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Joint News Release by Dunlop Sport and BASF

**Dunlop and BASF create revolutionary Power Flex technology for padel bats**

- Power Flex technology incorporates Infinergy® from BASF
- High performance padel racket is more powerful, more comfortable and more durable
- Juani Mieres will play the new Dunlop Blast model, powered by Infinergy® in 2016

Dunlop, internationally renowned racket sports brand and market leader in padel bats in Spain, and BASF, the world's leading chemical company, have developed a new technology that marks a breakthrough in padel bat performance.

The new technology **Power Flex** consists of the application of a revolutionary material developed by BASF: Infinergy®. The world's first expanded thermoplastic polyurethane (E-TPU) is applied to the core of the padel bat. Its unique elastic properties and extraordinary resilience offer clear advantages in playability and durability of the bat.

The Infinergy® material from BASF is as elastic as rubber but lighter. As such, it provides the optimal weight parameters. The high elasticity of the material delivers explosive power and greater comfort as balls rebound faster off the bat.

At the same time, Infinergy® is an extremely durable material and maintains its properties across a broad range of temperatures. As a result, the durability of the bat in optimal condition is extended, and the bat performs exceptionally in all weather conditions, maintaining its performance in temperatures as low as -20°C to well above 40°C.

After almost two years of cooperation and development between both companies, and numerous tests performed by members of the Dunlop Team of players and coaches, including current World Champion Juani Mieres, the first **Power Flex** bats will be launched as part of the Dunlop Padel 2016 collection.

“The **Power Flex** technology represents a giant step forward in the performance of the padel bat and at Dunlop we are delighted to be the chosen partner of BASF for padel and to have managed to develop this revolutionary breakthrough together,” said Richard Jackson, Head of Marketing for Dunlop Padel.

“We are very excited about the development of the **Power Flex** technology using our Infinergy® E-TPU. The partnership with Dunlop allows us to introduce our know-how and expertise in a new application area in cooperation with a market-leading specialist brand,” said Andy Postlethwaite, Senior Vice President, Performance Materials Asia Pacific, BASF.

The star product from the new Dunlop Padel collection for 2016 is the model Dunlop Blast, the new bat of choice for Juani Mieres on the professional circuit. It offers an oversize hybrid head shape with a large sweet spot and incorporates *Aeroframe* with the aerodynamic frame profile for faster reaction on defensive shots and greater swing speed on attacking shots. *Vibro Pods* with silicon pods inserted into the frame around the hitting area absorb vibrations and offer greater comfort and *100% Carbon* with a carbon reinforcement in the base of the bat for greater stability and superior control.

In combination with the new **Power Flex** technology that provides extra power, comfort and durability, the new Dunlop Blast is one of the outstanding padel bats models for the 2016 season.

#### **About Dunlop**

The Dunlop Slazenger Group has over 100 years' experience in developing, producing and marketing high performance equipment for great variety of sports. Internationally renowned as a racketsports company, Dunlop excels worldwide in both tennis and squash as well as holding leadership position in fast-developing sports including Padel. With over 20 years' experience in the padel market, Dunlop has consistently pushed the boundaries of product performance incorporating new geometrical structures, new technologies and new materials in order to offer market-leading equipment for players of all levels.

#### **About BASF's Performance Materials Division**

BASF's Performance Materials division encompasses the entire materials know-how of BASF regarding innovative, customized plastics under one roof. Globally active in four major industry sectors - transportation, construction, industrial applications and consumer goods – the division has a strong portfolio of products and services combined with a deep understanding of application-oriented system solutions. Key drivers of profitability and growth are our close collaboration with customers and a clear focus on solutions. Strong capabilities in R&D provide the basis to develop innovative products and applications. In 2014, the Performance Materials division achieved global sales of € 6.5 bn.

More information online: [www.performance-materials.basf.com](http://www.performance-materials.basf.com) and [www.infinergy.basf.com](http://www.infinergy.basf.com)

## **About BASF**

At BASF, we create chemistry – and have been doing so for 150 years. Our portfolio ranges from chemicals, plastics, performance products and crop protection products to oil and gas. As the world's leading chemical company, we combine economic success with environmental protection and social responsibility. Through science and innovation, we enable our customers in nearly every industry to meet the current and future needs of society. Our products and solutions contribute to conserving resources, ensuring nutrition and improving quality of life. We have summed up this contribution in our corporate purpose: We create chemistry for a sustainable future. BASF had sales of over €74 billion in 2014 and around 113,000 employees as of the end of the year. BASF shares are traded on the stock exchanges in Frankfurt (BAS), London (BFA) and Zurich (AN). Further information on BASF is available on the Internet at [www.basf.com](http://www.basf.com).

## **More information on the emerging sport Padel:**

<http://www.britishpadel.co.uk/Page.aspx?id=80>

### **Press contact at Dunlop Slazenger**

Richard Jackson

[richard.jackson@dsil.net](mailto:richard.jackson@dsil.net)

Dunlop Slazenger Int. Ltd.

Tel: +34 93 544 14 09 Fax: 93 589 25 76

### **Press contact at BASF SE**

Jutta Schmidt – Communications Performance Materials

Tel.: + 49 (0)621 60 42242

Email: [jutta.schmidt@basf.com](mailto:jutta.schmidt@basf.com)