

Press release

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European biocomposite production reached 410,000 tonnes in 2017. Yearly growth rate is 3% – highest growth rate of 30% in new application fields

There is considerable interest in biocomposites from various parts of the industry. Special appearance and haptic, green image, weight savings, shorter cycle times, scratch resistance and, above all, a lower CO₂ footprint are important factors for this development.

The biocomposite production in Europe is estimated by nova experts to amount to 410,000 tonnes in 2017. Over 30 compound companies produce and trade 80,000 tonnes of granulate with wood and natural fibres in Europe. In addition to the common petrochemical plastics PE, PP, TPE and PVC, biopolymers such as Bio-PE, PLA, PBS, PBAT or PHA are utilized. Depending on the target application, wood flour, wood fibres, cellulose fibres, bast fibres such as hemp, flax, jute or kenaf, but also bamboo, cork or the fibres of the sunflower seed shells are used.

The overall annual growth rate of the European biocomposite production is about 3% which is roughly in line with the average growth of the plastics market. But much higher growth rates of up to 30% have been identified in various innovative application fields of biocomposites. These application fields range from technical applications over furniture to consumer goods that are produced mainly with injection moulding, 3D and other production methods like rotomoulding. Furthermore, in the area of traded granulates the overall growth rate has also been substantially higher as the average (15%).

Biocomposites (NFC, WPC & others)	2012	2017	CAGR in % from 2012 to 2017
Decking, siding and fencing, mainly extrusion	190,000	200,000	1
Automotive, mainly compression moulding	150,000	150,000	0
Technical applications, furniture and consumer goods, mainly injection moulding, 3D and others	17,000	60,000	29
Total	357,000	410,000	3
<i>The total figure includes: Produced and traded granulates for injection moulding and extrusion</i>	<i>40,000</i>	<i>80,000</i>	<i>15</i>

The full market report will be first presented at the industry's biggest global meeting place for biocomposites: The “Biocomposites Conference Cologne (BCC)” (www.biocompositesc.com) in Cologne (Germany), 6 and 7 December. It is the world's largest conference and exhibition on this topic. Among the expected 300 participants from 30 countries, including more than 30 exhibitors, the following international companies will be present at the conference:

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