Press release
BERGEN OP ZOOM, The Netherlands, December 6, 2012

SABIC’s 3D-Formed LEXAN™ Sheet Increases Visibility, Safety, Comfort and Performance of Rottne Forestry Vehicle Glazing

Operators of logging equipment require exceptional visibility and protection against debris or large objects that may enter their cabin and cause serious injury in forest environments, such as tree limbs and other machinery parts. So when Rottne Industry AB needed a high-performance glazing material for the windshields and windows of its harvesters and forwarders, it turned to SABIC’s Innovative Plastics business for support. Working with SABIC and its distributor, Vink Essäplast Group AB in Sweden, Rottne Industry AB selected tough high optical quality LEXAN™ MARGARD™ polycarbonate (PC) for the job. The success of this collaborative project illustrates SABIC’s dedication to meeting customers’ ever-increasing needs for outstanding materials performance.

“We have had tremendous feedback from customers on the enhanced optical quality of our windshields and windows since we started using SABIC’s LEXAN sheet from the company’s new, state-of-the-art optical quality LEXAN sheet extrusion line,” said Jan-Åke Björck, purchasing manager, Rottne Industry AB. “Operators report noticeably clearer, sharper views from the cab, enabling them to work more efficiently and safely. This world-class technology is definitely helping us please our customers and stand out in this important market sector.”

LEXAN MARGARD MR5E sheet, a two side hard-coated, ultraviolet (UV) protected sheet – is optionally available with screenprint, protective hard coating in 3D-formed shapes – provides industry-leading optical properties for exceptional visibility and extreme impact strength to enhance safety in these applications. LEXAN MARGARD MR5IR sheet absorbs near infrared (IR) light to help improve operator comfort and protection against hot weather conditions, provides outstanding UV protection and abrasion and impact resistance. Both industry-leading products are being supplied from SABIC’s new sheet extrusion line located at the company’s manufacturing facility in Bergen op Zoom, The Netherlands.

“Our optical quality LEXAN polycarbonate sheet really shines in tough environments such as logging, where it can make a critical difference in expanding workers’ protection, comfort and field of vision,” said Jack Govers, SABIC general manager, Specialty Film & Sheet. “We have invested in state-of-the-art manufacturing capability and technology and a rigorous quality control program, to make sure that LEXAN sheet delivers excellent optical properties and high-end performance in the industry.
We are very pleased that Rottne Industry AB chose our material, which has obviously helped them achieve higher customer satisfaction and increase their competitive advantage – a win-win for us all.”

SABIC’s new state-of-the-art optical quality LEXAN sheet extrusion line in Bergen op Zoom uses a Class 1,000 clean room technology to produce one of the best optical quality sheets in the industry. Optical quality LEXAN sheet can be used for lamination and glazing of forestry and agricultural vehicles, high speed trains and bullet resistant glass-PC laminates for VIP, military, police vehicles and glazing of high security facilities including prisons and other correctional institutions. The new production line, started in Q4 2011, has an extended production capability range of 2 to 15 mm gauges.

Seeing the Forest and the Trees

SABIC’s LEXAN MARGARD MR5E sheet offers the best optical properties of the LEXAN PC product line. It meets the highest requirements with regard to black specks, bubbles, lint and fibers, as well as distortion and ripple defects. Compared to glass, the material provides a weight savings of approximately 50 percent and is virtually unbreakable. It complies with the ECE 43R regulation of the Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UN/ECE) concerning the approval of safety glazing materials. Thanks to a durable hard coating, LEXAN MARGARD MR5E sheet delivers excellent abrasion and chemical resistance to preserve its optical clarity and attractive appearance and provide easy maintenance over the long term.

3D-formed LEXAN MARGARD adds value to the LEXAN sheet, making the parts much easier to install in cabins and reducing the risk of defects during installation.

For their forestry equipment, Rottne Industry AB selected LEXAN MARGARD sheet for all the windows that are screen printed with a fade-out band, which covers the glue used for installing the windows in the metal frame, and then both sides are hardcoated.

The forwarder windshield and windows use the LEXAN MARGARD MR5IR sheet featuring near IR light absorption in the wavelength range of 780-1400 nm. By managing IR heat from sunlight striking the operator’s cabin, this material helps save energy and protects against potentially harmful UV radiation, yet provides clear visibility. This technology reduces heat build-up in the cabin and can help cut air conditioning costs on hot and sunny days.

For additional information on SABIC’s LEXAN sheet, please go to www.sabic-ip.com. For technical product inquiries, please contact us at www.sabic-ip.com/prtechinquiry.
PHOTO: SABIC’s High Optical Quality LEXAN™ Polycarbonate Sheet is Used in Rottne Industry AB’s Harveters and Forwarders Windshields and Windows

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Notes to Editors

• Brands marked with ™ are trademarks of SABIC
• SABIC is a registered trademark of SABIC Holding Europe B.V.
• High-resolution photos are available upon request
• SABIC should be written in every instance in all uppercase.

About SABIC

Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) ranks among the world’s top petrochemical companies. The company is among the world’s market leaders in the production of polyethylene, polypropylene and other advanced thermoplastics, glycols, methanol and fertilizers.

SABIC recorded a net profit of SR 29.24 billion (US$ 7.80 billion) in 2011. Sales revenues for 2011 totaled SR 189.90 billion (US$ 50.64 billion). Total assets stood at SR 332.78 billion (US$ 88.74 billion) at the end of 2011.

SABIC’s businesses are grouped into Chemicals, Polymers, Performance Chemicals, Fertilizers, Metals and Innovative Plastics. SABIC has significant research resources with 16 dedicated Technology & Innovation facilities in Saudi Arabia, the USA, the Netherlands, Spain, Japan, India and South Korea. The company operates in more than 40 countries across the world with around 40,000 employees worldwide.

SABIC manufactures on a global scale in Saudi Arabia, the Americas, Europe and Asia Pacific.

Headquartered in Riyadh, SABIC was founded in 1976 when the Saudi Arabian Government decided to use the hydrocarbon gases associated with its oil production as the principal feedstock for production of chemicals, polymers and fertilizers. The Saudi Arabian Government owns 70 percent of SABIC shares with the remaining 30 percent held by private investors in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

About Innovative Plastics

SABIC’s Innovative Plastics business is a leading, global supplier of engineering thermoplastics with an 80-year history of breakthrough solutions that solve its customers’ most pressing challenges. Today, Innovative Plastics is a multi-billion-dollar company with operations in more than 35 countries and approximately 9,000 employees worldwide. The company continues to lead the plastics industry with customer collaboration and continued investments in new polymer technologies, global application development, process technologies, and environmentally responsible solutions that serve diverse markets such as automotive, electronics, building & construction, transportation, and healthcare. The company’s extensive product portfolio includes thermoplastic resins, coatings, specialty compounds, film, and sheet. Innovative Plastics (www.sabic-ip.com) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC).
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