

E-PLAS OFFERS HIGH-PERFORMANCE PLASTICS FOR MINING AND INDUSTRY

AUSTRALIAN PLASTICS SUPPLIER E-PLAS OFFERS A RANGE OF POLYMERS SUITED TO MINING. *AUSTRALIAN MINING* TALKS TO OPERATIONS MANAGER SEAN KELLY TO FIND OUT MORE.

E-Plas is one of Australia's leading suppliers of industrial plastics. Founded over 35 years ago as a dedicated business for the supply of engineering plastics, E-Plas supplies sheets, rods, tubes and various other specialised plastics for the industry.

One of E-Plas's flagship products is its Tivar range, often used for mining applications. A globally recognised plastic brand, Tivar is known for its ultra high molecular weight polyethylene (UHMWPE), which is often used as lining due to its anti-abrasive qualities.

"Many of our products are used to support the mining industry," explained Sean Kelly, national operations manager for E-Plas. "Sustamid nylon for bushings and rotator cuffs, Sustarin acetal for close tolerance gears and bearings, and Tivar UHMWPE for improved flow promotion and wear applications."

Developed by Poly Hi Solidur, a subsidiary of plastics giant Quadrant EPP, Tivar polymers represent the culmination of over 60 years of design experience. Outside of mining, the Quadrant Group's plastics make their way into everything from aerospace and defence, to cars, clean energy and electronics.

"Due to the nature of our engineering-grade plastics, the products we offer are used to protect capital investment equipment and machinery. This is achieved by introducing sacrificial components, which lowers the cost of ownership, extending the life of machines," Kelly said.

Three modified grades of Tivar are often considered for lining applications within the mining industry. Tivar 88, which is a modified grade used for applications where flow promotion is required; Tivar 88-2, used for standard and formed liners where a liner requires a welded join or bond; and

Tivar with BurnGuard, an anti-static lining material with flame retardant properties. Another Tivar product supplied by E-Plas, Quicksilver truck linings, use a homogenous modifier that reduces the coefficient (force of friction between objects) on UHMWPE base material.

This reduction allows for smooth tipping of materials and reduced carryback, increasing productivity, reducing wear and improving safety.

"Tivar products have a low coefficient of friction, which reduces the instances of hang up — rat-holing, arching, etc.," said Kelly. "Historically, these flow issues were often addressed with the installation of vibrators at hang-up points; installing Tivar liners negates the need for these costly and noisy options.

"The reduced friction equates to quicker tipping at a lower angle — stage one or two — while reducing the hang up of bulk material," he added.

In addition to Tivar products, E-Plas

also stocks other high-profile plastic brands such as PTFE, Rochling Sustaplast, known for their flame retardant and insulating nylons and polycarbonates, and Bakelite, an early synthetic resin primarily used for the creation of laminates.

In 2018 the company plans to identify and add new products to its repertoire, and Kelly cites E-Plas's strong relationship with — and support from — suppliers as what allows the company to thrive and continue to offer support for its customers.

"E-Plas is a company that is committed to modernisation, and continuous improvement," he said. "This is true in all aspects, including our approach to new products which enables us to offer solutions to a broad range of industries.

"We will continue to develop our relationships with installers around Australia for both the mining and truck industries." ■

