

## Continental and Kordsa bring first series tires with Cokoon dip technology onto the road

- **First 250,000 tires featuring Cokoon dip technology currently in production with more to be produced in 2020 and beyond**
- **More than 40 industry players already showing interest in open-source technology**
- **Licensing pool welcomes interested parties to join**

Hanover / Istanbul, February 20, 2020. Continental, the technology company and manufacturer of premium tires, and Kordsa, the global reinforcer, predominantly serving the tire industry, announced today that the series production of the first of 250.000 passenger car tires featuring their new sustainable adhesive technology began in 2019. The two partners have been working together on this new eco-friendly dip technology since 2017.

This new technology enables the bonding activation of textile reinforcing materials with rubber compounds without the use of resorcinol and formaldehyde in the textile dip. Textile reinforcing materials are widely used in tire manufacturing, as well as in the production of mechanical rubber goods such as hoses and conveyor belts.

Since the first announcement of Cokoon as an open innovation technology in March 2019, it has attracted a lot of attention within the industry. More than 40 companies (tire manufacturers, converters, and textile suppliers) have expressed an interest in testing the material and are considering joining the licensing pool. Some 20 of these have already received samples. Now, all of the interested parties have been invited to join the pool and obtain free licensing in order to contribute to the development of this new green technology. The licensing pool is handled by the independent law firm AdvInno. Companies can find more information and the appropriate contacts on the official website [www.cokoon.com](http://www.cokoon.com).

“The sampling process was a big success and exceeded our expectations. Feedback from the industry encouraged us to proceed with the integration of Cokoon into our tires and to begin series production of the first tires back in 2019. Expanding use of the Cokoon technology in our tire production in 2020 and in the following years is a high priority for us,” says Dr. Andreas Topp, Vice President Material and Process Development and Industrialization at Continental Tires.

Devrim Özyaydin, Global Technology Director at Kordsa, outlines the underlying idea: “With Cokoon, we want to implement an eco-friendly industry-wide standard for bonding textiles and rubber. We therefore invite all interested parties to join the pool, obtain free licensing, contribute to the enhancement of this new open technology and introduce Cokoon into their mass production.”

### **Eco-friendly resorcinol- and formaldehyde-free adhesion technology**

Cokoon is the brand name of a new bonding system technology which is offered to all other tire manufacturers and their suppliers as an open source solution. The development partners Continental and Kordsa have chosen to waive development or licensing fees. In return, they expect licensees to make their patents concerning the further enhancement of this technology available to the other partners free of charge via a licensing pool. Interested companies can request samples.

Prior to Cokoon, the chemicals resorcinol and formaldehyde were irreplaceable in the bonding activation of textile reinforcing materials to the surrounding rubber matrix. The replacement of resorcinol and formaldehyde with more environmentally friendly alternatives is beneficial not only for a sustainable supply chain but also for tire cord manufacturers. It is worth noting that employees in tire plants and end-consumers are not exposed to these substances as they are chemically altered through the vulcanization process. With Cokoon dip technology, the bonding of textiles to rubber is now possible without these two substances and the technology does not require any changes in process equipment. Further information is available on [www.cokoon.com](http://www.cokoon.com)

**Continental** develops pioneering technologies and services for sustainable and connected mobility of people and their goods. Founded in 1871, the technology company offers safe, efficient, intelligent, and affordable solutions for vehicles, machines, traffic and transportation. In 2018, Continental generated preliminary sales of €44.4 billion and currently employs more than 240,000 people in 60 countries and markets.

The **Business Area Tires** has 24 production and development locations worldwide. Continental is one of the leading tire manufacturers with around 56,000 employees and posted sales of €11.4 billion in 2018 in this business area. Continental ranks among the technology leaders in tire production and offers a broad product range for passenger cars, commercial and special vehicles, as well as two-wheelers. Through continuous investment in Research & Development, Continental makes a major contribution to safe, cost-effective and ecologically efficient mobility. The portfolio of the Business Area Tires includes services for the tire trade and for fleet applications, as well as digital management systems for tires.

**Kordsa** is the global player of tire, construction reinforcement and composites technologies market. As the worldwide leader of the tire reinforcement technologies market, it carries out production through a vast area from USA to Asia Pacific and supplies its reinforcement technologies to the whole world. With its business processes all based on R&D and innovation, Kordsa has 786 patent applications world-wide.

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