Covestro joins forces with Chinese partner INOV

**Premiere for sports floorings with CO2 in China**

* **Novel sports application for CO2-based material cardyon®**
* **New polyurethane walkway at Covestro’s regional innovation hub**
* **Innovative material to support circularity by partly replacing crude oil**

Materials manufacturer [Covestro](https://www.covestro.com) has worked with [Shandong INOV New Materials Co., Ltd.](http://www.inov-pu.com/en/index.aspx), a materials manufacturer and engineering contractor of plastics sport floorings, to complete the laying of a walkway using CO2-based material cardyon® at Covestro’s Asia-Pacific Innovation Center in Shanghai. It marks a new breakthrough in the use of Covestro’s cardyon® polyols in the field of plastic runways. It’s the first case in China where the innovative CO2-based material has been used to produce sports floorings.

“The efforts of our Chinese colleagues together with INOV are an important step towards increasing awareness of the application possibilities of our innovative materials," said Daniel Meyer, Head of Business Unit Polyurethanes at Covestro. "The cooperation with our industrial partners will continue to be a focus in the future to further research and promote the use of our sustainable products. Our goal is to continuously reduce our CO2 footprint and to align our business sustainably to the circular economy.”

The carbon dioxide for the walkway is contained in a binder, or more precisely, in one of its components, a so-called polyol named cardyon® which was developed by Covestro to synthesize plastics. This sustainable material can save up to one-fifth of crude oil in production – an innovative contribution to resource preservation and circular economy.

**Breakthrough in the use of innovative materials in sports**

The 66-meter-long and 1.2-meter-wide walkway uses polyurethane adhesive based on cardyon®, as well as the molecular structure design by INOV. It features outstanding elasticity and flatness, which brings more comfort. The walkway material has high yellowing resistance, with gorgeous and lasting color.

Xu Jun, chairman of INOV, said: “We are very honored to participate in the laying of this cardyon®-based walkway at Covestro’s Asia-Pacific Innovation Center. We hope to take this opportunity to continue to cooperate with Covestro in more fields and explore sustainable and innovative applications of polyurethanes.”

**Using CO2 to save oil resources**

The material cardyon® is Covestro’s breakthrough product that turns CO2 into a valuable raw material. Through close cooperation with RWTH Aachen University in Germany, inert CO2 molecules are activated and used to partly replace crude oil to produce polyethercarbonate polyols. Since 2016, Covestro produces the new CO2-based polyols at its Dormagen site near Cologne, using carbon dioxide from a neighboring chemical company, where it is produced as a byproduct.

“It is great to see the CO2 walkway is laid at our Asia-Pacific Innovation Center, which is another example of our commitment to promoting innovation inspired by sustainability,” said Dr. Michael Schmidt, Head of Innovation for the Asia-Pacific region at Covestro. “We look forward to using CO2 as new raw material in a variety of applications. We hope to form a closed loop in the use of CO2, thereby saving oil resources and fostering a circular economy.”

So far, cardyon® has been used to produce soft polyurethane foam for mattresses and upholstered furniture, as well as sports floorings in the hockey facility of a renowned sports club in Germany. It is also used for the production of innovative elastic textile fibers. Latest development is an application of soft foams produced with cardyon® for automotive interior. Covestro and INOV are now jointly building the polyurethane walkway, marking the breakthrough use of cardyon® in China and further strengthening cooperation in the field of plastic runways.

**About Covestro:**

With 2019 sales of EUR 12.4 billion, Covestro is among the world’s largest polymer companies. Business activities are focused on the manufacture of high-tech polymer materials and the development of innovative solutions for products used in many areas of daily life. The main segments served are the automotive, construction, wood processing and furniture, and electrical and electronics industries. Other sectors include sports and leisure, cosmetics, health and the chemical industry itself. Covestro has 30 production sites worldwide and employs approximately 17,200 people (calculated as full-time equivalents) at the end of 2019.

*This press release is available at* [*www.covestro.com*](http://www.covestro.com)*. Please acknowledge the source of any pictures used.*

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