

Pro4Plast

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50 % faster to the market at 30 % less cost

The way to improve the competitiveness of the European plastics injection moulding industry

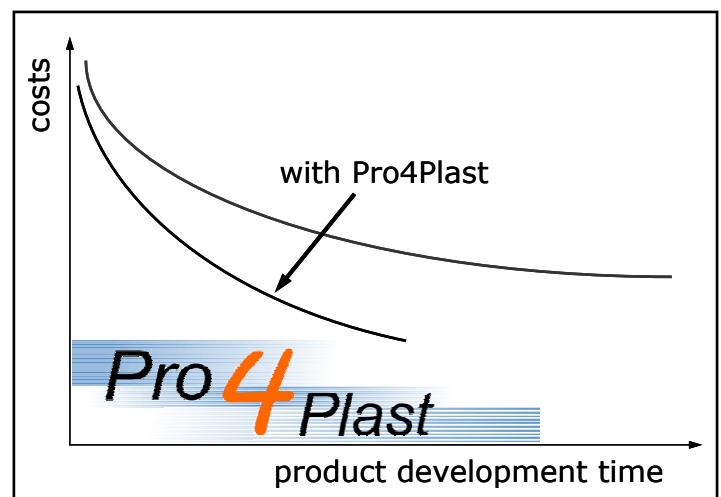
The injection moulding and mould making industry with 1.5 million employed people and an annual turnover of EUR 150 billion mainly based on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is one of the key industries in Europe. Although the European plastics industry is the worldwide technology leader it is facing significant threats from low-wage countries due to high costs and long development times.

One of the key factors to succeed in competition with low-wage countries is the endeavour to produce complex and highly functional parts in a fast and cost effective way. Especially the development of these parts has to be based on technological know-how and a systematic approach. The trial and error method which is still widely used nowadays will not keep the European injection moulding industry at its leading position.

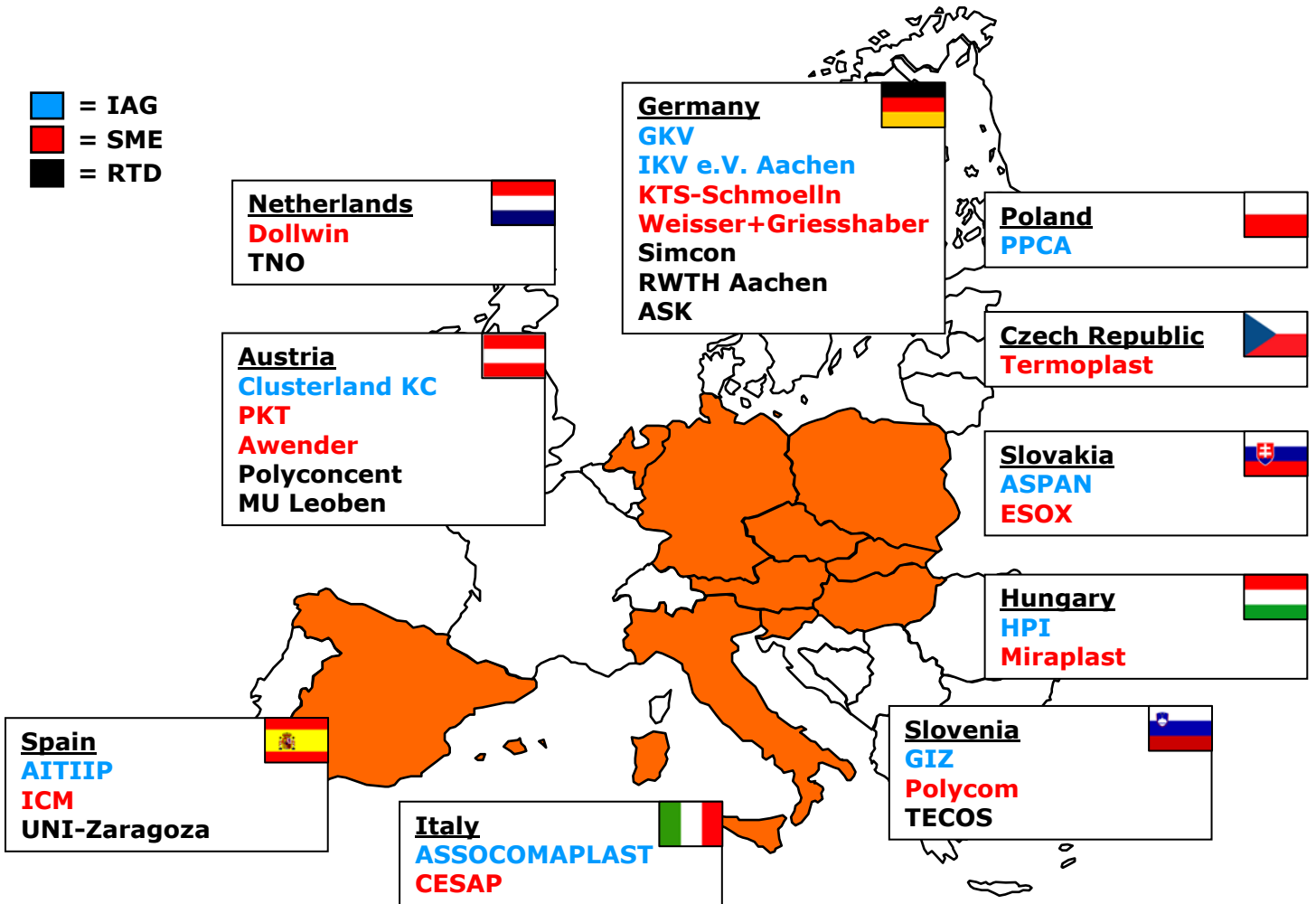
The aim of the Pro4Plast project is to provide the European plastics injection moulding and mould making industry with this systematic approach suitable to develop and produce complex, highly functional parts at low costs with short time-to-market. To achieve these strategic goals and to sustainably strengthen the SME-competitiveness, a consortium of 28 partners will develop new technologies, which imply

- a product development guidance system (PDGS) in order to ensure a systematic approach,
- an enhanced injection moulding simulation software (multi component and insert-moulding) and an in-house viscosity measurement system both applicable by SMEs and
- a new training and implementation model for European SMEs including certification.

Using the newly developed approach and technologies it will be possible to reduce the production costs by 30 % and the time-to-market by 50 %. A top-class team of 8 leading scientific institutes (RTDs) will assure the achievement of these ambitious project targets. The 11 SMEs from the mould making and plastics processing industry will prove usefulness and practicability of the new technologies in their everyday work. 9 leading European Industrial Association Groups (IAGs) will guarantee, that the European plastics industry will get access to the new technologies.



Participants in the Pro4Plast project:



Knowledge

Pro4Plast is a Collective Research project supported by the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) of the European Commission. Collective Research is a scheme where RTD performers undertake scientific and technological research activities on behalf of Industrial Association Groups (IAG) in order to expand the knowledge base of large communities of SMEs and thus improve their general standard of competitiveness.

Pro4Plast was launched in September 2006. The consortium will work on the subjects described for 36 months.

For further information on the project results, how to participate or support Pro4Plast please contact your national contact point or visit our website

www.pro4plast.net

[Logo National contact point]

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