

Green Dot Launches Durable & Compostable Elastomeric Bioplastic GDH-B1

Source: SpecialChem

Posted: August 13, 2012



Green Dot is a new bioscience social enterprise based in Cottonwood Falls, Kansas. The company is introducing the market's First compostable elastomeric bioplastic, GDH-B1. Unlike most compostable bioplastics, GDH-B1 is a soft rubber like material that's pliable and durable. Green Dot is placing this pioneering compostable bioplastic in the hands of millions of consumers with innovative products for stylish consumers. Green Dot's bioplastic offers a superior alternative to petroleum based soft plastics. GDH-B1 is made from renewable plant based sources. It has been tested by NSF International to be safe from phthalates, BPA, cadmium and lead. GDH-B1 is the only soft elastomeric plastic verified to meet U.S. (ASTM D6400) and E.U. (EN13432) standards for compostability.

The bioplastic's unique chemistry offers a lower carbon footprint and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. GDH-B1 is not just "greener", it's better. The material is durable, strong, and pliable. The bioplastic's characteristics provide excellent performance in fabrication. It has a lower melt temperature compared to petroleum based elastomers, reducing energy cost and shortening production cycle times. It has superior compatibility with other thermoplastic elastomers, and better printability.

GDH-B1 can be used with existing manufacturing equipment in the majority of plastic processing applications. Green Dot is placing this new material in the hands of millions of consumers with innovative products made in the U.S.A. The company's initial product success is the market's first compostable soft plastic phone case. The BioCase™ is designed and manufactured by Green Dot. Over 100,000 units have been shipped since the products introduction in December 2011. The case is distributed internationally by Nite Ize and sold by top tier retailers such as REI. Product reviewers and consumers have lauded the BioCase™ for its soft touch and precise fit.

Green Dot is also supplying resin to Fort Collins, Colorado toy maker, BeginAgain Toys. BeginAgain is introducing Green Dot's compostable, toxin--free bioplastic to parents and children with two products featuring GDH-B1, "Scented Scoops," an imaginative ice cream play set and the Green Ring teether. These toys have already received accolades for their creative design and sustainable materials. BeginAgain's Chris Clemmer described GDH-B1 as "the most innovative eco--material we've ever had our hands on." Green Dot's innovative technology and product development have been recognized by Bloomberg's Business week, who named Green Dot as one of the top 25 social entrepreneurs of 2012. Green Dot was selected from over 300 nominations. Criteria for selection was based on scope, impact and economic sustainability. "We're honored to be selected by Bloomberg," stated Green Dot CEO, Mark Remmert. "This is further validation that a small company can change the world, educating consumers and producing sustainable alternatives for the products we use everyday."



FKuR at Fachpack 2012: to Showcase its Biodegradable & Bioplastics for Packaging Applications

Source: SpecialChem

Posted: August 10, 2012



FKuR Kunststoff GmbH is going to present a wide variety of biodegradable and biobased plastics for various packaging applications under this slogan at Fachpack 2012 to be held from September 25-27.

"Nature is our role model for packaging solutions", says Patrick Zimmermann, Director of Marketing & Sales at FKuR. In addition to the well-established product lines Bio-Flex® (for flexible packaging) and Biograde® (for rigid packaging), FKuR presents its 'Green-PE' Compounds under the brand name Terralene® for the first time at a Germany trade show.

As Braskem's exclusive European distributor, FKuR will be presenting pure 'Green PE' for the first time at a German trade show. In contrast to traditional polyethylene, the polyethylene used for Braskem's Green PE is made from Brazilian sugarcane, not crude oil. By using this renewable raw material, each production of one ton of 'Green PE' captures up to 2,4 tons of CO₂ from the atmosphere and therefore helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, 'Green PE' and Terralene® are 100% compatible with regular polyethylene and show identical properties. All materials can also be utilized in existing recycling streams.

Global Bioplastics Production Capacity Forecast to Hit 800,000 tonnes

Source: Plastics & Rubber Weekly

Posted: August 9, 2012



Worldwide production capacity for polylactic acid (PLA) bioplastics is expected to reach 800,000 tonnes per year by 2020, with at least seven sites having capacity of 50,000 tonnes per year, according to the Cologne, Germany-based Nova Institute. The forecast comes from the a new bioplastics survey, Market Study on Bio-based Polymers and Plastics in the World, which will be published next January and is based on a survey of all the major bioplastics producers worldwide.

According to Nova, research into lactic acid producers – the preliminary stage of PLA production – revealed that production capacity to meet firm requests from customers could even rise to roughly 950,000 tonnes per year. Michael Carus, managing director of Nova Institute, said: "For the very first time we have robust market data about worldwide PLA production capacity." These are considerably higher than in previous studies, which did not cover all producers. Forecasts of 800,000 or even 950,000 tonnes per year by 2020 show that PLA is definitely a polymer for the future." The largest producer is currently NatureWorks, which is active in the US and Thailand and has a capacity of 140,000 tonnes per year.



Solegear Completes Series A Financing Led by Yaletown Venture Partners

Source: Biopolymers Symposium

Posted: August 9, 2012

Solegear Bioplastics Inc., a developer of award-winning bioplastic technologies, today announced it has secured Series A financing, led by Yaletown Venture Partners and joined by a number of leading angel investors. "The completion of this major financing milestone is yet another important step toward Solegear's goal of being a leader in the bioplastics industry," says Solegear founder and CEO, Toby Reid. "Our focus on customizing our Polysole® bioplastic solutions for our customers' unique sustainability needs has allowed us to differentiate in the marketplace. By creating a network of strategic partners for R&D, distribution and fulfillment, we are able to access the very latest biopolymer technology and deliver high-performance bioplastics products at a competitive price. This capital-efficient business model has been very appealing to both our customers and the investment community."

"We believe Solegear is in a strong position to capitalize on the fast growing bioplastic sector by having a suite of high performance bioplastics that provides brand owners with the performance features they need at prices competitive with traditional petroleum based alternatives," said Salil Munjal, Partner with Yaletown Venture Partners. "Solegear's modular technology platform forms the basis of a smart business model that is both customer-centric and scalable."

Solegear's Polysole® bioplastic material will continue to be extended into different high-performance applications, widening the platform from which the company produces its 100% bio-based, non-toxic and compostable bioplastics. "This funding allows Solegear to accelerate its commercialization with key global customers to deliver customized bioplastic solutions that meet their sustainability objectives to rethink packaging, remove toxicity and reduce their footprint," says Solegear Executive Chair, Paul Antoniadis.

About Solegear Bioplastics Inc.



Solegear, based in Vancouver BC, engineers, produces and distributes high-performance bioplastics made from rapidly renewable resources. Founded in 2006, Solegear has developed proprietary bioplastics formulations under the brand name Polysole® – a 100% bio-based, non-toxic and compostable bioplastic. In 2010, Solegear was awarded Frost & Sullivan's Best Practices Award recognizing outstanding achievement and superior performance in leadership, technological innovation, customer service, and strategic product development.



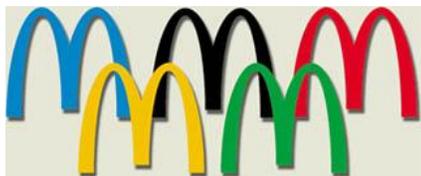
About Yaletown Venture Partners

Yaletown Venture Partners is headquartered in Vancouver, Canada with offices in Calgary and Seattle. Yaletown is backed by leading institutional investors and by a network of successful technology entrepreneurs, executives, and angel investors. Yaletown leverages an extensive on-the-ground network to seek out the most promising early stage Cleantech and IT companies. Founded in 2002, Yaletown is led by a team that brings together an extensive network of industry relationships and more than 120 years collective experience building and financing technology companies.

Big Mac and Fries Wrappers to Go

Source: Plastics & Rubber Weekly

Posted: July 26, 2012



McDonald's, which will be running the world's largest fast food outlet at the Olympic park in Stratford, east London, will be using Novamont's Mater-Bi bioplastic for its cups, cutlery, straws, lids and containers.

"Many McDonald's items were already compliant with the EN13432 compostability standards but did not have the certification," said the company's environment consultant Helen McFarlane. "We obtained this

by working alongside our suppliers for almost two years, with considerable investment in research and development."



Mater-Bi will compost with anaerobic digestion, according to Italy's Novamont, helping make the expected 3,300 tonnes of food and food-related packaging waste that the games will generate easier to handle than if conventional materials are used.

London Olympic and Paralympic Games organising committee (Locog) has set the objective of 70% of the waste produced by the events should go for recycling, re-use or composting. Novamont operates in the UK, Germany, France, Benelux, Scandinavia, Denmark, the US, China, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.