

**Contributing to enhanced performance and safety in lithium-ion batteries
HARDLEN® sustainable adhesive**



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The appearance of diverse electronic devices and the accelerated development of electric vehicles (EVs) are spurring ever greater demand for lithium-ion batteries (LiBs). The electrolytes in LiBs must be tightly sealed to prevent internal leaks. As the batteries themselves become hot, however, high heat resistance is also required for sealing materials and adhesives. Impurities must be thoroughly removed, as their presence in the materials used in LiBs can result in degradation of battery performance and in fires. The HARDLEN® adhesion promoter for polyolefin handled by TOYOBO MC Corporation is an adhesive that features excellent adhesion to polypropylene (PP) resin. With its heat resistance enhanced through the application of maleic anhydride modification technology, it has been adopted as an adhesive for LiB sealing materials. The company achieved supply to customers from an early stage of the growing demand for LiBs thanks to its one-of-a-kind technologies and manufacturing processes for removal of impurities, and boasts a high market share even now.

These technologies originate in the company's textile dyeing technologies. About 50 years ago, the resin known as PP faced a challenge in that while it was light and convenient, it did not dissolve in organic solvents and was thus difficult to process and dye. Toyo Kasei Kogyo Co., Ltd.* developed a technology to chlorinate PP, dissolve it in solvent, and dye it. The company also introduced maleic anhydride modification technology that enables precise modification of the chlorinated PP, for free control over its physical properties. HARDLEN® which is able to freely bond PP to other polymers, has won strong approval in the marketplace and has grown its market share primarily in automotive coating applications. As a further application, the company developed the above-mentioned adhesive for LiB sealing materials and has been boosting production since 2017.

LiBs are indispensable not only for EVs but also for renewable energy storage batteries, robots, IoT devices, and more. The stable supply of HARDLEN® which aids battery performance and safety, will contribute to the evolution and advancement of electronic devices.



New HARDLEN® manufacturing facility at the Takasago Plant

*Merged into TOYOBO CO., LTD. in 2010

**Helping to bring on the 6G communication era
HARDLEN® leverages the strength of low dielectric properties**

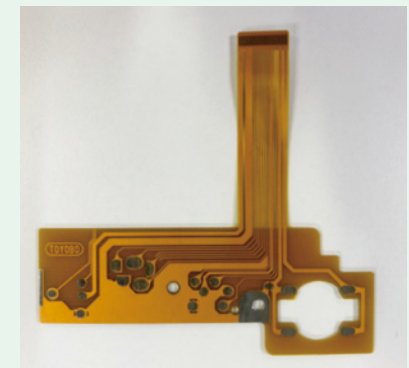


Koichi Sakamoto

TOYOBO MC Corporation

Toyobo's maleic anhydride modification technology and impurity removal production technology are both without rival. Making use of these technologies, HARDLEN® boasts a strong advantage in the marketplace. We are currently conducting research and development into new applications. The terms "5G" and "6G" are commonly heard in the context of next-generation communication systems as an era of ultra-high speed, ultra-low latency, and massively simultaneous connections rapidly approaches. Technical hurdles remain, however, including those of materials. As an example, 6G makes use of even higher frequency electromagnetic waves than 5G does, but signal attenuation and delay problems arise with the use of current materials. Prevention of these problems demands materials with lower dielectric constants for use in components such as antennas. The key to technological innovation in this area is our company's impurity removal production technology. Adhesives designed around HARDLEN® are able to achieve a low dielectric constant. We are already supplying our low dielectric adhesives to printed circuit board material manufacturers in the Asian region, and our development unit is rushing to develop ultra-low dielectric adhesives for 6G that leverage the strengths of HARDLEN®.

Multiple sensors and radar systems are also used in autonomous driving systems and factory automation systems, which are expected to proliferate in the future. As high speed, high-capacity, and stable communication infrastructure is indispensable for the safety of these systems, low dielectric properties are demanded of the adhesives used in this infrastructure. Under the belief that our business will see use in many industrial and lifestyle scenarios and that it can broadly contribute to the safety and security of society, we undertake our work with enthusiasm every day.



Circuit board using HARDLEN®