

Technical articles

L. DAMMER, M. CARUS

The EU circular economy package and plastics strategy 92

Very few policy initiatives in the last few years have received as much public attention as the recently adopted Single-Use Plastics Directive – also known as the single-use plastics ban. This legal act, however, is only one piece of the puzzle with which the European Union is attempting to curb plastic littering and transform the European economy into a circular one.

R. ELLER

TPE opportunities in a recessionary shifting automotive interior environment..... 96

Recessionary conditions will affect both the supply and demand sides of the auto sector and disrupt/reconfigure the auto interior supply chain. The composition of auto sales is changing. Some segments (e.g. compact utility vehicles, CUVs) are becoming saturated, EVs and hybrids will show strong gains in market share, especially in North America.

F. BOKEL

Soft dielectric elastomers 100

Thermoplastic elastomers (TPE) are a promising class of materials for dielectric elastomer applications and have excellent processability and recyclability. These materials encompass a wide range of polymeric families including thermoplastic-based polyolefins (TPO) polystyrenes (TPS), amides (TPA), copolyesters (TPC), and vulcanizates (TPV). They have a broad range of operating temperature and can often replace conventional crosslinked rubber for applications falling in this range.

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One of a kind in the polyurethane toolbox..... 104

A new bifunctional polymeric diisocyanate (BPI) has been recently launched on the market that is based on renewable carbon and is characterized by very low viscosity (150 mPa·s at 25 °C). Studies have shown that BPI is of interest not only in solvent free or low solid system but also as a building block for the polyurethane chemistry.

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