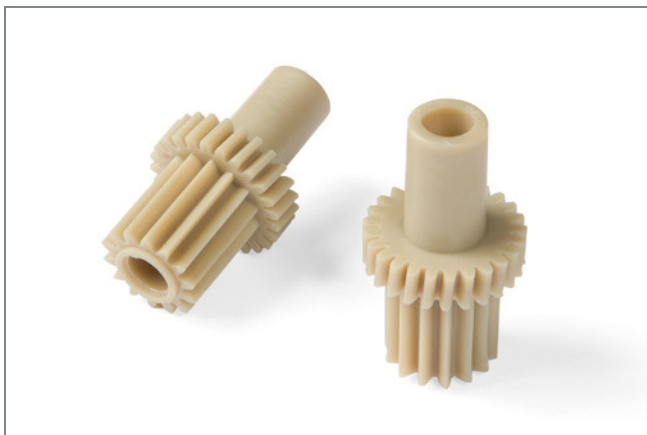


Press information KetaSpire® | AvaSpire®



High-temperature gear wheels made of **KetaSpire® KT-820 NT**

EPIC Polymers and Solvay Advanced Polymers announce strategic agreement

EPIC Polymers LTD and *Solvay Advanced Polymers, LLC* have completed a strategic agreement enabling EPIC to market Solvay Advanced Polymers' Spire® ultra performance polymers **KetaSpire®** PEEK and **AvaSpire®** modified PEEK into Germany and France.

As part of the agreement, *EPIC Polymers* will act as a non-exclusive reseller of the standard **KetaSpire®** PEEK and **AvaSpire®** modified PEEK grades, as well as develop and market an extensive range of specialty compounds based on *Solvay Advanced Polymers' polymers*. In order to optimize the synergies of this deal, the strategic cooperation includes a trademark agreement for the use of relevant Solvay trade names.

Jörg Konrad, director of sales for *EPIC Polymers* comments, "Key market segments for *EPIC Polymers* are the replacement of high-performance metal components and wear and friction materials. **KetaSpire®** - and **AvaSpire®** -based compounds form a perfect complement to our existing range of high performance compounds, like **STRATOR®** and **TRIBOCOMP®**."

Ralf Wilczynski, *Solvay Advanced Polymers Ultra Polymers* Industry Manager, Europe adds, "This agreement continues our recent activity in the region and underscores our commitment to providing the friction and wear market an expanded portfolio of PEEK-based solutions with **KetaSpire®** and **AvaSpire®** products."

One of the first results of this cooperation is the introduction of the **TRIBOCOMP® PEEK TS9** series. Fred Panhuizen, director marketing and technology of *EPIC Polymers*, states, "TS9 is a new lubricant technology, which gives a better high temperature wear performance than the traditional PTFE lubricated PEEK compounds. On top of this, there are no issues with the generation of toxic fumes during molding caused by the degradation of PTFE at the processing temperature of PEEK."

The **TRIBOCOMP® PEEK TS9** series is aimed at high temperature gears and bearings in automotive and industrial applications.

About EPIC Polymers:

EPIC Polymers is a leading supplier of high performance compounds, with particular emphasis on high strength materials and wear and friction materials

About Solvay Advanced Polymers

Solvay Advanced Polymers, LLC, produces more plastics with more performance than any other company in the world. This gives design engineers worldwide more ways to solve top design challenges in automotive, medical, electronics, aerospace and other demanding industries. Learn more at www.solvayadvancedpolymers.com.

Solvay Advanced Polymers is a member of the Solvay Group, an international chemical and pharmaceutical Group with headquarters in Brussels. Its companies employ some 28,000 people in 50 countries. In 2007, its consolidated sales amounted to EUR 9.6 billion, generated by its three sectors of activity: Plastics, Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals. Solvay (Euronext : SOLB.BE - Bloomberg: SOLB.BB - Reuters: SOLBt.BR) is listed on the Euronext stock exchange in Brussels. Details are available at www.solvay.com