

- Mario Maggiani, President, Amaplast and CEO of Promaplast



Gabriele Caccia



Vice-President of Amaplast, offered a comprehensive overview of the current state of the Italian plastics and rubber machinery sector.

Amaplast currently represents around 170 companies that manufacture machinery, molds, and equipment for plastics and rubber processing industries. Italian manufacturers are globally recognized for their engineering excellence, flexibility, and technological innovation.

However, the global market environment has become increasingly complex.

**Geopolitical developments, trade restrictions, and tariffs—particularly in the North American market—have created uncertainty for international trade and investment.**

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**Alessio Fineo**

### Notable country performances include:

- China: +22% growth
- India: +53% growth
- Argentina: +61% growth
- Chile: +75% growth
- Egypt: +19% growth
- Nigeria: +31%

### Meanwhile, several European markets showed slower activity:

- Germany: -10%
- France: -16%
- Turkey: -42%

Despite these fluctuations, industry leaders remain optimistic about long-term global demand for advanced plastics processing technologies.

### India: A Strategic Growth Market for the Industry

One of the most promising markets for European machinery manufacturers is India, which continues to show strong industrial growth.

According to industry projections, India's population could grow from 1.4 billion to nearly 1.8 billion in the next two decades, dramatically increasing demand for

packaged goods, pharmaceuticals, consumer products, and infrastructure.



All of these sectors rely heavily on plastics processing technologies. Recent progress toward trade cooperation between the European Union and India, including discussions on reducing import duties, could further strengthen industrial partnerships between the two regions.

We have noted that during his recent visit to India, industry leaders expressed strong optimism about long-term market expansion.

### Sustainability, Recycling and the PPWR Regulation

Sustainability is another key topic shaping the future of the plastics industry. The European Union's Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR)—expected to be fully implemented by 2030—will require major changes in plastics production, recycling, and material design.

### Manufacturers are already investing heavily in:

- Advanced recycling technologies
- Energy-efficient production systems
- Sustainable materials and circular economy solutions



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*"Plastics are essential to modern life- from healthcare to food safety. The future lies in smarter materials, better recycling systems, and innovative technologies." - Giampiero Zazzaro*

### PLAST 2026: What to Expect in Milan

Alessio Finio, Exhibition Manager of PLAST 2026, presented details about the upcoming 2026 edition and highlighted the success of the previous event.

### PLAST 2023 Highlights

- 1,300 exhibitors
- 60,000 m<sup>2</sup> net exhibition space
- 6 exhibition halls
- 38,000 visitors
- 26% international attendance
- Visitors from over 100 countries

For PLAST 2026, organizers aim to exceed these numbers by expanding international participation and introducing new digital marketing strategies targeting specific industrial sectors.

**"Our goal is to strengthen PLAST's international dimension and attract qualified buyers from all major global markets."**

**- Alessio Finio, Exhibition Manager, PLAST**

A New Exhibition Format: MATEC – Next Materials & Technologies PLAST 2026 will take place under the broader technology umbrella "MATEC – Next Materials and Technologies."

### Two complementary exhibitions will be held simultaneously:

- Xylexpo – dedicated to wood processing technologies
- Composites Future – a new conference exhibition focused on composite materials

This integrated format is designed to encourage cross-industry collaboration, attracting professionals from sectors such as:

- Aerospace
- Automotive
- Furniture manufacturing
- Defense
- Advanced materials

### Technology Zones and Thematic Areas

The exhibition will occupy six major pavilions at Fiera Milano, each focusing on different segments of the plastics industry.

### Pavilion Layout

- Pavilions 9 & 11: Raw materials, measurement technologies, converters
- Pavilions 13 & 15: Extrusion technologies
- Pavilions 22 & 24: Injection molding machinery

### Additional areas will focus on emerging technologies including:

- 3D printing for plastics
  - advanced polymer materials
  - specialty raw materials
  - rubber processing technologies
- Conferences, Industry Dialogue and Innovation



Giampiero Zazzaro



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Beyond the exhibition floor, PLAST 2026 will feature a comprehensive conference and knowledge-sharing program addressing the most important topics in the industry.

Key sessions will focus on:

- Packaging Industry Trends
- Packaging accounts for approximately 40% of plastics machinery production, making it one of the most important sectors represented at the show.
- Circular Economy and Recycling
- Discussions will involve major Italian organizations addressing recycling technologies and sustainable materials.
- Artificial Intelligence in Plastics Manufacturing
- A special conference in partnership with the MADE Competence Center Industry 4.0 will explore how AI, automation, and digital manufacturing are transforming plastics processing.

### Looking Ahead to PLAST 2026

As the plastics industry navigates economic uncertainties, technological change, and sustainability challenges, PLAST 2026 will serve as a global platform for collaboration, innovation, and business growth.

With strong participation expected from Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas, the exhibition is poised to play a crucial role in shaping the future of plastics manufacturing.

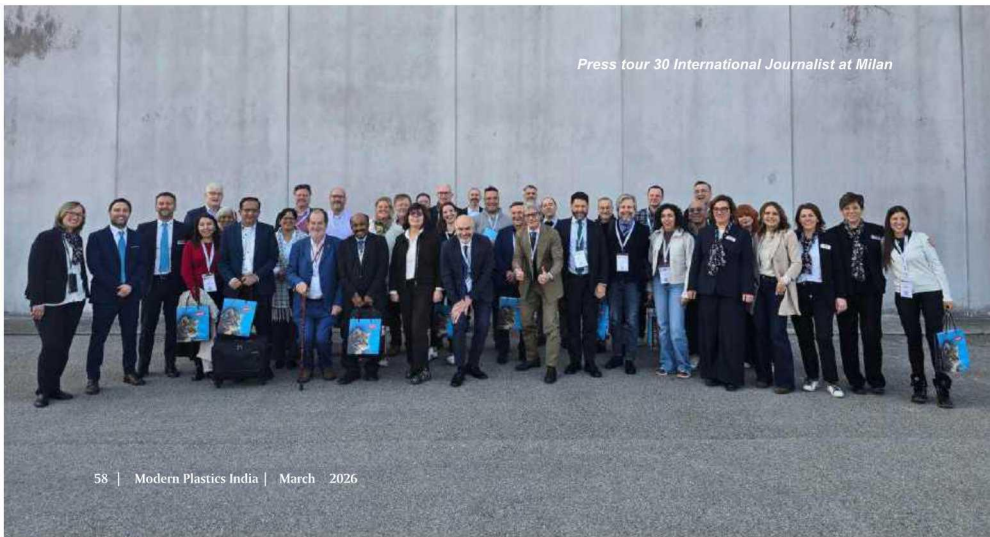
**"PLAST is not just an exhibition-it is a meeting point for ideas, technologies, and the future of the plastics industry."**

- Mario Maggiani

**From advanced machinery to circular economy solutions, PLAST 2026 in Milan will showcase how the industry continues to evolve and innovate in a rapidly changing world.**

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Press tour 30 International Journalist at Milan



## Strong Industry Confidence Drives PLAST 2026 Growth

PLAST 2026 is gearing up for its landmark twentieth edition, scheduled for 9–12 June 2026 at Fiera Milano, and is already demonstrating a strong performance outlook. This positive trajectory comes despite a challenging global environment shaped by geopolitical uncertainty, trade tensions, and fluctuating economic conditions across key markets. The sustained confidence shown by exhibitors and industry stakeholders underscores PLAST's role as one of the most influential platforms for the plastics and rubber value chain. Free pre-registration for visitors will open in March 2026, encouraging strong international participation and early engagement from global professionals.

Milan's advantageous location at the heart of Europe, combined with Italy's deep-rooted industrial and engineering heritage, reinforces PLAST as a prime venue for showcasing advanced manufacturing technologies, sustainable processing solutions, and innovative materials that define the future of the industry. With a strong focus on automation, energy efficiency, recycling systems, circular-economy strategies, and high-performance machinery, the event offers a comprehensive overview of the sector's evolving landscape.

PLAST is organized by Promoplast, a company fully owned by Amaplast—the national association representing Italian plastics and rubber machinery manufacturers. Since its inception in 1964, the exhibition has expanded steadily, evolving into a global meeting point that connects machinery manufacturers, suppliers, technology innovators, converters, processors, and buyers from every major market. Its ability to adapt to new industry trends and maintain high international relevance has made it a strategic business and knowledge-exchange hub.

A key initiative for the 2026 edition is the dedicated international press tour, bringing 30 global journalists to Milan for exclusive insights into Italy's leadership in plastics and rubber machinery. The program includes visits to major industry players such as Moretto,




Editor in Chief and CEO

Bandera, and BMB, offering attendees firsthand exposure to advanced production facilities, cutting-edge technologies, and the engineering excellence that positions Italian manufacturers at the forefront of global competitiveness. This press engagement will significantly enhance international visibility and strengthen communication leading up to PLAST 2026.

See You Soon at PLAST 2026!  
9-12 JUNE | MILANO

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Modern Plastics Global Network

Modern Business Network

Women India Network



9-12  
JUNE  
2026  
MILANO | INTERNATIONAL  
EXHIBITION  
FOR PLASTICS AND  
RUBBER INDUSTRIES

● India ● Germany ● USA ● Dubai ● Singapore

## Plast 2026: Growing Number of New Exhibitors

Plast 2026 is preparing for its twentieth edition, scheduled for 9-12 June 2026 at Fiera Milano, registering a positive performance despite the complex international geopolitical and economic scenario characterised by trade tensions and instability in global markets.

The Milan-based event, Europe's premier trade fair of the year for the plastics and rubber sector, demonstrates its resilience with the participation of over 160 new exhibitors to date compared to the previous edition, 30% of which are represented by international companies. This result takes on

particular significance in a decidedly complex market context, which sees strategic sectors such as automotive undergoing a phase of transformation and adaptation to current global dynamics.

The ability to attract new exhibitors in this scenario confirms the solidity and international appeal of Plast and underlines the sector's growing confidence in the Milan event as a reference platform for presenting

innovations and developing commercial partnerships.

The organisation also aims to significantly increase the presence of international visitors with representatives from the main destination countries for Italian exports, thanks to buyer delegations organised in collaboration with ICE Agency and strategic agreements with important trade associations, both within the sector and representative of target markets.

### Free pre-registration for visitors will be active from March 2026.

The event will further enrich its offering with a programme of side events to be announced in the coming weeks.

### A market of strong potential

The "Made in Europe" machinery segment is characterised by a strong export orientation, including towards emerging markets with growing investment propensity, and maintains a strategic role in the global scenario. Access to these markets represents a fundamental lever for consolidating the excellence of European companies, particularly manufacturers of machinery for plastics and rubber processing.

### Innovation and technology at the center

The twentieth edition promises to be an exclusive showcase for the most advanced solutions for the plastics and rubber industry, confirming the tradition of excellence that has characterised the Milan event for decades and responding to growing requirements in terms of technological innovation and environmental sustainability in the sector.

### Plast

Plast 2026 is Europe's leading trade fair of the year dedicated to the plastics and rubber industry, scheduled for 9-12 June at Fiera Milano. Organised by Promaplast, the event represents the reference platform for the presentation of processing equipment for plastics and rubber and state-of-the-art raw materials for the production of semi-finished and finished products, as well as a unique opportunity for establishing new commercial relationships.

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