

Chisso to start production of LGFR-PP

Chisso Corporation has announced that it will start production and sales of its Funcster long glass fiber reinforced PP in the U.S. market. The intention is to target the rapid growth, high performance sectors such as front end modules. European production of Funcster will follow within two years. The new facility will be located in Covington, GA/USA, in a portion of an existing Fibervisions (Hercules) plant. The plant is targeted for startup in January of 2006. The name of the new company being established by Chisso is Comusa LLC.

Materialica Design Award 2005

Now in its third year, the Materialica Design Award 2005 will cover the following categories: „Product“, „Surface/ Process“ and „Material“. Invited to participate were manufacturers, designers, developers and construction engineers from the material applications and surface technology sectors. The independent specialist jury awarded a total of 18 prizes. The presentations are to take place on 20th September 2005. The submissions for which prizes have been awarded will be presented at the Materialica Design Show from 20. - 22.09.2005 at the Neue Messe in Munich.

One of the winners in the “Material” category was the product “Barktex low friction” (Fig.1), a bast fabric from the manufacturer Bark Cloth, Ebringen/Germany (www.barktex.com). The material is a plastic-reinforced fibre which is made from the renewable sub-bark of *Ficus natalensis* and featuring optimised friction characteristics. Possible application areas are in carpets or upholstery material, trim and centre consoles in automotive construction.

Among the winners in the “Product” category is a front fairing (Fig. 2) manufactured by Pestel Kunststofftechnik, Chemnitz/Germany (www.pestel-pur.de) for the MZ 1000SF motor cycle made by MZ Engineering GmbH, Zschopau-Hohndorf/Germany. The material, polyurethane (Baydur 60), comes from Bayer Material Science (www.bayermaterialscience.de) and the design from Naumann Design, Munich. The distinctive design calls for particularly complex solutions in the structure of the individual components, for example, headlamps, bodywork elements and front windscreen have to be held together by one component in a highly confined space. The problem has been solved with the help of the RIM (Reaction Injection Moulding) process which makes it possible, within a short space of time, to manufacture components in small quantities with comparable characteristics to injection-moulded parts with a 50% cost saving.

Also a winner in the “Product” category is a saddle cover (Fig. 3) made from a heavy-duty composite material, an epoxy resin reinforced with wool hair, from the manufacturer Wethje, Hengersberg/Germany (www.wethje-gmbh.com). The design originates from The Team Technology GmbH, Hamburg. The saddle cover, made from pre-impregnated carbon fibre, enables savings of 30% to 55% in terms of weight to be achieved by comparison to a conventionally produced cover.



Fig. 1: Plastic-reinforced fibre from the renewable sub-bark of *Ficus natalensis*



Fig. 2: Motor cycle front fairing made from polyurethane



Fig. 3: Saddle cover made from wool hair reinforced epoxy resin