



All China Leather Exhibition 2014

This year's All China Leather Exhibition (ACLE) takes place in Shanghai from September 3 until September 5, drawing exhibitors and visitors from all parts of the global leather industry.

Several sustainable highlights for Stahl

At the All China Leather Exhibition in Shanghai, leather chemicals manufacturer Stahl will present products that it says enable manufacturers to make their production process more sustainable.

Highlights will include Stahlite, EasyWhite Tan and the EVO product range, which it says demonstrate that more sustainable solutions do not affect performance.

With Stahlite, thanks to a careful selection of processing chemicals, the weight of leather can be minimised, resulting in fuel savings for aircraft and cars. In addition, the Stahlite retanning process uses fewer chemicals, and less water and energy than conventional retanning.

EasyWhite Tan provides what Stahl has called "a more sustainable and simplified tanning process" for tanners. This chrome-free procedure removes the need to add salt and reduces the number of stages in the tanning process.

The EVO product range, with a 100% water-based topcoat and a dimethyl fumarate (DMF)-free EVO base, is described as "an innovative and sustainable alternative for the conventional DMF-coagulation process". This offers opportunities to reduce water and energy usage during the production process. "These next-generation polyurethane coatings for shoes, bags, upholstery and car seats will enable manufacturers to produce coated fabrics in more harmony with the environment," Stahl has said.

Other products on show will include a sustainable matte coating for leather based on rapeseed oil instead of petroleum, resulting in a warm and waxy feel and very low VOC levels, according to the company, as well as leather upgrading solutions that improve cutting yield.

Another focal point at ACLE will be the Stahl Campus, a training institute, through which the company aims to strengthen knowledge within its entire production chain on how sustainability can support business growth for tanners, manufacturers and brands.



Almost 1,500 exhibitors from 36 countries attended in 2013; the upcoming event is on track to better these numbers. CREDIT: ACLE

Lanxess range helps make leather 'biodegradable'

Leather chemicals manufacturer Lanxess will showcase new technologies for what it calls "future-oriented leather production".

Among the sustainable solutions will be Levotan X-Biomer technology, providing what it refers to as "a new class and range of genuine retanning agents that effectively uses biopolymers for a more sustainable production of high-quality leather".

As an alternative to synthetic retanning agents, its patent-pending Levotan X-Biomer range includes a complete portfolio for all key steps of the retanning process, Lanxess has said, the chemistry behind it however, is completely different. All products are based on biodegradable polymers, which are produced from renewable raw materials and specifically "functionalised" for retanning applications in a biologically engineered process. Thus, the Levotan X-Biomer technology enables the production of wet blue that fulfils even the highest technical requirements, such as for automotive

leather or children's footwear.

Tanners will benefit from what the company calls "a significantly improved sustainability profile" compared to those using traditional retanning agents. Due to the amphoteric character of the X-Biomer products, which contain both positive and negative charges, a good fixation and exhaustion can be achieved. Compared to traditional retanning polymers the chemical oxygen demand (COD) is up to 30% lower.

X-Biomer retanning agents also offer high levels of biodegradability, confirmed by an independent testing laboratory, which has classified two X-Biomer products as "readily biodegradable". This is based on organic components that can be degraded by microorganisms during effluent treatment.

Also on display in Shanghai will be a new water-based pigment range, Aquaderm X-Pigments, for leather finishing. This range has been developed for all kinds of premium leather applications where a very high standard of finishing quality is required, again giving



the automotive segment as an example. High levels of light fastness, heat and migration resistance, brilliancy and exact dosing properties can be achieved with these pigments, according to the company.

All Aquaderm X-Pigments products are casein-free and do not contain any emulsifiers, brightening agents or other additives capable of causing migration. According to current RSL, REACH and GDSL obligations, the Aquaderm X-Pigments meet all important criteria which means they are free of VOC, heavy metals, chrome VI, formaldehyde and phthalate.

GSC Group to present full range of innovations

Italian leather chemicals group GSC has said the various companies that make up the group will present new products for wet-end and finishing at ACLE in Shanghai (September 3-5).

Innovations Exel will have on show include Soft AK 1N, a synthetic-based fatliquor which produces "remarkable results" for footwear and leathers, the company has said. Soft AK 1N has a high level of hide penetration, including the more compact dermis area; it does

not cause looseness and produces a round and non-elastic texture.

This product can also be used in garment leather owing to its low specific weight, and it can help the penetration and the distribution of other fatliquors and dyes.

It is compatible with anionic and non-ionic surfactants, and therefore it can be used in combination with them.

According to Exel, Soft AK 1N is useful in the production of white and pastel tone leathers owing to a high level of lightfastness and stability over time.

The company recommends preparing an aqueous emulsion of Soft AK 1N (water/fatliquor:4-5/1) at 40-50°C and adding it to the drum.

Another new Exel product on show will be AQ System 566 Matt, a novel topcoat product with low environmental impact, according to its manufacturer. Its highly concentrated formulation requires previous aqueous dilution (1:1) to guarantee lower water transportation, the company has said. It gives low VOC emission (less than 1% when used in a 1:1 dilution), which Exel regards as "a remarkable result" for a topcoat product. In addition, it says the product offers "excellent chemical and physical fastness, accompanied by a remarkable degree of dull, and a pleasant touch".

Letex, also part of the GSC Group, will introduce a novel series of varnish products at ACLE, improved, the company says, to satisfy recent market requests.

Isoflex 537, the first of these products, provides what Letex calls "an outstanding gloss", similar to the effect produced by polyurethane-based bicomponent systems. At the same time, Isoflex 588/OP gives matt finishing without causing any greying-effect and gives leather a natural appearance, while leaving a warm silky touch, suitable for special applications such as "brush off" articles.

For its part, Vandoni, now part of the same group of companies, will present a range of products recently improved to target current Italian fashion trends, such as waxed-finishing articles and pull-up effects.

LM WAX 2013, for example, has been developed for moderate-to-high burnish articles with high levels of brilliance and re-polishable effects. Another Vandoni product, LM WAX GUP, can help tanners produce strong pull-up articles with no modification of the original softness of the leather.

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Filling solution will make leather lighter, TFL claims

Leather chemicals manufacturer TFL has said helping tanners to get the best out of the raw material available to them will be a common thread running through its appearance at the ACLE.

TFL will introduce Magnopal IPF, a new filling solution that “selectively fills voids in the looser areas of hides and skins”, the manufacturer has said, to allow tanners to make leather that will be lighter in weight and still maintain its natural character.

In addition, TFL will showcase an updated version of its White Line chrome-free tanning solution. The company says it has fine-tuned its White Line technology over the past few years. “We are happy to showcase chrome-free tanning on all kinds of leather with a simple goal in mind: creating a unique, natural material of high quality that, after use, can safely be disposed of and recycled,” the company said in the build-up to the show.

Another innovation on display will be the new soaking agent, Pellvit LSS, and unhairing auxiliary Erhavit LSU, low-sulfide technology that will help tanners remove hair using lower sulfide levels.

Trumpler presents chrome VI prevention agent

Leather chemicals manufacturer Trumpler has said it will present innovative products and recipes for leather types and all segments of leather production: beamhouse, dyehouse and finishing.

In addition, Trumpler will present the latest fashion trends for autumn-winter 2015-2016.

According to the company, highlights will include Trupozym CBL, a newly designed ammonium salt-free bating agent with enhanced degreasing properties. Trumpler said this product will “recognisably improve” the scud loosening and cleanliness of pelts, without any negative impact on structure and tightness.

Another product on display will be Truposol AMF, which Trumpler says is particularly suitable for automotive leather as well as for softy leathers, “guaranteeing an excellent cost-performance-ratio”. Leathers produced with this fatliquor exhibit what the company has called “outstanding inner softness along with extremely fine grain characteristics and a pleasant round handle”.

Trupon LH is a new, highly concentrated lecithin-based fatliquor, especially designed

for all types of soft leathers. It “relaxes” the grain and will help tanners produce leathers that exhibit high levels of softness along with a pleasant, round, slightly waxy handle, the company said.

Finally, Trupofix SA2 is an auxiliary agent designed to prevent the formation of chrome VI. Trupofix SA2 helps to prevent the oxidation of chrome III to chrome VI and reduce any existing chrome VI content in wet blue hides, according to Trumpler. The product can be applied at wet blue, crust or finishing stages and touch, colour and physical properties remain unchanged.

Tannin Corp to focus on ‘Lifestyle’ leathers

Massachusetts-based leather chemicals manufacturer Tannin Corporation is displaying the specialty products it offers, including what it says are all products necessary to produce the classic American ‘Lifestyle’ leathers that are popular with many big-name footwear brands.

Products concerned include stuffing oils and waxes for the wet-end, as well as hot melt oils and waxes for heated roll applications and for the hot stuffing process.

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In addition, Tannin Corp produces a wide range of hydrophobic fatliquors and waterproofing compounds, including a process combining both hydrophobic and oiled properties to produce waterproof Crazy Horse-type leathers.

A large range of fatliquors, fillers and specialised retanning agents to produce a wide variety of leathers for garments, bags, gloves, furniture and automotive upholstery, in addition to footwear, will also be on display in Shanghai.

Zschimmer & Schwarz announces highlights

Specialist fatliquor manufacturer Zschimmer & Schwarz will present newly developed products, already in use in tanneries, such as Prinol F-RS, produced only with oils, fats and emulsifiers from renewable vegetable-based raw materials.

It is designed for high-end leathers with "outstanding quality", Zschimmer & Schwarz has said, including high levels of inner softness, good fogging behaviour, good heat stability and good lightfastness, neutral odour and pleasant touch. It is suitable for automotive leathers as well, the company said in advance of the show.

Contripon AO is a special auxiliary developed to help avoid the formation of chrome VI in extraordinary conditions or when low-profile chemical products are used in the tanning process. Its use is "very economic and based on fatliquor offer", and light- and heat-resistance of leathers treated with Contripon AO will be improved as well, according to Zschimmer & Schwarz. The formation of any unpleasant smell, triggered by the oxidation processes, will also be suppressed.

Finally, Sincal TF is a new dyeing auxiliary in the company's Sincal range. Sincal TF is used to improve dye brilliancies and for slow fixation. As a result dye shades are vibrant and uniform.

US to take record number of exhibitors

There will be more exhibitors from the US than ever before at the 2014 edition of the ACLE.

In addition to the US-based leather chemicals suppliers that play a prominent role in the global market, 15 US companies will be exhibiting raw

hides and skins, wet blue and other products at the US Hide, Skin and Leather Association (USHSLA) pavilion at this year's event.

The US industry will also unveil the latest version of a booklet on the standards governing the sale of North American cattle hides.

This document governs hide standards and industry trading practices for USHSLA member companies and aims to help ensure that tanners buying US hides and skins receive what the association has referred to as "reliable, consistent supplies of top-quality raw

material".

To celebrate the launch of the new booklet, USHSLA will host a short reception for tanners on the evening of September 3 at the Jumeirah Himalayas Hotel, opposite the exhibition venue. The reception will take place in the build-up to the fourth Tannery of the Year Gala Dinner, which the global leather industry will celebrate later that evening in the same building.

USHSLA told *World Leather* it had picked the same venue for its reception to allow tanners and other industry representatives to attend both events. ☉

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