

MGP to Launch New Line of Biobased Biodegradable Resins

Source: Biomass Magazine

Posted: Sep 11, 2012

MGP Ingredients Inc., a long-established innovator of grain- and other plant-based ingredient solutions, has announced the development of Terratek BD, a new line of biodegradable composite resins. “The launching of Terratek BD represents another major step in MGP’s ongoing commitment to deliver commercially-viable product offerings that help reduce reliance on conventional petroleum-based plastic. It provides an ideal alternative for multiple applications wherein the manufacture of fully compostable products is highly desirable. Among the most unique aspects and advantages” of Terratek BD is the product’s “unique ability to serve as a cost effective solution for creating heat-tolerant, bio-based compostable products” compared to similar type resins. “We view this as a significant breakthrough in that it can open new doors for the development of end-user products that maintain their physical integrity under moderate to high heat conditions.”

Applications for Terratek BD include a variety of injection-molded industrial and consumer products such as disposable packaging materials and containers. “This material can be used in many other injection-molded applications including durable products that can benefit from being compostable at the end of their lifespan,” Parker said.

Terratek BD is produced at MGP’s facility in Onaga, Kan., from a proprietary blend of wheat- and corn-based products, as well as other compostable materials. Natural components derived from renewable grain sources make up the majority of the resins’ content by weight. The smooth, white, pellet-size resins can be easily processed, shaped and colored by finished goods manufacturers to meet their specific product designs and needs.

“All of the materials used in the production of Terratek BD meet industry standards for fully compostable products,” said Mark Kocour, bioplastics general manager at MGP. “In addition to the excellent heat tolerance displayed by these new resins, they possess outstanding mechanical qualities, including strength and a rare combination of rigidity and pliability. This bolsters our confidence in their ability to be effectively applied toward the manufacture of a growing range of biodegradable consumer packaged goods that are both highly practical and environmentally-friendly.”

In addition to MGP’s new Terratek BD line, the company produces and markets Terratek SC, a starch-based bioplastic, and Terratek WC, made from a combination of fine wood particles and recycled plastic materials. Made from up to 65 percent renewable material, Terratek SC is similar to thermoplastics, and can be molded into a variety of shapes and sizes for the production of both pliable and hard plastic products. This line of resins is also capable of withstanding temperatures beyond boiling point and can be processed into finished products using conventional and existing technologies.

Wood particles used in the production of Terratek WC are obtained from waste materials generated by the woodworking industry. Processed to produce a consistent filler/reinforcing product, the use of these particles promotes the reclamation of wood waste that would otherwise be sent to landfills, and ensures that no new trees are cut down to make the product. Available in an injection molding grade, as well as an extrusion grade, Terratek® WC can be used in such applications as decking, furniture parts, structural components, toys and indoor and outdoor decorative items.

“All of the products under our Terratek brand respond to growing interest in renewable sources to address environmental concerns and curtail dependence on non-renewable synthetic materials,” Parker said. “In this way, MGP is helping the industry and consumers make strides toward lowering their carbon footprint.”



Cardia Bioplastics Ltd: Key Milestone Achieved in Commercialisation of Biohybrid Technology

Source: 4-Traders

Posted: Sep 10, 2012



Multi-national consumer goods company commences in-market validation phase of their personal care products packaging made with Cardia's Biohybrid™ resin technology. Strong validation of the patented resin technology and its commercial viability constitutes key milestone and de-risks path to global commercialisation. Biohybrid™ resin sales are expected to benefit in future years as the company continues to secure global brand owners.

Monday 10 September 2012 Cardia Bioplastics Limited (ASX: CNN) is pleased to announce that a leading multi-national consumer goods company has commenced in-market validation of their personal care products packaging that is made from Cardia's renewable Biohybrid™ resin technology. This is a major milestone event for Cardia - it validates the performance and commercial viability of the renewable resin technology and pushes the Company further along its path to global commercialisation.

The undisclosed multi-national brand owner is a global leader in the hygiene and personal care markets. The Company is collaborating with Cardia in order to improve the environmental profile of their product packaging, via the integration of Cardia's renewable Biohybrid™ resin technology.

The development process that ultimately leads to full commercialisation is a lengthy and rigorous multi-step process. The Biohybrid™ packaging has progressed to in-market validation phase - progression to this point confirms that the product meets the highest standards for technical performance, meets the environmental and cost criteria of this global leader and has passed specific product trials. Importantly, the in-market validation stage is a substantial endorsement of the unique renewable resin technology and its commercial viability.

Furthermore, commercial endorsement from a major global brand owner is expected to translate into an accelerated uptake of the Biohybrid™ resins among other companies who are also looking to reduce their carbon footprint through sustainable packaging and plastic technologies. With a growing list of high profile customers, Cardia is solidifying its position in the growing bioplastics market.

"Reaching in-market validation phase with a multi-national leader in the personal care market is a major milestone achievement for Cardia. These leading global companies demand compliance with the highest possible technical standards - for our patented Biohybrid™ resin technology to meet these strict and unwavering performance specifications is unparalleled endorsement of the commercial appeal of our product."

"The global shift towards green economies continues to accelerate, with more and more companies looking for ways to reduce their carbon footprint. With a strong portfolio of patented renewable resin technologies, Cardia is well-positioned to capitalise on this rapidly growing trend."

NatureWorks Expands Sustainable Packaging with New Production Equipment

Source: Packagingdigest

Posted: Sep 6, 2012

NatureWorks and Sulzer's division Sulzer Chemtech announced today that Sulzer has shipped proprietary production equipment to NatureWorks' Blair, Neb., facility that will enable NatureWorks to increase production of Ingeo biopolymer and produce new, high-performance resins and lactides.



Ingeo production capacity at Blair will rise from 140,000 to 150,000 metric tonnes per annum. Commissioning of the installed new equipment is expected in the first quarter of 2013 with capacity increases and new products becoming available in the second quarter.

NatureWorks and Sulzer have been working on this capital improvement project for more than a year. Each company has contributed to the project with NatureWorks bringing its operational experience and intellectual property in lactides processing, and Sulzer bringing its proprietary equipment and engineering design expertise in this field. NatureWorks owns patents to the new process, to which Sulzer has exclusive sublicensing rights worldwide. Technical details concerning the new production equipment and the amount of this major capital expenditure are not being released due to the proprietary and competitive nature of this Ingeo development project.

"NatureWorks has an extensive patent portfolio, which includes intellectual property around lactides, polymer and product applications," explained Bill Suehr, NatureWorks' chief operating officer. "This project has been a natural marriage of each company's assets, focused on a subset of NatureWorks' patented process technology to bring both new capacity and new products to the market."

"Sulzer has a wide range of innovative technologies applicable for lactide purification. In support of NatureWorks' team, we optimized one of these technologies with the goal to expand the Ingeo product portfolio. In this process, additional work was done in our test center with two primary benefits in focus - increased capacity and product extension," said Peter Moritz, head of Sulzer Process Technology. "The project development, including the design and delivery of our proprietary equipment, provided an exciting professional and technical opportunity for us to show our capabilities for this type of application."

New polymer grades



With the new technology, NatureWorks will be introducing new high-performance Ingeo resin grades in the injection molding and fibers arenas. New injection molding grades Ingeo 3100HP and 3260HP are designed for use in medium and high flow nucleated formulations to provide an excellent balance of mechanical and thermal properties, while delivering up to 75 percent cycle time savings over formulations based on current Ingeo grades. Heat distortion temperatures (@ 66 psig) are expected to be 15°C higher than what is achievable today.

Fibers and nonwoven products made from the new Ingeo grades 6260D and 6100D will have reduced shrinkage and better dimensional stability. These improved features are expected to enable Ingeo use across a broader range of fiber and nonwoven applications and provide larger processing windows in fiber spinning and downstream conversion processes. NatureWorks also will assess new market and

application opportunities for the technology in other processes, including thermoforming, film extrusion, blow molding and profile extrusion.

Specialist Cereplast Gets \$5m from Ironridge

Source: Plastics News

Posted: Sep 6, 2012

US bioplastics maker Cereplast has received a \$5m (€4m) investment as it works to recover from a half-year that was filled with production issues and a major sales drop. Institutional investment firm Ironridge Technology of San Francisco made the investment in Cereplast, which is based in El Segundo. Ironridge will receive preferred stock in Cereplast in exchange for the investment.



In a news release, Cereplast chairman and CEO Frederic Scheer said the investment will allow his firm to restart its production schedule and access raw materials. Cereplast also needed funding to support its recently opened office in Hyderabad, India. Scheer said interest from potential customers there could total more than 4 million pounds. "I want to thank the team at Ironridge for supporting Cereplast during this critical time," Scheer said in the release.

Cereplast weathered the first half of 2012, when its sales fell more than 90% to \$305,000. The firm also posted a first-half loss of \$6.3m after losing \$4.1m in the same period in 2011. On Wall Street, Cereplast's per-share stock price began the year around \$1 but closed September 5 on Nasdaq at 19.3 cents.

BASF Teams up with Seattle Mariners to Launch Compostable Snack Bags

Source: PackagingBR

Posted: Sep 5, 2012

The chemical company BASF has decided to team up with the US major league baseball team The Seattle Mariners to debut prototype packaging developed with its advanced biopolymer technology containing peanuts. When Seattle Mariners take on the Boston Red Sox at Safeco Field, the first 10,000 fans to arrive at the venue will receive a free bag of peanuts in a 100% compostable snack bag.



BASF consumer packaging market development manager Kimberley Schiltz said with flexible packaging, the company is bringing about a major development the snack food industry. "It means that popular snack foods can be brought to market in compostable packaging that delivers needed shelf-life at a competitive price point, with a more sustainable 'end-of-life' solution than with conventional packaging materials," added Schiltz.

The Seattle Mariners, as a member of the Green Sports Alliance, aggressive zero-waste goals make Safeco Field a natural place for BASF for introduction of this new sustainable snack packaging to the American public, said the company. BASF, headquartered in Florham Park, New Jersey, is the North American affiliate of BASF, Germany.

Cereplast Opens Corporate Office in India to Support South Asian Bioplastic Market Growth Initiative

Source: MarketWatch

Posted: Aug 28, 2012

Cereplast, Inc., a leading manufacturer of proprietary biobased, sustainable bioplastics, announced today that it has opened a corporate office in Hyderabad, capital of the Indian state Andhra Pradesh, to service its partners in South Asia.

The new office will provide a direct pipeline between its South Asian partners and Cereplast's US headquarters to streamline communication between all parties. The suite of services offered will include technical support, marketing support and business development. The office is located within the offices of A.R.M.Y Marketing Services Ltd., Cereplast's partner in India, at Flat No: 301, House No: 3-6-322 Mahaveer House, Basheerbagh Hyderabad - 500029, Andhra Pradesh, India. Of India's 28 states, Andhra Pradesh is the fourth largest state by area, and the fifth largest by population.

Frederic Scheer, Chairman and CEO of Cereplast, stated, "We are excited by the growth opportunities in South Asia, and are committed to supporting our expansion in the region, particularly in India, with the opening of our corporate office. We are pleased to be in close proximity to our partner A.R.M.Y. who has extensive experience and built credibility in the marketplace. Working closely with A.R.M.Y., who has an extensive marketing network, will provide us the ideal platform to grow in the region."



Cereplast

Mr. Scheer continued, "India is the second most populated country in the world with over 1.2 billion people. According to the National Geographic Greendex 2012 report, Indian consumers rank the highest overall as the most 'green' in the world with 63% describing themselves as green; 33% are willing to pay more for eco-friendly products, 49% avoid environmentally unfriendly products and 50% buy eco-friendly products. This is a market with a rapidly growing demand for bioplastic alternatives to conventional plastics, and we are poised to take advantage of this opportunity."