

Mitsubishi Chemical's DURABIO™ Bio-Based Engineering Plastic Adopted for Daihatsu Rocky and Other Vehicles: New Metallic Colored Grade Eliminates Need for Coating Processes

Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation

Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation (MCC; Head office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; President: Masayuki Waga) has augmented its lineup of DURABIO™ bio-based engineering plastics with a new metallic colored grade that eliminates the need for coating processes. This new grade has been adopted as an interior trim material for several vehicles including Daihatsu's Rocky.

DURABIO, developed by MCC, is a bio-based engineering plastic made from renewable plant-derived isosorbide. It features excellent performance, offering higher resistance to impact, heat, and weather than conventional engineering plastics. Additional benefits include ease of coloring—DURABIO can be simply mixed with pigment to create glossy, highly reflective surfaces—as well as its hardness, enhancing durability and scratch resistance. These advantages eliminate the need for painting or coating processes, enabling emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from paints to be reduced during manufacturing. Making the most of these features, automakers are increasingly adopting DURABIO for interior and exterior design parts. Moreover, DURABIO has bacteria resistance properties that make it difficult for germs to adhere its surface, and demand is expected to rise as manufacturers adapt to “new normal” conditions.

The metallic colored parts previously required a coating process to enhance brightness and reduce color irregularities, but for the latest parts made using DURABIO the material's transparency was used to achieve a shiny, high-class feel with pigment tinting alone, and VOC emissions and processing times were both reduced compared to conventional products.

MCC will continue to accelerate DURABIO research and development and contribute to environmentally friendly automaking.



Interior of Daihatsu Rocky (DURABIO adopted for steering-wheel switch bezel)

Photo courtesy of Daihatsu Motor Co., Ltd.

For further information, please contact:
Public Relations and Investor Relations Office
Mitsubishi Chemical Holdings Corporation
Tel: [+81] (0)3-6748-7140