



Argotec news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARGOTEC EXPANDS BLOWN FILM CAPABILITY New Lab Line Expedites Product Development, Reduces Costs

GREENFIELD, Massachusetts — October 12, 2004 — Argotec, Inc., of Greenfield, Massachusetts, a global supplier of high-performance, precision-engineered polyurethane (TPU) film and sheet, announces the startup of its new blown film laboratory extrusion line. Identical in function to its full-sized blown film line, the lab extruder allows Argotec to run smaller test batches prior to committing customers to the expense of a full production run. It also avoids interruption of commercial production for trial runs on the company's full-size blown film line. The net result is faster, lower cost scale-up of commercial TPU blown film.

The Argotec lab line can produce thermoplastic film in thicknesses ranging from 0.8 to 20 mils, widths of 12 to 26 inches, and lengths of up to 100 feet. This compares with full-size blown film extruder production in thicknesses ranging from 0.8 to 20 mils, widths up to 85 inches, and run lengths measuring in miles.

The company's new laboratory extrusion system will be used for a variety of key functions, including:

1. Generating short-run film concept samples for customers.
2. Testing the processability and physical characteristics of new film formulations.

3. Performing preliminary tests of new product offerings from resin suppliers.

The installation of the blown film lab line emphasizes Argotec's commitment to research & development. It also enhances the company's ability to engineer a polyurethane or other TPE film compound to a customer's specific application requirements and then test the feasibility of the formulation in advance of a full production run, thus saving the customer significant development costs.

Argotec has developed a hard-earned reputation as a producer of precision engineered film products, excelling in four particular areas:

1. Offering a wide variety of resins and compounds.
2. Maintaining excellent gauge control.
3. Preserving consistent recipe control.
4. Utilizing a custom-solutions approach to customer service and product design.

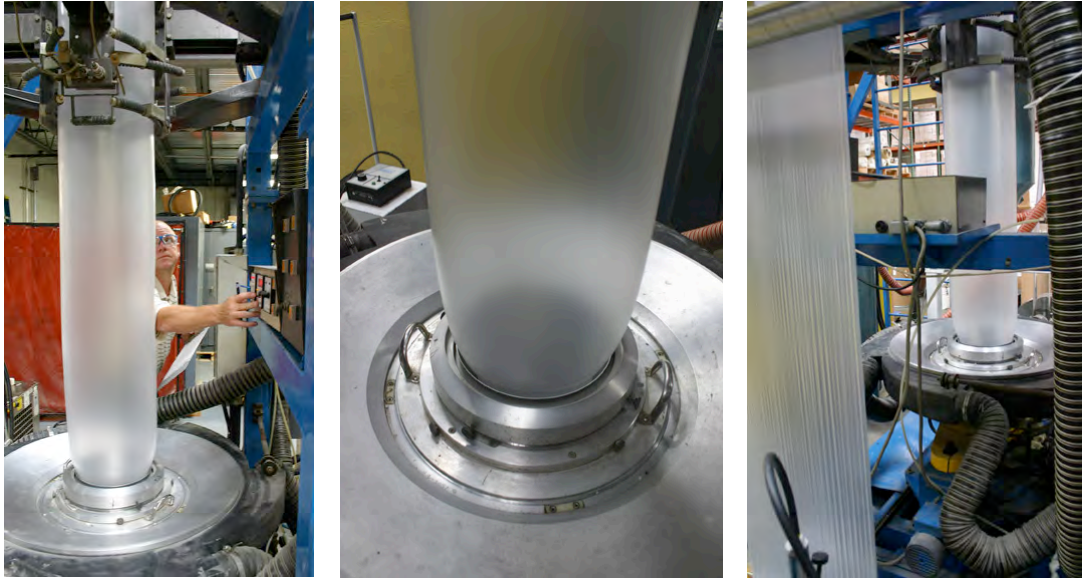
A privately-held, global supplier of custom-engineered, high-performance, polyurethane film and sheet for a wide variety of critical applications, Argotec utilizes blown film, cast-on-carrier and flat-die extrusion technologies. The company also plans to install a flat-die extruder lab line by the end of first quarter 2005. In addition to TPU, Argotec also offers precision film & sheet products made from a variety of other high-performance, specialty thermoplastic elastomers.

Successful uses of Argotec films include performance apparel applications where waterproof, breathable protection and maximum comfort is required; medical applications, such as elastic tapes, wound dressings, hospital mattresses and covers, transdermal patches and wheel chair cushions; automotive applications, including weatherable film for automotive paint protection, as well as barrier films for headliners and foamed-in-place seating, head rests and arm rests. Other common uses include bladders, inserts, sock liners and mid-sole materials for athletic applications, keyboard covers, industrial bellows, headset ear cushions, as well as diaper and apparel elastics.

Argotec sells products to the international specialty films market, primarily to plastics converters and fabricators, as well as directly to OEM's. Directed by a management team with over 100

years of combined urethane industry experience, Argotec is fast losing its status as “the best kept secret in the specialty films industry.”

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Technical director David Collette (upper left photo) examines the film bubble on Argotec’s new blown film laboratory extrusion line.



Vice-president of engineering Jim Antes (lower left photo) examines the film bubble on Argotec’s full-sized blown film line.