



# PERFORMANCE PLASTICS PRESS RELEASE

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## Plastics in Automotive Engineering 2017: RadiciGroup among the leaders of the VDI International Congress

**The Group's experience at the service of the new frontiers of automotive sector:  
focus on metal replacement and innovative calculation systems**

**RadiciGroup Performance Plastics**, the Group's Business Area specialised in the production of polyamide-based engineering plastics and other polymers, is among the leaders of the **International Congress "Plastics in Automotive Engineering 2017"**, scheduled for the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of March in Mannheim (Germany). A presence which consists of a **speech** by Erico Spini - Europe Marketing Director of RadiciGroup Performance Plastics – along with Andrea Bernasconi – Professor of the Mechanics Department of the Politecnico di Milano - and an **exhibition space** demonstrating the Group's innovative solutions for the automotive market: high performance products with optimal mechanical characteristics, able to help the automotive industry to reach its ambitious goals of reducing vehicles' weight.

The event – organised by VDI, an important organisation with a wealth of experience in training engineers, technicians and managers and able to promote around 1550 events per year, including conferences, courses and seminars – is considered to be one of the most significant in the automotive sector: over 1,300 participants, 80 speakers and 100 exhibitors are the numbers that give life to these two days in which it is possible to share new ideas, information and projects aim to reduce automotive components' weight designed for the internal and external parts of the vehicle, for sustainability and for reducing emissions.

Around **50%** of **RadiciGroup Performance Plastics** (<http://www.radicigroup.com/it/prodotti/plastics>) **production is destined for the automobile industry**: PA6, PA6.6, PA6.10 and PA6.12 engineering plastics, polyamides for high temperature applications and PPAs used in the creation of various components, mainly in the under-bonnet compartment. In the automotive sector, **polyamide will increasingly replace**

**metals** due to its physical, mechanical and structural characteristics: faced with new trends in the automotive industry, such as smaller and more powerful engines, lower CO2 limits and the reduction of under-bonnet space, the PAs respond with structural and heat resistance characteristics even at high temperatures, ease of transformation at a competitive price. Another frontier in which RadiciGroup has been engaged for some time concerns engineering plastics created using **polyamides of partial biological origin**, which are made up of a portion of renewable raw materials, such as PA 6.10 based on Radilon® D.

On the occasion of VDI Congress 2017, in partnership with **Politecnico di Milano**, **RadiciGroup Performance Plastics** presented an advanced method for the structural calculation of components made from plastic combined with fibres or other substances, which is potentially very precise compared to the traditional method. This new approach aims to make structural calculation more reliable in a context of replacing increasingly critical components which must be sized in the most correct way possible.

*«The world of automotive needs to find increasingly innovative, high performance and low cost solutions to achieve the objectives of reducing environmental impact, improving safety, aesthetics and comfort. In recent years, the innovative polymers offered by RadiciGroup Performance Plastics for the automotive sector are undoubtedly heading in this direction. Nowadays however, along with suitable polymers, it is necessary to provide designers with a more reliable calculation approach and characterisation of the materials compared to the past. In following this path, on the one hand we have invested important resources, and on the other we have made use of the collaboration of an institute of excellence such as the Mechanics Department of the Politecnico di Milano»* – outlined **Erico Spini of RadiciGroup Performance Plastics** - *«In using advanced calculation instruments it is necessary to always focus on the correspondence of the results achieved with the experimental data. For this reason we collaborate with Politecnico di Milano, so that everyone, in their responsibility and role, can give the best contribution to the development of calculation instruments and approaches that are better suited to the requirements of our partners».*

*«In my opinion, the decade-long collaboration with RadiciGroup Performance Plastics»* comments **Andrea Bernasconi of Politecnico di Milano** *«represents an example of successful collaboration between Industry and University. The joint participation in the VDI congress seeks to be an important milestone and at the same time a new starting point for the development of manufacturing solutions geared towards Lightweight Design».*

RadiciGroup, which boasts **over 35 years' experience in the field of engineering plastics**, has constantly invested in **Research & Development** and interfaces with highly credible **institutional partners** to guarantee its customers high level products and services.

Another RadiciGroup Performance Plastics' strength is its **global structure**, distinguished by a network of production, commercial, MKT and R&D units in Italy and the rest of Europe, North and South America and Asia, which allows it to satisfy all of its customers with a comprehensive, innovative and sustainable offer. Documented sustainability along the entire production chain, thanks to the skills developed in the assessment of the environmental impact of products and processes, with an **EPD (Environmental Product Declaration) certified methodology**.

Participating during this important Congress is an important opportunity to establish dialogues with actors in the automotive supply chain, to understand requirements and offer solutions in line with the needs of automotive world.



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RADICIGROUP – With approximately 3,000 employees, a sales revenue of EUR 946 million in 2016, and a network of production and sales sites located throughout Europe, North America, South America and Asia, RadiciGroup is one of the world's leading producers of a wide range of chemical intermediates, polyamide polymers, engineering plastics, synthetic fibres and nonwovens. These products are the result of the Group's outstanding chemical know-how and vertical integration in the polyamide production chain, developed to be used in a variety of industrial sectors such as: AUTOMOTIVE – ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS – CONSUMER GOODS – APPAREL – FURNISHINGS – CONSTRUCTION – HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES – SPORT. The basis of the Group's strategy is a strong focus on innovation, quality, customer satisfaction and social and environmental sustainability. With its business areas - **Specialty Chemicals, Performance Plastics and Synthetic Fibres & Nonwovens** (Performance Yarn, Comfort Fibres and Extrusion Yarn), RadiciGroup is part of a larger industrial group that also includes textile machinery (ITEMA), energy (GEOGREEN) and hotel businesses (SAN MARCO).

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