



CURRENT TRENDS

**ROMIRA:
IN ACTION FOR AN
IMPROVED INDOOR CLIMATE**
> PAGE 03

> Page 03 **ROMIRA**
New high performance thermoplastic

> Page 07 **ROWA Masterbatch**
Laser without color loss: metallic colorants

CONTENT

TRAMACO

> **02** New adhesion promoter for PET > **02** EcoVadis: Gold-Certificate

ROMIRA

> **03** ROTEC® ABS from ROMIRA in action for an improved indoor climate > **03** High performance ROMITRON® PPS with improved thermal stability > **04** ROTEC® HPPA – A new high performance metal replacement

ROWASOL

> **05** Sustainable portfolio expansion at ROWASOL: New solutions for reusable containers and sample packs

ROWA LACK

> **06** ROWAFLON® UV protection primer - now also for colored substrates > **06** Techtextil 2022 with ROWA Lack and TRAMACO

ROWA MASTERBATCH

> **07** Pantone Color of the Year > **07** Laser without color loss! Decorative laser treatment using metallic masterbatches

ROWA KOREA

> **08** New start after a heartbreaking loss

ROWA GROUP

> **08** A special thank you for more than three decades > **08** Trade fairs 2022



Kai Müller
CEO
ROWA GROUP

Dear Business Partners,
dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

we live in unpredictable times, which not only lead to uncertainty in the markets, but also impacts on us as individuals at a human level. We at the ROWA GROUP are economically and personally concerned about global events. We would have liked to have believed the easing tendencies in material supply announced in January would have continued, but unfortunately this development did not last.

Even if we are not yet able to give the all-clear, we are in a good position within our group of companies because we are continuing our successful preventive measures to ensure the best possible ability to deliver. Due to our international orientation, we are well established with customers, industries, products and raw materials and have always taken measures to make ourselves more independent. We plan the purchase of materials prudently and have been filling our warehouses with products and raw materials that are essential for our long-served customers so that we can continue to be a reliable partner in these challenging times.

But we don't just value flexibility and independence on a large scale. We are continuously working on becoming greener and more sustainable as well: through changes in processes and systems, we managed to achieve 7% savings in energy consumption per tonne produced in 2021. In addition, we are in the concrete planning of a PV system on the roofs of the production in Pinneberg and at the Seevetal site as well as a solar thermal system including a heat pump. In this context, I am particularly pleased that several companies of the ROWA GROUP have already successfully participated in the EcoVadis Corporate Social Responsibility Rating and received awards. Details can be found in the adjacent article.

So there are numerous topics that we would like to share with you personally at one of the upcoming trade fairs. You are cordially invited and the employees of the ROWA GROUP are looking forward to your visit, for example at the KUTENO in May, the Techtexil in June and at the K trade fair in October.

With best regards,

Your Kai Müller

IMPRINT

Published by ROWA GROUP Holding GmbH
Siemensstraße 1-9 | 25421 Pinneberg
V.i.S.d.P.: Kai Müller

Edited by Menyesch Public Relations GmbH

Grafic design foersterdesign.com

Print Print & More Piffrement

Credits Shutterstock, Unsplash: Jorg Angeli, Dream Capture Photography, Georgio Trovato, Konrad Bednarek

Tramaco

NEW ADHESION PROMOTER FOR PET



Trapylene and Trapur have been known to provide excellent adhesion to the difficult to adhere plastics polypropylene (PP) and polyethylene (PE). These adhesion promoters (also perform effectively on many other plastics) are used in application such as films and foils or coatings for molded parts.

TRAMACO's product portfolio is now complemented by a further primer. The granulate Trapylen 905 S is an acrylate-modified polyolefin that has outstanding adhesion-promoting properties for PET (polyethylene terephthalate).



PET is experiencing ever greater popularity, and more and more applications for recycled PET are also being identified. Recycled PET is used in the production of drinking bottles as well as foils and films, for example.

When pre-treatment methods to increase surface tension such as corona, plasma or flame treatment

cannot be undertaken, adhesion additives have to be added to the inks in order to achieve the required adhesion to the PET.

Trapylene 905 S is a solid resin and can be dissolved in aromatics such as xylene or other solvents such as naphtha. Such solution is suitable as a primer in film application to allow printing or bonding.

Trapylen 905 S has a considerably superior adhesion power compared to other primers, particularly in the field of film applications. The high molecular weight of 905 S provides significantly improved resistance to alcohols compared to other products currently on the market.

If you have any questions regarding our new product, please feel free to give us a call or send an email to primer@tramaco.de. ■

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ECOVADIS: GOLD-CERTIFICATE

EcoVadis carries out a Corporate Social Responsibility Rating for another company of ROWA GROUP and awards the Gold-Certificate to TRAMACO.

Since 1973 TRAMACO has developed continuously and has always innovatively and successfully faced the requirements of the markets, the technical progress and its responsibility towards employees and customers to ensure long-term success.

Tramaco consequently follows this course by participating in the EcoVadis Corporate Responsibility (CSR) Rating and thus opts for a transparent and a traceable presentation of its own sustainable progress. As a result TRAMACO creates added value for its business partners within the supply chain. The annual review in the platform, which features environment, labor & human rights, ethics and sustainable procurement, shows the realisation and achievement of self-imposed goals.

The achievement of the Gold certificate for TRAMACO as a medium sized company is explained not only by its own history but by virtue of the future oriented policies of the ROWA GROUP companies, which have set conditions and have determined corporate principles as a framework for a future oriented sustainable and successful development.



In addition to ROWA Masterbatch, which has silver status, the sister company ROWA Lack GmbH also received a silver medal for the third time in a row and is continuously improving its rating toward gold.

TRAMACO has chosen a qualified partner in EcoVadis for the CSR Rating. In the beginning of December 2021 EcoVadis was awarded with the "Deutsche Nachhaltigkeitspreis" (German Sustainability Award) for its industry-specific CSR Rating in the supply chain field. ■

Socket strip with that certain something extra

ROTEC® ABS FROM ROMIRA IN ACTION FOR AN IMPROVED INDOOR CLIMATE

Order, structure and, last but not least, a comfortable room climate are key factors for a pleasant and efficient workplace - whether an open-plan or individual office, within the company or in a home office. The issue of office design has been of great interest in recent years, in particular due to new work concepts such as agile working and the increased use of home offices.



In this context, a functional and simultaneously attractive design is in high demand, as it serves to enhance the well-being of employees and users. People who are comfortable in their working environment achieve improved concentration and are more productive in their work. Ergonomic desk furniture, optimal lighting and modern office supplies all contribute to the ideal arrangement and alignment of the workplace.

An innovative example of a contemporary office device is the „Netbox Leaf+“ from A&H Meyer, which is produced with ROTEC® ABS 1001 FR V0/5 from ROMIRA. The „Netbox Leaf+“ is a unique socket strip featuring several extras in addition to its typical function: Besides the connections for power, it not only has connections for USB, network, audio and video - the Leaf+ can also be equipped with a module for air purification, the so-called „IonCloud“, providing a valuable contribution for a cleaner and healthier room climate.

A&H Meyer modeled the development of „IonCloud“ on nature, where anions are responsible for the purity of the air: Negatively charged oxygen atoms are distributed in the air, eliminating or neutralizing up to 95 % of pollutants, such as bacteria, pollen and viruses. As a result, „IonCloud“ provides a protective bubble comparable to the efficiency of an FFP2 protective mask.

The effectiveness of the negative-ions with anions, against Covid-19 aerosols for example, has been confirmed by expert opinion from the University of Leipzig. As well as the clean air, „IonCloud“ is also highly impressive in that, unlike conventional air filters, it operates without a fan or filter, consequently providing its users with noise-free and maintenance-free operation.

A&H Meyer is the only supplier of a socket of this type and, with ROMIRA, has the ideal material partner for manufacturing right at its side: ROTEC® ABS 1001 FR

V0/5 lends itself very well to further processing and is excellently suited for applications such as this. It is an easy-flowing, flame-retardant injection molding grade that is UL-listed with V-0 in all color variants.

The ROMIRA team will be happy to provide you with further information on this subject, also in cooperation with A&H Meyer if required. ■

www.ah-meyer.de



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HIGH PERFORMANCE ROMITRON® PPS WITH IMPROVED THERMAL STABILITY

ROMIRA adds new ROMITRON® PPS compounds with improved thermal stability to its standard PPS product portfolio for demanding applications.



ROMITRON® PPS

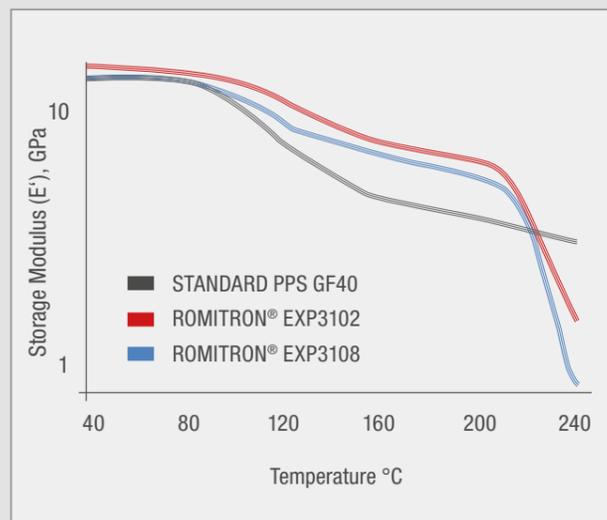
- HIGH TEMPERATURE RESISTANCE (210 °C CONTINUOUSLY)**
- EXCEPTIONAL CHEMICAL RESISTANCE**
- EXCELLENT MECHANICAL STRENGTH**
- INHERENT FLAME RETARDANT**
- ELECTRICAL INSULATION PROPERTIES**
- DIMENSIONAL STABILITY**

Polyphenylene sulfide (PPS) is a high performance thermoplastic characterized by a combination of properties ranging from high temperature resistance to dimensional stability and excellent electrical insulation properties. Different standard ROMITRON® PPS compounds were recently offered by ROMIRA with a variety of characteristics such as high flow, elastomer-improved, low warpage, low mold flash, etc. This allows meeting a wide range of the customer requirements in different sectors from automotive to electronics and home appliance.

PPS reinforced with 40 % glass fiber (PPS GF40) is the main grade in the market that is widely used as it offers

an excellent combination of strength, heat and chemical resistance. In particular, it is well suited for applications where long-term heat resistance is required (up to 210 °C continuously).

Although the standard grade PPS GF40 has very high continuous service temperature, like any other polymer, decrease in strength and rigidity occurs at elevated temperatures. The change in properties commence at temperatures higher than glass transition temperature (T_g) of PPS. This can limit the use of PPS GF40 compounds for the applications that high thermal stability is required. Other high performance polymers with higher T_g might be considered to be used, however, they are costly and special processing condition or tools need to be utilized.



To fill the above mentioned performance gap, new ROMITRON® EXP3102 and EXP3108 grades have been developed with improved thermal stability. These grades are PPS GF40 blends, exhibiting higher storage modulus than standard PPS GF40 at temperatures above 100 °C (Please see test results in the diagram). The higher storage modulus proves the ability of these grades to retain properties at high temperatures. Exemplary application can be high heat lighting systems/components where high stiffness and dimensional stability at a range of temperatures is mandatory. ■

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ROTEC® HPPA – A NEW HIGH PERFORMANCE METAL REPLACEMENT

After successful introduction of ROMITRON® PPS, ROMIRA now offers ROTEC® HPPA as a new high performance product for metal replacement. While ROMITRON® PPS takes ROMIRA to the top of polymer pyramid from heat resistance point of view, the newly developed ROTEC® HPPA positions ROMIRA at the top when it comes to strength and performance.

Polyamides (PA) compounds have a lot of industrial applications and are well spread in almost all key industries from automotive and consumer products to electronics and medical/healthcare sectors. Although standard PA compounds (e.g. PA6 and PA66) have found their way into expansive industries still their high level of moisture absorption remains as a main concern.

Basically, moisture absorption results in remarkable degradation of mechanical, thermal, and chemical properties of the PA parts over their service period. High-end fully aromatic polyamides with less moisture absorption are considered as a solution; however, they are costly and sometimes special processing condition need to be conducted.

The newly developed ROTEC® HPPA is a high performance polyamide that fills the process and performance gap between standard polyamides and the high-end aromatic polyamides. ROTEC® HPPA contains an aromatic ring in its main chain that provides superior advantages, mainly higher strength and slower rate of moisture absorption. These make ROTEC® HPPA well-suited for variety of applications; especially cost-effective alternative to metals due to its high strength to weight ratio.

ROTEC® HPPA CHARACTERISTICS:

- > A unique combination of metal-like strength and aesthetics
- > Very high rigidity and resistance to mechanical stresses
- > Excellent flowability; suitable for very thin wall parts or injection of large structural parts
- > Low thermal expansion
- > Very smooth and high gloss surface even with high glass fiber content; suitable for painting, metallization or producing naturally shiny parts



As a high performance replacement for metal, ROTEC® HPPA is used for gas and brake pedals, among other things.

ROTEC® HPPA ADVANTAGES OVER STANDARD PA6 AND PA66 POLYAMIDES:

- > Up to 60 % slower rate of moisture absorption
- > Up to 30 % stronger, and higher rigidity
- > Better chemical resistance
- > Less change in weight/dimension over service period
- > Higher surface quality

ROTEC® HPPA APPLICATION AREAS

- > Automotive: exterior and interior parts such as mirror housings, door handles, headlamp surrounds, clutch pedals & cylinders
- > Aviation: lightweight structural components
- > Leisure/sports: lightweight accessories, sport bicycle frame and components, skiing bindings
- > Appliances: vacuum cleaner motor supports & levers, shaver heads
- > E&E: induction motor supports and safety switches, coil bobbins, stator cores

THE BELOW TABLE COMPARES PROPERTIES OF ROTEC® HPPA GF50 (REINFORCED WITH 50 % GLASS FIBER) WITH STANDARD POLYAMIDES.

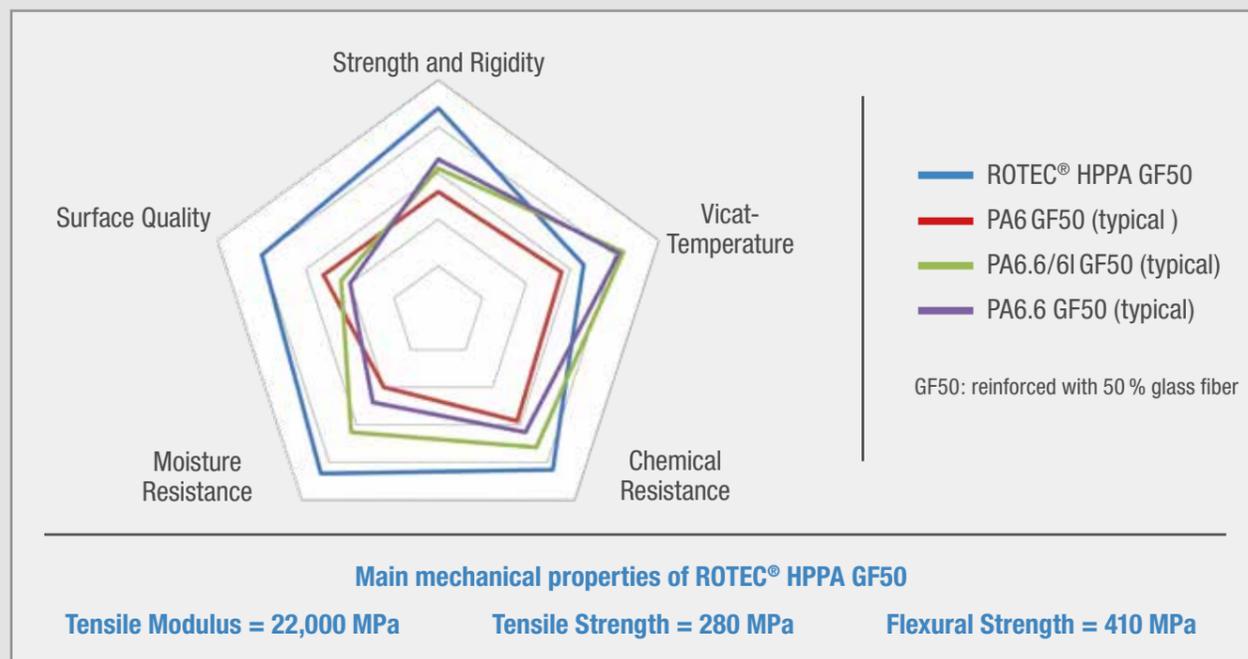
PROPERTIES	PA6 GF50 (TYPICAL)	PA66 GF50 (TYPICAL)	ROTEC® HPPA GF50
Water absorption % (24 hr)	0.5	0.4	0.17
Water absorption (saturated)	4.5	3.7	1.4
Flexural Strength (MPa)	320	350	410
Tensile Modulus (MPa)	16,000	16,500	22,000
Tensile Strength (MPa)	220	230	280



The high strength and rigidity of ROTEC® HPPA GF50 makes it possible to reduce weight through decrease of part thickness. In addition, ROTEC® HPPA GF50 (density 1.65 g/cm³) possesses very low thermal expansion close to that of aluminum (density 2.70 g/cm³) and zinc alloys.

The combination of strength and low thermal expansion allows ROTEC® HPPA

GF50 to be served as a true metal replacement solution and insert molding with metals applications. ■



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Sustainable portfolio expansion at ROWASOL: NEW SOLUTIONS FOR REUSABLE CONTAINERS AND SAMPLE PACKS

**NEW
DEVELOP
MENT**

With the COLOR CUBE for liquid colors, ROWASOL set a milestone four years ago in the avoidance of packaging waste for small containers. In order to take even more account of the sustainability concept, the portfolio of reusable packaging is being extended downwards.



For applications with lower color consumption or where the mass to be lifted is limited for ergonomic reasons, a solid ten-liter tinplate pail with clamping ring from Kiewe Technologies is now being used. A pull-out thread is integrated in the lid, onto which a quick-connect plug is screwed in order to ensure a drip-free connection of the color-carrying line to the dosing system. Emptying takes place overhead, thus there is a transport-

secured air inlet valve at the bottom of the container. Both the connector and the valve are innovative in-house developments of the supplier, which are manufactured in small batch series using the 3D printing process.

Furthermore, an elegant screw cap container with a volume of one liter will be used in the future for sampling small quantities. The highlight of this solution is the permanently integrated quick-release plug in the lid of the container, which is also manufactured using 3D printing. The handy container simply has to be connected to the color tube and placed upside down on a standard container holder. Once the plug of the container vent embedded in the bottom has been removed, the dosing of color can begin. Thanks to the large opening, the can is easy to clean and reuse.

Both containers will be on display at the upcoming KUTENO from May 10 to 12, 2022, at the joint booth of ROMIRA and ROWASOL Z22 in Hall 3 in Rheda-Wiedenbrück. ■

About Kiewe Technologies:

Kiewe Technology e.K., based in Wetringen, Germany, offers professional products ranging from couplings for liquid colors to the production of individual parts using the 3D printing process. Founder Andreas Kiewe draws on more than 15 years of experience in the dosing and handling of liquid colors.

www.kiewe.de



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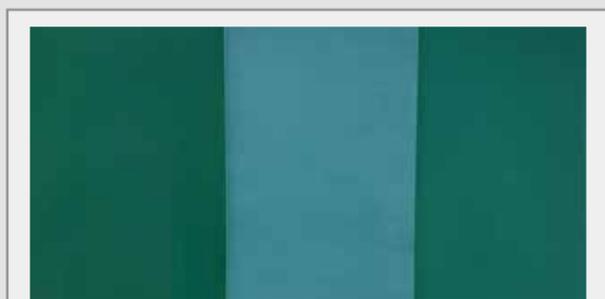


ROWAFLO[®] UV PROTECTION PRIMER - NOW ALSO FOR COLORED SUBSTRATES

Textile constructions have been a feature of modern architecture now for many years, and the enthusiasm for this form of building design is continuing relentlessly around the world. ROWA Lack is increasingly developing its broad portfolio of lacquer systems designed to support this trend.

ROWA Lack has been offering a range of high-quality fluoropolymer lacquer systems for decades with the product group ROWAFLO[®], a range developed precisely for these applications and one which is subject to continuous improvement. ROWAFLO[®] lacquers are a first choice for membranes and fabrics used in the fields of textile architecture, roofing, sun protection as well as halls and tents.

High quality tarpaulin materials based on PVC-coated fabrics with a 1 layer lacquer coating are mostly used for halls and tents. In the long-term, this type of lacquering is generally not sufficient for textile constructions, since materials used outdoors are exposed to intensive and permanent UV radiation. As a result, damage occurs in the boundary layer between the lacquer, which is transparent to UV radiation, and the PVC-coated fabric. Consequently, the adhesion between the topcoat and the PVC surface decreases, causing a significant deterioration in the performance properties of the membrane despite a fully intact lacquer film.



left: non-lacquered substrate
center: conventional UV protection primer
right: lacquered with ROWAFLO[®] G-75308

The effect of PVC damage can be minimized by applying a ROWAFLO[®] UV protection primer in addition to the original topcoat. This creates a 2 layer lacquer structure. The additional UV protection reflects part of the UV radiation, while absorbing a large proportion before it can damage the PVC base material. More than 80 % of the UV component from the sunlight can be filtered out, depending on the structure and thickness of the layer. Also, the protective effect only slightly decreases even after several years of use, due to the very high (photo) chemical resistance of the UV-protective agents used. The majority of membranes used in textile architectu-

re feature very pale shades, with white materials being used most often. The demand for constructions with bolder colors, however, is steadily increasing. The classic ROWAFLO[®] UV protection primers are only suitable to a limited extent for these substrates, as they leave a clearly noticeable, whitish film on the substrate despite their relatively high transparency in the visible wavelength range.

With this in mind, the ROWAFLO[®] lacquer systems product group has now been expanded to include additional, particularly transparent UV protection primers, such as ROWAFLO[®] G-75308. This product incorporates an optimized UV protection system and consequently allows colored substrates to be lacquered without affecting the appearance of the color. The new systems continue to provide excellent UV protection and enable a long service life for the suitably treated materials. ROWAFLO[®] G-75308 is available for sampling with immediate effect.

To comply with REACH restrictions on solvents such for example DMF and NMP, both the newly developed ROWAFLO[®] UV protection primers and the well-established ROWAFLO[®] topcoats and UV protection primers are available in variants that do not contain any substances from the restrictions list.

As always ROWA Lack also offers its customers tailored product solutions for special requirements. Our experts are always on hand to personally assist any interested parties. ■

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Techtextil 2022 WITH ROWA LACK AND TRAMACO

Alongside the K trade fair in Düsseldorf, ROWA Lack is eagerly looking forward to another very exciting trade fair highlight in 2022: Techtextil in Frankfurt am Main. This is considered the leading trade fair for technical textiles and nonwovens.



Photo: Messe Frankfurt GmbH / Jean-Luc Valentin

Techtextil provides ROWA Lack with a well-established platform for presenting its high-quality waterborne and solvent-based lacquers as well as its pigment preparations to a specialist audience, as well as providing project-related, technical application assistance. Innovative, highly transparent lacquers for the textile construction sector with outstanding protective properties against external influences such as UV radiation will also be presented.

ROWA Lack is however not only active in the field of textile construction. Its products are also used in segments such as PVC tarpaulins, print media, automotive interiors, furniture and decorative foils and synthetic leather.

From June 21 to 24, 2022, visitors can meet with the experts from ROWA Lack in Hall 11.0, Booth C19, and learn more about the entire range of the product portfolio. The sister company TRAMACO provides an interesting addition to ROWA Lack's portfolio. Trade fair visitors at Techtextil will be able to see its product range of primers and adhesion promoters for the surface treatment of plastics, in particular polyolefins such as PP and PE.

ROWA Lack and TRAMACO warmly invite all customers to the trade fair and look forward to having many interesting discussions! ■

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An expansion of a popular color palette FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE PANTONE COLOR OF THE YEAR IS AN ENTIRELY NEW CREATION

Life is in a state of continuous change - especially in the last two years. Professional and private lives alike have had to face new kinds of challenges and adapt to changing circumstances as a result of the pandemic: Wherever possible, we have relocated our professional activities into our own homes and restructured our leisure activities or even discovered new ones.



Consequently, it is not only office products such as pen trays, tablet holders and other home office gadgets that are currently enjoying high demand. Also, sports equip-

ment for home use ranging from hula-hoops to yoga mats, practical cooking utensils and stylish home accessories are highly favored objects that consumers are using to help create a sense of this new normal or even just to give themselves a treat. In terms of color selection, blue has always been a favorite - and this year even more so, as the Pantone Color Institute has chosen PANTONE 17-3938 Very Peri as the Color of the Year: Very Peri features all the characteristics of blue hues paired with a vivifying violet-red undertone. It is said to express a „vivacious, joyful perspective on the world

and dynamic presence that encourages courageous creativity and imaginative expressions“. Creativity is already inherent in the shade itself, as this is the first time throughout the history of the Pantone Color of the Year program that the company has manufactured an entirely new color.

Be it a customized color of your choice or this year's trend color PANTONE 17-3938 - the ROWA Masterbatch team specializes in polymer-specific developments and are your experts when it comes to coloring plastic applications of all kinds. ■

Laser without color loss! DECORATIVE LASER TREATMENT OF COSMETICS PACKAGING USING METALLIC MASTERBATCHES



First impressions count - marketing experts have recognized the truth in this well-known saying for a long time and therefore attach considerable importance to the subject of packaging.

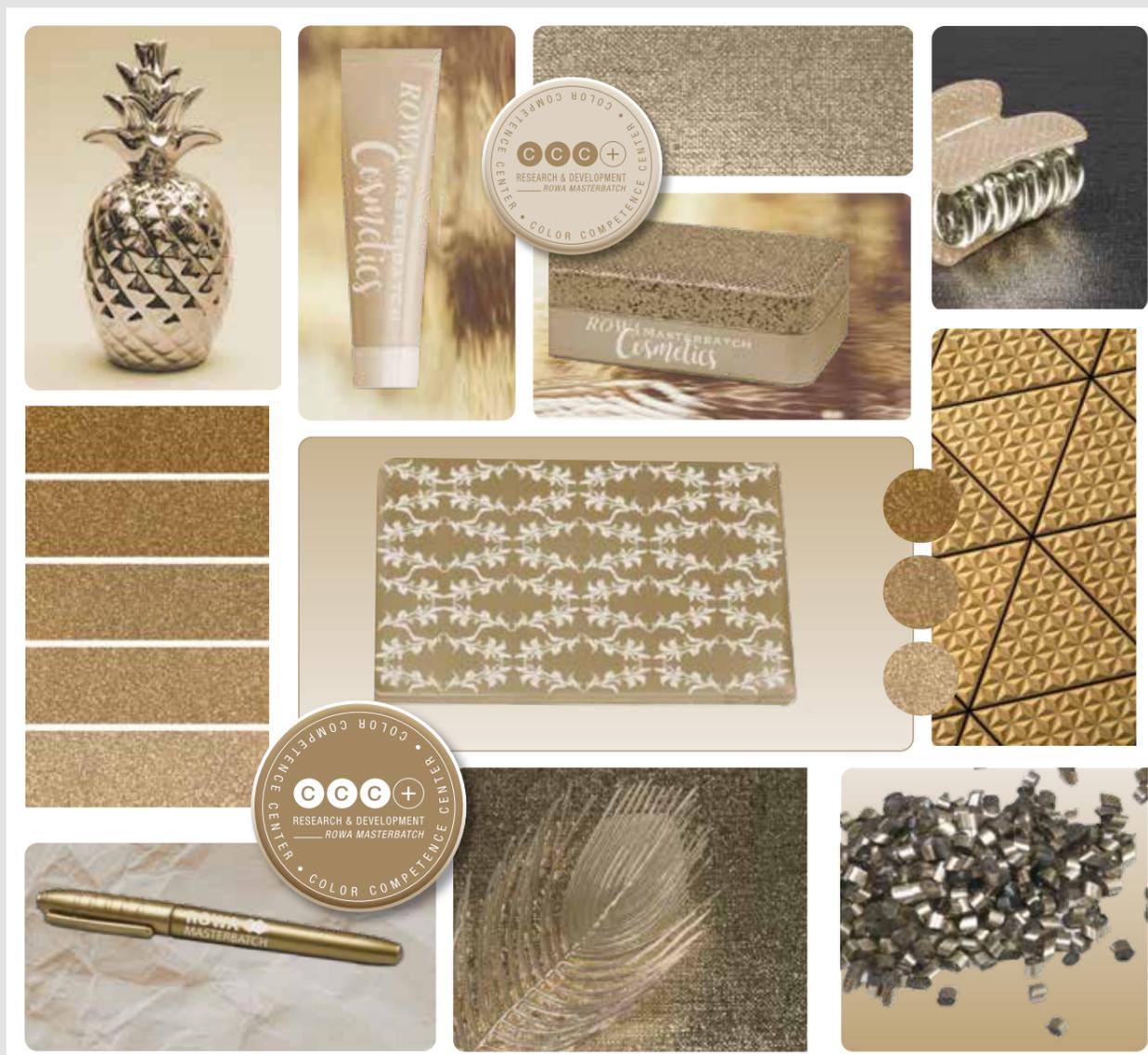
New or revived trends and styles are constantly emerging both in the packaging and in the design of containers for the cosmetics industry. A metallic look and decorative design using lasers have been very popular for some time. To meet this demand, ROWA Masterbatch

includes optimized raw materials in its portfolio. The specialist for polymer-specific color, additive and combination masterbatches provides its customers with color masterbatches that ensure metallic looks and laser possibilities without any loss of quality.

Laser marking has become a popular method of identification because of its many advantages: laser markings are more stable and more permanent than pad printing, for example. They can be used on a wide variety of surface structures and shapes, even curved designs, and they are abrasion and weather resistant, lightfast and resistant to chemicals. A further plus point of laser marking is the flexibility that templates can be created quickly and various layouts are possible.

In addition to marking, using lasers for decorative purposes is currently in high demand in many industries, especially for packaging and in the cosmetics sector, where metallic looks are very fashionable. The laser treatment of metallic-looking surfaces used to be associated with a loss of quality, as the laser additives that were required made the metallic look less shiny - at least until now! ROWA Masterbatch has developed different color masterbatches that replicate a metallic surface extremely well. They can now be lasered without loss of quality, maintaining the rich, brilliant color tone with a shiny metallic look - not only for light-dark color changes, but also for bright colors with a metallic appearance.

If you are interested in these color masterbatches or have any questions on the matter, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to hearing from you. ■



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KOREA

NEW START AFTER A HEARTBREAKING LOSS

ROWA Korea's last two years have been both memorable and challenging, and not just because of the Corona pandemic.



The dedicated ROWA Korea team also includes two four-legged friends. From left to right: Mr. Han, Mr. Lee, Mr. Cho with Mr. Kkongjja the guard dog in training, Mr. Kim, Ms. Choi with Mr. ROWA the veteran guard dog

In September 2020, the employees were deeply saddened by the death of Seung Hyeon 'Steve' Lee, the long-time Managing Director of ROWA Korea. Steve Lee worked for the ROWA GROUP for over 30 years and was instrumental in the development of the company and its business relations in the Asian region from the early 1990s onwards. The ROWA GROUP has lost a loyal employee, a valued colleague and, last but not least, a friend to many in the ROWA family.

The subsequent need to reorganize the management was made more difficult by travel restrictions and quarantine regulations. Nevertheless, thanks to a highly motivated team, the small and large obstacles were all successfully dealt with and Mr. Seung Heon Han, Steve Lee's designated successor, was appointed at the beginning of 2021. We would like to express our special thanks to Misuk Kim-Ageley, a native of South

Korea, who is responsible for purchasing at ROMIRA and who actively provided support during the demanding transition period.

2021 will certainly be a particularly memorable year for Seung Heon Han: One of his first tasks at ROWA Korea was the partial modernization of the production facilities. A quite outdated mixer had to be replaced by a modern, closed high-performance dissolver, and despite all the pandemic-related adversities, this succeeded with the commissioning in December 2021. The new system has been in regular operation since the beginning of 2022 and represents a further step towards ensuring the usual high product quality at the Korean site. ■

ROWA GROUP

A SPECIAL THANK YOU FOR MORE THAN THREE DECADES

Charlotte Schneidereit began her career with the ROWA more than 30 years ago, on 23 February 1990, after training as an industrial clerk and a few semesters of law studies - it was to be the beginning of a partnership that would last for decades.

Following her first position as a clerk at ROWA GmbH, she moved to TRAMACO GmbH in October 1991, where she joined the purchasing and production planning team. As from in 2010, Charlotte applied her skills as a Key User for blending. Additionally, she assumed responsibility within the company for many years as a first aider - for which we would like to express our sincere thanks.

A new chapter in her life began on 1 November 2021,

one in which Charlotte will be able to devote herself fully to her hobbies: The Wolfcenter Dörverden will no doubt be able to look forward to many more visits, and perhaps she will now fulfill her dream of owning a dog of her own. The ROWA GROUP team wishes Charlotte Schneidereit all the best for an exciting and relaxed retirement and expresses its gratitude for her many years of service and loyalty. ■



INTERNAL



MAY 10. - 12. 2022, RHEDA-WIEDENRÜCK, HALL 3, STAND Z22 ROMIRA and ROWASOL



OCTOBER 19. - 26. 2022, DÜSSELDORF, HALL 8A, STAND B28 ROWA GROUP



JUNE 21. - 24. 2022, FRANKFURT, HALL 11.0 STAND C19 ROWA Lack and TRAMACO



NOVEMBER 23. - 26. 2022, ISTANBUL ROMIRA

The ROWA GROUP is looking forward to the upcoming trade fairs this year and is hoping that all of them will go ahead as planned and that nothing will stand in the way of our face-to-face discussions.

The past two years have shown that constructive dialog can also take place away from the trade fairs, when events were scarce due to the pandemic and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all our contacts for their loyal cooperation. We are also looking forward to our continued interesting online meetings and video calls as well as the exciting exchange on LinkedIn, where we will keep you up to date on all news via our ROWA GROUP Holding page. Please feel free to connect with us on LinkedIn! ■



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