

Press Release

Sustainable foams for the mobility of tomorrow

FoamPartner introduces new OBoNature™ foam technology based on sustainable raw materials for next-generation automotive interiors

Advanced foam solutions for headliners, interior trim and seating applications demonstrate the determination with which the company is implementing its sustainability strategy.

Tomorrow's mobility is raising the bar on material requirements in terms of performance, function, efficiency and environmental compatibility. FoamPartner offers an extensive product portfolio in various densities for many applications within the automotive interior. The resulting lightweight construction can reduce manufacturing costs and extend the operating range of electrical vehicles. Higher demands on functionality and quality can also be met, with low-emission and low-odor solutions that are characterized by outstanding durability and that have been optimized for faster processing. The next step is foams that are based on sustainable raw materials without compromising performance.

“For automotive interiors with the highest quality requirements, we have developed an innovative foam technology which is marketed under the OBoNature™ brand name and targeted at encompassing solutions,” explains Klaus Hellmold, Head of Marketing & Sales Automotive Rolls Europe at FoamPartner. “The new foams are in line with the three core principles of our sustainability strategy: PLANET – Ecological Sustainability, PEOPLE – Social Sustainability, and PERFORMANCE – Economic Sustainability. This results in materials using fewer resources whilst contributing to a notably healthier interior climate and greater efficiency at optimum functionality.”

In compliance with the guiding principle of upcycling, the production of OBoNature™ uses sustainable raw materials gained from by-products in the chemical industry. This reduces the required amount of petrochemical intermediates by 20 percent. The calculated sustainable share in the final foam is greater than 13 percent. The VOC and FOG values of OBoNature™ foams are far below the current thresholds for a healthy interior climate. The foams pass FMVSS 302 flammability testing. They also offer excellent lamination for faster processing and provide good hydrolytic stability for durable lightweight components in electrical and hybrid vehicles.

FoamPartner's OBoNature™ product family currently includes three foam versions, all of them globally available, tailored to specific automotive interior applications and have been awarded with the company's proprietary Ecovative™ label. Ecovative™ stands for FoamPartner's promise 'Best in Foam – Sustainable through Innovation' and characterizes product solutions with a particularly sustainable and economic value.

OBoSky® Nature 3540 T for headliners – As an extremely elastic foam, this particularly fine-pored foam meets the highest requirements for elongation at break and tensile strength. It offers good thermoformability even in critical radii. Its homogenous cell structure and color result in optimum surface structure and appearance without undesirable 'orange peel' effects.

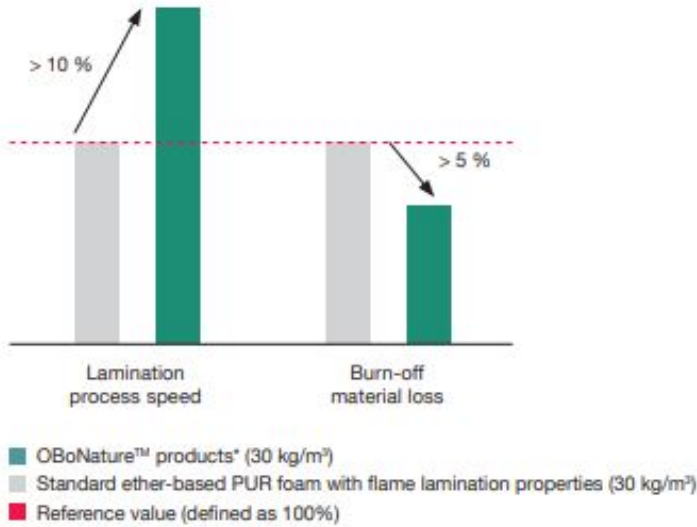
OBoTrim™ Nature 3540 T for interior trims – With slightly less finer pores, this foam stands out by its ease of processing, good elongation at break and tensile strength as well as enhanced recovery after thermal compression and is especially suitable for armrests and door panels.

OBoSeat® Nature 3540 T for seating applications – This foam can also be processed with ease. In addition, it shows good sewing properties and ensures high seating comfort even at smaller pore size, lower elongation at break and lower tensile strength.

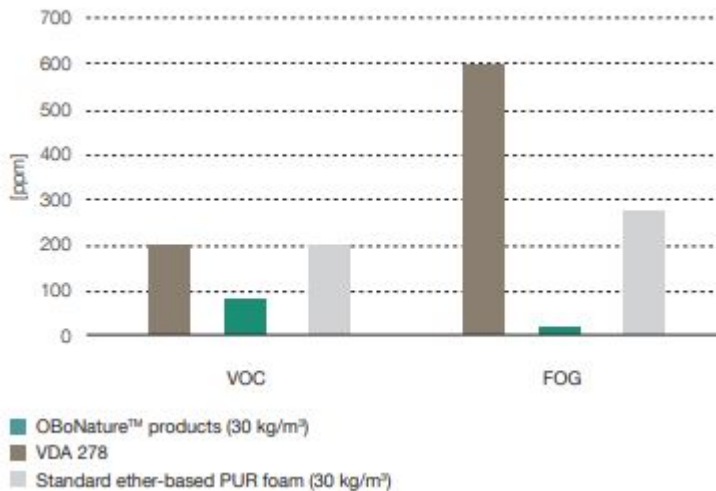
“Our OBoNature™ technology is further proof of the successful implementation of our sustainability strategy in all areas – resource saving, health protection and economic efficiency – while providing superior functionality over conventional ether-based PUR foams,” emphasizes Dr. Michael Riedel, CEO of FoamPartner. “With these characteristics, OBoSky® Nature, OBoTrim™ Nature and OBoSeat® Nature already meet the higher requirements for future automotive interior applications today.”

About FoamPartner Switzerland AG

FoamPartner, founded in 1937 and headquartered in Wolfhausen (Switzerland) and with 13 Centers of Competence across Europe, America and Asia-Pacific, is a global leader in foam technology. The company offers its customers a broad portfolio of best-in-class foam and other material solutions engineered to the highest standards of form, function and quality. More than 1,100 employees worldwide develop, manufacture, process and distribute custom-tailored polyurethane foam products focused on three market segments: Mobility, Specialties, and Living & Care. Visit www.foampartner.com for further information.



Practical testing has shown that OBoNature™ products offer significantly faster lamination than comparable ether-based PUR foams of the same material thickness, while reducing material loss and improving adhesion. (Graphic: FoamPartner)



The typical average values of volatile organic compounds (VOC) and fogging content (FOG) measured for OBoNature™ products are clearly lower than those of comparable ether-based PUR foams and also below the limits of the VDA 278. (Graphic: FoamPartner)



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Media Contact

Silvia Ziebold
Telephone: +41 55 253 6363
Mobile: +41 79 193 1849
Email: silvia.ziebold@foampartner.com

Josina van der Velden
EMG
Telephone: +31 164 317 014
Email: jvandervelden@emg-marcom.com

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Alternatively for very high resolution pictures please contact Josina van der Velden (jvandervelden@emg-marcom.com, +31 164 317 014).