



FOSTER INTRODUCES ANTIMICROBIAL MASTER BATCHES FOR MEDICAL DEVICE POLYMERS

PUTNAM, CT, USA - Foster Corporation, a leader in polymer solutions for healthcare markets, introduces Combat™ antimicrobial master batches for blending with medical device polymers. Components made with these antimicrobial polymer blends kill harmful bacteria that leads to infections, including methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) and carbapenem-resistant enterobacteriaceae (CRE).

According to a survey by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), 4% of inpatients in U.S. acute care hospitals contract at least one healthcare associated infection. Device associated infections accounted for one in every four infections. In-dwelling devices, such as central venous catheters, are particularly susceptible to bacteria colonization which can enter the blood stream. Increasingly, medical device companies are evaluating antimicrobial additives for plastics to kill harmful bacteria on the surface of device components.

Ionic silver is highly successful at killing bacteria and preventing colonization. Additives based on this chemistry are commonly melt blended directly into medical polymers for the manufacture of antimicrobial device components. However, evaluation of multiple custom compound formulations can be costly. Combat master batches, made from Sciosent's Agion™ ionic silver technology, provide an

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economical way for customers to evaluate several antimicrobial filler loadings in their device components by dry blending different ratios.

“Combat master batches are available in quantities as low as two pounds to minimize costs for initial evaluations,” said Larry Johnson, Executive Vice President for Foster Corporation. “With letdown percentages of 2-10%, depending on the polymer and applications, these small order quantities allow engineers to test several antimicrobial formulations from a single order quantity.”

For more information about Combat™ antimicrobial master batches, please visit www.fostercomp.com.

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About Foster Corporation

For over twenty five years Foster Corporation has been serving medical device and pharmaceutical manufacturers with industry leading technology and service in biomedical materials. These include custom medical compounds, implantable materials, drug/polymer blends and polymer distribution. Within ISO 13485:2003 and ISO 9001:2008 facilities, Foster offers comprehensive support to customers from formulation development through production.

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