

News Release



BASF at the A+A 2017 in Düsseldorf: Ideal materials for safety shoes

- **Advanced PU Systems (Elastopan®) for boots**
- **Elastollan® Safety - the TPU for work and safety shoe outsoles**

This year, BASF, the world market leading chemical company, presents its updated polyurethane (PU) systems and thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU) portfolio for work and safety shoes at the A+A 2017, the international trade fair for occupational health and safety in Düsseldorf. The company's experts invite all visitors to inform themselves about BASF solutions in footwear materials at booth K32 in hall 5 from October 17th to 20th, 2017.

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Meet us at A&A 2017,
Düsseldorf
October, 17-20, 2017
Hall 5, booth K32

ESR compatible boots system powering Bekina® Boots, Belgium

Driven by Bekina® Boots, the leading company in PU boots for all kind of professional and leisure purposes, BASF developed a special material for an outstanding ESR (electric shock resistant) boot, the first ESR boot made with PU systems instead of rubber or PVC. Bekina® Boots, known to have the highest standards regarding comfort, design, quality, safety and certifications in their Neotane® Technology and always seeking for technically advanced solutions, came up with this high innovative approach – ESR compatible material solution based on PU systems.

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“On top of the best-in-class properties which define a pair of Bekina® boots made with Neotane® Technology, in terms of comfort, light weight, insulation, slip resistance and flexibility even at very low temperatures (-20°C), the request was to develop an electric shock resistant material. Hand in hand with Bekina® Boots, who invested in state of the art testing equipment, and driven by their deep market knowledge, our technical colleagues met the target thanks to their strong expertise and their commitment” states Patrick Bolze, Marketing Manager Footwear/Sports/Leisure at BASF Performance Materials. Peter Bauwens, CEO Bekina® Boots, adds: “Our partnership with BASF based on mutual cooperation and joint investment in R&D serves our market driven approach. Our product leadership aims to offer the highest possible comfort to our end users.”

Winter boots system

Besides it has been possible to expand the range of Elastopan® products for boots further and obtain even better performance. In addition to Elastopan® for standard boots BASF offers a new PU system especially suited for winter boots. This product has outstanding properties regarding insulation, lightness and the leg remains flexible, even at -20°C resulting in a better wear comfort even at extreme weather conditions.

Elastollan® Safety – the TPU developed for safety shoes

Excellent mechanical properties like mechanical strength, abrasion resistance, a broad hardness range and a good slip resistance – that is what Elastollan® stands for. Therefore, they are used for safety shoe soles produced by injection molding or casted within PU direct injection process. Our tailor-made Elastollan® portfolio for safety shoes is equipped with antistatic agents to achieve ESD requirements according to safety shoe standards. Non ESD products are also available.

The Elastollan® Safety product range offers in addition an enormous possibility of design freedom. The color and the shape of the sole could be chosen depending on the shoe design, even for multicolor outsoles. Additionally, in combination with well-defined and tailor-made sole geometries, good slip resistance could be achieved. The adhesion between Elastollan® TPU and Elastopan® PU systems offers designers an outstanding balance of comfort and safety.

About Bekina:

Bekina® Boots specialise in the development, production and marketing of work boots made with Neotane® Technology. Bekina® Boots are used in various sectors such as agriculture, food processing, industry, oil and gas, fishery etc. These niche markets demand quality, durable, safe and comfortable products with an excellent price-quality ratio for intensive professional use. Established in 1962 in Kluisbergen (BE), Bekina® Boots have gained over 55 years of experience and have now grown into a leading international safety boot innovator.

More information on www.bekina-boots.com

About BASF

At BASF, we create chemistry for a sustainable future. We combine economic success with environmental protection and social responsibility. The approximately 114,000 employees in the BASF Group work on contributing to the success of our customers in nearly all sectors and almost every country in the world. Our portfolio is organized into five segments: Chemicals, Performance Products, Functional Materials & Solutions, Agricultural Solutions and Oil & Gas. BASF generated sales of about €58 billion in 2016. BASF shares are traded on the stock exchanges in Frankfurt (BAS), London (BFA) and Zurich (BAS). Further information at www.basf.com.