

Growth commitments

The Asia Pacific region is the fastest growing market for engineered thermoplastics and Sabic Innovative Plastics has reinforced that view by setting up production capabilities in South Korea to make Vertron composites grades — its first such production line in Asia, besides the United States and Europe. *APN* reports

The new line Sabic Innovative Plastics (www.sabic-ip.com) will be installing at its Chung-Ju facility in Korea will produce Vertron long glass fibre-reinforced thermoplastic composites, which is part of the company's LNP compound portfolio.

The Chung-Ju plant has an annual capacity of 40,000 tpa for a wide range of engineering plastics. The LNP Vertron production line will run 20 grades of the composites in a variety of resin systems including polypropylene, polyamide and PPA.

The continued investment in new production facilities such as the Vertron composite line is designed to provide customers with a local source of innovative product solutions and technological expertise, according to the company. Vertron composite grades are widely used across the automotive, telecommunications, and appliance industries in Asia, and local production is expected to help customers reduce time to market.

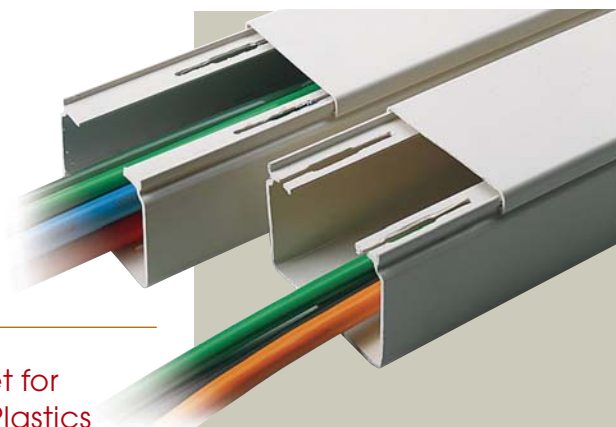
"We are demonstrating our ongoing commitment to faster and more responsive customer service by investing in this new production line,"

says Alan Leung, Pacific president for Sabic Innovative Plastics. "It will enable us to quickly supply manufacturers and moulders in Korea and Asia with our popular LNP Vertron composites. These high performance materials are in great demand as superior replacements for metal and short fibre-reinforced plastics."

LNP Vertron thermoplastic injection moulding compounds offer high strength and are a metal-replacement option, featuring long glass-fibre reinforcement produced by a pultrusion process. Used across all industries, long-fibre compounds bring significant cost savings to many material replacement projects.

For metal replacement, Vertron can help customers to save on total cost and increase productivity.

For example, according to testing done by Sabic Innovative Plastics' technology team, mobile phone makers could achieve up to a 30% cost savings and a 30% increase in productivity by replacing the magnesium or other metal used for internal parts of sliding-type mobile phones with LNP Vertron composites. Other benefits include weight reduction and design flexibility.



Engineered blends

Engineered polymer blend materials are providing new application breakthroughs. In Belgium, injection moulder Polymar has been using a ABS/PA blend material from BASF (www.basf.com) to manufacture its Compositi toe-cage treads used in horseback riding equipment. This marks the first time this plastic is utilised in such an application where primarily leather or metal had been used.

The lightweight, easy-to-install parts prevent the rider's foot from slipping through the stirrup when the horse is galloping, as well as helping children to learn not to put their feet too far into the stirrups.

"We aim to use as much plastic as possible for horseback riding equipment, not only because of its durability and freedom of design, but also because of its cost-efficiency," explains Polymar's Jacques Guily. The company also offers spurs made of Terblend N.

Cable duct producers now have the option of using a flame retardant PC/ABS blend from Bayer MaterialScience (www.bayerbms.com) that are free of halogen content to keep with safety awareness and increased ecological requirements such as the DIN EN 50085-1/DIN VDE 0604-1 standards for cable trunking and cable ducting system for electrical installations.

Bayblend FD 3030 can be extruded with ease for cable applications and does not emit any corrosive gases due to its chlorine- and bromine-free flame retardance packages.

"Bayblend FR 3030 is therefore ideal for minimising the amount of damage caused by corrosion and contamination during and after a fire," explains Jasmin Neumann, a Bayer MaterialScience expert.

