

Evonik introduces powerful, environmentally friendly shrinkage reducers

April 4, 2017

Essen, Germany. Working closely with its customers in the construction industry, Evonik has developed a new generation of shrinkage reducers. Not only do SITREN® additives offer special environmental advantages—in many cases they perform better than previous systems as well.

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New SITREN® shrinkage reducers are notable for their extremely low concentration of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), making them particularly well suited for shrinkage-reducing cement formulations used in building interiors. Available in liquid or powder form, these additives meet the strict requirements of many environmental certification standards—regardless of the concentration used. The new products, which were developed in close collaboration with the additives industry, perform impressively well too. As extensive tests on various types of mortar and concrete have shown, these shrinkage reducers are significantly more effective than classic systems in virtually any formulation.

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Shrinkage is a key challenge of many mineral-based systems used in construction. Moisture release and chemical reactions within the building material result in an undesirable reduction in volume during the drying process. Various approaches can be taken to control the phenomenon, such as the use of cement with less shrinkage or the addition of components that will cause the mixture to expand. These not only pose a technical challenge, however—they also drive up the cost of the formulation.

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For some time now, manufacturers have responded by using organic shrinkage reducers. These surface active substances affect how the water contained in the construction material interacts with other components of the formulation, thereby reducing the tendency to shrink. Typically, however, the proportion of volatile organic compounds in these substances is high. The resulting health concerns have caused their use to come under increasingly critical scrutiny, and the concentrations at which they can be used are strictly limited in order to minimize VOC emissions.

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Caption:

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Company information

Evonik, the creative industrial group from Germany, is one of the world leaders in specialty chemicals. Profitable growth and a sustained increase in the value of the company form the heart of Evonik's corporate strategy. Evonik benefits specifically from its innovative prowess and integrated technology platforms. Evonik is active in over 100 countries around the world with more than 35,000 employees. In fiscal 2016 the enterprise generated sales of around €12,7 billion and an operating profit (adjusted EBITDA) of about €2.165 billion.

About Nutrition & Care

The Nutrition & Care segment is led by Evonik Nutrition & Care GmbH and contributes to fulfilling basic human needs. That includes applications for everyday consumer goods as well as animal nutrition and health care. This segment employed about 7,500 employees, and generated sales of around €4.3 billion in 2016.

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