Media Release

Vienna, Austria | 22 January 2020

Borealis launches innovative, ADCA-free compound HE1355 for telecommunications cables

World's first chemically-foamed, high density polyethylene grade free of azodicarbonamide

Borealis announces the global commercial launch of HE1355, a high density polyethylene (HDPE) grade free of azodicarbonamide (ADCA). It is the world's first chemically-foamed, ADCA-free material intended for the production of telecommunications cables.

This launch builds on the long Borealis track record of innovation in the most demanding Wire & Cable segments. As a reliable partner to the industry, Borealis is using its innovation expertise to enable cable manufacturers to future-proof their production operations: the use of HE1355 allows them to bypass altogether any issues arising from the planned inclusion of ADCA on the EU's Annex XIV of REACH ("Authorisation List"). Thus cable manufacturers can rely on being able to maintain seamless production, irrespective of any potential disruption caused by legislative changes.

Borealis is bringing energy all around by delivering more sustainable, ADCA-free solution

The chemical compound ADCA is principally used as a blowing agent in the production of foamed plastics. At present, it is classified as a Substance of Very High Concern (SVHC) by the European Chemicals Agency. However, it has recently been recommended for inclusion in the Annex XIV of REACH, the so-called "Authorisation List." Inclusion on this list would require producers, converters, and other downstream users to seek special temporary permission for the use of this substance in production. Given the continued growth of the cable sector due to digitalisation, such an action may have adverse effects on the global supply chain.

Anticipating the potentially disruptive effects to the cable industry, Borealis developed a solution for its global customers by creating a new HDPE compound, HE1355. Free of ADCA and all other SVHCs, HE1355 matches the technical performance of other chemically foamed HDPE grades currently on the

Borealis AG | IZD Tower | Wagramer Strasse 17-19
A-1220 Vienna | Austria
Tel +43 1 22 4000 | Fax +43 1 22 400 333
www.borealisgroup.com | reg no FN 269858 a

market. It combines the proven advantages of its predecessors, Borealis compounds HE1345 and HE1344: superb processability, excellent stabilization, and the requisite toughness for fast multi-pair assembly.

The optimal cell structure of HE1355 makes it highly suitable for applications such as foam or foam-skin insulation for telephone singles and data cables with a typical expansion of 35%-40%, as well as for dry core and petroleum jelly-filled cables.

The new compound was successfully tested in a series of customer trials before its global launch in 2019.

“In developing HE1355, Borealis has gone beyond compliance to offer our customers an innovative and high-performing solution that allows for a seamless transition from existing grades to a new and improved one,” explains Bart Verheule, Borealis Head of Marketing, Energy. “Going ADCA-free with HE1355 is a win-win all around. It not only future-proofs cable producers from the effects of a potential ADCA ban, but also allows us to help them bring energy all around.”

Photo: Borealis is bringing energy all around by delivering more sustainable, ADCA-free solution
Photo: © Borealis

END

For further information please contact:

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

Borealis solutions bring energy all around

For over 50 years, Borealis has provided value-creating polyolefin compounds for the global energy industry. Because understanding project execution is critical to the success of ‘Power Projects’, Borealis provides unparalleled reliability with Assurance Delivered for submarine and land cable projects. In power transmission and distribution, Borealis satisfies the highest demands on performance and across a comprehensive portfolio for medium and low voltage cable applications, as well as high-performance polypropylene (PP) capacitor film solutions for the entire energy sector. Extra-high, high voltage AC and DC, and medium voltage applications are powered by Borlink™ technology. While the Visico™ technology helps extend the lifetime of cable systems for low and medium voltage applications. To meet safety standards for industries and buildings sustainably, Borealis also offers a low smoke and zero halogen flame retardant system. Borealis compounds also help meet network provider’s requirements for communication cables, namely fibre optic, data, copper multipair and coaxial cables.

Borealis AG | IZD Tower | Wagramer Strasse 17-19
A-1220 Vienna | Austria
Tel +43 1 22 4000 | Fax +43 1 22 400 333
www.borealisgroup.com | reg no FN 269858 a

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 6,800 employees and operates in over 120 countries. Borealis generated EUR 8,3 billion in sales revenue and a net profit of EUR 906 million in 2018. Mubadala, through its holding company, 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).

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.borealisbringsenergy.com
www.borouge.com
www.stopoceanplastics.com

Borealis AG | IZD Tower | Wagramer Strasse 17-19
A-1220 Vienna | Austria
Tel +43 1 22 4000 | Fax +43 1 22 400 333
www.borealisgroup.com | reg no FN 269858 a

BOREALIS Borouge