

JM Eagle now extruding corrugated polyethylene pipe

By [Matt Griswold](#) | PLASTICS NEWS STAFF

Posted April 10, 2009

LOS ANGELES (April 10, 9:15 a.m. ET) -- The world's largest pipe maker is launching a new corrugated high density polyethylene pipe program to tap into one of the most promising growth markets in plastic building products.

Los Angeles-based JM Eagle is extruding corrugated HDPE pipe in industry standard diameters ranging from 4-60 inches at its Wharton, Texas, facility, and will add corrugated capacity to its plants in Meadville, Pa., and Stockton, Calif., by the fourth quarter. The company is calling the product Eagle Corr PE, and selling it in 20-foot lengths.

The corrugated HDPE market is dominated by Hilliard, Ohio-based Advanced Drainage Systems Inc., which sells more than a \$1 billion worth of corrugated pipe per year.

"JM Eagle recognized that there was a void in the corrugated pipe market after ADS' acquisition of Hancor in 2005," said Dan O'Connor, JM Eagle's vice president of sales for HDPE, via email. "Additionally, given the wide range of areas where corrugated can be applied — combined with the federal government's recent focus on rebuilding the country's crumbling water infrastructure — and it's clear that there are unique opportunities for corrugated pipe manufacturers."

JM will have unique challenges and advantages as it enters the corrugated arena, Gene Palermo, president of Palermo Plastics Pipe Consulting in Friendsville, Tenn., said in an April 9 telephone interview.

"The challenge they have is that it's a new product for them. It's not solid-wall. There will be a challenge in making it," he said.

But JM's European-style focus on offering a diverse range of plastic pipe products will give them an economic advantage over the long haul.

"Using the European philosophy, they're not just a PE pipe supplier. They are a plastic pipe supplier. To me, that gives them a tremendous advantage."

JM Eagle intends to be a big player in this space.

"Our goal is to become one of the top manufacturers of corrugated PE pipe, and we'll achieve that by leveraging our purchasing power, manufacturing expertise, and existing infrastructure," O'Connor said.