



## Plastics Technology Zone

Plastic technology is a specialised branch of study which includes the study of diverse types of chemicals that exhibits plasticity. It also involves the study of several methods in which plastics can be utilised for use in markets. This extensive Zone included the latest in plastics machinery, mould-making technologies, recycling materials, and the many plastics manufacturing processes. This area covered injection and blow moulding, extrusion, thermoforming, and compounding, mould making and toolmaking, and plastic technology processes. There were eight exhibitors in the Plastics Zone but it felt like so many more used the tech in their processes.

### Melbourne Rotomould – Melro.

Melbourne Rotomould is famous for custom and contract rotational moulding, with all their design, engineering, toolmaking, production and post production done in-house. They use PE, PP, Nylon, PVDF as well as a lot of recycled feedstock. Arriving at Melro's stand is exciting. Company director, Tim Leed is sitting in a bright blue Rotovelo that looks like a sports car, but it contains foot pedals inside for movement.

Leed explains that Melro roto moulds the plastic shell for Trisled, which builds the Rotovelo mobile, also known as a human powered vehicle. "Trisled came to us at Melro around 10 years ago. The company had been using carbon fibre and fibre glass to make the frames, which was taking around two to three weeks to build. We roto mould the frame in plastic for Trisled in a much shorter time."

The Rotovelo is mainly used for racing, but Leed adds that it can also be used by people with limited balance ability, as it is easier and more stable than riding a bicycle. Leed points to the large brown

noise wall panel at the back of the stand. "The government has shown interest in this. It's made out of 80% recycled soft plastics and is used to cut noise on freeways," Leed adds. He says the AMW2023 has been good so far with a few genuine enquiries.

[melro.com.au](http://melro.com.au)

Managing Director of PPC Moulding Services Pty Ltd, Grahame Aston enthusiastically shows the stand's visitors PPC's new innovatiQ silicon 3D printer. "We bought it last October and the German made machine has been shipped out of Europe for its launch here at Australian Manufacturing Week. This machine is the first of its kind in Australia."

He proudly shows a large diamond shaped silicone piece and then foot orthotics, that have been printed on the machine. The orthotics are very light compared to other more rigid traditional orthotic material. The machine can also print silicon prototypes, seals and bellows. [mouldingservices.com.au](http://mouldingservices.com.au)



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