

Printed Electronics: Continental and Henkel Conclude Cooperation Agreement

- **Roll-to-roll processing enables faster and more cost-efficient production**
- **Continental brings its extensive printing expertise to this joint project**
- **Henkel provides material expertise in conductive inks and substances**

Düsseldorf, June 2, 2016. Henkel Adhesive Technologies and ContiTech Elastomer Coatings will now be working more closely together in the fields of functional printing and printed electronics. The two companies yesterday made an announcement concerning the agreement in question at the printing trade show drupa in Düsseldorf. The aim is to develop products that can be produced using cost-effective roll-to-roll processing in flexographic and other printing processes. This includes industrial applications such as sensors, heating, speakers, and functional films, as well as security applications for consumer goods (tracking and identification using RFID, radio-frequency identification, for example), or intelligent packaging with additional NFC (near field communication) functions.

"We will bring our experience of the printing process, Henkel its material expertise in functional inks and substances," says Dr. Thomas Perković, head of the Printing Blanket segment at ContiTech, a division of technology company Continental. "Printed electronics are an important area not only for our customers, but also for Continental and its products for the automotive industry."

"Together we want to develop the up-and-coming functional printing and printed electronics markets and create an alternative to the existing manufacturing process," says Dr. Paolo Bavaj, Corporate Director, New Business Development Adhesive Technologies at Henkel. "Our contribution to this is our wide-ranging, high-performance portfolio of conductive inks. In particular, intelligent packaging that, for example, uses NFC technology to provide customers with additional information is of huge interest to Henkel for its consumer goods. We are excited to be working closely with Continental because we believe that meaningful innovation is only possible through strong partnerships and within innovation ecosystems."

Until a few years ago, flexographic printing plates were not sufficiently precise or durable enough for the demands of the printed electronics (PE) segment. Only direct engraving with elastomers and new laser sources such as fiber lasers or laser diodes has made it possible to print the required structures consistently, reproducibly, and efficiently. The established roll-to-roll (R2R) flexographic printing process, with its comparatively high printing speeds, also makes the production of printed products more cost-efficient.

The Laserline printing plates made from compressible elastomers developed by ContiTech offer significant advantages as they do not damage or destroy sensitive substrates such as vaporized foils or silicon wafers with excessive contact pressure during printing. The environment benefits too: "Elastomer flexographic printing plates are by far the most sustainably produced printing plates on the market," says Armin Senne, Flexo Business Manager at ContiTech. "While photopolymer printing plates expand and volatile components such as plasticizers can possibly remain on the printed media, this doesn't happen with elastomer printing plates."

The plates are also more environmentally friendly to produce – during their manufacture, elastomer printing plates generate only one fifth of the CO₂ emissions and consume only one eighth of the energy of conventionally manufactured photopolymer flexographic printing plates. In addition, elastomer printing plates are manufactured without the use of any solvents.

Captions

CT_EC_Laserline_03.jpg + CT_EC_Printed_Electronics_en.jpg

ContiTech flexographic printing plates: together, ContiTech und Henkel are aiming to break new ground in the field of functional printing.

Photo: ContiTech

CT_EC_Pressekonferenz.jpg

Printed electronics cooperation agreement announced (from left): Dr. Paolo Bavaj, Corporate Director, New Business Development, Adhesive Technologies at Henkel, Armin Senne, Flexo Business Manager at ContiTech, and Dr. Thomas Perković, head of the Printing Blanket segment at ContiTech.

Photo: ContiTech

Continental develops intelligent technologies for transporting people and their goods. As a reliable partner, the international automotive supplier, tire manufacturer, and industrial partner provides sustainable, safe, comfortable, individual, and affordable solutions. In 2015, the corporation generated sales of €39.2 billion with its five divisions: Chassis & Safety, Interior, Powertrain, Tires, and ContiTech. Continental currently employs more than 212,000 people in 55 countries.

The ContiTech division is a global player in providing rubber products and a specialist in plastics technology. The company develops and produces functional parts, components, and systems for mechanical and plant engineering, mining, the automotive industry, and other important industries. In 2015, ContiTech generated sales of almost €5.4 billion, and currently employs around 43,000 people in 44 countries worldwide.

Henkel operates internationally with its three business units – Laundry & Home Care, Beauty Care, and Adhesive Technologies – and their leading brands and technologies. With around 50,000 employees and well-known brands such as Persil, Schwarzkopf, and Loctite, the company, founded in 1876, is a global market leader in consumer and industrial business. In fiscal 2015, Henkel generated sales of €18.1 billion and posted an adjusted operating result of €2.9 billion. Henkel's preferred shares are DAX-listed.

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