



**BOREALIS**

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**Borouge**



**Media Release**

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## **Borealis underscores its global commitment to the automotive industry**

### **Major capacity increase for automotive compounds introduced in North America**

- New Borealis polypropylene (PP) compounding plant in North America has successfully started up during Q1 2019
- Site at Taylorsville, North Carolina, will significantly strengthen Borealis and Borouge's global supply capability for thermoplastic polyolefin (TPO) and short glass fibre (SGF) compounds
- Innovative 10 percent mineral filled Daplen™ low-density modified PP for lightweight, aesthetic and low-emission automotive interiors on the road in ŠKODA's new SCALA compact car

Borealis and Borouge have announced that the new compounding plant of Borealis in Taylorsville, North Carolina, has come on stream during Q1 2019 as planned, with the inauguration of the facility scheduled for 16 May 2019. With dedicated production lines for thermoplastic olefin (TPO) and short glass fibre (SGF) reinforced compounds, the plant is ideally located in the southeast of the United States to meet the growing needs of original equipment manufacturers (OEM) and Tier 1 customers in the region for advanced polypropylene (PP) solutions, while adding another 30 kt to Borealis and Borouge's global PP compounding capacity. The 50,000 square foot facility, with rail siding in place, offers further expansion possibilities to meet the growing demand of customers.

"With the commercial and product development personnel well out of the starting blocks, our North American automotive team is set to drive the further growth of our automotive business in North America," says Lucrece Foufopoulos, Executive Vice President Polyolefins and Innovation & Technology, Borealis. "Following the plant's mechanical completion in December, first samples were shipped in February, and several projects with leading North American and European OEMs have already been secured."

The new plant is an important addition to the global network of Borealis and Borouge's established compounding plants in Europe, China and Brazil. Among the first products manufactured at the plant, are automotive interior and exterior materials approved and listed by major automotive customers, including Daimler and Volkswagen Group.

In line with the company's strong commitment to automotive engineering, Borealis has also added an advanced new material to its low-density polypropylene portfolio for interior applications, Daplen™ EE058AI. "The 10 percent talcum filled and elastomer-modified high-purity grade is designed to meet the latest OEM requirements for automotive interior applications with low odour, emission and fogging levels, while offering significant weight savings," explains Nicholas Kolesch, Head of Automotive Marketing for Borealis. "It combines an excellent balance of stiffness and impact strength with class A aesthetic surfaces and high scratch resistance."

The innovative new Daplen EE058AI grade targets global approvals, is available in all Borealis and Borouge sales regions, and will be featured at the upcoming VDI Plastics in Automotive Engineering (PIAE) congress at the Rosengarten Congress Centre in Mannheim, Germany, from 03-04 April 2019. Borealis, a Gold Sponsor of the conference, will show various first commercial interior applications, including lower dashboard, glove box and centre console mouldings used in the new ŠKODA SCALA compact car as well as in the automaker's new Kamiq urban sports utility vehicle.

"We have successfully been using existing Daplen products in similar components before, but the new EE058AI grade offers unprecedented weight savings of up to 6.5 percent without compromising performance, which helps us lower our carbon footprint to meet committed fleet emission levels," adds Luděk Bělka, Coordinator Development Dashboard for ŠKODA. Borealis Daplen and Fibremod long glass fibre thermoplastic materials are also used in further SCALA parts, from the interior door panels and dashboard carrier to the front-end module.



Photo: Borealis' new polypropylene compounding plant in Taylorsville, North Carolina, US.  
Photo: © Borealis



Photo: Borealis Daplen™ EE058AI grade used in parts of the new ŠKODA SCALA offers weight savings without compromising performance  
Photo: ŠKODA Auto

The lower dashboard, glove box and centre console of the new ŠKODA SCALA are moulded in Daplen™ EE058AI, a low density 10 percent talcum filled and elastomer modified polypropylene compound from Borealis, enabling weight savings of 6.5 percent over the previous 20 percent talc solution.

Borealis' new PP compounding plant at Taylorsville, North Carolina, adds 30 kt to the company's global production capacity for automotive thermoplastic olefin and short glass fibre reinforced material grades.

Visit us at the PIAE Europe, 03-04 April 2019 in Mannheim, Germany – Ground floor, stand 63.

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**About Borealis Automotive: Driving Tomorrow**

For over 50 years, Borealis has been a leading supplier of innovative polyolefin plastic materials for engineering applications in the automotive industry. Using its unique and proprietary Borstar® technology and its Fibremod™ post-reactor technology for fibre reinforced polypropylene (PP) compounds, Borealis delivers ideal replacement solutions for conventional materials such as metal, rubber and engineering polymers. Borealis continues to discover new material solutions which help facilitate lightweight construction and thus play an important role in enhancing energy efficiency. In automotive vehicles, Borealis' leading-edge polyolefin plastic materials are used in a wide range of exterior, interior, and under-the-bonnet applications, including bumpers, body panels, trims, dashboards, door claddings, climate control and cooling systems, air intake manifolds and battery cases.

**About Borealis and Borouge**

Borealis is a leading provider of innovative solutions in the fields of polyolefins, base chemicals and fertilizers. With its head office in Vienna, Austria, the company currently has around 6,800 employees and operates in over 120 countries. Borealis generated EUR 8,3 billion in sales revenue and a net profit of EUR 906 million in 2018. Mubadala, through its holding company, owns 64% of the company, with the remaining 36% belonging to Austria-based OMV, an integrated, international oil and gas company. Borealis provides services and products to customers around the world in collaboration with Borouge, a joint venture with the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC).

Borealis and Borouge aim to proactively benefit society by taking on real societal challenges and offering real solutions. Both companies are committed to the principles of Responsible Care®, an initiative to improve safety performance within the chemical industry, and work to solve the world's water and sanitation challenges through product innovation and their Water for the World programme.

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