

**PLACE** 2016

EXPLORING  
NEW FRONTIERS

April 11-13 2016  
FORT WORTH TEXAS

# Advances in LDPE Resins for Extrusion Coating Applications

**Presented by:**  
**Michael Biscoglio, PhD**  
**Development Leader**  
**The Dow Chemical Company**





## Agenda

---

- Introduction to the extrusion coating market and performance needs
- Technical preference for autoclave like LDPE
- Availability of LDPE
- What new tubular grades of LDPE offer in performance
- Conclusions & Future



# Introduction

Extrusion coating provides for the enhancement of substrates wherein autoclave LDPE is the most commonly applied material

## Convertor

- Processability
- ★ Melt Strength
- Availability
- Cost Effectiveness

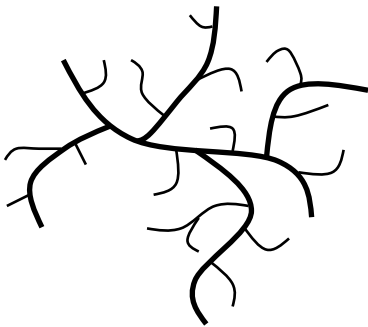
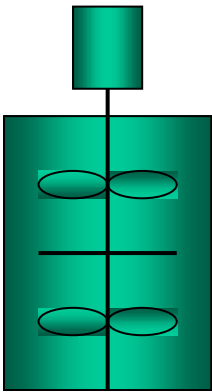
## End Use

- Barrier (WVTR)
- Strength, tear resistance
- Bond
- Inertness
- Sealability

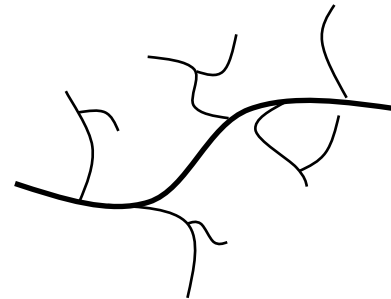
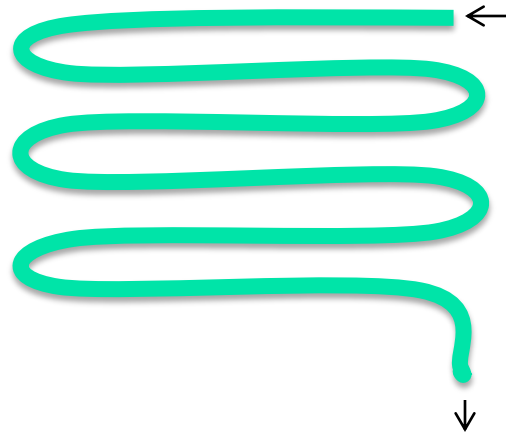


## Autoclave vs Tubular LDPE

### Autoclave Reactor



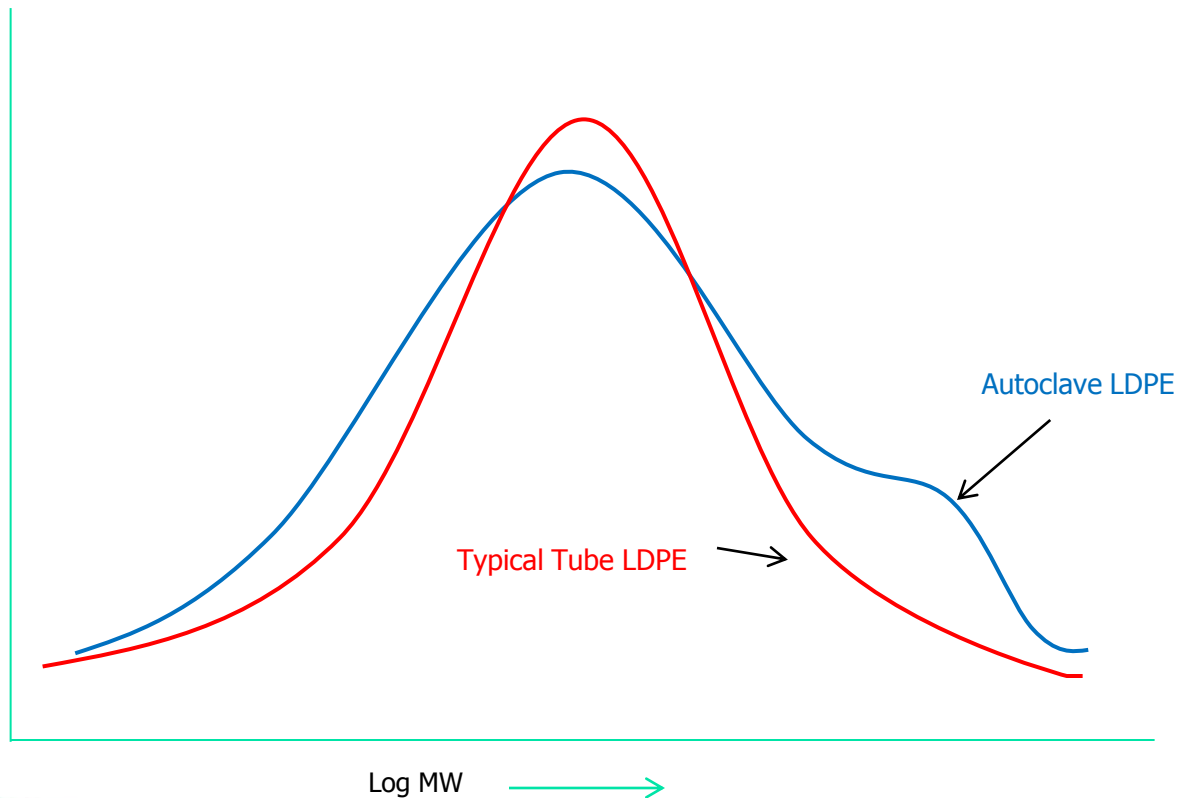
### Tubular Reactor





# Autoclave vs Tubular LDPE

Molecular weight distribution of an **autoclave** produced LDPE vs one produced on a **conventional tubular** asset.





## LDPE Availability in North America



## North American autoclave start up year

---

1954  
1960  
1965  
1966  
1968

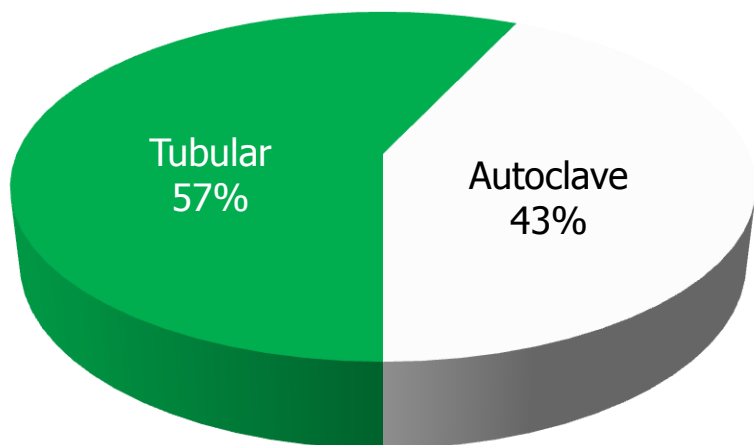




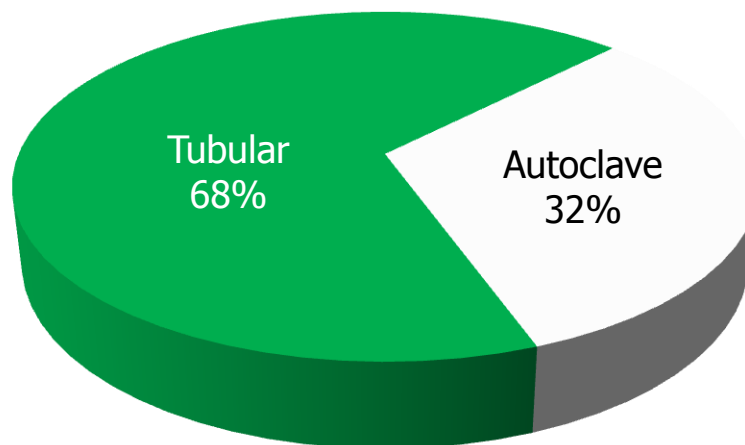


## NA LDPE Balances ('14 to '19)

**2014 LDPE Balances**  
***6.8 B lbs***



**Projected 2019 LDPE Balances**  
***9 B lbs***



**Data source:** Townsend Solutions, Global PE Demand 2014



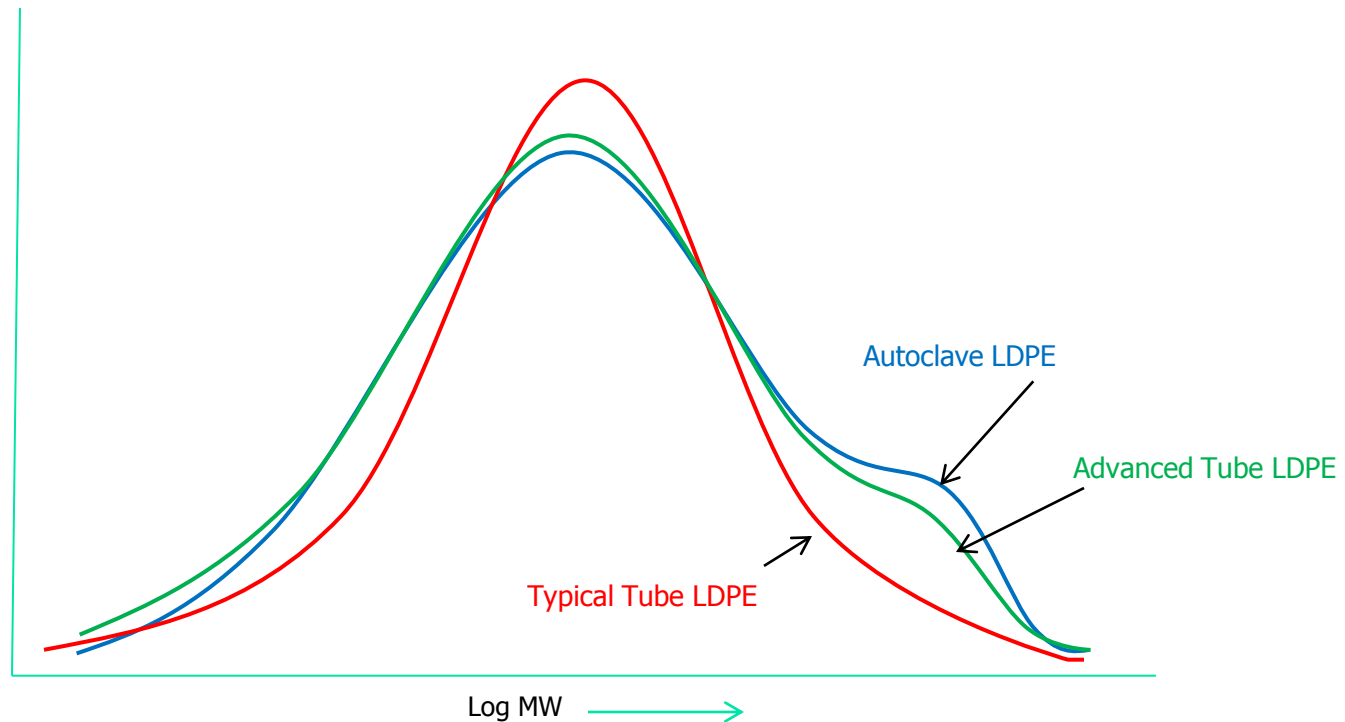


## LDPE: Advanced Tubular vs Traditional Autoclave Performance



# Autoclave vs Tubular LDPE

Molecular weight distribution of **autoclave** produced LDPE vs one produced on a **conventional tubular** asset and one on an **advanced tubular** asset.



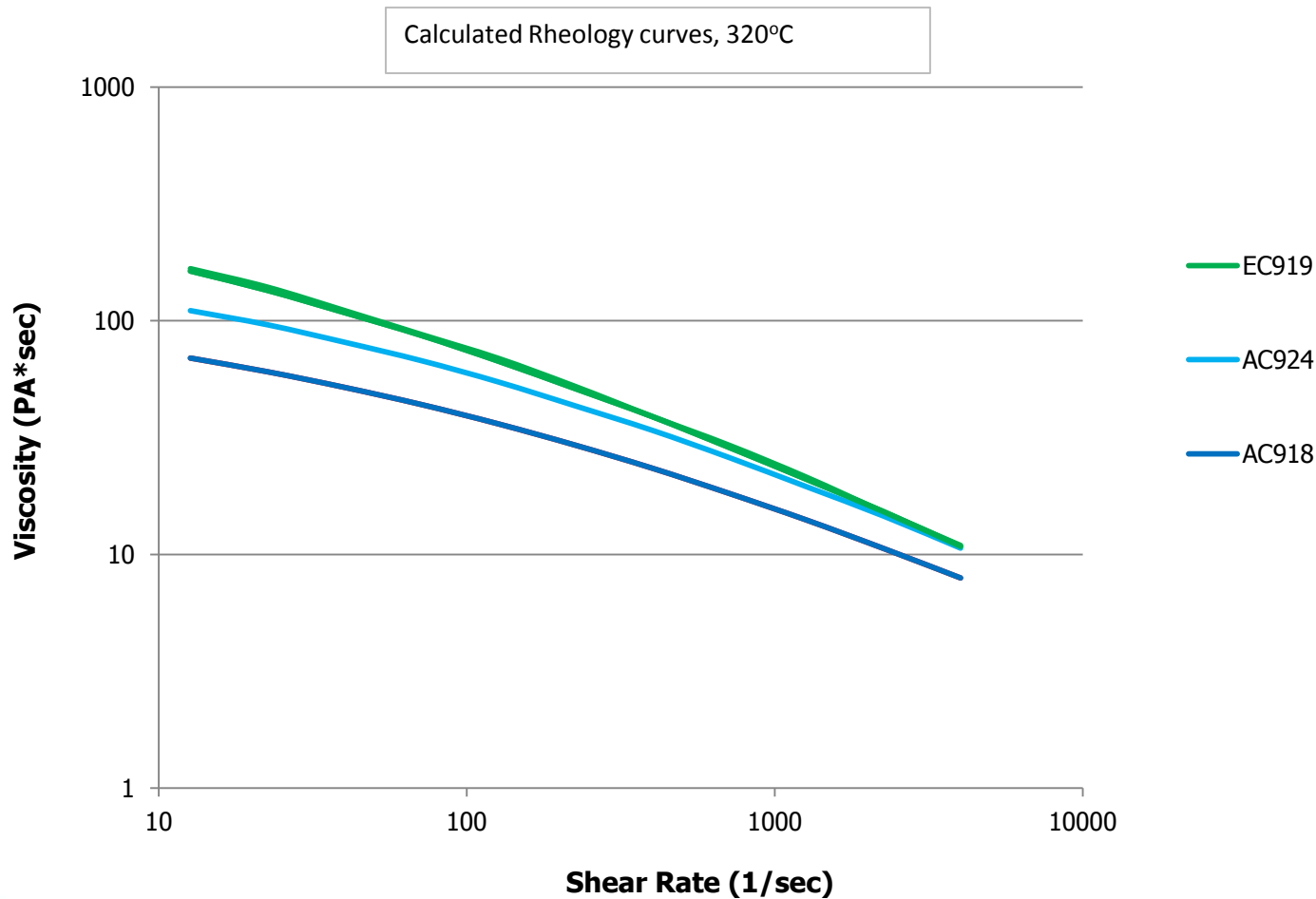


# Comparative Examples

LDPE	Type	MI (g/10min)	Density (g/cc)	Notation
Dow LDPE 722	Autoclave	8.0	0.918	AC918
Dow LDPE 5004I	Autoclave	4.2	0.924	AC924
Dow LDPE 5005	Autoclave	5.7	0.922	AC922
AGILITY™ EC 7000	Tubular	3.9	0.919	EC919
Competitive 1	Tubular	5.0	0.918	CT918
Competitive 2	Tubular	5.0	0.919	CT919
Dow LDPE PG 7008	Autoclave	7.7	0.918	EU918



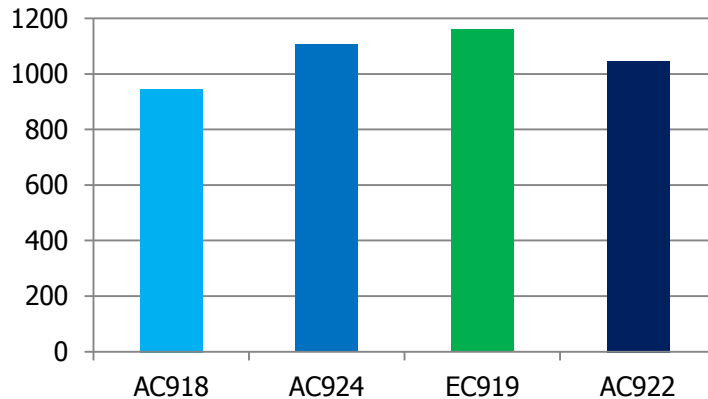
# Rheology Comparison





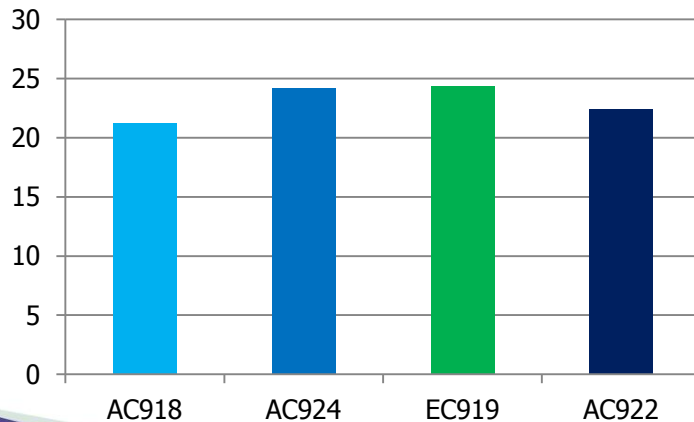
# Processability Comparison

## Back Pressure (psi)

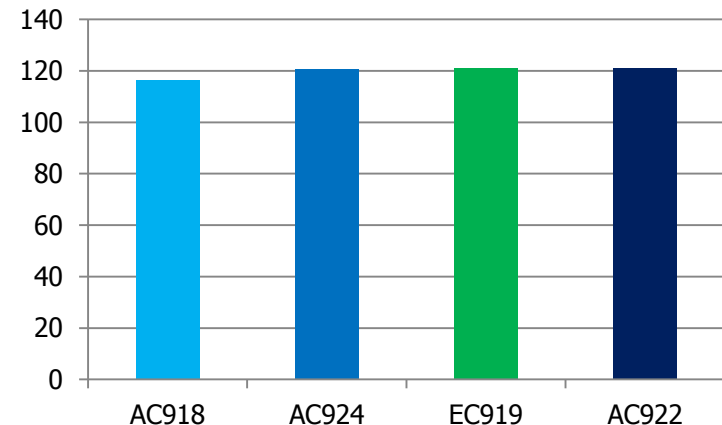


Advanced tubular LDPE will process similarly to autoclave grades

## Horsepower



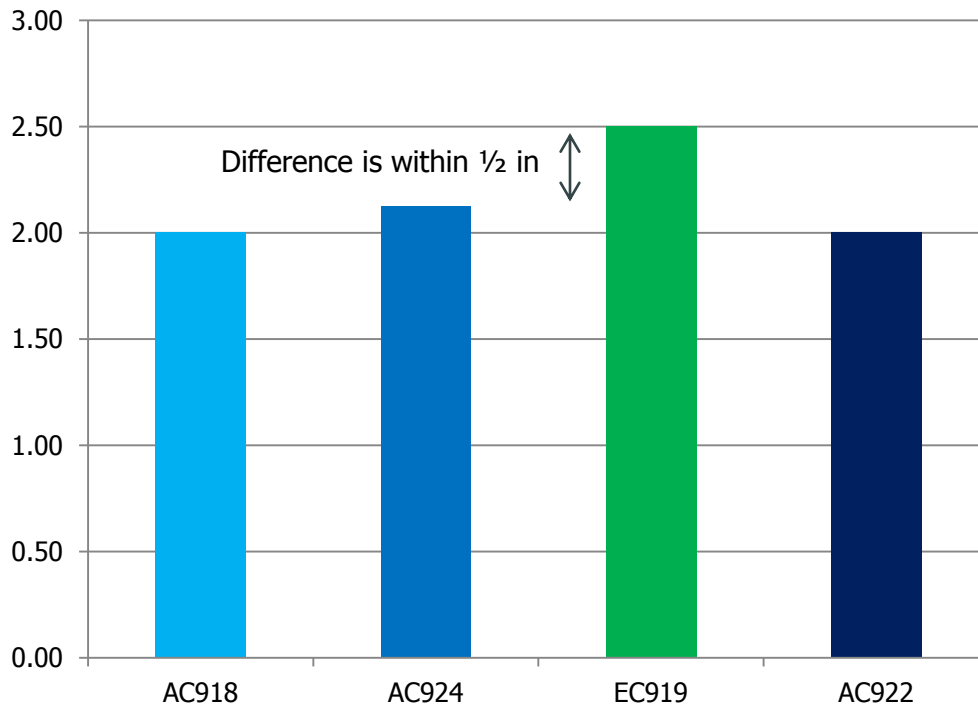
## Amps





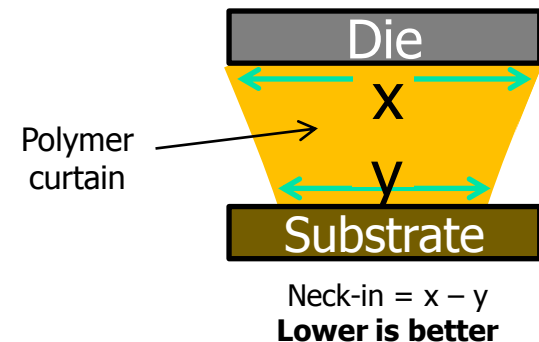
# Neck-In Comparison

**Neck-In (inches)<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> Set temp 600°F, 1 mil 440 fpm

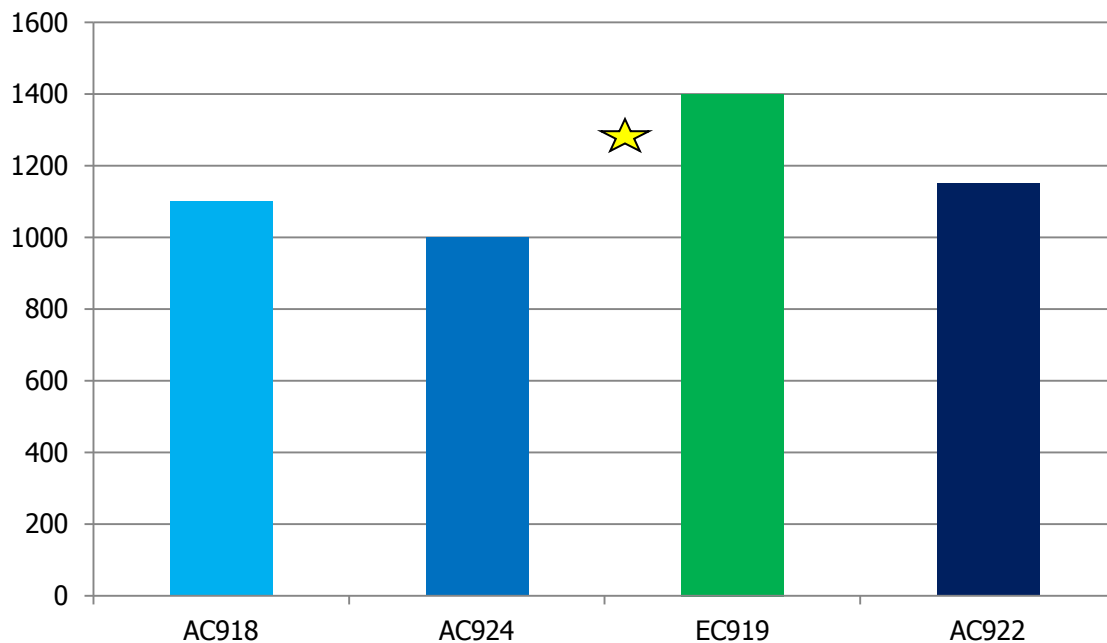
Similar Neck-In performance of advanced tubular LDPE to traditional autoclave resins



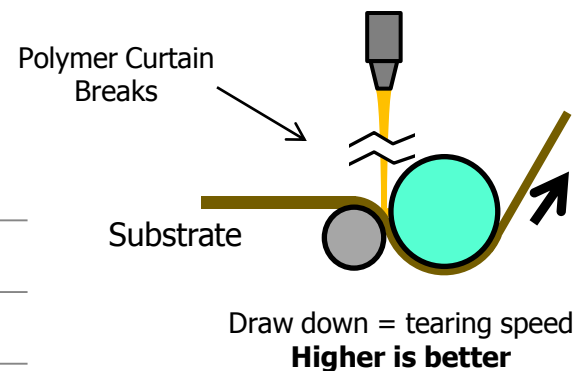


# Drawdown Comparison

Drawdown (fpm)<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Ramping with frozen output until web breaks



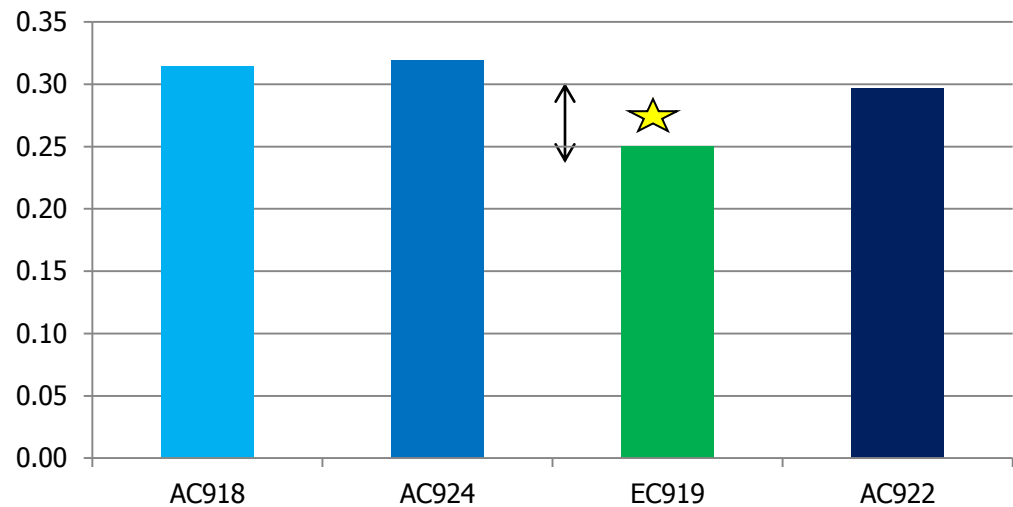




# Minimum coat weights

Improvement in drawdown ability of EC7000 over conventional autoclave grades, could allow for a wider process window and/or use less material.

## ~ Min Coat Thickness (mil)



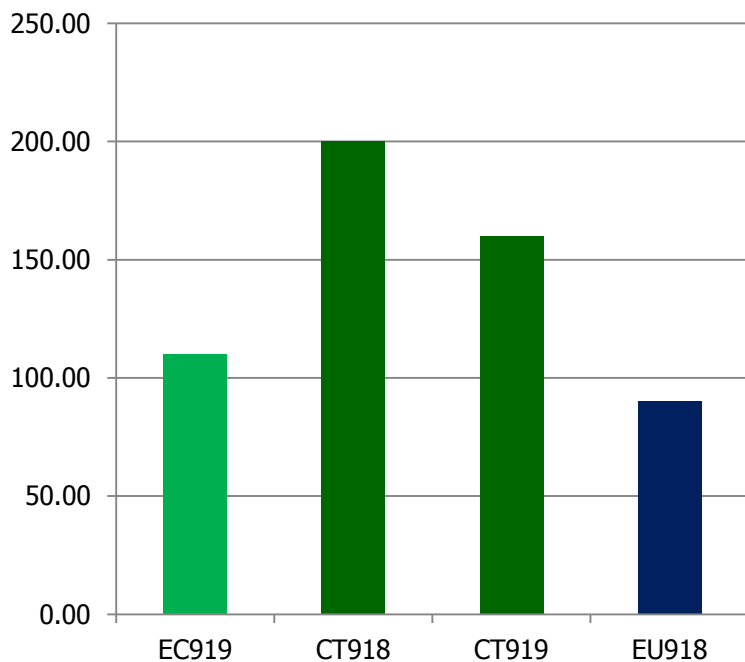


## Several more Advanced Tubular Grades vs Traditional Autoclave Performance



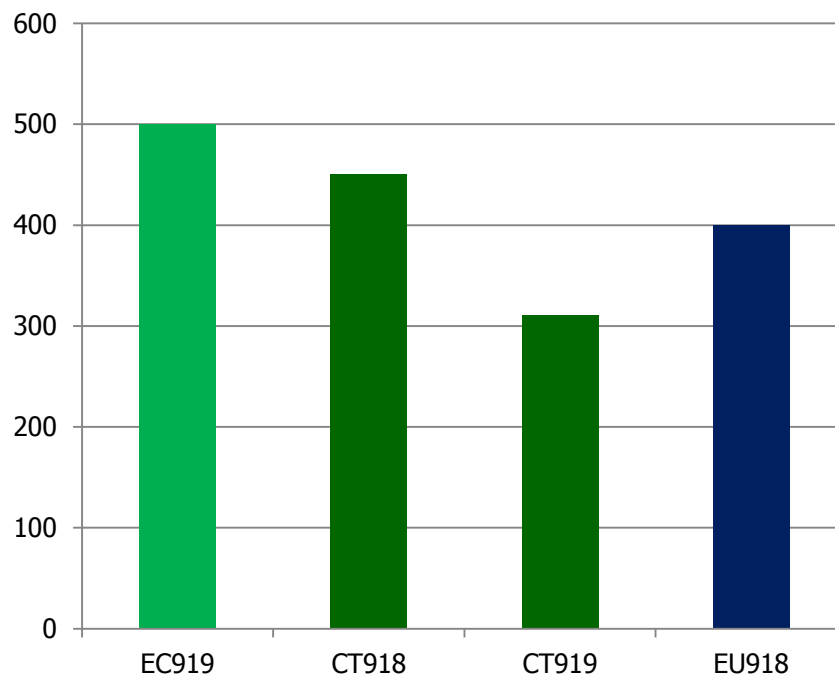
# Comparison of Tubular Grades Available in Europe

## Neck-In (mm)<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> set temp 320°C with 15 g/m<sup>2</sup> & 100 m/min

## Drawdown (mpm)<sup>2</sup>



<sup>2</sup> ramping until instability or break with frozen output at 15 g/m<sup>2</sup> and 100 m/min

Data source: Dow Europe GmbH – Technical Center Horgen



## Conclusions

---

- New tubular extrusion coating LDPEs are capable of meeting and exceeding the performance targets of conventional autoclave LDPEs
- Dow AGILITY™ technology delivers a sustainable solution to the aging autoclave LDPE asset base while enabling higher coating speeds at lighter coating weights



## Acknowledgement

---

Jim Cooper (Co-Author) – Development Leader

Bernard Fehr – Principal Scientist

Apurva Shah – Market Development Manager

Gabe Ayala – Sr. Research Technologist

Garrett Garcia - Technologist



# Thank you

PRESENTED BY

**Michael Biscoglio, PhD**

**Development Leader**

**The Dow Chemical Company**

**BiscogMB@Dow.com**