

Press release

NEW IN-LINE PROCESS REPLACES UP TO 14 SEPARATE PROCESS STEPS

CoverForm®: scratchproof and resource efficient

Munich, June 8, 2010 – KraussMaffei partnered with Evonik Röhm GmbH to develop the CoverForm® process for one-shot production of components with scratchproof coatings. CoverForm® is a cost-effective and resource-saving solution for series production. In the CoverForm® process, a PMMA component is injection molded and a functional layer applied in the mold immediately afterwards. Instead of the conventional value-adding chain – up to 14-steps – for the production of coated parts, CoverForm® is a single in-mold production process, ending with demolding and quality inspection.

The CoverForm® alliance supplies customers with a proven KraussMaffei manufacturing cell together with the material system, consisting of the substrate material and the reactive coating system, from Evonik. The outstanding material characteristics, especially high resistance to scratching and to chemicals, are essential for parts subject to heavy use, for example, automotive parts or displays for household appliances and mobile phones.

The materials and the process

For the CoverForm® process, the methacrylate specialists at Evonik developed an innovative material pairing of two materials perfectly tailored to each other: a special PLEXIGLAS® of thermoplastic molding compound for the substrate and a solvent-free, acrylate-based, two-component reactive system for the coating. KraussMaffei optimized its small-volume metering unit to dispense the liquid reactive system into the cavity of the mold mounted on a KraussMaffei CX injection molding machine. The following compression molding step spreads the coating evenly over the PMMA surface.

Innovative engineering – on view in action at the K2010

The CoverForm® process, optimized for industrial-scale series production, will be on show in action on the KraussMaffei booth at the K2010. The hydraulic clamp of the CX 200-750 hybrid injection molding machine incorporates the latest compression molding technology and a metering unit for the reactive system which has been optimized for the CoverForm® process. High-precision control of the electric injector unit enables absolutely repeatable coating with thickness variations in the micrometer range. Moreover, KraussMaffei has further developed its dynamic mold heating system to operate with multiple cavity molds. The compact manufacturing cell is fully automated, with an integrated robot for parts removal and handling. BluePower EcoPac insulating sleeves and the use of BluePower servo drive servo pump technology guarantees high energy efficiency.

With its unique know-how and engineering capability in three key areas – injection molding, reaction processing and extrusion – and its strategy “Technology to the Power of Three”, KraussMaffei has a successful track record in the development of complete multitechnology solutions. The CoverForm® process is one of them. It offers processors the prospect of eliminating the time, effort and costs of intermediate handling, cleaning, and pretreatment of the PMMA substrate, as well as the actual coating and drying processes. Compared with a conventional process, CoverForm® slashes cycle times dramatically, while producing a quality product in a highly stable process.

For more information: www.coverform.com or Mail to info@coverform.com

Contacts for the press:

Matthias Andreesen Viegas

Head of Communications

KraussMaffei AG

Phone.: +49 - 89 - 8899 2592

Fax: +49 89 8899 3092

Mail: matthias.andreesen@kraussmaffei.com

Doris Hirsch

Marketing Services Molding Compounds

Evonik Röhm GmbH

Phone.: +49 – 6151 – 18 4079

Fax: +49 – 6151 – 18 3177

Mail: doris.hirsch@evonik.com

Unternehmensprofil KraussMaffei

In terms of sales, KraussMaffei is world market leader in machines and systems for plastics and rubber processing. With its three divisions – Injection Moulding Technology, Extrusion Technology and Reaction Process Machinery – KraussMaffei is a premium partner for the plastics and rubber processing industries worldwide.

The group markets its products under the KraussMaffei, KraussMaffei Berstorff and Netstal brands. The KraussMaffei brand covers the whole spectrum of injection and reaction moulding technology, while the KraussMaffei Berstorff brand stands for successful extrusion solutions. The injection moulding machines of Netstal, our Swiss subsidiary, meet the highest of requirements imposed on process implementation, parts quality and production performance and are mainly used to make highly sophisticated technical and thin-walled plastic parts.

With over 100 years' of expertise and know-how in machinery for plastics and rubber processing, KraussMaffei is today a major technology and process partner for industry. The group offers a wide range of solutions that includes specialized and fully integrated turnkey systems. Headquartered in Munich, the company operates a worldwide network of 140 subsidiaries and sales agencies, and deploys over 570 service technicians, ensuring fast response and closeness to customers everywhere.

Evonik Company information

Evonik Industries is the creative industrial group from Germany which operates in three business areas: Chemicals, Energy and Real Estate. Evonik is a global leader in specialty chemicals, an expert in power generation from hard coal and renewable energies, and one of the largest private residential real estate companies in Germany. Our strengths are creativity, specialization, continuous self-renewal, and reliability.

Evonik is active in over 100 countries around the world. In its fiscal year 2009 about 39,000 employees generated sales of about €13.1 billion and an operating profit (EBITDA) of about €2.0 billion.

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