



## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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### **ADDCOMP PLACES 3<sup>RD</sup> IN PRESTIGIOUS AVK-TV INNOVATION AWARDS, STABILIZATION PACKAGE HONORED IN ENVIRONMENTAL CATEGORY**

**NIJVERDAL, THE NETHERLANDS** – *December 11, 2006* – **Addcomp Holland BV**, a manufacturer of polymer additive solutions for thermoplastic resins – has been awarded a 3<sup>rd</sup>-place finish in the Environmental Category of the prestigious AVK-TV awards at the 9<sup>th</sup>-annual AVK Conference held in Baden-Baden, Germany by the Federation of Reinforced Plastics e.V. (Industrievereinigung Verstärkte Kunststoffe (AVK)). The company's ADD-VANCE<sup>®</sup> masterbatches for polypropylene (PP)-based long-fiber (reinforced) thermoplastics (LFT) were recognized for their contributions to lowering emissions of volatile-organic compounds (VOCs) and odor – properties that are very important for the automotive interior applications (e.g. instrument-panel carriers, door hardware modules) where the combination resin - stabilization package is commonly used. It was unusual for an additives supplier to be honored in this competition as generally entire molded components or modules are nominated and win. Addcomp is the first additives / raw materials supplier to place in the competition.

Outgassing from polymer components can pose several problems on vehicle interiors. First, release of unpleasant odor can be bothersome for chemically sensitive persons. Second, outgassing can also cause fogging of instrument clusters and leave a film on the interior of the windshield and side glass. Low-odor, low-outgassing polymers are widely sought for automotive interior components. Automakers are tightening specifications for outgassing of interior components worldwide. The ADD-VANCE stabilization package helps resin suppliers and compounders meet stricter outgassing requirements, while also improving other mechanical and processing properties.

The technology that was recognized is Addcomp's fifth-generation ADD-VANCE stabilization system. These masterbatches contain an optimized formulation of stabilizers, carbon black, and a coupling agent – maleic anhydride-grafted polypropylene (PP). The latter is used to improve glass wetout for improved mechanical properties but is also a common source of odor and VOC emissions. Addcomp's innovation has focused on reduction of maleic anhydride residues and other undesirable components that can produce odor or generate VOC emissions, while maintaining excellent coupling properties at the glass-resin interface and therefore maintaining excellent mechanical properties in the molded part.

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## Addcomp Wins 3rd-Place in AVK-TV Awards' Environmental Category 2-2-2-2

In typical glass coupling agents, maleic anhydride residues are present at levels of 1,000 - 2,000 parts / million (ppm). When the coupling agents are used at standard dosing levels, 10 - 60 ppm residues of maleic anhydride remain in the molded part. However, in the 5<sup>th</sup>-generation systems from Addcomp, maleic anhydride residues in the stabilization package have been reduced to less than 100 ppm without sacrificing coupling strength or mechanical properties. Because ADD-VANCE masterbatches are highly concentrated, thus dosed at very low levels (typically 2 - 3% in polypropylene LFT), their contribution of maleic anhydride residues in the molded part are very low – on the order of 1 - 2 ppm only. In fact, these stabilization packages have shown a remarkable reduction in VOCs and other emissions as demonstrated by analytical results conducted by IMAT-UVE, an independent European testing organization ([www.imat-uve.de/en/aboutus.htm](http://www.imat-uve.de/en/aboutus.htm)).

Tests for total volatile organic compounds (TVOC) in accordance with the static head space (STD 1027, 2714) and Fogging (DIN 75201 B - fogging at 100C for 16 hours) specifications showed that PP resins formulated with ADD-VANCE 581 and 437 masterbatches provides excellent, low VOC and emissions values as well as the best odor ratings in European automotive LFT applications (as ranked during a human “smell test panel” comparison). Results of the 581 grade for VOC values were 67.7 µg / g and for fogging were 3.35 mg. Since the additive package is typically dosed at 2 - 3% in a 20% glass / PP LFT material, the additive package's total VOC contribution will be approximately 1.6 µg / g and fogging of 0.08 mg, allowing automakers to meet the very difficult California Automotive Resources Board (CARB) requirements for interior emissions.

The award-winning ADD-VANCE combi-masterbatches have been commercially available in Europe and North America since 4<sup>th</sup>-quarter 2005. The products not only reduce VOC emissions and odor in the finished part, but also improve mechanical performance due to enhanced coupling at the glass-resin interface, helping the molded part manage loads and stresses better. In some designs, this allows thinner wall sections to provide comparable performance in lighter, less costly parts, which in turn can increase LFT application opportunities. Other chemistry in the package provides improved high- and low-temperature performance and UV stability for longer service life.

ADD-VANCE combi-masterbatches also stabilize the base polymer to facilitate processing and recyclability. In fact, 100% of in-plant scrap produced by tier suppliers molding LFT-PP parts with the ADD-VANCE stabilization package is now being reused without loss of performance, aesthetics, or processing quality. Runners, sprues, and off-spec parts are simply reground and reused – regardless of the LFT material (precompounded pellets or direct compounded at the press) or process (compression or injection molding) being used. After their use-life on vehicles, these same parts can be shredded and reused again, producing a valuable material stream for future LFT components.

Last, the new fifth-generation stabilization systems offer best-in-market performance at a lower cost per LFT unit than previous generation products. The high quality and excellent consistency of these products can help molders reduce their quality-control costs.

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### Addcomp Wins 3rd-Place in AVK-TV Awards' Environmental Category 3-3-3-3

Says Addcomp Director of Marketing & Sales, Paul Stassen, "Our products are dosed at between 2 and 3%, depending on the application, but they contribute more than 50% to the quality of the final part."

Addcomp is the only additives supplier to be ISO/TS 16949: 2002 certified. This is a very difficult quality listing to achieve and indicates a leader in product quality and security of supply.

AVK-TV bestows three annual innovation awards to honor outstanding developments in the field of reinforced plastics. Award categories include: Promoting New Industrial Solutions, Achievements in Environmental Protection, and Promoting University Work in the Field of Composites and Thermosetting Molding Compounds. Nominations are rated in terms of product or process advancement, improvement in the cost / benefit ratio, and development of new markets. For more information, see [www.avk-frankfurt.de/www\\_avktv/home\\_en\\_214\\_63\\_1\\_f.htm](http://www.avk-frankfurt.de/www_avktv/home_en_214_63_1_f.htm).

Addcomp Holland BV was founded in 1997 as a supplier of polymer-additive systems to the plastics industry. Since its founding, the company has experienced rapid growth in both turnover and product development, which has led to Addcomp being awarded Deloitte **Technology Fast50** status in the Netherlands twice in 2 years. The company's high-growth and rapid development of new technology are a result of its strategy to provide innovative additive solutions to customer problems as well as developing in-house, state-of-the-art production technology, which further enhances its manufacturing expertise. To maintain its technology and manufacturing lead, Addcomp typically invests 12-15% of its profits in both product and process development each year. In 2005, owing to the need to expand its manufacturing capabilities with a new factory and new offices, the company invested 50% of its turnover.

Additive systems are used to stabilize and enhance the quality, production efficiency, and / or performance of polymers. Addcomp provides more than 500 products to other additives suppliers, original resin producers, custom compounders, and processors (molders). The company develops and produces single-pack additive systems (in masterbatch or compacted pellet form) for a variety of common thermoplastic resin systems, including polyolefins, polystyrenes, thermoplastic polyesters, thermoplastic elastomers, and polyamides (nylons). Common systems available from Addcomp are used for UV stabilization, anti-blocking (for films), nucleating agents, blowing agents, antimicrobials, flame retardance, and for enhancing lubricity / wear, antistatic properties, hydrophilic properties (for fibers), thermal stability, weatherability, and service life. Enhanced processability is another benefit Addcomp additive systems bring to molders converting polymers via tape, fiber / filament, and non-wovens; injection molding; blow molding; or extrusion processes such as oriented or non-oriented film, pipe, sheet, etc. This also helps stabilize the resin for multiple heat-histories such as is seen with in-plant and post-consumer recycling. In addition, Addcomp assists other additives suppliers by providing blending services, compacted products or masterbatches, or assisting with manufacturing technology development. Addcomp does not produce or offer color masterbatches or mineral-filled compounds.

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Addcomp Wins 3rd-Place in AVK-TV Awards' Environmental Category  
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Technology from Addcomp enhances the base-resin performance of applications in markets such as automotive, agriculture, construction, consumer, housewares, electrical / electronics, industrial, lawn & garden, materials handling, and packaging. More than 90% of Addcomp's products are exported out of the Netherlands, not only to other countries in the European Union, but also to South Africa, Asia / Pacific, and the Americas.

For more information, please contact Addcomp Holland BV by phone: +31.548.620403, or eMail: [info@addcomp.nl](mailto:info@addcomp.nl) , or see: [www.addcomp.nl](http://www.addcomp.nl) .

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