

For More Recycling

ChemCycling Project

Storopack unveils prototypes made from Styropor® Cycled, the new chemically recycled raw material

Metzingen, September 2019. High-quality protective packaging can be produced using the raw material sourced from chemical recycling, which protective packaging specialist Storopack demonstrated during the pilot phase of BASF's ChemCycling project. At a press conference just before K 2019, the world's largest trade fair for the plastics and rubber industry, Storopack introduced the first prototypes of this project along with BASF and the three other partner companies – Jaguar Land Rover, Südpack, and Schneider Electric – at the beginning of July. BASF selected Storopack to test the new raw material in the production of EPS packaging, which Storopack used to manufacture a prequalified system solution for the transport of temperature sensitive pharmaceutical products as well as an innovative insulated box for the transport of foods such as fresh fish. Both prototypes are top performers across the line, offering the same high level of quality as Storopack packaging solutions produced from conventional EPS. They also fulfill the demanding hygiene requirements and guarantee food-safe application.

Breaking New Ground in the Circular Economy

“What really won us over was the fact that Styropor® Cycled can be used in food packaging. There's already a variety of recycling options for Styropor®, and ChemCycling can further increase the recycling volume,” says Hermann Reichenecker, Executive Director at Storopack. The ChemCycling process extracts syngas or pyrolysis oil from mixed plastic waste. Both can then be used as a raw material for the chemical industry, for example, to produce Styropor® Cycled, which offers an alternative to conventional EPS in the production of protective packaging. Chemical recycling thus represents a more sustainable alternative to incineration and landfill, which is still permitted in some European countries. “As a result, ChemCycling also makes it possible to recycle styrofoam packaging mixed with other or contaminated plastics. Alongside mechanical recycling, ChemCycling can also help to close the materials cycle,” says Klaus Ries, Vice President of Global Business Management, Styrenic Foams, at BASF. The products are eco-loop-certified – proof that they contribute to the circular economy by using plastic waste in the production process. Storopack and BASF are thus breaking new ground together when it comes to reusing plastics. But

between the pilot phase and market maturity, technological and economical aspects and regulatory matters need to be clarified. “We hope that chemical recycling and mass balance approaches can be incorporated into the calculation of recycling goals and rates as soon as possible, as this is the only way to sensibly and permanently increase recycling rates without sacrificing quality,” adds Ries.

For Storopack, the focus is on sustainability and resource-saving production. The protective packaging specialist is committed to a high share of recycled materials in as many products as possible, as well as high recyclability. “We already generate approximately 25 percent of our sales with products made from recycled or renewable raw materials,” says Hermann Reichenecker. Storopack is also involved in initiatives to combat plastic waste such as the Alliance to End Plastic Waste, Big Blue Ocean Cleanup, and Operation Clean Sweep.



Insulated boxes and fish boxes made from chemically recycled material offer the same high level of quality as Storopack packaging solutions for food transport that are produced from conventional EPS. **Image: Storopack**



Prequalified system solutions made from Styropor® Cycled fulfill the demanding hygiene and quality requirements that are essential when it comes to transporting vital medications. **Image: Storopack**



ChemCycling – the recycling method of the future: from household recycling to the transport of medications and foods, Storopack and BASF are breaking new ground together when it comes to reusing plastics. **Image: Storopack**

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About Storopack

Storopack was founded as a family business in 1874 and has operated as Storopack Hans Reichenecker GmbH based in Metzingen, Germany, since 1959. As a specialist for protective packaging, the globally active company group Storopack is organised in the two business areas of Molding and Packaging. The Molding division, with certified production locations in Europe and China, supplies made-to-measure protective packaging and technical form parts in expanded foams for various areas of industry. The Packaging division supplies flexibly applicable protective packaging with air cushions, paper pads, PU foam packaging systems and pourable padding materials and is represented by its own production locations and branch offices in Europe, North America, South America, Asia and Australia. 2,520 members of staff work for Storopack worldwide. In the year 2018, Storopack generated sales of 476 million Euros. The products are available in more than 50 countries. Further information on www.storopack.com

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