

## Heinz Collaborates on 100% Plant-based PET

Source: PRW

Posted: February 5, 2014

HJ Heinz vice-president of global packaging innovation, Michael Okoroafor, believes the development of a commercially-viable 100% plant-based PET bottle is just five years away. Heinz is part of the Plant PET Technology Collaborative, which also includes Heinz as well as Procter & Gamble, Nike, Ford Motor and Coca-Cola. The group is pushing to increase the percentage plant-based material used in PET.



Coca-Cola, since 2009, has produced billions of its PlantBottles, which contain up to 30% plant-based material. Heinz has licensed that technology for use in its own PET containers. One hundred-percent plant based bottles certainly are a reality these days, but they are not ready for prime time.

"If you're talking about in a lab, you can make it today. But it doesn't count," Okoroafor told attendees at The Packaging Conference on 3 February in Orlando. "We are really convinced that by 2018 we will come out with a commercial scale that really allows us to compete with the fossil fuel (based PET)," he said. Advancing to the 100-percent level, he said, is beyond just any one company. And the PTC collaboration with non-competitive, world class companies, he added, "is

the new normal." "We don't think that any one company can go it alone. In fact, we don't think that Coke and Heinz can do it alone," Okoroafor said.

The conference is designed to cover various packaging materials, and Daniel Abramowicz of Crown Holdings Inc. also was there to talk about his company's work with universities and external partners to accelerate innovation. "To have a successful collaboration, you really need to have an alignment of interests," said the executive vice president of technology and regulatory affairs for Crown, a metal packaging giant. "If it's not in both organisations' best interests to succeed, it likely will not succeed." But working to find the right mix of companies takes planning and some thought. "You have to build the trust. You build this trust into a collaboration. You are off and running," Okoroafor said.

Current members of the PTC do not compete in the same markets, which allow them to share sensitive information without fear of damaging their own brands. Having these non-competitive relationships in the group is critical to success, Okoroafor said. While Okoroafor puts a 2018 estimate on the commercial viability of a 100-percent plant-based bottle, he added the actual date will depend on market conditions, including the fluctuating price of oil. Regardless of the environmental benefits of a plant-based bottle, he said there has to be a business case to further develop the technology. "It's not just about saving the planet. It's about saving the planet and the bottle line," Okoroafor told the crowd.

## Mitsubishi Chemical Develops Bio-based Plastic For Automotive Touch Panels

Source: SpecialChem

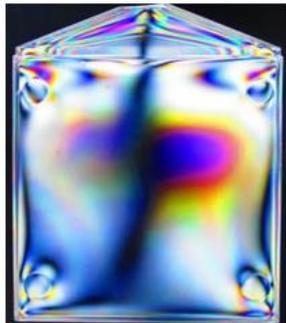
Posted: January 28, 2014

Mitsubishi Chemical has developed a new grade of high-performance, high-transparency bio-based engineering plastic called DURABIO, using plant-derived isosorbide as its raw material. MCC will develop new applications for DURABIO™, in addition to touch panels for automobiles, taking full advantage of its high performance, and increase the annual production capacity to 16,000 tons by fiscal year 2015.

Comparison of light distortion-DURABIO™ virtually eliminates distortion in light transmission.



DURABIO™



General polycarbonate plastic

The new material features excellent optical properties and high resistance to heat and humidity. MCC will promote sales of DURABIO for use in touch panels on automobiles, a sector where demand is expected to increase significantly. Touch panels for automobiles are used mainly to control air conditioning, audio, and car navigation systems. DURABIO offers flexibility in design and can enhance the appearance of automobile interiors.

In contrast to easily breakable glass, transparent plastics such as impact-resistant polycarbonate, are used for the front plate of automobile touch panels for safety purposes. The disadvantage of polycarbonates, however, is distortion in light transmission, which makes it difficult for users to see the touch panel.

## Small Quantity of Compostable Plastic in Recycling Streams have no Effect on Recyclates' Properties: EuBP

Source: SpecialChem

Posted: January 28, 2014

BERLIN, Germany -- Up to 10 percent compostable plastics mixing with conventional plastics in post-consumer recycling streams show no or negligible impact on the mechanical performance of the recyclates. This is the key finding of a meta-study published by European Bioplastics.

Bioplastics are biobased, compostable, or both. Biobased plastics films are chemically identical to their conventional counterparts and are easy to manage in recycling streams. Compostable plastics are designed for organic recycling and should be collected accordingly. They are marked for this purpose with logos such as the Seedling.

In the event that compostable plastics end up in recycling streams, the prevalent sorting technologies are able to sort them with little residual waste. "Studies and field trials have demonstrated that in the uneventful case a small fraction of compostable plastics ends up in the PE recycle stream, this does in no way negatively impact the quality of the recycling stream," says François de Bie, Chairman of European Bioplastics. "Remaining amounts are easier to handle than other residual wastes in the polyethylene (PE) stream such as polystyrene, or polypropylene."



This was proven up to a share of 10 percent compostable plastics in the recycling stream by independent studies of the Institute for Bioplastics and Biocomposites (University of Applied Arts and Sciences Hannover), the Italian National Packaging Consortium (CONAI) and the company BIOTEC.

## FTC Slaps Diaper Company for False Biodegradability Claims

Source: Environmental Leader

Posted: January 27, 2014

Baby products company gDiapers has made false or misleading claims about how its diapers and wipes decompose, according to the Federal Trade Commission. The gDiapers diaper system consists of two pieces: the reusable outer shell, called gPants, and the inner liner, either a disposable pad (gRefills) or a reusable cloth insert.

The FTC complaint says gDiapers falsely or misleadingly represented that:

- gRefills and gWipes are biodegradable, meaning they will completely decompose within one year;
- gRefills and gWipes will biodegrade when trashed;
- gRefills will biodegrade when flushed;
- gRefills are "certified" biodegradable;
- no part of used gRefills will end up in a landfill or incinerator after disposal by trashing or flushing; and/or
- gDiapers are plastic free.



In truth, the FTC says, the products will not completely decompose in a year, are not biodegradable when trashed or flushed, do end up in a landfill and are not plastic free.

The company has agreed to a proposed settlement that says it neither admits nor denies the allegations in the FTC complaint. gDiapers agrees to stop making biodegradable claims unless it has "reliable scientific evidence" to support those claims. The company won't pay a financial penalty unless it violates the settlement.

Late last year, the FTC took action against six companies — ECM Biofilms, American Plastic Manufacturing, Champ, Clear Choice Housewares, Carnie Cap and AJM Packaging — for making false environmental marketing claims. Of the six, one imposed a \$450,000 civil penalty and five for the first time addressed deceptive biodegradable plastic claims.

## Bioplastics Growth in Europe Likely to be 'Above Average'

Source: Plastics News

Posted: January 2, 2014

**Bioplastics Growth in Europe Likely to be 'Above Average' ...**

The organization that represents Europe's bioplastics industry expects the global market for the material to see "above average" growth in the coming years. Berlin-based European Bioplastics (EB), which represents 70 member companies spread across the European Union, said annual production capacity of bioplastics would rise from 1.4 million tonnes in 2012 to 6.2 million tonnes by 2017.

EB said that the strongest gains would be made in bio-based, non-biodegradable bioplastics area, notably bio-based versions of bulk plastics such as polyethylene and PET. But the organization said capacity for biodegradable plastics would also grow by around 60 percent by 2017.

Among end-users, the packaging market was set to remain the leading segment for bioplastics applications, although EB said other areas such as consumer electronics, automotive and the fibre market were "gaining in strength". François de Bie, EB's board chairman, said the development of bioplastics had the potential to create jobs across Europe. He also called on the European Commission "to establish a level-playing field for the biobased industries in Europe and a clear cut policy framework for promising markets such as bioplastics," especially in the face of competition from South America and Asia.