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Polymer Resources Announces New PC/ASA Compounds, Rapidly Tailors Formulation to Meet Changing Customer Requirements

Farmington, Conn. – Polymer Resources Ltd., a leading U.S. compounder of high-quality engineering resin, today announced the availability of new polycarbonate/acrylonitrile styrene acrylate (PC/ASA) compounds to meet growing industry demand for materials that offer better weatherability, higher heat and ultraviolet (UV) resistance and improved overall performance of exterior components. With the addition of these new products, the company now offers customers a new flame-retardant (FR) PC/ASA blend – one of very few available in the plastics industry today – along with the ability to custom formulate the new PC/ASA products for use in a diverse range of applications. For example, to support JATCO, a custom plastics molder headquartered in Union City, Calif., Polymer Resources rapidly modified a new non-FR PC/ASA formulation to increase melt flow so JATCO could quickly and successfully mold large, complex building components, thereby eliminating the need to purchase a more-powerful injection molding machine.

“These PC/ASA materials are a natural extension of our broad and proven portfolio of PC blends,” said Scott Anderson, chief operating officer, Polymer Resources. “Investment in PC/ASA development and production capacity is a key part of our strategy to offer newer, better alternatives to traditional compounds so we can continue to help our customers win. We are committed to leading the industry with unique engineering resins, and we will continue to expand our offering of tailored resin technologies to give our customers exactly what they need to be successful.”

Meeting Growing Demand for PC/ASA

Polymer Resources’ new PC/ASA blends combine the excellent weatherability of ASA materials with the superior mechanical properties and heat resistance of PC resins, and offer much higher UV stability than polycarbonate/acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (PC/ABS), a popular blend. Blends of PC and ASA provide higher toughness and higher heat deflection temperature (HDT) than ASA alone, and better weatherability, and easier processing than PC alone. The new PC/ASA compounds resist degradation from moisture, chemicals and high temperatures, and feature good colorability and flow properties.

Additionally, these versatile new products can be used for injection molding, blow molding, extrusion and thermoforming. Typical applications include window profiles, sporting goods, uncoated automotive parts such as mirror housings, grilles, trim and electrical/electronic components.

Adding Halogen-free FR Performance

Polymer Resources' new flame-retardant PC/ASA compound stands out in the industry by achieving a UL V-0 rating at 1.5mm for all colors. The new material uses a non-halogenated FR system, which contributes to customers' sustainability goals. It provides excellent weatherability, making it ideally suited for enclosures for outdoor electrical equipment, and housings for medical and dental devices exposed to strong interior lighting and UV sterilization.

Just-in-time Customization for JATCO

JATCO initially selected Polymer Resources' PC/ASA to replace polypropylene (PP) in a small, exterior part used in building and construction. The molder was looking for higher lot-to-lot consistency to reduce scrap and waste, together with excellent weatherability. After finding success with the PC/ASA material, JATCO wanted to expand its use to a larger exterior building part, but discovered that the melt flow index (MFI) was not high enough to fill the mold completely. The company was under an extremely tight deadline to deliver parts to its end customer and turned to Polymer Resources for further assistance.

"JATCO was facing a big issue," said Anderson. "There were deadlines to meet, and the existing equipment was not able to produce the larger parts consistently with the standard PC/ASA grade they were using." To address this challenge, Polymer Resources quickly customized a new PC/ASA formulation by reducing its melt viscosity to achieve a higher flow rate. This customization allowed JATCO to use its existing equipment to produce high-quality products, thereby saving significant capital dollars and meeting its customer's requirements.

Within a week, Polymer Resources had developed the new grade and produced a small quantity for validation. After JATCO's approval of the validation material, Polymer Resources carried out a scale-up to produce it in a quantity sufficient to meet the molder's production needs.

The Polymer Resources team's fast customization and production of high melt flow PC/ASA enabled JATCO to fulfill the customer's order on time. According to JATCO President Steven Jones, the company continues to use the non-FR PC/ASA for the building components, and particularly values the repeatable consistency of these materials, which are used in two separate manufacturing locations. Higher lot-to-lot consistency compared to PP enables JATCO to minimize scrap and improve processing efficiency.

About JATCO

JATCO, headquartered in Union City, Calif., and with a plant in Greenwood, S.C., is a global leader in plastic injection molding with a heavy focus on value creation. The company has been in business since 1976 and is a one-stop shop offering product consulting, design, production, warehousing and distribution solutions for a wide variety of projects. JATCO's molding capabilities include 40 different presses ranging up to 1,500 tons. For more information, visit www.jatco.com.

About Polymer Resources

Headquartered in Farmington, Conn., Polymer Resources is a leading, privately owned U.S. supplier of high-quality customized specialty engineering resin compounds, color-matching services and related materials technology solutions for the electrical, medical, consumer goods, business equipment and automotive industries. Operating with an extensive list of UL approved products it is one of very few polymer suppliers that backs its compounding and color match services with a quality guarantee. The company's commitment to customer service, financial discipline, and foresight for over 42 years has made it a reliably steady resource for specialty compounds in the often volatile plastics industry. With operations in Farmington and Rochester, N.Y., Polymer Resources continues to fuel its growth through ongoing investments in its manufacturing assets and its top industry talent. The company's direct sales force and local warehousing throughout the United States enable on-time delivery and fast, local customer service anywhere in the country. For more information, visit www.prlresins.com.

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PHOTO CAPTION

PHOTO: New PC/ASA Products Can be Used for Window Profiles (Left), Uncoated Automotive Grilles (Right) and Many Other Applications

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