

# RECYCLING NEWS

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HIGH TECH RECYCLING

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**EREMA PET STRAPPING TECHNOLOGY:**

## FLEXIBILITY IS THE KEY

High-strength PET strapping made of  
100% post-consumer PET bottle flake,  
virgin PET material,  
PET cast film  
or

blends of these materials.

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Iwai Kasei: EREMA technology supports the acceptance of recycle in daily-use products

# PLASTIC RECYCLING IN JAPAN

## QUALITY, QUALITY, QUALITY



**Iwai Kasei Co., Ltd. of Bando-Shi in the prefecture of Ibaraki/Japan has been producing flexible polyethylene packaging since its foundation in 1987. The company has always made a deliberate effort to maximise its use of recycled input material. One of its specialties are bags and sacks intended mainly for communal and industrial waste management applications.**

In its production, the company relies extensively on recyclates made "in house", saving the use of 100% virgin stock only for products that must meet exceptional standards. For its recycling equipment, Iwai Kasei puts full faith in EREMA technology. The company says that the high-grade pellets delivered by its EREMA machines enable it to raise recycle levels in its feedstock without compromising on product quality. At the same time, the enhanced quality assists Iwai Kasei in boosting the acceptance and public image of recycle-containing plastic products in Japan.

Iwai Kasei gathered its first experience with EREMA technology in 2005 upon acquiring an EREMA PC 1310 TE-HG with extruder cylinder degassing upstream of the melt filter and a downstream hot die face water-ring pelletiser. The system has remained in service to this day, mainly for recycling polyethylene film (PE-LD, PE-LLD and PE-HD) waste which is washed "in house" prior to processing. Some polypropylene waste is recycled on this machine as well. "We already had two recycling systems in use before - one was a Taiwanese product, the other an Italian one," reports Executive

Director Jun Shimizu. "But in terms of product quality, productivity and reliability, we have found that the EREMA plant performed best by a wide margin. When another new investment was scheduled in 2007, we therefore opted for this technology once again."

This even larger machine, rated for throughputs of up to 800 kg/h, a PC 1512 TVE system which was already delivered, features double disc (DD) technology and a melt filter upstream of the extruder degassing point (TVE configuration, for high-intensity degassing). Both technologies enhance the performance of the recycling system on a general level. Even highly contaminated or heavily printed plastic waste can thus be reliably converted into high-grade recycle at Iwai Kasei.

"This high-quality recycle enables us to make products with a higher recycled content and, at the same time, an improved utilisation value. By communicating these ecological benefits in an appropriate manner to the public, like we do, consumer trust in recycled plastics and products made from this material is raised. We therefore

participate regularly in diverse public activities, e.g., music festivals and sports events, where we distribute carrier bags made of at least 50 percent recycled plastics," Jun Shimizu adds. The encouragement he receives confirms him in his ambition to keep on promoting the cause of plastic recycling in Japan. ■

(From left) Jun Shimizu - Executive Director, Iwai Kasei,  
Andreas Dirnberger - EREMA Sales Manager,  
Hiroshi Shimizu - President, Iwai Kasei,  
Yasuyo Suzuki - General Manager, Iwai Kasei,  
Norio Hashimoto - CEO EREMA Japan

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