Polyamide Market by Type, by Application, by Process, and by Region - Global Trends and Forecast to 2020

Description: Polyamide Market by Type (PA 6, PA 66, Bio-Based & Specialty), by Application (Automotive, Films & Coatings, Industrial/Machineries, Consumer Goods & Appliances, Fibers & Textiles, and Others), by Process, and by Region - Global Trends and Forecast to 2020

The automotive application segment contributed a major share to the market, due to the increased usage of polyamide in the manufacturing of lightweight vehicles. Polyamide is used in the production of automotive parts, such as glass-reinforced plastics (GRP)-based structural parts, air intake manifolds, engine covers, rocker valve covers, airbag containers, and various interior & exterior automotive parts. The demand for polyamide is also rising for use in the production of electronic connectors, semiconductor chips, switches, and others.

Based on type, the PA6 segment is expected to account for the largest share of the polyamide market in 2015. This segment is estimated to witness high growth, due to the increased demand of PA6 in the production of lightweight vehicles. Bio-based & specialty polyamides are environmental-friendly and provide better performance than conventional thermoplastics. This is expected to result in the growth of the bio-based & specialty segment globally.

The polyamide market in North America is expected to grow at the highest CAGR between 2015 and 2020. The growth of the polyamide market in North America & Europe is majorly driven by the increasing demand of polyamide from the automotive and electronics & electrical sectors. The U.S. is a major market for polyamide in North America, and is followed by Canada and Mexico. Germany, France, and Italy are the key countries in the European polyamide market.

Asia-Pacific is estimated to contribute the largest share to the global polyamide market. This growth can be attributed to the presence of the emerging economies, such as China, India, Taiwan, and others as well as the growth in the end user industries, such as automotive, electronics & consumer goods, and others in this region.

The increasing usage in the automotive sector for weight reduction is one of the key factors driving the growth of the polyamide market. Many of the components such as interiors, fuel systems, and under-the-hood components are now being designed using polyamides as engineering thermoplastics.

Availability is another factor that has a major impact on increased applications of polyamides, with many players having well-established supply base throughout the globe. PA6 and PA66 have a greater availability as compared to bio-based and specialty polyamides. However, companies, such as Arkema SA, Evonik AG, and others, dealing primarily in specialty chemicals, have started operations in emerging markets to increase product supply in these regions.

Estimating the future demand is a prime challenge for the polyamides suppliers, due to the economic slowdown that took place in the past decade. Many economies in the European region have still not recovered completely, which has affected the demand for polyamides from major end user industries in this region. In Asia-Pacific, China witnessed lowest growth rates in the past decade.

Manufacturing sector holds a key share in the GDP of China, and the slowdown in this sector will affect the polyamide consumption of polyamide in applications such as automotive and fibers & textile to some extent. However, from strategic point of view, China still holds the key to the growth of polyamide market in Asia-Pacific.

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