

Lion Copolymer acquires Ashland's elastomers unit in Texas, US

Synthetic rubber manufacturer Lion Copolymer has completed its acquisition of Ashland's elastomers business, Texas, US. The elastomers business, which employs 250 people, primarily caters to the North American replacement tyre market from its manufacturing facility in Port Neches.

"Port Neches is a tremendous upgrade from our former [styrene-butadiene rubber] SBR plant and will allow us the ability to enhance our product portfolio."

The division represented about 18% of Ashland Performance Materials' \$1.6bn sales for the year ended 30 June. The sale forms part of Ashland's strategy to divest its non-core assets and strengthen its presence in the speciality chemicals segment.

Ashland acquired the elastomers business as part of its acquisition of International Specialty Products in August 2011.

Lion Copolymer president Jesse Zeringue said: "We believe that the facility in Port Neches is a tremendous upgrade



COPOLYMER
LION COPOLYMER

from our former [styrene-butadiene rubber] SBR plant and will allow us the ability to enhance our product portfolio with high-quality products that meet customer needs both now and in the future.

"The addition of the hot emulsion SBR (ESBR) product line dovetails nicely with Lion's speciality low molecular weight [ethylene propylene diene monomer] EPDM products sold in similar market segments."

Lion Copolymer will be renamed Lion Elastomers. The acquisition will strengthen Lion's presence in the US styrene-butadiene rubber market, according to the synthetic rubber production company.

Lion Copolymer operates production facilities at Geismar, Louisiana, US. The company offers EPDM products for use in various applications, including automotive weather seals and hoses, industrial and consumer hoses, weather seals, moulded goods, and wire and cable insulations

REP announces opening of new Production facility in India

India is having a big growth potential for rubber molders. Many international groups in the rubber industry produce locally and several others have started actions to establish there, to serve the production increase led by the automotive industry. Also local companies are dynamic and need to have a better access to a good injection technology.

REP has decided to establish a new production capacity to manufacture rubber injection molding machines in India for the Indian market. This way, customers will be able to gain access to high-end machinery including expert's know-how at an affordable price without import taxes.

Doing so, REP is bringing their unequalled injection technology to India. REP's injection units allow for the widest range of rubbers to be injected and achieve the highest possible output for a rubber injection molding machine.

In the new structure, a dedicated service team will ensure the relationship with customers both for investment projects and for after-sales service. REP India has been established in Bangalore. The first machines manufactured in this plant are to be shipped to customers' first half of 2015.

The REP company with headquarters in France has been selling injection molding machines since 1948. Very early on, REP understood the importance of polymers and elastomers to industry and decided to specialize in the rubber injection technology.

The REP Group now has an extremely broad understanding of rubber molding: small to very large runs, frequent production changes, complex parts, new materials, composite



parts, automation. REP is also a supplier of solutions for the thermoplastic and polymer industries, with patented solutions such as Turbocure®: a revolutionary approach to reduce cure time up to 50%.

Expertise Everywhere Within Reach!

REP's sales and service network is made up of 6 subsidiaries (USA, Germany, Italy, Russia, Brazil, China) and of about 30 agencies and is continually evolving so as to better adapt to existing demand and local requirements.

With offices all over the world, REP affiliates make REP international's expertise and experience available to customers even in far off places.

With an increase of its turnover by 10% in 2013 and by approximately 15% in 2014, the overall strategy of REP international is bearing fruit. The REP group has been developing two parallel ranges of injection molding machines for 10 years to meet the needs of customers both in emerging markets and high-tech markets.

