

of the Kemgard® flame retardant and smoke suppressant business from Sherwin-Williams in 2010 [*ibid.*, October 2010]. ‘We look forward to working with companies who’ve expressed an interest in the Safire technology, along with introducing it to those who aren’t as familiar with it’, says Bertram. ‘Our plan is to develop a full complement of halogen-free products that meet the most-demanding fire retardant requirements our customers are facing’, he adds.

Huber Engineered Materials, headquartered in Atlanta, GA, USA, has been supplying non-halogen flame retardants and smoke suppressants for more than 30 years. It produces alumina trihydrate (ATH), magnesium hydroxide (MDH) and engineered molybdate-based compounds and provides technical expertise for a variety of thermoplastic, thermoset plastic and rubber end-use applications, including fibre reinforced plastics, roofing, silicone rubber, wire and cable, coatings and carpet backing.

Contact:

Huber Engineered Materials, J.M. Huber Corp, Atlanta, GA, USA.
Tel: +1 678 247 7300, Web: www.hubermaterials.com

Völpker acquires BASF’s montan wax business

German wax producer Völpker Spezialprodukte GmbH has acquired the montan wax business of BASF SE. The company is already a leading producer of montan waxes, which it sells under the Waradur brand name. BASF will in future focus on its polyethylene wax business.

Extracted from bituminous lignite, montan waxes are among the hardest of natural waxes and find applications in numerous industries. They are used primarily in the plastics industry, particularly in compounds based on engineering plastics such as polyvinyl chloride, polyamide, polycarbonate, thermoplastic polyurethane and styrene maleic anhydride. The molecular structure of montan waxes, which includes both polar and non-polar components, means that they can act as both internal lubricants (flow improvers) and external lubricants (mould release agents). These waxes can also be used as nucleating agents to accelerate crystallization, and as dispersing additives for pigments and fillers, Völpker says. The company reveals that the decision to expand its international market presence via the acquisition from BASF was based on the ‘versatility’ of montan waxes and their long-term availability and price stability.

Since the acquisition, Völpker has continued to strengthen its worldwide presence through the formation of a partnership with WWRC (China) Holdings Ltd for the distribution of montan and other speciality waxes in China and Taiwan. The cooperation focuses on the region’s growing engineering plastics market, the companies say. ‘Asia has become one of the major and key markets in the plastics industry. We therefore endeavour to intensify partnerships in this dynamic region’, explains Völpker’s managing director Falko Preusser. Völpker Spezialprodukte was founded in 1900.

Contact:

Völpker Spezialprodukte GmbH, Fabrikstraße 1, 39393 Völpke, Germany. Tel: +49 39402 9620, Fax: +49 39402 215,
Web: www.voelpker.com

Solvay launches Polish production of highly dispersible silica for tyres

In Poland, Solvay Silica has held an opening ceremony to mark the launch of production of highly dispersible silica (HDS) at its new purpose-built, state-of-the-art plant in Włocławek [*ADPO*, July 2013]. The plant’s output will be used to address the strong and growing regional demand for energy-saving tyres, the company says. The use of HDS as a reinforcing agent for tyre rubber reduces a vehicle’s fuel consumption by as much as 7%, Solvay claims.

With 85 000 tonnes of annual capacity dedicated to Solvay’s latest HDS technologies, the new facility will create more than 100 jobs in the Pomeranian region of Poland. The site will produce the company’s most advanced grades of HDS, including its Zeosil® Premium brand [*ADPO*, April 2008] and the recently introduced innovation Efficium® [*ibid.*, April 2015], which is reported to help tyre makers raise productivity levels for both car and truck ‘green’ tyre compounds. From this plant, Solvay will supply customers in Central and Eastern Europe with its ‘latest breakthrough tyre solutions’, which ‘contribute to cleaner and more competitive mobility’, says An Nuyttens, president of Solvay’s Silica global business unit. Through its global market reach, innovation capabilities and increasing number of applications in passenger and truck tyres, Solvay is ‘best-placed to meet growth opportunities’ in improving their performance and in lowering CO₂ emissions, according to Nuyttens.