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New Innovation Announced for Kepstan® PEKK Resins for Deep Draw Thermoforming

Ultra performing PAEK (polyaryl ether ketone) resins are typically not easily thermoformed in thick gauge semi-crystalline form. Arkema is excited to introduce new Kepstan® PEKK resins specifically designed to make such parts with extreme performance properties. This opens the door to a wide range of high performance parts such as large-scale galley and interior paneling for aircraft and rail interiors, electrical enclosures, and industrial component trays.

Through optimization of molecular weight and polymeric structure, Arkema has unlocked the full potential of a market historically limited to amorphous polymers. Using Kepstan® PEKK resin, it is now possible to produce large scale, deep drawn shapes with outstanding chemical, fire and thermomechanical resistance for aerospace, transportation, electronics, oil & gas, and many other demanding markets.

To effectively bring this technology to market, Arkema is working in close collaboration with Westlake Plastics (Pennsylvania, USA), an expert in an expert in high performance shape production, and specialty thermoformers CW Thomas (Pennsylvania, USA) and Plastiform (Thise, France). "We were experiencing thermoforming issues on thick gauges, as well as heat and chemical resistance limitations with existing materials," explained Olivier Rodary, general manager, Plastiform. "By working together with Arkema on their Kepstan® PEKK material and by using a specific forming process together with engineered specialty toolings, we were able to achieve the forming of technical parts like never before. That will certainly help us to move several projects forward again," commented Eric Lacker, technical manager, Plastiform.



Parts produced through this process will be demonstrated at the Arkema booth (Booth 6C57) at the upcoming K-2019 Fair in Dusseldorf, Germany, held from October 16-23.

A designer of materials and innovative solutions, Arkema shapes materials and creates new uses that accelerate customer performance. Our balanced business portfolio spans high-performance materials, industrial specialties and coating solutions. Our globally recognized brands are ranked among the leaders in the markets we serve. Reporting annual sales of €8.8 billion in 2018, we employ approximately 20,000 people worldwide and operate in close to 55 countries. We are committed to active engagement with all our stakeholders. Our research centers in North America, France and Asia concentrate on advances in bio-based products, new energies, water management, electronic solutions, lightweight materials and design, home efficiency and insulation. www.arkema.com

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