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## Euro research into nanotech fire-retardants

By European Plastics News staff  
Posted 16 December 2013

**A collaborative European project is developing nanotechnology-based fire retardant additives it hopes to replace conventional non-halogenated additives at much lower addition levels.**

Phoenix is a four-year project composed of 15 partners from eight European countries and coordinated by Aimplas in Valencia, Spain. A key goal is to eliminate halogenated fire retardants with materials that can be added at levels of about 15% to plastics – half or less than typical conventional non-halogenated additives now used.

Phoenix argues that high levels of non-halogenated types negatively affect a polymer's physical properties.

Phoenix is working on nanoparticle additives alone or in conjunction with each other. It aims to make nanoparticles from carbon-based graphene, modified lignins derived from wood, nanohydroxides and encapsulated phosphorus-based retardants in hollow particles.

In addition to better sustainability through lower additive levels, Phoenix said added benefits will include work safety, consumer safety and low environmental impact.

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