

Michelin Acquires Lehigh Technologies, a Specialty Materials Company

Purchase extends Michelin's materials expertise beyond tires, demonstrates strategic high-technology applications for end-of-life tires, reduces demands on finite natural resources

GREENVILLE, S.C., Oct. 18, 2017 – Michelin today announced that it has acquired Lehigh Technologies, a specialty materials company that uses patented cryogenic turbo mill technology to transform rubber from end-of-life tires and industrial goods into materials for new tires and other products, reducing the amount of raw materials initially needed, such as elastomers and fillers from oil- and rubber-based sources.

"We are always looking for ways to achieve safer and more sustainable mobility, including by using high-technology recycled materials, without compromising safety or other performances, while consuming less of the natural resources that are available in finite stocks," said Pete Selleck, chairman and president of Michelin North America. "Lehigh Technologies, the technological leader in this area, is a natural fit, as it will equip Michelin with tools to reduce the amount of raw materials that we need to produce new products for all of our current and future customers in the tire and non-tire industries."

"This acquisition demonstrates Michelin's strategic intent to bring its expertise in materials to markets that extend beyond tires, and in particular, to foster the use of advanced rubber recycled materials in the tire and non-tire industries," said Christophe Rahier, senior vice president of strategic planning materials for the Michelin Group.

Lehigh Technologies, based in Tucker, Ga., near Atlanta, employs about 100 people. The firm produces highly engineered, versatile raw materials called micronized rubber powder (MRP). MRP is a low-cost, high-performance, sustainable material that substitutes for other oil- and rubber-based materials used in manufacturing tires, plastics, asphalt and construction materials. Its customers include some of the largest tire companies in the world, as well as companies in construction materials, asphalt modification and other markets.

"This deal provides Lehigh Technologies with an incredible opportunity to continue our growth," said Alan Barton, CEO of Lehigh Technologies. "With the full backing of Michelin, we can continue to expand our capabilities, execute our global growth strategy and pursue new market opportunities."

Michelin completed the acquisition on Oct. 13.

About Michelin North America

Dedicated to the improvement of sustainable mobility, Michelin designs, manufactures and sells tires for every type of vehicle, including airplanes, automobiles, bicycles, earthmovers, farm equipment, heavy-duty trucks and motorcycles. The company has earned a long-standing reputation for building innovative premium tires. In addition to tires, the company also publishes travel guides, hotel and restaurant guides, maps and road atlases. Headquartered in Greenville, S.C., [Michelin North America](#) employs about 22,700 and operates 19 major manufacturing plants.

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