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Arkema launches the Rilsan® T, a new range of biosourced polyamides

Arkema, the world's number 1 for specialty polyamides, expands its offering with Rilsan® T range, some new biosourced polyamide 10.10 processed from castor oil. Manufactured at its Serquigny facility in France, it benefits from unrivaled raw material integration, boosted by the recent acquisition of Casda and Hipro as well as a new joint venture with Jayant Agro.

Rilsan® T represents the only alternative to other long chain polyamides while benefiting from Arkema's specialty polyamides differentiation in terms of innovation, quality and service.

Leadership sustained by unique integration

Arkema is the only chemicals manufacturer to offer expertise spanning over 60 years in the chemistry of castor oil, the raw material for its Rilsan® polyamide 11. This position was bolstered in 2012 by the acquisition of Chinese companies Casda, the world leader in sebacic acid derived from castor oil, and Hipro Polymers, which produces polyamides also from castor oil (Hiprolon® PA6.10, PA6.12, PA10.10, PA10.12), as well as the recent purchase of a stake in Ihstedu Agrochem, a subsidiary of Jayant Agro in India which specializes in the production of castor oil. Building on its unique integration and an already unsurpassed offering in high performance polyamides, Arkema has now enhanced its product range with Rilsan® PA.10.10 T processed from castor oil.

An unrivaled polyamide offering in the market

Arkema's PA10.10 is the only polyamide to rank between PA6.10, PA6.12 on the one hand, and PA10.12, PA12, PA11 on the other, all of which are already part of Arkema's product range. Over and above the well-known properties of long chain polyamides (chemical resistance, low moisture absorption, mechanical properties), Rilsan® T affords an excellent degree of rigidity (in particular when reinforced with glassfiber), thermal stability, permeability to petrol and gas, and processability, while consisting of up to 100% renewable carbon.

Rilsan® T also benefits from what sets Arkema's polyamides apart in terms of technical possibilities (e.g. exclusive multilayer solutions for transport markets) and services (it qualifies for the exclusive Rcycle™ offer of service which covers the collection, sorting and recycling of waste, and the development of a range of recycled polymers).

The various PA10.10 grades already available cover most applications in the field of transport (monolayer or multilayer brake lines for trucks and fuel lines for cars), industrial pipes, cables, and injection molded parts for sports or electronics applications.

« This innovation has been developed to meet the most pressing needs of our customers, who are looking for a credible alternative to high performance polyamides, but with specific thermomechanical properties. Thanks to our full integration, from raw material to polymers, we provide a solution that suits our customers' medium to long term capacity and competitiveness needs », explains Lionel Guerdoux, Managing Director of the Specialty Polyamides business unit.

A global reach

With its three monomer plants, four polymerization plants, and four R&D centers on three continents, Arkema's high performance polyamides business, which includes Rilsan® in particular, works with its customers around the world to fulfil their specific requirements.

With global brands like Rilsamid® 12 and Pebax®, unique products manufactured from renewable resources like Rilsan® 11 polyamide, Rilsan® HT (High Temperature), Pebax® Rnew and Platamid® Rnew, and leading capacities in polyamides 11, 12 and 10, Arkema's specialty polymers business stands out in the industry by providing its customers with global coverage and superior regional service from production facilities and research centers in Europe, Asia, and the USA. Arkema has over 30 years' experience and innovation at the service of the automotive industry with an extensive range of advanced materials designed to meet current and future specifications.

A global chemical company and France's leading chemicals producer, Arkema is building the future of the chemical industry every day. Deploying a responsible, innovation-based approach, we produce state-of-the-art specialty chemicals that provide customers with practical solutions to such challenges as climate change, access to drinking water, the future of energy, fossil fuel preservation and the need for lighter materials. With operations in more than 40 countries, some 14,000 employees and 10 research centers, Arkema generates annual revenue of €6.4 billion, and holds leadership positions in all its markets with a portfolio of internationally recognized brands.

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