

which comprise a press, a mold and a metering machine, is an important criterion in producing highly complex parts with a high fiber volume ratio," said JP Mead, VP of KraussMaffei Corporation, who is responsible for the Reaction Process Machinery Segment in the USA. KraussMaffei has developed special know-how here as a system partner for multiprocess solutions in metering technology for highly reactive resins. The demonstration will underline KraussMaffei's competence as the technology leader for automotive lightweight applications. In order to produce fiber-reinforced composites, KraussMaffei now offers a wide range of machine and mold technology, for example FiberForm or the long fiber injection (LFI) process.

After KraussMaffei and Proper agreed a strategic partnership for the USA in 2010, they were joined by Kiefel, another renowned plastics expert, at the end of 2012. The three companies pool their know-how in the area of automotive applications, especially for vehicle interiors, in a technology center at the plant in Warren. The capacities extend from mold design, injection molding, foaming, stamping, laser cutting and vacuum lamination through to prototype construction and the provision of technical advice to customers.



Armrest produced using the SkinForm process with a foamed polyurethane surface

After 10 years in the US, Sonderhoff USA Corp. looks ahead with optimism

Sonderhoff USA Corp. turns 10 this year. Since its establishment in 2003 as part of the global Sonderhoff group, the company in Elgin, Illinois, has developed very successfully.

Ever since it formed, Sonderhoff USA has steadily promoted the previously little known FIP (foam in-place) technology in the US, which is the process of fully automatic application of liquid seals to produce housing gaskets. Sonderhoff USA presently supplies major suppliers in the automotive, electronics and packaging industries with Fermapor K31 foam seals and the Fermadur

potting compounds for sealing door modules, headlamps, brake lights, filters, drum packaging, electrical enclosures and switch cabinets. Adding to these are further applications in the printing industry, for household appliances, and for lighting.

An enormous advantage for the customer is that Sonderhoff USA is a system supplier. Sonderhoff is not only the specialist for liquid seals; the company also sells its own mixing and dosing machinery for this technology. According to Sonderhoff USA, more than 70 mixing and dosing systems have been put into operation in the USA, Mexico and Canada.

Sonderhoff USA offers US customers the additional service of contract manufacturing for foam gasket, gluing and potting applications on the parts of the OEMs and their suppliers. This service ranges from prototypes, to pilot runs and small batches, to full-scale series production. Customers can therefore benefit from the advantages of the FIP process without making a large investment. Sonderhoff USA helps customers calculate when it is more economical to invest in a mixing and dosing system and when it makes more sense to subcontract the part manufacturing for sealing, gluing and potting to Sonderhoff.



Sonderhoff USA Corp. was established primarily as a production operation. With an increase in demand for silicone seals, Sonderhoff's management decided to add the manufacture of the two-component silicone foam system Fermasil to its established US production of polyurethanes for foam gasket, gluing and potting systems. Since the end of 2011, Sonderhoff has been producing silicone products for foam seal and potting applications in the USA and selling them under the name Fermasil in North America.

President and CEO Holger Hülsken is confident that automation and application processes for fluid and thixotropic FIP sealing systems will continue to expand on the NAFTA market and will eventually become an industry standard, and that these sales markets offer ample room for further growth of Sonderhoff as well. On August 9, 2013, Sonderhoff USA was celebrating its 10 anniversary in Elgin/Illinois.

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