

The supply and environmental impact of fossil fuel consumption calls for new approaches to automotive engineering. Architects and engineers strive to combine safety with aesthetics. Manufacturers look for durable, heat-and-oil-resistant alternatives to metals. DuPont Performance Materials finds solutions. In 2003, DuPont provided materials and knowledge to further the entry of hybrid electric vehicles into the marketplace. DuPont™ SentryGlas® Expressions™ gave protective laminated glass a new level of design chic. And DuPont™ Zytel® HTN resins offered strength and heat resistance for everything from stove knobs to automotive wheelcovers. All with the high level of performance customers have come to expect from DuPont Performance Materials.



Driving Electric Vehicles into the Mainstream

Not long ago, the "electric car" was the stuff of science fiction. But diminishing fossil fuel supplies and the need to improve air quality have made electric hybrid vehicles (EHV) the stuff of fact. Toyota and Honda sold 90,000 such cars worldwide in 2003. DuPont Performance Materials is leading the way in this automotive evolution by providing the materials critical to operating a vehicle with the 42-volt or higher electrical power plant. DuPont offerings of crystalline engineering thermoplastics, along with microcircuit materials, flexible circuit materials and performance coatings, are helping automakers shed weight while increasing safety. And as proof of the DuPont commitment to EHVs and their benefits to the environment, the company will add 20 hybrid vehicles to its corporate fleet in 2004.



Spotlight on Science: Donna Visioli Packages Solutions for Grocers, Shoppers

Every grocery shopper knows manufacturers want to make packaging eye-catching. But it's even better when that packaging is both pleasing to your eye and protects the products and your health. That's what drives the work of Donna Visioli, a senior technical programs manager with DuPont Packaging Solutions. Donna and the Packaging Solutions team developed packages that securely seal fresh meat, while allowing oxygen in, so the tempting red color is preserved. Because such packaging cuts handling by grocers and suppliers, it may help reduce the 76 million cases of foodborne illnesses the United States has annually. And another of Packaging Solutions breakthroughs is sure to please "on-the-go" consumers. It's the DuPont™ Cool2Go™ insulated beverage label, which keeps drinks cold up to twice as long as regular cans and bottles.



Operations, Business Alliances Expand in China

DuPont Performance Materials grew in China by nearly 30 percent in 2003. Spurred by the prospect of continuing growth, DuPont began construction on an expanded DuPont™ Zytel® nylon resin compounding unit and a production unit for DuPont™ Brynel® and Apeel™ resins in Shenzhen. DuPont Hongji Films Foshan Co. Ltd., a joint venture between DuPont Teijin Films China Ltd. and Foshan Plastics Group Co. Ltd., began production on a new thick film line in Foshan for the Chinese domestic market. To meet ever growing commercial and consumer needs, Engineering Polymers and Wuxi Xingda Nylon Company announced their intent to form a joint venture to produce and distribute filaments for toothbrushes, and paint, cosmetic and industrial brush applications.