

Press release

Flame-retardant materials in E&E applications

Waldkraiburg, October 2017

Page 1 of 4

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Flame-retardant materials in E&E applications

Custom-engineered TPE and more

With KDSClick, the connection technology manufacturer CONTA-CLIP Verbindungstechnik has created an extremely flexible cable entry system that comprises inlays and various seal elements manufactured using Thermoplastic Elastomers from KRAIBURG TPE. The TPE specialist developed for example halogen-free flame retardant materials in accordance with UL94 and are rated as Category V0.

The halogen-free system offers users in the electric and electronic industry a very flexible and efficient solution for new installations and retrofitting of cables and hoses, as well as pneumatic and hydraulic lines in enclosures and control cabinets. The systems make use of no fewer than five different Thermoplastic Elastomers (TPE) from KRAIBURG TPE: a PA adhesion-optimised THERMOLAST® K compound for the system inlay seal, in addition to flame retardant and custom-engineered TPE materials for sealing elements.

“The KDSClick cable entry system was our first TPE project, so that we needed a competent partner who would provide us with optimal support, from the choice of a suitable material for the application, mould design, colour matching all the way to series production,” says Jörg Nowastowski-Stock, Head of Product Management at CONTA-CLIP. “The specialists at KRAIBURG TPE were committed to fulfilling our requirements from the very beginning and were instrumental in the fast implementation of the project.”

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Press release

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Page 2 of 4

One of the challenges of the system was to ensure an absolutely reliable seal of the frame mounted on the control cabinet in accordance with IP 66 protection, as required in process and industrial automation. The frame consists of glass-fibre reinforced PA 6.6 and a TPE compound.

It was necessary to find a TPE material that enables excellent adhesion to polyamides and is soft enough to adapt to different surfaces in order to seal the system. CONTA-CLIP decided to use an adhesion-optimised TPE compound from KRAIBURG TPE that is processed with the polyamide of the inlay in a two-component injection moulding process. The THERMOLAST® K material features excellent adhesion and ensures a reliable seal even on painted or rough surfaces.

The system also includes seal elements of different sizes, which enclose the cables, hoses and lines. In close cooperation, CONTA-CLIP and KRAIBURG TPE optimised the design of the seal elements to achieve IP 66 protection. The slotted elements are designed for easy installation and exact enclosure of the cables without deformation.

The flame retardant THERMOLAST® K materials used for the KDSClick system are self-extinguishing in accordance with UL94 and are rated as non-dripping (Category V0). In addition, the TPE compounds developed for the electric and electronic market are halogen-free in accordance with IEC 61249-2-21.

“The modular cable entry system from CONTA-CLIP is an outstanding example of the innovative commitment of our advanced Thermoplastic Elastomers,” says Dr. Thomas Wagner, Product Management EMEA at KRAIBURG TPE. “This project also emphasises our extensive development competence and our consistent customer orientation in support of high-end applications.”

Press release

Flame-retardant materials in E&E applications

Waldkraiburg, October 2017

Page 3 of 4

About CONTA-CLIP

CONTA-CLIP (www.conta-clip.de) is one of Europe's most important manufacturers of electrical connecting terminals. For more than 40 years, the medium-sized company with headquarters in Hövelhof (NRW) has been manufacturing electrical and electronic connection technology for process and industrial automation, with a focus on railway and conveyor technology, building automation, air conditioning, machine and plant construction, instrumentation and control systems, control panel construction, shipbuilding, transformer construction and environmental technology. The company's products are divided into three business units: CONTA-CONNECT for electric connection technology, CONTA-ELECTRONICS for electronics and CONTA-CON for PCB connectors. In addition to its products, CONTA-CLIP also offers services in cabinet construction, terminal strip assembly, component labelling and custom electronics.

About KRAIBURG TPE

KRAIBURG TPE (www.kraiburg-tpe.com) is a globally operating manufacturer of Thermoplastic Elastomers. Founded in 2001 as a subsidiary of the long-standing KRAIBURG Group founded in 1947, KRAIBURG TPE assumed a pioneering role from the very beginning. With production plants in Germany, the USA and Malaysia, the company offers a broad portfolio of compounds for automotive, industrial and consumer applications, as well as for medical applications, which are subject to stringent regulations. The well-known THERMOLAST®, COPEC®, HIPEX® and For Tec E® product lines offer manufacturers numerous benefits with respect to product design and processing in injection moulding and extrusion processes. KRAIBURG TPE offers reliable service, innovation and worldwide customer orientation with custom engineered product solutions. The company is certified to ISO 50001 at all locations in Germany and Malaysia and to ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 at all locations worldwide. In 2016 KRAIBURG TPE, with about 550 employees, earned revenue of 167 million euros.

Press release

Flame-retardant materials in E&E applications

Waldkraiburg, October 2017

Page 4 of 4



Easy assembly and fast installation: the modular cable entry system KDSClick from CONTA-CLIP with inlays and seal elements of Thermoplastic Elastomers from KRAIBURG TPE offer maximum configuration flexibility.

(Images © CONTA-CLIP)