

Plastics.

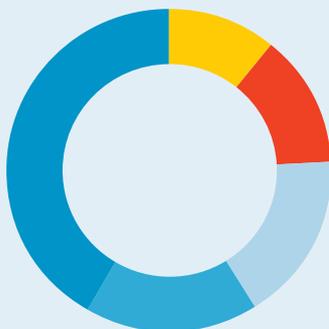
Thuringia's plastics sector – a growth industry in Central Germany.



The Thuringian plastics industry is a success story with over 100 years of tradition. Known for their technical expertise and innovativeness, local plastics companies are among the biggest revenue generators in the state.

Sub-sectors by employees

(Source: In-house calculations based on data supplied by the Thuringian State Statistical Office, July 2014)



■ packaging materials from plastics	10.4%
■ other rubber products	12.1%
■ building materials from plastic	15.6%
■ panels, films, tubes, and profiles from plastics	17.2%
■ other plastic products	44.6%

Thuringia's plastics industry at a glance:

- › approx. 490 companies
- › around 16,000 employees in 184 companies with 20 employees and more
- › € 3 billion in revenue
- › 35.1 % export ratio
- › 5 universities
- › market and technology leaders such as BASF, MANN + HUMMEL, REHAU and Veritas
- › nearby chemical parks with potential suppliers and customers (e.g. in Leuna, Bitterfeld and Zeitz)

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Skilled specialists – the keystone of success.

The deep expertise of vocational training associations and institutions as well as world-class universities will prime your business to succeed. Thuringia knows the value of producing a workforce with skills tailored to a particular industry.



“Plastics are still at the beginning of their development cycle. With its cutting-edge infrastructure, skilled workforce, research institutions and universities, Thuringia is an ideal environment for the national and international plastics process sector to grow.”

Matthias Grafe, Managing Director,
GRAFE Advanced Polymers GmbH,
Blankenhain

University education

Around 4,500 students are being trained as highly skilled engineers at five universities in fields directly or indirectly related to plastics.

Key degree programs:

- › Mechanical Engineering (B.Sc./M.Sc.), Ilmenau University of Technology (TU Ilmenau)
- › Materials Science – Materials Engineering Concentration (B.Sc./M.Sc.), TU Ilmenau
- › Materials Science – Materials Science Concentration (B.Sc./M.Sc.), University of Jena (provided in cooperation with TU Ilmenau)
- › Applied Plastics Engineering (B.Eng.), University of Applied Sciences (UAS) Schmalkalden
- › Mechanical Engineering (B.Eng./M.Eng.), UAS Schmalkalden
- › Materials Engineering (B.Eng.), Ernst Abbe University of Applied Sciences Jena
- › Materials Engineering (M.Eng.), Ernst Abbe University of Applied Sciences Jena
- › Plastics Engineering (B.Eng.), Eisenach University of Cooperative Education

Vocational und further training

Thuringia strongly supports vocational training programs for high school students and trainees. Managers and engineers in the plastics and automotive industries can acquire an executive degree in Product Management for Plastics Engineering at the University of Applied Sciences Schmalkalden.

PolymerMat, Thuringia’s plastics industry cluster, is deeply committed to promoting vocational training programs for tomorrow’s professionals. Its FAKT initiative aims at significantly improving vocational training for the Thuringian plastics industry. The initiative’s programs target the interfaces between conventional schools, technical schools and companies.

Plastics innovations secure market shares.

Thuringia understands the importance of application-oriented research and development of high-performance polymers. You can benefit from working with competent partners and co-innovators at world-class industry research institutes.

Thuringian Institute of Textile and Plastics Research (TITK)

The Thuringian Institute of Textile and Plastics Research (TITK) performs both preliminary and applied research in the industrial sector. It supports small and medium-sized companies in their innovation endeavours by providing them with scientific know-how, industry knowledge and a modern technical infrastructure.

Main areas of research:

- › native polymer and chemical research
- › plastic, textile and materials research
- › functional polymer systems
- › physical research

www.titk.de

East Thuringian Materials Testing Company

The East Thuringian Materials Testing Company for Textiles and Plastics, a subsidiary of TITK, provides services in plastics testing and problem simulation.

www.ompg.de

INNOVENT e.V.

The technological development organization INNOVENT, located in Jena, conducts research in the fields of physical and chemical coating technology and material and systems development. Based on thorough preliminary research, it pursues development assignments on behalf of industrial companies as far as the application stage.

www.innovent-jena.de

TITV Institute of Textile Research Thüringen-Vogtland

The institute specializes in two fields – the development and integration of microsystems in textiles and other flexible structures and the development of innovative materials based on cutting-edge textile technologies and materials.

Its core specialties include:

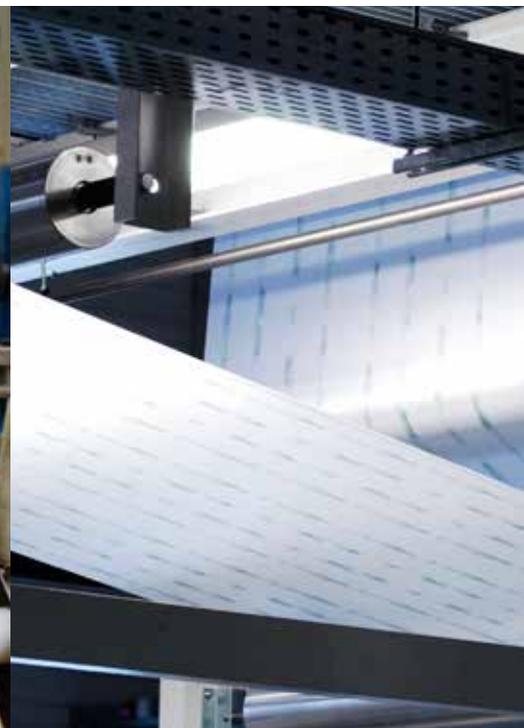
- › medical textiles
- › smart textiles
- › technical applications and renewable materials

www.titv-greiz.de

Future Cluster Chemistry/Plastics Central Germany

Created in 2003, the Future Cluster drives the development of value chains in Central Germany's chemical and plastics industry. It builds on established networks and relationships. Collaboration is managed through a platform shared by Brandenburg, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia. It brings together companies, trade associations, educational and research institutions, service providers, policy-makers and government officials.

Plastics firms, university and non-university affiliated R&D institutions, investors and service providers in Thuringia have joined forces in **PolymerMat e.V.** This cluster improves the competitiveness and innovativeness of the plastics industry in Thuringia and Central Germany through networking.





Thuringia: where success is made.

Thuringia offers outstanding opportunities for plastics industry players to grow and innovate, as illustrated by the many companies who have expanded or relocated here.

GRAFE Advanced Polymers GmbH

GRAFE is a family-run company that has established itself as a leading German masterbatch manufacturer. The company employs more than 200 people in synthetic material dyeing, and exports its products to more than 30 countries. Its research department is one of the largest in the industry.

ContiTech AG

ContiTech AG was the result of a merger with Phoenix AG; it employs around 1,300 people, making it one of the largest employers in Thuringia. The production facilities in Waltershausen concentrate on the production of tubing, conveyor belts, sound insulation and vibration insulation systems.

KTN Kunststofftechnik Nobitz GmbH

KTN is a global player with a presence in over 50 countries and a major provider of all insulation services. In Nobitz, it produces fiberglass-reinforced plastics

parts such as cooling ducts, hatracks and sidewall and ceiling panels for every series of aircraft made by Airbus. Since 2011, KTN belongs to Hutchison Group.

Döllken Weimar GmbH

Döllken Weimar GmbH is a leading manufacturer of skirting boards and floor profiles made from technical synthetics. It supplies its products to many countries in all continents from its various sites. Its customers are large and specialist wholesalers as well as DIY and dedicated flooring retailers.

Weru Fenster und Türen GmbH

Weru AG is a market leader in the production of vinyl windows for residential construction. Nearly 550 employees produce high-quality vinyl windows and doors in Triptis, the company's second production site outside of Rudersberg in Southwest Germany.

Selected companies

Avery Dennison Materials GmbH,
Gotha

BASF Performance Polymers GmbH,
Rudolstadt

Carpenter GmbH, *Ichtershausen*

Conti Tech AG, *Waltershausen*

Döllken Weimar GmbH, *Nohra*

MANN + HUMMEL GmbH, *Sonneberg*

**FKT Formenbau und
Kunststofftechnik GmbH,** *Triptis*

Fromm Plastics GmbH, *Köllda*

GEALAN Tanna Fenster-Systeme GmbH,
Tanna

Geiger Automotive GmbH, *Tambach-
Dietharz*

GRAFE Advanced Polymers GmbH,
Blankenhain

Holzammer Kunststofftechnik GmbH,
Apolda

**KTN Kunststofftechnik Nobitz GmbH
(Hutchison Group),** *Nobitz*

**KTS Kunststofftechnik Schmölln
GmbH,** *Schmölln*

Plastic Omnium GmbH, *Großenlupnitz*

Rehau AG + Co, *Triptis*

Veritas Thüringen GmbH, *Benshausen*

Weru Fenster und Türen GmbH,
Triptis

Picture Credit: Conti Tech AG; Fromm Plastics GmbH;
GRAFE Advanced Polymers GmbH

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