

1st QUARTER 2022

SOCAR Polymer Newsletter / Issue 37 / 2022

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A visit by BSU Chemistry department representatives



Hundreds of hearts sparked with Novruz joy



7,056,646
Man-hours LTI Free

Message from the General Manager



Dear colleagues,

The first quarter of 2022 is left behind.

Taking every opportunity to look back, evaluate our performance and recap achievements or learned lessons, we are happy to summarize that there is a lot to be proud of. SOCAR Polymer's portfolio of products for the Eurasian Customs Union market was enriched from 20 grades in 2019 to 58 grades in 2021. The number of customers over the past three years grew from 105 to 368. Sale volumes grew by 5 times from 26,000 to 136,000 tons, while revenues rocketed from \$30 mln to \$224 mln USD. Over one report year alone, PP and HDPE sale volumes increased by 2.4 times as compared to 57,000 tons in 2020, which is even better illustrated by 300% revenue growth in 2021.

These and other achievements indicate our company's successful performance at all levels of our corporate activity, and the main asset of our company remains its staff, the people who make things happen. We have taken

steps and supported every initiative aimed at improving the workflow and procedures, have applied incentivising award programs and safety promoting schemes, have set up an internal mechanism for conveyance of any possible complaints, constructive suggestions, and progressive ideas directly to the company management's attention, have introduced KPI to measure progress against set objectives, and have instituted annual awards to the 'bests' in each department. It was also pleasant to realize that 16 out of 33 awards for 'bests' were presented to female members of our staff, which is a strong indication that ladies make a large contribution to our everyday progress.

Moving into the next quarter and closer to mid-year, I wish all of us greater progress both at work and in implementation of personal aspirations.

Fuad Ahmadov
General Manager

Q1/2022 production and sales overview



PP

PRODUCTION:

+21.8%

EXPORT:

27216 tons



HDPE

PRODUCTION:

17867 tons

EXPORT:

13392 tons



In the 1st quarter of 2022, production of PP increased by **21.8%** as compared to the same period of 2021, and **27216** tons of PP have been exported, mainly to Russia, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Bulgaria, Uzbekistan, and Belarus.



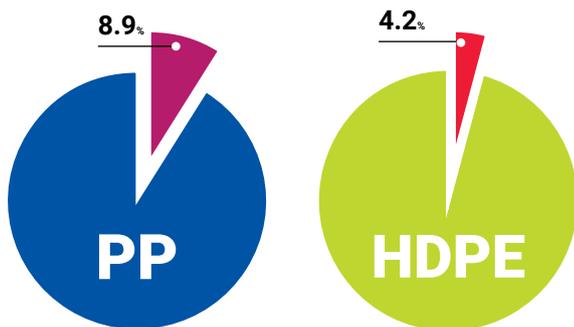
17867 tons of **14** different grades of HDPE have been produced in the past quarter, and **13392** tons of HDPE have been exported, mainly to Russia, Belarus, Turkey, Kazakhstan, and Nigeria.

Q1 NEW HDPE MARKET



It is noteworthy that Bulgaria became our **new HDPE sale market in Q1** of the past year when our main HDPE export markets were China and Russia.

Domestic market sales



Domestic market sales of PP and HDPE in Q1 constituted respectively **8.9%** and **4.2%** in ratio to exports.

Emergency Response Team is our emergency safety guarantee

On February 2-4, eleven members of SOCAR Polymer's team attended an "Emergency Response Team Member" training held at the Occupation Training Institute in Baku.



The training consisted of theoretical and practical sessions on topics including use of different type fire extinguishers and fire hydrants, classification of fires, use and removal of fire hoses, fire monitor application rules, firefighting, and rescue activities in indoor spaces, extinguishing with foam, use of respiration devices, etc. All 40 members of VFRT are to take this and other required trainings in accordance with their annual training plan.

ERT was set up at our plant in 2019 in accordance with the Azerbaijan Republic's Fire Safety Law in order to ensure observation of fire safety regimes and performance of firefighting and fire prevention activities. A total of 40 ERT volunteer members were selected to form 4 groups to serve each of our two plants, with a group leader and 4 group members in each.





They all passed respective trainings administered by a third-party company and received an internationally recognized certificate proving possession of the knowledge and skills ERT members are required to have. To renew the certificates, refresher trainings are taken every two years.

To ensure 24/7 fire safety at our production site, ERT is made up by employees – technicians, supervisors, plant operators and forklift operators – working in different shifts. During emergencies, ERT members shall become directly subordinate to the HSE department.

ERT group leaders are responsible for evaluating a fire incident, analysing it to make appropriate decisions regarding appropriate modes of interference, taking of immediate actions through involvement of other group members (including the ambulance and first aid team when necessary) to jointly prevent spreading of and extinguish the fire.

To check ERT's level of preparedness and keep them alert, our HSE department conducts internal monthly trainings that enable practicing of the required skills within the context, setting, and circumstances of our production site.



A visit by BSU Chemistry department representatives



On January 13, SOCAR Polymer was visited by guests from Chemistry department of the Baku State University (BSU) – the Acting Dean Fuad Karimli, the Head of the Petrochemistry and Chemical Technology chair Ibrahim Mammadov, and the Head of the High-molecular Compounds Chemistry chair Rasim Alosmanov. They met with our General Manager Fuad Ahmadov, GM Advisor Orkhan Hasanov, and our representative for Russia Gabil Mikayilov.

At the meeting, Fuad Karimli informed about the educational reforms in our country and the way BSU applies the correlation of science, education, and industry. Fuad Ahmadov gave information about the SOCAR Polymer project and emphasized our Summer Internship Program's role in promoting the development of Bachelor and Master level students of chemistry and chemical engineering. The meeting participants discussed prospects for mutual cooperation with the university's Chemistry department.

Then, the visitors were taken on a bus tour round the production facility and saw different segments of the PP and HDPE plants, the Quality





Control Laboratory, and the Control Room. The guests were impressed by laboratory equipped with state-of-the-art equipment and its professional staff performing all the tests. They were particularly happy to discover that many of the laboratory staff members had studied at BSU. 19 out of 37 laboratory staff members have received bachelor's and master's degree education at BSU in such areas as chemistry, chemical engineering, ecological chemistry, applied chemistry, polymer nanomaterials chemistry, etc. Some of the visitors used to be their academic mentors in university years. Sevinj Hajiyeva and Sevil Khalilova even conducted scientific research jointly with Rasim Alosmanov at 'Helmholtz Zentrum Munhen' company in Germany. The visitors were happy to see their former students applying their gained knowledge and skills at one of Azerbaijan's leading chemical production companies.

The university faculty representatives took photos with their former students in memory of the occasion.



Radio broadcasted interview with our Finance Director

Our Finance Director Mushfig Hajiyev gave an interview to the 'Tender' show broadcasted on 'Azerbaijan Radio' (105 FM). In conversation with the presenter, Gunel Rustamova, Mushfig answered questions about the highlights of our company's history, its development path, and future prospects.



What field of activity is the SOCAR Polymer company engaged in?

Founded by the State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR), the SOCAR Polymer company was established to develop Azerbaijan's chemical industry, create new jobs, and generate added value in the production chain. The company passed state registration on 16 July 2013. Our main activity was to design, construct, equip and operate a polymer production facility. Our company is the first one established on the basis of public-private partnership in the petrochemical sector. With 51% of the company owned by SOCAR, the rest of our shareholders are represented by some leading companies of Azerbaijan economy. Our site is located in the Sumgayit Chemical Industrial Park. As known, such industrial parks grant a number of benefits to their residents, such as in our case 10 years' exemption from land tax, income tax, profit tax, and VAT for imports, and 7 years' exemption from customs duties. As a result, we made project fund savings to the amount of 300 mln USD, which is a lot. All resident companies of this industrial park enjoy these benefits.

Could you inform our listeners about the application areas of the products produced at these polymer plants?

The groundbreaking ceremony of our plants was held in 2015 with participation of president Ilham Aliyev. The PP plant with 184 kilotons and the HDPE plant with 120 kilotons of annual production capacity were put into operation in July of 2018 and in February of 2019, respectively. The opening ceremonies of both plants were attended by President Ilham Aliyev, which is a sign of the care given by the Head of the State to the petrochemical sector of Azerbaijan economy. Our main products are PP and HDPE, of which we currently produce 19 and 12 grades, respectively. The main application areas of our products span the food packing industry, agriculture, automotive production, and manufacturing of different types of pipes, medical supplies, consumer goods, etc. We conduct a primarily export-oriented policy, with almost 90% of our products being exported.

That's interesting. What countries do you export to?

The top destinations in 2021 have

been Russia and CIS countries, Turkey, China and a number of states in Western Europe. In the same year, our company rated highest as a leading importer of polypropylene to the Russian market by having surpassed the other large players of this market such as the LyondellBasell and INEOS companies. Our export revenues in 2021 amounted to 252 mln USD, 150% above last year's record. It is one of the many achievements we made in 2021. It illustrates our country's high potential for export. Also, if you look up the 'Export Review' journal, you will see SOCAR Polymer on the list of top companies in the non-oil sector.

Are there any projects planned or goals set for the current year to further boost progress?

Of course. All our staff members have goals set by the company management. For comparison, just consider the fact that our production rate has increased by 44% against last year's respective period. Meanwhile, this year's targets are to increase production, to ensure safety and sustainability of all processes, introduction of other high margin polymer grades, to boost sales, as well as broaden and further diversify sale markets.

What export destinations are you currently targeting for? You mentioned Western European countries. Is that the target?

Our primary export destinations currently are Russia and CIS, however we are aiming at some Western Europe markets for more profitable sales. SOCAR Polymer has lately exhibited its products at the international 'Interplastica-2022' exhibition and our exposition stand attracted many interested visitors. Such events are very important for reaching new clients and new markets.

One workday through the eyes of a co-worker



JAVID ALIYEV
PROCUREMENT TEAM LEADER

“
I prefer solving tasks through teamwork as it grants a sense of strength and motivation for new achievements.
”

Just like people daily shop for groceries and other immediate necessities for their families, SOCAR Polymer's procurement department acts as a centralized mechanism that shops for every single item, service or goods needed for our production facility and/or office. Every day, our team members process what seems an endless string of purchase requests received from each and every department of our company. Requests range from office supplies to electrical appliances, to software, to small or large hardware, to all sorts of physical or consultation services, to vehicles, to space rent, to whatnot. Besides, we must not only ensure that every purchased item or service meets the criteria specified by the requestor, but also possess sufficient knowledge about every purchased item or service to be able to advise the requestors and ensure that their needs and expectations are met to the fullest and in timely manner. Thus, our team act as mediators between the vendors/suppliers and requestors, the so-called 'end users'.

One of the engaging aspects of employment in the PSCM department is, therefore, participation in different sorts of procurement processes, which helps learn a lot of new and interesting things about the world of goods and services.

My main duty is to provide constant support to each procurement team member (as well as requesters) and to solve encountered issues within the framework of applicable procedures with view to secure uninterrupted and smooth production operations and overall successful performance of our company. Given the diversity of requests, I always have to switch attention from one request to another and often dive into their details and specifics to best assist my colleagues in stepping up the procurement process. Meantime, all purchases must be justified, documented, and approved accordingly. So, I verify the details mentioned in relevant documents, have discussions with our team members, suppliers, and end users in order to come up with solutions to encountered issues. I also develop various procurement reports for submission to management and provide daily support to the users of our ERP SAP system integrated with the procurement module. Reports help us see where we are and what can be done for building new strategies for getting effective results in the future.

I enjoy seeing the positive results of the solutions or ideas that I suggest. I prefer solving tasks through teamwork as it grants a sense of strength and motivation for new achievements. Our department has several subdivisions which work together on daily basis to solve issues to ensure timely supply and delivery. Taking this opportunity, I would like to give credit to the teams that attend to logistics, contracts, and accounts payable.

Among the challenges of my job, I would emphasize the need to constantly consider supply risks characterised by cost, quality, and delivery factors. Buyers in a PSCM team must demonstrate enviable patience as every purchase must ultimately satisfy both the end user and supplier and must be delivered within the timeframe and applicable procedures.

I have worked in SOCAR Polymer since the beginning of the PP and HDPE plants' construction and the most memorable days since have been when the plants were put into operation. It was extremely pleasant to realize that every task performed throughout the period of my employment in SOCAR Polymer had contributed to the accomplishment of such a grand common goal of our entire staff. We are proud to hear that SOCAR Polymer is one of the significant players in the chemical industry and overall economy of this country.

As to my previous work experience, I started out in the field of plastic goods manufacture and supplying raw materials and selling finished products I learned a lot about the industry. My next employment was in procurement for the oil and gas sector. To develop professionally, I obtained CIPS qualification and reached the PHD level in economy.

Tribute to SOCAR Polymer on Azerbaijan Youths Day



On February 2, our company was represented at an event dedicated to the Day of Azerbaijan Youths which is celebrated on governmental level on February 1 annually since 1997 in accordance with the respective decree of the all-national leader, Heydar Aliyev.

The event was organized by the Sumgayit branch of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society (RCS) on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Azerbaijan Youths Day for the purpose of presenting awards to companies who had been giving active support to RCS's charity campaigns benefitting this country's children and youths, particularly orphans and kids from low-income families. In recognition of SOCAR Polymer's contribution to such noble causes, RCS issued a Certificate of Gratitude presented at this event to our company's representative, PR Specialist Bakhtiyar Allahverdiyev.

The majority of SOCAR Polymer's staff are youths and they are actively engaged not only in production processes, but also in charity campaigns. Our company takes pride in its young specialists and their achievements.

Professional development milestones achieved

SOCAR Polymer supports its employees' aspiration for continuous education, training, and professional development.

Individuals setting high standards of expertise motivate other team members to improve and grow further, thus increasing the staff expertise level, the competitive advantages and overall value of a business.



Ulkar Gurbanaliyeva
SAP Business Analyst

To get an internationally recognised certificate proving my skills as a Project Management professional, I applied to the Project Management Institute, and following 3 months of studies, on 8 January 2022, I successfully passed a 4-hour exam. Thus, having enhanced my knowledge to a more professional level I can now contribute to our ongoing projects more, and build the SAP system in accordance with the international standards of Project Management. My next step would be getting PMI ACP certification, which is granted to a professional in IT Project Management field. IT projects are very interesting to me.

Gulnar Musayeva
ERP Project Manager

My latest achievement has been passing the PMI-ACP (PMI Agile Certified Practitioner) exam on 21 January 2022. It took me 2 months to prepare for that 3-hour online exam, as I made the most out of the lockdown period of recovering from Covid. The PMI-ACP certification recognizes an individual's expertise in using agile practices in their projects, while demonstrating their increased professional versatility through Agile tools and techniques. Considering the growing number of IT projects in this fast digitalized world, such certifications inevitably become the right technique for managing technological projects. PMI-ACP spans many approaches to 'Agile' such as Scrum, Kanban, Lean, extreme programming (XP), and test-driven development (TDD), not limiting a practitioner to one Agile approach.

Our company's ERP team currently has several ongoing and planned Projects. The biggest one, STARLIMS Implementation Project is intended to automatize the laboratory processes and minimize the human factor in daily activities. Additionally, we shall soon commence the implementation of MS Power BI integrated with SAP, as well as the SAP EHP Upgrade and SAP SOLMAN Implementation projects, and shall modify the business processes of some SAP modules. This global certificate will support me in meeting the needs of our company in new projects entrusted to me. It will help me apply a diversity of methods aimed at projects' success. In the nearest future, I shall just focus on accomplishing these projects. Meanwhile, my education plans involve more IT-related programmes to elaborate more into the technical aspects of projects.



E&M department rewarded the “best of the month”

To boost the team’s potential, to improve the quality of performance, to inspire employees for more effective performance, and to promote teamwork, the leaders of the Engineering & Maintenance department suggested that starting this year incentivising gifts be awarded to four selected members of the team.

To this end, employees who best perform the tasks set by the Mechanical, Electrical, Instrumentation, Planning, and Engineering Team Leads and Supervisors during a given month, are entered into the nominees list then submitted to the manager of the E&M department. The criteria for selection include,

among others, timely and resource-saving implementation of the tasks, efficient teamwork, and quality of results.

The January, February and March award winners are as follows:

January



February



January



Orhan Jafarov
Electrical Engineer

February



Elshad Mammadov
Electrical Technician



Firgat Feyzili
Mechanical Engineer



Ziya Shirinov
Process Analyzer



Rashid Hamidov
Senior Mechanical Technician



Rasim Hasanov
Mechanical Technician

March



Speaking at the short award ceremony, E&M Manager Ulvi Mehraliyev said: "Our incentivizing initiative is already bearing fruit. Showing of appreciation for employees' achievements inspires the rest of the team and raises the team spirit. I believe that in upcoming months we shall see its full positive effect". Then, Ulvi called out the names

of the awardees and presented to them gift packages containing a rucksack, a thermos, a cap, and a jacket. In their turn, the awardees emphasized their content with the level of appreciation of efforts within the team and that their personal achievements wouldn't have been possible without their teammates' contribution.

Award presented on Women's Day



Our female colleagues' productive activity is not limited to effective performance of their daily official duties. They are also recognized for their external achievements. Thus, for instance, on March 8 this year, the local municipality office expressed their appreciation of our Process Engineer, Humay Hamidli.

Both on the occasion of the International Women's Day holiday, and in appreciation of Humay's active participation in Sumgayit city's public life and community events, the head of the local municipality office Zakir Farajov sent her a Certificate of Appreciation dated March 5, 2022. The Certificate was presented to the awardee by SOCAR Polymer's General Manager, Fuad Ahmadov who commended her for efficient activity in and outside our company and expressed congratulations and wishes for greater success.

Humay Hamidli is a finalist of the 2019 Summer Internship Program. Gaining experience in QA/QC at our company, Humay demonstrated good results and was then offered a Junior QA/QC Engineer role. In April of 2020, she was transferred to the Operations department first as a Junior then promoted to the Process Engineer position.



Meet a colleague

– a writer and a motivational trainer

With over 800 people employed at SOCAR Polymer, the majority spending most of their working hours, at their workstations out in the production area, monitoring, checking, adjusting, repairing, supervising operations, assessing all potential risks, and securing process safety, while office-based employees facilitate, support and literally enable all these activities of the production facility and the company altogether, we would like to continue creating opportunities for all employees to get to know one another better and truly become one big SOCAR Polymer family.

Some don't, but many of our staff know our colleague Rasul Ahadov personally as a DCS Operator, while very few are aware of his activity and achievements as a writer. Here is a chance to look beyond appearances and common stereotypes.

What is your job at SOCAR Polymer?

I have been working for SOCAR Polymer since 2016 when its plants were under construction. I got involved in pre-commissioning, commissioning, and start-up activities. Working with professional and experienced colleagues and foreign specialists, as well as attending of productive overseas trainings administered by Petkim in Turkey, by Yokogawa in India, and by LyondellBasell in Italy had a positive effect on my professional development for which I am thankful to SOCAR Polymer. I work now as a DCS operator in the Control Room of our plants.

What inspired you to start writing books?

My interest in books was ignited in 2010, when as a student I read 'Ali and Nino' by Kurban Said. I realized then that reading novels is much better than watching movies based on them. I became an addict of reading, set up a library at home, and bought at least 2 new books every month, mostly self-improving and fiction books.

Attending a DCS training in India a few years ago, I purchased many books among which was 'The Law of Wisdom' by a Japanese personal development writer Ryuho Okawa. It inspired me to start writing and working as a trainer. I trained volunteers in "Asan" service agency, governmental youth organisations, and universities on the topic of "The power of thinking in our life". Training participants listen to me very attentively. It is a good sign that motivates me for more.

How many books you have published so far?

I have published two books. My first one titled 'Happiness is in Mind' was a result of my research and notes taken as I read, watched, and partook in discussions on this topic. This book covers such topics as the power of dreaming, positive thinking, illusions, habits, motivation, etc. I hadn't expected the book to become so popular. It was soon translated into Turkish and published in Turkey in April of 2021. That inspired me to write my second book titled 'Coincidence?!' which is a novel describing the developments in the life of a man who is compelled to look for ways to prove that the narcotics found in his shoes do not belong to him. This book, too, received good feedback from readers with whom I meet at book exhibitions, so, as a result, I am now working on my third book which is about India. However, there has been a period of almost a full year recently when I didn't write at all.



— ” —
I have published two books. My first one titled 'Happiness is in Mind' was a result of my research and notes taken as I read, watched, and partook in discussions on this topic.

— ” —
How popular are your books?
My first book was published 5 times, first with 500, then 200, and each next time 100 copies printed by the 'Maxofset' publishing house in Baku. Publication was financed by me



and so far, up to 900 copies of the book have been sold domestically online and at bookstores. The Turkish language version of the same book was published in 1000 copies by 'Ates Yayimlari' publishing house. As to my second book, 270 out of the total 500 printed copies have been sold so far. I share my news and communicate with my readers through my Instagram account which has over 18000 followers. It is pleasant to see that my book is among the most read books on bookleaks.org and to read the feedback comments left by readers.

inspired by Paulo Coelho's example who established a charity fund after gaining worldwide fame. It was a brilliant idea. So, for years, pondering over what I could do I have been reading self-development books to figure out what I would be successful in doing. I watched TEDx talks and listened to local coaches. Now, the target is to raise book sales and I expect my third book to make the difference, although much of what is earned from my books is re-invested into their promotion and advertising. In any case, I will do my best to avoid regretting not having taken presented opportunities to follow my dreams.

What are your favourite books and authors?

Reading is crucial for development and improvement as a personality. My favourite books include 'How to win friends and influence people' by Dale Carnegie, 'Emotional Intelligence' by Brian Tracy, 'Think and grow rich' by Napoleon Hill, as well as 'Sword and Pen' by Mammad Said Ordubadi, and 'Martin Eden' by Jack London. Martin is my favourite character as he is also a writer who wants to reach a large number of readers. I also love reading writings of Ilyas Afandiyev, Lev Tolstoy, and Mark Levy. Apart from reading, I like watching TEDx speeches or movies, in short, spending my time productively.

What is the ultimate goal of your writing activity?

Regardless of writing, my goal in life is to leave a heritage, some traces in this life, something to be remembered for. I would like my books to be read even hundred years from now, want to occupy a niche in the world of literature. I would want to be remembered not only as a writer but as a philanthropist and charity doer like Zeynalabdin Taghiyev for example. That way people and society would live better. I have long racked my brains over ways to accomplish this goal, as big noble deeds require a lot of money. I was also



High performance is never luck, it is a choice

Any company's success rests upon employees who stand on the front lines when voluntary assistance and extra efforts are needed. These people have huge hearts, true dedication, and an amazing wealth of understanding to often engage in what is not their responsibility. They simply do what is necessary and what often requires strong working skills, diligence, initiative, and enthusiasm.

Meet one of such employees, Govhar Mammadova whose friendly smile used to welcome visitors to SOCAR Polymer's office only for a short time, because her diligence and high performance very soon drew attention and were applied in an area that requires such qualities most. She is one of the people who are said to possess and pass on the "institutional memory" of the SOCAR Polymer office in issues related to storage and retrieval of document from the electronic document storage.



workflow that supported the company's successful performance. I am a quick learner and soon I was entrusted with additional tasks. For example, in 2017, viewing, sorting, registering, scanning, and saving to database of all documents contained in incoming/outgoing hardcopy mail was added to my round of duties. Mail contained documents and letters from/to the management, accounting, logistic, and procurement departments and after registration I handed the documents directly to respective departments. In July of 2017, I was appointed a Junior Document Control Specialist to handle incoming mail and register incoming documents. A year later, I was promoted to DC Specialist position.

What were the tasks entrusted to you in addition to your standard round of duties?

For example, when our company cooperated with the IDEA public union for collection of recycle paper and plastic I was entrusted with monitoring and arrangement of timely emptying/transportation of the recycle containers installed in our office.

Also, whenever there was an overload in our department during preparation for or organization of conferences, large-scale meetings, guest receptions, exhibitions, or similar events, I actively assisted my team members in their work. For instance, I was actively involved in the large-scale preparations for the opening ceremony of our HDPE plant in February of 2019. I also often performed different non-routine administrative tasks assigned by my line manager.



I like to devote my free time to taking photographs of nature, animals, individuals, and families; as well as shooting and editing videos.



Could you describe your career journey in this company?

In May of 2016, I applied for the 'Receptionist' position at SOCAR Polymer and successfully passed all selection stages. A receptionist is often stationed in a strategically significant spot and interacts with different departments. So, apart from performing my official duties, I took every opportunity to learn about other segments of administrative





Activation of the SAP ERP system in our company late in 2017 required that one person from every department be selected to act as a Purchase Requisition Creator to place purchase requests into the system and keep in touch with the PSCM department for timely delivery of the items needed for the organized events. As I was informed, the reliable candidate had to be very attentive to details and punctual. That's how my round of duties expanded to include that responsibility.

Later, when the company's head office was re-located to Sumgayit and I was transferred to the Internal Audit and Document Management (IA&DM) department, I additionally performed all organizational and training activities needed to set up a reception desk and arrange accurate logging of incoming/outgoing mail in the new office premises.

Do you share or somehow pass on the valuable experience you have gained over the years of working in document management?

Yes, I train our department's newcoming Junior Specialists who have duties similar or related to mine. So far, there have been three such.

What is your current daily routine?

Apart from registering incoming documents and distributing them to respective departments as I described earlier, I create Purchase Requisitions in SAP, fill in SoW forms, correspond and stay in touch with the procurement department to ensure timely fulfilment of our purchase requests, fill in Sole/Single Source Procurement Justification forms, provide technical specifications of ordered items by filling in BTF forms, post GRs (Goods Receipt) or SESs (Service Entry Sheet) in SAP and inform respective departments about that, submit PR/GR/SES reports, etc. I also find through the database and retrieve documents or letters from the electronic storage upon



I dream of contributing to the cause of restoring the Earth's ecological wellbeing, and to this end, of joining 'green' organizations.





other departments' requests.

What in your job do you like most?

As I process different departments' documents for registration, I learn a lot about the scope, content, and specifics of departments' work. I enjoy this part of my job.

What has been your team members' role in your development?

We all readily share knowledge and help gain new skills. My colleagues introduced me to the realm of QMS and technical documentation, while I helped them learn and practice performance of my daily tasks.

How significant is your job for the company?

Without proper documentation, no work can be done, no site constructed, no orders placed, no product sold. Documents lie in the foundation of a company. A damaged or destroyed unit can be reconstructed only based on drawings and design documents. Storage and preservation of documents is vitally important. More so for the finance, accounting, contracts, procurement, and sales teams as they normally process tons of documents, and retrieval of any given document when needed is hardly accomplishable without our team's assistance.

What are the best memories you have made in this job?

Most memorable has been seeing the fruit of all our efforts to flawlessly organize the opening ceremony of our HDPE plant. Another pleasant memory is of the Baku-2018 marathon where I was involved in taking photos of our employees warming up at the start line and crossing the finish line for publication in our corporate newsletter. I was also giving out medals and certificates issued by SOCAR Polymer for successful marathon finalists.

What are your hobbies?

I like to devote my free time to taking photographs of nature, animals, individuals, and families; as well as shooting and editing videos. I took special filmmaking courses where I learned and practiced real filmmaking from script writing to camera work, to production coordination. I also love watching movies, reading articles on science and medicine, and listening to music of different genres, particularly classical, new age, jazz, and pop music.

What are your goals?

I dream of contributing to the cause of restoring the Earth's ecological wellbeing, and to this end, of joining 'green' organizations.



Cheering for women on March 8



March 8 is an internationally known holiday celebrated as Women's Day and marked in Azerbaijan calendars as a non-business day.

Women play valuable roles in our company and have contributed to every corporate achievement since the outset of the SOCAR Polymer project. Women on our staff have been responsible for various tasks at every stage of the project implementation from design to engineering, to construction, to operation, to safety monitoring, to quality assurance, etc. Currently, over 130 women in the SOCAR Polymer team are adding value to the company's performance outcomes, be it at standard office desk workstations or out in the industrial production field. You can see them running trainings, operating control panels, monitoring equipment, or out in the production area in field uniforms. They are enthusiastic, creative, inspiring, and capable of managing any tasks that require high levels of awareness, accuracy, capacity, and skills. They are ready to assist and walk an extra mile. They are a valuable and beautiful part of the SOCAR Polymer family.







As is tradition since the year of its establishment, SOCAR Polymer once again festively celebrated the Women's Day holiday by presenting them one large fancy and tasty cake as an embodiment of the best wishes and deep regard. Ladies enjoyed the sweet gift, socializing over tea and taking photos in memory of the day.

Hundreds of hearts sparked with Novruz joy

True to the years-old tradition of supporting low-income families, the SOCAR Polymer company has once again joined in the Red Crescent Society's initiative to distribute Novruz gifts to low-income families and lonely people in Sumgayit on March 18.



Welcoming the event participants, the chairwoman of RCS's Sumgayit branch, Matanat Maharramova expressed warm wishes on the occasion of Novruz which in the Orient is considered the threshold between the old and the new year. Then, 110 gift baskets provided by SOCAR Polymer and containing essential food products such as a chicken, butter, vegetable oil, sugar, tea, buckwheat, pasta, flour, long rice, candy, and salt were handed out to the present representatives of invited families and lonely elderly people.

On behalf of the beneficiaries and RCS, Mrs Maharramova expressed gratitude to the SOCAR Polymer management for their continuous support to Sumgayit communities. Other sponsors of the event were "Pasha Bank" and "Pasha Life".

Those who due to any reason could not attend the event had the food packages delivered to their doors by the volunteers of RCS's Sumgayit branch.





Novruz on the threshold of SOCAR Polymer

Celebrating the coming of spring and rejuvenation of nature, Novruz is one of the most popular national holidays. Like anywhere in the world, Azerbaijanis rejoice in anticipation of warmth, green landscapes, and clear skies. To produce a matching atmosphere at SOCAR Polymer, part of the gate house area was decorated in traditional household style with carpentry and national interior items, reminding viewers the historically formed national customs, lovingly preserved holiday traditions, and everything that despite individual

differences unites us on this land we cherish as our home. Thus, SOCAR Polymer employees and visitors to the site got charged with the positive energy of the spring holiday right from their first steps to the site. The decorated area became a popular venue for taking pictures, discussing preparations and plans for the holiday season, as well as expressing approval of and appreciation for such pleasantly creative initiatives undertaken by our company.



Aiming high in and outside the office

Our colleagues, HSE Director Alovzat Jafarov and Sr Warehouseman Jafarov Rashad conquered one of the highest peaks of the six continents and specifically of Europe, the 5642 meters high Western Elbrus.





Aware

of the challenges Elbrus presents in this time of the year, we made extra efforts to prepare. The 14-day trip started with a Baku-Minvod flight to the Krasnodar oblast of the Russian Federation. A dedicated minivan drove us to the Terskol settlement of the Kabardino-Balkar oblast, which is 2250 m above the sea level. Staying at a hotel there, we spent two days making first acclimatization ascends. Then, we collected the necessary equipment into bags and took a cable car from Azau to the Garabashi station where our main camp was located at the height of 3880 m. Five more days of

acclimatization ascends and trainings there helped us learn walking on ice, using ice axes and ropes, and minimizing fall risks. On the sixth day of our hike, we ascended the Priyut 11 (4250 m) and Postukhov (4800 m) cliff tops and returned to the camp. Proper acclimatization activities are key because the higher one moves the scarcer oxygen in the air, and the higher the atmospheric pressure. So, the body has to adjust to these changes in the environment. Another important factor is certainly the weather, and one may stay in the camp for days waiting for favourable weather. We did for 3 days until the snowstorm subsided. We started out at 1 a.m. and in 9 hours of a challenging





ascent reached Sedlovina (5200 m) which separates Elbrus' Western (5624 m) and Eastern (5621 m) peaks. After half an hour's break, we moved on.

Words fail to describe the emotions we had when we reached the peak and waved our national tricolour! Thoughts about the sharp cold and fatigue faded away from our minds. What made this experience even more memorable and unique was the fact that we were accompanied by Israfil Ashurlu, the first Azerbaijani who

had climbed Everest (8848 m) and 3 other highest peaks of the Earth.

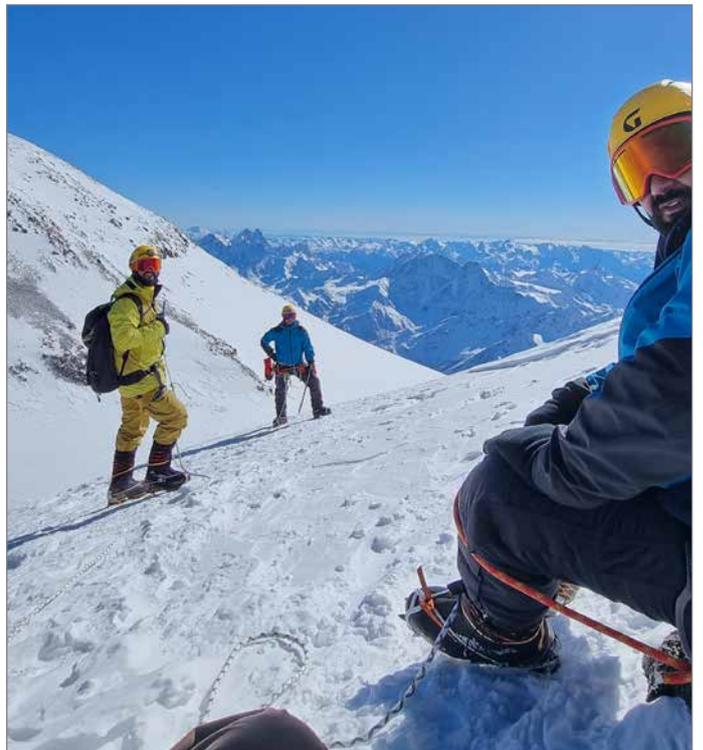
Elbrus is not only a magnificently beautiful mountain, but also a mystical place that carries the traces of World War II, with graves of Soviet and German soldiers still encountered on its steep slopes.

This experience has left us aspiring to ascend even greater heights.









Polymers gaining ground in EV manufacturing

An integral part of the automotive industry, the electric vehicle (EV) market has been experiencing significant growth, largely driven by the need to cater to the need for environmentally friendly and sustainable transportation.



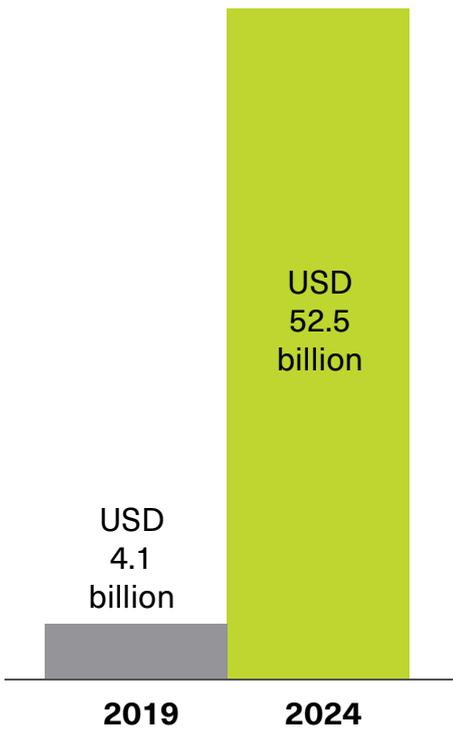
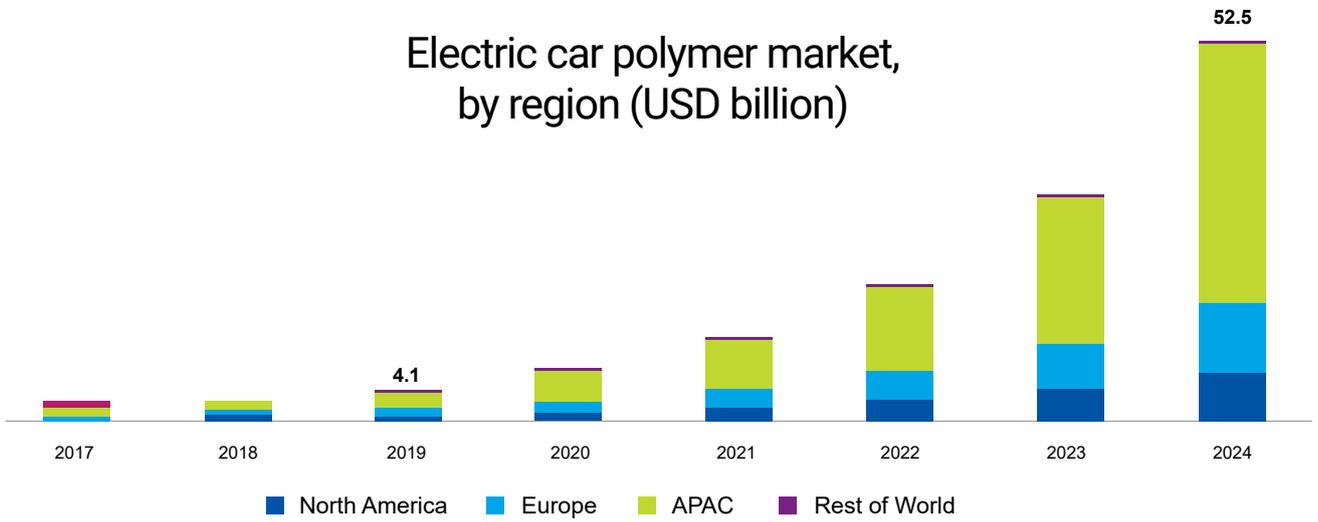
The increasing demand for EVs serves as a potential factor in achieving the reduced emission of pollutants and other greenhouse gasses. In addition, favourable governmental initiatives in countries across the globe are also increasing the production of EVs, which in turn is expected to drive the demand for polymer applications in EVs. Polymers are the only materials that can replace metals as they have similar properties to those of metals, such as flame retardancy, abrasion resistance, stiffness, toughness, electrical insulation, and heat resistance. Replacing metals with the polymers is a key solution for the electric car manufacturers to reduce the overall weight of EVs without affecting efficiency of the cars.

China wants to build 1,000,000 electric vehicles each year by 2020

Most optimistic forecasts of the EV polymers market growth suggest a drastic increase from 4.1 billion USD in 2019 to 52.5 billion by 2024, at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 67% during the forecast period.



Electric car polymer market, by region (USD billion)



APAC is estimated to account for the largest market share during the forecast period. APAC (Asia-Pacific) is the part of the world near the western Pacific Ocean. It is estimated to dominate the overall EV polymers market in the forecast period. The region has emerged as the largest consumer of EV/car polymers, owing to the growth in production of electric cars in China, Japan, South Korea, among other countries. Increasing concern for reducing the level of carbon footprints, increasing government support, and reduction in the overall weight of the electric cars are the factors facilitating the growth of EV polymers market in this region.

Different polymers are used for various components of an EV. The selection of polymer for a particular component depends on the trait provided by these polymers. Major components in which the polymers are used include powertrain system, exterior and interiors of electric cars.

There two types of polymers used in EV namely, engineering plastics and elastomers. Engineering plastics can be further segmented into Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (ABS), Polyamide, polycarbonate, Polyphenylene Sulfide (PPS), Polyurethane, Polypropylene, Fluoropolymer, Thermoplastic Polyester, and others. Elastomers can be subdivided into synthetic rubber, natural rubber, Fluoroelastomers, silicone elastomers and others.

Polypropylene is used as an engineering plastic in EV manufacturing

Automakers prefer polymers over metals to develop better-performing, lightweight and energy-efficient electric, autonomous and hybrid vehicles. Automotive lightweighting is a popular design strategy that is being widely adopted among manufacturers.



Polymers help in replacing major metal components of the car without sacrificing the strength or build quality of the car

Lightweight materials have been gaining more importance also for reasons beyond fuel efficiency and emissions reductions. Today, they are preferred by engineers as they enhance the design, manufacturability, and performance of moulded and machined components. This preference has been fuelling the polymer market. Usage of polymers in components such as roof panel, battery cases, and others are some of the opportunities for the EV polymer market.



The most modest forecasts expect the Global EV Polymer Market to be valued at 5.0 billion USD in 2021

Today's vehicles contain electrical and electronic components that perform important functions, but sensors are especially critical. For instance, the anti-lock brake sensors monitor wheel speed; oxygen sensors determine how much fuel is required to run the engine effectively; and other sensors monitor coolant levels. The use of advanced polymers supports these sensors, while withstanding the high temperatures and harsh environmental conditions associated with such systems.

As automotive electronic components are becoming smaller in size and more compact, advanced polymers (such as PPA) are replacing the traditional engineering ones such as standard polyamides or conventionally used polyphenylene sulfide (PPS). Specifically, polyamide 66 (PA 66) PPA has the ability to maintain its properties even in humid environments, thereby providing superior thermal stability. It also has a greater resistance to a wide range of chemicals, such as brake fluid.

The modestly estimated growth rate of the Global EV Polymer Market is 20.7%, expected to have reached an estimated value of 12.8 billion USD by 2026

Plastic can be an electric conductor or an insulator. So, it is playing unique roles in propulsion, alternative drive trains and batteries.

Manufacturers who develop a system-level approach in electric vehicles are coming up with new possibilities. For instance, the exclusive combination of advanced polymer attributes is enhancing the magnet wire insulation and slot liners in electric (EVs), plug-in hybrid electric (PHEVs) and hybrid electric (HEVs) vehicles.

Advanced polymers offer advantages with respect to EV manufacture, design, and performance of fuel handling

machineries. Their lighter weight helps maintain high fuel efficiency, and plastics have the ability to provide high impact strength, withstand ruptures and keep fuel delivery systems from leaking. But as engine temperatures and pressures continue to speed up, designers are focusing on next-generation metal replacements to handle demanding conditions while performing consistently in every weather condition.

With an aim to replace metal parts, automotive designers have gradually shifted to advanced polymers for electric insulation. The main objective of using polymers for insulation is to avoid compromising the dimensional and mechanical attributes of the batteries used in EVs.

Key Market Players

The leading players in the electric vehicle polymers market are BASF (Germany), DowDuPont (US), Covestro (Germany), Celanese (US), SABIC (Saudi Arabia), Solvay (Belgium), LANXESS (Germany), LG Chem (South Korea), Asahi Kasei (Japan), and Evonik Industries (Germany). Most of these leading players operate globally and have a widespread distribution network. They offer customized products

as per the needs of customers. Most of the players have developed partnerships with the electric vehicle producers to gain higher market shares.

Sources:
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