

PRESS RELEASE

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Plastic Engineering Associates, Inc. Announces Another Successful Biodegradable Polymer Trial

September 7, 2007. Boca Raton, Florida. Plastic Engineering Associates, Inc. (PEA) and NatureWorks LLC (NatureWorks) have been working together in developing a biodegradable foam process using NatureWorks Polymers (PLA). Trials have been on-going since January of 2005 at a PEA customer's food packaging operation in North America.

The principal goals during the latest development trials were two-fold: (1) test several lots of NatureWorks polymers with various additive packages; and (2) test various Turbo-Screws® technology primary tandem foam line screw designs to evaluate feed characteristics & extrusion throughput rates.

During the first & second day of the tests, PEA and NatureWorks personnel re-created past output & quality parameters on the customer's 4.5" x 6.0" tandem foam line running semi-crystalline resin. After successfully foaming the desired food packaging sheet, and collecting the requisite data, the line was shut down and the primary screw replaced with a new Turbo-Screws® technology design. The secondary screw is a custom designed Turbo-Screws® technology secondary screw specific for NatureWorks Polymers.

The combination of the NatureWorks polymers and the new primary Turbo-Screws® technology design proved very successful; output rates were more than doubled from all previous development runs. Closed cell counts were in the high 90% range and density, basis weight and sheet gauge were all within commercially acceptable range. Needless to say, all parties were delighted.

The next development trials have been tentatively scheduled for November, 2007. The next development trials will involve pushing the output rate thresholds as well as to get some additional high heat NatureWorks polymers foam trials done.

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