

Press Release

TPE compounds with adhesion to thermoplastics for medical devices

Waldkraiburg, January 2019

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Stronger focus on medical applications

In close cooperation with Eastman, KRAIBURG TPE has created a series of THERMOLAST® M thermoplastic elastomers (TPEs) with adhesion to specialized polymers for medical applications. In addition to this possible adhesion to Eastman Tritan™ copolyester, the TPE specialist's portfolio also offers compounds with adhesion to PP, ABS, ABS/PC, and PET.

KRAIBURG TPE's approach for the new year is to enhance its focus on medical applications and pharmaceutical packaging. The company collaborated with Eastman to coordinate various types of high-purity TPE with copolyester to ensure optimum adhesion in hard/soft applications. A multi-component injection molding process combines different materials to increase product safety. This combination of materials provides a barrier to contamination.

"Comprehensive tests of these special compounds show excellent peel strength on the various Eastman Tritan™ copolyester types," confirms Oliver Kluge, Business Unit Manager Medical Applications at KRAIBURG TPE, and he adds: "We are in the process of expanding our portfolio for the medical and pharmaceutical markets. For this purpose we focus on developing new materials for innovative products".

The medical compounds made by KRAIBURG TPE are available in different degrees of hardness. They not only provide a well-established design flexibility, ease of processing and adhesion to various thermoplastics, but can also be sterilized using many standard techniques such as ethylene oxide (EtO), gamma or electron radiation. In addition, they meet the standard for product surfaces that require enhanced grip and slip resistance.

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"We are pleased about the efficient collaboration with KRAIBURG TPE in the field of materials development for medical applications," says Ludovic Gardet, Application Development & Technical Service of Eastman. "The optimum combination of hard and soft components by injection molding is great way to take benefit of Tritan™ copolymers' outstanding attributes, such as clarity, toughness, and heat and chemical resistance and adding on the top the functionality brought by the KRAIBURG TPE".

KRAIBURG TPE supports its customers and injection molders in the medical and pharmaceutical sectors with a unique service package that ensures the compliance of its THERMOLAST® M materials with strict international standards for biocompatibility, purity and quality. All medical compounds are exclusively manufactured with dedicated production lines. They are free of heavy metals, latex, PVC, and phthalates and offer high purity. A number of select compounds are tested and certified according to USP Class VI (Chapter 88), ISO 10993-5 (cytotoxicity), ISO 10993-10 (intracutaneous irritation), ISO 10993-11 (acute systemic toxicity), and ISO 10993-4 (hemolysis).

The quality assurance of raw materials used in compounding also covers full traceability of batches on the side of KRAIBURG TPE's suppliers. In addition, all THERMOLAST® M portfolio compounds are listed in FDA Drug Master Files (DMF) to document their formulation in accordance with a mandatory change control procedure. KRAIBURG TPE guarantees the continued availability of the original formulation for at least 24 months after notification before such changes come into effect. This provides maximum controlled quality and supply security to customers in the healthcare, pharmaceutical, medical and diagnostic industries.

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Along with its collaboration with manufacturers of hard thermoplastics, KRAIBURG TPE has also intensified its market-driven and customer-oriented support for the medical sector. A specialized team of experts is now ready to provide customers from this industry exclusive advice on all issues relating to materials selection, development of applications and tools as well as on approvals according to applicable provisions.

The special THERMOLAST® M compounds are available all over the world. They are particularly suitable for use with Eastman Tritan™ copolyester in medical applications, such as transparent packaging, seals or soft-tip applications.

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KRAIBURG TPE (booth Q09) will showcase materials with perfect, coordinated adhesion for medical hard/soft applications at T-PLAS 2019.
(Image: KRAIBURG TPE)

About KRAIBURG TPE

KRAIBURG TPE (www.kraiburg-tpe.com) is a global manufacturer of thermoplastic elastomers. From its beginning in 2001 as a subsidiary of the historical KRAIBURG Group founded in 1947, KRAIBURG TPE has pioneered in TPE compounds, today being the competence leader in this industry. With production sites in Germany, the U.S., and Malaysia, the company offers a broad range of compounds for applications in the automotive, industrial, consumer, and strictly regulated medical sectors. The established THERMOLAST®, COPEC®, HIPEX®, and For Tec E® product lines are processed by injection molding or extrusion and provide numerous processing and product design advantages to manufacturers. KRAIBURG TPE features innovative capabilities as well as true global customer orientation, customized product solutions and reliable service. The company is certified to ISO 50001 at its headquarters in Germany and holds ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 certifications at all global sites. In 2018, KRAIBURG TPE, with 641 employees worldwide, generated sales of 189 million euros.

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About Eastman

Eastman is a global advanced materials and specialty additives company that produces a broad range of products found in items people use every day. With a portfolio of specialty businesses, Eastman works with customers to deliver innovative products and solutions while maintaining a commitment to safety and sustainability. Its market-driven approaches take advantage of world-class technology platforms and leading positions in attractive end-markets such as transportation, building and construction and consumables. Eastman focuses on creating consistent, superior value for all stakeholders. As a globally diverse company, Eastman serves customers in more than 100 countries and had 2017 revenues of approximately \$9.5 billion. The company is headquartered in Kingsport, Tennessee, USA and employs approximately 14,500 people around the world. For more information, visit www.eastman.com.

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