

LANXESS at NPE 2006

Pocan® for Headlamp Bezels

Excellent Surface Quality and Easy Metallization

Chicago, IL – June 19, 2006 – Headlamps are increasingly becoming a design feature that characterizes an automobile's overall visual appearance. The current trend is for designs that have a transparent glass effect, through which you can see the internal workings of the headlamp. This means that visible components such as reflectors now need to meet the highest demands in terms of their visual appearance. LANXESS offers the customized polybutylene terephthalates (PBT) Pocan® KU2-7003 and TP 006-004 for headlamp bezels.

“In this way we are responding to the increasing market demand for a cost-effective alternative to high temperature resistant thermoplastics such as copolycarbonate or polyethersulfone. Both of our products yield excellent surfaces and are directly metallizable without requiring pre-treatment with primers. They can be used at temperatures of up to 160°C (320°F),” explains Peter Stäblein, an expert in the Semi-Crystalline Products Business Unit.

Pocan® KU2-7003 is used in the CITROËN C2 and C3 bezels. Automotive Lighting Italia S.p.A., based in Venaria Reale near Turin, manufactures the complete headlamp assembly.

Both PBT grades are optimized to ensure good processability. This means that virtually no volatile compounds are released as gases during injection molding, resulting in exceptionally low levels of plate-out. This ensures that the metallized bezel has a high surface quality. In addition, both thermoplastics are low fogging, which prevents precipitation building up on the headlamp over time. Good demoldability makes for efficient production, while the low water absorption ensures high dimensional stability of the bezel.

The customized PBT grades display good free-flowing properties. As a result, they are suitable for larger and geometrically more complex bezels, which when compared with standard bezels, contain significantly more recesses for additional systems such as lamps for dayuse and steering lights.

At LANXESS, the development of an additional Pocan® formulation for bezels is in its advanced stages. “The new material should be a further improvement on PBT standard grades in terms of its demoldability behavior,” says Stäblein.

LANXESS supports headlamp manufacturers in bezel development and offers a comprehensive service. This includes, for example, mold-filling simulations to position flow lines in the non-visible area of the component and to achieve an optimum wall thickness distribution at minimal injection pressure and minimal material input.

LANXESS Corporation

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The Semi-Crystalline Products Business Unit achieved sales of over EUR 500 million in 2004. It is part of the Engineering Plastics segment, which posted sales of EUR 1.722 billion in 2004.

About LANXESS

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.

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 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.

Information for editors:

All our news releases can be found on our home page at www.lanxess.com under the "Press" button. Visual material can also be downloaded from there.

Forward-looking statements

This news release contains forward-looking statements based on current assumptions and forecasts made by Bayer Group management. Various known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors could lead to material differences between the actual future consolidated results, financial situation, development or performance of the company, and the estimates given here. These factors include those discussed in our public reports filed with the Frankfurt Stock Exchange and with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (including Form 20-F). The company assumes no liability to update such forward-looking statements or to adapt to future events or development.

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