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SAPRO's best recycled product

THE South African Plastics Recyclers Organisation (SAPRO), with the support of PlasticsSA and various role players, announced the winners of the annual Best Recycled Product Competition at a gala awards dinner held at the Midrand Conference Centre.

The competition, a highlight of the local plastics industry's Clean Up South Africa Week, encouraged brand owners and industrial designers to consider recycled plastics as a material of choice.

According to Douglas Greig, SAPRO's chairman, a wide variety of local products was entered.

'We invited submissions in three product categories – products made from 100% recyclate, products containing a certain percentage of post-consumer recyclate, and products made from a mixture of post-consumer recycled materials,' Douglas explains. 'We were thrilled with both the quality and quantity of the entries received, proving that the plastics recycling industry is growing in size, sophistication and value,' he adds.

A panel of plastics experts judged the products on life expectancy; sustainability, long-term demand and market acceptance; tonnage (expected tonnages) diverted from landfills; replacement of alternative materials; technical achievements in manufacturing excellence to overcome recycled material challenges; and measures taken to ensure product consistency and consumer satisfaction, despite the recycled contents.

From a packaging point of view, in the category for a percentage of recyclate mixed with virgin material Polypet won Gold for its Woolworths 1,5-litre juice bottle.

The evening clearly belonged to Polypet (part of Polyoak Packaging) that received the PACSA Trophy

for the Best Recycled Product of the Year for its 1,5-litre cool drink bottle manufactured for Woolworths. The bottle impressed the judges with its recycled content and consumer acceptance.

Recycled materials for the bottles were supplied by Extrupet, which has invested in a world-class recycling facility, enabling it to produce recycled materials fit for use in food-contact applications.

This 1,5-litre juice bottle represents the commitment of a complete value chain to make a difference. This includes Woolworths' commitment to the environment, Extrupet's commitment to a world-class recyclate, and Polypet's commitment to manufacturing aesthetically-appealing packaging that meets consumers' expectations. It also encompasses Petco's commitment to extended producer responsibility.

