



Media Release

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For immediate release

Omya and International Fibres Group (IFG) announce a strategic partnership

Oftringen (Switzerland), September 7, 2022. Omya and IFG announce a strategic R&D partnership to explore the incorporation of calcium carbonate within fibers.

The two companies will work together using IFG's Fibres Research Centre in Linz, Austria, to explore new fiber product performance, characteristics and applications which will incorporate Omyafiber[®], a specially developed calcium carbonate for fiber and nonwoven applications. The two companies will jointly promote their findings into the fibers and nonwovens industry.

The collaboration has commenced with successful trials of the incorporation of Omyafiber[®] masterbatches into PP and PLA staple fibers, and further polymer types are under consideration to be tested on the pilot line.

Calcium Carbonate is being considered as it is a sustainable and renewable raw material, addressing some of the environmental pressures on the fibers industry. Its carbon footprint is approximately 300kg CO₂ per ton of Calcium Carbonate. It can be used in recycled materials and is also recyclable itself.

When Omyafiber[®] is combined with staple fibers, the IFG research and development teams discovered improved haptics, opacity and whiteness. It can also replace the use of titanium dioxide which has a significantly higher carbon footprint.

Due to the high thermal conductivity properties of Omyafiber[®] in the polymer matrix, it allows for products to be created that have lower sealing / bonding temperatures.

Omyafiber[®] is approved for food contact applications, it does not cause skin sensitivity and is OEKO-TEX[®] approved for use in apparel.

Simon Riepler, Head of Research and Development at IFG said of the collaboration: "Omya is a well-known name in the industry and we are very happy about our fruitful cooperation. The quality of the calcium carbonate is excellent and we are looking forward bringing this quality into fibers and providing a sustainable product for our customers."

Marco Viel, Vice President Polymers, Group Sales & Marketing at Omya said: "We are excited about this valuable cooperation with IFG that will significantly accelerate the market introduction of our Omyafiber[®] solution to the staple fiber market."

The two companies will collaboratively launch their partnership with a dedicated seminar at the Dornbirn GFC <https://www.dornbirn-gfc.com/> from 14-16 Sept. 2022



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About Omya

Omya is a leading global producer of industrial minerals – mainly derived from calcium carbonate, dolomite and perlite – and a worldwide distributor of specialty materials. The company provides a wealth of innovative product solutions that contribute to its customers' competitiveness and productivity in multiple industries such as Construction, Paper & Board, Polymers, Food and Personal & Home Care. Omya further provides Environmental Solutions targeting the agriculture, water and energy markets. Founded in 1884 in Switzerland, Omya has a global presence extending to more than 160 locations in over 50 countries with 9,000 employees.

Committed to implementing the principles of sustainability at all company levels, Omya provides added value products and services from responsibly sourced materials to meet the essential needs of current and future generations
www.omya.com

About IFG

International Fibres Group is a manufacturer of fibres for a wide range of B2B and B2C industries. With a sustainable focus, the group continues to invest in research and development for biodegradable and recyclable fibres.

www.fibresgroup.com

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