



TECNARO receives VR-InnovationsPreis Mittelstand 2007

The medium-sized company of Jürgen Pfitzer and Helmut Nägele received first prize of the Volksbanken and Raiffeisenbanken banks for the development of ARBOFORM, a thermoplastic material based on lignin.

TECNARO GmbH spent nearly ten years researching and developing a material that combines the properties of wood and plastic. ARBOFORM, liquid wood, as the company owners call their invention, is based on the natural polymer lignin which makes up about 30 per cent of the substance of every tree and woody plant. Interestingly, up to 95 per cent of this renewable raw material is a waste product of the paper industry.



The company of Jürgen Pfitzer (right) and Helmut Nägele (left) received the first prize of the Volksbanken Raiffeisenbanken banks for the development of Arboform. (Photo: GENO Association Stuttgart)

TECNARO GmbH uses this polymer as the basic substance of its 'liquid wood' and mixes it with cellulose and other natural fibres. ARBOFORM is a thermoplastic wood-like material that can be processed at raised temperatures and made into mouldings, sections or panels. The use of lignin gives the composition a compressive strength similar to that of naturally grown wood, the integrated natural fibres providing tensile strength. The resulting combination makes a high-quality construction material.

Liquid wood can be biologically degraded

The advantages of this innovative product are the dimensional stability with varying temperatures, rigidity, surface hardness and hence excellent form stability. In contrast to pure plastics or traditional wood materials, mouldings made from ARBOFORM can withstand high thermal stress in terms of temperature variation and maintain their form. In addition to these properties, the liquid wood can also be biologically degraded, something that is in line with environmental protection. It can be processed on conventional plastic processing machines. There is no need to invest in expensive new machines.

This innovative idea led to the foundation of the company in 1998, which is now active all over the world. ARBOFORM is used by small- and medium-sized companies as well as by renowned car and electronics companies for serial production. ARBOFORM is unique and, as no oil is required in its production, it is a sustainable product.

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