

Sika Industry Magazine

INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOR CUSTOMERS AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATES

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Was better attended and more successful than ever

Construction of a New Swiss Bobsled is Making Good Progress

The Swiss Bobsled Federation is collaborating with ETH Zurich and eleven industrial partners including Sika to develop new bobsleds for the Swiss competition team. The project is on track. The new bobs will be available for the 2009/2010 racing season and the 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver, Canada.

The Swiss Bobsled Federation began the biggest equipment project in its history in the spring of 2007 under the cover name «Citius.» For one and a half years now, dozens of scientists and R&D engineers have been working on this project, whose objective is to give the Swiss bobsled team the fastest bob in the world for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver. Development and production of the new bobs is headed by Christian Reich, an experienced Swiss bobber and bob builder. Professor Ulrich W. Suter, member of the Board of Directors with Sika, is responsible for the scientific coordination at ETH Zurich. The overall project manager is Robert FÜRER, who lives in Frauenfeld (Switzerland).

The two prototypes – a two-man bob and a four-man bob – were completed in time for the fall season. The two bobs were already tested in the Audi wind tunnel at Ingolstadt, Germany, followed by initial track tests at Igls (near Innsbruck) in Austria. The results looked very promising. Based on this, construction of the bobs are beginning in spring 2009, and they will be available to the Swiss bobsled team in sufficient numbers starting with the 2009/2010 season.

The results up to now have created a positive mood among the project participants. The Swiss Bobsled Federation plans to unveil the new equipment in autumn 2009.



Sika Group News

December 17, 2008 **New Member of Group Management at Sika AG**

The Board of Directors has appointed Iven Chadwick Member of Group Management as of January 1, 2009.

Iven Chadwick joined Sika as head of the newly established Region India, Middle East and Africa (IMEA) in April 2007. Under his management, business there has developed successfully and grown significantly. With the appointment of Iven Chadwick, all six regions of the Sika organization will be represented in Group Management.

Prior to joining Sika, Iven Chadwick gained broad business experience in the IMEA region at MBT and Degussa, later BASF, where he headed Corporate Business Lines. A British citizen and a graduated chemist of the Manchester Polytechnic, UK, he also holds an MBA degree from Leicester University, UK.

January 27, 2009 **Sika Acquires Technology Leader in Liquid Membranes**

Sika AG has acquired Iotech Group Limited, with headquarters in England and subsidiaries in the UK, USA and Belgium. The transaction closed on January 26, 2009. Iotech Group revenues totaled GBP 40 million for the year 2008. Previously the company was privately owned. Iotech specializes in formulation, production and supply of polyurethane liquid membranes and intermediates.

Liquid membranes are well established in the global roofing and waterproofing markets. The membranes are supplied mainly to the highly profitable and crisis-resistant refurbishment market for small to medium-sized roofs. The global liquid membrane market is fragmented, and is served only by regional or local suppliers. Market growth is disproportionately high, outperforming the construction market as a whole.

With this acquisition Sika substantially expands its technology and market know-how and builds up a market position in polyurethane liquid membranes for roofing. In addition to liquid membranes, Iotech formulates, produces and supplies hygienic wall coatings. This product range contributes to Sika's market approach in clean room applications, e.g. for the food industry.

Iotech's highly recognized R&D organisation enables Sika to establish a technology centre for liquid membranes. Sika anticipates that liquid membrane technology will advance materially and has considerable global market potential.

The parties have agreed not to disclose the sales price. Approximately 250 employees are expected to join Sika.

February 24, 2009 **Continued growth in a difficult environment**

The Sika Group increased sales in 2008 by 7.3% in terms adjusted for exchange rates. In Swiss francs this yielded a net result of CHF 4.625 billion, 1.1% higher than that of the previous year. Operating profit before depreciation, EBITDA, amounted to CHF 556.1 million, and consolidated net profit to CHF

267.4 million. Overall Sika achieved the second highest result in the company's history.

Despite the effects of the declining construction industry in various countries felt throughout the Group in the fourth quarter of the reporting year, growth in the Construction Division, adjusted for exchange rates, was satisfactory at 9.2%. In the Industry Division on the contrary, the substantially collapsed production figures in vehicle construction in the fourth quarter limited sales growth to an exchange rate-adjusted 0.6%. All Regions contributed to Group growth. The best results were achieved as in the previous year in the Regions IMEA (India, Middle East, Africa; +33%) and Latin America (+25%).

Above all three factors influenced the result negatively:

- The shift in currency exchange conditions in some countries such as Great Britain, Korea, Japan and Australia.
- Enormous, short-term price increases for raw materials in the third quarter that could only in part be passed on to customers.
- Preparatory efforts in personnel development of management functions in the Regions in order to be able to better exploit the growth potential foremost in emerging markets in the future.

Gross profit as a proportion of net sales weakened from 53.3% to 51.7%. Operating profit before depreciation, EBITDA, dropped 12.8% from CHF 637.8 million to CHF 556.1 million. The EBITDA margin at 12.0% was 1.9 percentage points lower than in the previous year. Operating profit,

EBIT, amounted to CHF 422.0 million and thereby lay 17.4% lower than the CHF 510.8 million of the previous year.

Consolidated net profit before taxes decreased opposite the previous year by 22.2% to CHF 373.3 million. The income tax rate amounted to 28.4%, thereby falling below the level of the previous year of 28.7%. Thus remained a consolidated net profit of CHF 267.4 million. The profit margin amounted to 5.8% (2007: 7.5%).

Outlook

Short-term forecasts in the present environment are very difficult. Due to the spreading economic crisis Sika reckons with a decline in demand in many of the markets that are relevant for the company. The Construction Division feels the cooling demand with some delay, and on the other hand will also profit later from an economic recovery. Economic stimulus packages announced in many countries will help in the infrastructure sector to compensate growth slumps in private com-

mercial construction. It is nevertheless entirely open when these effects will be felt.

Sika will employ the current business year to increase the efficiency of production facilities, the global supply chain and the whole organization further. Production facilities that are not operating optimally will be decommissioned and local production capacity adapted to demand. In accordance with the Group's decentralized structure the regional companies will develop individual programs in order to profit from available growth opportunities and – where necessary – adjust cost structures quickly to respective market conditions. These programs could also affect jobs. In view of the corporate structure Sika does not consider comprehensive, worldwide plans for personnel reduction to be an adequate response.

Overall Sika considers its long-term growth chances intact. The growth course consistently pursued during the past years will orient itself during the recessionary phase towards reduced or negative growth with adapted costs.



Windshield Replacement at OEM Repair Market

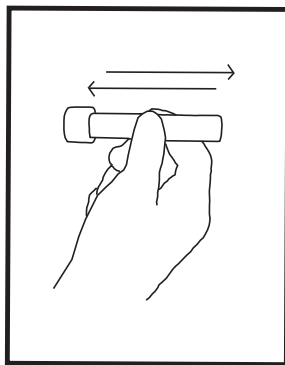
Sika Automotive OEM gained market share for Daimler and Volvo repair sets and is nominated to continue single source repair business at BMW. This success is the result of a strong team work between sales, marketing and Research and Development, improving excellent relationship with these customers.

The applicator stick was launched in December 2008 at BMW and was rolled out to full implementation with them by the end of the second quarter of 2008.

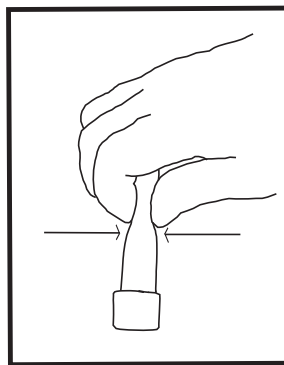
Daimler has also introduced the applicator stick in February of this year and Volvo is planning the

same for the third quarter of 2009. These developments will increase Sika's market share.

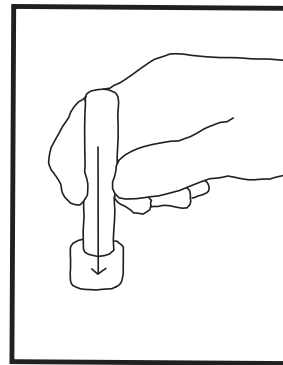
Sika knowledge out of assembly line applications (BMW and Daimler) is reflecting customer confidence in repair sets as well as repair knowledge (Volvo) is gaining confidence to start direct glazing business within 2009.



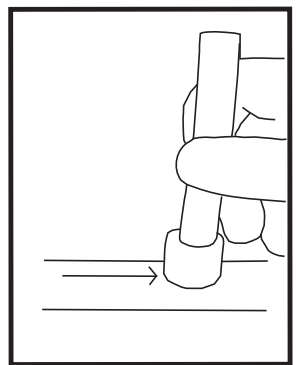
Shake



Break



Squeeze



Apply



Daimler Aktivator and Primer Stick



Daimler Repair Set with Aktivator and Primer Stick



New Automotive Power with SikaPower®

Sealing Applicatins of 'A'-Pillars

Since the beginning of 2009 at the Volkswagen factory, all of the 'A'-pillars o the four VW existing models have been sealed, at the Body-in-White stage, with SikaPower®-415P1.

Beads of SikaPower®-415P1 are applied by production line robots and look like any other homogeneous part of the over-painted body structure after the e-coat process. Following Volkswagen ageing lab-agent tests that simulate long-term weather durability where so good that the client commenced immediate application on the largest model platform.

Good, Better, The Best – SikaPower®-492

SikaPower®-492 is the flagship of a new generation of SikaPower® adhesives that has been released at the Volkswagen Group for most structural applications. This new product is setting new standards as it pushes the highest technical specifications even higher. Improved bonding to oily substrates, better wash-out resistance, extended long-term aging and an enhanced capacity for different baking conditions not only extend the list of production benefits, but also support Sika's reputation as a provider of top quality solutions and as a perfect technical partner.

Nominations for new SikaPower® generation

Ever since the second quarter of 2008 at BMW, crash resistant adhesive SikaPower®-498 has been used at Roll's Royce and BMW. This crash resistant adhesive is now to be used on a larger scale on most models of the coming series.

The purely structural adhesive, SikaPower®-480 has been released at BMW and gradually replaces

existing products. Technologically superior SikaPower®-498 and SikaPower®-480, having greater wash-out resistance, ten-months shelf life and superb application properties, are moving to pole-position at BMW for structural and crash resistant adhesives.

Baffles Expand

Sika has been able to extend baffle business on the current BMW platform and is now also supplying Baffles for floor-group and front-end assemblies on running models.

BiW Anti-flutter Sealer

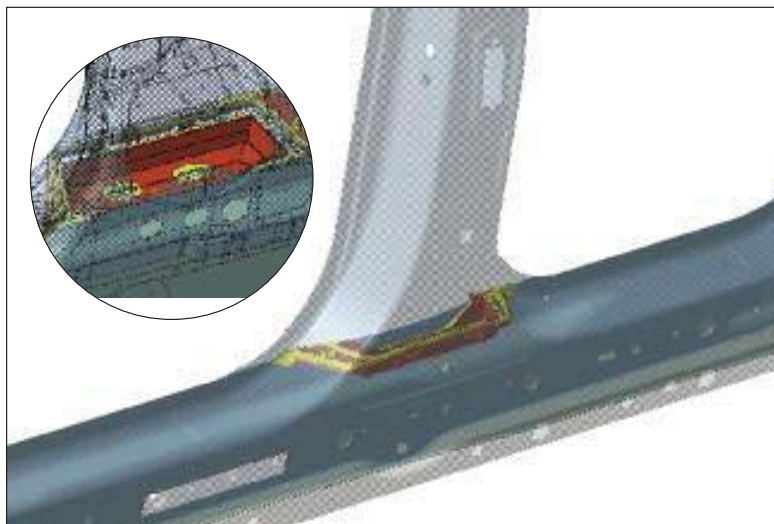
Since the third quarter of 2008, Sika has supplied SikaSeal®-710 to Toyota UK. Now, starting from June 2009, Skoda is to join the list with expandable anti-flutter sealant applications.

Trim Shop Developments

Audi is using Sikaflex®-250 HMA-3 + Booster for direct glazing on basic high value models. This new accelerated booster system has many benefits compared to current direct glazing solutions.

Pre-assembly Anti-flutter

Sikaflex®-512 is used as anti-flutter sealant at BMW. This si the second largest hybrid applicaiton in Automotive OEM. With the start of production of the new models in the fourth quarter of 2009, Sika will condolidate this position.



Sika® Click Packaging Improves Efficiency in the Workplace!

At Sika, innovation does not always appear in the form of new product performance; it also manifests in new designs of product packaging. Sika® Aktivator PRO is a new pre-treatment agent specifically designed to meet the needs of the automotive aftermarket. During its development, Sika took advantage of the opportunity to investigate the possibilities for user-friendlier packaging.

Packaging for the original Sika® Aktivator consists of a bottle with two caps. The inner one forms the seal against vapour and liquid to properly seal the contents; the outer one provides a secondary seal and protects the inner one from contamination and damage. Each time the product is used in the workplace, both caps have to be removed and then put back on again. Some installers have found this too fiddly to use efficiently, so they have applied various inappropriate strategies. For example, some

of them used just one of the caps; some opened the bottle during the first job and closed it again only at the end of their shift; others actually made holes in both the caps.

Of course, optimal use of the product is only as Sika recommend. But mindful of the difficulties encountered by the operatives in the field, Sika, has worked with the Swiss packaging specialist, Terxo, to develop a new cap that allows opening and closing with only one hand. In this way, the Sika® Click Packaging system was born.

The new packaging system still has two caps. The outer one is the safety cap that, like the original, provides secondary security against leakage and protects the inner one from damage. This cap now only needs to be fitted during transit. The inner 'snap lock' cap is the 'working' one and this

keeps the material fresh and contained at the point of application. In addition to its single-handed operation, the new cap also gives a click-sound as audible feedback to indicate that the cap has closed properly.

Another design issue addressed was the size of the opening in the top of the original can. This was found to be too large and meant that when applying Sika® Aktivator to paper tissues prior to use, control of the outflow was difficult, resulting in spillage and waste. Sika has included a restrictor inside the new Sika® Click cap to limit the outflow and, on average, this has effectively reduced consumption by up to 20%.

Sika® Aktivator PRO is the first product that will be supplied with the new Sika® Click Packaging, and will be available from April 2009.



No Shortcuts to Safety at Sika

It is a simple fact that Sika is the foremost international supplier of Auto Glass Replacement (AGR) adhesive. Our philosophy of being a partner to our customers means that we are intimately involved in the development of products that are perfect for their purpose and in most instances, exceed the expectations of our clients. It also means that we have accrued a vast amount of expertise in some of the most leading and highly specialized applications throughout industry.

In an ever-changing world, modern auto windshields have developed roles beyond their primary function of transparent enclosure. These new roles are: to provide additional strength to the vehicle structure, and to remain in place in the event of an accident, thereby containing the occupants. The latter of these roles has come about following the testing of airbags, where, in order to keep vehicle occupants safe, the windshield must provide a vital support surface for the inflated airbag. In this respect, it has become a critical safety component.

Vehicle manufacturers have a duty to ensure that new vehicles have their windshields fitted to the highest standards. However, in the auto glass replacement industry, there are few guarantees regarding the skills of those charged with replacing a damaged windshield, or of the materials they fit them with. Serious injuries can result from an improperly fitted windshield or when inferior adhesives have been used. Under these circumstances, the adhesive can fail in a collision and the windshield can separate from the car body. Even when fitted properly, in order to be safe, the adhesive must gain sufficient strength before the vehicle is driven away. The waiting period is called the 'Safe-Drive-Away Time' and good fitters will ensure that this is honored.

Sika has produced a short, but clever and entertaining film illustrating the importance of quality

materials and correct procedures in the fitting of auto windshields. This can be viewed at www.no-shortcuts-to-safety.com where Mike and David learn about the need for skill and knowledge.

Sika's black-primerless adhesive system has excellent application properties that make it easier to use and leave less room for mistakes. Using this superior product ensures that not only can windshields be replaced speedily, but they can also meet with the original vehicle manufacturer's standards. In addition, being black-primerless goes some of the way to ensuring that windshields fitted by poorly trained fitters have a far greater integrity than systems that require the use of a more complicated black primer system.

Many companies make claims about their high standards. With many of these, the statement is part of the marketing strategy and exists only between the marketing department and the publicity material. At Sika, product safety has always been at the core of policy and Sika technicians and engineers place safety of the product and of the target application at the highest priority level. So when you read in our literature that «Your safety is Sika's highest priority», you can be sure it is true and not just a marketing ploy.



The Champion of Energy-Efficient Building

College and university students from around the world compete in the Solar Decathlon, an international contest to design, build and operate the world's best solar-powered house. The current champion, TU Darmstadt, uses insulated windows bonded with Sika adhesives.

A unique ritual takes place every two years within walking distance of the White House in Washington D.C.: A small village is built at the National Mall by teams of solar technology researchers and building designers who gather for a three-week contest to construct and operate the most attractive, energy-efficient solar-powered house. Sponsored by U.S. Department of Energy and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), the Solar Decathlon tests the skills of its contestants in ten disciplines, including market viability, appliances, hot water, lighting and energy balance.

TU Darmstadt, a leading German technical university, won the contest with a 70 m² house that produced more solar energy than it used. All teams had to run a stove, washing machine and 435-liter refrigerator for a week and use reserve energy to power an electric car, which was monitored for mileage it could travel.

«Generally our goal was to build in energy saving into the design,» says Isabel Schäfer, a project manager from the TU Darmstadt. «It may be more of a European approach, but we wanted to create a house from floor plan to the building shell that would save as much energy as possible even before adding active solar systems.»

The TU Darmstadt team succeeded in building a «passive» house, which does not exceed energy consumption limits with high insulation that would make it possible to live in a European climate all the year round without outside electricity. «We wanted to achieve a passive-house standard that would comply with the European norm,» said Schäfer.

Insulated windows were a key success factor. «Adhesives were essential to achieving high insulation performance with little profile,» said Mathias Häussler, Sales and Product Manager of the window Energate, made by the window manufacturer Ludwig Häussler GmbH.

To achieve a high window insulation, Häussler used Sika adhesives for large window surfaces, including two 2.5 x 1.2 meter French balcony windows. «We were not worried about the large surface. Even with the mounting we had more than enough leeway to hold 130 kg or about four square meters with triple glazing.»

The TU Darmstadt project used floor-to-ceiling windows on the north and south sides allowing for



generous daylight (quadruple glazing north, triple glazing south, insulated frames). Shutters and windows can be operated manually, extending or limiting the living space, according to daytime, seasonal, and user demands.

The Standards of Eco Living

Passive House is a standard for energy efficiency in buildings. It generally applies to buildings that require little energy for heating or cooling, not exceeding 15 kWh/m² per year. Total energy consumption may not exceed 42 kWh/m² and the primary energy for heating, hot water and electricity may not exceed 120 kWh/m².

Minergie House – A Swiss standard for new and remodeled low-energy consumption buildings. The label Minergie may be used only for buildings, services and components that meet Minergie standards, meaning high-grade, air-tight buildings that enclose and continuously renew air in a building using energy-efficient ventilation systems. This standard requires that a new single-family home does not exceed 42 kWh/m². A refurbishment project may not exceed 80 kWh/m².

Zero-Energy House is a standard for buildings with zero net energy consumption over a typical year. This may apply to cost, energy, or carbon emissions. The onsite renewable energy source generates the same amount of energy the house uses. This may also include the energy used to transport energy to the building.

Energy-Plus House – This standard applies to a building that produces more energy from renewable energy sources than it gets from external sources. A combination of micro-generation technology and low-energy building techniques such as passive solar building design, insulation and site placement is used, as well as energy-efficient appliances and fixtures.

Heating and cooling systems. Correct construction significantly reduces the effects of both heat flow and air leakage. Sika adhesives are widely used in the manufacture of insulated windows that enable these remarkable energy savings.



CTT – Two Years of Hard Work in Romania Bears Fruit

Centru Termopan Transilvania (CTT) is a large Romanian retailer producing and supplying aluminium and PVC profiles, and just about every other accessory for window manufacturers you can think of. It also produces glass and completed window assemblies.

CTT is a consortium that includes companies like: Austroplast Profile, Austroplast Product, and Axxa Construct, each of whom brings a different specialism to the partnership.

Two years ago, after concentrating only on the window market for so long, CTT realized that they were missing an opportunity in the market in sandwich panels and doors. From that time onwards, CTT has put enormous effort into correcting this oversight. They have tried many

unusual methods of manual production and several in-house machine tool presses but finally, after a great many experiments, settled on a set of components, adhesives and methods that worked for them. In consequence, during 2008, CTT produced over a third of a million square metres of bonded panels. Two sides of these panels were fixed using adhesives.

During the experimental stage, they were testing Sika products for some of the time, but not always the right ones for the job, and not always in the right way, so these fell by the wayside.

It is understandable then, that Sika Romania's first approach met with considerable resistance. CTT were working with rollers, and a press that they had built themselves and it was doing the

job. «Why should we change?» they wanted to know. They knew nothing about Sika, Sika capabilities or of Sika quality.

After many hours of hard work and presentations, the message began to filter across, and following suitable trials, they successfully began to construct their sandwich panels using SikaForce®-7710 adhesive. However, it was not long before there was a major setback and the newfound confidence in Sika was shattered when the bonding on 17000 m² of panels failed. With only a little effort, the PVC could be peeled back from the core material.

This was confusing for Sika technicians as every material involved had first been thoroughly tested and now, after the failures, checks revealed that



the correct adhesives and processes were still being used throughout.

It eventually became apparent that there had been a change of supplier for both the PVC and the core material. The new PVC being used had different characteristics to the previously tested one and the Sika adhesive was no longer the correct match for the application.

New tests were instigated using the new PVC and core materials and the results identified SikaForce®-7718 as being the best for the application. CTT disclosed that SikaForce®-7718 was the best adhesive they had come across. In the meantime they had set up production using an alternative adhesive (Kleberit 1K PU) and were applying this with a manual roller and using a car

washer to spray the PVC with water. While this was working up to a point, they were still producing some failures. But probably the biggest disadvantage of their in-house process was that the amount of manual work needed was too high.

Working intermittently with CTT, Sika was able to identify the reason for the failures. This was that CTT were pressing the panels for only ninety minutes; which initially seemed impressive – until it was discovered that the recommended period was twelve hours. Changing this period solved the failure issue, but the longer time meant that the costs were no longer viable.

Sika worked with VETACS to design a tailored machine for the CTT production line. The result not only gave a productivity of 240 m²/h with

three presses and with far less effort but also produced a robust product with a high quality finish. The new system now produces one sandwich panel every minute.

It is easy to see why companies like CTT would want to retain full control over their production lines and keep 'interlopers' at bay. However, had they taken full advantage of the Sika expertise from the outset to provide a complete solution, they could have saved two years worth of trial and error and heartache. Sika's ethos, to be a partner to our clients is an important message for new clients as it tells them that Sika's success is bound up with their own. Truth be told, they are one and the same and getting this message across is the key to new markets.



Sika Invests in Technology Site Switzerland

Modern, innovative, future-oriented and conscious of tradition. Sika has built its new technology center where the company was founded almost one hundred years ago: in Zurich. Sika thereby acknowledges its roots and the technology site Switzerland.

New opportunities in research and development emerge for Sika with the April 2008 opening of the laboratories. Some 180 employees from all areas of the Group functions Research & Development (R&D) as well as Operations (Production and Logistics) find space in the technology center. Urs Mäder, Head R&D, remarks, «Before, researchers were spread across various sites in Switzerland. With the new building we now concentrate all research areas at one location and can thereby work more efficiently. This is part of Strategy 2010, which foresees the expansion and bundling of R&D and Operations in Zurich.»

Research on Five Floors

The research activity in the new building is primarily dedicated to Sika products in the areas of bonding and sealing having polyurethanes, silane-ter-

minated polymers, polyacrylates and epoxy hybrids as a chemical basis. The fundamentals of bonding and sealing technologies are investigated in the synthesis laboratories. This consists of the development of specially coordinated polymers, of new hardening mechanisms and of surface-active substances for adhesion improvement. In the laboratories the various components such as pre-polymers are synthesized and formulated with plasticizers, filler materials, pigments, additives and catalysts to a product with the desired properties. The distinct compositions, called formulations, are examined in test laboratories regarding their application properties. Also located in the building is a pilot lab, which serves for production of larger quantities of newly developed products for customer tests and for preparation of large-scale manufacturing.

The new Technology Center in Zurich, Switzerland. In the surface analysis laboratory, surface characterizations are conducted with the help of modern instruments such as the energy dispersive spectroscope (EDX) to clarify the causes of disturbances in bonding. In addition, such surfaces as glass ceramics are classified and

modified using plasma treatment. Researchers can also carry out corrosion measurements in the laboratory and determine dielectric coefficients, for example for Sika windshield and glass pane adhesives. The new laboratories in Zurich are located on floors one through five on the building's north side – thus protected from light and heat exposure. In their modern furnishings with measurement, storage and climate-controlled rooms the laboratories correspond to top-rate standards of the chemical industry. They are complemented by office work spaces which face in a westerly direction and depending on work requirements can be used as open-space or individual offices. «Our chemists appreciate high lab quality,» says Urs Mäder. «With the new facility we're able to raise the attractiveness of Sika Technology still further and as a result find highly qualified personnel more easily. At the moment we're hiring about 20 researchers per year.»

Surrounded by Sika Technology

The researchers can take inspiration in their work from the building itself, which contains Sika products at numerous locations. The exposed con-



crete façade with self-compacting SCC fluid concrete, which allows thin-walled construction of only 10 cm through the use of Sika additive products, conveys the pioneering performance of this new technology. In addition, the new technology center follows the Sika concept «from Roof to Floor»: Sika products are used on the roof, in the sealing and fixation of the courtyard glass façade as well as for flooring and wall coverings, and in below ground sealing. The research building has six floors above ground, one below ground and a rooftop control center. Conference rooms, testing laboratories and a pilot lab with pilot testing facilities are situated on the ground floor. The facility holds a combined surface area of some 10000 m² and a volume of 40000 m³.

Sika for Lasting Bonds – Two Buildings Become One

The plant premises Tüffenwies illustrates its history of growth. The different positions of structures, building heights and façades present a heterogeneous appearance, as is typical for industrial grounds. The new technology center towers above the other buildings and thereby sets a new accent. At the same time the new building integrates itself well into the plant premises Tüffenwies through its connection to the existing laboratory facility. For the viewer, the various building aspects with their strict geometric forms and clear-cut volumes demonstrate their dedication to a classical rationality. The essential artificiality of the laboratories is contrasted by a perceptible materiality. Materials speak of how they are made. They are not disguise, but follow rather their own actualized essence: smooth white walls and ceilings, stairwells and elevator shafts in raw, exposed concrete, untreated oak windows as well as



oaken-glazed carpentry. With the chosen configuration, not only were the operational and economic requirements for the new technology center fulfilled, but also an architectural form was found that reflects the transformation into a new research site. The centrally situated and distincti-

ve inner free space forms the core which draws together the various working and meeting zones. This place promotes common spirit among employees and reflects the desired openness in our enterprise culture.

IAA Transportation Show Hannover 2008

With more innovations and greater exhibition space than previous years, the world's most important commercial vehicle trade show, «IAA 2008», was better attended and more successful than ever.

The huge exhibition centre in Hannover, Germany was the venue for this international industrial fair from September 25th – October 2nd 2008. This year, climate protection, safety and optimum transport efficiency in the commercial vehicle industry were the leading themes.

Around a third of a million visitors from 110 countries came to the trade show. Ninety four percent of these were professional visitors from various industries. This clearly indicates the IAA's fair as a high status, not-to-be-missed event.

Countless products were presented on more than

a quarter of a million square metres of exhibition space. Among these were 258 world firsts, introduced by businesses from 48 countries. A testament to the popularity of the event is evident in the statistic that more than half of the exhibitors were from abroad.

Sika, led by Sika Germany GmbH, was once again making its presence felt. This year Sika was teamed with Dow Building Solutions, Pecolit and Pecocar in manning the Sandwich Panel Competence Centre. Lightweight and strong, the sandwich panel is seeing ever-expanding interest as the ideal solution to an increasing number of industry-wide construction problems.

The target customers for the Sika team were sandwich panel producers as well as end users like manufacturers of refrigerated truck trailers,

caravans and motor homes. There was interest too from bus manufacturers, who saw a particular use of this application in bus roof construction.

The concept of the Sandwich Panel Competence Centre has proven to be very successful, as all aspects of construction and application can be covered in one place. It was evident that this was very much appreciated by customers and other interested visitors as they could get complete answers to all of their queries on one stand.

The Sika team were very pleased to see all of the new and existing customers that took the trouble to visit us during the event. They take away our gratitude for the efforts they made to turn out on the day and we look forward to seeing them again in the near future.



Event Calendar

DATE	COUNTRY	CITY	EVENT	FURTHER INFORMATION
June 12 – 15, 2009	Finland	Tampere	GPD Glass Performance Day	www.gpd.com

