

Press Release

Continental and Kordsa join forces to establish a new adhesion system for textile reinforcement materials

- **Promising eco-friendly resorcinol- and formaldehyde-free adhesion technology**
- **Continental plans application across all segments of its own tire production**
- **Kordsa and Continental collaboration is a pioneering model of the tire industry**
- **Free licensing concept for tire and supplier industries envisioned**

Hanover, August 15, 2017. The Tire division of technology company Continental and Kordsa, a leading international supplier of textile reinforcing materials for the tire industry, are working together on a new, sustainable adhesion system standard for bonding textile reinforcing materials to rubber based compounds. In the context of their collaboration in the development sector, the two companies have agreed to develop a technology in which the substances resorcinol and formaldehyde are replaced by more eco-friendly chemicals.

“Taking responsible action in the interests of our employees and of society as a whole forms a key component of our corporate strategy. So we are constantly seeking for new ideas to make our tire manufacturing processes as environmental friendly as possible. In Kordsa, we have found a competent development partner for adhesion systems, who can contribute their extensive knowledge in the field of resorcinol- and formaldehyde-free bonding technologies. The high quality of the collaboration between Continental and Kordsa is also reflected in the test results obtained to date, which are very promising both in the laboratory and in test tires,” said Dr. Boris Mergell who heads up worldwide research and development of passenger car tires at Continental. “We are therefore planning the progressive introduction of this technology in the production of our tires across all segments which is a further substantial step toward greater sustainability. Numerous suppliers are currently working on solutions of their own and the complexity of the approvals process alone for all of the unique solutions could soon become excessive. That’s why our approach in this collaboration is to make the technology accessible to other suppliers and competitors, thereby laying the

foundation for a new adhesion system standard,” Mergell added.

“In view of the critical fields of application, the use of resorcinol and formaldehyde represents a major challenge to the tire industry. As ‘The Reinforcer’, we have been working to eliminate the use of resorcinol and formaldehyde since 2008, which is a reflection of our mission to develop better, more sustainable products for future generations. Being a keen supporter of open innovation practices, we have leveraged our deep knowledge and diverse expertise together with Continental and accomplished to make a change in the formula used in the dipping of tire cord fabrics. The final formulation is an eco-friendly alternative to resorcinol- and formaldehyde-based adhesives widely applied for more than 80 years. Reviewing our massive investments into research in this field and the results obtained, we are absolutely convinced that, in collaboration with Continental, we can make the new technology ready for becoming the new industrial adhesion system standard for textile reinforcing materials”, said İbrahim Özgür Yıldırım, Chief Technology Officer at Kordsa.

Continental and Kordsa are planning to introduce a free licensing concept for the new adhesion system. The eco-friendly technology in combination with the free licensing concept enables the collaboration of Continental and Kordsa to become a pioneering model of the tire industry to further improve safety, health and the environment. Further details will be presented at Tire Expo 2018, which will take place in February in Hanover.

Continental AG

Continental develops pioneering technologies and services for sustainable and networked mobility of people and their goods. Founded in 1871, the technology company offers safe, efficient, intelligent and affordable solutions for vehicles, machines, traffic and transport. In 2016, the corporation generated sales of €40.5 billion with its five divisions: Chassis & Safety, Interior, Powertrain, Tires, and ContiTech. Continental currently employs more than 230,000 people in 56 countries.

Tire Division

The Tire Division currently has 24 production and development locations worldwide. The broad product range and continuous investments in R&D make a major contribution to cost-effective and ecologically efficient mobility. As one of the world's leading tire manufacturers with more than 50,000 employees, the Tire Division achieved sales of €10.7 billion in 2016.

Passenger and Light Truck Tires

Continental is one of the leading manufacturers of passenger and light truck tires in Europe and the world's fourth largest passenger tire manufacturer in the original equipment and replacement market. The product development focus of the Continental premium brand is to optimize all safety-relevant characteristics, while simultaneously minimizing rolling resistance.

www.continental-tires.com/news

Commercial Vehicle Tires

Continental Commercial Vehicle Tires is one of the largest manufacturers of truck, bus and commercial specialty tires worldwide. The business unit is continuously developing from a pure tire manufacturer to a solution provider, offering a broad range of products, services and tire-related solutions.

www.continental-truck-tires.com/transport/media-services

Kordsa

Kordsa is the global player of tire, composite and construction reinforcement technologies market. As a technology and market leader of the tire reinforcement technologies, Kordsa operates in a vast area from North America to Asia Pacific and supplies its reinforcement technologies to the whole world. Thanks to its business processes all based on R&D and innovation, Kordsa has two officially-approved R&D centers and 411 patent applications world-wide. Kordsa currently has approximately 4,000 employees at its operations in 5 countries.

www.kordsa.com

<http://reinforcer.com/en>

Media Database

http://www.kordsa.com/press_releases

<http://www.kordsa.com/news>

Your contact:

Klaus Engelhart, Phone: + 49 (0) 511 938 2285, klaus.engelhart@conti.de



THE REINFORCER

Media Contacts @ Continental Tires:

Alexander Bahlmann
Head of Communications and Public Relations,
Passenger and Light Truck Tires
Continental AG
Tire Division
Buettnerstrasse 25, 30165 Hanover, Germany
Phone: +49 (0) 511 938 2615
alexander.bahlmann@conti.de
www.continental-tires.com
www.VisionZeroWorld.com

Klaus Engelhart
Press Spokesman, Passenger and Light Truck/
Two-Wheel Tires, Germany, Austria & Switzerland
Communications and Public Relations,
Passenger and Light Truck Tires
Continental AG | Tire division
Buettnerstrasse 25, 30165 Hanover, Germany
Phone: +49 (0) 511 938 2285
klaus.engelhart@conti.de

Media Contacts @ Kordsa:

Nevra Aydođan Grsoy
Branding and Corporate Communication Manager
Kordsa
Sanayi mah.Teknopark Bulvarı No:1/1B PK 34906
Kurtky/Pendik Istanbul, Turkey
Phone: +90 (216) 300 10 00
nevra.aydogan@kordsa.com
www.kordsa.com
www.reinforcer.com/en/

Aye Grsoy
Branding and Corporate Communication Specialist
Kordsa
Sanayi mah.Teknopark Bulvarı No:1/1B PK 34906
Kurtky/Pendik Istanbul, Turkey
Phone: +90 (216) 300 11 13
ayse.gursoy@kordsa.com

Your contact:

Klaus Engelhart, Phone: + 49 (0) 511 938 2285, klaus.engelhart@conti.de