

## Biograde® and Bio-Pen granted the award for innovation

**Biograde®, the injection mouldable biocompound from FKUR, in the form of the new Bio-Pen from the writing utensils manufacturer Ritter-Pen has been granted the award for innovation "Biomaterial of the year 2008"**

Biograde® is a transparent, injection mouldable bioplastic based on cellulose. This co-developed product from FKUR and Fraunhofer UMSICHT combines renewable and biodegradable cellulose acetate with special additives and coupler by means of an adapted biocompounding process from FKUR. Biograde is transparent (depending on grade), dyeable, scratch and heat resistant. The cellulose acetate used is gained from European soft wood.

Bio-Pen is a new series of writing utensils from Ritter-Pen for the ecologically aware consumer. 80 % of the ball pen is made from the renewable and compostable Biograde®.

„With the help of Biograde® Ritter-Pen is able to develop aesthetically appealing writing utensils that meet the consumers' wish for eco-friendly products. Biograde® is injection mouldable, and what is more even dyeable and printable“, says Fredy Büchler, managing director from Ritter-Pen. „Together with Ritter-Pen we are very pleased about the award, since it confirms that with the development of injection mouldable bioplastics we are in the pulse of time.“, explains Dr. Edmund Dolfen, managing director of FKUR.

Bioplastics are a class of polymer which have properties comparable to conventional polymers, but are made from renewable resources or enable the biodegradability of the products made from this material.

The innovation award „Biomaterial of the year 2008“ has been granted by the company Reifenhäuser GmbH & Co. KG within the framework of the international congress „Raw Material Shift & Biomaterials“ in Cologne on the 3<sup>rd</sup> /4<sup>th</sup> December. The awards were given to innovative Biomaterials in the form of applications which have been brought to market in 2008 for the first time.

FKUR Kunststoff GmbH produces and markets special customized biopolymers under the brand names Bio-Flex® (polylactic acid/copolyester compound), Biograde® (cellulose ester compound) and Fibrolon® (natural fibre reinforced polymers). The close cooperation of the company with the Fraunhofer Institute UMSICHT assures outstanding know-how and quality standards.

The company Ritter-Pen GmbH was founded in Brensbach in 1928 and produces writing utensils for promotional purposes.

*Zeichen (einschl. Leerzeichen): 2.408*

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Photos: **Bio-Pen 92000** made from **Biograde® C 9550** and **Bio-Pen Kolibri** made from **Biograde® C 7500 CL**