

NEWS RELEASE

LANXESS Corporation, In Cooperation with Venture Plastics, Inc., Presents Paper at The Precision Metalforming Association's METALFORM '05 Conference

LANXESS Showcases Innovative Plastic/Metal Hybrid Technology

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PITTSBURGH, March 23, 2005 — LANXESS Corporation, in cooperation with Venture Plastics, Inc., will highlight the benefits of Plastic/Metal Hybrid (PMH) Technology at the annual Precision Metalforming Association's METALFORM Conference and Expo in Chicago. Plastic/Metal Hybrid Technology, a patented process pioneered by LANXESS, combines injection molding technology – utilizing glass fiber-reinforced, heat-stabilized polyamide Durethan® BKV 30 H2.0 (PA 6) – with formed sheet metal inserts to produce a composite product with an enhanced combination of properties.

The paper, "Plastic/Metal Hybrid: Today's Innovative Value-Added Opportunity," presented by Norm Brozenick of LANXESS and Karl Schmidt of Venture Plastics, Inc., encourages an active partnership between the plastics and metalforming industries to explore the synergistic possibilities of this hybrid technology.

"The plastics and metalforming industries, you could say, have typically run on separate, if not competitive, tracks. However, Plastic/Metal Hybrid Technology offers an exciting chance for them to work together to mutual benefit ... and profit," said Brozenick, program management, Semi-Crystalline Products, LANXESS.

"Hybrid technology combines the inherent strengths of each material and manufacturing process, offering significant weight reduction, improved structural strength and component integration, increased cost efficiencies, and greater design flexibility. These value-add properties have made it very attractive to manufacturers with applications ranging from automobiles and appliances to fitness equipment and furniture – translating into a hot business opportunity," Brozenick continued.

The paper details how the technology works, presents a short history of PMH technology, and outlines a case study of the Ford Focus front end module.

How Plastic/Metal Hybrid Technology Works

Unlike traditional single-material construction methods, the plastic-metal composite possesses unique physical properties that cannot be attained with a single material. During manufacture, the hybrid approach combines the benefits of both the deep-drawing process and injection molding, enabling ready-to-assemble components to be produced in fewer steps, with shorter cycle times, resulting in cost reductions. To start the molding process, a deep-drawn, perforated sheet steel part is placed in an injection mold which is then filled with plastic melt. During the injection cycle, the melt flows into and around the perforations in the metal part. The plastic and metal are interlocked by both force and shape, creating a high-strength composite structure. No post-molding treatment or painting is required.

Compared with a pure plastic structure, the dimensional accuracy of the hybrid is dependent to a much smaller extent on factors such as material shrinkage, temperature and climate. And compared with a steel design, it eliminates the need for numerous high-tolerance jointing operations and the additional costs these entail.

Using hybrid technology, load-bearing metal structures can be designed thinner because a molded-in plastic rib structure significantly reduces the tendency of thin metal parts to buckle and bend under load, enabling dramatic weight reduction without sacrificing structural integrity and strength.

Other benefits cited in the paper include:

- Easy handling and transport during assembly
- Reduced plant floor space
- Warehousing of fewer components
- Reduction of scrap

Automotive Case Study: Ford Focus Grill Opening Reinforcement

Initially developed in the 1980s, PMH technology has found significant markets in many areas, most notably in front-end module production for automobile manufacturers, including Audi, BMW, Chrysler, Ford, Nissan, Mercedes, and Volkswagen. Today's automotive structures are more complex, with more subsystems and components. Hybrid construction accommodates greater integration of those complex system components that require tight tolerances.

"Just looking at the numbers, the Ford Focus Grill Opening Reinforcement offers a dramatic case study," said Karl Schmidt, marketing, new product development, Venture Plastics, Inc. "Compared with an all-steel design, the Plastic/Metal Hybrid allowed for high dimensional stability and the integration of 17 functions, while delivering 20 percent in cost savings, 40 percent in weight savings, and a 50 percent reduction in capital investment. That's some serious added-value."

For more information, or to receive a copy of "Plastic/Metal Hybrid Technology: Today's Innovative Value-Added Opportunity," please contact 1-800-LANXESS, visit www.us.lanxess.com or call Norm Brozenick at 412-809-3562 or Tim Palmer at 412-809-3556.

Precision Metalforming Association (PMA) is the full-service trade association representing the \$41 billion metalforming industry of North America – the industry that creates precision metal products using stamping, fabricating and other value-added processes. Its nearly 1,200 member companies include metal stampers, fabricators, spinners, slide formers and roll formers, as well as suppliers of equipment, materials and services to the industry. Members are located in some 30 countries, but the majority are found in North America – in 41 states of the U.S., as well as Canada and Mexico. For more information, visit www.metalforming.com.

Venture Plastics, Inc. (VPI) is a privately owned custom plastic injection molder servicing the plastics industry since 1969. With 28 injection molding machines ranging in size from 55 ton to 725 ton, VPI operates a well-equipped, modern facility located in Newton Falls, Ohio. Employing about 140 people, VPI is a full-service operation, ready to assist customers in product and tooling development to take optimum advantage of the molding process as well as value added processes. In house maintenance

capabilities exist for both equipment and tooling. Value added capabilities include decorating, welding and assembly. For more information, visit www.ventureplastics.com, email: info@ventureplastics.com or Karl Schmidt at 330-442-7703.

LANXESS Corporation was formed when the Bayer Group combined most of its chemical businesses and large segments of its polymer activities. The company began operating as a separate legal entity in the United States on July 1, 2004. LANXESS Corporation is a member of the German LANXESS-Group that was spun-off from Bayer in January 2005.

The LANXESS-Group manufactures high quality products in the areas of chemicals, synthetic rubber and plastics. The companies' portfolio comprises basic and fine chemicals, color pigments, plastics, fibers, synthetic rubber and rubber chemicals, leather, textile processing chemicals, paper chemicals, material protection products and water treatment products.

In 2004, LANXESS Corporation employed about 2,100 persons in the United States.

Information for editors:

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Forward-looking Statements

This news release contains forward-looking statements based on current assumptions and forecasts made by LANXESS AG management. Various known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors could lead to material differences between the actual future results, financial situation, development or performance of the company and the estimates given here. The company assumes no liability whatsoever to update these forward-looking statements or to conform them to future events or developments.

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