New Solutions Must be Found

Dear Readers,

Wind turbines are set to make an even greater contribution to the energy transition in the future. However, more wind turbines also mean that the recycling of ageing turbines will soon become a more pressing issue. The German Adhesives Association recently published an article on this topic, presenting an innovative solution from the start-up Wings for Living, which allows for decommissioned rotor blades to be used as outdoor furniture. The problem is not the steel mast or the concrete of the foundation, but the rotor blades made of glass fiber-reinforced plastic, which until now could only be recycled using very costly and energy-intensive processes.

In this issue, we present the results of an analysis of the current state of adhesives for rotor blades and common epoxy adhesives currently available on the market, which also provides a forecast for the future. The authors present three factors that could fundamentally change the adhesive technology for rotor blades: the availability of materials, the recyclability of rotor blades and the further development of the construction method. This opens the door for the development of sustainable chemical materials in the sense of the circular economy, which could enable the production of fully recyclable rotor blades in the future.

I wish you an interesting read.

Leyfor Bunhof

Yours

Leyla Buchholz Editor-in-Chief



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