



Precise, safe, cost-efficient

It measures only 25 millimeters, but is big on performance: 55 signal contacts are integrated into this tiny package. Everyone's talking about the new high precision miniature connector from Erni.

Erni has launched a new connector on the market, the Ermet type C (THR), which meets demanding requirements without losing sight of costs. The company has managed this balancing act with the help of the excellent properties of Vectra® liquid crystal polymer (LCP). The right-angle connector made from this Ticona thermoplastic permits fully automatic processing, such as plug-in card placement. This more cost-efficient method of producing finished circuit boards is successful because the connector is suitable for a special soldering process (THR = through hole reflow).

These days, around 80 percent of circuit board components are SMDs (Surface Mounted Devices). The remaining 20 percent are conventional, i.e. wired components not suitable for reflow soldering.

But this far smaller proportion of conventional components accounts for around 40 percent of the total costs for circuit board production. "We therefore wanted to develop a connector that fulfilled very high quality requirements but was also suitable for reflow soldering. At the same time, we also wanted to reduce board manufacturing costs," explained Michael Rentschler, Materials Management Manager at Erni.

This was successfully achieved by soldering SMDs and reflow-compatible THR connectors in a single production process. The soldering operation, however, is carried out at higher temperatures than usual. Vectra® LCP therefore had to meet the following requirements in this application: excellent thermal stability with low gas emissions, high melting point and very high heat deflection temperature.

New sales and marketing partner in Turkey

On May 15, 2006, Swiss distribution company Omya, became Ticona's exclusive sales and marketing partner for engineering thermoplastics in Turkey. The two companies have been successfully working together in Switzerland for over 50 years.

Omya, based in Oftringen, Switzerland, is one of the best known and respected distributors in the European thermoplastics and rubber industry. In Turkey, Omya will direct sales and marketing activities for Ticona products from Istanbul.

Two new production plants in China

In China, Ticona is building a new compounding plant for Celstran® long fiber reinforced thermoplastics (LFT) and a new production facility for GUR® ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene (PE-UHMW). In choosing China as its production base in Asia, Ticona is setting its sights on one of the world's strongest growth markets for engineering thermoplastics. With the new production facility, global GUR® PE-UHMW capacity will be increased to 90 000 tonnes per annum. The facility will have an annual capacity of 20 000 tonnes and will commence production in the first quarter of 2008. The first production line for Celstran® LFT, with an annual capacity of 2000 tonnes, is scheduled to start up in the third quarter of 2007.