

## UNION PLASTIC committed to sustainable development

**UNION PLASTIC**, based in Saint-Didier en Velay (43), has been a recognised specialist for 60 years in plastic injection design and the manufacturing of medical device components and sub-assemblies for human and veterinary health care. All of its products are for the health industry, and can be broken down into four categories: applicators and dispensing devices for health care products; primary pharmaceutical packaging; medical devices and components; and diagnostic consumables. The company has initiated a major sustainable development policy to optimize the use of resources.

Our company is in constant development and is keenly aware of the environmental impact of our activities, which is why we've been undertaking an ambitious ecological program over the past three years. «As a plastics manufacturer in the heart of nature in Auvergne, this is particularly important to us. It's our corporate responsibility, and it only seemed natural for us to be a force for change in this area,» explained Frédéric GOUNON, Managing Director of UNION PLASTIC.

### This policy is deployed on many fronts:

#### Reducing energy consumption of machinery

Industrial sites in the pharmaceutical sector use ISO clean rooms that consume a great deal of energy. It's been a top priority for UNION PLASTIC since 2015 to find solutions that will help reduce energy consumption. The company has made significant investments in machinery. Hydraulic presses have been replaced by **100% electric presses**, considerably reducing the amount of energy required for the same quantity of transformed material.

In parallel, the company's engineers have introduced an ingenious system to recover the heat generated by the injection molding machines in order to heat buildings and produce hot water.

«Thanks to these two actions, **our water consumption was reduced by 26%** between 2016 and 2018, and **electricity by 30%**», said Frédéric GOUNON.

#### Solar power

In 2018, the company invested in solar panels that cover nearly 3700m<sup>2</sup> of the roofs at its two production sites in the Haute Loire region. The panels can generate an apparent power of 670kVA, resulting in a **9 to 15% rate of consumed energy out of our own production**. Thanks to this investment, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have been slashed by more than 13,000 kg since 2018. A second section is slated for installation in 2019 on the second building, known as the MUP, in order to obtain an average self-sufficiency greater than 10%.



The solar panels at the UPP Union Plastic site in St Didier en Velay.

## Recycling plastic

UNION PLASTIC gives a second life to its plastic scraps and encourages the recycling of its products. No less than 77% of waste at its sites was recycled in 2018, and the company is shooting for a rate of 85% by 2025. The plastic scraps from the manufacturing process are recycled whenever possible. Each material is stored separately, collected and recycled by an external company, and then ground into pellets. **In 2018, the result was nearly 170 tons of plastic materials being recycled.** Polycarbonate scraps were reused by the automotive industry, in particular for the interiors of vehicles. Polypropylene waste was recycled to create garden furniture, and PVC scraps were used in floor coverings.

UNION PLASTIC is also helping each of its customers establish recycling instructions for the end users in order to meet the challenges of a circular economy.

## Intensifying its eco-design approach

UNION PLASTIC has rallied all its teams around a common cause to forge ahead with eco-responsible innovation.

The challenge for our R&D teams is clear: become even more environmentally friendly while maintaining the highest levels of safety for the patient. For our engineers, this means seeking out new ways to reduce weight and thicknesses with maximum optimization of design. **The non-traumatic DOS'UP® Plus pipette offers a real-life example of this eco-responsible approach.** The part weight for the 5 pipettes with a 3-hole end piece, in 3 ml - 5 ml - 6 ml - 8 ml - 10 ml, has been reduced by roughly 20% compared with other pipettes on the market of an equivalent maximum volume. The product was an instant hit, as more than 30 million of the pipettes were ordered in 2018 in Europe, North Africa and Australia.



**DOS'UP® Plus** non-traumatic pipette to avoid risk of improper swallowing thanks to its 3-hole uniform distribution system.



**APPLISIL®** 1 ml & 5 ml single-dose tube with breakaway tip.

Designs with hot runners are given priority over sprue molds in order to boost production rates and avoid repeated grinding of the sprues, thereby optimizing the amount of energy required per produced part. All the new products in the **DOS'UP®** range of liquid and powder dispensing devices and the **APPLISIL®** range for cream and gel applicators were developed along these lines. This is also the case for one of our most recent innovations in 2019, the **APPLISIL®** 1 ml & 5 ml single-dose tube with breakaway tip for dermal, vaginal and rectal applications.

### Goal for 2025:

Injecting biodegradable and bio-sourced recycled plastic materials. Although the ecological transition in the medical sector is behind that of the food industry, the commitment is just as firm. UNION PLASTIC encourages order givers to cooperate more closely so we can all work together towards a future that is more ecological, sustainable and eco-responsible.

### Going one step further...

UNION PLASTIC manufactures health care products at its three ISO 9, ISO 8 and ISO 7 certified production sites: UP and MUP sites in France, and the UPM site in Tunisia. The company has over 100 production lines: single-material plastic injection, injection blowing for PP and PE bottles in ISO 7 environment, multi-component assembly, automated product packaging accessories, and high-speed Offset and Laser printing.

A subsidiary of the OMERIN Group since 2015, UNION PLASTIC has deployed an ambitious development plan based on four key areas:

- Support growth for our biggest accounts,
- Provide comprehensive and innovative solutions to the market,
- Develop its international presence through the OMERIN Group network,
- Develop sales of its clean room products through reinforced commercial and marketing actions, highlighting our unique know-how.

To keep up with the growth of its activities, the group is always on the look out for qualified personnel. All of the available jobs can be found on our website [www.omerin.com](http://www.omerin.com).

Increased performance, innovation, international development and sustainable development: UNION PLASTIC leaves no stone unturned to drive growth in a highly competitive market, and aims to produce over 2 billion parts per year on 5 continents. With its ambitious sustainable development policy, UNION PLASTIC has firmly positioned itself as a major player on the health care market and a leader in environmental issues.



The UNION PLASTIC plant in Saint-Didier en Velay



- DOSING AND ADMINISTRATION SYSTEMS FOR HEALTHCARE PRODUCTS
- PHARMACEUTICAL PRIMARY PACKAGING
- MEDICAL COMPONENTS & MEDICAL DEVICES
- DIAGNOSIS CONSUMABLES

## About UNION PLASTIC

**CEO: Xavier OMERIN**  
**UNION PLASTIC Managing Director: Frédéric GOUNON**

UNION PLASTIC was acquired by the OMERIN Group in 2015.

Since 1955, the company UNION PLASTIC has been designing and manufacturing innovation solutions in plastics for health care industries. Its expertise and know-how are world-renowned.

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## OMERIN Group: Key Figures

**€210 M**  
2018 TO

**1100**  
employees

**47%**  
of sales on export markets

**13 production plants**  
including 9 in France

**omerin**

The power of an international group