

Press release

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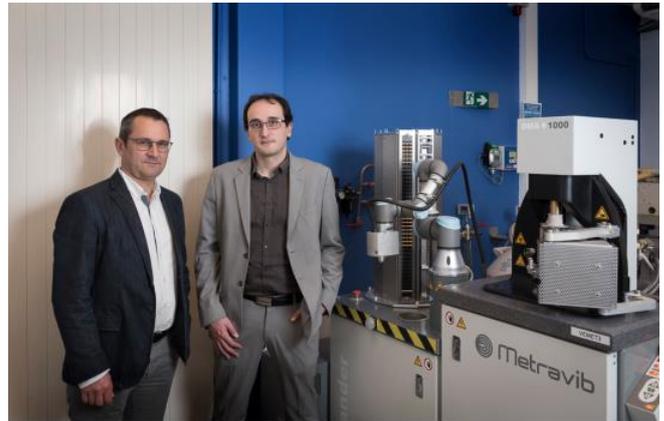
SOLVAY robotizes its DMA tests with Xpander

SOLVAY (formerly Rhodia) invented high-performance silica in the 1990s and is now a world leader in this technology. The company has focused primarily on the market for low-energy tires now under development by leading tire manufacturers.

Silica is used to reinforce the elastomer compounds that form tire treads. It offers a number of particularly useful properties, including lower rolling resistance, resulting in lower fuel consumption, as well as better road grip. SOLVAY has used METRAVIB Dynamic Mechanical Analyzers in the development of its silicas for many years, in order to quantify the performance enhancements made to the elastomer compounds.

To improve the productivity of DMA testing at its mechanical test lab at Collonges-au-Mont-d'Or (France) and cater for increasing demand, SOLVAY has recently purchased a fully automated METRAVIB DMA+1000 analyzer featuring the new Xpander robot.

With the system configured in a multimode version, shear, tension and compression tests can be carried out in fully automated mode with automatic sample changing, whilst retaining the possibility of using manual mode for specific tests.



Hugues Baurier (METRAVIB DMA Sales Manager, ACOEM group) and Thomas Chaussée (Global Tire Manager, SOLVAY) beside the Metravib DMA+1000 with Xpander robot

Thomas Chaussée, Global Tire Manager for SOLVAY Research & Innovation, explains: "We have recently installed the new Xpander to enhance the capabilities of the lab and also to free up time, allowing technicians to concentrate on interpreting results. We have quickly gotten to grips with the system, thanks to the training and support provided by METRAVIB, and we have already noticed significant savings."

Following the example of SOLVAY's laboratory in Seoul, its lab in Paulinia, Brazil, has also recently acquired a METRAVIB DMA+1000 analyzer.

METRAVIB wishes to thank SOLVAY for its confidence and loyalty.

METRAVIB is an ACOEM brand providing laboratories and the industrial sector with instruments for the characterization of the mechanical properties of materials using dynamic mechanical analysis (DMA).

Across the world, ACOEM's 670 employees innovate in the measurement, analysis and control of all environmental parameters through the 01dB, ECOTECH, ONEPROD, FIXTURLASER, MEAX and METRAVIB brands.

Facts and figures: Revenue of €87 million with 670 employees in France, Sweden, Brazil, Asia, the US, Australia, India and Germany.

For more information, visit our website at www.metravib.com.

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