

New High Performance Additive Systems (HPS) Breakthrough

Since 2006 Techmer PM has been working diligently with a select group of customers to verify the performance of a new breakthrough in additives: an adjustable recipe for a family of compounds that can reduce cooling times while simultaneously controlling warping and shrinkage in injection-molded polyolefin parts.

After meeting or exceeding expectations in a variety of applications, the technology is now available as an option with all Techmer PM polyolefin-based color concentrates and additives. Dubbed HPS (for high performance systems), the proprietary chemistry culminates two decades of development. The original target was LDPE lids and low-profile tubs, but accelerating progress over the past two years prompted Techmer PM to expand its goals to other resins and part sizes.

"Our customers have already proved the efficacy of HPS in polypropylene, HDPE, and linear LDPE, as well as LDPE compounds," says Mark Jordan, Vice President of Sales and Marketing at Techmer PM. "They've been able to boost output by going to faster cycles while holding tighter tolerances--reducing scrap--even with minimal post-mold fixture and cooling. One customer has actually eliminated post-mold fixtures entirely."

HPS also has marketing utility. The chemistry is especially effective at controlling warping when added to blue, green, or red color additives. Those colors have inflicted such high defect rates on some parts that product designers were forced to switch colors. "With HPS, designers won't have to settle for a second-best color anymore," says Mr. Ebrahim Mor, Vice President of Technology.

Techmer PM admits that the HPS recipe is delicate. The compound works best when carefully balanced to match various customer needs and conditions, including mold fill volume, wall thickness, resin, color, and other factors. Tailored properly, the final color additive will almost always enhance productivity more than enough to offset the added cost of HPS. "In only one case has HPS failed to pay for itself," says Mr. Jordan. "I'm betting our final success rate will be 99% or better."

Techmer PM is a major producer of value-added color and additive masterbatch for the plastics and fiber industries. The company has worldwide manufacturing capabilities focusing on high-performance applications where quality, technical support, and problem solving are critical.

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