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## GF Uponor becomes GF Building Flow Solutions – Uponor Brand will remain unchanged

**GF has announced that, effective on 29 April 2024, its GF Uponor division is renamed as GF Building Flow Solutions.**

**+GF+** KWD-globalpipe, 07.05.2024. The division – built on the acquisition of Uponor late last year as well as the building technology segment of GF Piping Systems – is committed to finding new ways to conserve, manage and provide water responsibly. The new name underscores the division's focus on residential, commercial, and public buildings, while GF Piping Systems remains a leading provider for utility and industry flow solutions. **Uponor**

**The internationally renowned Uponor brand**, which will remain unchanged, will further strengthen the division's market presence as a product brand. The Uponor brand is well positioned to address global trends such as energy efficiency, the need for safe and clean water, as well as a net-zero impact on the climate.

**The new GF Building Flow Solutions** creates a powerful leader in the market, but also conveys a common identity around GF's focus on products and solutions providing superior customer value. All divisions of GF are part of a strong global family of about 20'000 employees, generating close to CHF 4.0 billion in sales in 2023.

With its four divisions GF Piping Systems, GF Building Flow Solutions, GF Casting Solutions, and GF Machining Solutions GF offers products and solutions that enable the safe transport of liquids & gases.

**Contact:** Uponor Corporation, Finland, [www.uponorgroup.com](http://www.uponorgroup.com) / Georg Fischer Ltd., Switzerland, [www.georgfischer.com](http://www.georgfischer.com)

## BRUGG Pipes & Rovanco joining together to manufacture insulated pipes in the USA

**BRUGG Pipes, in collaboration with their longstanding distribution partner in the USA, Rovanco Piping Systems, has entered into a production joint venture agreement to manufacture PUR insulated flexible PEX pipes in the USA.**

### KWD-globalpipe – Statutory Information:

HIX Publishing, Dipl.-Ing. Jutta Hix, 58332 Schwelm /Germany, Tel. +49 (0)2336 / 40 66 42, [www.kwd-globalpipe.de](http://www.kwd-globalpipe.de). **Subscription rates:** 40 issues per year EUR 250,00 (Germany: + VAT). Subscription will be renewed automatically for a further year unless cancelled in writing 8 weeks before expiry date. Up to 5 persons of the ordering company can receive KWD-globalpipe. © **KWD-globalpipe**. All rights reserved. **Editor in Chief:** Dipl.-Ing. Jutta Hix, **Assistant Editors:** Michaela Hamich-Helbrecht, Achim Seydel.

## BRUGG Pipes

KWD-globalpipe, 07.05.2024. BRUGG Pipes, a global leader in flexible and rigid piping systems, and [Rovanco Piping Systems](#), a renowned manufacturer of prefabricated, pre-insulated piping systems, are joining forces and expertise to initiate the first continuous production of flexible, polyurethane-insulated piping systems for the district heating & cooling sector in North America. This significant investment will involve the development of production facilities at Rovanco's Chicagoland location in the coming months.

**“As the leading provider of pre-insulated piping systems in North America** and our exclusive partner in this market for many years, Rovanco plays a key role in this partnership. This collaboration will enable us to deliver high-quality, flexible piping systems such as CALPEX PUR-KING or RHINOFLEX to our existing customers in North America, especially Rovanco Piping Systems, more quickly without the lengthy lead times with pipe coming from Europe,” explains Geri Wirz, Head of International Business at BRUGG Pipes.

**“The joint venture solidifies** our long-term partnership. With BRUGG Pipes' market expertise and in-depth knowledge in PUR insulation foams for flexible pipes, we are poised to further increase our market share in North America. We look forward to this,” says Chad Godeaux, President of Rovanco Piping Systems.



Groundbreaking ceremony for the new manufacturing facility © BRUGG

**The distribution channels of BRUGG Pipes and Rovanco** will remain unchanged, ensuring that customers continue to receive the service they are accustomed to from both companies.

**Contact:** BRUGG Pipes, Switzerland, [www.bruggpipes.com](http://www.bruggpipes.com)

## WRW: International OEM supplier for 20 years – a history of growth and stability

**Since the foundation of WRW - Westfälische Rohrwerke in 2004, we have not only been able to significantly increase the dimensions of our multi-layer composite pipes from 11.6 to 110mm but have also steadily expanded our production range and portfolio.**



KWD-globalpipe, 07.05.2024. Not only existing but also expanding in a constantly changing market for 20 years shows our ability to innovate and adapt to the requirements of any time. As a medium-sized, independent company, we have the flexibility to respond easily to our customers' requirements. We develop and manufacture tailor-made solutions for our customers. Further, our close cooperation with fitting producers offers the system distributor a high level of security.

WRW has thus positioned itself internationally on the markets as an independent and flexible company in order to be able to offer its experiences to a broader customer structure.

**WRW, the OEM partner for industry and wholesale partners:** As part of the strategic realignment since 2021 and the change of name to WRW Pipes GmbH, we are pursuing the goal of expanding our market leadership as an international OEM supplier as well as strategic alliances with fitting manufacturers and also developing WRW as an OEM system supplier.

**Contact:** WRW Pipes GmbH, Germany, [www.wrw-ahlen.de](http://www.wrw-ahlen.de)



WRW Pipes GmbH Management: Werner Klammer, Martin Troyer, Dirk Meyer-Venter, Josef Lienharter © WRW



Innovative multi-layer composite pipes for sanitary to district heating © WRW

## BOREALIS: CEO Thomas Gangl leaves Borealis, successor to be announced later

The Supervisory Board of Borealis and Thomas Gangl have come to a mutual agreement regarding a termination of Thomas Gangl's mandate as CEO of Borealis AG, as well as the related employment contract effective June 30, 2024.



KWD-globalpipe, 07.05.2024. Thomas was appointed CEO of Borealis in April 2021. He has been instrumental in refining Borealis' Strategy 2030 with sustainability at its core and accelerating the company's transformation towards a circular economy. Key milestones during his tenure included the sale of Borealis' nitrogen business, the acquisition of Rialti Spa, a polypropylene (PP) compounder of recyclates in Italy, along with the signing of the acquisition of Integra Plastics AD, an advanced mechanical recycling player in Bulgaria. Furthermore, he steered the prolongation of Borealis' joint venture agreements with Borouge, the successful IPO of Borouge at the ADX, and the final investment decision of the Borouge 4 plant in Ruwais, UAE, which upon completion, will be the world's largest single-site polyolefin complex.

Contact: Borealis AG, Austria, [www.borealisgroup.com](http://www.borealisgroup.com) / [Press release](#)



Thomas Gangl stepping down from his CEO position at Borealis

© Borealis

## BOREALIS: Annual Report 2023 published / Interview with Borealis' CEO and CFO

**Borealis' net profit plunged from a record high of EUR 2,111 million in 2022 to EUR 168 million in 2023 / Interview with Borealis' CEO and CFO, Thomas Gangl and Daniel Turnheim**



KWD-globalpipe, 07.05.2024. The drop must be considered in the context of current market challenges which affect all petrochemical companies as well as the one-off positive effects specific to the Borealis Group that contributed to the outstanding results obtained in 2022. The former includes ongoing market volatility; stubborn inflation and high energy costs, particularly in Europe; weak margins; and record polyolefins overcapacity in the face of feeble demand. Factors specific to Borealis include profits enjoyed in 2022 due to the blockbuster Borouge IPO in June, as well as the re-measurement gain of EUR 266 million from the disposal group related to the divested Borealis nitrogen business unit.

Outlook: Borealis' energy and climate objectives for 2024 include advancing their digitalization project to improve reporting on climate, energy, and environmental data.

### Interview with Borealis' CEO and CFO, Thomas Gangl and Daniel Turnheim

Borealis CEO Thomas Gangl: in our previous interview in 2022, you anticipated a worsening general market environment in 2023. Now that this has come to pass, how has Borealis responded?

... (TG) However, there is room for improvement in safety performance. Our Total Recordable Injuries (TRI) rate per million of 4.0 in 2023 is a deterioration versus 2022. Despite intensive efforts to prevent all such incidents, many low-impact TRIs occurred, both actual and potential. In response, we have launched an expanded safety training program to improve performance. This and other efforts, including our established B-Safe program, show our steadfast commitment to "Zero Harm."



Daniel Turnheim, CFO (left): "As long as we stay on track with our SFPE program, we will have sufficient room to maneuver in the future." – Thomas Gangl, CEO (right): "As long as Borealis remains dedicated to our purpose of re-inventing essentials for sustainable living, we will overcome any obstacles the market puts in our way - Borealis is well positioned to stay the course in uncertain times."

© Borealis


All answers to the question above and the following questions can be found [here](#):

- Daniel Turnheim: you were appointed Borealis CFO in June of this turbulent year. From your perspective, how can Borealis best manage this “perfect storm” of market challenges?
- Growth projects such as the joint venture Borouge, whose spectacular IPO in Abu Dhabi made headlines in 2022, have long been a driver of geographic expansion for Borealis. Where do things currently stand?
- How are Borealis’ other major growth projects advancing?
- New builds are only one path to growth; mergers and acquisitions are another. What were your activities in this arena in 2023?
- While Borealis has acquired new shares in some companies, it has shed them in others. Please update us on the divestment of the Borealis nitrogen business unit.
- In addition to spearheading the circular economy transition, Borealis is also becoming more sustainable in its own production operations. How did 2023 shape up in this regard?
- Market volatility and industry pressures are likely to continue into 2024 and beyond. Daniel Turnheim, from a CFO’s point of view, how can Borealis counter what industry experts ICIS have called “an unprecedented level of uncertainty within the industry”?
- The closing words go to you, Thomas Gangl. As CEO, which focus areas will occupy you most in the coming year?

Contact: Borealis AG, Austria, [www.borealisgroup.com](http://www.borealisgroup.com) / Annual Report 2023 [digital](#) or [pdf](#) / [Interview](#)

## SIMONA 2023: Strong profitability – Marked decline in sales volume and revenue

**EBIT close to prior-year record – Group revenue down 16% on the back of sluggish global economy – Muted start to 2024**

 KWD-globalpipe, 07.05.2024. Almost all business lines saw a downturn in revenue in 2023, except for the Mobility business line. The Industry business line was impacted by a sluggish performance of the global chemicals business, with growth limited to the Semicon market segment. The Infrastructure business line, whose core market is pipeline rehabilitation and cable protection in the EMEA region, experienced a lack of project business due to restrained public-sector spending. The downturn within the Advertising & Building business line was attributable to waning activity in the construction sector.

"Overall, 2023 proved to be another particularly dynamic year in which, encouragingly, we were able to build on the successes of previous annual periods. We managed to keep sales prices stable over the course of the year. While this contributed to healthy profitability, it had an adverse effect on overall volume and therefore also on revenue. We succeeded in achieving our strategic goals. When it comes to sustainability, we have established ourselves as a global thought leader within our industry. By expanding our plant in China, we have almost doubled our production capacity and extended our portfolio as a system provider for customers within the industrial sector. Our strategic approach centred around diversification and a clear focus on applications is underscored by the solid performance displayed by our most recent acquirees, SIMONA PEAK Pipe System in the UK and SIMONA PLASTECH in Türkiye," said Matthias Schönberg, CEO of SIMONA.

Contact: SIMONA AG, Germany, [www.simona.de](http://www.simona.de) / [Press release](#)

## Global plastic pipe market will grow at a CAGR of 6.5% until 2031 | by KBV research

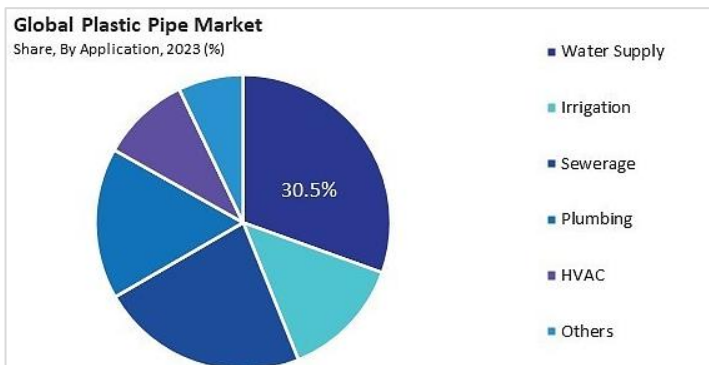
According to a new report, published by KBV research, the global plastic pipe market size is expected to reach \$86.9 billion by 2031, rising at a market growth of 6.5% CAGR during the forecast period. In the year 2023, the market attained a volume of 43,602.60 kilo tons, experiencing a growth of 11.4% (2020-2023).



KWD-globalpipe, 07.05.2024. Global Plastic Pipe Market Size, Share & Trends Analysis Report By Application (Water Supply, Irrigation, Sewerage, Plumbing, HVAC, and Others), By End-use, By Material, By Regional Outlook and Forecast, 2024 – 2031, 382 pages, published in April 2024. **More information and order form** can be found [here](#).

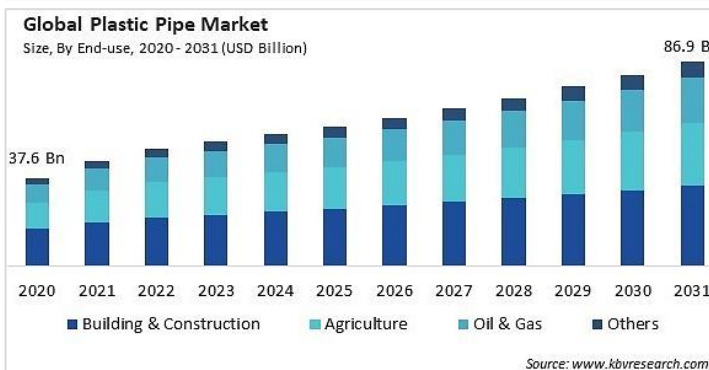
**Based on application**, the market is segmented into irrigation, sewerage, water supply, plumbing, HVAC, and others:

- In 2023, the **Sewerage segment** attained a 22.73% revenue share in the market. In terms of volume, the sewerage segment registered 9,476.15 kilo tons volume in 2023.
- The **HVAC segment** consumed 9.71% in the market in 2023. Also, Russia would use 128.70 kilo tons of these pipes in HVAC systems by 2031.
- The **Water Supply segment** is registering a CAGR of 5.6 % during the forecast period.



**Based on end-use**, the market is categorized into building & construction, agriculture, oil & gas, and others:

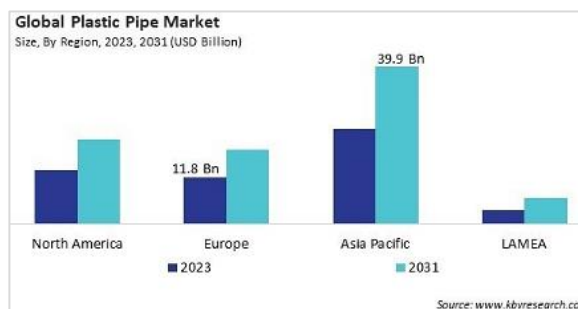
- The **Agriculture segment** witnessed a 29.75% revenue share in the market in 2023. In terms of volume, the agriculture segment registered 13,321.47 kilo tons in the market in 2023.
- The **Building & Construction segment** is generating the maximum revenue in the global plastic pipe market by end-use in 2023; thereby, achieving a market value of \$34.5 billion by 2031.



**Based on material**, the market is divided into PVC, PP, PE, and others: The PP segment attained 18.2% revenue share in the market in 2023. The PVC segment is growing at a CAGR of 5.9 % during the forecast period.

**Region-wise**, the market is analyzed across North America, Europe, Asia Pacific, and LAMEA:

- In 2023, the **North America region** generated a 25.63% revenue share in the market. The market is anticipated to grow at a CAGR of 6% during (2024 - 2031).
- The **Asia Pacific region** dominated the global plastic pipe market by region in 2023; thereby, achieving a market value of \$39.8 billion by 2031.
- The **Europe market** would witness a CAGR of 6.2% during 2024 to 2031.



Contact: KBV Research (formerly KBV Research), [www.kbvresearch.com](http://www.kbvresearch.com) / [Press release](#)

**Market report: Demand for pipeline projects key driver for plastic pipes market growth**

The new 107-page global Plastic Pipes Market Research Report was published by Market Research Future in May 2024.



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KWD-globalpipe, 07.05.2024. The growth in demand for the oil and gas segment across the industrial and home applications along with the rise in demand for the pipeline projects steers up the plastic pipes are the key market drivers enhancing market growth.

Additionally, the increasing demand for water supply and sewage treatment infrastructure has also contributed to the growth of the plastic pipes market, as plastic pipes are often used in these applications as well. Other factors driving the growth of the plastic pipes market include the increasing use of plastic pipes in the construction industry, the development of new plastic pipe materials with improved properties, and the growing popularity of plastic pipes in emerging economies.

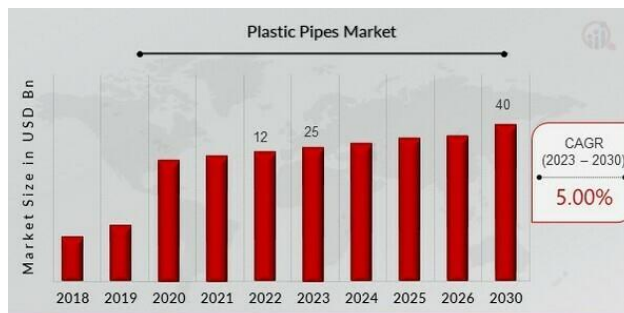
The Plastic Pipes market segmentation, **based on material**, includes PVC, PE (HDPE, and LDPE), PP, and others. The PVC segment held the majority share in 2022 of the Plastic Pipes market revenue.

**Based on end-use**, the Plastic Pipes market segmentation includes Construction (Residential and Non-residential), Oil & Gas, Water & wastewater, Agriculture, and Chemicals. The Water & wastewater segment dominated the market in 2022 and is projected to be the faster-growing segment during the forecast period, 2023-2030.

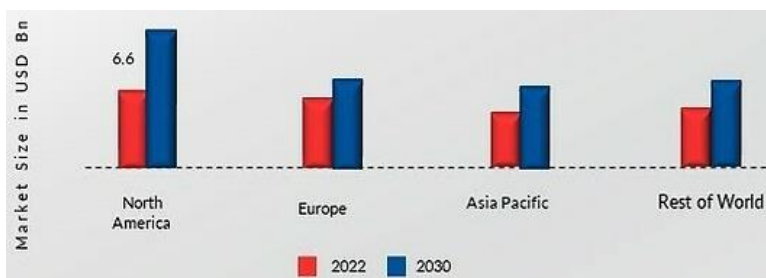
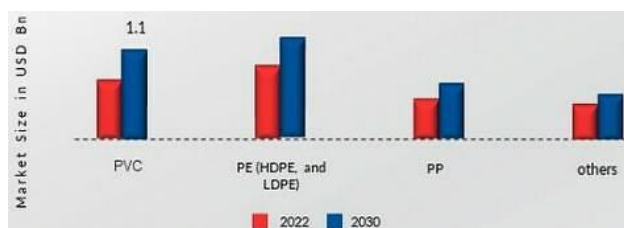
**By region**, the study provides market insights into North America, Europe, Asia-Pacific, and the Rest of the World:

- **Asia Pacific** is currently one of the fastest-growing regions in the plastic pipes market, driven by factors such as rapid urbanization, growing population, and increasing investments in infrastructure development.
- **Europe's** plastic pipes market accounts for the 3<sup>rd</sup>-largest market share. The growth of the market in Europe is relatively slower compared to other regions due to factors such as the maturity of the market, slow economic growth, and stringent regulations governing the use of plastic pipes. Further, the Germany Plastic Pipes market held the largest market share, and the UK Plastic Pipes market was the fastest-growing market in the European region.
- **North America** plastic pipes market is expected to hold the largest market share from 2023 to 2030. The U.S. Plastic Pipes market held the largest market share, and the Canada Plastic Pipes market was the fastest-growing market in the North American region.

Contact: Market Research Future®, [www.marketresearchfuture.com](http://www.marketresearchfuture.com) / [More information and order form](#)



Source of all graphs in this article: Secondary Research, Primary Research, MRRF Database and Analyst Review



## Global plastic pipes market to grow by 5.69% CAGR by 2023-28 | Research report

According to the research report, “Global Plastic Pipes Market Outlook, 2028” the market is anticipated to cross USD 100 Billion by 2028, increasing from USD 75.14 Billion in 2022. The market is expected to grow with 5.69% CAGR by 2023-28.

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KWD-globalpipe, 07.05.2024. The **PVC pipes** market is expected to grow at an impressive rate during the forecast period owing to their increasing demand in residential, commercial, and industrial sectors. PVC is a leading material for pipes in various applications that make it a popular choice in the construction and plumbing industries.

**Asia Pacific** is one of the fastest-growing regions in the plastic pipes market, driven by factors such as rapid urbanization, growing population, and increasing investments in infrastructure development.

**Based on the end users**, the increased construction demand for housing facilities is expected to propel the growth of the plastic pipes and pipe fitting market during the forecast period.

**Based on application**, liquid conduits, such as pipes for transporting water, sewage, and other fluids, are a leading segment in the plastic pipe industry in 2022.

- **Major drivers:** Infrastructure development & environmental concerns and sustainability
- **Market restraints:** Environmental concerns and regulation & price volatility of raw materials
- **Market trends:** Advancements in material technology & digitalization and smart pipe systems

**Contact:** Research and Markets, [www.researchandmarkets.com](http://www.researchandmarkets.com) / [More information and order form](#)

## PVC pipes perform best in Utah State University's analysis of water pipe breaks

**PVC - compared to ductile iron, steel, asbestos cement & cast iron materials - leads as the most utilised and increasingly preferred pipe material in North America with the lowest break rates.**

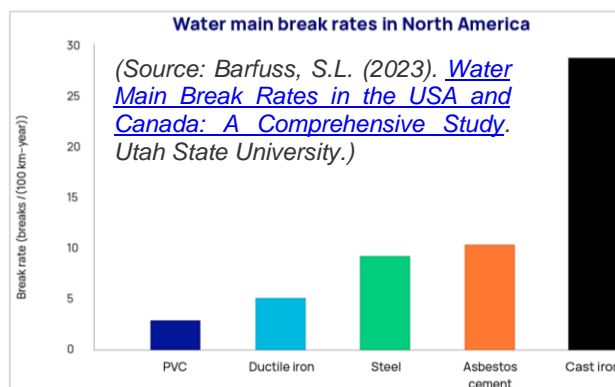
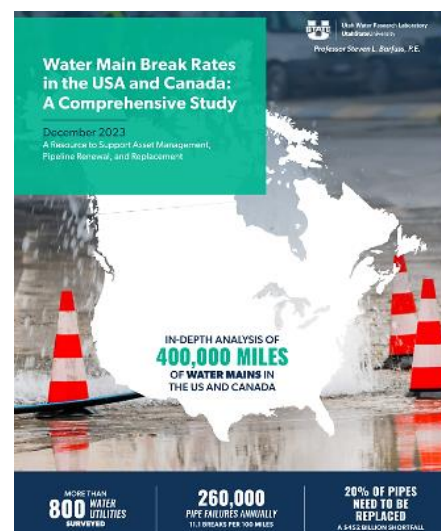
KWD-globalpipe, 07.05.2024. Utah State University has released an update to the 2018 study on water main breaks, reaffirming the exceptional performance of PVC pipes in underground infrastructure. This exhaustive study led by Professor Steven L. Barfuss, building on the findings of 2012 and 2018, represents one of the most statistically significant examinations of water main durability to date, encompassing material type, pipe diameter, age, usage trends, break rates, soil corrosion effects, and utility size characteristics across the U.S. and Canada.

### Key highlights include:

- **Vast Data Collection:** Data from nearly 400,000 miles of water mains were analysed, covering 17.1% of the total estimated length in the U.S. and Canada. This sample size, nearly three times larger than the 2018 study, provides increased accuracy in findings.
- **PVC Pipes Lead in Durability:** PVC pipes exhibited the lowest break rate among commonly used materials, affirming their reliability and cost-effectiveness for water infrastructure projects.
- **Shifts in Material Usage:** The study observed a notable reduction in cast iron and asbestos cement pipe inventory, with PVC pipe usage increasing by 7.0% since 2018. This reflects ongoing shifts towards more durable and sustainable piping solutions.
- **Regional Preferences:** Material usage varies significantly by region, with PVC pipes being the most used in several areas, indicating a trend toward its preference due to its longevity and lower maintenance requirements.
- **Aging Infrastructure:** A significant portion of the cast iron and asbestos cement pipes are over 50 years old, highlighting the urgent need for upgrades to more durable materials like PVC.

**The study's findings underscore the strategic importance of PVC pipes** in addressing the challenges of aging water infrastructure, offering a durable, cost-effective solution for modernising essential services across North America and beyond.

**Source:** PVC4Pipes, Belgium, [www.pvc4pipes.com](http://www.pvc4pipes.com) / [Study download link](#) (pdf) / [Press release](#)



## AMI Plastics World Expos Europe 4th edition in Brussels, Belgium, on 11-12 September

Returning for the fourth edition, the AMI's Plastics World Expos bring together industry leaders, experts, and enthusiasts from the global compounding, recycling and extrusion industries for two days.



KWD-globalpipe, 07.05.2024. With your free ticket, you'll gain access to the established Compounding World Expo and Plastics Recycling World Expo which are now joined by the popular Plastics Extrusion World Expo which has proved hugely popular in the USA. The combination of these focused expos opens doors to new markets and makes the most of the considerable crossover between the extrusion, recycling, and compounding industries.



**New for 2024:** The expo is heading to Brussels, Belgium; Maximise your time at the co-located shows; New, focused zones (Polymer Testing and Chemical Recycling Zones to provide visitors with enhanced crossover opportunities and a comprehensive experience); Start-up zone, which is the perfect place to showcase your products and services to the compounding, recycling and extrusion industry.

Contact: AMI Plastics, [www.amiplastics.com](http://www.amiplastics.com) / [More information](#)

## PVC4Pipes Conference: 3rd edition in Prague, Czech Republic, on 16-17 October

The PVC4Pipes Conference will gather representatives from authorities, cable and pipe manufacturers, additives producers, raw materials suppliers, compounders, utilities, processing equipment manufacturers, recyclers, academia and testing laboratories.



KWD-globalpipe, 07.05.2024. The two-day event organised by PVC4Pipes will centre around the following topics: Market and Regulation, European Standardisation Developments, Innovation and Circularity and VinylPlus Sustainability Certifications.

PVC4Cables and PVC4Pipes are looking forward to welcoming you in Prague, Czech Republic, at the Clarion Congress Hotel, on 16 and 17 October 2024. Registration opens in May. More information will follow soon [here](#).

Contact: PVC4Pipes, The European Council of Vinyl Manufacturers, Belgium, [www.pvc4pipes.com](http://www.pvc4pipes.com)

## AMI Plastics World Expos North America in Cleveland, USA, on 13-14 November

The event brings together four co-located exhibitions: the Compounding World Expo, Plastics Recycling World Expo, Plastics Extrusion World Expo, and Polymer Testing World Expo, plus their focused conference theaters.



KWD-globalpipe, 07.05.2024. These free-to-attend expos bring together professionals from across the plastics industry for two days of networking, knowledge sharing and innovation.



This is your opportunity to gain access to the largest gathering of companies from the plastics compounding, recycling, extrusion, and testing industries in North America! You will be able to explore new technologies and compare suppliers in one convenient location.

Running alongside the exhibitions will be four conference theaters, focused on answering the big industry questions and discussing technology and material developments that you need to know about.

**Highlights from 2023:** 347 exhibitors, 48 states represented, 5,134 attendees and 109 speakers.

Contact: AMI Plastics, [www.amiplastics.com](http://www.amiplastics.com) / [More information](#)