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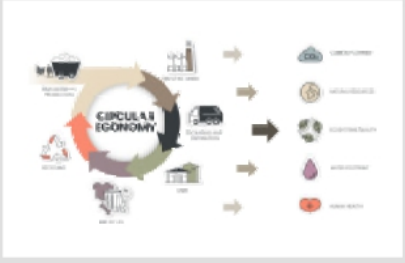

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

We've developed advanced chemical recycling technologies to convert PU waste into raw materials

Rymbal, a leading manufacturer of polyurethane systems, is renowned for producing its polyurethane systems locally. Neeraj Garg, Founder & Director, Horizon Performance Polyurethane, Rymbal discussed the company's journey, unique polyurethane recycling capabilities, footwear manufacturing trends, and the company's long-term vision in an interview with Nisha Shukla.

Can you share the journey of your company from inception to becoming a key player in the Polyurethane systems market in India? What were the initial challenges you faced?

Our company was founded with a vision to deliver innovative, high-quality polyurethane solutions specifically tailored to the Indian market. Sustainability has been at the core of Rymbal's values from the start, with R&D playing a crucial role in driving our high-standard innovations. Key milestones on our journey include substantial investments in R&D, facility expansions, and strategic partnerships, all of which have helped establish our strong reputation.

Our initial challenges were developing key solutions for the Indian specific needs, which was not addressed by any global MNC who are in this space for decades. We have turned these challenges into strengths, thanks to the dedication and expertise of our supply chain, sales, marketing, and R&D teams, who have consistently delivered top-quality and innovative solutions, leading us to market leadership. Today, our strong commitment to sustainability and customised solutions fuels our growth, solidifying our role as a major player in the Indian polyurethane systems market. Looking forward to this, we are excited about further expansion and continuing to drive sustainability within the industry.

Your company is recognised for providing 100 per cent locally produced Polyurethane systems. What inspired the decision to focus exclusively on local production, and how has this impacted your business and the footwear industry in India?

Neeraj Garg, Founder & Director, Horizon Performance Polyurethane, Rymbal

We chose to focus on 100 per cent local production to support the Indian economy, reduce import dependencies, and better tailor our polyurethane systems to local needs. This decision has led to enhanced product customisation for Indian market conditions, and improved supply chain reliability. We are well recognised for our quick turnaround time to give product solutions to our customers in comparison to most companies who operate from global locations.

Being the only company in the world to recycle Polyurethane, including both post-consumer and process waste, what motivated you to take this pioneering step?

Our motivation to recycle polyurethane, including both post-consumer and process waste, stems from a deep commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility. We recognised the urgent need to address the growing waste problem in industry. By pioneering this effort, we aim to reduce landfill waste, conserve resources, and set a new standard for the polyurethane industry. We have completed the Life cycle analysis (LCA) which shows significant carbon emission

reduction and obtained a Recycled Claim Standard (RCS) certificate for the innovation.

We believe this initiative will drive the industry towards more sustainable practices, encouraging others to adopt recycled materials and contributing to a circular economy that benefits both the environment and the industry's future. To share, the current Polyester PU recycled material meets all safety footwear requirements specification which is benchmark application in footwear industry.

Can you elaborate on the technology and processes your company has developed to recycle Polyurethane waste? What are the key challenges in recycling Polyurethane, and how have you overcome them?

Polyurethanes are seventh-largest consumed polymer in the world, and it is a thermoset material in nature, which means it can't be recycled by conventional thermal recycling process. Hence its waste/ products at end of life pose threat to environment. We have developed advanced chemical recycling technologies to convert Polyurethane waste into reusable raw materials.

Our process involves chemically breaking down (depolymerising) the post-consumer and processing waste into its core components, which can then be reintroduced into footwear production or other PU applications. These advancements allow us to maintain the quality of recycled materials, ensuring they meet industry standards while significantly reducing environmental impact. A key opportunity lies in finding partners who share our commitment to innovation and are eager to contribute to positive societal change.

How does your recycling initiative align with global sustainability trends, and what impact do you believe it will have on the environmental footprint of the footwear industry?

Our recycling initiative aligns with global sustainability trends by promoting circular economy principles, reducing waste, and conserving resources. By recycling polyurethane waste, we significantly cut down on landfill contributions and lower the demand for virgin materials, which reduces the overall environmental footprint.

For the footwear industry, this initiative enables manufacturers to adopt more sustainable practices, lowering their carbon footprint and meeting growing consumer demand for eco-friendly products. We believe this will drive the industry towards greater environmental responsibility,