

In May 2005, the first International Conference on Polymeric Materials in Automotive, PMA 2005, was organized in Bratislava as a reflection of steeply rising importance of automotive industry in Slovakia, derived from the presence of dominant investors in Slovakia, namely Volkswagen, PSA, and recently Kia Hyundai including a number of other companies – suppliers of plastics and rubber parts being a significant part of them – building up their new facilities in the country. The conference attracted almost 200 participants from 21 countries and was considered as successful by all attendees. The appreciated feature consisted in a fact that, although targeted to polymeric materials used in automotive industry, the scope of the conference was kept highly scientific. Thus, new ideas have been presented, many of these being far away from industrial application, still contributing significantly to a progress in the area.

Slovakia has recently experienced a significant flow of direct investment from abroad. This tendency seems to be continuing as a result of well educated and highly skilled labor force and ideal central location serving as a gateway to Eastern Europe.

Reflecting this development, for the second time Slovakia will host the participants of the International Conference on Polymeric Materials in Automotive, PMA 2007. Similar to the PMA 2005, the conference is targeted on various aspects related to plastics and rubber in the automotive industry, with the aim to exchange the innovative approaches towards new polymer products increasingly having a decisive influence on the design and appearance of new generation of automobiles. Developing goals such as aesthetic appeal and comfort, safety and lightweight construction, as well as quality and cost are affected directly by the material concept and the corresponding processing and product technology.

International scientific conference on rubber, Slovak Rubber Conference, is organized every year by the Rubber Research Institute of Matador Púchov. In 2007 this traditional event will be a part of the second International Conference on Polymeric Materials in Automotive.

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