

## **Press Release**

### **Increased production capacity for long fibre thermoplastic compounds**

*Bad Sobernheim, December 2006* – A new pultrusion line for the production of long fibre thermoplastics (LFT) was put into operation by TechnoCompound GmbH at its Bad Sobernheim facility in August, increasing this company's production capacity for its TechnoFiber pellets by a good 14,000 tonnes/year. Practical experience gained with a smaller line went into the design, construction and operation of this new line. By reason of its optimized impregnating process, the LFT pellets produced by TechnoCompound on this new pultrusion line manifest a very high quality of impregnation, i.e. each individual glass filament is completely encased in the polymer matrix. This is an important prerequisite for achieving the expected mechanical properties. The rod-shaped pellets are offered in pellet lengths – and hence fibre lengths – of 10, 15 and 20 mm. Matrix materials include polypropylene (PP), polyamide (PA), polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polybutylene terephthalate (PBT) and polyphenylene sulphide (PPS). TechnoCompound's leanly structured organization enables the company to offer its products on the market at highly competitive prices.

TechnoFiber compounds based on PP – which is currently the most important matrix material in terms of quantity – are available with various long-fibre concentrations ranging from 20 to 60 % w/w depending on the

application. Thus the processor no longer has to mix a concentrate with an unreinforced PP in order to obtain the desired glass fibre content, the advantage being that only one grade of pellets has to be fed into the injection moulding machine, thus considerably facilitating operations and simplifying the equipment requirements. Moreover, the glass fibre content remains within narrow tolerances throughout the entire production run. This means that the processor can concentrate on his core responsibility as an injection moulder, while TechnoCompound, as the raw material supplier, remains fully responsible for the material.

The particular advantages of LFT materials are their very good mechanical properties, such as high strength, impact resistance, rigidity and heat resistance. Especially in automotive applications (e.g. battery supports, instrument panels, engine enclosures, mounting brackets, seat shells, door modules), a component must have a high energy absorbing capacity right up to the moment of fracture so that in the event of failure it cannot break up into sharp and/or pointed splinters that could easily cause injury ("benign" failure). Plastics reinforced with long glass fibres enjoy application wherever components have to have a relatively high degree of rigidity and may be subjected to high impact energy, e.g. in the automotive industry or in the production of such sporting articles as ski and snowboard bindings.

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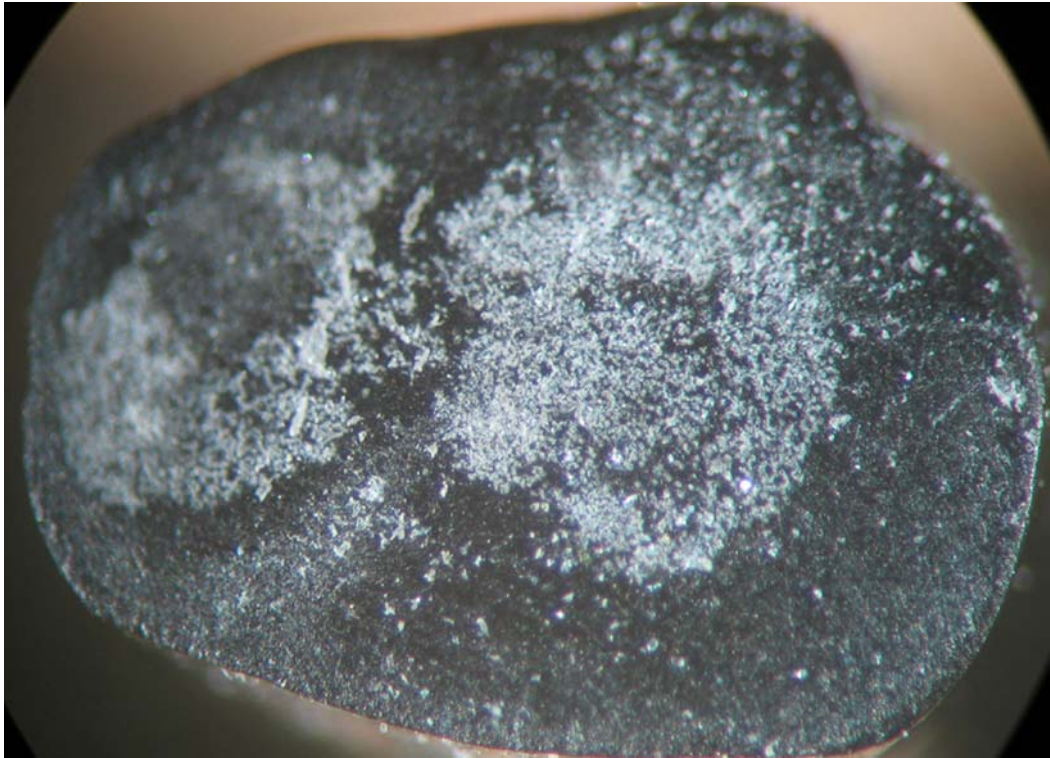
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*An example of the application of long fibre PP compounds from TechnoCompound is this high-strength mounting frame used on DaimlerChrysler heavy goods vehicles.*



*This micrograph shows the very high quality of impregnation achieved by TechnoCompound with its new pultrusion line.*

*Photos: TechnoCompound, Bad Sobernheim*