

Press release

Barryvox® Transceiver with innovative TPE/PA design

Waldkraiburg, February 2018

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When every second counts

Barryvox® Transceiver from Mammut in innovative
TPE/PA multi-component design

The Mammut Sports Group, based in Switzerland, has substantially advanced its range of locating devices for rescuing winter sports enthusiasts who are buried in avalanches. The range of devices has recently been expanded to include two Barryvox® transceivers (transmitter/receiver) with optimized technical and construction characteristics, including a case seal as well as casing parts made of polyamide and a thermoplastic elastomer compound (TPE) using multi-component injection molding. A compound from KRAIBURG TPE is used here, featuring excellent adhesion to polyamides (PA) and thus providing the life-saving device with outstanding sealing quality and consequently a high degree of operational reliability.

Mammut, a Swiss manufacturer of outdoor equipment, is regarded as being the pioneer and market leader in the field of avalanche locating devices. The new technology used in the Barryvox® transceivers enhances precision and speed in locating skiers and ski-tourers who are buried in avalanches. The brand name commemorates “Barry, the lifesaver” – the legendary avalanche search and rescue dog at the Great St. Bernard Hospice that helped locate hundreds of avalanche victims in the early 19th century.

In addition to integrating pioneering locating technology, Mammut has also optimized the handling of the new Barryvox® device. The case shell with its rear side elements is made of a TPE/PA compound construction that is processed using multi-component injection molding without additional bonding agents. The flexible TPE – a THERMOLAST® K compound from KRAIBURG TPE – not only provides pleasant touch characteristics but also contributes significantly to the devices’ non-slip single-hand/glove handling. The soft component is also used for the internal case seal.

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“The major criteria for choosing this thermoplastic elastomer for our new Barryvox® transceivers were its mechanical properties, its good grip and, last but not least, its reliable adhesion to polyamide,” says Ilari Dammert, Senior Product & Project Manager for Avalanche Safety at the Mammut Sports Group. “The TPE compound selected meets all of these requirements to a high standard and in particular features superb low-temperature flexibility, which is a must for devices used at temperatures down to –25 °C. In addition, we were impressed by KRAIBURG TPE’s excellent service in choosing and color-matching the material.”

The TPE compound was specially developed for adhesion to polyamide. KRAIBURG TPE has many years of experience and comprehensive expertise in the technology of hard/soft applications. The manufacturer’s wide range of products provides many options. The materials can also be matched to various hard components and do not need any bonding agents when they are injection-molded onto semi-crystalline polymers such as polyamide.

The Barryvox® devices also underline the uncompromising commitment of both manufacturers to safety and sustainability. By choosing THERMOLAST® K from KRAIBURG TPE, Mammut has opted for a material produced in accordance with ISO 14001 (environment standard) and ISO 50001 (energy standard).

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About Mammut

Founded in 1862, MAMMUT is a premium outdoor company in Switzerland that supplies mountaineering enthusiasts all over the world with high-quality equipment and unique brand experiences. The leading international outdoor brand has stood for safety and pioneering innovations for more than 155 years. Products from MAMMUT combine functionality and performance in a modern design. MAMMUT distributes hardware as well as footwear and clothing and offers one of the widest ranges of products on the outdoor market. Mammut Sports Group operates in more than 40 countries, employing some 720 people. mammut.com

About KRAIBURG TPE

KRAIBURG TPE (www.kraiburg-tpe.com) is a global manufacturer of thermoplastic elastomers. Since its beginnings in 2001, as a subsidiary of the historical KRAIBURG Group founded in 1947, KRAIBURG TPE has played a pioneering role. With production sites in Germany, the US, and Malaysia, the company offers a broad range of compounds for applications in the automotive, industrial and consumer sectors, as well as the strictly regulated medical sector. The established THERMOLAST®, COPEC®, HIPEX®, and For Tec E® product lines are processed using injection molding or extrusion and provide numerous processing and product design advantages for manufacturers. KRAIBURG TPE features innovative capabilities as well as truly global customer orientation, customized product solutions and reliable service. The company is certified to ISO 50001 at its headquarters in Germany as well as in Malaysia and holds ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 certifications at all global sites. In 2017, KRAIBURG TPE, with over 600 employees worldwide, generated sales of €178 million.

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The Mammut® Barryvox® S locating device for winter sports enthusiasts, with an internal case seal and tactile casing elements providing highly secure grip qualities, made of mechanically robust and PA-compatible THERMOLAST® K from KRAIBURG TPE (photo: © 2018 Mammut Sports Group AG)