

## **Canadian Plastics Processing Machinery and Equipment for World Markets: An Overview**

Canada's plastics processing equipment manufacturers have helped "shape" the world plastics industry for more than 50 years. In 1931, the first injection-moulding machine in North America was installed in Toronto and the first product made was a cap for toothpaste tube. Today, Canadian plastics processing equipment is used to produce every type of plastic product imaginable, from sophisticated telecommunications parts to large corrugated pipes. Canada annually exports more than \$300 million worth of machines and moulds, and Canada's innovative manufacturers are recognized throughout the world for their ability to provide the most advanced lines of processing equipment available.

The Canadian plastics industry is Canada's third largest industry. Total annual shipments exceed \$5 billion, with the plastics industry growing at a faster rate than the rest of the Canadian economy.

Within this large and varied industry, Canadian equipment manufacturers play a vital role by supplying machinery and materials for virtually all plastics processing stages. This diversity is demonstrated by the fact that no single machine or type of mould distinguishes Canada's line of equipment, which includes ingredient weighing and blending machines, extruders and co-extruders, injection-and blow-moulding machines, material feed screw, etc.. In addition to supplying a standard line of equipment, Canadian plastics processing equipment manufacturers are able to customize all machines and moulds to meet a wide range of specialized processing requirements.

Canadian manufacturers have traditionally kept a step ahead of their international competition by being heavily involved in research and development. This has led to several innovative types of processing equipment and to improvements on existing equipment, and also has helped solve many of the problems associated with manufacturing plastic products.

In recent years, export sales of Canadian plastics processing equipment have grown at an astounding rate. In fact, in the past five years alone, annual export sales of Canadian processing equipment have tripled, and Canadian equipment and moulds are now commonly used to create a wide range of plastic products throughout Europe, the United States, South America, Japan and China.

The popularity of Canadian equipment is easy to understand. Today, as they have throughout their history Canadian manufacturers are constantly developing and introducing newer, more efficient ways of producing plastic products. By doing so, Canadian manufacturers are sure to improve on their success and continue shaping the way plastic products are made throughout the world.