MAPLAN

news

Edition 12
English

ADVANCED FOR THE FUTURE

SOULIER GROUP-
TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER

MAPLAN JOINS SOULIER HOLDING

Soulier Holding, headquartered in central Vienna was founded in 2019 by Ingrid and Philippe Soulier. The Viennese-francophone couple embody many great aspects of both cultures: passion, esprit, creativity, reliability, and a conciliatory approach. Many industrial and real estate projects have already been jointly realized. The goal of every venture of Soulier is to achieve long-term success: Multiple generations are taken into account, and classic three-year phases are replaced by long-term investments. Therefore, foresight, innovation power and technological leadership are at the center of the lived-out entrepreneurial responsibility of the owner-managed family company. In the last year, MAPLAN became a part of this holding with all its worldwide subsidiaries and branch establishments.

INDUSTRY & REAL ESTATE: A STRATEGY FOR ACHIEVING LONG-TERM SUCCESS

In addition to activities in mechanical engineering spanning 50 years, the Soulier Group has been actively and successfully involved in the real estate sector for more than two decades. Based on Soulier Real Estate and its real estate development experience built up over many years, Ibau for project controlling and on-site construction supervision as well as the property management company ImmoW16, the group is optimally positioned to overcome any challenge in construction and real estate management. The family-owned private foundation IPSO, which even renovated heritage-protected properties in prime locations within Vienna, is a long-term strategic partner of Soulier Holding.

The modular construction company MOBEX was founded in 2017 according to the vision of developing real estate more quickly and thus more cost-effectively. The symbiosis MOBEX was established based on long-standing industrial know-how and comprehensive real estate expertise within the Soulier Group in order to realize small-scale and large-sale projects within a short period of time with minimal expenditure. Depending on size, MOBEX is able to realize building projects in just one day or in a time span of up to two months. The company also operates a small-scale vintage car business and a project involving high-quality food products.
We cannot definitively say whether the Soulier family has a gene for entrepreneurship, but one thing is certain: The desire to found companies and realize its own ideas is particularly pronounced within this family: The second family generation operates a French bakery and pastry shop, Vienna's first e-sports bar and a saltwater spa for "weightless" floating.

THE CLEVER WAY TO BUILD: MODULAR CONSTRUCTION EXPERTS

Premium yet affordable living and working spaces are increasingly gaining importance on the property market. MOBEX is Soulier's answer to this development. The system is incredibly flexible. Building projects such as residential complexes, hotels & motels, group rooms for kindergartens, schools, office facilities, shops, weekend houses, garages and many other projects can be realized within a very short period of time. Moreover, existing residential complexes can be easily expanded with self-supporting room modules.

A high degree of industrial prefabrication in the company's own "room factory" and concurrent preparation of the building plot with foundation and outdoor facilities ensure that MOBEX facilities are produced with a neighborhood feel, environmentally friendly as well as emission-conserving standards. The total project term for MOBEX projects is significantly reduced compared to traditional construction. Modular construction certainly does not mean accepting compromises regarding architecture or specious floor plans. Already realized modular construction projects and the positive feedback from customers have reinforced this innovation step within the building industry. For MOBEX, a sustainable and ecological mindset is not just a catchphrase but a lived-out practice. Nearly 100% of low-energy houses are made from recyclable materials and equipped with state-of-the art heat pump technology as well as solar heating allowing for attractive room concepts and furnishing variants.

AS A REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER, WE BUILD WITH STRATEGY AND PASSION

SOULIER REAL ESTATE

The current real estate portfolio of the Soulier Group consists of rental residential, operational and business areas with a total size of more than 70,000 m². Heritage-protected inner-city apartment buildings and energy-efficient modern residential houses make living in the middle Vienna a pleasant experience.

Bäckerstraße - 1010 Vienna

At the end of August 2020, the real estate project “Adele” opened in the vicinity of Vienna Central Station: real estate expertise with a feel-good factor! The residential complex comprising of 283 rental apartments with in-house kindergarten and space for 7 children’s groups and play areas were inaugurated in the presence of the mayor of Vienna. Expansive green spaces and the outdoor pool, exclusive for renters, an in-house fitness center and the extensive roof terraces make living in the heart of the city truly a relaxing experience.

Residential project ADELE - Bloch-Bauer Promenade 16 - 1100 Vienna

PRIME LOCATIONS, PREMIUM QUALITY: SUSTAINABILITY FINDS A HOME

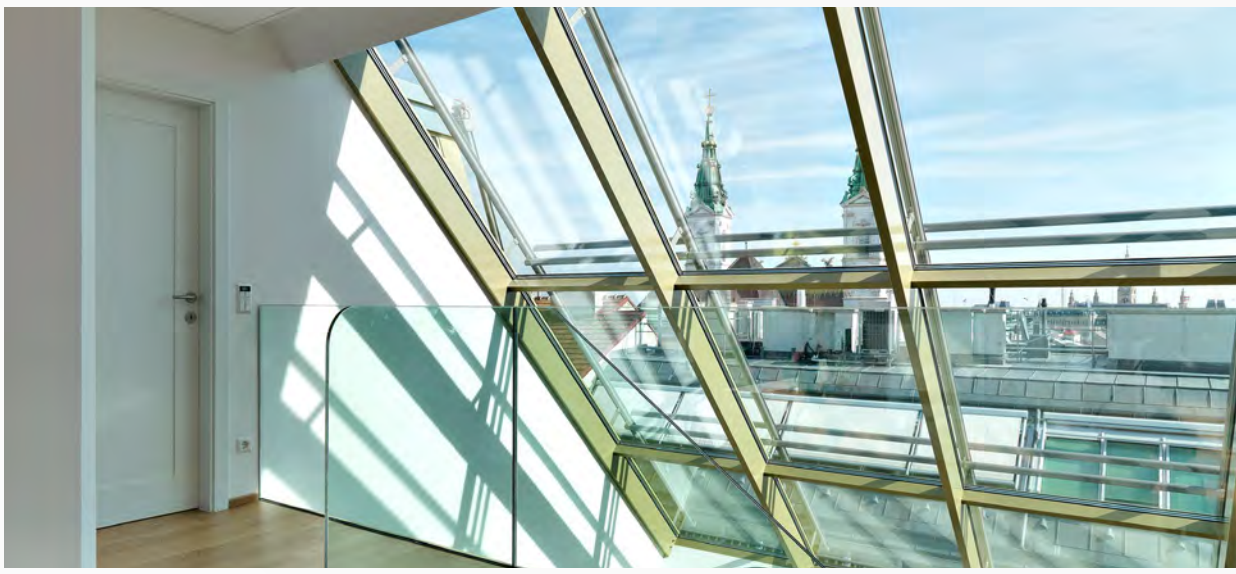
IMMO W16

Houses that are a joy to live in! Many of the residential and commercial areas of the Soulier Group are located in prime locations in the inner-city of Vienna – as for example near the Franziskaner Platz: The comprehensive renovation of the heritage-protected gem consisting of more than 4000 m² of residential, commercial and office space was completed at the end of 2018 after a total project term of 6 years. Like all projects of the Soulier Group, this object fulfilled all requirements based on its high architectural standards, sustainable construction and ecological energy concepts. Thus, well water is used for the heat pump technology in order to provide sustainable heating and cooling.

COMMERCIAL USAGE ON DEMAND

ibau

Commercial and industrial areas owned by the group are rented out to local providers for our renters in Vienna and also to industrial companies. The offer ranges from extensive commercial halls to open-office concepts with possibilities to retreat, of course with renewable energy concepts. Due to its solid equity base, the Soulier Group is optimally equipped for these challenges and for the future.



Fuhrmanngasse - 1080 Vienna

Weissenbach an der Triesting - Lower Austria

Kottingbrunn - Lower Austria

Residence Triple Oak: Malacky - Slovakia

Kottingbrunn - Lower Austria

ADVANCED FOR THE FUTURE

Achieving success with **INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS**

With the takeover by the Soulier family in 2012, MAPLAN as a company with a long-standing tradition in injection molding has received a very stable platform to modernize and develop futuristic strategies and products. A new vision was established in 2013 with the appointment of Wolfgang Meyer as the new CEO: MAPLAN was to become a leading and highly modern international player in the world of elastomer engineering. The company's operations and technology were improved to be cutting edge. A new spirit of innovation was introduced, which made it possible to advance MAPLAN's globalization efforts and achieve a leading role among the competition while offering the best products within the field of rubber injection molding. The vision was realized in multi-layered fashion. Achieving this goal and elevating the company to today's successful and sustainable status required a clear strategic orientation as well as the completion of many demanding projects and extensive development work.

SOULIER FAMILY TAKES OVER MAPLAN

2012

LEOPOLD HEIDEGGER BECOMES MAPLAN CFO

2013

REDESIGN OF THE MAPLAN MACHINE SERIES

2014

OPENING OF THE NEW HQ KOTTINGBRUNN

2016

START LEAN PRODUCTION

WOLFGANG MEYER BECOMES MAPLAN CEO

MAPLAN CHOOSES NOT TO RENOVATE HQ TERNITZ

DAYS OF TECHNOLOGY

MAPLAN: GREEN FACTORY 2018

Fabrik Konferenz MAPLAN relies on sustainable construction at all sites and employing technologies and materials that are sustainable over long term. MAPLAN facilities are always environment friendly and mostly self-sufficient in terms of energy supply, by using new green technologies such as photovoltaic panels on roofs, floor heating or cooling in production and water-to-water heat pumps for temperature control. The focus was on achieving a high-quality, creativity-promoting interior design that translates into a pleasant work atmosphere. For this reason, Maplan was awarded the Green Factory Prize in 2018.

All modern and successful companies must continually reinvent themselves in times of constant change within the industry. Injection molding machines must be robustly designed and constructed to fulfill rigorous demands of rubber molding, over the course of a long service life. A high level of expertise is required. MAPLAN has accumulated this knowledge over many decades together with many of its loyal partners. Today, MAPLAN machines guarantee maximized output of high-quality parts with minimal resource consumption – Like electricity, floor space, cooling water and compressed air.

Prior to the international expansion, the new MAPLAN company headquarters were the focal point of all activities. In 2016, MAPLAN invested twelve million euros in a new production facility and office building in Kottingbrunn. The move to the new headquarters in the south of Vienna also involved changing over production process to highly efficient LEAN production. Line production with Fast assembly times enables Maplan to assemble machines with unique advantages of cost-efficiency and qualitative machine building compared to traditional style of all assembly steps done at one place.

MAPLAN has succeeded in introducing Line production even for machines with customized designs to meet unique customer requirements. The entire plant was designed to compliment the Lean Production Concept, which targets reducing waste: internally as well as with respect to suppliers and customers.

In 2017, our new plant opened in the high-tech Industrial park of Wujin, China within the context of the international expansion allowing the company to operate even more successfully on the Chinese market. MAPLAN thereby services the rapidly growing Asian market and offers world-class technology “Made by MAPLAN” to all Rubber molders in Asia.

★★★★★

“We have established and excellent co-operation with MAPLAN. The basis is close coordination as well as flexibility and will to implement special adjustments.”

ERWIN MACH Gummitechnik
Dipl.-Ing. Erwin Rudolf Mach, Managing Director

Since 2018, MAPLAN is also represented in Slovakia with its own production site. The site enhances production depth and protects MAPLAN Know-how. The production portfolio includes construction of control cabinets, production of sheet metal and thick metal parts. This expansion helped us to reduce the company’s dependency on suppliers and allows MAPLAN to react more flexibly to the market and customer demands.

The site in South Elgin (Chicago) was also expanded in 2018 to a new facility doubling our workshop area, parts storage, demonstration, and training areas. Our new location which is our Sales and Service hub for North American markets, enhance the visibility of the MAPLAN brand. Our facility and experienced team in USA offer competent support to local rubber molders in terms of project consulting, machine training, machine upgrades to new and more efficient technologies and test productions at our in-house showroom. Comprehensive refurbishing of all older Maplan machine types are completed at this location. Older Control systems are upgraded to the latest system to enhance your machine to the age of Industry 4.0, which allows for production with new control and/or automation concepts.

CUSTOMER-PROXIMITY ALL OVER THE WORLD: TODAY AND TOMORROW

We are represented wherever our customers are – and our customers are all over the world! In recent years we reinforced our teams on all continents. Today, veterans experienced specialists from the rubber injection molding sector offer their expertise and consultation services for customers in all process matters. Local teams and personal customer support delivered in the local language provides a tremendous advantage for the customers.
Diversity makes our teams more successful. MAPLAN especially promotes “mixed teams” – consisting of experienced, long-standing specialists and junior employees. Thus, we ensure that expertise within the company is passed on to new generation and our customers will continue to receive best advice.

NEW ESTABLISHMENT
MAPLAN CHINA

2017

GREEN FACTORY AWARD

2018

SOULIER HOLDING

MAPLAN JOINS SOULIER HOLDING

2020

NEW CONTROLLER GENERATION
MAP.COMMANDER C6

DAYS OF TECHNOLOGY

OPENING OF NEW
ASSEMBLY PLANT
MALACKY/SLOVAKIA

FIT & LEAN for the FUTURE WE MAKE YOUR LIFE EASIER

With experience of decades synergized, MAPLAN has graduated from a state-of-the-art machine producer to an expert in 360-degree system solutions for semi and fully automated production of rubber and silicone products. We currently build high-end production cells for companies that operate in a challenging, ever changing environment. Our technology is designed for optimal user ergonomics and production efficiency. The universally user-friendly MAP.commander C6 control system provide extraordinary flexibility for production processes as an interface between the production cell and Industry 4.0.
Technology by itself is not the end-all be-all. With active collaboration with our customers and partners, we can provide system solutions which can offer our customers a decisive competitive edge. Our goal for the next years is to make your life easier. This new vision is based on an even stronger customer orientation and designed to further optimize all customer touchpoints: Our products should alleviate the work of producers as much as possible and make cooperation with MAPLAN a pleasant experience for customers with a service that exceeds your expectations.

€20 MIO

has been invested in the expansion of MAPLAN since the takeover by the **Soulier Group**.

ADVANCED MACHINE ENGINEERING
STRONG CONSTRUCTION FOR DECADES

Intense global competition and sophisticated customer demands require producers of injection molding machines to continuously renovate and optimize their products. Continuous innovation is necessary to improve performance, ergonomics, and cost-savings for production systems. Increasing complexity of the molded parts and innovations in rubber compounds force OEMs and machine producers to keep evolving and keep pace with these challenges.

HORIZONTAL INJECTION MOLDING MACHINES: EFFICIENCY FOR NEW STANDARDS OF PROFITABILITY

Horizontal RAPID⁺ injection molding machines are the true Champions built on our successful tradition of decades. The introduction of the new RAPID⁺ series sets new high standards for horizontal machines in terms of even higher speeds and automated processes. All common demolding and automation concepts are supported for fully automatic production to reduce labor costs and ensure best possible profitability. The MAP.Commander C600 control system enables easy integration of various automation devices like Brushing system with multiple axes, blowing devices, mold release spray nozzles, grippers, and ejector frames, resulting in Optimized Production Solution.

MAPLAN

MAPLAN DESIGN – DISTINCTIVE, STYLISH AND FUNCTIONAL

All MAPLAN models have been redesigned in dark gray with orange colors, giving a refreshing visual appeal to machines and your production hall. Our new guarding design gives easy access to machine for service technicians.

RAPID⁺
Optimal energy values and minimal footprint area worldwide!

MAP.cooldrive provides energy savings of up to 50 % and also reduces noise emissions by up to 50 %.

★★★★★

For more than 20 years now, MAPLAN has been my most reliable partner, every day, around the clock, tireless. We continue to make progress together and have benefited from each other.

BIELEI Gummitech
Lutz Leisebein, Managing partner

2012
2020

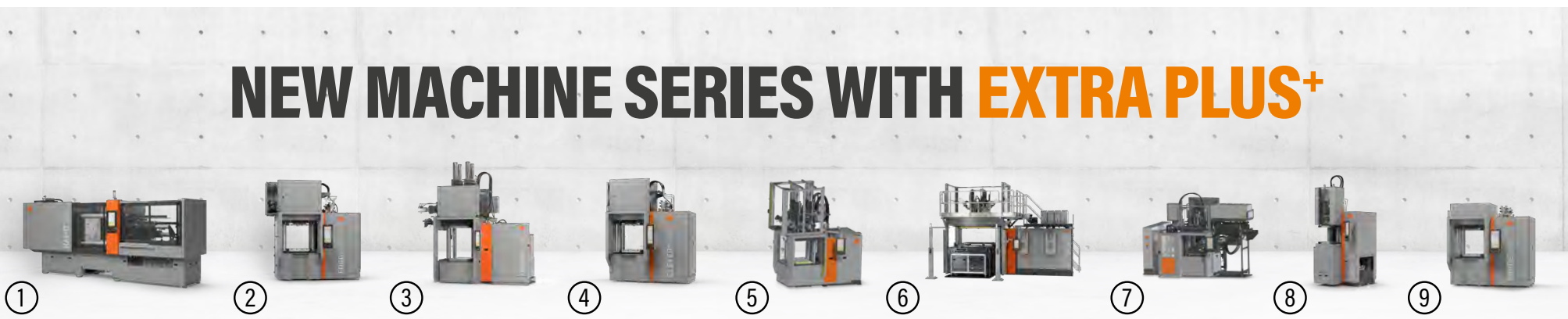
VERTICAL INJECTION MOLDING MACHINES COMPREHENSIVE ERGONOMICS

Creating best ergonomics for the operator was a focal point for the new design of the vertical series. The result: user-friendly, long-term stable machines with low energy consumption and easy access for quick maintenance. Operation heights are reduced significantly for easy access to molded parts. New MAP.fifo *Ergo* Injection system, reduces feeding height significantly. Along with operator convenience and ergonomics, we have achieved a compact machine design. Vertical MAPLAN injection molding machines have one of the smallest footprints on the market.

Quality made by MAPLAN: YESTERDAY. TODAY. TOMORROW.

The state-of-the-art rubber injection molding technology is continually being improved by injection molding experts and through the use of high-tech equipment. MAPLAN thereby contributes to keeping the production of rubber articles feasible in all demographics. Economical production with efficient machines and the best part quality at lowest processing costs, ensures the competitiveness of our customers.

NEW MACHINE SERIES WITH EXTRA PLUS+



1. Horizontal RAPID+ 200-800 to
2. Vertical ERGO+ 90-460 to
3. Vertical ERGOMAX+ 460-900 to
4. Vertical CLEVER+ 160-400 to
5. Vertical MULTI+
6. Vertical SPECIAL+ MR up to 1200 to
7. Vertical BOTTOM+
8. C-Frame EASY+ 20-100 to
9. Presses FORCE+

SMART INJECTION MOLDING

IN THE AGE OF INDUSTRY 4.0

Ensuring traceability and economical production

Industry 4.0 is the future – and the buzzword of the hour. However, the term can be misleading: since the ability to network technical systems in real-time is the revolutionary aspect of Industry 4.0, not digitization. The MAP.commander C6 control system, which was developed as of 2015 is the heart of the INJECTION INTELLIGENCE developed by MAPLAN. This reliable control system currently provides all functions our customers require for smart and intelligent production: from easy configuration, transparent monitoring, and quality assurance of all process steps to traceability through production data and data security. This includes MAP. Assist, our ground-breaking user assistance system and consistent data models for production and quality assurance. Numerous monitoring and control technology tools, intelligent energy monitoring and the remote maintenance system MAP. Remote were integrated in the C6 control system in 2019.

SMART PRODUCTION

Technology and periphery devices are intelligent and network-capable

Integrating automation technology, cold runners, servo hydraulics and heating-cooling technology, etc. in production cells has meanwhile become the standard for highly efficient high-quality production. Maplan has transformed from being a machine supplier to a 360-system solution partner. MAPLAN offers customized solutions for all application areas, as a perfect package of the injection molding machine, peripherals, and automation systems. Our system solutions offer fast cycle times, lower costs while ensuring high quality of molded parts.

2012
2020

★★★★★

SICEM has continued to invest in MAPLAN machines since the installation of the first MAPLAN Pentaject PJ1T400/80 in 1988: The ideal choice for reliable and qualitative production of technically molded products.

SICEM
Jean-Michel DELHAYE, Managing partner

PLUG & PLAY

with the Euromap 77 interface

Many production systems use equipment from various producers. Extensive configurations for adapting customized solutions are not required if the customer uses standardized interfaces for networking. EUROMAP 77 is the first OPC UA-based standard for digital interfaces in the area of plastics and rubber machines. The system controls the data exchange between injection molding machines, options, automation and the master computer/MES and allows for digital communication, which is indispensable for production within the context of today's Industry 4.0 applications. MAP.commander C6 has already supported the EUROMAP 77 interface since 2019, and the functional range has been consistently expanded since then. All used hardware components are implemented as "plug & play" in injection molding cells and controlled directly via the touch display of MAP.commander C6. Thus, the C6 control system offers maximum flexibility for advanced processing technologies such as laser engraving or labeling for individual product designations for "smart item tracking" – or also for refinement. All date acquired from the entire production process and saved statistics can be exported with the push of a button and simply taken over into MES or the master computer system.

C6000 | 21" Touchscreen

PRODUCTION-ASSISTANTS

These assist with routine injection molding operations in order to ensure process accuracy and a smooth production process. Some of the great features:

Visualizations:

- Process parameters including trend graphs
- Master Curve monitoring for the entire injection process every cycle
- MAP.smartlight displays the machine status and remaining vulcanization time at the machine: : an enormous advantage when operating multiple machines

Energy monitoring with MAP.energywatcher

- Evaluates energy usage per part

Digital tool protection MAP.moldsafe

- Protects molds against damage

Self-optimizing MAP.motion

- Best speed profile is calculated by the machine for mold movements

Smooth and precise MAP.slomo

- Opening the clamping unit at very slow speeds and configurable movement profiles for demolding sensitive products

SMART MAINTENANCE

Simple remote maintenance increases machine availability

Networking also provides worldwide access to the injection molding system. If needed, MAPLAN service engineers and application technicians can quickly, securely and easily connect to the C6 control system. Causes of faults can be directly and quickly identified and rectified with remote access. Unplanned downtimes, breakdown times and unnecessary part replacements are thereby reduced to a minimum. Process or service technicians are not required to be on-site when using the web-based MAP.eye camera. Technicians can remotely access all parameters of the machine, view the current production status and provide troubleshooting over the phone – or intervene directly online. This saves precious time and travel costs, ensures a higher availability of machines, and ideally leads to better product quality. Access control and data security are ensured via a VPN tunnel.

MAPLAN

MAKES YOUR LIFE EASIER

Rubber injection molding **CAN BE SO MUCH SIMPLE**

New developments with respect to INJECTION INTELLIGENCE are focused on innovations that Make Life Easy for our customers. Just like most companies in the sector, MAPLAN was also greatly affected by the corona crisis in recent months. However, development activities continued unabated for the most part. Free capacities were utilized for new developments in order to alleviate the daily lives of our customers.

HIGHER EFFICIENCY BY MEANS OF TARGETED DYNAMIC PRESSURE ALLOCATION

The new Software version enables plasticizing process defined in 5-Steps with individual speed and pressure settings. Shear energy input to the rubber compound can now be done with much more accuracy and efficiency and thereby reduces the fluctuation range of the temperature progression within the plasticizing procedure. This results in a significantly greater process window whereby the parts quality is more consistent and vulcanization or cycle times are significantly reduced.

HIGHER PROCESS TRANSPARENCY ENSURES THE QUALITY OF PARTS

Process data is clearly consolidated and visualized for all MAP.fifo injection units. Pressure and temperature progression of the plasticizing process is depicted in an easily comprehensible manner according to cycles on three screen pages of the machine control system. The pages show configuration parameters including a process graph (Fig. 1), hydraulic pressure at the hydraulic motor and the temperature progression graph. The second illustration (Fig. 2) displays the pressure progression during plasticizing via which a tolerance range can be established for process monitoring. The quality of parts can be improved with this simple tool. Moreover, curve progressions can also be exported and added to parts-related data quality documentation.

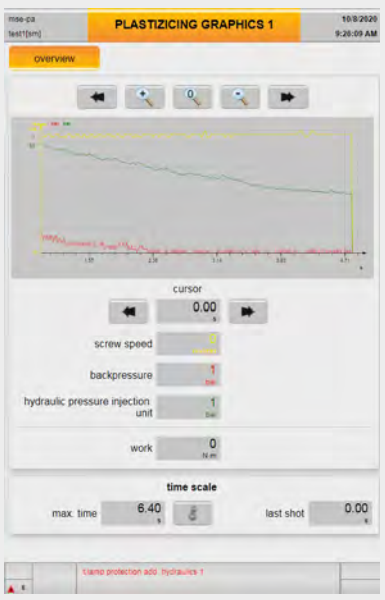


Fig 1. Overview page "Plasticizing" with graphic display of process parameters.

MAP.COMPENSATE - HEATING TIME MANAGEMENT TARGETED, SIMPLE, EFFECTIVE

Various manufacturers have provided heating time calculation or process optimization systems for many years. However, most machine operators are overwhelmed by the multitude of material and machine parameters that must be entered in daily operations, which is why its usage has remained quite limited. MAPLAN is now introducing its own system in the form of MAP.compensate, which was developed with a focus on practicality. Up to 10 vulcanization times can be determined in advance per processed rubber mixture for various tool temperatures that are subsequently taken over in MAP.compensate. The control system uses this data to calculate the specific correlation between heating time and tool temperature. MAP.compensate returns the vulcanization process to the desired operating point by means of a calculated time correction if a deviation occurs in regard to this setting, e.g. due to an environmental drop in temperature. MAP.compensate determines a trajectory based on up to 10 mixture-specific and temperature-dependent heating times. These form the ideal basis for targeted heating corrections of environmental operating point deviations.

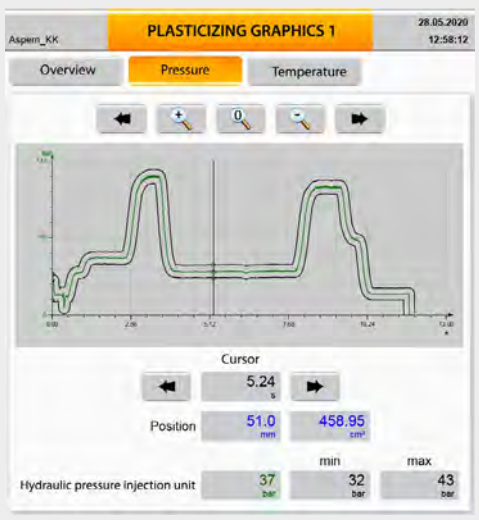


Fig 2. Pressure progression with generated envelope curve for tolerance monitoring.

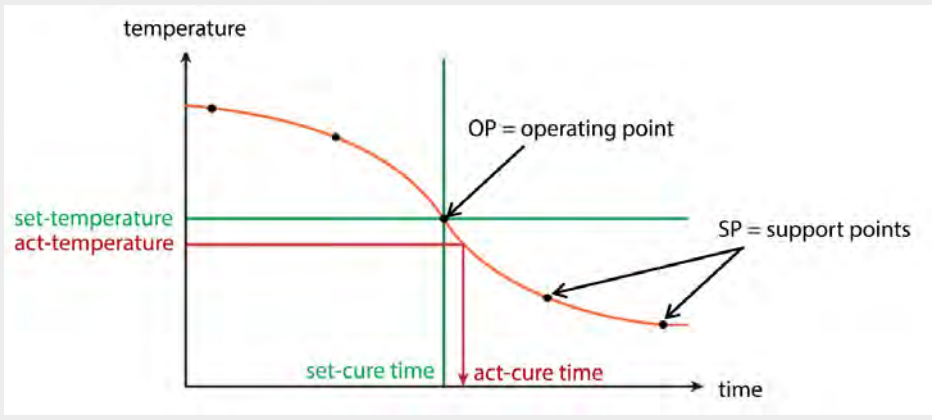
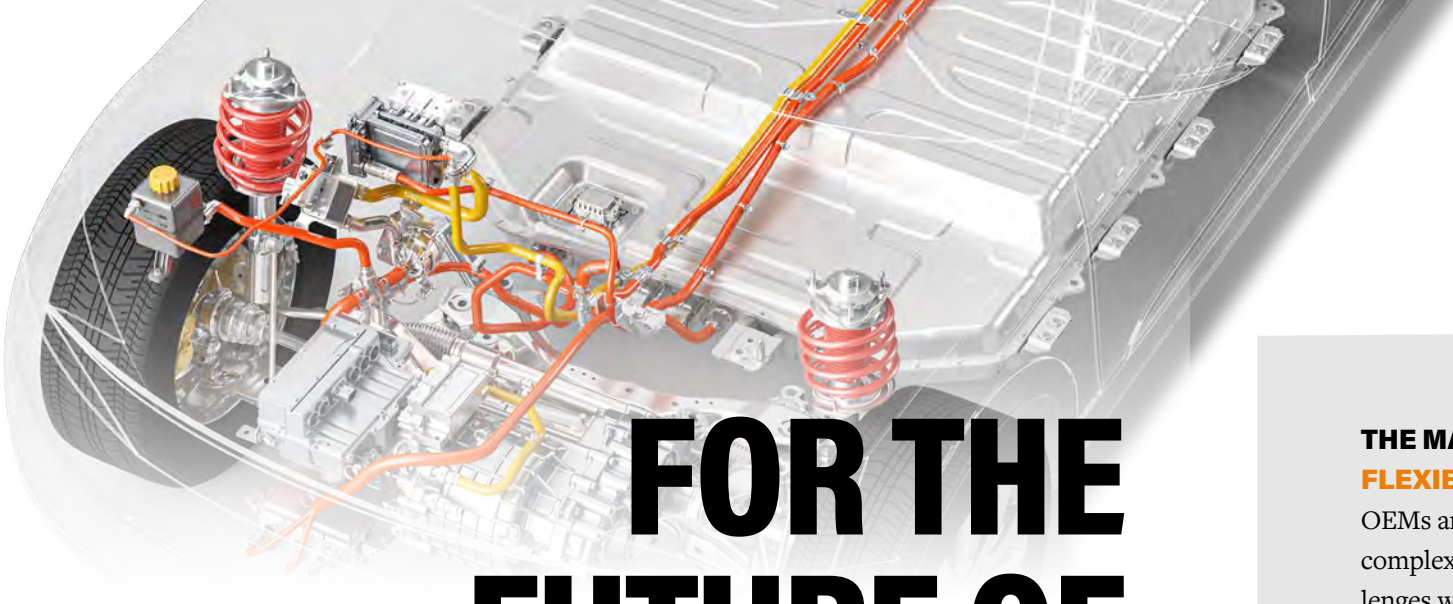


Fig.3 MAP.compensate determines a trajectory based on up to 10 mixture-specific and temperature-dependent heating times. These form the ideal basis for targeted heating corrections of environmental operating point deviations.



FOR THE FUTURE OF NEW MOBILITY

SPECIAL⁺ MR: The foundation for Large Size sealings.

MAPLAN is closely cooperating with producers and users to provide machine solutions for pioneering electrically powered mobility applications. The focus is on increasingly efficient battery/ fuel cell technology, which can offer longer drive range and drive power. For this reason, MAPLAN is developing a new modular and scalable large-scale machine series with vertical clamping unit: MAPLAN SPECIAL⁺ MR, with TWIN RAM 560 as the first model. Machines of this type are ideally suited for producing large gaskets for e-vehicle battery boxes.

PRODUCTION OF LARGE-DIMENSIONED HIGH-PERFORMANCE GASKETS

Initiated by the demand for machines that produce large-scale metal bonded rubber composite parts, engine gaskets and gaskets for battery boxes, MAPLAN has developed a new, vertical machine series. The functional specification highlights are large platen areas, ergonomic operation and at the same time accurate injection volume control. The Series name "**SPECIAL⁺ MR**" reflects the design principal, where combination of two (TWIN-RAM), four (QUATTRO-RAM) or even more clamping cylinders are used to distribute clamping force evenly across large platen areas and to ensure minimum deflection during molding.

The new MAPLAN vertical machine series SPECIAL⁺ MR is Stable, accurate and modular and suitable for many challenging applications involving Large size rubber parts with close tolerances.

THE MARKET DEMANDS FLEXIBILITY – MAPLAN RESPONDS

OEMs and machine producers are challenged by the complex special requirements of e-mobility. New challenges will emerge regularly as various future applications are developed driven by E-mobility. MAPLAN is ready for this challenge and, in addition to the existing and proven machine program, has developed another new machine segment by which the large gaskets can be efficiently produced with high precision. This is how Maplan takes Challenges positively and will be there for our customers to depend on us. Electromobility is important for the future of all people on the planet and also a major concern for MAPLAN. e-mobility is practiced within our organization as the part of MAPLAN's sustainability strategy.

TWIN-RAM 560 with 2 x 2800 kN clamping cylinder and 2 50-cm3 MAP.fifo injection units that are injected from the top.

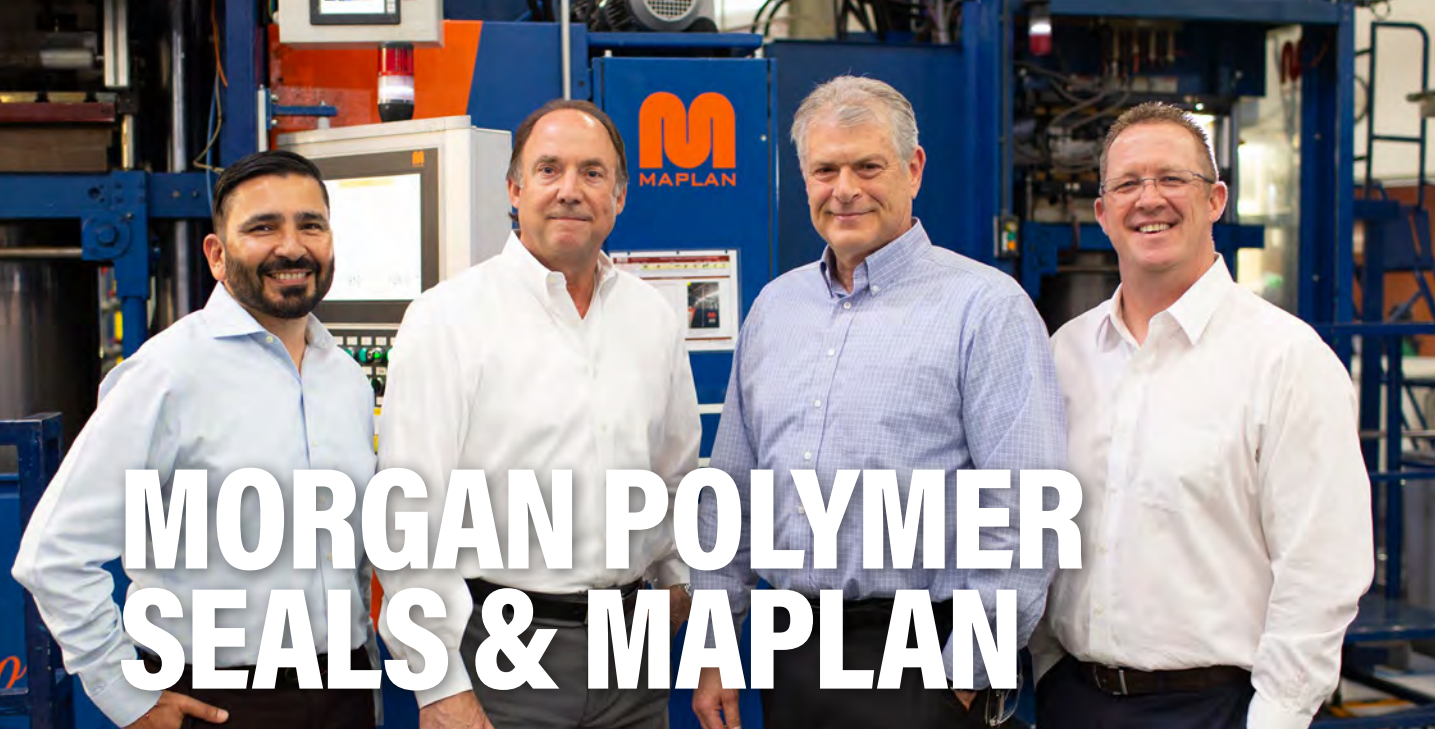
SPECIAL MACHINE IN LARGE-SCALE FORMAT: MAPLAN TWIN-RAM 560

TWIN-RAM 560 (5600 kN clamping force) uses heating platens with size of 800 x 1500 mm designed for maximum deflection of 0.05 mm at the center of the plate. For a specific project, the clamping unit was combined with two MAP.fifo injection units with injection volume of 50 ccm located from the top of the machine. Two injection units can inject in parallel or independent of each other. These high-precision injection units make it possible to inject very small shot volumes with high precision.

In this specific case, rubber seals are bonded on cylinder head gaskets, using this special machine. The gasket consists of thin rubber lips injected around cylinder bores, fixing holes etc. over the metal gasket. The entire injection volume of rubber is only 2 x 7 ccm for one part. High-precision gaskets with vary large dimensions and that do not require post molding operations like flash removal, can be produced with these machines.

TWIN-RAM machines are available with various shuttle systems to make loading and unloading of inserts and gaskets very easy. Moreover, various automation possibilities are also available from the MAPLAN portfolio.

Read more in our next newsletter:
The giant among elastomer injection molding machines
THE NEW MAPLAN SPECIAL⁺ MR/QUATTRO-RAM



MORGAN POLYMER SEALS & MAPLAN

(Left to right) Alex Borboa, General Manager, Kevin Morgan, President & CEO, Mark Conlee, Director of Engineering, Todd Tesky, VP of Sales

Over two decades of manufacturing success through **teamwork and technology**

Mexico provides a low-cost supply base for many manufacturers in North America and around the world. Among others, the automotive industry has long enjoyed the cost advantages of sourcing from Baja California - the northern-most state in Mexico, just across the border from San Diego. But lowering costs isn't everything, and in the wake of the global supply chain disruptions of 2020, purchasing directors are even more sensitive to one critical element: stability.

By partnering with Morgan Polymer Seals (MPS), automotive OEMs benefit from a reliable supplier that is privately-owned, debt-free, and experienced. And like MAPLAN, Morgan Polymer is a family company that provides personal customer service for its global partners. However, it is not easy to meet the demands of heavily-regulated car makers, so auto suppliers must deliver goods that adhere to strict quality standards. Starting with a single MAPLAN press in 1997, founder and CEO Kevin Morgan has quietly built a reputation as the innovative, on-time leader in precision rubber molding. Now, over two decades later, MPS continues to partner with MAPLAN for its Injection Molding, with seventeen machines that have helped the company earn distinguished quality awards from OEMs like Ford and General Motors, for several consecutive years.

ON-TIME DELIVERY WITH CUTTING-EDGE INJECTION MOLDING TECHNOLOGY

MPS has benefited from three generations of MAPLAN presses. "We've partnered with MAPLAN for our vertical-style injection molding presses since we started production. Their world-class machines help us achieve an industry-leading low scrap rate, which saves material," says Alex Borboa, General Manager. MAPLAN has helped us increase our capacity, improve quality, and reduce costs." Executives also highlight the machines' long lifespan and range of refurbishing options. "The MAPLAN presses utilize a 'full-stroking ram' to evenly distribute the clamp tonnage over the entire surface of the mold, which helps to maximize the life of the tool and protect the customers' tooling investment," confirms CEO Kevin Morgan.

> "For our company, MAPLAN presses are **the best in the world**"
>
> Kevin Morgan, Founder and CEO

To support its promise of on-time delivery, MPS commits to the continuous improvement of its strict internal quality controls. Engineering Director Mark Conlee explains, "On-time delivery is the natural result of quality manufacturing. MAPLAN machines employ a FIFO (first in, first out) injection process to ensure only fresh rubber is injected in the mold. The result is high-quality, flawless articles without any cured residual material. At the same time, the vacuum technology helps eliminate air traps from the finished product. And with the vertical presses, we can maximize our capacity by operating two presses in the same space that it takes to run a single horizontal press. These benefits save cost and matches our processes perfectly. And when we save money, our clients save money." And its dedication to the customer goes far beyond reducing costs. Morgan Polymer's full-service logistics includes 'safety stock' agreements, so customers enjoy peace of mind during seasons of unpredictable demand.

THE HARMONY OF GREAT PEOPLE WORKING WITH THE RIGHT TECHNOLOGY

CEO Kevin Morgan affirms, "There's a right way to make every part - and it takes lots of experience to manufacture quality rubber seals." Thus, it's no surprise that Morgan Polymer Seals values enthusiasm, further training and positivity in its workforce. "We take care of the good people we've got. Good people want to be part of a winning team, so we track achievements and reward superior performance. From management to maintenance, everyone is essential and deserve an individual development program.", says Sandra Martínez, HR manager. With centuries of combined engineering experience, Morgan Polymer's engineers keep up with the latest advancements in precision rubber molding, robotics, and vision inspection. "MAPLAN always fully supports our new ideas for an even better production process", adds Conlee. With the smart MAP.commander C6 control unit, MAPLAN supports every new production process introduced by its engineers. Furthermore, the userfriendly interface makes sure the machines are easy to operate.

A COMMON PHILOSOPHY BEST PRACTICE FOR THE FUTURE

MPS and MAPLAN share a common philosophy: continuous improvement. And the basis for this philosophy is a culture of discipline to support today's goals and pave the way for a better future. Morgan Polymer's Chief Revenue Officer, Sean Morgan, lays out the company's plans: "Our future sees us expanding into new product segments, new markets, and exploring other exciting opportunities. These are uncertain times for many mid-sized companies, but we're fortunate to be thriving from a strong financial position and experienced leadership. We're excited to see what the future holds."

Morgan Polymer Seals is a full-service, precision rubber molding company based in Baja California. To learn more, visit www.MorganPolymerSeals.com.

EVENTS

Save the Dates

- → **MARCH**
  - **17. - 19.03.2021** — Expobor Sao Paolo — Sao Paolo/BRAZIL
- → **APRIL**
  - **20. - 23.04.2021** — Tires & Rubber — Moscow/RUSSIA
- → **MAY**
  - **MAY 2021** — IRJ — Queretaro/MEXICO
  - **04. - 07.05.2021** — Plast Milano — Milano/ITALY
- → **JUNE**
  - **15.06 - 18.06.2021** — FIP — Lyon/FRANCE
  - **28.06 - 01.07.2021** — DKT Messe — Nuremberg/GERMANY
- → **OCTOBER**
  - **05. - 07.10.2021** — ACS Rubber Expo — Pittsburgh PA/USA

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