



TR0700135

## Electron Beam Processing of Polymers: Facts and Opportunities

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Electron Beam (EB) processing of polymers is a well established and mature technology in a multitude of industrial polymer applications for more than 40 years. Constant research effort in combination with emerging tailored EB process technologies, have led to numerous new (niche) applications and products within the past decade. Nonetheless, and despite the fact, that nowadays a large variety of EB and related process equipment is readily available for use by the respective industries, EB processing of polymers still takes up only a small niche in comparison to the overall polymer business.

In this lecture the author attempts to present a short overview on the current industrial established and emerging radiation processing applications and the related EB equipment suppliers. Then some selected plastics business facts and figures with a forecast of the global plastics consumption situation up to 2010 will be shown.

As a conclusion from these facts, some comments will be deduced, regarding the future potential, attractiveness and economical relevance of irradiation processing technologies in present day competitive global markets.