



GRAFE presents new developments for automotive sector

Mannheim/Blankenhain, March 1, 2010 – GRAFE Group will again present itself at this year's international congress „Plastic in automotive engineering“ in Mannheim. GRAFE Group belongs to the leading suppliers for the automotive industry in the field of specific and complex interior trim features.

The congress, scheduled for March 17 & 18, will provide a comprehensive overview over the current developments of plastic applications used by the German car and utility vehicle manufacturers. „Plastic components will be used in more and more sectors of automotive production. They offer a genuine alternative to the materials used previously both in the vehicle's interior and in the engine compartment“, managing director Matthias Grafe declares.

GRAFE will demonstrate its competence in the field of color management and present the newly developed effect master batch at this year's congress. A polypropylene film composite that allows brilliant color effects on each surface that is absolutely free from reams. Design freedom as a result of metallicly tinted component surfaces free from flow marks. The effect master batch thus developed for a glossy and metallic look will make it possible. This glossy and metallic effect in the PP film composite will allow it to generate different grain patterns on one component. The user can achieve an even higher degree of flexibility by simply changing the decor or the film during the process. Likewise, the full distinctness of the grain pattern also in radii as well as the components' identical colors from various production plants will be ensured. Complex contours on the back side can be integrated. The cost savings are a most welcome side effect, since the substrate material, a polypropylene substrate, needs not to be tinted in the trim color. The PP film will remain affixed to the PP-component without any extra bonding agent.

The Thuringian company has developed more than 8 000 color compositions in cooperation with its customers from automotive industry. The customers of GRAFE, well-known German and international car manufacturers, are convinced of the products' quality and the company's flexibility. The thermo-plastic images will usually be adapted to the car's interior colors by a master pattern for leather, lacquer or fabrics as defined by the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM). More than 600 interior trim colors in 16 different types of thermoplastic materials have thus been generated for 34 national and international OEMs during the recent ten years.

The VDI's section for Plastic Engineering expects 1 500 plastic experts from the automotive industry to attend the international meeting of the sector under the title of "Plastic in automotive engineering", scheduled for March 17&18, 2010 in Mannheim. 80 national and international corporations will be represented at the exhibition accompanying the congress. You can visit the GRAFE Group at stand 56.

Apart from color and additive master batches, the product spectrum of **GRAFE Advanced Polymers GmbH** includes a wide range of functional plastic compounds. One of the industry's largest R&D departments is focusing its efforts on the latest technologies that can equip plastic with intelligent functions. Founded in 1991, the company is now operating as GRAFE Group with its three divisions: *Color Batch*, *Additive Batch* and *Polymer Technik*. 250 employees develop new products and produce in the highly modern facility at Blankenhain (Thuringia) in heart of Germany for the national and international market. The Group is certified pursuant to DIN EN ISO TS 16949 and DIN EN ISO 9001/2000. Further information under: www.grafe.com

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