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22 February 2017 UPDATED 22/2/2017

Polyplastic to supply car part composites for Russian PSA plant



By Plastics News Europe



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New Polyplastic PE pipe plant at Khabrovsk, Russia

Leading Russian polymer composites producer R & P Polyplastic has signed a strategic cooperation agreement in Russia with the French Peugeot and Citroën car manufacturer PSA Group.

Under the local supply deal, sealed at the end of January, the Russian firm will provide up to 80% of the plastic materials required for vehicle components used by PSA at its PSMA Rus car assembly plant in Kaluga region.

Polyplastic already supplies the Russian PSA subsidiary with raw material used in engine compartment components for the production of the Peugeot 408 and Citroën C4 sedan since the end of 2016.

The supply deal will include materials for other areas of the vehicle including exterior components such as bumpers, mudguards and wheel arches, as well as applications in the car interior like dashboard and door panel parts.

PSMA Rus aims to expand the use of Polyplastic materials in its current vehicle range as well as including the locally provided composites in future models. The deal also sees the partners

developing new types of plastics for industrial applications together.

The formal signing ceremony on 31 January was attended by officials of Russia's Kaluga region as well as executives from local PSMA component moulders including OJSC Plastic; JSC Magna Automotive Rus; OOO Klin Eurostyle Systems and JSC AD Plastik, according to Polyplastic.

This deal further supports the PSA policy of establishing a network of local raw material and parts suppliers for its assembly plant.

“Localisation of (supply) at the production plant is (our) priority strategy. To ensure comprehensive development and local procurement to make our products more competitive requires in depth localisation...

“Our goal is to localise the entire chain of component production up to and including raw materials. Our local partnership with Polyplastic confirms progress in implementing this task,” explained PSMA Rus chief executive Frank Myulyar.

Meanwhile, Polyplastic Group continues to expand in its other areas of activity. The firm recently announced the launch of a new polyethylene pipe production plant in the Khabarovsk region of the Russian Far East.

The facility, at Rakitnoe industrial site in the Khabarovsk Economic Zone, was constructed last year. Initially, it is operating four extrusion lines producing PE pressure pipe up to 800mm, with large diameter pipe widely used in the region for water and sewage transport.

Additional manufacturing capacity for PE manholes, fittings and custom-made products will be launched this year.

The plant, based on a 3,000m² production hall, will have a total capacity of 15,000 tpa allowing it to satisfy future pipe demand for water supply, gas distribution, water and sewage disposal, cable networks and industrial pipes in Russia's Far Eastern Federal District, said Polyplastic.

It added that high quality pipe grade PE is being supplied for production from South Korea and Thailand significantly reducing raw material transit costs. Rakitnoe site is due to turn out 7,000 tpa of pipe during 2017.

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Consolidation gains traction in automotive interiors segment

by: Clare Goldsberry in Automotive and Mobility, Business on February 21, 2017



Consolidation in the automotive interiors business seems to be an ongoing theme, as suppliers narrow their focus and become more specialized, meaning that mergers and acquisitions will remain a core strategy for value creation in this segment. That's according to an editorial from *IHS Automotive SupplierInsight*. Keeping track of all this activity in this vehicle segment is a bit like watching two tennis matches at the same time—it's tough to tell whose ball is in which court.

IHS Automotive SupplierInsight noted that companies such as Magna International "realized it can make better margins in transmissions than interior components, so alongside acquiring Getrag to boost its position in the transmissions market, it also sold its non-seat interiors business to Spanish supplier Group Antolin. This strategy of acquiring "specific business units" rather than entire companies is creating larger business entities with more clout when it comes to Tier 1s dealing with the big OEMs, said *IHS Automotive SupplierInsight*.

The automotive supply chain has a new rendezvous. UBM America's newest design and manufacturing trade show and conference debuts in Cleveland, OH, on March 29 and 30, 2017. On one show floor, Advanced Design & Manufacturing (ADM) Cleveland showcases five zones—packaging, automation and robotics, design and manufacturing, plastics and medical manufacturing. Hundreds of suppliers and numerous conference sessions offer sourcing and educational opportunities targeted to the automotive and other key industry sectors. Go to the [PLASTECH Cleveland](#) website to learn more and to register to attend.

The editorial pointed out that Magna's deal with Grupo Antolin as well as Johnson Controls' deal with Yanfeng "were in line with this trend. Visteon has progressively sold its interior business to Reydel, which is now owned by private equity company Cerberus."

Magna is now focusing more on its seating business, announcing on January 30 that Magna Seating has moved into a new, state-of-the-art headquarters in Novi, MI. The new facility includes three floors and 180,000 square feet of space. Approximately 450 employees will work at the building with room for future growth.

Magna also announced in December that it has won multiple new seating programs from the BMW Group, which will be supplied from a new, state-of-the-art seat manufacturing facility in Spartanburg County, South Carolina. Construction recently started on the 230,000-square-foot facility; it is expected to be operational in June 2017, and could employ up to 480 people by 2020. The facility will feature dedicated assembly and sequencing lines to supply seats for various BMW models at the BMW Group's nearby assembly plant, said the company's news release.

Now that Grupo Antolin has acquired Magna's non-seating business to strengthen its market share in cockpits and consoles, overheads and soft trim, and doors and hard trim, U.S. seating supplier Lear "entered into a definitive agreement to acquire Group Antolin's seating business for \$308 million, said the editorial. "The deal strengthens [Lear's] ties to European automakers, with the acquired unit's annual sales of approximately \$322 million concentrated in five European countries, said IHS, noting that the transaction is expected to close in the first half of 2017, subject to regulatory

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International Automotive Components breaks ground for new plant in Poland

by: Clare Goldsberry in Automotive and Mobility on February 21, 2017



Expanding its manufacturing footprint further into Eastern Europe, International Automotive Components (IAC; Luxembourg) broke ground on Feb. 7 for a greenfield plant in Opole, Poland. The facility, which will manufacture tailored instrument panels for premium passenger cars, will be operational in mid-2017 and accounts for an investment of about \$20 million.

IAC Opole will be built in phases over the course of 2017, and will cover 290,625 square feet. It will be the company's 27th plant in Europe, further extending IAC's manufacturing footprint in the growing Eastern European automotive region. Although initially built to provide premium customized instrument panels, the plant has been designed to support future growth by

supplying other interiors products to vehicle manufacturers, as many international OEMs are establishing or already have plants within 100 to 450 km from IAC Opole.

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manufacturing trade show and conference debuts in Cleveland, OH, on March 29 and 30, 2017. On one show floor, Advanced Design & Manufacturing (ADM) Cleveland showcases five zones—packaging, automation and robotics, design and manufacturing, plastics and medical manufacturing. Hundreds of suppliers and numerous conference sessions offer sourcing and educational opportunities targeted to the automotive and other key industry sectors. Go to the [PLASTECH Cleveland](#) website to learn more and to register to attend.

“IAC Opole is aligned with IAC’s 2020 vision, our global strategy of supporting our customers with innovative and high-quality interiors solutions that help them to create sales success in the various regions where they are located,” said Marcus Nyman, IAC Senior Vice President, Cockpit & Overhead Systems, Europe.

“Working in close cooperation with Opole authorities and our strategic partners on site, we anticipate flawless completion of the plant and we expect to attract a talented workforce,” said IAC Senior Vice President, Manufacturing Strategy, Europe, Jonas Nilsson.

The Opole facility will be built in accordance with IAC’s world class manufacturing standards and will initially focus on highly crafted cut and sew operations as well as hand-wrapped premium instrument panels. IAC Opole is expected to generate approximately 560 skilled jobs in the region.

IAC had 2016 sales of \$6 billion. It operates 77 manufacturing facilities in 18 countries, employing more than 31,000 people.

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14 February 2017 UPDATED 14/2/2017

Formaplex invests in new automotive paint spray lines



By Plastics News Europe



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Photo by Formaplex

New semi-automated paint line at Formaplex facility in Portsmouth, UK.

Formaplex has installed two semi-automated paint lines at its injection moulding facility at Voyager Park, Portsmouth in the UK. The company makes injection mould tooling and plastic components for the low-volume automotive industry, including prestige brands and sports cars.

Formaplex has made a £1.5m (€1.8m) investment to increase capacity and broaden its finishing capabilities. It is able to supply moulded components as individual items or as complete assemblies, which can be painted, primed or flocked, if required by the customer.

The facility at Voyager Park was opened last year. It houses 15 injection moulding machines.

Russ Hammacott, a director at Formaplex, said: “We have recently won long term contracts for multiple key new projects. The investment in our new paint facility will ensure we have the additional capacity to continue to provide our services and world class products to our expanding blue-chip customer base.”

In the new paint lines, under floor conveyor systems with fully extracted and balanced floors are incorporated within the multi-chamber spray booths. These house designated preparation, cleaning, paint and drying areas and integrated baking ovens.

Formaplex also has a further six climate controlled spray booths/drying ovens which are integrated in its manufacturing facilities.

The company employs more than 500 people, based across four sites on the UK south coast,

with 270,000 square feet of manufacturing space.

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13 February 2017

Hungarian moulder helps Suzuki with plastics R&D drive



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PEMÜ Műanyagipari is supporting Suzuki in finding cost efficient polymers for car production in Hungary.

Automotive plastics component moulder PEMÜ Műanyagipari is part of a European Union-backed partnership involved in upgrading research and development for Japanese carmaker Suzuki in Hungary.

Solymár, Hungary-based PEMÜ, an established plastic parts supplier to Suzuki's vehicle assembly plant at Esztergom in northern Hungary, will help develop cost efficient polymers for automotive applications.

Magyar Suzuki Corporation, the global carmaker's Hungarian offshoot, plans to invest nearly €17m to boost research, development and innovation at the Esztergom assembly plant. While more than half the project's finance will be provided by Suzuki, around €8.4m will come from an EU grant, say national media reports.

Overall, the plant upgrade will focus on production and the logistics system there, but Suzuki also aims to prepare the facility for introduction of laser welding techniques.

Apart from PEMÜ, the consortium consists of the Hungarian applied research institution Bay Zoltán Nonprofit and the Pázmány Péter Catholic University in Budapest. The group will establish an R&D network, according to the Hungarian news agency MTI.

Around 57% of PEMÜ's products are devoted to the automotive industry, overwhelmingly for Suzuki, but the moulder also supplies parts to Mercedes and Porsche. Less than 20% of the firm's injection moulding production is for other sectors, such as household appliances and other electrical goods.

Since 2010, PEMÜ has invested in a range of injection machines supplied by the Chinese company Chen Hsong. The Hungarian firm still runs the initial units including one each of Chen Hsong models MJ35, MJ55, JM98-Ai, JM178-AI, JM408 and JM650.

Another two Chen Hsong machines, a servo JM800-SVP/2 unit and a JM2600, the first large machine, both with a 6-axis robot, were delivered in 2012 while in 2013 and 2014 another five units were added.

Early last year, the first Chen Hsong 2-platen SM1900-SVP/2 with Beckhoff controller was installed at the PEMÜ plant.

The firm offers other plastics processing including PUR foaming and sheet extrusion, as well as producing PTFE and silicone products.

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ECONOMIA – Articoli



04 febbraio 2017

Mepol: focus Polonia

La società I.T.I. Poland del gruppo Mepol testimonia la forte spinta dell'azienda trevigiana verso l'internazionalizzazione. Basata sui due siti produttivi di Gniewkowo e Wielowie?, sviluppa una gamma di eco-compound su base polipropilene, polietilene, stireniche e poliammidi.

L'azienda trevigiana **Mepol** è ormai casa-madre di un gruppo ben strutturato che si pone l'obiettivo di sviluppare una strategia corporate per l'intera organizzazione, allo scopo di renderla più efficace, di potenziare la performance lungo l'intera linea di business e di coordinare in modo razionale le singole aree di attività. E soprattutto per essere più vicina al cliente non solo in termini di formulazione del materiale ma anche dal punto di vista logistico.

La Polonia, entrata nell'Unione Europea nel 2004 e nello spazio Schengen nel 2007, è un paese che ha visto un periodo di rinascita e di costante crescita, grazie a una combinazione di fattori positivi - tra cui la crescita del PIL (a 3,3% nel 2015), un'economia stabile, un grande mercato interno con facile accesso ai mercati limitrofi, una società giovane e fra le più istruite in Europa. Il gruppo Mepol ha per questo deciso di replicare il concept vincente di Mepol in est Europa, con la nascita di I.T.I. Poland operativa già da 15 anni.

I.T.I. Poland si divide in due siti produttivi, quello di Gniewkowo e quello di Wielowie?. Quest'ultimo si sviluppa su un'area di 70.000 mq di cui 12.000 coperti e conta uno staff di 90 addetti. Conta 4 linee di produzione di compound termoplastico per una produzione totale annua di 16.000 destinata ad aumentare di 6.000 tonnellate il prossimo anno per l'introduzione di nuove linee produttive.

Forte nel know how della casa, I.T.I. Poland sviluppa la sua gamma di eco-compound su base polipropilene, polietilene, stireniche e poliammidi, rispettando i dettami della normativa UNI EN 10667. La norma si applica alle materie prime-secondarie ottenute dal riciclo di materie plastiche provenienti da residui industriali e/o da materiali da post-consumo. Essa definisce i requisiti ed i metodi di prova di miscele eterogenee a base di poliolefine di riciclo da utilizzarsi da sole o in miscela con altri materiali, per essere trasformate nelle varie forme. I.T.I. infatti dispone di impianti completi di rigenerazione, macinazione e lavaggio di nuova generazione che permettono un recupero materie plastiche selezionate derivati da scarti post-industriali e post-consumo. Grazie a precisi controlli di laboratorio sul materiale in entrata e recuperato, vengono formulate soluzioni tailor made per ogni tipo di applicazione. Il laboratorio è dotato di tutti gli strumenti necessari (MFI, XRF, Izod/Charpy, spettrofotometro, DSC) per assicurare la conformità degli input e ovviamente della qualità del materiale in uscita. La formulazione del compound è infatti studiata con il cliente per assicurare le migliori prestazioni tecniche e meccaniche. La gamma si compone di compound di polietilene alta e bassa densità, Itilen HD e LD, polipropilene Itiplen, polistirolo Itipron e poliammide Itimid.

Il layout degli impianti produttivi è studiato in modo da garantire la completa tracciabilità e sicurezza dei materiali con un progetto preciso della disposizione plano-altimetrica dei macchinari, degli impianti, degli addetti e dei macchinari. Proprio per garantire l'efficienza a 360° I.T.I. Poland dispone di un'attrezzata officina meccanica per la lavorazione di componenti metalliche e la costruzione di attrezzature.

L'azienda è certificata ISO 9001, norma che definisce i requisiti di un sistema di gestione per la qualità, e 140001 che he fissa i requisiti del «sistema di gestione ambientale» dell'organizzazione.



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