

## PRESS RELEASE

---

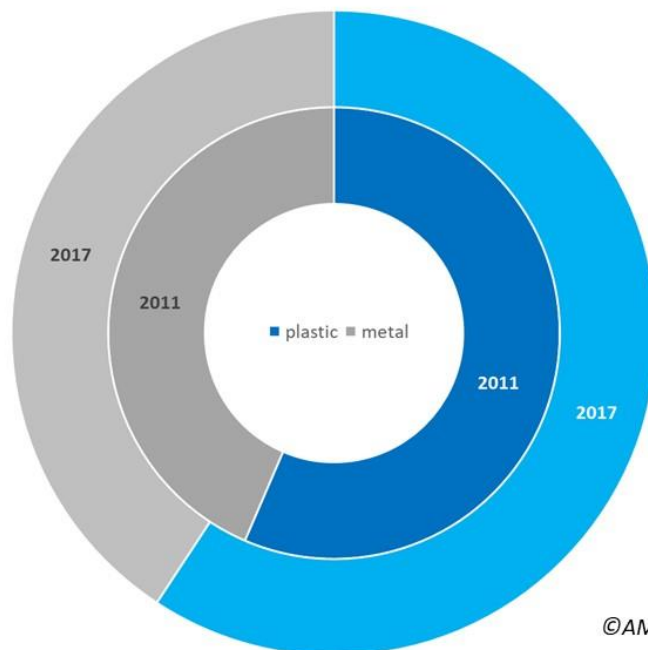
### Construction recovery and metal replacement drive hot and cold water plastic pipes demand in Europe

AMI Consulting, Bristol, 10/09/18 A decade on from the global financial crisis and the European construction industry finally appears to have shaken off its influence and the building sector has now recovered in most European countries. This pickup in building activity is helping to drive accelerated growth for plastic pipe systems in hot and cold water installation according to a new report from AMI Consulting.

The new edition of AMI Consulting’s detailed study, “Plastic hot and cold water pipe systems in Europe 2018”, reports that the installation of plastic hot and cold water pipes is expected to top 1 million kilometres by the end of 2018. Since 2012 the market has been growing at nearly 3%/year and is expected to maintain this momentum over the next 5 years.

In addition to the recovery in building activity, the market for plastic hot and cold water pipe systems continues to be driven by the opportunity to replace metal. While plastic piping has accounted for the majority of systems installed for several years now, 40% of installations are still metal-based and indeed copper piping remains the largest single material used in European plumbing.

**FIGURE 1:  
 DEMAND FOR HOT AND COLD WATER PIPE SYSTEMS IN EUROPE 2011 VERSUS 2017**



©AMI Consulting, 2018

An AMI Consulting report – Plastic Hot and Cold Water Pipes System in Europe 2018

There are of course significant regional variations across Europe due to a mixture of historical practices, regulations and/or local suppliers. The penetration of plastic hot and cold water pipe is highest in the Benelux region, where over three-quarters of the market is accounted for by plastic pipes and Germany (two-thirds of demand), while the UK has the lowest level of penetration where copper piping is still preferred by large sections of the plumbing and building industries.

A variety of plastic systems are used in this sector and AMI's research has found that multilayer composite pipes which incorporate a layer aluminium, are now the most popular choice, having overtaken the demand for cross-linked polyethylene (PEX) systems. Strongest growth though has been in the use of raised temperature polyethylene pipe (PE-RT) thanks to the growing popularity of underfloor heating systems, albeit this only accounts for around 6% of total demand.

Unlike other types of plastic pipes, hot & cold water systems are suitable for export given the smaller diameter and Europe is a large net exporter of such pipes, especially to Russia and the CIS, Middle East and Africa. Production of plastic hot and cold water pipe is one-third higher than demand and accounts for approximately 230,000 tonnes of polymer demand. Polyethylene is by far the most important material used, followed by polypropylene. PVC and polybutylene are also used in this sector, but they are generally losing market share to other materials on the grounds of raw material and/or installation costs.

For more information on "Plastic Hot and Cold Water Pipes System in Europe 2018" published by AMI Consulting please contact Cristina de Santos AMI Consulting on Tel +44 (0) 117 314 8141 or Email [cristina.desantos@ami.international](mailto:cristina.desantos@ami.international).

*Notes for Editors:*

*One chart is attached for publication:*

*Shares of plastic vs. metal pipe for 2011 and 2017 (in terms of installed volume)*