

Commenting on the deal, Tracy Garrison, President and CEO, Hexpol Compounding NAFTA, said: 'This acquisition is a good complement to Hexpol Compounding in the USA and broadens and strengthens its presence in rubber compounding. Portage Precision expands our capabilities and capacities to serve our customers in a more efficient way. It also has a silicon rubber mixing unit in Mogadore, Ohio, which complements and expands our existing product portfolio.'

Hexpol acquired the Vigar Rubber Compounding business within Grupo Vigar from the founders' families.

'This is a further step in expanding and strengthening the Hexpol Group with a further acquisition within our core business. Vigar Rubber Compounding, with its competence and capabilities, will fit nicely into the group and gives us a stronger European presence,' said Georg Brunstam, CEO, Hexpol Group.

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PPG Aerospace enhances sealants operations in Europe

PPG Aerospace reports that it is enhancing its sealants operations in Germany and the UK.

It has enabled its Central Europe application support centre, based in Hamburg, Germany, to package aerospace sealants for customers in Central and Eastern Europe by adding equipment that provides premixed and frozen sealant, Semkit packages as well as customised sealant products such as PRC seal caps and PRC Semfoam.

Ulrich Krueger, Managing Director, PPG Deutschland Sales and Services GmbH, commented: 'ASC-Central Europe has a successful history of repackaging coatings and third-party chemicals to meet customer specifications as well as supplying sealants repackaged at our operation in Shildon, UK, to customers in Central and Eastern Europe.'

'We are building on this experience to provide a broader range of sealants in customer-friendly packaging by adding our premixed and frozen sealant, and Semkit packaging capabilities.'

In addition to repackaging PPG coatings and third-party chemicals, ASC-Central Europe colour mixes top coatings and delivers products to customer specifications.

In other news, PPG Industries has upgraded its aerospace sealants manufacturing operations based at its facility in Shildon, UK, with the installation of new equipment to increase capacity and efficiency to meet growing demand.

According to Sean Lambourne, Market Manager, Sealants, PPG, EMEA, this equipment gives PPG the flexibility to respond quickly to higher demand by being able to increase capacity several times, adjusting batch sizes and shift operation.

'This is a significant expansion for Shildon and positions us well for expected growth of aerospace sealants in Europe, the Middle East, India and Africa,' said Lambourne.

'The added capacity expands PPG's global sealants manufacturing footprint, complementing the sealants product line made at Mojave, California, USA.'

The first phase of this expansion was completed on the cell that produces accelerators used in two-component sealants for high-performance aerospace fuel-tank and fuselage applications, says Lambourne. The second phase involves the cell that produces the base compound, supporting all polysulfide and polythioether polymer production for the same high-performance products.

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Garlock receives favourable decision in asbestos claims resolution process

EnPro Industries Inc's Garlock Sealing Technologies LLC (GST) subsidiary has received a favourable decision from

IN BRIEF

FSA adopts new membership category for engineers and engineering companies

The Fluid Sealing Association (FSA) has received approval from its board of directors to adopt a new membership category, called Standards Partner. It is specifically designed to engage engineers and engineering companies that actively practice in design and consulting services relating to sealing devices and piping systems.

More information:

Web: www.fluidsealing.com

John Crane launches engineering development programme

In the USA, John Crane has launched "Engineering U" - a new accelerated career development programme for promising entry-level mechanical engineers. The first twelve-month US-based pilot programme is under way and recruitment for additional US programs is ongoing. The company also intends to implement Engineering U at its global research and development centres in the UK and China. According to the firm, the programme enables university graduates to jump-start their careers by completing a structured curriculum that exposes them to a variety of engineering specialties and several other functions across the business.

PPG to supply windshields and windows for Gulfstream business jets

PPG Industries' aerospace transparencies group has been selected by aircraft manufacturer Gulfstream to supply windshields, side cockpit windows and passenger-cabin window assemblies for its G500 and G600 business jets. The heated glass windshields will have PPG's Surface Seal water-repellent coating as the primary rain-removal system, which will enable Gulfstream to certify the aircraft without windshield wipers, and reduce related drag and weight. The aerospace company has specified this coating for windshields since fielding the Gulfstream V aircraft.

DuPont Neoprene product line to be sold to Denka Performance Elastomer LLC

DuPont Performance Polymers is to sell the DuPont Neoprene polychloroprene product line to Denka Performance Elastomer LLC, a joint-venture company owned by Japan's Denki Kagaku Kogyo Kk and Mitsui & Co Ltd. The sale is expected to close during the first half of 2015 pending receipt of customary regulatory approvals. Financial terms of the deal are not being disclosed. Neoprene, invented by DuPont in 1931, is a synthetic rubber used for many chemical and weather-resistant products. It is also used as a base resin in adhesives, electrical insulation and coatings.