

in parallel. PCC was founded in 1976 and has since operated as an independent system-house mainly producing rigid polyurethane foam systems and spray coatings. Elastogran took

over the company at the end of March 2007. At the company's site in Boxtel near Tilburg, approximately 30 persons are employed.

R.I.M Plastics invests in new Hennecke equipment

R.I.M. Plastics Technology, a polyurethane moulder based in Basildon, Essex, UK, is continuing a major investment strategy by the purchase of a 4th **Hennecke TopLine** high pressure

metering unit. This latest **TopLine 650** will operate 3 MP mix heads and full process diagnostics. The machine is supplied by Hennecke's agent in the UK and Ireland, **AutoRIM Limited**.

Price increases for Dow's PU raw materials

Effective 1 October 2007, or as contract terms allow, **Dow**, Midland, MI, USA, has raised its prices in Europe for TDI by

EUR 100 per mt. In IMEA, prices for flexible polyols and TDI will increase by USD 100 per mt.

Perstorp increases prices

The specialty chemicals company, **Perstorp AB**, Perstorp, Sweden, announces price increases on a number of products. All price increases took effect on 1 October 2007 or as existing contracts permit. Price increases in EUR affect the European markets and in USD all other markets. Prices for specialty polyols will increase as follows:

- **Di-Penta** by EUR 200/t or by USD 400/t
- **Micronised polyols** by EUR 100/t or by USD 140/t
- **Charmor** by EUR 100/t or by USD 140/t
- **TMPO** by EUR 100/t or by USD 140/t
- **CTF** by EUR 75/t or by USD 100/t
- **BEPD** by EUR 100/t or by USD 140/t

- **Alkoxyoates** by EUR 100/t or by USD 280/t
- **TMPME** by EUR 100/t or by USD 140/t
- **Polyol PX** by EUR 25/t or by USD 35/t.

Perstorp will increase the price for basic polyols as follows:

- **Pentaerythritol (Penta)** by EUR 90/t or USD 125/t and by USD 0.03/lb in the Americas
- **Trimethylolpropane (TMP)** by EUR 70/t or USD 100/t and by USD 0.03/lb in North America
- **Neopentyl Glycol (Neo)** by EUR 70/t or USD 100/t and by USD 0.03/lb in North America.

The price for Perstorp's 2-Ethylhexanoic Acid will increase by EUR 40/t or USD 50/t.

Technology and product news



New light stabiliser for TPU resins in sports and leisure applications

Tinuvin PUR 866 is Ciba's new light stabiliser for thermoplastic polyurethane resins used in sports and leisure items. It is especially interesting for manufacturers of these products because it does not affect the initial colour of the material after compounding and injection moulding. By offering outstanding initial

colour, it is ideally suited for transparent and light coloured TPU.

Typical uses for TPU in sports and leisure applications include high performance sport shoes; transparent TPU films used in ski boots and outdoor clothing; inline skates; logos and badges; and transparent air cushions.

Comparison of resin pellets shows that Tinuvin PUR 866 does not affect initial colour of TPU after compounding and injection moulding.



Shock absorbing soft PU for medical applications

Akton is the brand name for a series of soft dry polyurethane materials mainly used in the medical field, marketed by **Action Polymers**. They are ultra soft viscoelastic polymers, which are most often encased in either a polyether or polyester film. The

material evenly distributes heat and weight, is shock absorbing and vibration damping, it does not leak or flow and contains no latex, silicone or plasticisers. These attributes make Akton ideal for applications in the medical field, e.g. wheelchair cushions, operating

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table pads, and bed pads. Besides this the material is further used in gun recoil pads for hunters, in gloves for jackhammer users, in padding for race car driver seats, in pads for horses to prevent tissue trauma, etc.

Polyurethane for photovoltaic applications

Recently US company **Stevens Urethane**, Easthampton, MA, USA, has announced the launch of their new photovoltaic encapsulant product line, called **Encapsolar**. This line of robust TPU and EVA films provides a photovoltaic module with very good long term weathering and UV protection. The product's cure rate kinetics is formulated to provide high lamination throughput while maintaining its dimensional integrity through the PV module fabrication process.

From German **BBG**, Mindelheim, come photovoltaic modules with polyurethane frames that help to increase the energy yield and to simplify installation. The PU frame offers a series of benefits over conventional enclosures, most of which are made of aluminium. Among other things, the frame features the innovative "click & connect" mounting system, which has been integrated to enable installers to mount components on roofs in a considerably less complicated fashion and much faster without the use of cables and bolts. To this end, the frame accommodates all electrical and mechanical con-

Akton, the primary material of most of Action Polymer's products, was invented by Dr. Wilbur R. McElroy. He founded the company in 1970. Today Action Polymers is based in Hagerstown, MD, USA.

nectors, which, just like all other cables, diodes, reinforcements and latching mechanisms, are encapsulated with polyurethane during the production process, which ensures subsequent protection by the frame. When compared to aluminium enclosures, the so-called **Solar PUR Flush** technology developed by BBG achieves a higher energy yield, with the polyurethane frame being flush with the surface of the photovoltaic element. Particles such as leaves, dirt and snow will therefore no longer stick to the edges of the frame. BBG will manufacture around 6,500 of these modules. At the beginning of 2008, the company will deliver the production equipment required for large-scale production to **Webasto Solar GmbH** at Landsberg/Lech, the company, that has been entrusted with the production of these modules. Webasto is scheduled to manufacture up to 260,000 of these units per year from 2008 onwards. Webasto Solar is a joint venture of Webasto AG, Stockdorf, and **Systa AG**, Düsseldorf, both Germany.

GlasCraft dispense gun with chopper for glass fibres

The patented **Probler P2 Elite** multi component dispense gun from **GlasCraft, Inc.**, Indianapolis, IN, USA, is now available with glass fibre cutter. This allows for fibre at selected lengths and volume fractions (percentages) to be dispersed into the urethane or polyurea coating as it is being sprayed onto the target area. This process is usually used to manufacture non-structural aesthetic pieces with thin walls (e.g. bath tubs, shower trays, trans-

portation, etc.), but it is also used in newer applications where reinforcement of flooring applications is required for high-traffic areas. The Probler P2 Elite is capable of spray output ranges from 2 -18kg/min. The length of fibre is adjustable as is the volume of fibre. The width of the spray pattern is adjustable to various size applications, and the adjustable cutter assures even distribution across the width of the spray pattern.

Probler P2 Elite with glas fibre cutter



New technology to produce breathable coatings

BASF AG recently started operations of a pilot facility for **Steron**, a novel coating process, at its Ludwigshafen plant. This technology opens up a wide spectrum of possibilities for the surface coating of diverse carriers, says the company. Especially in matters of design: whether smooth or velvety, glossy or matte, a suede finish or a hint of elegant embossing – Steron imparts a high-quality surface finish and can be produced cost-effectively, even in small amounts. A unique

property of the coating is its breathability. This ensures that coated materials offer more comfort – on surfaces ranging from car seats to tennis racquet grips. In order to coat a carrier using the Steron technology, an aqueous formulation of pigmented polyurethanes is first sprayed upon a silicone matrix. Most of the water evaporates, leaving a thin membrane with micro-fine pores. While still on the matrix, the membrane is then adhered to

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