

PRESS RELEASE

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CIGRE 2010

WACKER Showcases UV-Activated Curing of Silicone Rubber for High-Voltage Applications

Munich, August 23, 2010 – At CIGRE 2010 (Conseil International des Grand Reseaux Électriques), WACKER, the Munich-based chemical group, will be introducing a new silicone curing technology for applications in the transmission and distribution industry called POWERSIL® UV. The curing of the new UV activated silicone elastomer is initiated by brief irradiation with ultraviolet light. After that, the curing process proceeds independently at room temperature. The new technology allows for flexible and cost-efficient silicone processing. CIGRE 2010 takes place from August 23 to 27 in Paris, France.

A technology with a proven track record in the electronics industry has good prospects of repeating its success in high-voltage engineering: WACKER's new UV-activated curing technology. In contrast to conventional silicone elastomers, which cure at elevated temperatures, curing of these novel silicones is activated by irradiation with UV light, whereupon the crosslinking reaction starts. It then proceeds without any further aid.

The technology has numerous advantages: UV-silicones cure rapidly and their process parameters can be adjusted to the users' requirements. Also, no byproducts are released. WACKER has now incorporated this innovative technology into its POWERSIL® UV

series making these advantages available to the transmission and distribution industry.

Silicone elastomers are ideal insulating materials for high-voltage applications and are used, e.g. in combinations with glass-fiber-reinforced epoxy resin, to manufacture long-rod and hollow insulators. Other important applications include cable accessories, surge arresters and bushings. They take advantage of the material's excellent electrical and hydrophobic properties, as well as its weathering stability.

POWERSIL® UV silicone elastomers for the T&D industry not only offer developers high production speeds. As UV-active silicones, they also cure rapidly at room temperature, allowing for energy- and cost-efficient processing.

Visit WACKER at CIGRE 2010 at Booth 38.



At CIGRE 2010, WACKER will be showcasing POWERSIL® UV, a silicone elastomer for the transportation and distribution industry. Curing is initiated by irradiation with ultraviolet light and proceeds at room temperature. The curing rate can be adjusted by simply changing the process parameters. (Photo: Wacker Chemie AG)

Note:

This photo is available for download at:

<http://www.wacker.com/pressreleases>

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The company in brief:

WACKER is a globally-active chemical company with some 15,600 employees and annual sales of around €3.7 billion (2009).
WACKER has 26 production sites and over 100 sales offices worldwide.

WACKER SILICONES

Silicone fluids, emulsions, rubber and resins; silanes; pyrogenic silicas; thermoplastic silicone elastomers

WACKER POLYMERS

Polyvinyl acetate and vinyl acetate copolymers in the form of dispersible polymer powders, dispersions and solid resins used as binders for construction chemicals, coatings, adhesives, paints, plasters and nonwovens

WACKER BIOSOLUTIONS

Biotech products, such as cyclodextrins, cysteine and biologics, as well as fine chemicals and polyvinyl acetate solid resins

WACKER POLYSILICON

Polysilicon for the semiconductor and photovoltaics industries

Siltronic

Hyperpure silicon wafers and monocrystals for semiconductor devices