NEWS FROM ROWA GROUP

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ROWA GROUP

Dear Business Partners, dear Ladies and Gentlemen.

We are pleased to welcome you to the 25th anniversary issue of ROWAnews!

Originally planned as a trade fair edition, this ROWAnews was to be published just in time for the start of Fakuma 2020. It was intended to provide both information and plenty of good reasons for personal exchanges with our experts for plastics and colors concerning our new, innovative products.

We still consider it necessary and important to try to find direct interpersonal contact, if possible, in addition to all digital possibilities and virtual exchange. The ROWA Group is renowned for its hospitality and its modern, inviting booth concept, which provides the perfect setting to discuss product solutions within a manageable time frame with many interesting contact partners from a global customer base. Trade fairs however, are difficult or even impossible to arrange in times determined by the Corona pandemic.

Health considerations must always be at the forefront and appropriate hygiene concepts are in place when our business partners visit our headquarters to work together with us on product solutions. On page 6 you will find some interesting new developments such as the new PC and polyester-based ROMILOY® types from ROMIRA, which can now be used in PVD processes to create translucent effects such as logos or lettering. You will also find more information on the resource-saving advantages of these types of products.

It would be a pleasure for us to arrange a meeting of our experts soon at your premises or, if you wish, at our premises in Pinneberg.

Best regards

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MROWA GROUP

It's not only the milk that matters THE NEWLY DESIGNED MILK ROOM, **IMPRESSIVE SUSTAINABILITY**

The idea that milk has a detoxifying effect has long been exposed as a myth. Nevertheless, the ROWA GROUP maintains its decades of traditionally providing a daily ration of milk without any costs to employees who handle hazardous substances.



Up until a few months ago, the milk service involved an immense amount of effort in terms of daily deliveries to the respective department managers. As of this spring however, all employees have access to the socalled milk room, now equipped with vending machines for drinks and snacks and this has been very well accepted by many colleagues.



The ROWA GROUP, which attaches great importance to the responsible use of resources, has planned the space to be sustainable in many respects. For example, milk is now supplied in glass bottles instead of Tetra Pak. This returnable system will reduce the amount of waste produced by 1.39 tons per year without compromising demand. A local farm, where species-appropriate farming is practiced, has been supplying the milk to the ROWA GROUP since the conversion. The modern vending machine, which enables contactless dispensing, not only provides employees with milk, but also other farm store products at purchase prices, such as cocoa, butter, cheese, sausage, yogurt and organic soups. A coffee machine is of course still available.

In order to avoid disposable cups and thus waste, every employee has received a high-quality ROWA thermo cup. These not only keep the drink warm or cold for hours as required, but also support the sustainable and ecological way of thinking of the ROWA GROUP.



The ROWA GROUP has always considered itself responsible for the improvement of internal and external processes with respect to environmental protection and resource conservation - the milk room idea is a small yet further step on the way to an ever more sustainable company development.

Quite an attractive project in the long run: **DISTINCTIVE NEW DESIGN** FOR THE SILOS

Anyone wishing to visit the ROWA GROUP, one of its companies or the COLOR COMPETENCE CENTER will have no problem finding the way these days:

Firstly, the route from the freeway via the Pinneberg West bypass, which was completed at the end of 2019, is particularly convenient and fast. Moreover, the ROWA GROUP location really stands out from a distance due to its 15 meter high silos.

Regular visitors to the site have already noticed something new, namely that after eight years the six silos facing Prisdorfer Strasse have been given a fresh new look.

The 18 silos on the premises boast a combined capacity of up to 1,200 tons and consequently provide the ROWA GROUP companies with sufficient capacity for storing raw materials.



Points with external and internal values: the stylishly designed raw material silos on the ROWA GROUP premises.





Some materials, e.g. TPE/TPU, cannot be processed by chemical or physical foaming due to their low melt strength. In these cases TRAMACO's microspheres (MS) can offer an adequate solution.

They are filled with a physical foaming agent which is encapsulated in a polymeric shell and strongly expands under the influence of heat while keeping the increased volume during cooling.

There are diverse fields of application, e.g. TPU-shoe soles, coatings, underbody coatings (UBC), wall coverings, insulation materials and silicone rubber (LSR and HTV). By using MS, very low densities and highly homogeneous, closed cell foam structures can be produced (see photo). Tramaco offers a wide range of expandable microspheres as powder (e.g. for plastisols) and polymer-bound masterbatches in granulated form (e.g. for injection molding applications).

In some applications an optimal result can be reached by combining microspheres and conventional chemical foaming agents. Appropriate TRACEL®-Types are available for such applications.

Already pre-expanded microspheres are brand-new in TRAMACO's portfolio. By application of these ultra-light fillers, with densities below 30 kg/m³, cell structures can also be created in materials which do not allow expandable microspheres or conventional chemical foaming agents in their processing operations, e.g. paints, lacquers, coatings or thermosets.

For further questions please contact the TRAMACO application engineers team ■



More information

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MINIMIZE FRICTION (-AL LOSSES)

For more than 40 years TRAMACO has been offering a wide portfolio of chemical foaming agents and primers, which is continuously expanded by newly developed products.

The production technology optimized for foaming agents offers the potential to produce masterbatches with high loading of additives which would be difficult to process in their pure form. Today we present two particularly well suited "teamplayers" of this product range:

TRASIL IM 20 is very effective as mould release agent for injection moulded parts with complicated geometry. By using TRASIL IM 20 these parts in general can be demoulded faster and easier, and depending on the applied dosage, they can provide an additional effect of reduced sliding friction.

Our classic product for sliding friction applications is TRAPLAST PTFE Slip 80, an 80% masterbatch of micronized PTFE.

Both products can be used together to show their strength in technical parts. By combining the two mechanisms of action, the user can benefit from easier demoulding and a big reduction in sliding friction, shortto medium- as well as long-term.

Our TRAMACO application engineers team will be pleased to advise you. ■



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Investing in the future

PLANT MODERNIZATION AND SPACE EXPANSION FOR ROWA MASTERBATCH



ROWA Masterbatch is preparing for the future and strengthening its effectiveness and flexibility with the purchase of a new extruder and the takeover of a production area in Pinneberg that has recently become available. This now marks the next phase of the comprehensive modernization and reorganization of the factory environment heralded.



The production equipment is being modernized with the addition of a Coperion ZSK 32 extruder, which will be put into operation this autumn. The new plant replaces an extruder of older construction and guarantees increased long-term energy efficiency and productivity for ROWA Masterbatch.

Technically, this machine is ideally suited to existing plants and enables an easy scale-up from small to large batches. In selecting the new ZSK 32 extruder, ROWA Masterbatch has chosen a universal plant

solution that can be used for all product groups of the The next phase of the project is planned for 2021 and company.

A further positive and future-oriented step is the takeover of the production and mixing area from our affiliated partner TRAMACO, which moved its location a few kilometers further north to Tornesch in 2018/19. This increases the ROWA Masterbatch footprint by 500 m². The area has already been stripped out and cleaned and is currently being renovated. On completion it will be divided up as follows: The first phase of the project will increase the mixing area. Special focus will be given to ensuring the best possible material flow from the incoming raw material through weighing, mixing and preparation for production. In addition, ROWA Masterbatch will expand mixing capacity with the planned purchase of a further Mixaco mixer.

The company is also taking the opportunity to revise and adapt the dust exhaust concept to the mixing processes in the best possible way. The modernization of the mixing area will also be accompanied by the introduction of MES (Manufacturing Execution System).

will create the environement for installing additional extruders. The production hall offers space for three more extruders. A new steel platform will be built, which will later be used to feed the extruders with raw materials. The hall will be directly connected to the extended mixing area, keeping the feed distance for raw material mixtures as short as possible. At the other end of the hall is the staging area for finished goods, from where the logistics department can transport the goods to the wharehouse.

The completely revised factory layout paired with a new generation of extruders will increase both the efficiency of work processes as well as energy efficiency significantly. This is how ROWA Masterbatch is pursuing consistently the goal of increasing sustainability.



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Ready for tomorrow today ROWA MASTERBATCH: THE PERFECT PARTNER FOR BIOPLASTICS

Even if the Corona pandemic crisis has side-lined the issue a little in recent months, conducting business in a climate-conscious and sustainable manner remains as important as ever and is high on the agenda of companies, organizations and end consumers.

As a specialist for the development and production of polymere specific color, additive- and multifunctional masterbatches another step in the right direction already being pursued by ROWA Masterbatch is the development of sustainable products.

These products, referred to as bioplastics, are differentiated between bio-based and biodegradable: Bio-based plastics are produced from renewable raw materials, such as starch or sugar. The term biodegradable refers to plastics that can be decomposed by microorganisms. This results in the following three groups of bioplastics:

- > bio-based, non-biodegradable plastics: Bio-PE, Bio-PA, Bio-PET, CA
- > bio-based, biodegradable plastics: PLA, PHA
- > biodegradable plastics of fossil origin: PCL, PBAT, PBS

Until now bioplastics have been used mainly for food packagings, toys and some technical applications - although in relative terms they are still very rare. Dorit Krienke, Head of Development at ROWA Masterbatch, is certain that "The topic will gain momentum in the coming years. The demand for bioplastics will increase

From renewable resource Biodegradable **Biobased Plastics** and bio-based CA, Bio-PE, Bio-PA, Bio-PET plastics PLA, PHA Nonbiodegradable O- Biodegradable Biodegradable Conventional plastics plastics PE. PA. PET. ABS PCL. PBAT, PBS Polyhydroxybutyrat (PHB) From fossil resources

significantly. At ROWA Masterbatch we are well pre- and are open for projects in all future-oriented fields pared and are the perfect partner when it comes to processing these kind of products".

ROWA Masterbatch works polymer-specific and can therefore process virtually all possible materials - including, of course, biopolymers. "We develop custom color and additive concentrates for our customers

please feel free to contact us", said Mrs. Krienke.



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Sustainability Rating

Award received ECOVADIS SILVER CERTIFICATE

ROWA Masterbatch, specialist in the development and production of polymer-specific color, additive and combination masterbatches, has recently been awarded the EcoVadis silver certificate.

EcoVadis is an independent assessment platform that helps companies optimize their environmental and social practices. It provides holistic ratings in the area of corporate social responsibility (CSR). Easy-to-use monitoring tools allow companies to manage risks and improve supply chains. The methodology analyzes companies according to the four categories of environment, social responsibility, ethics and supply chain.



More and more customers are placing great importance not only on selecting the most cost-effective

supplier, but also on finding a partner in the supplier who is committed to sustainability and social responsibility.

EcoVadis has assessed over 45,000 business partners around the world. This has helped reducing the risks of some of the world's largest companies, while at the same time making a positive contribution to the environment, promoting transparency and driving innovation.

Large multinational companies are working with Eco-values. Vadis, including some of the leading players in the chemical and plastic industry. The aim is to assess and rank companies in terms of defined fundamental values with a view to improving the sustainability of their global supply chain.

In this process, they use their influence as a "positive force" so that companies achieve results that go over and above compliance. The company being evaluated can see how its performance compares with that of its industry. This creates a "race for the top spot" in

which entire industries compete against each other to achieve global best practices.

The EcoVadis rating provides a transparent record of success in the implementation of measures in the areas of environmental protection, compliance with labor and human rights, ethics and sustainable procurement.

For ROWA Masterbatch the silver certificate is an incentive to further deepen the commitment to these values.



More information

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High-quality nigrosine masterbatch ENABLING A REDUCTION OF ELECTROCHEMICAL CORROSION IN THE COLORING OF POLYAMIDES



ROWA Masterbatch has been established as a competent and internationally renowned partner of the automotive industry and well-known polyamide processors and compounders for polyamide-based nigrosine masterbatches. The newly developed ROWALID® PA-B044A RHC BLACK will ensure that this will continue to be the case in the future.



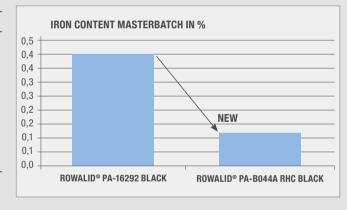
For sensitive applications, soluble colorants, nigrosine, are usually used because carbon black influences the mechanical properties and material behavior in the injection molding process. ROWA Masterbatch is recognized as a specialist in this area and supplies customers all over the world with ROWALID® PA-16292 BLACK, primarily from the automotive industry, where this ma-

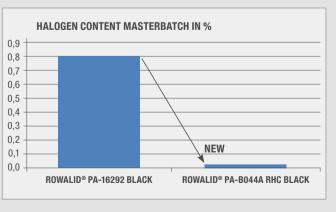
sterbatch is used for items such as glass fiber reinforced polyamide in the engine compartment of passenger cars.

With immediate effect, the masterbatch experts have a new design development in their portfolio: The nigrosine masterbatch ROWALID® PA-B044A RHC BLACK (RHC stands for reduced halogen content), which achieves a further reduction in electrocorrosion and reduced interaction with other formulation components compared to other products. An improvement of the mechanical properties after thermal aging is also evident.

These benefits, in particular the fact that ROWALID® PA-B044A RHC BLACK prevents corrosion of metals such as copper, open up a wider range of applications: Besides use in the engine compartment this high-purity grade of nigrosine is also ideal for E&E applications, including heat exchangers, connector housings, housings for circuit breakers or terminal blocks.

With this new development ROWA Masterbatch has once again demonstrated expertise in the production of masterbatches. And as usual: Please do not hesitate to contact the team if you require any further information or have individual requirements.





More information

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Portfolio expansion for ROWASOL

ROWA RESINATE: A NEW PRODUCT LINE FOR COLORING EPOXY RESINS

Epoxy resin is a thermosetting plastic obtained by polyaddition, which means it can no longer be molded after curing. It consists of at least two components, the resin and the hardener, which are mixed in a defined ratio shortly prior to processing.

The reaction resin mixture is then applied and cures. The range of applications is very wide and extends from construction adhesives for boat and model building to fiber composites, including aerospace applications, industrial flooring and as corrosion protection in paints.

So-called synthetic resins are becoming more and more popular, especially in private modeling and in furniture manufacture.

The new ROWA Resinate liquid colors are either premixed with the resin component and further processed with the hardener at a given time or directly mixed with both components at the time of processing. Opaque to translucent colors can be created in addition to the standard RAL shades.

The carrier system consists of a low-viscosity oligomer with terminal OH groups, which co-reacts during epoxy resin curing and is incorporated into the dense polymer network of the thermoset. The stoichiometry. meaning the mixing ratio of resin and hardener, is consequently not affected.

The range of products offered by ROWASOL is directed at distributors and manufacturers of epoxy resins, who either offer pre-colored systems or separately supply liquid colors as color components to the end customer.







Convincing innovation from the specialist for liquid colors: ROWA Resinate for epoxy resins from ROWASOL



More information

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Romira

THANKS TO ROMIRA'S PVD INNOVATIONS

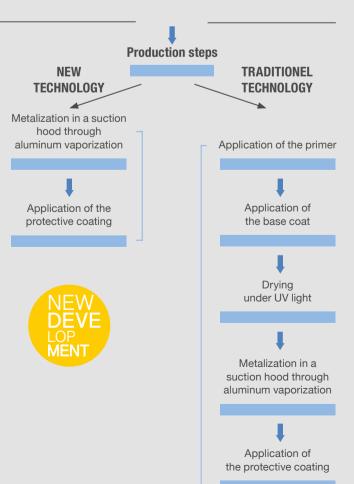
In the automotive, cosmetics and household appliance industries, product designers and brand managers seek the greatest possible freedom in design. The ROMIRA team is introducing new ROMILOY® types, providing an innovative product portfolio that allows designers unprecedented creativity and a greater degree of individuality.

The Physical Vapor Deposition (PVD) process has ROMILOY® products are also impressive in that they due to its ecological advantages over the galvanic process. ROMIRA has now developed a product range that further optimizes the PVD process, providing new design possibilities and reducing process steps: The innovative PC and polyester based ROMILOY® types allow the PVD layer to be applied so thinly that when the object is illuminated from behind, the light shines through. Backlighting makes metallic-looking surfaces translucent - opening up countless new design and individualization possibilities. This enables logos, lettering or pictograms, for example, to be highlighted in a highly expressive manner, simply by applying a mirror-inverted sticker.

The new developments from ROMIRA have even more to offer: In addition to the design added value, the

become increasingly more important in recent years reduce the PVD process from four to two steps, as primer and base coat can be eliminated. Fewer work steps, less material equals less CO₂ emissions!

> Customers are already very enthusiastic about the innovative product portfolio, which offers new, more individual and environmentally sustainable design pos-









SEE YOU @FAKUMA 2021

OR SEE YOU @OUR HEADQUARTER

Only postponed, not canceled! THE ROWA GROUP IS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE 2021 TRADE FAIR YEAR

Protecting and the safety of each individual are a matter of the highest priority. For this reason, the ROWA GROUP endorses the decisions of the organizers not to hold trade fairs this year. Nevertheless, we very much regret not being able to meet you at FAKUMA this year. There's no substitute for a personal conversation, and we would have been delighted

to meet with you over a coffee specialty in our barista lounge at the trade fair booth to discuss current developments, product innovations and industry news.

This ROWAnews has provided you with a first insight into the latest news from our companies. If you wish to learn

more, the respective contacts are looking forward to hearing from you! We are optimistic that we will be able to see you again in 2021 for meetings and trade fairs and would like to take this opportunity to invite you to have a coffee with us then! In the meantime, the ROWA GROUP staff wishes you all the very best! ■





POLYMER SPECIFIC MASTERBATCHES IN GRANULES

- ► ROWALID® CC Color Masterbatches
- ► ROWALID® AD Additive Masterbatches
- ► ROWALID® MF Multifunktional Masterbatches **Special compounds**
- ▶ **ROWACOM** Compounds with a high content of colorants, additives and fillers



- » Liquid Colors and Additive Concentrates
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ROMILOY®

Blends based on PC, PA, PBT, PET and styrene copolymers

LURANYL®

PPE-blends (PPE+PS -I, PPE+PA)



CAFÉ CREMA, CAPPUCCINO OR **ESPRESSO – WHAT WOULD YOU** LIKE?

You are welcome to join us! Come to our booth next year and make yourself comfortable with a coffee specialty or a cool drink. We look forward to seeing you there!



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