

Plastics Newsletter

Always a better solution.



Greetings!

In this month's newsletter, we discuss changes in the market; the SPE Polyolefin Conference; **OKA-Tec's** High-Performance Polyamide Antioxidants; and **Arakawa's** Hydrocarbon Resins.

Also featured in this newsletter:

[Download Supply Chain and Logistics Report](#)

The report provides current market information as well as Peak Season commentary



[Download Monthly Commodities Report](#)

The report tracks select raw materials and currencies allowing you to gain a better understanding of some of the key cost drivers in our industry.



Market Updates

- Walmart is warning major packaged-goods makers that it can **no longer pass on their price hikes to consumers**.
- Nova Chemicals introduced a new business line – **Nova Circular Solutions** – and branding – **Syndigo** – for its sustainable products portfolio.
- The White House issued long-awaited rules for the national electric-vehicle charger network that **requires chargers to be built in the U.S.**, with 55% of their content coming from U.S.-made components by 2024.
- Investors and corporate leaders remain optimistic that highly indebted businesses will be able to **weather the coming quarters**, as evidenced by rallying loan prices, low defaults, and unchanged business plans.
- U.S. intermodal volumes **fell 10.2%** last week from the same time a year ago, according to the Association of American Railroads.
- Less-than-truckload carrier Yellow saw **tonnage sink 25% year over year** in the fourth quarter as it posted a loss.
- The ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach handled **635,424 TEUs** in January, down 22% from last year and 12% from pre-pandemic levels.
- Top U.S. auto retailer AutoNation posted **better-than-expected quarterly profit** as the industry starts to show signs of a gradual recovery from pandemic supply-chain issues.
- U.S. import prices **dropped for a seventh month** in January, led by a decline in costs for energy products.
- Volkswagen will raise prices for all gas-powered models by an average of **4.4%** starting next week due to rising costs.
- Corporate America's fourth-quarter earnings are **down 2.3%** from the previous period, the first decline since 2020.
- U.S. credit card balances have reached a record high **nearing \$1 trillion**, while delinquency rates recently surpassed pre-pandemic norms.

- U.S. household debt jumped to a record **\$16.90 trillion** from October through December last year, the largest quarterly increase in two decades.
- Manufacturing activity in the mid-Atlantic region dropped off sharply and unexpectedly in February, with the Philadelphia Fed's monthly index **falling from -8.9 to -24.3**.
- Chevron **agreed to sell its assets** in Myanmar, a decision coming about a year after the country's military coup sent companies packing.

Plastics Product Spotlight

Barentz is Connecting with Customers at the International Polyolefins Conference March 6-8 , 2023

The Barentz team will be attending the International Polyolefin Conference, In-Person! This annual conference is a great opportunity to meet customers and gain insight through an extensive agenda of plenary talks and 80+ technical papers. The conference will go from Sunday afternoon to Wednesday noon in Galveston, Texas. Stop by the Barentz booth (#403) to meet our team and discover how we can help you succeed in 2023.

Visit <https://spe-stx.org/international-polyolefins-conference-2> to learn more about the conference and register.



2023 SPE International Polyolefins Conference March 6-8, 2023

A High-Performance Polyamide Antioxidant

OKA-Tec's OKAFLEX EM is a synergistic organic stabilizer mixture specifically engineered for outstanding properties in both filled and unfilled polyamide formulations. OKAFLEX EM offers the following benefits:

- Outstanding physical property retention during long-term heat aging, even in especially oxidative conditions (e.g. 180°C)
- Chemical resistance against various automotive fluids, including hot oils, glycols, greases/lubricants, electrolyte solutions, antifreeze, and others – excellent for under-the-hood applications
- Low VOC values inherent to stabilizer package
- Does not interfere with electronic properties for wire/cable applications
- Excellent drop-in organic replacement for copper-based systems: avoid plate out and other issues



OKA-Tec
OKAFLEX™ innovations in additives

Contact us at 440-937-1000 or [visit our website](#) to learn more about OKAFLEX EM and

request a sample.

Differentiate your Polymer Films with Hydrocarbon Resins

Barentz is helping customers enhance film product performance using high-quality, fully hydrogenated water-white hydrocarbon resins manufactured by **Arakawa**. These materials, produced in Japan and Germany, offer multiple benefits in film applications, including:

- Reduced melt viscosity: melt flow modification
- Increased stiffness/Young's Modulus
- Increased adhesion: printability, labels
- Increased barrier properties (moisture and gasses)
- Increased peeling strength for heat sealing
- Increased transparency

Hydrocarbon resins are commonly used to enhance properties in polyolefin packaging films, especially BOPP.

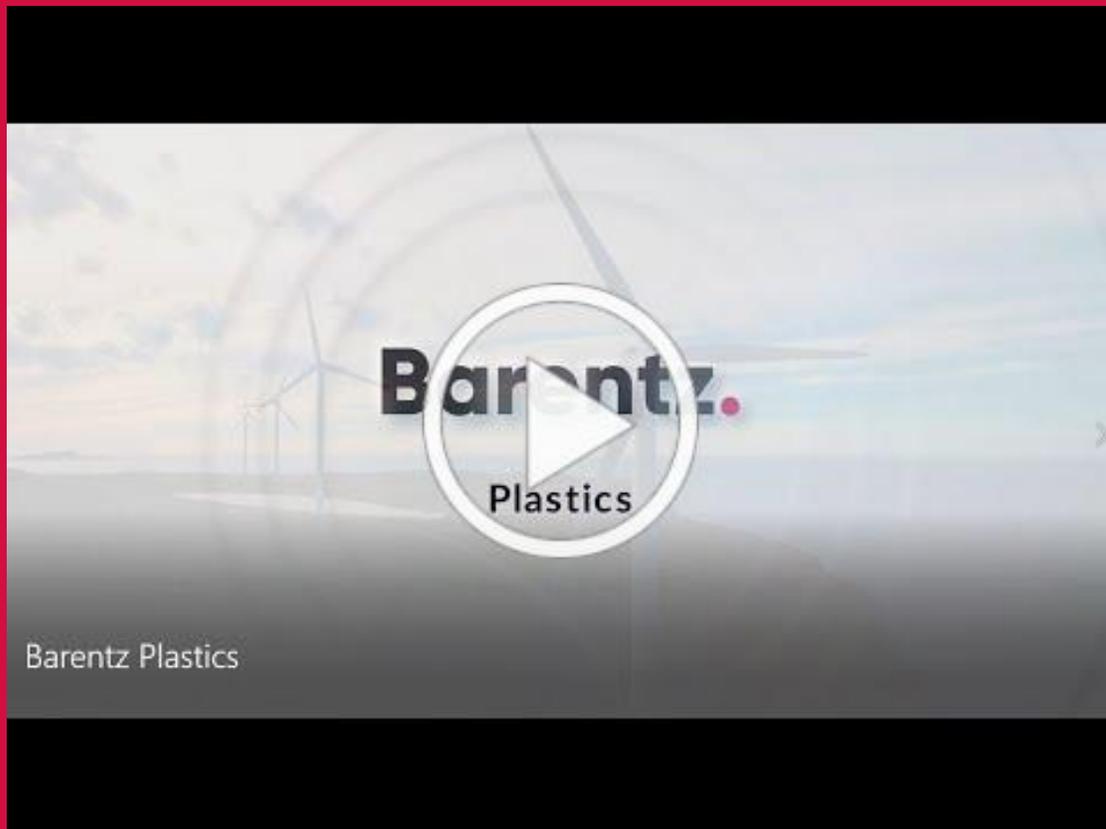


Contact us at 440-937-1000 or [visit our website](#) to learn more and request a sample.

Meet Barentz Plastics

Watch this video to learn why Barentz is a world-class leader in the Plastics industry.

Bring your challenges to us and see if we can truly find a better solution for you. <https://youtu.be/hyVdggwjyoo>



Follow Barentz CASE & Plastics on LinkedIn!

Follow us on LinkedIn to learn more about our full portfolio of

Trade Show Calendar - Meet with Barentz Plastics

- **SPE Polyolefins** - March 5-8, 2023 - Galveston, Texas
- **CAD Retec** - September 18-20, 2023 - Orlando, Florida
- **SPE Auto TPO** - October 1-4, 2023 - Troy, Michigan
- **Compounding World** - November 15-16, 2023 - Cleveland, Ohio

Plastics Resources



Plastics Product Guide

Specialty additives and pigments for Plastics

[Download our Plastics Product Guide](#)



"Pass the Risk"

Multiple component, fully dispersed premixes that are engineered to meet your needs

[Download Addipel Brochure](#)



Supply Chain and Logistics Report

We are pleased to share attached Barentz Supply Chain and Logistics Report. The report provides current market information as well as Peak Season commentary. We hope you'll find the report a benefit to pulse the supply chain /logistics market for overall awareness as we move to finish 2022.

[Download our Supply Chain Report](#)

Commodities Report



The monthly Commodities Report tracks select raw materials and currencies allowing you to gain a better understanding of some of the key cost drivers in our industry.

[Download our current Commodities Report](#)



Sustainability Report 2022

We're excited to announce we've released our Corporate Sustainability Report. ESG is a core part of who we are and what we do at Barentz. Our Sustainability Report highlights the activities we've completed globally during 2022 to improve our ESG performance.

[Download our Sustainability Report](#)

FOLLOW US



Your subscribed email address:

Barentz • 1390 Jaycox Road, Avon, OH 44011
marketing@barentz.us • 877-627-6661

At Barentz we have a passion to deliver better life science ingredients and specialty chemical solutions to our customers around the world. Driven by the powerful blend of knowledge, entrepreneurship and partnership we anticipate and act on future challenges and developments.

Barentz.

Always a better solution.

Copyright Barentz 2022

[Privacy Policy](#)