

Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Company, Inc. October 18, 2010

New Heat-resistant Bio-based Polyamide

Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Co., Inc. (MGC) has successfully developed a highly heat-resistant polyamide resin from plant-originated raw materials. The company is now starting to open up a new market for this new product.

The new polyamide resin features high heat resistance thanks to the high levels of crystallinity achieved through the optimization of the molecular structure. At the same time, it offers outstanding molding processability with a melting point below 300 degrees Celsius. With its high heatproof temperature, the new bio-based material is expected to find use in peripheral materials for LED technology, electric and electronic components that require lead-free soldering, and peripheral materials for automotive engines.

More than 50% of the polyamide's raw materials are plant-originated compounds, which puts it under the category of "biomass-based plastics" in Japan.

MGC already produces and markets MX nylon, a polyamide resin made from raw materials of its own. With a total production capacity of approximately 25,000 tons, the MGC plant in Niigata and MGC Advanced Polymers, Inc. in Virginia, USA produce this nylon, which is widely distributed for food packaging and molding applications.

In the future, the newly developed highly heat-resistant polyamide resin will be produced at multiple locations, including both sites mentioned above.

MGC's engineering plastics for molding applications are distributed through Mitsubishi Engineering-Plastics Corporation.

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