

Remote crossing built from rotomoulded parts

CONSTRUCTION The low population density – and vast size – of Australia means large parts of the country lack adequate transport infrastructure. Out-back communities are served by hundreds of kilometres of unsealed roads that are prone to flooding, or simply being washed away.

A solution has been found in the shape of a kit-build road system made from rotationally-moulded PE pads and gabions. TrackPad and PolyGabion have been developed by Australia-based Gough Plastics to provide an easily-transportable PE alternative to Marsden Matting (the US-invented sys-



The PE structure over the Mitchell River is built during the dry season

tem for making temporary runways in World War II).

The system has been used to build a 400m dual car-

riageway crossing between Dunbar and Koolatah on the Mitchell River in Queensland, Australia.

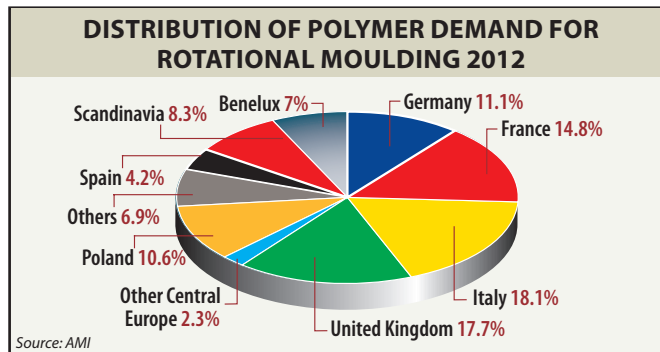
SAT aims for larger machines

MACHINERY SAT, the French manufacturer of rotational moulding machines, is aiming to expand its Roto-Sat range to include machines that will achieve 7m spherical diameters, while still combining the double rotational movement of moulds. The proposed Roto-Sat VV7002 could mould items of up to 6.5m in length, with a 4m working diameter – over 81m³ of loading volume.

European rotomoulding growth is set to resume

MARKETS After three years of declining volumes, the market for rotomoulding in Europe is expected to show some growth for 2012. The number of rotational moulders in Europe, as listed in AMI's *Guide to the Rotational Moulding Industry in Europe*, 7th Edition, has dropped by 3% to 336 production sites. They have consumed 211,000 tonnes of polymer in 2011, down from the pre-recession high of 250,000 tonnes in 2006.

The offshore industry and



fishing remains a solid and growing market, particularly in the Nordic countries where

over 50% of rotational moulders supply the marine and fishing markets.

Biopolymer grade for rotational moulding

MATERIALS UK-based materials firm Matrix Polymers has introduced a new rotomouldable general purpose grade made from renewable resources. Renew XBK25 is a bio-polyethylene that can be used for litter bins, industrial containers and automotive applications.

The company says that rotomoulders have responded positively to the material, finding it easy to process and with good flow characteristics.

Nordic rotomoulding conference

EXHIBITIONS The Nordic Association of Rotational Moulders will be holding its sixth annual conference on 4-5 February, 2012 at the Grand Hotel Bellevue in Åndalsnes, Norway. Companies represented include ICO Polymers, Lyondell Basell, Cipax, Polivinil, Maus and Persico.



DESIGN Rotomoulding continues to be the technique of choice for low-volume high-design items. The Pebble occasional table is made in Italy by Bonaldo to a design by Matthias Demacker, inspired by eroded stones found on the beach. The table is rotationally-moulded in either a single colour or with different internal and external colours.