

Press release

New TPE series with a high content of recycled materials

Waldkraiburg, March, April 2021

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KRAIBURG TPE is supplying new solutions that push the plastics circular economy forward

A new material series for exterior automotive applications that contains a high percentage of postindustrial recycled materials

KRAIBURG TPE is presenting a new series of compounds that will enable European OEMs to still use optimum materials for exterior automotive applications in the future. The highlight: With at least a 20% proportion of postindustrial recycled materials, the compounds meet the OEMs' high requirements and contribute to building a circular plastics economy.

At first sight, the European OEMs' sustainability strategies are as diverse as their product ranges – but a closer look shows that they all share the same basic idea: promoting the establishment of a regenerative economic system and reducing CO₂ emissions. Plastics play a decisive role here, as the recyclability of the materials makes a positive contribution to the project. To support OEMs in taking first steps in this direction, KRAIBURG TPE is introducing a new compound series for exterior automotive applications that allows the suppliers to manufacture components in the usual and required quality.

KRAIBURG TPE has made intensive efforts to understand the future requirements of European OEMs and is now presenting a new RC/UV series. It is targeted to meet the high requirements for OEMs' automotive exteriors such as weathering resistance and a high surface quality, using a proportion of postindustrial recycled materials ranging from a minimum of 20% to a maximum of 40%. These product solutions will enable suppliers to replace current components with recycled materials-based thermoplastic elastomers (TPE) and thus to make a contribution to the circular plastics economy.

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The main target of development has been achieved: the highest possible proportion of recycled materials in the individual hardness ranges. Adhesion to polypropylene enables the implementation of single-component and multicomponent parts. The low density of the new compound series allows weight reductions of up to 25% as compared to conventional TPEs. As an overall package, the properties of the new series are effective relative to the environmental aspect that the suppliers are focusing on. The RC/UV series is particularly suited for exterior, underside and under-the-hood areas of automobiles. Target applications for the new solutions include water tank covers, air duct parts, wheel arch liners, drip rails and window encapsulations. Further technical details:

- Hardness range from 50 to 90 Shore A
- Proportion of postindustrial recycled materials from 20% to 40%
- Ozone and weathering stability in accordance with OEM requirements
- Thermal stability of up to 90 °C

“To take the first steps towards a more sustainable automobile, the plastics industry needs to not only think about moving towards the circular economy but also has to take action. Solutions are needed that meet the high quality standards of OEMs and overcome challenges such as supply security and reliability,” says Matthias Michl, Head of Automotive Application Development at KRAIBURG TPE. “KRAIBURG TPE meets this standard with our new RC/UV series. We want to proceed toward sustainable applications together with our customers.”

The compounds are now available in black.

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Image: With a proportion of postindustrial recycled material of at least 20%, the RC/UV series meets OEMS' high requirements. **(Image: KRAIBURG TPE)**

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About KRAIBURG TPE

KRAIBURG TPE (www.kraiburg-tpe.com) is a global manufacturer of thermoplastic elastomers. From its beginning in 2001 as 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 US, and Malaysia the company offers a broad range of compounds for applications in the automotive, industrial, consumer, and for the 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 2020, KRAIBURG TPE generated sales of 184 million euros with around 650 worldwide employees.