



In the dashboard for the Audi A5 Coupé, automotive manufacturers are relying on stylish design with LFT. (fig.: Audi)

Functionality meets design

Dashboards for Audi and VW made from LFT

For a long time now, the interior aesthetics of a new car have been just as important as car body design and engine performance. When it comes to dashboards, in particular, car drivers value an attractive appearance with clear instrument layout. Car manufacturers and their suppliers additionally require easy processing and efficient production. To meet all these needs, they are now able to exploit the balanced material properties of Celstran long-glass-fibre-reinforced grades, in which polypropylene, PP copolymer or PP blends are used as the matrix material. The level of long-glass-fibre reinforcement can be suitably adjusted to component requirements within a certain range.

Key criteria for large component

For system suppliers such as Faurecia and Cadence Innovation, the strength and impact resistance of this large component are key criteria. In producing the component, it is therefore important to ensure that the material has the best possible flow properties, despite the reinforcing fibres, so that complicated moulds can be filled to the

last corner within reasonable cycle times. During this process, the fibres must also be uniformly distributed. Only in this way can the stability of the dashboard support be retained, even with complex geometries.

The Ticona material also offers the advantage that ventilation ducts or nozzles - for example with a lower fibre content than the foamed dashboard support - can be readily integrated, so reducing production costs. A crucial factor for the finished dashboard is the smooth surface achieved with Celstran+ (homogeneous glass fibre distribution in the polymer matrix). This allows a fine polyurethane (PU) foam to be applied, creating a pleasant „soft-touch“ effect. Finally, a slush skin, usually of PVC, is applied onto the foam surface to give the dashboard its special visual appeal.

Celstran is used everywhere, from dashboards for the Audi A5 Coupé, VW Golf and EOS to other structural parts such as body panels on the Volvo or large air duct components in MAN trucks. For visible reinforced components, in particular, this plastic is opening up new design options.

In the newly designed dashboards for the VW Golf and EOS and the Audi A5 Coupé, automotive manufacturers are relying on stylish design with Celstran+. The property profile of long-fibre-reinforced thermoplastics (LFT) from Ticona allows easy processing with accurate reproduction of design detail. At the same time, important components such as the passenger airbag can be fully integrated into the dashboard structure.