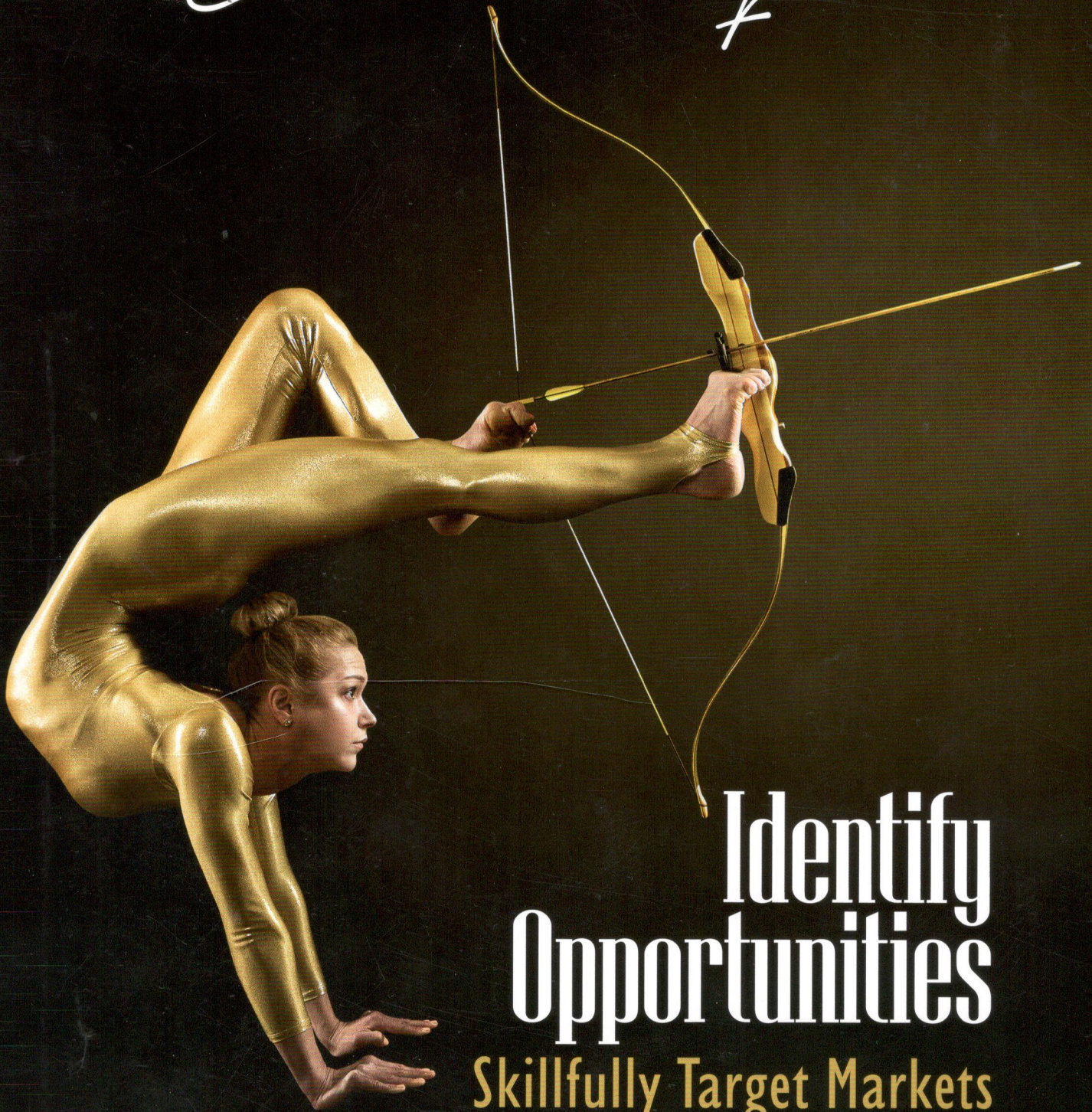


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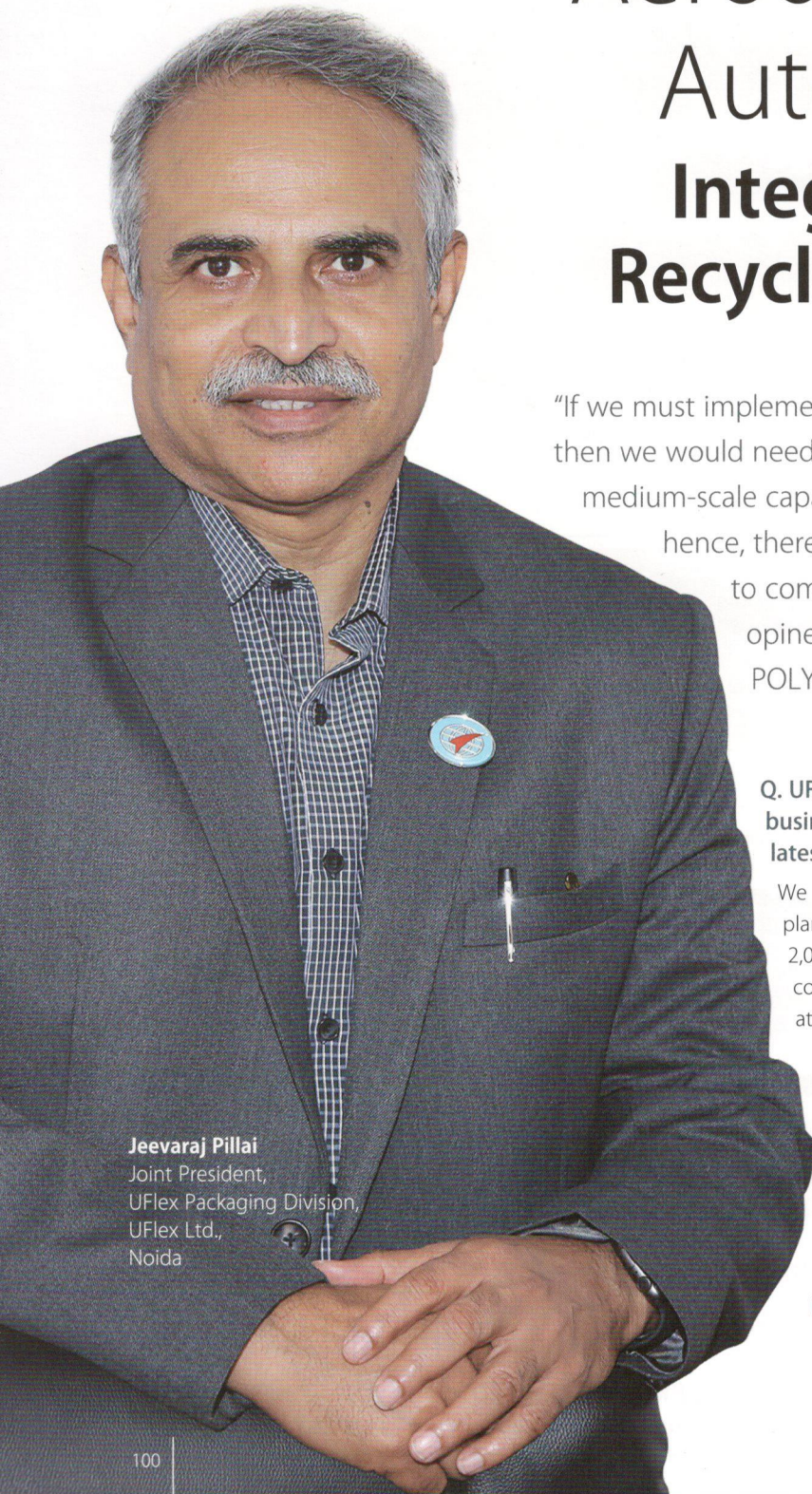
# POLYMERS

*Communiqué*



Identify  
Opportunities  
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Sponsored by



**Jeevaraj Pillai**  
 Joint President,  
 UFlex Packaging Division,  
 UFlex Ltd.,  
 Noida

# Aerodry Process Automation Integral to Our Recycling Business

“If we must implement the recently announced EPR, then we would need around 1,500 recycling plants of medium-scale capacity. Currently, there are less than 50; hence, there is a big opportunity for the industry to come forward and invest in this area,” opines Jeevaraj Pillai, in dialogue with POLYMERS Communiqué.

**Q. UFlex continues to invest in its recycling business. Please share with the readers the latest updates.**

We have recently commissioned an MLP recycling plant of 1,000 kg/hr and a PET bottle recycling plant of 2,000 kg/hr at our Mexico site. We have also commissioned an MLP recycling plant of 1,000 kg/hr at our Poland location. We have increased the capacity of the MLP recycling plant at our Noida location. We also intend to equip all our global manufacturing locations with a recycling facility.

We are currently recycling around 20,000 MT of PCR and PIR MLP per annum and intend to reach a level of 1,00,000 MT per annum by 2024-25.

**Q. With increased awareness across the industry on sustainability and circular**

**economy, what kind of business opportunity do you think this sector offers?**

The recycling plant is a self-sustaining business with an ROI of 8 - 10%, very similar to that of the packaging industry.

India consumes something like 1,25,000 MT of flexible packaging material, mostly in the form of MLP. If we must implement the recently announced EPR, then we would need around 1,500 recycling plants of medium-scale capacity. Currently, there are less than 50; hence, there is a big opportunity for the industry to come forward and invest in this area.

**Q. Role of packaging to change the future of the industry and the environment.**

**Your views.**

EPR has laid an emphasis on recycling. Structures that have a better recyclability index would be encouraged by the industry to have better compliance with the EPR norms. Mono-polymer structures would be preferred by them in the future.

**Q. PCR MLP recycling continues to be a challenge. What solutions / approaches are available?**

We, at UFlex, have been recycling PCR MLP for a long time. The technology is available. There is a need to customise the washing and recycling line to suit the needs of the Indian PCR waste.

**Q. In your crucial process of converting flakes to chips, what is the role of the solution deployed from Aerodry?**

Aerodry process automation enhances the quality



PET flakes crystalliser and dehumidifying drying systems.

Aerodry process automation is helping us produce high-quality recycled PET chips. It is designed to reduce the PPM levels of the external contaminants like organic compounds in the r-PET granulates. This improves the line productivity of the film-manufacturing line which produces the r-PET film.

of the r-PET chips. This helps in using a larger proportion of r-PET granules in film production.

**Q. How does automation from Aerodry impact your recycling business?**

Aerodry process automation is helping us produce high-quality recycled PET chips. It is designed to reduce the PPM levels of the external contaminants like organic compounds in the r-PET granulates. This improves the line productivity of the film-manufacturing line which produces the r-PET film.

**Q. Who is your role model that you look up to and why?**

Way back in 1993-94 when UFlex was putting up a massive infrastructure for manufacturing the flexible packaging material, the concept of circularity did not exist. That's the time when our Group Chairman, Shri Ashok Chaturvedi envisioned the need for recycling the MLP waste. Since then, we have been recycling the MLP waste to make all our packaging plants zero-discharge. We received the 'Best Paper' award from Davos Recycling Association way back in 1995 and were awarded with the 'Best Technology' award by the then Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh.

Today in the times of circular economy, the vision of Mr. Chaturvedi has come to the fore and is helping the industry meet the challenges of recycling.

He is my role model, and we look up to him for all types of sustainable developments. ■

“ At UFlex, we intend to equip all our global manufacturing locations with a recycling facility. We are currently recycling around 20,000 MT of PCR and PIR MLP per annum and intend to reach a level of 1,00,000 MT per annum by 2024-25. ”