

Bioplastics Market to Increase Five-fold by 2016

Source: Canadian Plastics

Posted: Jan 14, 2013

The global bioplastics market will see a five-fold increase in production volumes by 2016, from 1.2 million tons to an anticipated 6 million tons. According to a new market forecast from the study from the University of Hannover, Germany, partially bio-based PET will continue to lead the field; it currently accounts for approximately 40% of the global bioplastics production capacity.

Geographically, Asia is predicted to be home to 46.3% of the global bioplastic production capacity by 2016, the study found, and South America to just over 45%, driven mainly by feedstock availability. In Brazil, world number one in bio-PE production Braskem has targeted 2013 as the year to bring its bio PP facility on stream. Other factors impacting growth include robust market demand growth, relative scarcity of oil and gas and supportive government policy in most countries of the region. These regions are also less likely to have large fossil energy discoveries or feel any major supply impact of the large shale gas discoveries in North America.

However, several factors might conspire to hold back the potential of biorenewable materials in Asia Pacific. "Prices remain high, since application and technology development is an ongoing process," the study said. "The low scale-up of manufacturing capacity also increase per unit costs. In addition, bioplastics' inferior performance attributes, such as moisture absorption, low heat deflection temperature, and reduced resistance against chemical attacks, limit their application range." Also, the poor execution of eco-labeling policies and insufficient composting facilities in Asia-Pacific countries will continue to restrict the potential applications of bioplastics going forward. For the time being, bioplastics are playing a limited role in packaging and in the plastics market overall, the study concluded.



Lexus to Speak on 'Green' Automotive Plastics

Source: PRW

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Plastics recycling and compounding company Luxus and plastics additive manufacturer Milliken have been sponsored by Renault-Nissan to speak at the international VDI 'Plastics in Automotive Engineering' conference, 13-14 March, Mannheim, Germany. Sharing the stage at VDI event will be Terry Burton, technical manager, Luxus, Adam Watson, business development manager, Milliken and Mark Ellis, manager engineer materials design, Renault-Nissan. They will be discussing product trials of Luxus' new polypropylene compound for auto interiors, Hycolene.

This lightweight material will enable OEMs to significantly lower the weight of the average car, reduce CO2 output, deliver improved fuel economy and help meet EU emissions targets, according to Luxus. Developed to replace standard talc-filled grades for car interior components, it offers reduced filler content – 10%, down from a typical 25%. "Both Luxus' technical capabilities and its desire to push the boundaries of polypropylene applications above and beyond that of virgin material by using a high recyclate is a major achievement and one that Renault-Nissan is keen to support," said Ellis.

Burton added: "For the last ten years our thermoplastic materials have been revolutionising auto interior design worldwide. But it has never before been more important than it is today to develop sustainable materials for car interiors that can deliver a competitive advantage for OEMs in what is a highly sophisticated and rapidly changing market. "Eco materials can dramatically affect the final product and its impact on the environment, while consumers too are becoming more aware of the eco-friendly handling of materials and are thinking in material cycles. This is why sharing our development of Hycolene at VDI is so important at this time."



Novamont & EU Supported ReBioFoam Project Creates Starch-based Biopolymer for Packaging

Source: SpecialChem

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Officially launched on 1st February 2009, the ReBioFoam project (Renewable Bio-polymer FOAMs), financed by the European Union as part of the 7th Framework Programme and involving a 10-strong consortium made up of partners from 8 different countries (Italy, Poland, Spain, the Czech Republic, Ireland, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom), is now complete. The results of the 4-year research and experimentation programme will soon be presented to stakeholders.

The ReBioFoam project coordinated by Novamont, Italy's leading developer of materials and biochemicals through the integration of chemistry and agriculture, had the objective of creating an innovative starch-based biopolymer to be employed in the production of expansive packaging as an alternative to the conventional expanded materials traditionally used in the sector. The biopolymers were expanded through an innovative continuous microwave process and a technology that uses the water naturally found in the material as an expanding agent.



The presentation of ReBioFoam results have opened up new, extremely important avenues in terms of environmental sustainability and limiting the use of non-renewable resources. The biopolymer is obtained through a highly efficient process which modifies the physical properties in the structure of starch, while preserving its natural characteristics, thus making it easy to recycle. Thanks to the innovative expansion process, the new expanded material is also completely biodegradable and compostable.

Bioserie Launches Innovative Line of iPhone 5 Covers Integrating Bioplastics with Premium Recyclable Materials

Source: SpecialChem

Posted: Jan 8, 2013

All new AluCovers for iPhone 5

Bioplastic meets Aluminum!

Order Now



Bioserie is first to market with a diversified line of iPhone 5 covers that will give earth and design conscious Apple device owners the protection they crave. The new line of iPhone 5 covers consist of three distinct products, BioCover, GlassCover, and AluCover, all using exclusively plant-based renewable resources and recyclable components.

GlassCover is a delicate merger of bioplastics with strengthened glass, turning the cover into a tasteful accessory which will no doubt seduce the stylish crowd. Glass, a non-toxic material, is dear to our heart as it is also virtually infinitely recyclable. AluCover allies bioplastics with

aluminum, a robust material whose reusability is endless. AluCovers combine exceptional protection with a techno aesthetic by using hologram engraved aluminum panels.

"We will continue to search for new materials and unique ways to develop products that reflect bioserie's founding vision of bringing cutting-edge sustainable products to the market, with minimal impact on the environment" says Kaya Kaplancali, CEO of bioserie, adding "bioserie is the only smartphone protection cover brand to offer certified sustainable products in the industry. That makes us unique and proud."

Cardia Bioplastics secures an exclusive annual supply contract into Shanghai, China

Source: European Plastics News

Posted: Dec 11, 2012

- **\$1.2 million per annum contract to supply Cardia's Biohybrid™ renewable kitchen waste bags to Shanghai Pudong City District**
- **Contract represents 20% of Pudong's households with potential to expand rollout**
- **Opens up significant opportunity to secure additional City Councils in China**
- **Continues momentum of growth and expansion of Cardia's product base**

Cardia Bioplastics Limited is pleased to announce an exclusive annual supply contract with the Shanghai Pudong City District in China. The agreement is to supply an estimated \$1.2 million per annum of Cardia's Biohybrid™ renewable kitchen waste bags to approximately 20% of householders in this region. Cardia's renewable Biohybrid™ kitchen bags are made with Cardia's proprietary Biohybrid™ technology that uses less oil and a lower carbon footprint compared to conventional plastics. This contract win follows the successful six-month trial of Cardia's products in this region earlier this year. Pudong is one of four City Councils in China that has conducted waste management trials using Cardia products. The other three Councils in trial phase are Nanjing, Hangzhou and Yuhang and Cardia is looking to expand into other provinces of China.

Penetrating into this crucial market opens up significant opportunities for Cardia to grow and expand its global distribution of organic waste management products. Shanghai Pudong is one of China's highest profile development areas and represents a key financial and commercial hub for the entire country. There has been a strong focus towards environmental initiatives in the city of Shanghai in recent years. Following the World Expo in 2010, Shanghai implemented an organic waste separation process which targets waste separation at source. In particular, separating plant material and food scraps at the household level, which form a large part of the domestic waste stream in China. Earlier this year, as part of the six-month trial period, Cardia successfully supplied its Biohybrid™ kitchen bags to approximately 5% of Pudong's households. This supply will now be expanded to 20% of Pudong's households.

Importantly, this contract follows the recent announcements of \$500,000 per annum sales contracts to both an American hygiene products company and a global consumer products company. These three contracts combined equate to over \$2.2 million of secured revenues contributing to the current financial year. This is significant for the Company and equates to over one half of last financial year's total reported revenues. Mr. Jackie Chen, Cardia Director and Head of China Operations said: "We are delighted with this outcome and we will continue to develop and maintain strong Government relationships to work with China City Councils towards managing household waste sustainability and reducing their environmental footprint."

