



PRESS RELEASE

MEAPR001EN

EconCore chooses MEAF 50-H34 extruder for R-PET honeycomb sandwich panels

Yerseke, The Netherlands, 20 August 2019 – EconCore from Leuven (Louvain) in Belgium has chosen the high speed, energy efficient MEAF 50-H34 extruder for its trial production of recycled PET (R-PET) ThermHex honeycomb sandwich panels. The R-PET honeycomb core is made of 95% recycled post-consumer PET from bottles, combining sustainability with the superior mechanical properties from PET-material. The new extrusion technology will also feature prominently on the MEAF stand at K2019, **stand A22, Hall 17**.

‘We want to bring a smart, innovative and sustainable product to market that contributes towards the circular economy of plastics,’ says Wouter Winant, Technical Manager at EconCore. ‘Our R-PET core offers high stiffness and strength in compression and shear, high temperature stability and has excellent weight to cost ratio. In addition to the CO₂ reduction because of the use of recycled material, the R-PET honeycomb core further reduces the CO₂ footprint thanks to the lower weight of manufactured parts. Of course this needs to be produced in a cost-effective way, for which we have chosen the MEAF 50-H34 extruder, as an economical but highly efficient flat die extruder at the start of the production process,’ Winant continues.

‘With their high throughputs, extruding up to 1,200 kg per hour while using only 0.20 kWh per kg, the sheet extruders of this series are currently among the most efficient in the market,’ adds Ardjan Houtekamer, Technical Director at MEAF. ‘Our extrusion lines are ideally suited for both single and multi-layer extrusion applications and can produce up to eight layers, using a range of materials including PP, PS, HIPS, PET, PE, PA, PLA, TPE, EVOH barrier and others.’

The MEAF H-series extruders have a special energy-efficient design in which all important parts have been optimized by the company’s engineers. Thanks to their compact build, the machines have a small footprint, making it ideal for production locations where space comes at a premium.

EconCore's thermoplastic honeycomb technology allows for production of honeycomb panels within a continuous and in-line integrated process. During the successive production steps polymers are extruded, vacuum formed and folded into a honeycomb core. This results in a highly cost-effective process, ideally suited for large volume applications. Furthermore, lamination of skin layers is typically in-line integrated with the continuous honeycomb core production, allowing for one-shot production of added value sandwich panels or parts.

The EconCore process can produce both regular flat panels as well as thermoformable ones. The latter type obviously has a broader range of applications, since these panels can be pressed in any required form or shape. EconCore expects that the developed process and R-PET products will mainly be offered to the automotive industry, since car manufacturers are constantly looking for lightweight materials with specific temperature requirements, that can be produced in a cost-effective way. At the same time, the products fit well to other large volume applications, including furniture for instance.

About MEAF

Founded in 1947, MEAF designs, develops and builds extrusion machines for the global packaging and plastics processing industry. The company is a 'one-stop-shop' for extruders and thermoforming machines for a wide range of polymers and applications. MEAF's success stems from a customer-centric, innovative and flexible approach, offering support in every stage of the production process. MEAF customers include manufacturers in the food packaging, disposables, medical applications and flooring sectors, as well as the automotive and aviation industry. For more information:

<https://www.meaf.com>.

About EconCore

EconCore, based in Leuven, Belgium, provides technology for the continuous production of honeycomb sandwich materials. The unique ability to produce rigid but lightweight panels within a cost-efficient, integrated high-volume production process is licensed by several companies over the world. The fast, versatile, continuous thermoplastic honeycomb production process allows users to produce sandwich materials for various applications including automotive, transportation, building and construction, industrial packaging/graphical displays, furniture and many others at minimal cost, weight and environmental impact. For more information: www.econcore.com.

Image 1

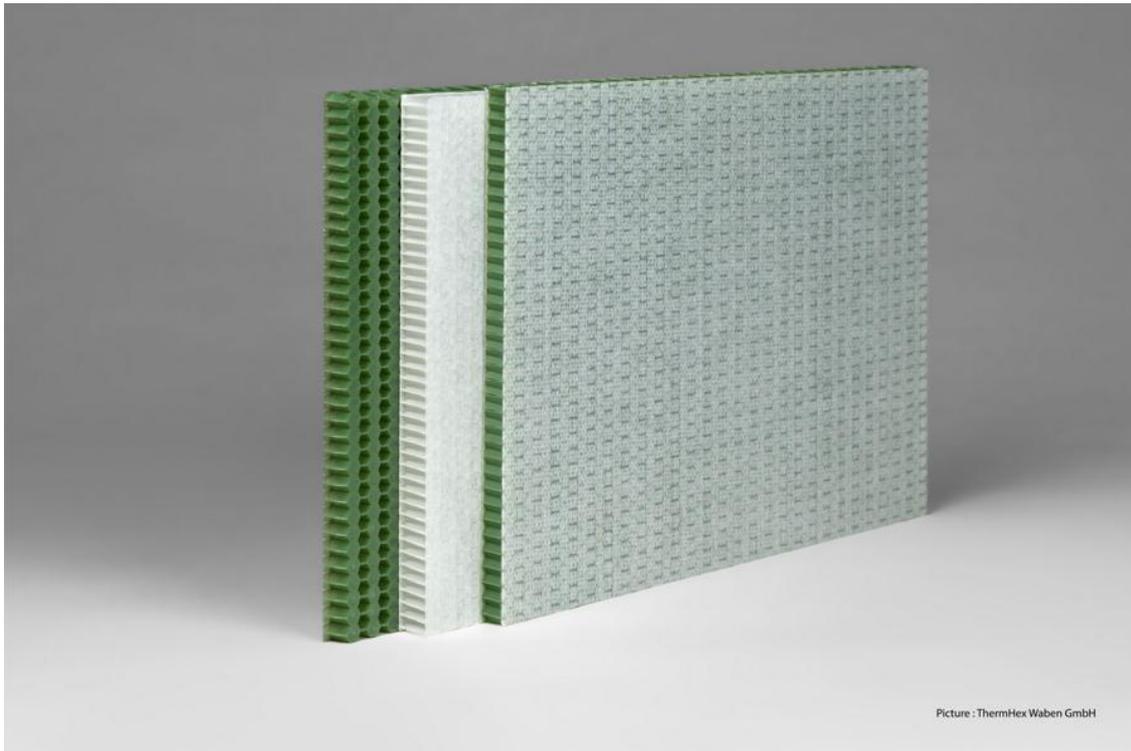


Caption:

EconCore from Leuven (Louvain) in Belgium has chosen the high speed, energy efficient MEAF 50-H34 extruder for its trial production of recycled PET (R-PET) ThermHex honeycomb sandwich panels.

(Source: MEAF)

Image 2



Caption:

Produced using a MEAF 50-H34 extruder, EconCore's R-PET ThermHex honeycomb sandwich panels will be made of 95% recycled post-consumer PET from bottles, combining sustainability with the superior mechanical properties from PET-material. *(Source: EconCore)*