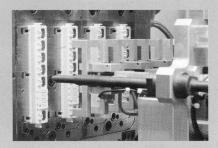
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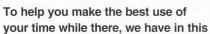




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20 On our cover: NPE2009

Take ANTEC, add packaging, moldmaking, business-oriented and rapid prototyping conferences, and stir in about 1500 companies doing their best to impress you. That powerful potion is NPE2009, and we shall be there in force to report back to you on what we see, hear, and learn.



issue continued the preview begun in last month's. Even more preview information can be found in our Web Exclusive article at mpw.plasticstoday.com. And, as if that is not enough, check out NPE2009 Central at our interactive web portal, PlasticsToday.com, to get up-to-date news on flight and hotel costs, conference news, and more.



Germany's Viega, the largest PEX extruder in North America, builds a new plant in Kansas that takes efficiency to a whole new level. Plus, semifinished composite-sandwich construction elements add options to the lightweighting quest.

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Sydney, Australia's Romar decided that if market conditions were tacking away from its traditional strengths, it was time to engineer a new niche.