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PRESS RELEASE

Battenfeld wins award for water injection technology

Successful Battenfeld presentation at the SPE Automotive Award 2007

On October 22, 2007, immediately before K 2007, the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) Central Europe announced the winners of the SPE awards 2007 in the automotive division in Neuss. The Austrian machine manufacturer BATTENFELD Kunststoffmaschinen Gesellschaft m.b.H. was a partner in two of the award-winning applications in the areas of “body interior” and “power train” with its Aquamould water injection technology. A management award in the area of digital media, which was granted to Battenfeld for its website presentation, rounded off Battenfeld’s success in the awards contest.

The SPE Central Europe awards prizes every year for the best plastic product developments in the automotive industry. This year, the Aquamould water injection technology developed by Battenfeld paved the way for two of the award-winning, innovative solutions.

Seat adjustment handle made entirely of plastics

Müller Technik GmbH has developed an innovative seat adjustment handle for car seats. So far, seat adjustment handles consisted exclusively of metal. Thanks to a special design taking into account the properties of plastic materials, not only the required values for strength were reached, but the fastening elements previously required to attach the metal handle could also be dispensed with. Cost-efficiency in the production of the 100% plastic handle is ensured by the fact that the handle is formed with an interior cavity with the help of the Aquamould process

developed by Battenfeld. The results are lighter part weight compared to the previous model and a reduction in cooling time by means of interior water cooling.

This innovative product won the third prize in the “body interior” section. Müller Technik developed this product jointly with Battenfeld and the material supplier A. Schulman. The plastic material, a type of polyamide 6 with fiberglass content, is injection-molded with the Aquamould process. Compared to its predecessor, this new adjustment handle not only offers a considerable benefit in terms of lighter weight, but also a significant cost advantage. Through the injection of water, an even wall thickness distribution as well as an even interior cavity are achieved. The parts are manufactured with short cycle times at low cost.

The injection molding machine from the HM series, on which the parts are produced, is equipped with the modular Aquamould system. The WE 100 compressor unit cooperates with a pressure control module via a mobile control cabinet. The pressure-controlled injection of water has proved particularly effective. The water injection nozzle, also developed by Battenfeld, performs a clean water injection, keeping “dry” on the outside, without undesirable leakage of water. The water is also automatically emptied out from the cavity of the molded part via the water injection unit.

All-plastic clutch pedal replaces hybrid part

The clutch pedal for the VW Touran won the fifth prize in the power train section. Volkswagen AG was granted this award for replacing the conventional hybrid pedal with one made 100% of plastics. Previously, a metal core had been insert-molded with plastics. VW cooperated with Lanxess and Battenfeld to find a solution to save both weight and costs, improving recyclability at the same time. The pedal, which is manufactured at the VW facility in Brunswick, Germany, has a box-shaped cross-section that is formed as a hollow part by Aquamould water injection. This process yields a component of high rigidity as well as light weight. Pressure-controlled water injection, which is monitored online throughout the process, ensures an even wall thickness.

The clutch pedal made of PA 6 GF30 not only shows better mechanical properties compared to its predecessor, but also offers a 50% weight reduction and a more cost-efficient production

process. As a part made 100% of plastics, the pedal features excellent recyclability. In view of the high number of units required, the short cycle times made possible by water injection technology have proved a significant advantage.

Clearly structured Internet presentation

Battenfeld's website was also a winner in the SPE Management Award contest. Battenfeld won the third prize for its excellent layout, clear structure and information well arranged for readers.

Information about the successful Aquamould system developed by Battenfeld can be found on the company's website, which, after its award-winning relaunch, offers even more convenience to visitors. Six centrally positioned links to the main categories provide quick access to all desired information. Navigation is clearly structured down to all links and subpages. This makes access to all subjects possible by only two mouse clicks, whether it be a particular machine series or various types of application technology. The graphical design of the website concentrates on the two corporate colors blue and grey, featuring an unobtrusive, clear structure. Thus the design underscores the message: at Battenfeld everything centers around machines and technologies, for optimal customer-orientation.

PHOTOS



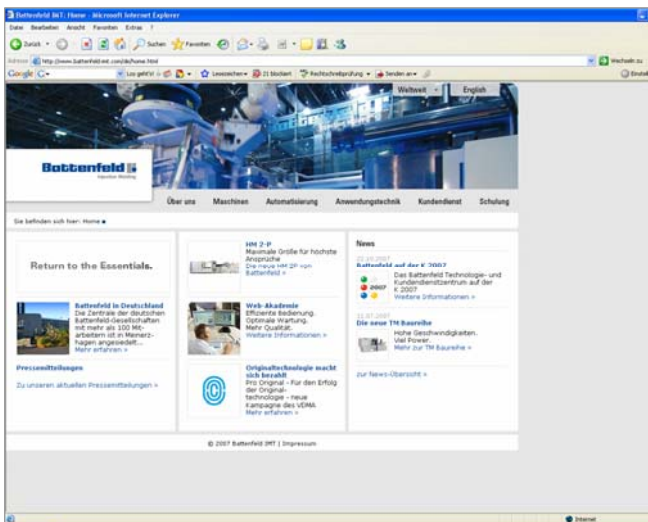
The SPE award-winning seat adjustment handle consisting of PA 6 GF30 is a 100% plastic part developed by Müller Technik and cost-efficiently mass-produced with Aquamould technology from Battenfeld.
Photo: Battenfeld



Thanks to Aquamould technology from Battenfeld, this clutch pedal for the VW Touran can be manufactured from 100% plastics at low cost and with excellent recycling properties.
Photo: Battenfeld



The Aquamould equipment, including the compressor unit and control cabinet illustrated here, is modular and mobile for optimal adjustment to a great variety of applications.
Photo: Battenfeld



The clearly structured Battenfeld website contains all relevant information and provides easy access with only a few mouse clicks.
Photo: Battenfeld

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