

Title:

The challenges & potential solutions of commercialization of automotive materials in the last 10 years

Abstract

During the last 10 years the shift in manufacturing; the change in automotive technologies; decision making movement and the commercial pressures have meant that companies have had to change the way they operate or suffer greatly in this new environment. This paper will look at the specific actions that Zeon Chemicals L.P. has had to take to meet those conditions with respect to launching new materials. Some competitors have chosen to move their operations overseas to meet this demand, this presentation is about the position we took in maintaining a manufacturing base in the United States and succeeding in selling globally new technologies.

Title:

Development of new Zetpol low viscosity "EP" grades

Zetpol is the trade name for our hydrogenated nitrile butadiene rubber used for high temperature, oil resistant applications. As good as it is in performance for very demanding environments, it can be very difficult to process in manufacturing. Typical results for lowering viscosity of rubber grades usually results in a significant loss of mechanical properties thereby diminishing application performance. We will show that our new Zetpol "EP" products significantly improves manufacturing throughput and quality, while still offering a rubber polymer that will perform in demanding applications.

Jim Ryan is the Zeon Chemicals, LP Sales Account Manager for the western US since 2003 and is in his 17th year at Zeon where he spent the first 5 as a Technical Service Chemist at their Louisville, KY headquarters. Prior to joining Zeon Jim spent 15 years working for a few smaller rubber companies starting off as a QC lab technician and moved up in a variety of technical assignments including laboratory manager for Chicago Rawhide prior to joining Zeon.

Graduated from Western Michigan University in 1983 with a BA in Business Oriented Chemistry. Completed the Basic, Intermediate and Advanced Courses in Rubber Chemistry offered by the Rubber Division of ACS. Completed continuing education courses focusing on the rubber industry in design of experiments, rubber processing and molding and failure analysis using analytical techniques.

Currently serving as the Past Chairman of the Energy Rubber Group and have been involved a variety of official duties with the group for the past 6 years.