

Panasonic Electric Works and Teijin Co-develop PLA Molding Compound with 80% Biomass Ratio and Superior Moldability

— Shortens molding cycle time by roughly half —



Co-developed MBA900H molding compound

Panasonic Electric Works Co., Ltd. and Teijin Limited announced today their joint development of a highly heat-resistant polylactide (PLA) molding compound made 80% from plant-based renewable feedstock and providing significantly reduced molding cycle time of around half that of conventional PLA compounds.

From this month, Panasonic Electric Works will begin selling the new material as its MBA900H PLA molding compound for use in the housings of cell phones and other mobile devices and digital consumer electronics. The initial goal is 1,000 tons of annual production by fiscal 2012 ending in March 2013.

The bioplastic used in the MBA900H is Teijin's BIOFRONT™, a highly heat-resistant PLA with a melting point of at least 210°C, which is significantly higher than that of conventional PLA. BIOFRONT™ also shows better hydrolytic stability and achieves semi-crystallization in just 20–25% of the time required with conventional PLA.

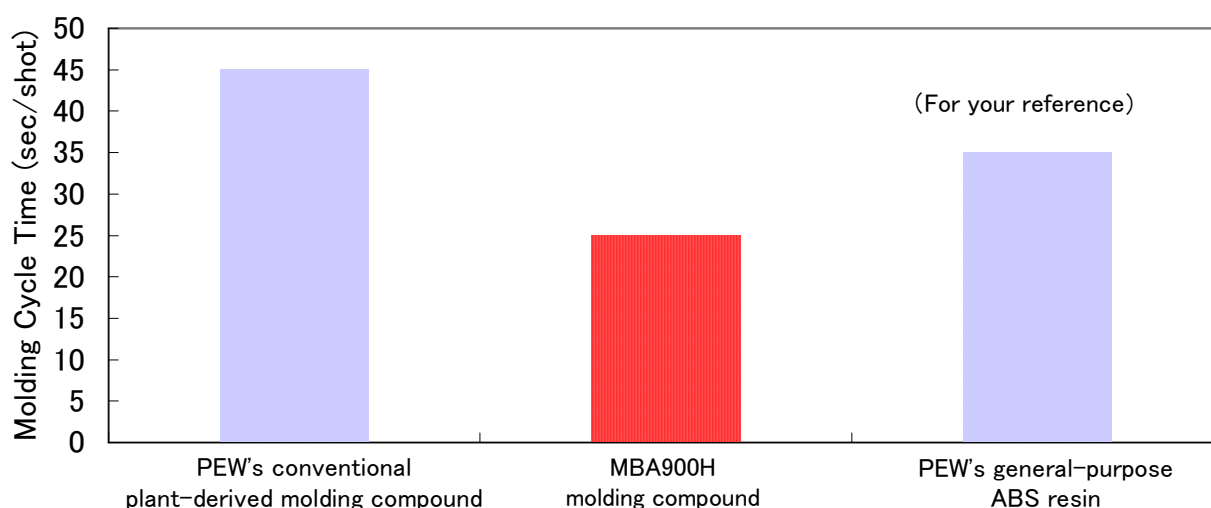
Panasonic Electric Works successfully developed the MBA900H molding compound using its proprietary compound-design and production technologies. The new material has been proven in testing conducted by the company to shorten molding cycle time by roughly half compared to conventional PLA compounds.

Efforts to shift from oil-based to biomass-based plastics are increasing as companies look for ways to help protect the global environment and create sustainable societies. Bioplastics, for example, are being used increasingly in consumer electronics, automotive interiors and other areas, but conventional PLA has low heat resistance and limited injection-molding capability because of its longer molding cycle time. Molding compounds have been developed by mixing PLA with oil-based plastics, but attaining the desired levels of heat resistance and moldability has required a high ratio of oil-based plastic.

The MBA900H solves these problems as a molding compound that combines high biomass ratio with superior heat resistance and moldability.

Teijin will continue to accelerate its cultivation of new applications and markets for BIOFRONT™, which already is used in clothing, interior goods, automobiles and consumer electronics. Teijin aims to mass produce some 5,000 tons of BIOFRONT™ in fiscal 2011, and then eventually several tens of thousands of tons of this advanced bioplastic.

Comparison of Molding Cycle Time



* The molding cycle time is measured by in-house standards. Thickness of molded products: 1.6mm

About Panasonic Electric Works

Panasonic Electric Works Co., Ltd. (hereinafter PEW) traces its roots to the company started in 1918 by its founder Konosuke Matsushita. This forerunner of PEW started out by producing an enhanced attachment plug. Thereafter, PEW expanded the scope of its business beyond electrical construction materials (lighting products and information equipment and wiring products), home appliances, building products, electronic materials, and automation controls, all of which showcase its technological strengths.

Based in Osaka, Japan, the company recorded consolidated net sales of 1.45 trillion yen (US\$15.6 billion) for the year ended March 31, 2010. The company's shares are listed on the Tokyo and Osaka stock exchanges. For more information on the company, please visit the company's website at <http://panasonic-electric-works.net/>.

About the Teijin Group

Based in Tokyo and Osaka, Japan, Teijin is a global technology-driven group operating in six main fields: high-performance fibers (aramid fibers and carbon fibers); polyester fibers; films and plastics; pharmaceuticals and home health care; trading and retail; and IT and new products. Teijin Limited, the holding company for the Teijin Group, is listed on the Tokyo and Osaka stock exchanges. The group had consolidated sales of USD 8.5 billion (JPY 765.8 billion, USD 1=JPY 90) in fiscal 2009 and employs 18,778 people worldwide, with 156 companies around the world. Please visit www.teijin.co.jp/english

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