



**For More Information Contact:**

Robert J. Martino  
Martino Communications Inc.  
Tel: 1-914-478-0754  
Fax: 1-914-478-0959  
Email: [bob@martinocommunications.com](mailto:bob@martinocommunications.com)

Andrea Siy, President  
SIY Communications, Inc.  
978-465-6363

[andrea@siycommunications.com](mailto:andrea@siycommunications.com)

Steve Maxson, VP, Extrusion Systems  
American Kuhne, Inc.  
401-326-6205  
[smaxson@americankuhne.com](mailto:smaxson@americankuhne.com)

**PRESS RELEASE  
-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-**

**American Kuhne, Inc. and Teknor Apex team up to showcase  
first ever extrusion run of PVC-Free high tolerance medical tubing  
up to 830 ft/minute line speed**

***Teknor Apex's Medalist® Medical Elastomer was run on a tubing line at the recent  
American Kuhne Open House held on May 25<sup>th</sup> at American Kuhne in Ashaway, RI***

***(American Kuhne, Inc., Ashaway, RI & Teknor Apex, Pawtucket, RI June , 2011)***... At the recent American Kuhne Spring Open House, American Kuhne and Teknor Apex teamed up to display a PVC- free medical tubing line that ran at speeds up to 830 ft/min while running Teknor's Medalist® medical elastomer.

The high speed extrusion line ran a 0.105" (2.67mm) OD x 0.020" (0.508mm) Wall tube up to 830 ft/min line speed. At 600 ft/min line speed, tight tolerances of +/- 0.0004" on the OD and +/- 0.0001" on the wall thickness were held. The extrusion system consisted of an American Kuhne ULTRA series 2.0" (50mm) extruder with AKcess Level II Touchscreen System; inline spiral flow die head; Conair multi-pass vacuum tank with servo driven wheel to minimize the rubber band effect and to minimize tension within the process; servo driven nip roller puller; automatic cut and transfer coiler and a Zumbach ID/OD/WALL tube measurement system with closed-loop control of the OD and WALL thickness. The compound used in this run was MD585, an 83 Shore A compound that is part of the Medalist® MD-500 series for tubing applications.

“American Kuhne is a premiere supplier of extrusion systems and has great expertise in the technology for producing medical tubing,” noted Nick Sandland, senior medical marketing manager for the Thermoplastic Elastomer Division of Teknor Apex. “The company’s flawless high-speed demonstration run of our Medalist elastomer adds new confirmation that MD-500 series tubing compounds truly are fully practical alternatives to PVC.”

Recent innovations in radio frequency welding, adhesive bonding, and solvent bonding enable components produced from Medalist elastomers to be used as readily as PVC in the assembly of medical devices, Sandland noted. “Today it’s clear that Medalist MD-500 compounds provide the total package of requirements for successful tubing applications—processability, ease of fabrication, and outstanding end-use performance.”

**The American Kuhne Spring Medical Seminar and Open House offered participants valuable technical medical extrusion knowledge and processing tips. The seminar sold out with over 80 participants for the 2-day event.**

The Medalist® MD-500 Series compounds are the first fully practical alternative to PVC for many tubing applications, noted Sandland. “It’s not just that they provide mechanical properties equal to or better than those of the flexible PVC widely used for medical tubing; at least as important, they yield tubing that looks and handles like PVC. This means similar crystal clarity, clamp resilience, resistance to kinking and necking, and an overall PVC-like ‘feel’”.

Sandland also cited some important advantages over PVC: “Medalist elastomers are substantially more flexible. They are less dense, meaning that one can process more feet of tubing per pound of compound. And they exhibit minimal color shift upon heat aging after exposure to gamma irradiation, the most severe type of sterilization.”

A typical compound in the series, Medalist MD-575, actually exhibits 70% less heat-aged color shift than a gamma-stabilized PVC compound of comparable hardness.

“The Medalist material was easy to handle while stringing up the line and also while coiling at the end of the line,” said Steve Maxson, VP Extrusion Systems of American Kuhne. “The material is extremely forgiving with very stable processing conditions at high extruder output levels, which means that tight tolerance levels can be achieved at very high production line speeds.”

#### **About American Kuhne, Inc.**

American Kuhne, Inc. is a leading worldwide supplier of standard and customized single screw extruders, feed screws, extrusion systems and extrusion process controllers. Extruder sizes range from 1/2" (12.7mm) through 12-inch (305mm). They are designed and built in Ashaway, RI. Turnkey pipe, tubing and profile systems are also developed, tested and manufactured within their plant. In addition, the company maintains two medical tubing lab lines capable of multi-lumen and taper tube extrusions available for customer trials in their facility in Ashaway RI and their European facility at Kuhne GmbH in St. Augustin Germany.

<http://www.americankuhne.com>

#### **About Teknor Apex**

TEKNOR APEX COMPANY is a diversified plastics compounder that sells in 90 countries and operates manufacturing facilities in the U.S., Europe, and Asia. The Thermoplastic Elastomer Division's Medalist® high-purity medical elastomers are available with hardness from Shore OO 25 to Shore A 87, include clear, translucent, and opaque formulations, and have applications ranging from film and tubing to molded components and wire and cable. An expandable registered binder with a wealth of test data on Medalist products and resources for designers and processors is available to qualified OEMs, designers, and plastics processors in the medical device and healthcare product industries. It can be requested from the Medalist website at [www.medalistmd.com](http://www.medalistmd.com) or by emailing Teknor Apex at [medalist@teknorapex.com](mailto:medalist@teknorapex.com). Other Teknor Apex plastics businesses include the Bioplastics, Nylon, Specialty Compounding, and Vinyl Divisions and Teknor Color Company. [www.teknorapex.com](http://www.teknorapex.com).

*High speed tubing line at American Kuhne Open House*

