K 2025: The World´s No. 1 Trade Fair for Plastics and Rubber

The Power of Plastics! Green – Smart – Responsible

Basic Press Release

The World's No. 1 Trade Fair
for Plastics and Rubber
8-15 OCTOBER 2025
Düsseldorf, Germany
k-online.com

From 8 to 15 October 2025, K in Düsseldorf will once again be the central stage for the international plastics and rubber industry. Around 3,200 exhibitors from 66 countries will present innovative solutions, forward-looking products and impressive machines in live operation.

With its motto "The Power of Plastics! Green – Smart – Responsible," it sets clear priorities. This reflects the industry's current values and targets, and underlines that plastics form an indispensable component of numerous sectors of industry that make a major contribution to innovation and progress. At the same time, the motto of the forthcoming K stands for the industry's commitment to act sustainably, smartly and responsibly in producing and handling the material that is plastic.

Especially in today's challenging times K in Düsseldorf underscores its role as the world's No. 1 trade fair. It is the place where the complete value chain is presented at the highest level. Nowhere else are innovations on show in such high concentration, nowhere else can so many product launches be seen as at K in Düsseldorf. On the one hand, it is *the* global showcase of an active, innovative and responsible sector, on the other hand, it is also *the* platform where the future is shaped – be it by trail-blazing technologies, in-depth discussions of global challenges or as a point of departure for joint ventures across borders.

Facts, figures and international flair

K impresses not only with its sheer dimensions but also with the variety of nations represented. It has been completely booked up since May 2024. Over 177,000 sqm net exhibition space in the 18 exhibition halls and on the outdoor premises provide room for the entire spectrum of the plastics and rubber industry:

- Machinery and equipment: Halls 1, 3-4, 8b as well as 9-17
- Raw materials and auxiliaries: Halls 5, 6, 7, 7a, 8a, 8b

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Mitgliedschaften der
Messe Düsseldorf:

ufi The global Association of the Exhibition Industry

AUMA Ausstellungs- und Messe-Ausschuss der Deutschen Wirtschaft

FKM – Gesellschaft zur Freiwilligen Kontrolle von Messe- und Ausstellungszahlen

Öffentliche Verkehrsmittel:
U78, U79: Messe Ost/Stockumer Kirchstr.
Bus 722: Messe-Center/Verwaltung

- Semi-finished products, technical parts and products of reinforced plastics: Halls 5, 6, 7, 7a, 8a, 8b

The international appeal of K is unparalleled: the last event in 2022 was attended by 3,020 exhibitors from 59 nations and 177. 486 visitors from 167 countries. Particularly well represented were the exhibitors from Europe, Asia and the USA and a total of 71% of trade visitors hailed from abroad.

In 2025, exhibitors from Europe in particular will once again be strongly represented, especially from Germany, Italy, Turkey, Austria, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Spain. At the same time, K clearly shows the changes in the global market: the number and exhibition space of companies from Asia have remained at a consistently high level for years. The presence of companies from China, India and Taiwan will be particularly impressive. In addition, the USA will once again be represented by a larger group of exhibitors.

The high number of innovations as well as the presence of all market leaders are regularly rated with top scores by K visitors (98% visitor´s satisfaction). This relates not only to plastics and rubber product manufacturers but also to industrial end users that regularly visit K. These include experts from the fields of automotive, packaging, electrical engineering, electronics, communications, construction, medical device technology or aviation and aerospace. They all appreciate the trade fair as a source of inspiration for their industries and products as well as a platform to discover pioneering innovations that help them successfully hold their own alongside international competitors.

The guiding topics of K 2025: shaping the future

K 2025 has set itself the task of tackling the key challenges of our time and presenting concrete solutions. This is also reflected in the three guiding topics:

Shaping the circular economy

The industry is increasingly working on a sustainable circular economy that promotes the reuse, recycling and the reduction of plastic waste.

Embracing digitalisation

The plastics and rubber industry players are aware of the transformative power of digitalisation and deploy more and more digital technologies to increase the efficiency of their machinery and products and to drive innovations.

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Caring about people

The sector is aware of its social responsibility with regard to environmental protection. The focus is here on the responsible handling of resources. At the same time, it promotes young talent and creates future perspectives for young professionals in the plastics and rubber sector.

K 2025 invites its exhibitors, experts, multipliers and interested parties from all over the world to follow its motto and jointly shape the future of the plastics and rubber industry.

Highlights and new formats at K 2025

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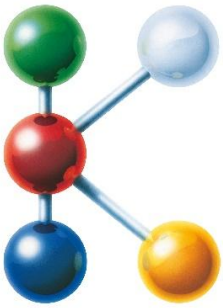
The Specials at K 2025 will pick up on the trade fair's guiding topics. They comprise proven successful formats while focusing on innovations at the same time:

Special: "Plastics Shape the Future": the official Special Show of K is a project by the German plastics industry headed by PlasticsEurope Deutschland e. V. and Messe Düsseldorf. It illustrates the fascinating developments already happening now and how the visions for tomorrow are already on the way to being implemented today; but it also highlights the important role international politics play in this. "Plastics Shape the Future" comprises seven themed days – featuring discussions on innovative technologies and materials, keynotes, a political panel, Career Day and Start-up Pitch.

VDMA Forum: In 2025 VDMA (German Machinery and Equipment Manufacturers Association) will again present a comprehensive Forum on the outdoor premises, this time entitled "The Power of Plastics". Located outdoors between Halls 10 and 16, the VDMA and 6 of its member companies will demonstrate just how relevant technology is for implementing circularity in the plastic industry. In addition, the

Association in the VDMA Pavilion offers not only selected finished products and live presentations but also ample room for discussion and interaction with workshops, panel discussions and events for young talents.



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Rubberstreet: In 2025 Rubberstreet will again serve as the showcase for the innovative power and operational excellence of the elastomer sector. Already since 1983 it has been the "first port of call" and orientation point for all those interested in learning more about elastomers (rubber & TPE) at K. The patron of Rubberstreet is wdk (German Rubber Industry Association).

Start-up Zone: The Start-up Zone successfully debuted at the last edition of K. It will also be continued in 2025 and extended to provide a platform for as many newcomers as possible who are specifically dedicated to the development of innovative products and solutions in the fields of plastics and rubber.

Science Campus: At the Science Campus universities, colleges and institutes will present their latest plastics research findings. A new concept of the Science Campus permits exhibitors – in addition to exhibiting with their own stands – to also take part in the Science Campus Center as an extra option.

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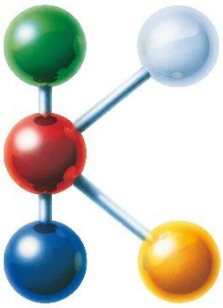
Young Talents Lounge: The plastics industry faces massive recruitment problems. Often, however, the simple reason for this is school leavers' lack of knowledge about the variety of skilled occupations and career opportunities in the plastics industry. With a view to also securing sufficient young talent in future the GKV (German Plastics Converters Association) will invite young people and job starters to the Young Talents Lounge for the first time at K 2025. Here, the plastics training will be accessible virtually and in-person and first-hand student experiences will be shared with the trade fair audience.

Women in Plastics: This networking event specifically designed for women will debut at K 2025. Successful women in the international plastics sector will report in a panel discussion and best-practice talks on their careers and experiences and will be available for questions from the audience. The aim is to promote exchange with one another,

strengthen professional networks and enhance the visibility of female leaders in the sector.

Details on all specials are available at the following link: Programme at K 2025



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K Services

Part of K in Düsseldorf's success formula is its focus on service. Thanks to its extensive digital services you can conveniently plan your perfect trade fair visit in the run-up to the event.

The Ticketshop for K 2025 is open at www.k-online.com. The eTicket can be scanned as a print-out or straight from your smartphone display at the exhibition centre turnstiles, avoiding long queues to get into the halls.

The **K-App** (for iOS and Android) will allow you to conveniently and permanently access news from the entire sector and helpful tips related to the trade fair both in the run-to and during your visit to K. The App will also provide access to the exhibitor database, which can already be found at k-online right now.

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The **matchmaking-tool Fair Match** enables trade visitors and all exhibitors to search for matching contacts at K-online from August. All you need to do is enter your interests and search parameters. By quickly matching these interests, recommendations and personalised proposals are generated immediately. This allows exhibitors and visitors to already make contact or conveniently schedule appointments during the runtime before the trade fair.

K Community

K in Düsseldorf underscores and consolidates its pole position as its industry's central communication and information platform by extending the face-to-face event to include additional digital offerings throughout the year.

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K-MAG

K-MAG is the online magazine of K. It targets all industries related to K and delivers facts, news, stories and trends from the international plastics and rubber industry in German and English all year round. In so doing, it also follows the guiding topics of the trade fair. It's all in the mix – which is why the K-MAG features a wide range of different sections and formats, be it expert articles, interviews, industry news or videos. The K-MAG can be accessed via the usual website www.k-online.com under the "Media & News" tab.

K-monthly is the name of K's e-Newsletter. Subscribers not only receive the most interesting news and stories from the K-MAG by e-mail every month, but also current information related to K in Düsseldorf and the K-Global Gate family of international trade fairs. Registration via the K website or the K-MAG.

"Whats-up in plastics & rubber?" is the name of K's new LinkedIn Newsletter. It provides current insights from and for the plastics and rubber industry – and for all K followers – in a compact and concise format on a monthly basis.

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Düsseldorf – lively metropole on the Rhine

Diverse, dynamic and international: Düsseldorf has ranked among the Top 10 most liveable cities in the world for years. As the capital of North Rhine-Westphalia, it is not only a centre for shopping and lifestyle, but also an important hub for the global economy. In addition, the city is located in the heart of one of the densest research and education networks in Europe. Trade fair visitors benefit from excellent infrastructure in the fields of communication, transit, accommodation and leisure. A shuttle bus service runs regularly between the exhibition centre and Düsseldorf Airport, which is close by. The exhibition centre is also just a few minutes away by taxi. But Düsseldorf is not just a compelling destination thanks to its innovative strength and international flair; the city's hospitality, typical of the Rhineland, is also a major attraction. A trip to the famous Old Town offers the perfect opportunity to wind down from a successful day at the trade fair in a relaxed setting.

About K in Düsseldorf: *K was held by Messe Düsseldorf for the first time in 1952 and is now held every 3 years. The latest edition of K in 2022 registered 3,020 exhibitors from 59 countries on 177,516 m² net exhibition space and 177,486 trade visitors, 71% of whom came from abroad. For more information go to www.k-online.com*

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