


Shell Polymers


Beyond the Blow Molder

MONDAY, October 5, 2026

	Attendee and Exhibitor Check-in and Set-up		
1:30 – 4:00 p.m.	Plastics 101s and The Business of Blow Molding		
Session 1 <i>Botanic Garden Ballroom A</i> Moderator: Andrew Hobson, Bekum America This session will also be live-streamed	1:30 pm – 2:15 pm Reciprocating Screw EBM Technology Nicholas Rocheleau, Director of Engineering Rocheleau Tool & Die Co., Inc.	2:20 pm – 3:05 pm Multi-Layer Extrusion Blow Molding Jens Schlueter, President, W. Müller USA, Inc.	3:10 pm – 3:55 pm Shuttle Blow Molding Technology 101 Joe Slenk, Manager, Applications and Process Development, Bekum America
Session 2 <i>Botanic Garden B</i> Moderator: Manuel Heusinger, CPM	1:30 pm – 2:15 pm Injection Blow Molding 101 Philippe Couture, IBM & CNC Consultant, Owner, Optimisation Philippe Couture, Inc.	2:20 pm – 3:05 pm Digital Printing for Extrusion Blow Molded Articles Dietmar Michels, Business Development Engineer, Delta Engineering	3:10 pm – 3:55 pm Laser Texturing 101 Chad Hase, Director, Advanced Manufacturing, Custom Etch Inc.
Session 3 <i>River Ballroom</i> Moderator: David Brooks, Graham Packaging Company	1:30 pm – 2:15 pm Shaping the Future of Technical Blow Molders Kyler Ruark, President, Molding Service Group, LLC	2:20 pm – 3:05 pm High-Order Pressure–Volume Relationship for Improved Simulation of Stretch Blow Molding Processes Dr. Zohir Benrabah, Research Officer, Forming & Blow Molding Scientist, National Research Council Canada	3:10 pm – 3:55 pm Student Design Winners Presentations Brady Rametta, Penn State Behrend, Trevor Culbertson, Nathan Zook, Luke Springman, Pennsylvania College of Technology
4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Ravinia Ballroom DEF	 Exhibitor Reception and Strolling Dinner		

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Registration and Continental Breakfast <i>Ravinia ABC</i>	
8:30 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. <i>Ravinia Ballroom DEF</i>	General Session I Moderator: Eric Simmons, CKS Packaging	
8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	Welcome and Chairman's Message Eric Simmons, CKS Packaging	
8:45 a.m. – 8:50 a.m.	NPE Bottle Zone Update and Deadlines Michael Urquhart, Consultant, Plastics Industry Association	
8:50 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.	Keynote Speakers Vertical Lessons Manley Feinberg, award-winning keynote speaker and author	
9:55 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.	Advancing the Plastics Circular Economy with Breakthrough Material Identification Technology Jill Martin, Sr. R&D/TS&D Fellow, Packaging, Specialty Plastics & Hydrocarbons, Dow, Inc.	
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Mid-Morning Break, Connecting & Exhibits <i>Ravinia ABC</i>	
11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. <i>Ravinia Ballroom DEF</i>	General Session II Moderator: Jens Schlueter, W. Muller USA Inc.	
11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	2026 Lifetime Achievement Award and Preview of ABC 2027, October 18-20 St. Charles Convention Center, St. Charles, Missouri	
12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. <i>River Ballroom</i>	Luncheon Scholarship Recipients, Student Design Winners	
2:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. <i>Botanical Garden Ballroom A</i>	Session 1A: Innovation in Processing Moderator: Josh Kouba, Radius Packaging	
2:05 pm – 2:35 pm Laser Heating Technology Redefines PET Blowing after Four Decades of Halogen Heat Didier Decrock, Director, Portfolio PET Solutions, Sidel Group	2:40 p.m. – 3:10 p.m. Advanced Heat Management for Large Preform Reheating Tetiana Pronikova, Head of Marketing PET Technologies, GmbH	3:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. Roadmap to Sustainable Low-Carbon Products at Scale Harpreet Singh, NA R&D/TS&D Director Packaging and Specialty Plastics The Dow Chemical Company
2:00 pm – 3:45 p.m. <i>Botanical Garden Ballroom B</i>	Session 1B: Driving Performance Through Innovation and Sustainability Moderator: Andrew Steiner, ALPS Inspection	
2:05 pm – 2:35 pm Innovative New Processing Solution for Cost Saving and Quality Improvement Heinz Gross, Dr. Ig. Gross Kunststoff-Verfahrenstechnik	2:40 p.m. – 3:10 p.m. Sustainable Packaging That Performs and Stands Out at the Point-of-Sale Dennis Dube, Global Sales Lead, fhw-moulds GmbH	3:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. How to Measure Greenhouse Gas Emissions to Achieve Net-Zero Chaitu Gogula, Operations Manager, Arch Plastics Packaging

TUESDAY, October 6, 2026,cont.

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Exhibits and Connecting Reception <i>Ravinia ABC</i>
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WEDNESDAY, October 7, 2026

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast and Exhibits <i>Ravinia Ballroom ABC</i>	
8:30 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. <i>Ravinia Ballroom D</i>	Session 2A: Artificial Intelligence in Blow Molding & Manufacturing Moderator: Josh Kouba, Radius Packaging	
8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Can AI Run a Blow Molding Machine? Opportunities and Limits of AI in Plastic Processing Aleksandr Kharazov, Regional Sales Manager, ST Blowmoulding	9:05 a.m. – 9:35 a.m. AI-Powered Manufacturing Productivity and Employee Engagement Marshall Price, Sr. Account Executive, QAD Redzone	9:40 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. AI Technologies for Optimizing Spare Parts Availability Michael Minc, Director of Energy and Manufacturing, Verusen
10:10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Mid-Morning Break, Connecting & Exhibits <i>Ravinia Ballroom ABC</i>	
10:30 a.m.–12:10 p.m. <i>Ravinia Ballroom D</i>	Session 2B: Sustainable Solutions in Blow Molding Moderator: Mike Misco, Shell Polymers	
10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Beyond the Blow Molder: Unlocking Hidden Profitability Through Strategic Procurement and Supply Chain Partnerships Josh Dillman, Category Mgr., Packaging, and Joel Bryant, VP, Purchasing & Business Dev., All Star Purchasing	11:05 a.m. – 11:35 a.m. Sustainability from the Lens of Converters Ranier Sattel, Management Consultant, AST Kunststoffverarbeitung	11:40 a.m. – 12:10 p.m. Student Senior Project Presentation Pittsburg State University Effect of Post-Consumer Recycled Content on Blow Molded High-Density Polyethylene Bottles, Hayden Sprague, Jacob Culross
12:15 p.m. – 1:00 pm <i>River Ballroom</i> 1:00 p.m. – 1:45 pm Moderator: Geoff Ward, Agri-Industrial Plastics Company	Luncheon, 2026 Parts Competition Winners and Recognition of The Blow Molder Excellence Award <i>and</i> Closing Speaker Global Blow Molding Resin Update Joel Morales, Jr., Executive Director, Polyolefins Americas, Chemical Market Analytics by OPIS, a Dow Jones company	

Mark your calendars now!

