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CHINAPLAS 2012 preview: Sonderhoff's sealing solutions for photovoltaic and solar applications

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A Sonderhoff Group subsidiary, Sonderhoff (Suzhou) Sealing Systems Co Ltd will introduce its sealing solutions for photovoltaic and solar applications at CHINAPLAS 2012.

The low pressure mixing and dosing machine DM 403 will be in live operation at the show. As introduced, it is a three-component dispensing machine from Sonderhoff Engineering GmbH which can be used for various applications, such as foam sealing of photovoltaic parts like inverter housings, gluing of solar thermal energy modules or encapsulation of photovoltaic junction boxes.

The company will also present live application process of foam gasketing of a photovoltaic housing inverter with the two-component polyurethane-based foam gasket system Fermapor K31. The foam sealing material is dispensed into the groove of the housing inverter through the mixing head MK 600 which is moved by the DM 403 with contour accuracy of the part, explains Sonderhoff. After curing of the material in the groove a smooth and room temperature cross-linking polyurethane foam sealing is formed for optimal protection of the technical inner life of the inverter housing.

The company says its Fermapor K31 system can keep humidity, dust and other harmful environmental influences out. The sealed products can maintain good mechanical properties because of the system's resistance to intensive solar radiation and high temperatures. Therefore, besides photovoltaic applications, it is also suitable for sealing of parts in automotive, ventilation & air conditioning, lighting, electronics, switch cabinets, packaging or household appliances industries.

In addition, Sonderhoff offers two-component silicone-based potting material to protect the interior of photovoltaic parts from different weather factors. According to the company, its silicone potting products fulfill the requirements for photovoltaic components concerning optimal resistance against high temperature and UV radiation as well as compliance with the IP 67 protection rating (Ingress Protection).

In the field of solar thermal energy, the gluing of solar glass and aluminum bottom plates with one- or two-component silicone is a typical application as well as the gluing of plastic corners with 2C polyurethane adhesives. Sonderhoff notes that all these material systems can be exactly processed with the dispensing machine DM 403.

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Sonderhoff says its sealing solutions are suitable for the photovoltaic and solar energy industries