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Translucent & transparent material solutions enabling design for new mobility

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Translucent & transparent material solutions enabling design for new mobility

- Design trend for exterior & interior
- Material properties
- PP material for automotive
- Existing Market Solution
- Translucent PP-Compound for automotive
 - Special features & Sustainability
 - Applications examples
- Conclusion & Step forward



Design trend for exterior & interior

Exterior Light signature

User communication



VW ID. LIFE Concept 2021 (IAA 2021) Source: lyondellbasell internal



Hyundai Kona Electric 2023 Source: A2MAC1.com





Volvo Truck Concept (2018) Source: A2MAC1.com



Mini Concept Urbanaut (IAA 2021) Source: A2MAC1.com



Cadillac Lyriq 2023 Source: A2MAC1.com



DS7 2023 Source: lyondellbasell internal



Design trend for exterior & interior

Interior

Ambient Lightning User communication Transparent design Pleasant soft touch haptics





Hyundai concept 8 (IAA 2021) Source: lyondellbasell internal





RENAULT SCENIC Vision Concept (Paris Mondial Auto 2022) Source: lyondellbasell internal

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PP material for automotive

- Polypropylene PP & PP-Compound based on copolymer
 - The main Material used for exterior & interior automotive
 - Bumper, Body Panel, Interior trims, Door panel...

Typical Features

- Cost competitiveness
- Lightweight Material
- High quality finished part surfaces
- Ductility at low temperature to respect Impact requirements
- Paint-ability according to customer specifications
- Long Term Ageing aspect behavior (UV...)
- Perceived Quality of vehicles functions (Scratch, Creep, Dimensional stability...)
- Car users Health & Care (Fogging, VOC Emissions & Odour)
- Drawback

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Low or no transparency property



Volkswagen ID.3 in 2023



Material mechanical & optical properties

Description of material properties used in this presentation

- Density (ISO 1183)
 - Defines the weight of a part
- Tensile (ISO 527) & Flexural Modulus (ISO 178)
 - Defines the rigidity of a part
- Impact Charpy Notched (ISO 179) 23°C & -20°C
 - Defines the Impact resistance of a part

Luminous Transmittance "light transmission"

- ASTM D 1003 definition : Define the amount of light that passes through a part (total light transmission). A material with 100% Luminous Transmittance is totally transparent
 - Also described in ISO 13468

Haze "light translucency"

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- ASTM D 1003 definition : Haze measure the amount of light that passes through a part that is scattered more than 2,5°. A material with 100% haze is totally "milky" or "cloudy".
 - Also described in ISO 14782



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PP material for automotive

- Polypropylene PP & PP-Compound based on copolymer
 - The main Material used for exterior & interior automotive
 - Exemple : Bumper

Typical Features

PROPERTIES	Method	Hifax PP Hifax EP3080	<i>Ніfax</i> РР-С <i>Ніfax</i> ТҮС 900Р
Density	ISO 1183	0.90	1.01
Flexural modulus at 23°C (MPa)	ISO 178	950	1550
Charpy notched impact at 23°C (KJ/m ²)	ISO 179	65	40
Charpy notched impact at -20°C (KJ/m ²)	ISO 179	15	6
Light Transmission on 3mm plate (%)	ASTM D 1003	15	10
Haze on 3mm plate (%)	ASTM D 1003	100	100

Drawback

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Low or no transparency property



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Existing Market Solution

- PolyCarbonates (PC) & PolyMetylMetAcrylate (PMMA)
 - Amorphous engineering plastics that are currently used in almost all optical or lighting application
- Typical customer applications :
 - Automotive : Exterior Headlights / Rear lights & Interior light guides
- Typical Features
 - Very high transparency / very low haze as well as excellent mechanical properties
- Drawback
 - High density, Need UV/Chemical protection; No co-molding with PP

PROPERTIES	Method	PMMA Typical properties	PC Typical properties
Density	ISO 1183	1,16	1,20
Flexural modulus at 23°C (MPa)	ISO 178	2400	2400
Charpy notched impact at 23°C (KJ/m ²)	ISO 179	3	65
Charpy notched impact at -20°C (KJ/m ²)	ISO 179	1	12
Light Transmission on 3mm plate (%)	ASTM D 1003	92	88
Haze on 3mm plate (%)	ASTM D 1003	1,5	1



DS7 2023 Source: lyondellbasell internal



Hyundai Kona Electric 2023 Source: A2MAC1.com

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Existing Transparent PP : RAndom COpolymers (RACO)

- Polypropylene PP RAndom COpolymers (RACO)
 - Thermoplastic resins produced through the polymerization of propylene, with ethylene bonds introduced in the polymer chain.
- Typical customer applications :
 - Packaging for household & food
- Typical Features
 - Good transparency & aesthetic characteristics
- Drawback
 - Limited modulus & low notched impact resistance

PROPERTIES	Method	Moplen Typical properties	Clyrell Typical properties
Density	ISO 1183	0,90	0,90
Flexural modulus at 23°C (MPa)	ISO 178	1150	1500
Charpy notched impact at 23°C (KJ/m ²)	ISO 179	6	2,5
Charpy notched impact at -20°C (KJ/m ²)	ISO 179	1	1
Light Transmission on 3mm plate (%)	ASTM D 1003	75	70
Haze on 3mm plate(%)	ASTM D 1003	50	70





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Translucent PP-Compound

 Advanced compounding technology allows to combine good optical properties & better mechanical properties

Typical Features

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- Low density / High Rigidity or High Impact can be achievable
- Good transparency / Medium or high haze (good light diffusion)
- No stress whitening
- UV resistance without coating (interior) / low yellowness
- Impact Multiaxial good performance
- Sustainability can be achieved with *Circulen*Renew





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Translucent PP-Compound

 Advanced compounding technology allows to combine good optical properties & better mechanical properties

Typical Features

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PROPERTIES	Method	Hostacom EXP 559 CD2032G01	Hifax TRG 2659X CB1732G43	Hostacom TRG 2509Y BF1532G84	Hifax TRS 2526X F22321
Density	ISO 1183	0,95	0,99	0,99	0,91
Flexural modulus at 23°C (MPa)	ISO 178	1400	1200	1800	650
Charpy notched impact at 23°C (KJ/m ²)	ISO 179	25	45	20	45
Charpy notched impact at -20°C (KJ/m ²)	ISO 179	4	6	4	8
Light Transmission on 3mm plate (%)	ASTM D 1003	67	57	70	72
Haze on 3mm plate (%)	ASTM D 1003	100	100	100	77
Remarks		Medium Profile	High impact Profile	High rigidity Profile	High transparency Profile

No stress whitening

- Stress-whitening is a typical PP defect that occurs when there is a physical constraint on the part
- Translucent PP-Compound are optimized to avoid stress whitening that can be bad for optical properties during the lifetime of a part
- Below *Hifax* translucent plaques bended by hand with some black pigment (to see the defect)





- UV resistance without coating (interior)
 - Translucent PP-Compound are optimized to pass typical UV test
 - UV interior test (Weather-O-Meter) 900h/100°C acc. RNES-B-20085
 - Beside Hifax translucent plaque no color/gloss degradation





UV resistance without coating (interior)

- Translucent PP-Compound are optimized to pass typical UV test
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Yellowness improvement

 Last development of Translucent PP-Compound are improved to decrease yellowness



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Impact Multiaxial good performance

- This Impact test is more representative for the automotive industry to assess the crash resistance of a material
- We can see that LYB PP-C Translucent pass this test at 23°C and keep 70% of ductility at -10°C

Characteristic	Method	<i>Ніfax</i> РР-С <i>Ніfax</i> ТҮС 900Р	Hifax TRG 2659X F21412
Density	ISO 1183	1.01	0,99
Charpy notched impact at 23°C (KJ/m ²)	ISO 179	40	40
Charpy notched impact at -20°C (KJ/m ²)	ISO 179	6	6
Multiaxial impact at 23°C, type of break	ISO 6603-2	100% Ductility	100% Ductility
Multiaxial impact at - 10°C, type of break	ISO 6603-2	100% Ductility	70% Ductility

Impact Multiaxial ISO 6603-2







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- Sustainability
 - Translucent PP-Compound can be available with *Circulen*Renew, Bio-based via mass-balance approach



Polymers made from **renewable feedstocks** such as used cooking oil*

- At least 210% lower GHG emissions for renewable-based PE and PP** compared with virgin-based feedstocks
- One to one Virgin Quality
- Drop in solution
- Life Cycle Analysis ISO 14040-14044 compliant for PP grades – peer reviewed externally

*These polymers are created based on a mass balance approach



^{**}Cradle-to-gate LCA calculations based on a feedstock composed of waste and residue oils, when taking a waste like approach to all raw materials in the feedstock including palm fatty acid distillates (PFAD). PFAD are a production residue from the refining process of palm oil. Taking this approach for PFAD implies that neither upstream burdens nor process burdens for refining of palm oil are attributed to PFAD. Compared to fossil alternatives when using incineration as end-of-life scenario.

Application example (prototype)

Interior application : Backlighted storage door

- ✓ Injection of PP-C Translucent on existing PP-C mold
- ✓ Assembly with current PP-C material frame
- ✓ LED system inside
- Painting with ghost effect (effect not visible when the light is off)



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STS Group (APG group) & LyondellBasell collaboration







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Application example (prototype)

- Other application proposals
 - Painting + Laser removal concept
 - ✓ Prototype part molded with *Hostacom* TRG 2509Y
 - ✓ Paint + Laser removal tested
 - Can be also achievable with an In-Mold decoration film



Jenoptik & LyondellBasell prototype



Application example (prototype)

Other application proposals

- Painting + Laser removal concept
 - ✓ Prototype part molded with *Hostacom* TRG 2509Y
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Co-molding concept

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- PP-C Translucent can be co-molded with standard automotive PP-C in order to achieve functional & Decorative part at the same time
- Pleasant soft touch haptics as mono material solution
- As same base material this ensure also good recyclability



Jenoptik & LyondellBasell prototype

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Standard PP-C



Conclusion

- PP Compound material with optical & mechanical properties
- Enabler for new design in automotive interior & exterior
- Pleasant soft touch haptics as mono material solution
- Low density & sustainable solution

Challenges & next steps

- Further optical & colorimetric measurement
- Further durability tests

LyondellBasell is ready to work with customers & OEMs on this topic







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