



## Market leading thermal insulation with global expertise

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Ravago Industry Solutions is a specialist manufacturer and supplier of thermal and sound insulation products. At the start of 2020, it rebranded and relaunched its Styrofoam™ and Xenergy™ XPS foam products as RAVATHERM™ XPS.

*Words John Rawlings*

**R**avago Industry Solutions, a division of Ravago Building Solutions, is best known to the RV industry as a specialist manufacturer and supplier of thermal insulation products. It is a division of the Ravago Group, a multinational company founded in Belgium in 1961 that now sells nearly six million metric tonnes of polymer to more than 49,000 active customers through 285 locations across more than 55 countries worldwide.

With a market-leading range of Extruded Poly-



styrene (XPS) foam products, Ravago Industry Solutions has been supplying the caravan industry across Europe with foam boards used for sandwich panels in caravans and motorhomes (as well as many other sectors) for many years. At the start of 2020, it rebranded and relaunched its Styrofoam™ and Xenergy™ XPS foam products as RAVATHERM™ XPS and aims to utilise its local knowledge with its global scale and infrastructure to establish it as the insulation material reference for all applications, including the RV sector.

Ravago Building Solutions produces and distributes its insulation products, like RAVATHERM™ XPS, from 11 production lines located in 9 plants across Europe (UK, Hungary, Turkey, two in Greece, two in France and two in Germany). This makes it the biggest XPS producers in Europe, and the market leader in extruded polystyrene insulation materials. The extrusion manufacturing process creates an insulation material with uniform small closed cells, thermal performance and strength for a lifetime. Its thermal properties can represent

a significant energy saving, but also increases the comfort of people who are benefiting from greater warmth. Erik Severien is the Sales Manager at Ravago Industry Solutions, and he is responsible for sales activities throughout the EMEA countries. He started his carrier at Dow Building Solutions in 1988 as civil engineer, developing further on his expertise and assuming new roles within the company. After so many years he is still leading the division with the same enthusiasm of the beginning.

*"The Ravago Group is proud to still have a culture based on family values. The company's success depends on the quality and motivation of its employees," says Erik Severien. "Accordingly, my principles are focused on having the best and most motivated employees in the company," he continued.*

### Specialist expertise

Following the acquisition of Knauf XPS division in Europe in 2016 and European Dow business of Styrofoam and XENERGY in 2018, Ravago is now the largest extruded polystyrene foam



Motorhome section (wall and roof simplified view illustrating the use of RAVATHERM™ XPS)

his idea to recycle production waste from plastic producing petrochemical companies. Ravago subsequently grew into a comprehensive service provider to the petrochemical industry, constantly pushing the boundaries of plastic's applications and taking the re-use of plastics to new levels, with sustainability always a priority. Over the years, Ravago's ambition of global expansion and market leadership in polymer and chemical distribution, recycling and compounding, and building material (including insulation), became a reality.

## The key factors of Ravago Building Solutions success

- **Unique products** portfolio:
  - RAVATHERM™ XPS blue panels have proved successful in extremely demanding applications and are highly appreciated by manufacturers of branded products worldwide.
  - Ravatherm XPS X grey panels are a new step forward with the development of a high-class performance insulation based on a patent-granted technology: a manufacturing process which uses a zero-ODP blowing agent system and incorporated infra-red attenuator particles to scatter and reflect heat radiation within the foam board.
  - XPS core material for sandwich panels (refrigerated commercial vehicles, camper vans, caravans, and building panels) and further applications, such as cold store floor insulation, pipe-shells and tile backer boards.
- Experienced technical and sales organization across Europe, Turkish and CIS markets with more than hundreds of customers
- Long Term proven performance - Laboratory testing: Ravago Building Solutions undertakes rigorous quality management during and after the production of RAVATHERM™ XPS in order to manufacture of consistently high quality products The research and development department in Rheinmünster conducts product analyses, performs material research and develops new applications
- Large geographical coverage with **11 XPS Production lines** spread all over Europe and Turkey
- **Offline** processing capabilities with capability of close tolerance and product tailor-made to customers' needs.

(XPS) manufacturer in Europe. It supports customers with its experienced technical and sales organisation covering a large geographical area. Its iconic blue and grey foam boards have been used for many years as sandwich panels for caravans and motorhomes as well as for domestic and industrial floors and walls. With an exceptional lambda values to reduce heat loss, its resistance to moisture and availability in a large range of thicknesses and compressive strengths, RAVATHERM™ XPS can meet all design and performance specifications.

As a market-leader, Ravago Industry Solutions undertakes laboratory tests before, during and after the production of RAVATHERM™ XPS to guarantee its consistently high quality and long term performance. This includes product analysis and development, plus material research for new applications. RAVATHERM™ XPS X grey panels are a new step forward offering a high performance of insulation based on patented technology and a manufacturing process using a zero-ODP blowing agent system incorporating infra-red attenuator particles to scatter and reflect heat radiation within the foam board. "Our product is indeed unique," says Erik Severien. "It has excellent thermal insulation properties, which makes it suitable for very different applications: panels for refrigerated trucks or caravans are the first applications coming through my mind, but RAVATHERM™ XPS has many other properties, such as high water and vapour resistance, excellent bonding properties, high mechanical performances and it's also lightweight and versatile," he continued. RAVATHERM™ XPS can be cut, sanded, grooved, routed and milled without difficulty using standard off-the-shelf techniques and machinery. This allows Ravago Industry Solutions to offer a wide range of thicknesses and dimensions to its customers.

### Ravago during the pandemic

Ravago Industry Solutions supplies many industries, and some have not been affected by the COVID19 pandemic, including the caravan industry which has got stronger as caravans and motorhomes have become more popular this year as a way for people to travel independently while feeling safe and socially distanced in their own space. "The European market for leisure vehicles has shown an upward trend" says Erik Severien. "This, for good reasons. A vacation in your own motorhome has become much more popular, especially

during Corona times. People feel much safer in their own leisure vehicle. And traveling with your own caravan or motorhome increases independence. You are able to decide where or when you'd like to have your next holiday, without hotel restrictions," he continued. "And another very important point more and more critical in today's world: RAVATHERM™ XPS is fully recyclable. Cleaned and sorted, collected polystyrene insulation materials can be processed into pellets and reused for the same purposes: XPS insulation. In closed collaboration with our customers we are working to implement close loop recycling. With the up-cycling of recycled material, Ravago Industry Solutions wants to ensure a sustainable marketplace for RAVATHERM XPS over the next few decades. With Ravatherm XPS, Circular economy becomes reality".

### Quality Management Systems

Quality has always been a high priority at Ravago and is embedded in its culture. For Ravago, long-term solid relationships with its customers and industrial partners provide the best measure for quality. Supported by ISO certifications, Ravago constantly tries to raise the bar on the quality level by implementing corrective and preventive actions where needed while stringent controls are carried out. As part of its quality focus, Ravago has developed a Quality Management System in line with the latest ISO 9001 standards and implemented it at the majority of sales offices, warehouses and production plants. This ensures that an approach towards quality that is comprehensive and systematic which enables continuous quality improvement.

### History

Raf Van Gorp founded Ravago in 1961 when he bought the premises of a dynamite company in Arendonk in Belgium. He then developed

