

Vienna, Austria | 8 March 2017

Borealis launches first ADCA-free material solution for data cables

Borealis and Borouge, leading providers of innovative, value-creating solutions for the energy industry, announce the launch of the first material solution free of azodicarbonamide (ADCA) for use as a blowing agent in foamed communication cables. As an innovative replacement solution, the ADCA-free grade HE4883 was developed in partnership with Brand-Rex Ltd, a leading developer of cabling solutions for network infrastructure and industrial applications. HE4883 will become the material of choice for next-generation, higher category communication cables.

The 2016 Cisco® Global Cloud Index has forecast a tripling of global data centre IP traffic over the next five years, with an overall compound annual growth rate of 27% in the years 2015 to 2020. Factors contributing to rising data volumes include growth in the number of hyperscale data centres, and the increasing popularity of cloud computing. By moving towards higher category data cables, global communication networks can better respond to these trends.

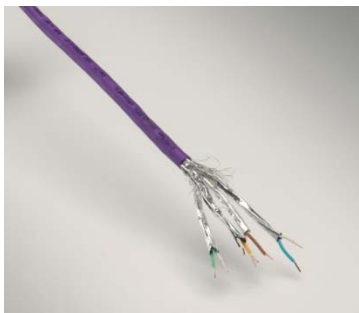


Photo: Borealis launches the innovative grade HE4883, an ADCA-free material solution for physically foamed data cables. Photo: © Borealis

At the same time, the European Chemical Agency (ECHA) has classified ADCA, commonly used as a blowing agent for foamed communication cables, as a “Substance of Very High Concern” due to its respiratory sensitising properties. Because the substance has now been recommended for inclusion on the ECHA Annex XIV list of compounds requiring prior authorisation for use, a viable replacement solution fulfilling the same stringent quality and processing demands as ADCA is needed.

ADCA-free HE4883: no trade-off necessary to enjoy both reliability and sustainability

Borealis' launch of the innovative grade HE4883 addresses both issues by offering an ADCA-free material solution for physically foamed data cables up to category (Cat 8). The new HE4883 boasts the same benefits as its predecessor HE4873 – long the leading foamed data grade for Cat 7 data cables used in data centres – but offers several compelling advantages:

- ADCA-free: no need for ADCA as a blowing agent
- meets requirements for Cat 6, Cat 7 and Cat 8 data cables
- fully formulated compound for reliable consistency
- optimal cell structure:
 - superior concentricity and homogenous cell structure support higher frequency transmission characteristics
 - greater cell homogeneity and uniformity deliver increased resilience, enable higher twisting speeds and jacketing line speed without crush damage to cables
- enhanced process stability with reduced preparation time, longer production runs, and less scrap
- higher line speeds of up to nearly 2000 m/min (metre per minute) possible
- improved dissipation factor versus HE4873
- formulated to achieve best electric performance across a broad spectrum of frequencies

Developed in partnership with Scotland-based Brand-Rex Ltd, HE4883 helps network providers offer higher volume data transmission in a more reliable way.

“Using HE4883 in our products will allow the next generation of high performance data communication cables to use more environmentally sound materials whilst still maintaining the excellent processing capacity and electrical performance that we expect today,” says Kennedy Miller, Technology and Sustainability Manager at Brand-Rex Ltd.

“As a leading global innovator, Borealis always stays one step ahead of the game,” says Bart Verheule, Borealis Head of Marketing Energy. “Part of our mission in ‘bringing energy all around’ is to anticipate the needs of our customers in order to provide sustainable and innovative solutions. By offering an ADCA-free material solution we are helping our customers become more efficient and reliable. Thus they can respond better to the challenges and opportunities the digital revolution brings.”

Borealis will officially launch its new innovation HE4883 for ADCA free data cables at the AMI Cables Conference from 7 to 9 March in Cologne, Germany.

END

For further information please contact:

Virginia Mesicek
External Communications Manager
tel.: +43 (0) 1 22 400 772 (Vienna, Austria)
e-mail: virginia.mesicek@borealisgroup.com

About Borealis Energy

For over 50 years, Borealis has been a leading provider of polyolefin compounds for the global wire and cable industry. Its large portfolio of products and services is based on unique and proprietary technologies that create real value for customers and enable step-change innovations. A broad range of sophisticated extra-high, high and medium voltage cable applications as well as semi-conductive products are made possible by Borealis' Borlink™ technology. Borealis' Visico™/Ambicat™ technology is used in low voltage energy transmission and distribution cable solutions, where it helps extend the lifetime of cable systems. Capacitor film products are consistently and qualitatively enhanced by Borealis' leading polypropylene (PP) material solutions.

About Borealis and Borouge

Borealis is a leading provider of innovative solutions in the fields of polyolefins, base chemicals and fertilizers. With its Head Office in Vienna, Austria, the company currently has around 6,600 employees and operates in over 120 countries. Borealis generated EUR 7.2 billion in sales revenue and a net profit of EUR 1,107 million in 2016. The International Petroleum Investment Company (IPIC) of Abu Dhabi owns 64% of the company, with the remaining 36% belonging to Austria-based OMV, an integrated, international oil and gas company. Borealis provides services and products to customers around the world in collaboration with Borouge, a joint venture with the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC).

Building on its proprietary Borstar® and Borlink™ technologies and more than 50 years of experience in polyolefins, Borealis and Borouge support key industries with a wide range of applications in the areas of energy, automotive, pipes, consumer products, healthcare, and advanced packaging.

The Borouge 3 plant expansion made Borouge the world's largest integrated polyolefins complex. Now fully ramped up, the additional 2.5 million tonnes of polyolefins capacity yield a total Borouge capacity of 4.5 million tonnes, and a combined Borealis and Borouge capacity of 8 million tonnes.

Borealis offers a wide range of base chemicals, including melamine, phenol, acetone, ethylene, propylene, butadiene and pygas, servicing a wide range of industries. Borealis also creates real value for the agricultural industry, selling approximately 5 million tonnes of fertilizers. Technical nitrogen and melamine products complement the portfolio with applications ranging from mono-nitrogen oxide (NOx) abatement to glues and laminates in the wood working industry.

Borealis and Borouge aim to proactively benefit society by taking on real societal challenges and offering real solutions. Both companies are committed to the principles of Responsible Care®, an initiative to improve safety performance within the chemical industry, and work to solve the world's water and sanitation challenges through product innovation and their Water for the World™ programme.

For more information visit:

www.borealisgroup.com
www.borouge.com
www.waterfortheworld.net

Borstar is a registered trademark of the Borealis Group.

Borlink, Visico/Ambicat and Water for the World are trademarks of the Borealis Group.