

# Nova pushes UPES for thermoforming

Nova Chemicals is targeting thermoforming applications with its UPES reactor grade resin that combines polyethylene and polystyrene. It says that the additive can enhance the properties of a range of resins and can act as a compatibiliser for different combinations of dissimilar and incompatible resins.

UPES is produced using Nova's Qinnex suspension polymerisation technology and is described as a "very intimate blend" of polyethylene and polystyrene. It does not have the same chemical structure as Dow's discontinued Ethylene-Styrene Interpolymer, but offers some similar functionality and benefits.

When used as an additive, UPES can improve the processability and printability of plastics and can bring different property enhancements to different polymer types. For example, it can act as stiffening agent for polyolefins or can enhance the ductility of polystyrene.

End-use applications of compounds incorporating UPES include thermoformed packaging, where the additive can deliver significant source reduction and higher throughputs. The company quotes an application at Tray-Pak in Reading, PA,



**Nova's UPES resin offers a number of advantages over pure HDPE, and has already been used to improve the performance of thermoforming sheet**

USA, where the addition of UPES at less than 20% loadings allowed a 63 mil (1.6 mm) thick HDPE sheet to be downgauged by 20% and run at 30% higher thermoforming throughputs. The thermoforming sheet was produced by Primex.

Additional benefits include faster start-up, reduced energy input and good recyclability of trim scrap. Nova also claims that its resin causes less thickness variation than for pure HDPE. The downgauged UPES tray also has a 240% increase in crush strength, despite being thinner.

! [www.upesresin.com](http://www.upesresin.com)

## Altuglas restructures sheet

Altuglas International has announced plans to restructure its PMMA sheet business in Europe, by centralising extruded sheet production and improving the efficiency of cast-sheet logistics.

"Following the acquisition of the Repsol PMMA business in 2008, these plans form part of our growth strategy," said Christophe de Saint Louvent, president of Altuglas International. "Optimising our logistics network and improving delivery times are our major

objectives, while ensuring that our large cast-sheet customers remain central to our manufacturing and sales strategies."

Under the proposals, it would invest in a new logistics platform at its Saint-Avoid site in France, which would allow increased capacity for storage and preparation of cast sheet.

The plans would result in the loss of 76 jobs at its Bernouville site in France, said the company.

! [www.altuglasint.com](http://www.altuglasint.com)

**BRÜCKNER**

*Stretching  
the Limits*

We maximize film producer's profitability

- Tailor-made project consulting
- Reliable commissioning
- German workmanship
- Flexible and efficient lines
- Comprehensive service
- Individual financing solutions

[www.brueckner.com](http://www.brueckner.com)