

Sumitomo Seika newly develops a higher performance type of super absorbent polymers

Sumitomo Seika has developed a new product “AQUA KEEP HP”, which has significantly improved performance over its conventional line of super absorbent polymers “AQUA KEEP” that are used in hygiene products such as disposable diapers.

The Company has been meeting diverse needs of customers for many years with its “AQUA KEEP” product that exhibits high water absorption performance capitalizing on the characteristics of the Company's proprietary production technology (an inverse suspension polymerization process). The product is highly evaluated on the market, especially for use in thin diapers for children and adult diapers where higher performance is required.

Nevertheless, the Company is never content with the status quo and has kept developing products of still higher performance, in the hope of offering “thinner and more compact” diapers to customers and the market at large.

Generally, super absorbent polymers are required to have two different performances; one is to absorb an abundance of water (“higher absorption capacity”) and the other is to retain absorbed water under load (“higher absorption capacity under load”). Since there is a trade-off between the two performances, a solution has been sought to enhance both the performances at the same time.

Sumitomo Seika has successfully established a new production technology wherein the polymerization process is significantly improved and the polymer structure is optimized. Though unattainable heretofore by conventional technologies, the Company's new technology is capable of realizing higher performance than ever before in both “higher absorption capacity” and “higher absorption capacity under load”, or otherwise controlling the two performances flexibly according to customers' specific needs. The “AQUA KEEP HP” based on the new technology thus has the distinctive strength of meeting needs from a variety of customers and the market generally. The new product “AQUA KEEP HP” can be produced either at the Company's new plants currently under construction or at its existing plant as appropriate.

Sumitomo Seika will continue its unabated and vigorous efforts to seek a further improved level of “high quality and high performance”, which is the very characteristic of the Company's super absorbent polymers, thereby contributing to offering higher performance disposable diapers that customers and the market desire.