



Managing Director Hans-Dieter Voss (left) and Marketing Director Liborius Flöper (right)

## PP LFT makes inroads into

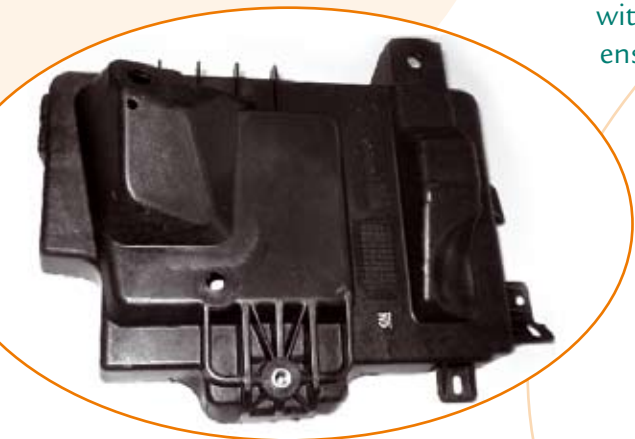
A Press Day held at TechnoCompound enabled journalists from the trade press to acquire an insight into the portfolio of the compounder. Polymotive spoke with Managing Director Hans-Dieter Voss and Marketing Director Liborius Flöper about the company's PP LFT rod-shaped pellets. The company has succeeded, by further developing the Pultrusion Process so as to achieve an even and complete coating of glass fibres with polypropylene sufficient to ensure that the result no longer compares unfavourably with short glass fibre PA.

**Polymotive:** You supply continuous long glass fibre thermoplastics (LFT) under the brand name of TechnoFiber. What are the features that characterise the material?

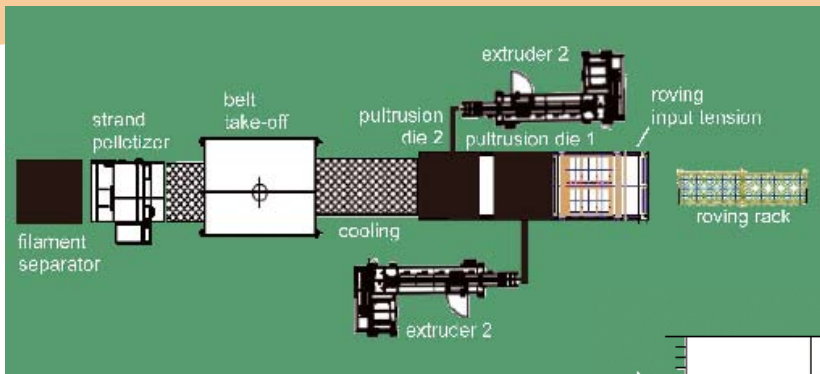
**Liborius Flöper:** PP-LFT demonstrates outstanding mechanical characteristics, a high level of heat resistance, low warpage, high surface quality and the potential to make savings in weight. This means that the material is exceptionally suited to the manufacture of components that are exposed to very high mechanical loads and stresses – even at elevated temperatures – and which up to now have been made from light alloys or thermosets.

**Polymotive:** What are the advantages of PP-LFT by comparison to PA with short glass fibres?

**Liborius Flöper:** The good surface quality mentioned above and the improved mechanical characteristics due to the long glass fibres (e.g. impact and low temperature impact strength, strength durability, heat resistance, as well as break and crash behaviour) represent a distinct advantage. If we then take into account the material price of PP-LFT, which may be up to 50% less than that of PA-GF, the benefits are even more evident. In addition, the manufacturer is able to achieve considerable savings in terms of energy and investment costs because, unlike PA, no preliminary drying

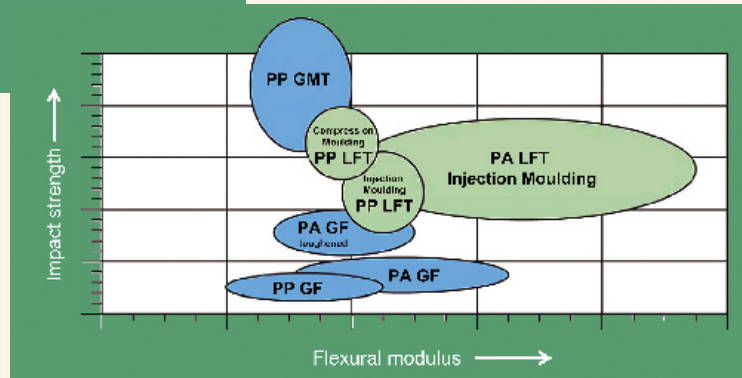


Battery holder for Opel (figs.: TechnoCompound)



The Pultrusion Process for the production of PP LFT rod-shaped pellets

Impact strength / flexural modulus diagram for glass fibre reinforced thermoplastics



## automotive sector

of the granulate is required. Moreover, the change from PA-GF to our TechnoFibre does not require any amendments at the mould.

**Polymotive:** What can your material do that those supplied by your competitors either can't do at all or can't do to quite the same level?

**Liborius Flöper:** Our material features high impregnation quality. The rod-shaped pellets have a diameter of 2 - 3 mm and come in lengths of 10, 15 or 20 mm, fibre and pellet lengths are identical. In the pultrusion technology used by TechnoCompound we have managed to coat each glass fibre filament with the polymer matrix and generated a linking of fibre and matrix. In addition, the fibres are distributed relatively evenly around the centre. Because of this the material is not so inclined to defibrat during processing.

**Polymotive:** Where do you see the areas of application for PP-LFT in the automotive sector?

**Liborius Flöper:** I can mention any number of them. Starting with underbody shields and door modules, then there are bumper supports, inside edge protectors and front end supports right through to instrument panels and roof components, you can use PP-LFT in all of these.

**Polymotive:** What concrete applications have already been implemented using your material?

**Liborius Flöper:** A door module for the Mini as well as a front end carrier and a battery holder both for Opel are three examples I could name where TechnoFibre is used.

**Polymotive:** What strategy are you pursuing as far as doing business in LFT rod-shaped pellets is concerned?

**Hans-Dieter Voss:** We are endeavouring to achieve above-average growth of more than 50 % per year. Estimated brand growth is being put at 10% per year.

**Polymotive:** So you really mean business! How do you plan to achieve this ambitious target?

**Hans-Dieter Voss:** Primarily by means of very high quality based on the use of our further optimised pultrusion technology and consistent quality of the glass fibre content. We are also going for the development of application-specific LFT pellets for innovative applications in all sectors of industry and offering a full service with computer aided moulding design, filling simulation and on-site support in relation to technical applications.

**Polymotive:** Many thanks for talking to us!

## Company Profile

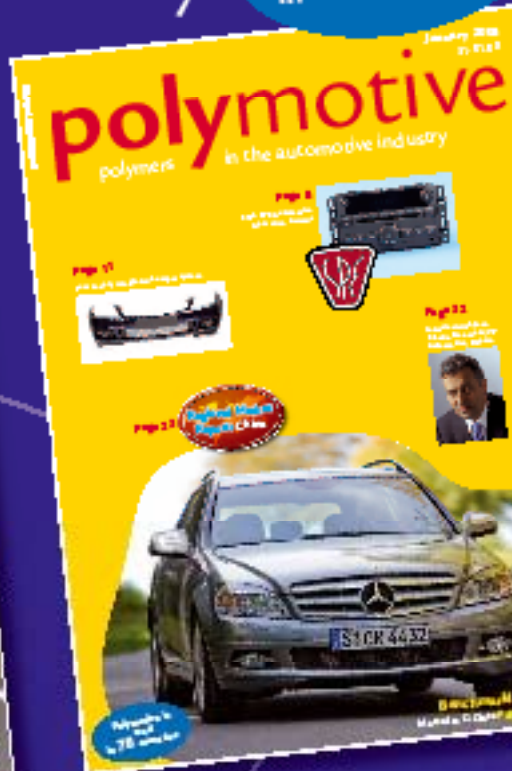
TechnoCompound, part of the Hay Polymers Group, was established in 2005. In 2007 it achieved a turnover of € 32m with 70 employees and a production capacity of 50,000 tonnes per year. It focuses on Polyolefin compounds, engineering compounds as well as LFT rod-shaped pellets. 90% of turnover is attributable to the automotive industry and/or its supply industry. Materials from TechnoCompound can be found at the following points in the automobile: back of rear seat, bumper supports, seat shell, spare wheel well, rear door, front end, instrument panel support, door module.

[www.technocompound.com](http://www.technocompound.com)

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