

Sustainability needs change



There is always an opportunity in a crisis

Unfortunately, the origin of this sentence is unknown. However, this advice is so valuable, especially in times like these. Because it inspires us to focus on goals and solutions instead of focusing on the problems.

At the beginning of the Corona pandemic, CaPlast was also unsure at first. A short time later, we no longer had any breathing space to ponder. On page 3, you can read about the enormous performance achieved by our Covid fighters. Right below it, we present our new, flame-retardant, PVC-free facade membrane of building material class B.

What else kept us on our feet? For example, living the idea of sustainability 360°. Of course, this primarily concerns our TPO-based tarpaulin fabrics CaLiner. We decisively strengthened this promising product range by acquiring a stake in the Dutch coating specialist Aero Coated Fabrics. We were also active in various environmental and sustainability initiatives. Learn more on pages 2 and 4.

We look forward to staying in touch with you. We'd be happy to do so virtually. Simply make an appointment at verkauf@caplast.de.

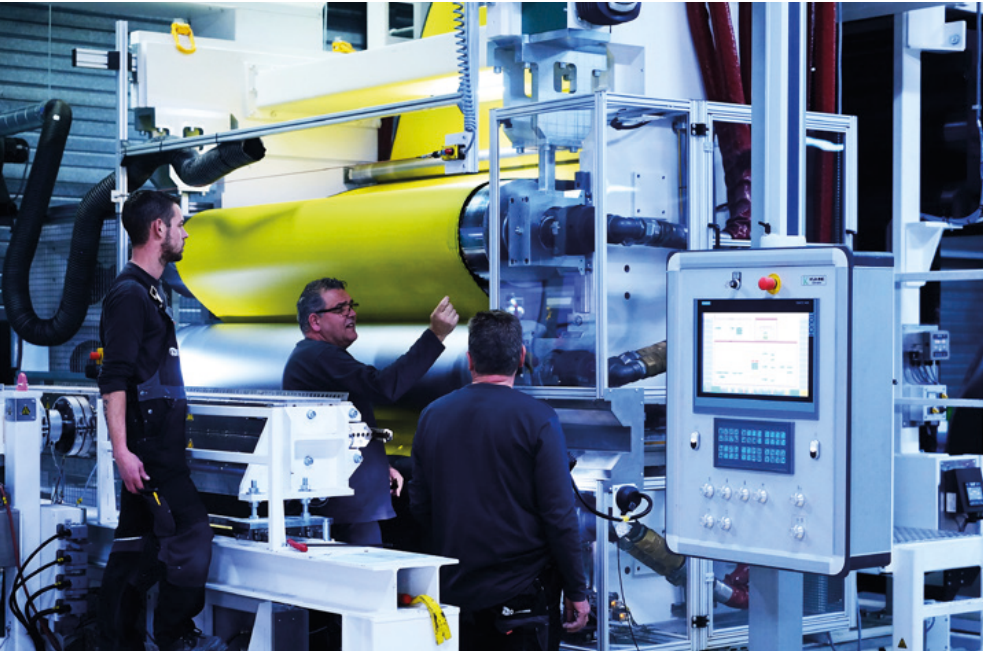
Your CaPlast Team

Welcome to the Family: AerO Coated Fabrics

CaPlast Kunststoffverarbeitungs GmbH acquired a majority stake in AerO Coated Fabrics B.V., based in Tilburg, the Netherlands, in February 2021. AerO is a highly specialized manufacturer of thermoplastic composite materials and complements the range for customized coating solutions offered by KAP AG's flexible films segment. Rinus Aerts and Rob van der Horst remain on board as managing directors.

A win-win situation for all

The coating experts from the Netherlands serve the growing market demand for resistant, environmentally friendly textile composite fabrics based on TPO. Customers and the CaPlast team alike benefit from the comprehensive know-how in formulating and processing the compounds.



Excellently trained and highly motivated team in Tilburg

Highlights from the Aero product portfolio

AerO has state-of-the-art production facilities and an innovative product range. In particular, hose liners for trenchless pipe rehabilitation (CIPP) as well as textile partitions and roller curtains without PVC coating are interesting growing markets. Dense geomembranes for subsoil protection, pool covers, and special flooring complement the portfolio.

On trend: fabric-reinforced tarpaulin fabrics based on TPO

Jan van Egten, CaPlast sales manager for tarpaulin fabrics, and Gerbe van den Top, key account manager, are also pleased about the new addition of their compatriots from AerO. Not only because of the common language - the Netherlands is also an important sales market for fabric-reinforced tarpaulin fabrics.

With the many canals and coasts, tarpaulins are naturally in demand for boats of the water sports-loving Dutch. But above all, the land of tulips and tomatoes needs tarpaulins for foil greenhouses and greenhouse tunnels. High light transmission and low flammability are among the most important properties, and the latter in particular made PVC the domain of tarpaulin materials for decades. The advantages were offset by growing environmental and health concerns.

Frederik Schaefer, Segment Manager of flexible films and Managing Director of CaPlast GmbH: „We are very pleased about the successful conclusion and look forward to working with our new colleagues. AerO and especially the team are an excellent fit for KAP flexible films. With the acquisition, we will further expand our market-leading position in attractive niche markets and also open up new markets through joint sales and development work.“

Rinus Aerts, Managing Partner of AerO Coated Fabrics: „This step is the right one for our company. The expertise of CaPlast and KAP flexible films will support and further accelerate our strong growth. The numerous synergies from the merger, especially in the areas of procurement, development and sales, make CaPlast and KAP flexible films an ideal partner for our customers, my team and me.“



Rinus Aerts,
Managing Director
at Aero Coated Fabrics



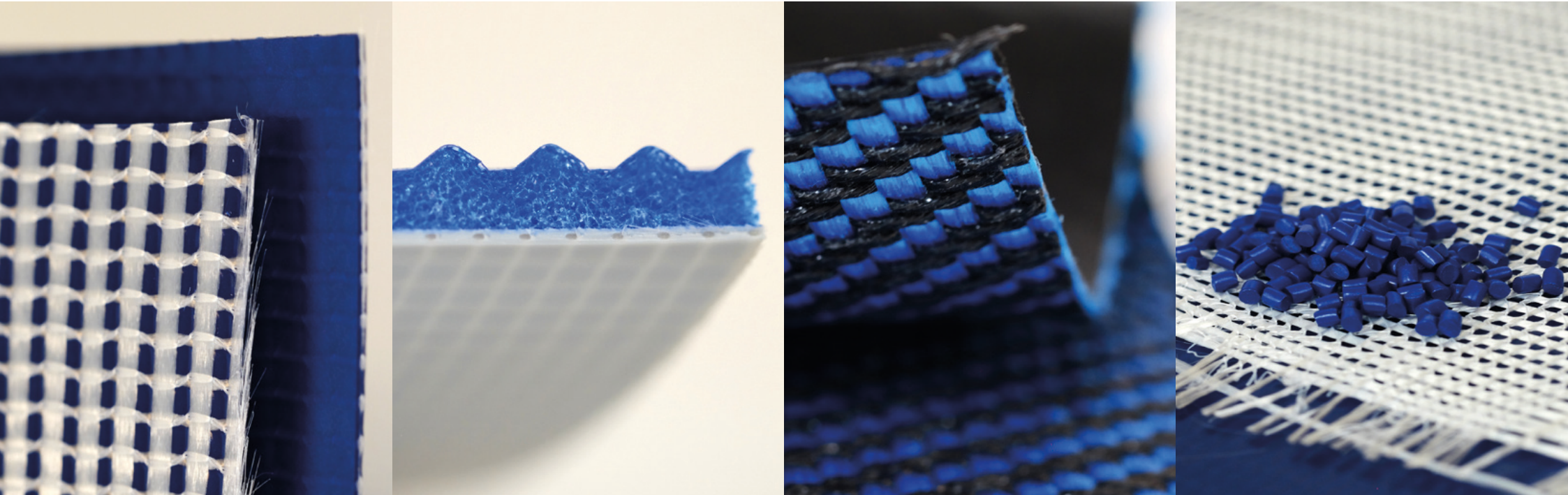
Rob van der Horst,
Managing Director
at Aero Coated Fabrics

TPO score points for environmental protection and sustainability

Plasticizers that can migrate into the environment after years, the development of toxic fumes in the event of a fire, the high occupational health and safety requirements for welding the PVC sheets, and the difficult reprocessing after the end of the service life are major disadvantages. Consequently, the development of alternative coatings based on environmentally friendly polyolefins moved to the top of CaPlast's agenda a few years ago. Not an easy undertaking, but in the end, we overcame the most difficult hurdle: our CaLiners are just as flame-retardant as PVC fabrics, but without emitting toxic and corrosive fumes when they catch fire. Polyolefins such as PP and PE essentially break down into carbon dioxide and water vapor when burned. They are also durable, UV-stable, highly tear-resistant and, of course, like all CaPlast products, can be equipped with special functionalities.

Novel pipe liner – CIPP

AerO's growth product are pipe liners for the trenchless rehabilitation of sewers. The robust yet flexible composite material is coated on the outside with an environmentally friendly and extremely durable TPO layer. „The pipe rehabilitation industry is also increasingly turning to PVC-free solutions. We are very pleased that together with AerO, we will be able to develop and market innovative and sustainable solutions with TPO coatings in the future,“ says a delighted Jan van Egten.



Thank you to our Covid Fighters

The Corona pandemic which started in spring 2020 showed that the supply chains for personal protective equipment and medical protective clothing need to be rethought. The international market was completely empty at the time, the largest supplier, China, was first producing for its own needs and so regional solutions had to be found quickly.

Coating specialists such as CaPlast, machine manufacturers and garment manufacturers, contributed their respective know-how and, with unprecedented efficiency, built up new manufacturing capacity within a short time frame for the production of materials and further processing into protective gowns, infection control suits, chemical protective suits and personal protective equipment.

„Our team really showed outstanding commitment,“ said Managing Director Frederik Schaefer who is still impressed a year later. The machines were running 24/7. „We were able to supply composite material for around 15 million protective gowns in just the first two months after production started. In the entire year of 2020, we produced a base material for more than 30 million infection control gowns.“ From zero to one hundred, including the necessary tests according to the various standards.

Built up on pressure to act, we subsequently worked closely with clinics to further improve existing solutions: for example, with regard to the „breathability“ of the gowns or wearing comfort. Today, this area has developed into an important business field that extends beyond medicine into new industries such as chemicals, food and electronics.

Nonwoven Film Laminates made in Germany by CaPlast

Surgical gown according to EN 13795

Skin-friendly, breathable composite materials for the production of surgical gowns and drapes according to EN 13795 in the High Performance qualities and Standard Performance. As with all CaPlast products, Infection protection gown according to EN 14126 additional functionalities and comfort features can be integrated.

Infection protection gown according to EN 14126

High-quality nonwoven-film composites in accordance with the EN 14126 standard for protective clothing. Our modern production, geared to the utmost efficiency, enables a basic material output for the production of several million basic materials for protective gowns per month.

Chemical protective suits according to EN 14325

Chemical protective suit fabrics, like all composite fabrics for PPE, are subject to strict testing regulations. We develop individual composite fabrics together with the customer and accompany him through the entire process of testing and classification.

- Abrasion resistance
- Tear resistance
- Liquid repellency
- Resistance to penetration of infectious agents
- Resistance to liquid penetration
- Resistance to penetration by synthetic blood
- Protection against exposure to aerosols, spray and light splashes
- Blood tightness
- Particle tightness
- Aerosol tightness
- Flammability, flame retardancy
- Bacteria resistance and virus resistance
- Air permeability, diffusion openness
- Antistatic surfaces
- Increased breathability
- Washability



NEW Flame retardant facade membrane Building material class B

For high fire protection requirements and the protection of the building’s structure: Thanks to the innovative structure, the diffusion-open CaWrap UV 200 FR facade membranes meet the requirements of building material class B according to EN 13501-1. They are flame-retardant and contribute to delayed fire propagation within the facade.

Film fans remember: In West Side Story and Pretty Woman, wrought-iron fire escapes served as a romantic backdrop for unforgettable declarations of love. Since 1968, they have no longer been required as an escape route in New York. But the challenge of making buildings as fire-safe as possible still remains to this day.

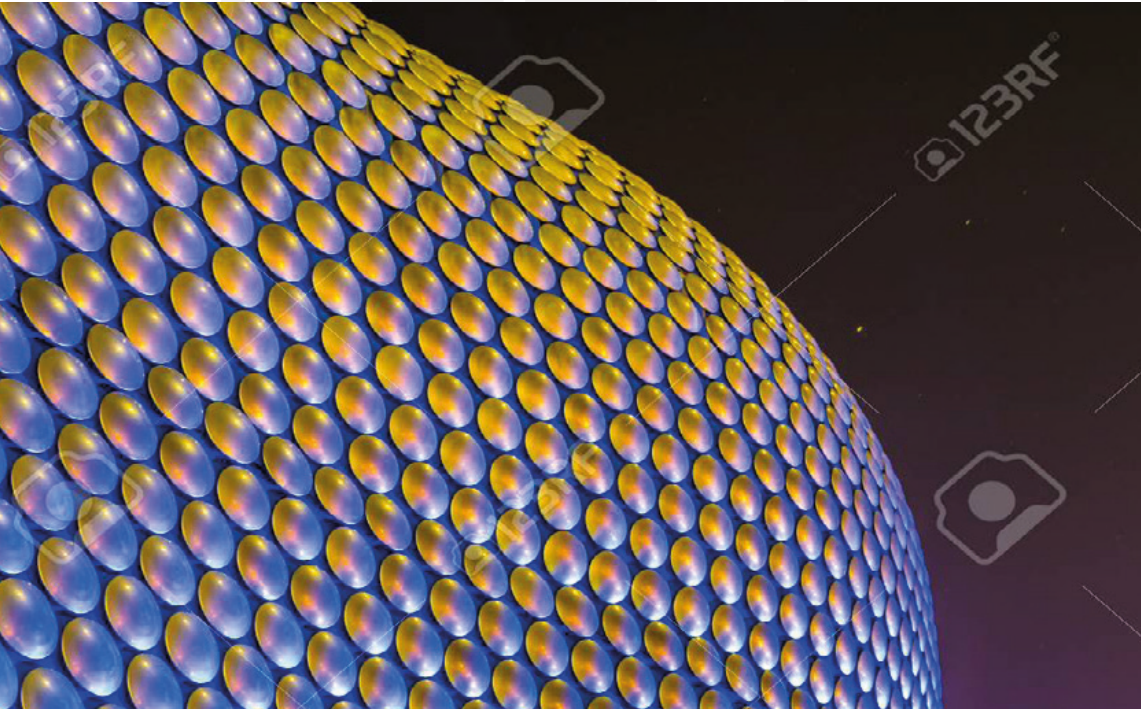
Our contribution to fire protection

The fire protection of the entire façade system increasingly come into focus well before the fire in London’s Grenfell Tower. CaPlast offers a façade membrane of building material class B according to EN 13501-1 particularly for usage in special buildings such as schools, hospitals and retirement homes with high fire protection requirements. Of course, we provide interesting system suppliers with insight into the entire test documentation including the conditions for the SBI test.

The flame-retardant facade membrane is suitable for curtain-type, rear-ventilated facades, natural stone facades, wooden facades, ceramic facades, sheet metal facades, large- and small-format facade claddings with a maximum joint proportion of 40 % and a maximum joint width of 50 mm.

The properties of CaWrap UV 200 FR facade membranes - Building material class B

- Highly UV-resistant
- Highly diffusible
- Protection of insulation against drifting snow and driving rain
- Safe drainage of moisture
- Trickle protection for mineral insulation
- Windproof
- Black surface
- Can be laid quickly and cost-effectively
- Oil and surfactant resistant
- Flame retardant



Sustainable action is only truly sustainable if it encompasses the entire company. In addition to our efforts to make our products recyclable via a mono-product approach and to rely increasingly on bio-based starting materials, we therefore have our entire supply and production chain in mind. Various environmental initiatives help us achieve our sustainability goals.

Code of Conduct 5: Code of Sustainability

CaPlast has imposed 5 principles of conduct on itself as part of its corporate policy. They describe how the corporate goals are to be achieved. Code 5 lists the principles of sustainability according to which research and development, purchasing and logistics, production and products as well as our social commitment are to be aligned.

As a company, we shape and bear responsibility for the future. Our sustainable corporate governance is therefore a key driver for our actions. The basis for this is economic success, which we ensure in the long term. This allows us to continue driving forward ecological and social improvements.

As a responsible company, we attach particular importance to ensuring safety, health and environmental protection at each of our sites. With our numerous construction products, we make a significant contribution to improving the energy efficiency of buildings and help improve people's quality of life.

We see a particular focus for sustainable management in reducing our use of resources in raw materials, energy and water. We ensure this through a clear management process in the areas of environment and energy.

We see sustainable business as a shared social responsibility. As part of society, we take our responsibility very seriously and have therefore joined the UN Global Compact initiative. As part of this initiative, we actively encourage our suppliers to behave in accordance with the guidelines and to promote them.

The most important sustainability initiatives at CaPlast

Registration for the UN Global Compact initiative: This is the world's largest and most important initiative for responsible corporate governance. By joining, we commit ourselves to promoting the general goals of the United Nations, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We have a lot of work ahead of us, as the mandatory Communication on Progress report, in which we present our sustainability initiatives. „Since 2021 CaPlast has been committed to the UN Global Compact corporate responsibility initiative and its principles in the areas of human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption.“



Certification according to 14001: In 2020, the environmental management system of CaPlast GmbH was certified according to DIN EN ISO 14001 for the first time. It serves as an instrument for us to regularly put our sustainability efforts to the test and improve them.



EcoVadis sustainability rating: This holistic rating platform allows us to benchmark against currently more than 75,000 participating companies and thus set ourselves ever higher sustainability targets. Last year we participated for the first time and won a silver medal, now of course we're going for gold!



flexible films - a strong network

In addition to CaPlast and AerO, four other medium-sized companies are part of the flexible films segment of the parent company KAP AG. They are all mainly dedicated to extrusion coating in different fields and benefit in many ways from synergies in development, purchasing and sales. „We want to continue to strengthen both sideways and forwards,“ says segment head Frederik Schaefer, explaining the expansion strategy. The approximately 400 employees generate more than 100 million euros in sales - with a strong upward trend.

Elbtal Plastics is active in more than 35 countries and is the market leader in the field of fabric-reinforced swimming pool liners and „swimming pool foils“. The company looks back on a history of more than 150 years and is based in Coswig, Saxony, northwest of Dresden. In addition to its core business, the company manufactures technical films such as laminating films or welding protection films in the automotive industry, and sealing membranes for structural and civil engineering, hydraulic engineering and environmental protection complete its portfolio.

Riflex Film in Ronneby, Sweden, is a specialist supplier of technical films used especially in the event and promotion industry. One of its market-leading products is innovative projection surfaces for sophisticated home cinemas, large events and commercial cinemas. The highly technical solutions for the event sector are rounded off by special floor coverings, e.g. for dance or ballet floors. In addition to these products, Riflex manufactures a range of other technical films for the printing industry, for medical applications, for hydraulic engineering and environmental protection.

Steinweg Kunststofffolien in Castrop Rauxel produces heavy polyolefin films from 700 g/m² upwards. Examples are conveyor belts for agriculture, egg conveyor belts, root protection, sealing films, cover films and barrier films.

Now Contec completes the range with converting and finishing of technical nonwovens and films: rewinding, printing, self-adhesive finishing, cutting, web folding, packaging and international goods shipping from the company's headquarters in Waldfischbach-Burgalben, Rhineland-Palatinate.