

MEPPR005EN1010

XANTAR[®] LDS MATERIALS BOOST ANTENNA APPLICATIONS IN PORTABLE ELECTRONICS

Mitsubishi Engineering-Plastics has extended its Laser Direct Structuring (LDS) materials portfolio by introducing 2 new grades. XANTAR[®] LDS 3720, was specifically developed to show very good practical impact performance, suitable for use in mobile phone covers or housings, and XANTAR[®] LDS 3730, which is the first Halogen-free flame retardant LDS grade, used to create antennas in laptops and notebooks. They join XANTAR[®] LDS 3710, which was used as the first LDS materials to create a mobile phone antenna and have since provided Mitsubishi Engineering-Plastics with a proven track record of quality and performance in antenna systems applications.

The two new grades have already been approved and are being used by several major mobile phone and laptop producers. "Mitsubishi Engineering-Plastics has boosted LDS technology in the portable electronics segment by creating a close triangular communication loop between our customers, our business developers and our product developers. This communication concept enables us to create LDS solutions pro-actively and/or at very short notice, fulfilling the needs of our customers since a short time to market is key for their success." said Hans Guns, Business Manager at Mitsubishi Engineering-Plastics.

Market trends

According to Dr. Ir. Bernard Schrauwen, Product Developer of XANTAR[®] LDS materials at Mitsubishi Engineering-Plastics, "Laser and metallization behaviour, good mechanical properties, surface appearance and radio frequency properties are essential criteria for the successful development of new LDS materials. In addition, extending into new application areas, such as antennas in laptops and notebooks, requires additional material properties including flame retardant behaviour."

Diversification, styling, miniaturization and cost reduction are trends in portable electronics. At the same time, end-users do expect an increased number of novel functions available inside trend-looking covers and the amount of antennas in these devices is increasing.

LDS is becoming increasingly popular as the MID technology to produce these antennas, especially for mobile phones. "Most of the mobile phone producers have chosen to use the LDS technology for the antenna's in their smartphones.

The reason for this is that the 3D design freedom of the LDS technology and possibility to create circuits on curved parts with low wall thickness enables antenna producers to integrate the antenna in existing parts such as covers and frames." says Francis van Vehmendahl, Business Development Manager for XANTAR® LDS materials at Mitsubishi Engineering-Plastics.

Mitsubishi Engineering-Plastics

Mitsubishi Engineering-Plastics Corporation (MEP) was established in March 1994, following the consolidation of the engineering plastics businesses of Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Company, Inc., and Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation, thus creating a vital and responsive new player in this highly dynamic sector.

MEP is a leading supplier of engineering plastics and focuses on developing new materials to meet the changing needs of end users whilst at the same time supporting customers' product development activities. In all aspects of its operations, the Company is guided by the belief that building close partnerships with customers is the way to conduct business successfully.

MEP has the largest market share in polycarbonate resins in Japan and a flexible and integrated follow-up system in all regions and markets served.

As a leading engineering plastics manufacturer, MEP has pledged to reduce the environmental burden of its operations and prevent pollution, to protect the environment and provide products and services that meet the expectations of customers, stakeholders and society at large.

The MEP Portfolio includes XANTAR® Polycarbonate & Blends; IUPILON® Polycarbonate Resin; NOVAREX® Polycarbonate Resin; RENY® Polyamide MXD6 Resin; NOVADURAN® Polybutylene Terephthalate Resin; IUPITAL® Polyacetal Resin; IUPIACE® Modified PPE Resin; and LEMALLOY® Modified PPE Resin.

With the innovative and high-end polycarbonate XANTAR®, MEP will strengthen its global position in polycarbonate. XANTAR® is currently mainly focused on the European market and DSM's Specialty Compounds plant in Genk, Belgium will be its toll compounder in Europe.

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