

News Release



BASF's new engineering plastic chosen by FCI to produce connectors for cars

- **Connectors withstand hot and humid environments**
- **Ultradur® Hydrolysis Resistant grade complies with stringent automotive regulations**

Singapore, August 4, 2009 – BASF's new engineering plastic Ultradur® B2300G6 HR, a 30% glass-fiber hydrolysis resistant polybutylene terephthalate (PBT), was chosen by FCI, a leading global supplier of connectors, to produce 7-way door latch connectors and 18-way transmission connectors for Korean car manufacturers.

The new Ultradur HR product series is part of BASF's portfolio of unreinforced and reinforced hydrolysis resistant Ultradur grades that provides a significant improved tolerance to the adverse effects of moisture compared to standard PBT grades. These grades can retain their mechanical properties very well even after exposure to hydrolysis in hot and humid environments.

Hydrolysis resistant Ultradur is also designed to be laser welded for easier component assembly. In some cases, it has higher flow properties delivering measurable processing benefits over standard PBT grades.

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“BASF is working with leading-edge part suppliers, like FCI, to deliver innovative and superior product solutions,” said Hermann Althoff, Group Vice President Asia Pacific, Engineering Plastics, BASF. “The new Ultradur HR product series greatly extends the range of applications for PBT under extreme conditions and enables processors to comply with the ever higher specifications and new standards imposed by automotive manufacturers on their parts.”

“We chose BASF’s Ultradur hydrolysis resistant grade for our connectors because of the high performance and compatibility this brings to our automotive customers,” said Min-Young Lee, product development manager of FCI. “The collaboration with BASF has been valuable and further extends our longstanding relationship.”

BASF’s portfolio of hydrolysis resistant Ultradur also includes grades which are stabilized against NaOH (sodium hydroxide). Chemical attack is a concern for both metals and plastics, which can appear on car components near fenders, wheel wells and doors that are exposed to harsh weather elements or impact (e.g. stones). Using Ultradur grades to stabilize against NaOH in these areas provides protection against premature cracking of molded electrical/electronic components under load and may also help to reduce potential warranty claims for car manufacturers.

Complies with stringent automotive regulations

The requirements imposed by the automotive industry on parts such as plugs, connectors and housings used under-the-hood are very stringent. One such requirement is the USCAR test, a set of regulations for the U.S. automotive industry.

The USCAR test method was performed on BASF test plaques made from Ultradur[®] hydrolysis resistant PBT material and the results indicated that the new Ultradur[®] hydrolysis resistant grades pass the

USCAR PF-1 Class III (125°C) test. Certain Ultradur grades even passed the USCAR PF-1 Class IV (155°C) test. This protocol classifies the performance of parts exposed to conditions that cause hydrolysis. Standard PBT grades generally pass only USCAR Class I and Class II tests (85°C and 105°C respectively).

Typical applications that can benefit from hydrolysis resistant Ultradur are automotive wire harness connectors, sensors, electronic control units, fuse box and pump housings.



The 7-way door latch connectors and the 18-way transmission connectors (left and right respectively) made by FCI are made of BASF's new Ultradur® B2300G6 HR, a 30% glass-fiber hydrolysis resistant polybutylene terephthalate (PBT). This grade is able to retain its mechanical properties very well even after exposure to hydrolysis in hot and humid environments compared to standard PBT grades.

About BASF

BASF is the world's leading chemical company: The Chemical Company. Its portfolio ranges from chemicals, plastics and performance products to agricultural products, fine chemicals as well as oil and gas. As a reliable partner BASF helps its customers in virtually all industries to be more successful. With its high-value products and intelligent solutions, BASF plays an important role in finding answers to global challenges such as climate protection, energy efficiency, nutrition and mobility. BASF has approximately 97,000 employees and posted sales of more than €62 billion in 2008. BASF shares are traded on the stock exchanges in Frankfurt (BAS), London (BFA) and Zurich (AN). Further information on BASF is available on the Internet at www.basf.com.