

Cooling Screw Cranks Up Foam Output

A new screw design for foam extrusion is believed to be the first to use cross-flight melt channels to increase cooling and foam output. The channels perforating the curved flights scoop hot polymer off the screw root and bring it into contact with the cooled barrel. In the single-screw cooling extruder of a tandem foam line, it reportedly increases output by 25-40%. Developed and patented by Plastic Engineering Associates Inc., Boca Raton, Fla., the Turbo-Cool screw was discussed publicly for the first time at the SPE ANTEC meeting in Dallas in May, though it is already used commercially by several large producers of PS-foam sheet for clamshells and board for construction. •28•



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