

## **The PEX Association, 7 years on.**

On the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2003, a group of companies who were active in the PE-X cross linked polyethylene industry in Europe came together to form The PEX Association. In 2010 the aims of the group remain the same, to promote the knowledge (both marketing and technical) of PE-X and to promote the use of the PE-X family of materials.

One of the principle reasons the Association was formed was to deal with the issues arising from the development of the European Approval Scheme (EAS) for water quality approval. In a model of how the Association has developed, the members contributed their individual skills, data and resources and designed, together with KIWA, a substantial study of the effects of the longer extraction periods under EN 1420-1 and EN 12873-1 on odour, flavour and organic carbon levels in potable water at 60deg. C. From this study the Association was able to compare the relative organoleptic properties of a full range of polymeric and metallic materials used in pipes for the hot sanitary water market.

This study has not only started the Association's data base but has resulted in a co-operative working relationship with TEPPFA, the European Plastics Pipes and Fittings Association.

PEX Association members participate in a range of normative bodies, both to represent the industry and to keep membership aware of critical developments. A close contact with national regulators, trade associations and recognised standards institutes is maintained.

In the last four years the Association has commissioned major technical studies of the relative chlorine resistance, and thermal cycling performance of PE-X and other polymeric materials. Currently an extensive investigation of the long term effects of oxygenated hot circulating water on PE-X and other materials is commencing. All of this adds to a member accessible data base and to opportunities to help our industry face the challenges ahead.

As a forum the Association meets for technical and marketing discussions on a twice yearly basis. These meetings have provided the opportunity for lively and productive discussions on a whole range of topics of common interest and concern. It is recognised that there will always be a strong need to stress the benefits of all PE-X materials without the distinction between peroxide, silane and radiation cross linking technologies. A source of help and information on all matters PE-X is offered on the Association website.

Membership is drawn from a wide range of polymer and additive raw materials suppliers, compounders and product manufacturers from the industry. The Association welcomes new members from all branches of the industry, including machinery manufacturers, test houses, and end product users.

You can find out more about membership and make that first contact at:- [www.pex-association.com](http://www.pex-association.com)

Here's to the next seven years!