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PRESS RELEASE

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K2010
WACKER Unveils a New Fast-Curing Liquid Silicone Rubber with High Tear Strength

Munich, June 14, 2010 – WACKER, the Munich-based chemical group, will be introducing a new line of liquid silicone rubbers at the 18th International Trade Fair for Plastics and Rubber (K 2010) in Düsseldorf, Germany. The new product, ELASTOSIL® LR 3040, features rapid crosslinking together with high tear resistance. With its characteristic properties and excellent injection moldability, it has a wide variety of applications, ranging from automotive to sensitive uses in baby care and domestic and leisure products. K 2010 will take place from October 27 to November 3.

Where baby care products are concerned, there must be no compromises on safety. That is especially true of articles that babies and infants could put into their mouths. Pacifiers, nipples or teething rings, for example, must not contain any plasticizers. In addition, it must be impossible for pieces of the material to be chewed off and swallowed, however severely they are used.

An important property in this regard is tear resistance, also known as notch resistance. Notch resistance is the resistance exerted by a notched test specimen. This mechanical characteristic is considered very important in the baby care sector, and can be correlated with bite resistance.

With ELASTOSIL® LR 3040, WACKER is launching a product line that meets these requirements. And there is another benefit. The liquid silicone features not only high notch resistance, but also higher reactivity. Compared with conventional liquid silicone rubbers, ELASTOSIL® LR 3040 significantly shortens production cycles for the same mold temperature. The new product range can therefore be injection molded far more efficiently – an important benefit in view of the ever stricter demands on the efficiency of manufacturing devices.

Crucial to the successful product development were WACKER's many years of experience and know-how in the field of silicone elastomers, particularly liquid silicone rubbers. ELASTOSIL® LR 3003 and (fast curing) ELASTOSIL® LR 3004 general purpose grades have been in successful use for many years. Moreover, with ELASTOSIL® LR 3043, WACKER already offers a high tear-resistance product with outstanding tensile strength. The new ELASTOSIL® LR 3040 product line offers an inexpensive alternative to ELASTOSIL® LR 3043. It is available in durometer hardnesses from 40 to 50 Shore A and is characterized by higher reactivity.

Besides baby care, ELASTOSIL® LR 3040 can also be used in many other applications. The silicone rubber series is particularly advantageous when used for manufacturing thin-walled parts. Typical examples include parts with complicated geometries and challenging mechanical requirements, such as membranes or automotive valves. Products that have to meet strictest specifications on their quality and mechanical properties can also be produced cost effectively using ELASTOSIL® LR 3040.

Visit WACKER at K 2010 in Düsseldorf. You'll find us in Hall 06, Booth A10.

At K 2010, WACKER will present the new silicone elastomer ELASTOSIL® LR 3040 for baby care, domestic and leisure products. It features exceptional tear resistance and cures rapidly. (Photo: Wacker Chemie AG)

Please note:

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The company in brief:
WACKER is a globally-active chemical company with some 15,600 employees and annual sales of around €3.7 billion (2009).
WACKER has 26 production sites and over 100 sales offices worldwide.

WACKER SILICONES
Silicone fluids, emulsions, rubber and resins; silanes; pyrogenic silicas; thermoplastic silicone elastomers

WACKER POLYMERS
Polyvinyl acetate and vinyl acetate copolymers in the form of dispersible polymer powders, dispersions and solid resins used as binders for construction chemicals, coatings, adhesives, paints, plasters and nonwovens

WACKER BIOSOLUTIONS
Biotech products such as cyclodextrins, cysteine and biologics, as well as fine chemicals and PVAc solid resins

WACKER POLYSILICON
Polysilicon for the semiconductor and photovoltaics industries

Siltronic
Hyperpure silicon wafers and monocrystals for semiconductor devices