

# Clariant masters medical standards

**S**wiss chemicals company Clariant is now certified to produce masterbatches and compounds for the medical and pharmaceutical industries. Heiner Mehrtens, head of RBL masterbatches Asia, told APN at Chinaplas that Clariant received the official approval for ISO 13485 in early April to produce in Singapore.

At the Singapore plant, Clariant has an extrusion line that is separately housed in a dust-free environment dedicated for the new medical/pharmaceutical products. Mehrtens forecasted a capacity of 100 tonnes this year to meet rising demand in the Asian market. He said the masterbatches will be used in products in short-term contact with the body, such as tubings as well as an inhaler for insulin – a new delivery method to replace otherwise painful injections.

Clariant has planned three plants altogether to produce medical masterbatches. The others in the US and Sweden are expected to be ready within this year.

In the meantime, Clariant continues to promote sustainability with its biopolymer-compatible additives and masterbatches.

The Cesa-natur additive masterbatches Renol-natur colour masterbatches are extracted from natural means, like plants or animals. They are renewable, biodegrad-



Clariant produces masterbatches from plant or animal sources

ble and compostable, thus addressing the concerns of companies making environmental friendly products.

These bio-based additives function like their synthetic counterparts to overcome bottlenecks during processing, such as

improve viscosity and heat stability, or impart properties like light absorption. Mehrtens revealed that several customers are producing a packaging product using a biopolymer and one of its natural additives but declined further details.



## What's this in my soup?

Sheets of Tecaform AH ID before machining

**I**f the food is processed using Ensinger's Tecaform AH ID, any contaminant as a result of broken pieces from the machinery can be identified using metal detectors.

Until now, plastics machinery parts have to be highly visible or brightly coloured so that testing equipment can spot the difference from food products. Tecaform AH ID is a POM copolymer that contains a proprietary additive that makes it easily and quickly found using standard metal detectors during

routine quality inspection procedures. It may be used in its original gray colour.

The material has met FDA compliance and can be used with all types of food within pH 4 and 14, except those containing 15% or more alcohol. Since it is resistant to chemicals and cleaning agents, it can be used in the production of meat patties, sausages and the like, fruit juices and dairy products, pasta and pastries and applications in food and pharmaceutical packaging.

German-based specialty compounder Ensinger says the materials can be used for plastics components of machinery that require good strength and toughness, dimensional stability, wear resistance and the ability to work in a wet environment with little moisture absorption.

It finds uses in gears, wear strips, bushings and pump parts of such food processing equipment as fillers, conveyors and filling equipment.

Light-emitting diodes (LEDs) are increasingly replacing incandescent light bulbs, thanks to their long operational life as well as low energy consumption rates. Sabic Innovative Plastics has introduced a new Expression 2011 palette of colours and special effects for LEDs.

The first range of the new collection is Lexan Visualfx, whose resins come in three neutral white colours — Minor Vision, Midway Gauzy and Mighty Pure — of various levels of transparency and light scattering. Lexan SLX resins, on the other hand, offer opalescent colours in pale blue tones which reduce light transmission for a softer feel.

The third range is the Lexan EXL Visualfx resin which give strong colours, such as the highly chromatic Lima and Icy Mango shades or transparent Emerald Forest and Venetian Cherry in optical grades.

Besides imparting colour and opening up design options, the new palette of resins improves the life and efficiency of the LEDs.

## Sabic lights up LEDs



## PolyOne joins forces with Segetis

US-based materials supplier PolyOne announced it would work with bio-based chemicals company Segetis to develop bio-derived plasticizers. The companies will make use of Segetis' proprietary levulinic ketal technology, which is based on renewable and sustainable resources, to develop plasticizers, solvents and modifiers for non-vinyl compounds.

"Together, we will develop a unique performance profile for bio-based plasticizers that will enable us to create compounds with properties that are unobtainable today," said Marcel Dartee, PolyOne marketing director for biomaterials.

The cooperation agreement will combine Segetis' unique technology with PolyOne's compounding technical exper-

tise to customise formulations for a variety of end-use markets, such as electronics, consumer, healthcare and automotive. Initial developments will be carried out in the US but are expected to roll out globally.

"The need for bio-based performance plasticizers is there, both for use in petroleum-based resins as well as bio-derived resin systems," Snehal Desai, Segetis business vice president said.

PolyOne seeks to expand its Sustainable Solutions portfolio of products and services that meet sustainability standards to meet increasing demand for eco-friendly solutions. It is working with another US company Archer Daniels Midland to produce bio-plasticizers for vinyl-based products.

## Songlight protects plastics from UV

Two new additive solutions from South Korean Songwon provide UV protection as well as added surface and colour protection to the plastics part.

The new Songlight 2790 GR and Songlight 2930 GR are suitable for thick plastics section, such as car bumpers.

Nevertheless, the additives can be used for thin sections too.

Songwon also says that their blends offer better UV protection than standard formulations.

The products are available in dust-free granulate or incorporated and dispersed into polyolefins.

Ulsan-headquartered Songwon is the world's second largest supplier of polymer stabilisers. With an annual turnover of KRW426 bil (US\$348 mil), it claimed 16% of market share in 2009. It has three production plants in South Korea, including an isobutylene facility to integrate with the recently enlarged plant at Maeam.

Songwon is in the process of acquiring China's Tangshan Baifu, a major producer of thioesters. This will be its first production facility in China and gives the company a foothold in the Chinese market.

At the pre-K press conference, Songwon revealed it is pursuing production presence in the Middle East.