

Impress metallic effect colorants add value to packaging made with semicrystalline polymers such as polyethylene terephthalate (PET), according to PolyOne. These new formulations can be processed on standard injection stretch blow moulding machinery, and create no flow lines that would disrupt the brilliant glossy surface, the company reports.

‘These high gloss metallic effect colorants offer our customers an easy-to-implement solution that creates out-of-this-world effects’, claims Gary Fielding, PolyOne’s global marketing director, Color & Additives. ‘We’re looking at applications where products are fighting for shelf space. Blow moulded applications in beverage and food packaging are all trying to be noticed by consumers in supermarkets’, he adds. Impress colorants are available as both liquids and solids so customers have the flexibility to choose from various formulations to meet their process and application requirements, Fielding says. The metallic appearance of Impress also gives designers the chance to move away from metal or other materials and into plastics, he observes.

‘With new Impress colour concentrates, packaging manufacturers now have an outstanding option for winning consumer attention at the point-of-sale and can vary the amount of colorant and package wall thickness to create endless possibilities. In addition, these concentrates are easy to process in the polymers most commonly selected for packaging’, explains Christoph Palm, VP and general manager, Color and Additives EMEA & India.

PolyOne has also recently developed new formulations of its OnCap™ laser-sensitive additive solutions to enable manufacturers with rapid laser marking equipment to capture the full benefit of their new high production lines. The latest laser marking equipment allows manufacturers to run wire and cable production lines at rates of up to 400 m/min; however, the laser-sensitive pigments and colours incorporated into the polymers selected for these applications often cannot keep pace with the higher machine speeds, leading to poor legibility and contrast, PolyOne explains.

The company claims that its new OnCap formulations ensure an ‘excellent marking contrast’ even at extremely high extrusion line speeds. ‘For manufacturers, this development means they can increase production rates while also maintaining the excellent quality of their laser marking. It’s truly a win-win for our customers’, says Palm.

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Corbion presents additives for EPS applications to Middle East market

Dutch firm Corbion introduced its Pationic® range of glycerol ester-based polymer additives to the Middle East market at Arabplast 2017 in January, focusing on expandable polystyrene (EPS) applications. In particular, the company highlighted the benefits of glycerol monostearate product Pationic 909 as an antistatic agent for EPS beads.

Untreated EPS beads tend to acquire static charges, leading to flowability problems and inhomogeneous mould filling, Corbion explains. Antistat Pationic 909 reduces agglomeration of the beads, so that the screening process into various bead sizes is not hampered, and also contributes to uniform mould filling, the company reports. According to Corbion, Pationic additives are particularly well-suited to low density EPS products, due to the consistent distribution and very small size of the additive particles.

The company says that its synthesis chemists and applications engineers also work closely with EPS producers to identify additional ways in which its polymer additives can act as processing aids, saving time throughout the foaming process. For example, Pationic 909 and Pationic 919 help to facilitate cooling, making it quicker and easier to release the final block of EPS from the mould, Corbion reports. ‘With an established supply chain, we are pleased to now be in a position to bring a new choice in polymer additives to the Middle East market’, comments Frederik Feddes, VP Biochemicals at Corbion.

Glycerol esters are chemical combinations of glycerine and fatty acids and occur naturally as glycerol triesters. Corbion manufactures monoesters, triesters and mixtures of mono/diesters with various degrees of saturation, to deliver optimum performance depending on the application. Products in the company’s full Pationic portfolio are used as antistats, lubricants, acid/catalyst neutralizers, cross-linkers, dispersants, mould release agents, processing aids and anti-fog agents, and improve the processability of polypropylene, polyethylene, PVC and engineering thermoplastics. With a variety of different product forms available, Corbion says it can provide bespoke solutions to meet the unique needs of its customers. The

Pationic range was originally developed by Patco [ADPO, March 1996], acquired by Corbion's forebear in 1986.

Netherlands-based Corbion NV is divided into two segments: Caravan, which operates in the field of food ingredients, and Purac, which handles biochemicals. It is active in Europe, the USA and Asia. Before the divestment of its bakery supplies business in mid-2012, the company was known as CSM NV. In 2015, Corbion generated annual sales of €918.3 million and had a workforce of 1673.

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Polyscope introduces Xibond coupling options for polymer blends

Styrenic maleic anhydride (SMA) copolymer specialist Polyscope Polymers of Geleen, The Netherlands, has broadened its compatibilization technology portfolio with the introduction of coupling agents and chain extenders. The expanded product family will be marketed and sold under the tradename Xibond™. In addition, the company's existing Xeran family of compatibilizers [ADPO, October 2014] will be integrated into the new Xibond portfolio effective from 1 March 2017.

The Xibond portfolio of blend optimizers therefore comprises compatibilizers, coupling agents, chain extenders, polarity enhancers and viscosity modifiers, fulfilling the market need for additives to optimize properties in polymer blends and alloys, Polyscope says. According to the company, the demand for blend optimizers is increasing as more specialized applications require 'designer' type polymers. The new Xibond coupling and compatibilizing agents provide a cost-effective solution for filled and unfilled polymers, including polyamide (PA)/acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS) and polycarbonate (PC)/ABS blends, Polyscope reports. The company also reveals that products for blends containing polyphenylene ether (PPO), polystyrene (PS), PA and polylactic acid (PLA) are currently under development. The new Xibond chain extenders can connect polymer chains together to raise the molecular weight, resulting

in higher melt strength, Polyscope explains. This technique is especially suitable for polycondensates and polyamides, and for 'upgrading' recycled materials, it says.

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COMPANY STRATEGIES

Baerlocher USA to expand metal soap production capacity to meet growing demand

The North American operation of German plastics additives producer Baerlocher is to add a third reactor for the production of calcium, zinc, sodium and other metal soaps at its Highland Ridge Drive facility in Cincinnati, OH, USA. This major capital investment will increase capacity by 50%, the company reports. The new reactor is expected to be fully operational in June 2017.

According to Baerlocher USA, this investment in additional metal soaps capacity will further position the company to meet 'steadily accelerating demand' from the North American polyolefin and polyvinyl chloride (PVC) industries. The investment will additionally support the development of advanced Baerlocher innovations such as its solid calcium-based PVC stabilizers (for which metal soaps are critical raw materials) and its recently launched Baeropol® RST polyolefin resin stabilization technology [ADPO, December 2016], the company comments. These applications are expected to grow as the industry looks to reduce the use of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and heavy metal stabilizers, it explains. The new reactor will occupy space within the Cincinnati plant that was previously earmarked for this and other future production expansions, Baerlocher reveals. The additional capacity will create at least six new jobs at Baerlocher USA, which has steadily increased its workforce over the past several years, the company says.

Baerlocher reports that several trends are driving industry demand for metal soaps, which find applications in plastics as acid scavengers, stabilizers, internal and