



iapd

international association
of plastics distribution

media release

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Contact: Carly Rodgers, Marketing and Education Manager
+ 913.345.1005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IAPD Celebrates Plastics in South Beach at 57th Annual Convention and Plastics Showcase

An exciting locale, first-ever design competition and buzzing showcase floor are part of IAPD's successful celebration of plastics at its premier annual event.

Overland Park, KS — The International Association of Plastics Distribution (IAPD)'s premier annual event was held for the 57th year September 30 through October 2 at the [Loews Miami Beach Hotel](#) in Miami, FL. Full convention and one-day delegates celebrated innovative plastics applications and the stories plastics tell through the first-ever [IAPD Plastics Application Design Competition](#), participated in [educational sessions](#) from renowned [keynote speakers](#) as well as industry experts and connected at exciting [networking gatherings](#).

IAPD's annual convention delivered its traditional events and activities designed to educate members, plastics professionals and other key end-users about plastics while reinforcing the value of distribution. In addition, this year's event incorporated something new, exciting and different: A celebration of the vast capabilities plastics offer the [Top 24 markets](#) and the industry leaders who work tirelessly to promote plastics as the material of choice for applications. A highlight of the event was when the [three finalists](#) of the first-ever IAPD Plastics Application Design Competition presented unique and innovative plastics applications to a packed room, including:

1. An application for telescoping prosthetic arms designed for children presented by Nonspec of the University of Massachusetts Lowell, using PEEK and nylon rods sources through IAPD distributor member Total Plastics, Inc.
2. A large-scale portable sculpture that merges city architecture with green spaces that engage the public, presented by IAPD manufacturer member Vycom using their Celtec Ultra White solid PVC material.
3. A metal-replacing bearing that reduces operating costs and improves production efficiency at a large food products manufacturer presented by Cope Plastics, Inc. using Ketron MD, the first use of this material in North America.

The celebration started with a special video that was shown during the opening general session on Tuesday, October 1, to acknowledge and recognize the diligent efforts of association volunteers, and a silent and live auction were held on Wednesday, October 2, to benefit the [IAPD Charitable Foundation](#) which funds IAPD's annual scholarship program.

As a way to promote growth of the plastics industry and to celebrate the success of its members, IAPD reformatted its exposition concept into a Plastics Showcase; all 70 booths sold out, 63 by member companies and seven by nonmember companies. An exposition for end-users was held the last three years as part of IAPD's annual convention where member and nonmember companies exhibited their products and materials on a public show floor to further educate designers, specifiers, OEMs and more about various plastics materials and how they are being used. Going forward, IAPD will hold the exposition and Plastics Showcase every other year, with the exposition being held [next year in Chicago, IL](#), on Thursday, October 30, and the Plastics Showcase being held in 2015.

To conclude the celebrations on Wednesday, October 2, the [South Beach Pub Crawl](#) replaced IAPD's typical closing party. Full convention and one-day delegates hit the bustling streets of South Beach and partied the night away at three of Miami's hottest clubs: the Clevelander, Ocean's Ten and Mango's Tropical Cafe.

"For the last three years the IAPD annual convention has focused on promoting plastics to end-users and educating them on the benefits of using plastics over other materials, and while this remains as one of IAPD's five strategic priorities, IAPD's leadership believes it is equally important to recognize and celebrate the IAPD members, plastics professionals, press and students who continuously tell the compelling stories of plastics," said IAPD CEO Susan E. Avery, CAE. "South Beach was the perfect setting for a celebratory experience that will be remembered by attendees as one of the best IAPD annual conventions of all time and we thank everyone who helped make it happen."

About IAPD

The International Association of Plastics Distribution (IAPD), established in 1956, brings together distributors, fabricators, manufacturers, manufacturers' representatives, recyclers and service providers in an environment which encourages a free flow of ideas and information that help members build their businesses. Every program and service we provide is designed with the simple goal of helping our members increase profitability. Membership in IAPD is an affordable business investment. IAPD provides training, connections with customers and suppliers and information about developments that impact the industry. What makes IAPD unique is a commitment to educating customers and other key end-users about plastics. In other words, IAPD works with members to build the demand for plastics. Central to this effort is the reinforcement of the value of distribution. For more information, visit www.iapd.org.

This release and more are available in IAPD's [Press Room](#).



6734 W. 121st Street, Overland Park, KS 66209 USA
phone: +913.345.1005 fax: +913.345.1006
www.iapd.org iapd@iapd.org
Susan E. Avery, CAE, Chief Executive Officer