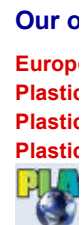


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ExxonMobil and Thong Guan packaging film

By Keith Boi

Posted 26 September 2008 10:04 am GMT

Malaysian film converter Thong Guan has launched a thin gauge stretch packaging film based on a formulation that includes the Enable metallocene polyethylene (mPE) technology introduced by ExxonMobil Chemical earlier this year.

To be commercially marketed by Thong Guan, the MaxStretch film is said to use about 40% less material without compromising on film performance and quality, while addressing sustainability concerns.

The strong and thin MaxStretch film structure allows for no pre-stretching, and the product is positioned as an ideal pallet packaging solution to secure, protect and stabilise palletised goods during transportation.

Thong Guan director, P K Ang, said: "A 12 micron MaxStretch film, for example, shows equal or better tensile strength, puncture resistance and other performance benefits than a conventional 20 micron film we have been producing."

With its main production operations based in Malaysia and China - while a new plant is starting up in Vietnam next year - Thong Guan is one of the largest packaging film manufacturers in the world with a combined annual production output in excess of 100,000tpa.

Sustainable development is said to be a key driver behind ExxonMobil's launch of its Enable mPE technology, to meet packaging film market demands for thinner gauge films while improving performance.

ExxonMobil Chemical's global PE market development manager, Dave McConville, said: "Enable mPE formulated films can be made much thinner than conventional films, yet still retains its mechanical strength with high stiffness and stretch resistance."

He added: "The film facilitates more efficient packaging operations, eliminates the need for multiple wraps, and results in more secure loads and less damage in transit."

The downgauging potential of the new product has already helped Thong Guan garner interest in the MaxStretch film, from companies such as Australian packaging firm Signet.




"The Australian market is driving towards premium, light gauge films for environmental and occupational safety reasons," said Signet managing director Mark Brennan.

"This unique film from Thong Guan allows our customers to reduce the amount of plastic packaging used as well as provide employees with lighter rolls in the wrapping process. The overall wrapping cost is also significantly reduced, making this a win-win solution for all involved."

* Keith Boi is the editor of Asian Plastics News.

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