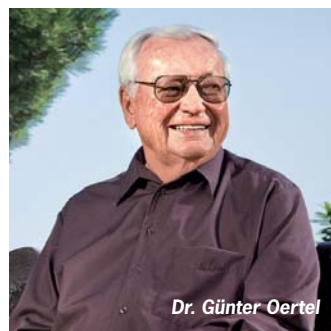


People



Dr. Günter Oertel dies at 81

The researcher **Dr. Günter Oertel** died at the age of 81 in Leverkusen, Germany. Oertel is considered one of the pioneers of PU chemistry. His research resulted in more than 90 international patents and numerous publications. Oertel began his professional career at Bayer in 1958 under the wings of the inventor of



Dr. Günter Oertel

PU chemistry, **Dr. Otto Bayer**. In 1971 he was given responsibility at the company for research and in 1972 for technical marketing. Just one year later he was appointed Director of Polyurethane Applications Technology. Oertel gained international acclaim as well and served as President of the European Isocyanate Producers Association (Isopa) from 1989 to 1994. For his service to the PU industry, the UK Plastic and Rubber Institute honoured him with the "Medal of Merit". In 2003, Oertel, who was already retired at the time, was inducted into the Polyurethane Hall of Fame in the USA in recognition of his achievements and successes.



Sjöberg named 2013 SPE Automotive Division Lifetime Achievement Award winner

With more than 45 years experience in automotive design and development on vehicles such as the Chevrolet Corvette and Dodge Viper sports cars, **Roy Sjöberg** has been named the 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award winner by the Automotive Division of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE). Sjöberg spent 25 years at General Motors and

worked on several areas of the Chevrolet Corvette, including its fibreglass composite body panels. He also was instrumental in developing the 1975 Chevrolet Monza bumper fascia in polyurethane reaction-injection moulding (PUR-RIM), the first high-volume application of that material/process, as well as the Monza front end in GMT composite.

Foerster new Executive Director at PlasticsEurope

Effective 1 October 2013, **Karl Foerster** has been appointed as new Executive Director of PlasticsEurope, the pan-European

trade association representing European plastics manufacturers. He takes over from **Wilfried Haensel**, who has served in the

position since 2007. Foerster brings to his new role nearly 30 years of experience in the chemical and plastics industry. Prior, he has been the CEO of Neochimiki Group, Athens, Greece. Before joining Neochimiki seven years ago, Foer-

ster served as Vice President at PolymerLatex and held various executive management positions during his 20 years at BASF. He has been working in nine countries in Europe, Asia, and North America.

Erken new Managing Director of Sonderhoff Chemicals

The Cologne-based German company Sonderhoff Chemicals GmbH now has a dual leadership. Effective from 1 October 2013, **Axel Erken** has been appointed as Managing Director of the company. Erken is responsible for sales, purchasing, accounting and finance, human resources and IT. Prior, he worked for eight years at Sonderhoff Holding GmbH, most recently as authorized signatory and sales manager. **Dr. Alfred Link** will continue to be responsible as Managing Director for the areas

research and development, application technology, production, and quality.



Axel Erken

Shoup wins PFA Herman Stone Technical Excellence Award

James Shoup, Senior Technical Sales Representative of Hennecke, Inc., received the Herman Stone Technical Excellence Award for the best technical presentation at the fall 2013 meeting

of the Polyurethane Foam Association (PFA). Shoup's paper focused on J-Flex, a new continuous process slabstock machine for lower volume production.



Personnel Changes at BASF

Ralph Schweens, former Managing Director of BASF Mexicana S. A., has become President of the South America regional division based in São Paulo, Brazil, effective 1 October 2013. The former head of the region **Dr. Alfred Hackenberger** retired on 30 September 2013 fol-

lowing a more than 30 year career at BASF. **Dr. Michael Stumpp**, former Senior Vice President, Global Home and Personal Care Business in the Care Chemicals division, succeeded Schweens as Managing Director of BASF Mexicana, effective 1 September 2013.