

# Inteplast Excels at Manufacturing Systems Analysis

> **Multi-faceted plastics company bullish on automation and informatics.**

By Anthony Birritteri, Editor-in-Chief

Livingston-based Inteplast Group, a \$2.7-billion company that manufactures an array of plastic products through its three divisions, is maintaining its commanding lead in a competitive industry by implementing automation strategies that track manufacturing throughput processes to the minutest detail. Though its major manufacturing facilities are in Texas, with an additional 53 locations spread throughout the US, Canada and Asia, much of the data monitoring is observed and reviewed at its New Jersey headquarters.

According to Kaiyue Chen, corporate brand and communications manager for the company, "Our New Jersey facility supports the rest of our network, with financial analysis the important thing happening here. We analyze data coming from our 50-plus locations to see how the company is doing on monthly basis. Our president is proud of the fact that we are probably one of the only companies that drills down to the level of detail that we do."

Peter Zamarripa, general plant manager at the Inteplast facility in Lolita, Texas, comments, "We are constantly analyzing and developing ways to further reduce costs. In that sense, we are an engineering company."

"It is always about the process," adds Brenda Wilson, senior director of human resources and communications. "One of the things we tell new employees is that we know what the output should be. We monitor things all through the process until it is received by the customer. We document each step. If there is a deviation, we correct it."

"We know our costs down to the penny on every product," Zamarripa adds.

Tied into data analytics is the move towards more automated processes. Zamarripa says the drive is to become a more efficient company, but another factor pushing the effort is the difficulty in finding skilled labor today.

Regarding where one can find Inteplast products, Wilson says, "The things we make are probably in your house right now. If you look in your cupboard, you would probably find our food packaging, bags and labels."



*The interior of one of Inteplast manufacturing facilities in Lolita, Texas.*

Inteplast makes these and more products via its three divisions: AmTopp, which produces biaxially oriented polypropylene (BOPP) films, stretch films and plastic concentrates and compounds; Integrated Bagging Systems, which manufactures plastic bags and products, including can liners, food service bags, gloves and supplies, retail grocery bags and janitorial and industrial supplies; and WorldPak, which manufactures varied board and heavy film substrates, including corrugated plastic sheets, free foam and Celuka PVC sheets, cross-laminated films and bags, and the TUF board® lines of synthetic wood.

The company has achieved ISO 9001:2008 certification. It employs 7,200 people worldwide, with 4,500 in the US and approximately 344 at its Livingston headquarters. **NJB**