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Consortium exploits novel devulcanisation technology

A Smithers Rapra led consortium continues to explore routes for the exploitation of a novel rubber devulcanisation technology which was developed as a result of a recent project (called DevulCO2) funded by the UK's Technology Strategy Board (TSB).

This technology enables manufacturers to re-use the large quantity of waste rubber which is available due to environmental legislation and the on-going need for the rubber industry to recycle and improve its cost effectiveness. This new devulcanisation process is novel, effective and commercially competitive, and enables waste rubber to be easily processed and re-vulcanised into a range of high quality rubber products.

The process has been shown to be capable of recovering up to 80% of the physical properties of the original virgin rubber compounds. This has enabled the devulcanised rubber to be used successfully for the manufacture of a range of final products (e.g. mounts, fenders, and seals), using standard techniques such as compression moulding and injection moulding. In addition to being available in this "ready to process" form, the devulcanised rubber can also be provided in a "masterbatch" form for blending with other rubber compounds.

Further development work will be undertaken during the course of a second two year TSB project (entitled ReMould) which started in the Autumn of 2009. This will involve transferring the technology to other rubbers, such as nitrile rubber and EPDM, and assessing the performance of the devulcanised rubber in the retreading of passenger tyres and truck tyres.

- Ends -

Notes to Editors:

The consortium members are Smithers Rapra, PJH Partnership, Martins Rubber Company, BD Technical Polymer, J. Allcock & Sons, and Charles Lawrence International.

Companies interested in obtaining more information should contact Jenny Cooper at Smithers Rapra (e-mail: jcooper@rapra.net).

News release



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